

A Big Start.

Children's Day at the Western Fair a Great Success.

Five Thousand Boys and Girls Enjoy Its Wonders.

Some Splendid Attractions in the Ring.

One Proves a Failure and is Canceled—The Others Immense—Daring Dive and Balloon Ascent—Various Departments Described.

The Western Fair had a very auspicious opening on Saturday. The weather was fine, the attendance was fine, and of course the exhibition was fine, too. All the departments were in running order, except those of live stock and poultry, which are now well in place, many exhibits arriving from the Toronto Fair. Saturday was School Children's Day, and the little ones in London made it worthy of the name by coming in flocks of 10 cents the poorest child was enabled to enjoy the marvels of the great Fair. Five thousand boys and girls feasted on its wonders and incidentally on the contents of innumerable lunch baskets, not to mention refreshment booths and peanut stands. They flooded the main building and made the rafters ring with their exclamations of delight and the ears of the attendants buzz with opportunities for business cards. They went up in the Ferris wheel, and they gazed with open-mouthed wonder on the performers who tried to hit wooden images with baseballs. Eye and hand were called into play as they completely filling the huge covered one. They nearly raised its roof with their shouts of merriment at the funny things in the ring. If the audience was delighted with the performers the performers were delighted with the audience, for it was most demonstrative in its appreciation. It was a great day for the children.

THE RING ATTRACTIONS.

The Western Fair never had a better list of ring attractions. There was one exception to the rule of excellence, and that was the Wild East Show. The Wild East Show was advertised as the leading feature of the programme, and if it failed to realize expectations it was not the fault of the attraction committee. The Fair directors sent an agent to New York, to pick out the best talent in the market. A contract was made, by which the bureau managing the Wild East combination, one of the leading entertainment organizations on the continent, agreed to furnish at least twenty Arabs for the exhibition. It is thought the bureau tried to spread their Arabs over too many fairs at the same time, and filled up the vacancies with burlesque artists, male and female. At any rate, the genuine Arabs in the aggregation were as scarce as hen's teeth, and the show it gave savored more of the wild and woolly west than of the east. The company, having left their Arab steeds behind, hired a number of fine horses from Lawrence's livery. Their first performance was a dance in costume on the platform. Six women performed in turn, but displayed little grace or agility. Another ring around the ring on horseback completed their performance in London. Mr. W. J. Held, chairman of the attractions committee, admitted that the show was a failure, and promptly gave the company their tickets-of-leave. It is only fair to the directors to say that they were wholly unaware, until the aggregation arrived, that the attraction was not what was bargained for. The Fair Board had to pay their fares, which cost a considerable sum, but they chose rather to lose the money than disappoint their patrons. So the great Wild East combination folded their tents like the Arabs, and as silently slipped away.

WONDERFUL JAPANESE.

The attractions committee, however, must be congratulated on securing the other fun-makers who delighted the crowd. The troupe of Japanese jugglers, acrobats and contortionists is the cleverest ever seen on the Fair grounds. The girls are fully the equals of the men, and perform the most marvelous feats with an easy grace, which seems to indicate that they have been accustomed to tying themselves into knots, walking on their hands and turning somersaults ever since they left their cradles. All of the troupe are tiny, intelligent-looking people. They do not "play for the grand stand" and wait for its applause, but go through their wonderful performance with a business-like air and commendable celerity, unmindful, apparently, of the enthusiastic plaudits of the spectators. Their costumes are remarkably beautiful, and distinctly Japanese. One of the girls walks, lays, swings and juggles on the slack wire; another does some optical illusions with colored ribbons, which are entirely new here; another is a contortionist, and does some great balancing on her little dimpled chin, and others twist themselves into impossible shapes without the effort and agony of the average contortionist. One of the youngsters about 2-1/2 feet high, completely won the hearts of the children by allowing himself to be made a football of by his nimble-footed papa. There are fifteen in the company, and each one has a specialty. When they withdrew they were rewarded by a round of cheers. The Japs are the best features of the ring programme.

A THRILLING DIVE.

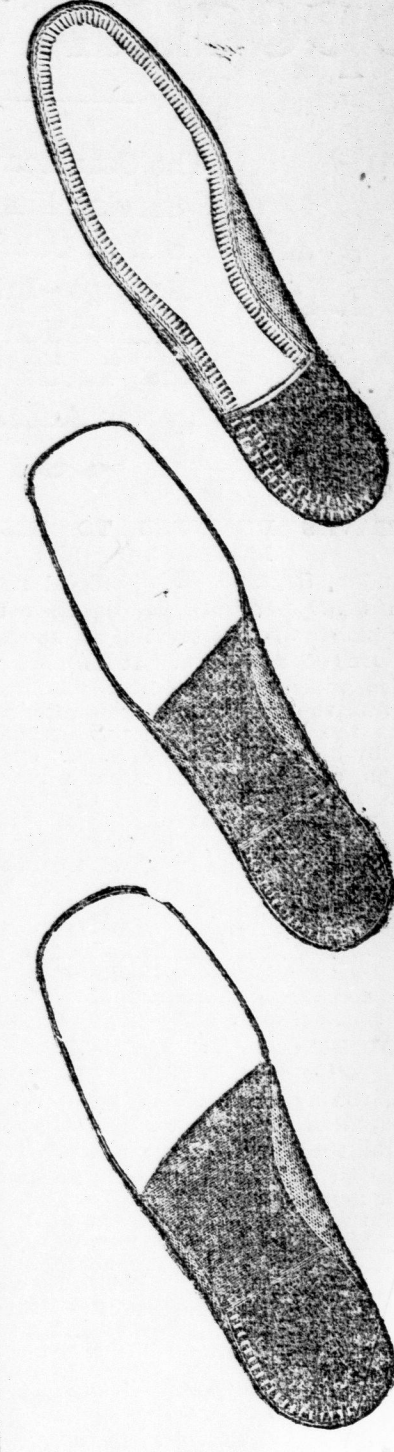
Those who were thrilled by the daring diver of Barnum's circus will see an even more exciting feat at the Fair. "Ajax," as the young man who makes the awful leap styles himself, stood on a platform between 50 and 75 feet high, coolly smoking a cigar, waiting for his cue. He was dressed in red tights, and must have felt the cool breeze keenly. Below him was a canvas tank about fifteen feet in length, holding about 40 inches of water. Ajax received his signal to dive, and after



Footprints of the Slater Shoe

Here is a shoe with the price on the sole—made to fit feet—made after nature's fashion of shoes—made on the most improved models from best American calfskin—black or tan. No two pairs of feet are exactly alike. The Slater Shoes are made in eight shapes, many widths, all sizes. They're made in the same way as the hand-made shoe, at half the price. Goodyear welt, \$3, \$4, \$5 per pair. Suppose you see them at

POCOCK BROS., London.



hands over his head, to break the water, and plunged almost perpendicularly, striking about the center of the tank. The splash could be seen and heard at the grand stand. Ajax reappeared in an instant and ran to his dressing room. The audience loudly applauded the dangerous feat.

CLEVER PANTOMIMES.

Martella and Partello, two agile youths, gave a funny pantomime which evoked screams of laughter from the children. A cottage with trick doors, and in and out of which the performers tumbled with great dexterity, afforded many side-splitting situations. Martella is also a slack wire performer, and will appear this week in a double role.

"The Buffons," two remarkably limber, long-legged and slippery gentlemen, and one little lady, out up merry antics for a quarter of an hour, and provided a very pleasing specialty. They do some clever tumbling and high kicking, and are contortionists as well.

SUCCESSFUL BALLOON ASCENSION.

The balloon ascension was perfect. The huge canvas bag was ready to fly upwards as soon as the artist, who was not kept waiting. "The Great Alvin," the aeronaut, squeezed himself into a metallic funnel which was attached to the balloon and hung horizontally beneath it. There was little breeze, and the huge vessel shot up almost straight in the air, affording a splendid view of the city. The balloon remained in its narrow cell until he had attained a great height "above the smoke and stir of this dim spot which men call earth." Then he slid out feet foremost, dragging his parachute with him. He descended with frightful velocity at first, but his big umbrella, which he opened and he came down at a horse-car gait, alighting near the Hamilton road. The balloon remained up long enough to have a good smoke, and then quickly returned to terra firma by way of South London. "Alvin's" drop in distance he appears to be automatically shot out of a cannon.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

The showing of cheese is equal to last year, both as regards quality and quantity. The cheese space is well filled, and the crowding of last year is obviated by exhibiting in some instances only three samples instead of four. The judges, who took first prizes were John B. Muir, Avonbank; Murdoch Morrison, Harrison; and John Morrison, Newry. Other exhibitors are Mrs. T. D. Parsons, Guelph, who took first prize in English still in cheese; R. C. Cranston, West, Magdala; B. J. Connelly, Kintore; James Ireland, Beachville; J. S. Isard, Willscroft; L. R. Richardson, Strathroy; W. J. Atkinson, Medina, and S. A. Smith, Dorchester. The conveniences for the cold storage of butter at the Western Fair are unequalled. The apartment is partitioned off from the balance of the dairy hall, and receptacles for ice placed under and above the butter shelves. An arrangement is also made for carrying off the melted water. Many old exhibitors are noted in this department, and a partial list of the exhibitors gives a very good idea of the representative character of the Western. J. G. Muir has a collection from as far east as Henville, Que.; Struthers & McCracken sent an exhibit from Owen Sound on the north. Other prominent exhibitors are: F. W. Cuddy, Strathroy; James Craig, London; Mrs. Lawrence, London West; Edward McLure, Iona; W. G. Shearer, Bright; Peter McEwan, Wroxeter; Wm. Taylor, Tempo; Mrs. George Hunt, Dorchester; J. C. Bell, Winchelsea; Archibald Wark, Wark; Halliday & Co., Chelsea; Charles Slickenden, Hayville; Isaac Winger, Aiken; E. J. Sinclair, Coldstream; and Mrs. John Rennie, Shakespear. Mrs. Samuel French, Christina, is the only Indian exhibiting butter this year.

INDIAN DEPARTMENT.

There is a noticeable falling off in the entries in the Indian department. Moraviantown, which sent a car load of articles last year, is not exhibiting this year. Oneida and Muncie make a first-class showing nevertheless, and a partial list of the exhibitors will interest those who formerly attract large and interested crowds. The exhibit confirms the assertion that the Indian man and woman have reached that stage of civilization when they are capable of doing almost everything that a white man or woman can do. With creditable foresight the Fair Board has placed in matters calculated to produce rivalry in the useful arts, and so make

the affair a sort of educator for the people of both sexes. The Indian housewife exhibits her baking, her preserves, her pickles, her cakes, her maple sugar and other culinary arts with as much pride as her white sister. She shows also an aptitude for embroidery, lace and bead work (in the latter she is hard to beat), and her patchwork and crazy quilts, pillowshams and covers in point of workmanship and quality are scarcely excelled.

The basket work of the Indian is a prominent feature of the exhibit. They show great originality in the matter of basket designing, and in dyeing their work they can introduce the bright colors they love so well to their heart's content. The other exhibits in the dairy building are Leonard's engines for creameries and cheese factories; J. S. Pearce's separators and dairy utensils, and Wortman & Ward's churns.

FLOWERS AND FRUIT.

These two products are housed in the same building. Immediately on entering the south door of the fruit section the eye is struck by a large three-gallon jar of pears which a presumable young man in charge says have been preserved for 23 years. The large exhibitors in the fruit section are Harry Marshall, Toronto, and Peter McCulloch, Burlington. The former has 200 varieties of apples on the boards. David and Walter Hay, Delaware, and N. Webb, Hamilton, are also exhibitors. The source of great temptation, especially to children, and it requires the constant watchfulness of officials to prevent pilfering. The alleged theft of pears, this summer, has not affected the quantity of fruit shown, and there is a noticeable improvement both in quality and variety. The sections are apples, pears, grapes, Marshall, of Hamilton, shows ten varieties of pears, while in grapes the principal exhibitor is A. G. Hull, St. Catharines. Marshall also leads the way in plums and peaches. Without even a third prize, L. & C. Knox, from Toledo, a close second. J. Knox, Virgil, has a most creditable all-around showing in fruit. The exhibitors in the horticulture section are all local men. In the 5316 feet display of plants J. Gammage & Sons take first prize. A. G. Stephens, second, and E. Bell, third. L. & C. Knox, and the prizes are pretty well divided among the four. The flower show is one of the prettiest sights of the Fair. The plants being grouped and arranged artistically and with very pleasing effect. The foliage plants are very beautiful, while the flower of geraniums will find a multitudinous variety. There are carnations and a few roses, a good collection of lantanas and many ferns.

HONEY, ROOTS, ETC.

Honey is scarce this year, and prices will be high, so honey dealers say. The past season has been bad for the little busy bee, the frosts and cold nights not harmonizing with his honey gathering propensities. If this continues it will soon be as requisite for the average family to keep its own bees as its cow, to guard against shortage and increased price.

Last year the price of honey was 10 cents in the comb and 15 cents for the extracted article. Just now it is 12-1/2 cents and 16 cents respectively. Gould, Shapley & Muir Company, Brantford, and Mrs. J. Rudd, South London, are the only exhibitors of honey. Both have large displays together with a full line of apilary tools and utensils. A feature of Mrs. Rudd's exhibit is honey lemonade, a very refreshing and cooling beverage.

The honey display is in the Agricultural Hall. It takes up a very small section, and the balance of the building is crowded with the largest collection of vegetables on record. The season has been a particularly good one for the garden and the farm, and the department fully bears out the fact. The pumpkins seem larger than ever, grooved and weighing over 100 pounds. The mangolds look longer and more uncooth, while the squashes, carrots, turnips, potatoes, corn, cabbages, etc., will put a keen edge on the appetite of the voracious dyspeptic. The north end is taken up with a display of melons, citrons and tomatoes, the east is devoted to cereals and small stuff, the west to roots, and the south to J. S. Pearce's familiar and magnificent display of all kinds of fruit, vegetables, etc.

NORTH'S SEWER AND CULVERT PIPES.

The North Portland Cement Concrete Stone Culvert and Sewer Pipe has since it was first manufactured in London, 8 or 9 years ago, grown rapidly in public favor, and only this year the Municipal Council of the city of London paid a high tribute to the value of the pipe by passing a resolution where-

by these pipes will in future be used by the city in its sewer work. The first of the work was lately authorized by the Board of Works in connection with the new South London sewer. The pipes exhibited by Mr. North at the southwest corner of the destroyed carriage building are in twelve sizes, ranging from 4 1/2 to 4 inches in diameter. He also shows a complete line of concrete traps, Y's, T's and elbows. These pipes are practically indestructible, and are in their element when in the ground. Mr. North has successfully introduced these wares all over Western Ontario, embracing Windsor and Sarnia on the west, Palmerston on the north, near Brantford in the east, and Lake Erie to the south, and he is in possession of recommendations from a large number of men in municipal office, etc., who speak either from actual experience or close observation. Mr. North also shows one of his stone sepulchres, weighing 1,100 pounds and measuring 6 feet 9 inches in length. One point that should commend these articles, particularly to Londoners, besides their intrinsic value, is the fact that they are manufactured in the city and about half the cost of production remains here.

WOMEN IN THE CONFERENCE.
Ann Arbor, Mich., Sept. 15.—The Detroit Conference of the M. E. Church, which embraces Eastern and Northern Michigan, has adopted a resolution instructing its delegates to the General Conference to vote for the admission of women as members of conferences.

SIX DROWNED.
Montevideo, Sept. 15.—The Italian bark Broomhall, from the Tyne for Caleta Buena, has been sunk in collision with the British bark Conder from Rio Janeiro for Caleta Buena. Capt. Repetto, the mate, and five of the crew of the Broomhall were drowned. The remainder of the crew have been landed here. The Conder was damaged.

SAD CASE OF KLEPTOMANIA.
Buffalo, Sept. 15.—Ada Kemy, 22 years old, of Welland, Ont., where her father is a bailiff, came here Friday to do some shopping and was detected stealing away a piece of lace in a handbag. In the bag were found other articles, supposed to have been stolen. She was convicted and fined \$30, but had no money to pay the fine. Her case was said by Attorney Stayton to be a sad one. She is almost dead with consumption and her mind has been affected. She has a mania for purloining small things. Her family is said to be a most estimable one.

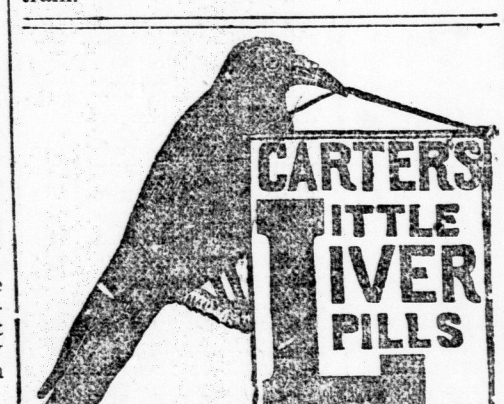
Tumors.
Phibrod, Ovarian and other tumors cured by electrolysis and other means without the knife, which is rarely necessary. For pamphlet and references, address, with 10 cents in stamps, World's Dispensary Medical Association, 609 Main street, Buffalo, N. Y. We should accustom the mind to keep the best company by introducing it only to the best books.—Sydney Smith. I think the world would go mad, just frenzied with the strain and pressure, but for the blessed institution of Sunday.—Herford.

Hints or Kicks? Which? Happy experience, coming from hints—or

As to cleanliness, if you want the happy experience, take the hints that Pearlina gives. Use Pearlina for all kinds of washing and you have ease and economy. Is there a hint in the fact that hundreds of millions of packages of Pearlina have been used, and the sale increases? If you want sad experience, take the old way with soap, and rubbing and scrubbing. That's hard for you, and for the things that you wash. It's all rub, rub, rub. JAMES FYLE, N.Y.

KILLED BY THE CARS.
Hamilton, Ont., Sept. 15.—Thomas Young, residing at 555 York street, while walking on the G. T. R. near the Desjardins canal this morning, was overtaken by a train and instantly killed.

Niagara, Falls, N. Y., Sept. 15.—John N. Waters, of Niagara Falls, Ont., aged 17, was fatally injured Friday night, at the Cantilever bridge while trying to get a ride across the bridge on a Michigan Central train.



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