

H. A. PORTER TALKS OF THE BIG ST. JOHN FAIR AND ITS MANAGEMENT

Compares the System With Other Plan—Too Much Detail for One.

Manager H. A. Porter told a Times reporter this week that there was room for fast improvement in the system by which the exhibition was organized and carried out. He had been in other places where the thing was done differently and he had seen that St. John had something to learn. He emphasized that he was not casting any reflection on the way the St. John show was run but said he could see that, by making a few changes, matters could be greatly expedited.

As at present constituted there are fourteen committees as follows: Agriculture and Dairy, Amusements and Concessions, Buildings and Grounds, Cattle and Other Livestock, Fruits and Flowers, Industrial Exhibits, Machinery Hall, Poultry, Publicity, Public Safety, Science, Education and Natural Resources, Tickets, Transportation and Accommodation, and Women's Work. Each committee has a chairman and the president is ex-officio member of all committees.

To organize an exhibition as a community enterprise, Manager Porter said that in his opinion, the ideal system was one in which the committees acted as independent bodies to a large extent and were absolutely responsible for the conduct of their part of the show. The only persons with whom they would have dealings would be the board of directors who would sit in judgment on the matter of expenditures only. Each committee would sit and decide upon its part of the exhibition.

To the manager usually falls the duty of carrying it into execution. From this it must not be taken that the committees shirk their duty. Some of them are very energetic and a great help to the manager, but too much detail is left to him. Certain matters fall within the province of a certain committee, and they should be responsible for the active execution rather than the passive suggestion. At present, if the office boy want a package of pins, if the stenographer want some stamps, if a man want a job as special policeman, if a grounds employee want an electric bulb, if an exhibitor inquire where he will put his short horn cattle, if a special performer listed to appear fall and suffer injuries which put him out of the running, if a committee member want information, to whom does he go? To the manager. It is more than a one-man job. The manager has enough to do, what with correspondence to answer, general oversight of the preparations for the show and the smooth running after it is started, and the thousand and one things that crop up continually. It is a nerve-racking job.

HOLD RUSSIAN DIAMONDS IN LOW ESTEEM

Berlin, Aug. 30.—(A. P. by Mail)—Bolshevik Russia has few supporters among the established diamond dealers of the world. The flood of cheap and defective stones which Soviet officials have thrown upon the market has interfered with the trade of old established houses.

Krestinsky, the Bolshevik ambassador in Berlin, is reported to be one of the chief diamond dealers in Europe. There are fabulous tales in circulation as to the great quantity of confiscated stones which he keeps locked up in the strong boxes of the Russian embassy here.

At Genoa, The Hague and Lausanne it was currently reported that the Bolshevik delegates financed their expenses through the sale of confiscated jewels.

"Russian diamonds" has become a contemptuous expression in Germany to define inferior stones. This is because so many of the jewels which have found their way into the hands of German dealers from Russian sources are yellow, imperfect and badly cut. Size and not quality was sought by Russians who bought jewels in the old days, and they had the great yellow diamonds mounted in fantastic settings with other stones.

Consequently many of the Russian jewels had to be recut and remounted before they were saleable in western Europe. They were too oriental and gorgeous for the quieter tastes of westerners.

Buyers who paid fancy prices for Russian diamonds when they first began pouring into western Europe have learned a bitter lesson. Stones which sold for \$300 a carat several years ago are now begging \$100 a carat. The market for yellow and inferior diamonds has been glutted.

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