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Let Our Fall Fairs be Clean

AT the Missouri State Fair this year no intoxicants of any kind will be sold on the grounds. No immoral shows, no gambling or gambling device will be tolerated.

Evidently the movement for clean exhibitions is moving westward. So far as we know none of the fairs held in Canada have ever gone the limit of those to the south of the line in allowing questionable and immoral performances on the grounds. But some have approached very near to it.

The sooner all show managers realize that the chief value of an exhibition is as an educator the better for the success of their fairs. While it is, no doubt, a place where many people come to be amused, this is only of secondary importance. All exhibits of live stock, dairy products, grain, etc., have an educational value that should give them first place in any fair large or small. When they are side-tracked, or the money which should be given in prizes is utilized to secure questionable attractions or other amusement features, the original objects of the fair have been perverted, and it is no longer worthy of public support.

Let this year's shows be so managed that every visitor will return home feeling that he has obtained some knowledge that will be helpful in making his calling more successful and his life more happy, and the reason for their existence will be greatly strengthened. All amusement features should be of a wholesome character and nothing that would bring a blush to a woman's cheek should be allowed.

Winnipeg Fair Criticized

The recent Winnipeg Fair comes in for a pretty good "roasting" at the hands of the Free Press of that city. The general unsatisfactory condition of the grounds, the old, unpainted and empty buildings, the bad accommodation for live stock and attendants, the lack of a program and special time for judging live stock, the inadequate space for showing agricultural implements, the many and unsavory side-shows, are some of the things complained of. A pretty strong case is made out, which the management should take into its serious consideration, and act upon before another year.

The Winnipeg Fair management, like the management of too many of our fairs, both large and small, has made the fatal mistake of catering to the amusement rather than to the educational features of the show. The live stock exhibits, the dairy and other features of an educational character

have been side-tracked, and the horse race, the side show and the special attraction given prominence, a policy that is sure to lead to disaster in the long run. The people of this country, whether they live in the east or in the west, do not spend time and money in attending fairs merely to be amused. In the majority of cases, and we speak more particularly for the farmer, the presence of any one at a fair is due largely to a desire to learn something that will be of value in future work. If a little wholesome amusement is sandwiched in the outing will be both pleasant and profitable.

The primary object of an exhibition,

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whether held in a large city or in a small village, is educational. The displaying in proper form of the products of the country, whether of live stock or direct from the soil, is an educational feature that can hardly be duplicated in any other way. If to this be added special educational features, such as live stock judging contests, and butter making competitions, a list of attractions is provided that will discount the horse race and the side show in drawing a crowd. Many of the fairs in the east have found this out and every year sees more attention given to educational features and less to the special attraction.

Evidently the management of the Winnipeg Fair have not learned the lesson yet. But the sooner they do so the better, both for the reputation and the lasting success of their exhibition.

The Apple Crop

Both buyers and sellers are, no doubt, anxious to know what the apple crop of this year is to be. It is perhaps, early to secure accurate estimates, as weather conditions and the ravages of fungi scab and other dis-

cases from this on may materially decrease the yield. And yet sufficient is known to forecast, with a fair degree of accuracy, just what the prospects are. At this season the maximum yield at least can be sized up pretty accurately. If changes occur it will be on the side of a lower rather than a higher yield than the estimate.

The most comprehensive and careful summary of the apple crop yield for this continent we have seen so far has been compiled by the New York Packer. It places the probable yield for the United States fully 40 per cent. short of last year's crop, if not more. In detail, it reports that the New England states will not reach more than half of last year's crop. New York state will not have more than 40 per cent. of last year's crop. Pennsylvania, the Virginias and Maryland will not be up to the average. In the middle section, including Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, there will be less than an average crop, while Michigan will only have from 35 to 40 per cent. of a full crop. In the southwestern states there will be from 15 to 30 per cent. of a crop, while Iowa, Minnesota and adjoining states will have a poor crop. California has a good crop, but the states farther north will be short. According to The Packer, Nova Scotia will have a very poor crop, and the rest of Canada will do well if they get 50 per cent. of last year's crop.

Taking this report in detail it looks as if the apple crop of 1905 will be the smallest raised in many years. On the whole, it would seem that growers who are so fortunate as to have apples this fall will realize good prices for them. The home demand promises to be good, and already there has been considerable inquiry from Great Britain. There is evident going to be a good outlet for all the fall and winter apples raised, and we would advise farmers not to be too eager to take the first offer that comes along.

Reciprocity Conference

A conference will be held in Chicago on August 15th and 16th, to urge the wisdom of substituting in the foreign relations of the United States the principle of reciprocity for that of exclusion and retaliation.

The movement for holding this conference originated at the last annual meeting of the National Live Stock Association of the United States. Representative organizations, such as the National Live Stock, Corn Belt Meat Producers, American Shorthorn Breeders and several other associa-