

# The Farming World

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## The Side Show and the Fall Fair



AFTER the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893 the motley crew of performers who graced the Moorish Palace, the Persian Theatre, the Streets of Cairo, and such like places of amusement on the Midway Plaisance, scattered abroad throughout the United States in an attempt to introduce their unseemly wares in other cities. The State Fair was the first ground to be systematically worked by these individuals, and for a few years the side shows at these annual Fairs were reeking with the filth and indecencies of the most demoralizing features of the Midway Plaisance. But public indignation became aroused and the managers of the State Fairs, in order to retain the confidence of the constituency to which they were catering, were compelled to exclude such questionable exhibitions from the grounds. Driven from the State Fair, we understand that this class of entertainers are now reaching out to the small local or county fair across the border, where they are distributing their filthy goods to the innocent and inexperienced youth of the more rural districts.

But what has all this to do with our Canadian Fairs? Merely this. There is seemingly a tendency to allow some of these questionable side show performances to gain a foothold at our annual fall fairs, and a warning just here may have a wholesome effect in checking any further growth along this line. We have no room on any fair ground in Canada for any of the unseemly side shows referred to above, and which, we are sorry to say, were to be seen at a couple of our larger exhibitions outside of this city, this year. Why cannot our exhibitions be made a financial success without such accessories? There is no reason other than a financial one that we can see for the management of a fair allowing the side show space on the grounds. If the big fall fair cannot be successfully financed without the percentage of receipts from these sources it would be better to increase the general admission fee. In this connection it might be well to note that the admission fee to the big State Fairs across the line is usually double of that to the larger Canadian Fairs.

No one objects to the sideshows so long as the entertainment provided is clean and wholesome even if it is not educational. Many, no doubt, look upon it as an essential feature of the big fall fair and if there were not something of this kind to enable them to get rid of a few extra ten-cent pieces, they would go away feeling disappointed. It may be necessary to provide some extra feature of this kind, but if it has to be done let the directors and managers of our exhibitions see to it that only clean and wholesome entertainments are allowed on the grounds. A policy

of careful selection and rejection in this matter would do more than anything we know of to secure to our larger exhibitions the confidence of the general public.

At the present time there are not wanting signs of a gradual withdrawal of public confidence from the fall fair because of the too great tendency to cater more to the special attraction and amusement feature rather than to the educational and industrial side of the exhibition. This is done we think because of a false impression as to the real object people have in visiting the annual fair. True, there are a goodly number who attend only to be amused, but we are well within the mark when we state that the vast majority of those who visit the fall fair do so because of an earnest desire to obtain information as to the resources of the country and the progress that is being made in manufactures, live-stock, agricultural products and manufactured goods of all kinds. It is then the educational and industrial feature that should be given first attention if our fair managers wish to cater to the large majority of our citizens. We are not given much to prophesying, but we venture this: That the successful fair of the future and the one that will live will be the one that will give the greatest prominence in the way of equipment and methods of demonstration, to the educational and industrial features of its exhibits. Mere amusement alone will not retain for very long the confidence of the better class of our citizens and of those whose patronage is necessary to the success of any large exhibition. There must be something more substantial than this to induce people to travel a number of miles and undergo the inconvenience of a crowded city in order to attend a fall fair. The tendency to-day is for people to desire to get their money's worth, and this cannot be had for the average citizen from the amusement feature alone of the big fall fair. The educational and industrial feature must predominate in order that visitors may be well repaid for their investment of time and money.

## Tampering with Milk for Cheese-Making

Reports from the inspectors employed by the Eastern and Western Dairymen's Associations seem to indicate that the practice of tampering with milk for cheese-making purposes is not decreasing very rapidly. In fact, we have it on the authority of an inspector who has been engaged in this work for twelve or fifteen years that the practice of watering and removing the cream from milk supplied to cheese factories does not appear to be decreasing to any great extent. Wherever the dishonest patron is to be