

improvements suggested, of which the maker has taken advantage. These are some of the benefits that have followed, as the result either directly or indirectly of Agricultural Fairs. It is at our fairs where the various productions of mechanism are brought together, and their differences seen and noted, and ideas of improvement are suggested. There is little doubt that we owe the advantages we possess in the art of husbandry over our ancestors, more to the fairs than to all other causes combined.

The same is true of improvements in farm stock. At the Fairs are brought together the various breeds and grades of stock, and here the intelligent farmer studies the point of excellencies or the defects in each, and is prepared to decide which are the best adapted to his purpose, or whether a cross between two breeds would be preferable to any of the existing breeds. In this way stock of all kinds is improved, new and pure bloods are introduced, emulation and interprise are excited, and improvements take place.

A given amount of food will produce more beef, pork, mutton, wool, &c., than it would twenty years since, while it requires far less labor to raise feed for animals, owing to the improvements in implements and processes of cultivation.

Let us look at the history of those States and counties where Fairs are well sustained. We find the citizens of such States and counties have increased in wealth and intelligence, through the influence of the Fairs. That the value of real estate, of animals, of improvements in the art of husbandry, as well as the various mechanical branches, have been almost in direct ratio to the interest taken in these exhibitions.

We well know our state and County Fairs have been useful. They have contributed to the progress of agricultural improvement throughout the country. Thousands have visited them and have seen specimens of this progress. The improvements which have been made in everything connected with farming operations can plainly be seen in every agricultural community, and a better character of farming is maintained.

Many of our citizens take a wrong view of the real intentions of Agricultural Fairs. Each one is apt to think that his neighbor must take something to the Fair to exhibit, while he or she is only invited to go to pay the gate fee and see and examine what is there. The consequence of such a state of things is a small show of agricultural products and home manufacturers. This is all wrong. Every member, *and every farmer and mechanic in the country ought to be a member*—should bring something of his or her growth or manufacture. Every man who has articles worthy of exhibition, or who has the ability to attend the fair himself, is accountable to that extent for the success of the Society. Let us take hold of this in earnest and in the right way, and we shall see a marked improvement in the value of our farms and farm products. Let every land-holder and mechanic produce and bring to the Fair something of real value, having some points of excellence and the best he has or can produce under the circumstances. He will then feel a personal interest in the Fair.

It is out of the power of any Board of Managers to make a Fair a success without the co-operation of the people. There should be a hearty, healthy

interest in the mind of every farmer in the country for the successful carrying out of everything which is for the good of his County Society.

Every farmer should take pride in it, and use it as an instrumentality made by him for his own benefit and should go to its meetings and exhibitions with the determination to do all that in him lies for its prosperity, that it may be made a power to be felt throughout the country in the improvement of husbandry and a direct instrumentality to benefit each by the influence which it exerts on all. The County Society was formed to promote the interest of the farmers, and that has been its object and aim from its foundation to the present time.

It is to be hoped that in the future all our citizens will come forward with their products of the soil, their stock, and whatever they may have produced by their skill or industry, both of the useful and ornamental, and may the ladies, as in the past, make their department the most attractive portion of the exhibition. In this way only can our Agricultural Society take its position by the side of our sister County Societies.

#### EXPERIMENTS AT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

We have much pleasure in giving publicity to the following circular which we find in a recent number of the *Prairie Farmer* published in the city of Chicago:—

After correspondence with those more immediately interested, it has been decided to call a convention of Presidents of Agricultural Colleges, Professors of Agriculture, or other persons in the United States or British Provinces who are engaged or interested in promoting the art or science of agriculture by experiments in the field or laboratory, for the purpose of organizing, consulting and co-operating in the great work of advancing the cause of agricultural knowledge and education, especially by experimentation with similar crops under similar conditions, at all the agricultural colleges.

Accordingly a meeting will be held, commencing on Thursday, August 24th, at 10 o'clock A. M. in one of the halls in *The Prairie Farmer Building*, 112 Monroe street, in the city of Chicago, at which the attendance of all interested, but especially of the representatives of the agricultural colleges of the country is earnestly invited.

Perhaps upon various topics related to the objects of the meeting are expected from several gentlemen, and are solicited from all who have any suggestions to make thereon.

This meeting is called with the approval of the following gentleman, most of whom expect to be present:

I. C. Abbott, President of the Michigan State Agricultural College.

Manly Miles, Professor of Practical Agriculture Michigan Agricultural College.

J. M. Gregory, Regent of the Illinois Industrial University.

W. C. Flagg, Secretary of the Board of Trustees Illinois Industrial University.