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EDITORIAL.

Some Needs of the Western and Other Fairs.

The martyred President of the United States, in the last speech of his life, at the Buffalo Pan-American, a deliverance at once historic and prophetic, appropriately designated these great exhibitions as the "time-keepers of progress." But they are more than that. By placing in attractive form before the public the actual evidences of advancement in industry, agriculture and art, they become educational and a stimulus to further progress. Those entrusted with the general direction and management of these exhibitions should therefore devote their main thought and energy to their improvement in that respect. Through the agricultural societies the fair associations are in receipt of public funds, upon the theory that they are educational in the true sense of that term. Both at London and Toronto this year commendable efforts had been made to make the main-building exhibits more worthy representative of our great mercantile interests, and next year should witness still more conspicuous advances both there and in the general machinery building. From all directions we are in receipt of complaints regarding the continued absence of agricultural implements from the fairs, under the agreement among the manufacturers not to exhibit for a period of years, and we understand that during the Ottawa Exhibition a meeting of carriage manufacturers was held, at which they arrived at a practically unanimous decision that conditions were now such as to make exhibiting an unprofitable venture. Should this view prevail, and the shows be depleted of the display of vehicles, it will be another blow, because it is certainly a highly attractive feature. We trust that such steps will be taken as will result in its retention, and also the restoration of the farm implements, as a great many farmers state that they will not visit the fairs till this is done. By diverting and absorbing the attention of the people, the side-show element lessens the value of the fairs to the legitimate exhibitors, and, as we know, the healthy public sentiment of the country is against them. Fair boards may increase their revenues temporarily thereby, but we very much fear that in the long run they will be the losers through the withdrawal of public confidence.

The fruit and floral displays this year were very fine, and everything possible should be done to encourage exhibitors in these classes, particularly the former, in view of the effort to extend Canada's export fruit trade. The one outstanding department of the exhibition, from an agricultural view-point, is the live stock, and it shows no trace of waning popularity with the general public. The Western Fair directors would do well to strengthen their prize list in that direction, which seems needed now to meet the drawing competition of American shows. In addition to the pure-bred classes, a good many other exhibitors might be encouraged to come out by offering a few good prizes for leaf and dairy grades. The latter constitute a very fine feature of the Ottawa Exhibition. In improving the prize list, this should be done by adding cash premiums rather than ribbons, now given out in the "any age" sections of horses and cattle. The London fair is still lacking in a judging-ring and seating pavilion for viewing the making of

cattle awards, but a still more serious lack is the absence of any provision whereby the people can see the horse-judging in any but the racing events. In fact, the public is virtually prohibited from any educational benefits incident to viewing the work of the judges in all the breeding classes, unless provided with telescopes or opera glasses and seats on the grand stand. There is ample space for such a ring and seating accommodation as suggested in the space to the rear of the grand stand and northward from the carriage building and the most westerly of the horse stables, and we trust the association will provide this improvement for the fair of 1902.

Now, while, as Mr. McKinley pointed out, these great exhibitions are time-keepers of material progress, they may, if not wisely safeguarded, become the time-keepers of degeneracy by catering to depraved tastes or by permitting this to be done through the agency of side-shows. Toronto this year wisely cleaned out the bulk of these shows, shunting those that were left down toward the lake. We regret to note that they are still rampant at the Ottawa and London fairs, but at the latter public sentiment revolted, finding an expression through the Rev. Dr. Johnston, pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Adam Beck, the well-known horseman, who, with two policemen in plain clothes, had, after hearing repeated complaints throughout the city, made a tour of the "Midway." Next morning they appeared before the Fair Board and entered a vigorous public protest. "It is not in the English language," said Dr. Johnston, "to describe the horrible lewdness and indescribably filthy suggestiveness of the grossly immoral performances which we witnessed. It was an atrocious outrage on decency, and we would ask, on behalf of the citizens of London, not that the objectionable features be expunged, for there is nothing in the shows which is not objectionable and degrading, but that the Board should rid itself of these shows, root and branch."

As a result, a resolution was promptly passed, ordering off the Exhibition grounds the three offending shows, the "Moorish Theatre," "Beautiful India," and the "Streets of Cairo," for breach of their contract with the Board, which provided that there should be no objectionable features.

We believe public sentiment will sustain the fair directors in maintaining a clean show and in strengthening its substantial features. We can recall times when on the London grounds years ago, before the days of side-shows or even modern grand-stand "attractions," the attendance was quite as large or even greater than since their advent. The Chicago World's Fair was responsible for letting loose a stream of moral rottenness upon this continent under the name of the "Midway." Public sentiment is now fairly clear on this subject, and should back up directors in shutting out absolutely such features and patronizing a wholesome show. In the next place, more of our merchants and manufacturers should be prepared to make some sacrifices in providing exhibits for these fairs, which are undoubtedly a very great boon to the cities where they are held, and a help to business. Most of the directors are busy men, who give their time and thought freely and ungrudgingly to the conduct of these fairs, and as a rule they get more criticism than commendation. They have had their share of the former for one year, and the better plan now for all hands is to lay plans for

making the shows of 1902 unique in point of excellence and success. The Western Fair of 1901 had the worst weather it ever encountered, not to mention the Pan-American competition. Consequently, their receipts fell off seriously, compared with other years, but they were provident enough to have a surplus on hand from previous shows to meet their obligations.

Inspection and Education in Apple Packing.

According to current reports, fruit men are not in full agreement regarding the provisions of the new Dominion Fruit Inspection Bill (Fruit Marks Act, as it is called), which took effect on July 1st last, and which was published in the "Farmer's Advocate" for June 15th. It was the subject of prolonged controversy in the House of Commons, and likewise in the Senate, where it was considerably amended before becoming law. Senator Ferguson, of Prince Edward Island, who took an active interest in this measure, contends that its principal merit consists in the foundation it lays for prosecuting those who mark packages falsely or so face packages as to falsely represent the contents, and who may be proceeded against under the Criminal Code; and its weakness, that the inspection authorized is not to be made under the General Inspection Act. We notice by an order-in-council recently passed at Ottawa, that the person who actually packs, as well as the person in whose behalf it is packed, shall be liable for any violation of the Act. Government inspectors are given power to detain fruit as long as may be deemed necessary to complete an inspection. When an inspector sends a prepaid telegram or letter to the name and address marked on the package, it shall be considered due notice to any packer under the Act. Any inspector who violates the regulations is rendered liable to a penalty of from \$5 to \$50. Our last issue contained announcement of a number of special inspectors being appointed. These inspectors will see to it when called upon that the name of the packer, etc., are marked on each package, and that the facing layer shall represent its entire contents. In addition to the work of inspection, Messrs. A. McNeil, Wallerville, and Elmer Lick, of Oshawa, the other inspector for Ontario, will conduct an educational campaign, by way of illustrating apple-packing, at many of the fall fairs in apple sections, and during the winter months they will probably attach themselves to the Farmers' Institute staff, proclaiming the possibilities of apple-growing when properly conducted. They will dwell upon and give instruction in the selection of good varieties, proper cultivation and care of the fruit, emphasizing the establishment of storages on every apple-growing farm, so that a grower can avoid the necessity of selling his crop all at once in the autumn when the great bulk is thrown on the market. Mr. McNeil is sanguine over the future of apple-growing in Canada, and believes that it will not be long until our apple trade will be as well conducted and as much a staple as wheat is at the present time.

Mr. H. H. Groff, a Canadian florist, distinguished himself at Buffalo by making thirteen entries in the fifteen gladiolus sections, and winning thirteen first prizes; also a gold medal for general excellence, a certificate of merit, and a fine silver trophy. He had 10,000 spikes continuously on exhibition, and his display was conceded to be the finest ever seen in America.