

Agriculture at the World's Fair.



THE Agricultural Fair is a modern institution, and in America has grown in importance as rapidly as any other. The first stock show in America consisted in the exhibition of one pair of Merino sheep, on the public square in Pittsfield, in the year eighteen-hundred and seven. From that time have Agricultural Fairs and stock shows grown and extended their influence in every part of the land; until the climax was reached in Chicago last year. Then we saw the place Agriculture holds in the world, and then our eyes were opened to the great advancement she has made in late years. Agriculture at the World's Fair occupied the position it is entitled to; that of first importance.

The building was one of the finest, and its position on the Court of Honor rendered it most striking. From the water-front and the pier it was most imposing, appearing second only in importance of position to the Administration Building. It covered an area of thirteen acres, including the annex; it was sixty-five feet high to the cornice, and one-hundred and thirty to the summit of the dome, while the cost was eight-hundred thousand dollars. The architectural design of the building was classic and very striking. Symmetrical Corinthian pillars ran around the entire structure, and these were most noticeable at the main entrance which was massive and Grecian. The handsome dome gave a pleasing effect to the building and added to the appreciation of the statuary. The statuary was very imposing, and would have moved those who are least artistic to wonder and admiration. There was a bronze statue of Diana, by A. St. Gaudens, which was seen from a long distance. Then the four "Pillar" groups at the corners added to the building's appearance as well as bore interest for themselves. Among other noticeable groups were the different "Ceres," "Seasons," and "Abundance" groups, and the "Glorification of Ceres," by L. G. Mead, the Indian sculptor, which was situated at the main pediment.

The character of the exhibits was as varied as were the races whose products were there brought together. While the Americans and Canadians, for the most part, took pains to arrange the raw products of the field to the best advantage, the foreign exhibitors often included manufactured articles which sometimes had no distinct connection with Agriculture. The exhibit of countries less favored for Agriculture than our own often developed into a natural history display; or perhaps curios, indicating savage and fierce neighbors, flanked the scanty products of the tilled soil. Types of the buildings, implements, and utensils, of some foreign countries served to increase the interest taken in their Agricultural products. On the whole, however, a careful study showed that nowhere is Agriculture at a standstill; there is no country, however unsettled or wild, but seems to say: "We are advancing in Agriculture."

The American States vied with each other in the excellence and the artistic display of their products. The thought which came as each pavilion was viewed was: "This must be the best; it cannot be beaten." As there are poets who have never written, there are many artists who have never wielded brush or pencil. Where are the artists who planned and arranged those pavilions so that the most artistic would not fail to be pleased, and none could find a flaw? These exhibits consisted, for the most part, of grains and grasses exhibited just as grown, or perhaps only the heads, and often the threshed seed. Corn, in many different forms, was prominent. An attempt to describe even one of these pavilions would occupy more time than to

picture the interior of a fairy palace, and would involve more uncommon terms than the latest jargon of a modisto. There were figures, implements, and pieces of furniture made entirely from the products of the field. Caste mottoes and figures woven with cereals called to mind the tapestries of old-time fame. There were arches of corn, pillars of wheat, and gables of grasses; all in taste, all unique, and all beautiful. California, Queen of the Universe, was there; Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio, Connecticut, Washington, and many others, each claiming praise for her offspring. Pennsylvania displayed evidences of her silk industry to advantage. Nebraska had an interesting exhibit of beet sugar. The decorations of the Kentucky pavilion consisted mainly of tobacco in different forms, which was pleasingly set off by that pretty grey moss we never see in the north. The South Dakota exhibit was a very large one; to enter the pavilion one had to pass under a series of arches which rested on the trunks of trees. From some of these trunks came fresh sprouts, which made the effect more pleasing. The exhibit of North Carolina would call to mind our difference of position: cotton tobacco and pea-nuts were its chief features. Massachusetts took a novel course: she claimed little for the soil as it now is; but did claim, and attempted by showing results to prove, that, with the aid of artificial fertilizers she could excel all the rest.

The Agricultural Colleges made an especially interesting and instructive exhibit. The sciences of Botany, Physiology, Physics, Chemistry, Dairying, and Veterinary Science, were well represented. Tables, charts, figures, and objects, would have repaid a study of weeks to the Agricultural student. The Ontario student would also have appreciated the reading material and fine photographs relating to the different Colleges throughout the country. If we were to criticize these exhibits it would be on account of their apparent distance from the principles of actual practice. There was no attempt made to lead the farmer to see the relation between his wheat or cattle and Agricultural science as it now is; and while we allow the difficulty of making the exhibit more instructive to the farmer we think something might have been done to that end.

It would be impossible to give even a general idea of the foreign exhibits in a short account. England and France showed us what can be done with small plots of land; and their exhibits seemed to indicate a spirit of intensive farming. France had a complicated exhibit illustrating the methods of the technical schools. There was an exact model of the Brookfield Stud Farm stables. Australia had a very prominent exhibit of wool, which was very much in keeping with the country. Japan did remarkably well in everything connected with the Fair, and was not behind in her unique exhibit in the Agricultural building. Strange smelling grasses, bamboo, tea, rice, silk, and tobacco were its chief features.

The exhibition of implements could not fail to interest all. Here again one was reminded that not only our country, or our continent, was represented, but the World. Many machines were a mystery to the American, and more to the Canadian farmer. The splendid representative exhibit of the Massey Harris Company was flanked by machines which are not known to us. We were reminded that cotton and tobacco, as well as wheat and oats, were being cultivated with the aid of complicated machinery. There were corn-harvesters, hay presses, corn-planters, and potato-harvesters in great number. There were many interesting and elegant exhibits of plows, harrows, binders, mowers, and other ordinary machines. Some of the threshing-machines were exceptionally handsome. Those symmetrical brightly polished and painted plows seemed quite at home on the soft