

better, and prevent it from being so exceedingly numerous and destructive?

This brings me to remark, that notwithstanding all the observations that have been made upon this insect, no other insect has ever been discovered destroying this species and repressing its numbers, till within the past six months a species of this kind has been brought to light.

To be concluded in next number.

Agricultural Exhibitions.

The season is near at hand when our annual agricultural exhibitions will take place, and it behoves all persons who are engaged in their management, to endeavor to make them conducive to the public good in the highest degree. The original object in the organization of the societies under whose auspices these displays are made, was the improvement of agriculture. Different views may be taken in regard to the meaning to be attached to the word *improvement* in this case, but we understand its leading sense to be the realization of better returns from the cultivation of the earth. This is the primary object, and should be kept constantly in mind.

A departure from this principle has sometimes been defended on the ground that it was necessary in order to "raise money." But is this any better than the old Catholic practice of selling licenses to commit crime, for the good of souls? If displays of "lady (?) equestrianism" are to be instituted for the purpose of drawing a crowd and getting money, why may not races after greased pigs, and the climbing of "slushed poles," be introduced? We might urge stronger objections to the so-called "trials of speed" in horses, as they make the question of merit and value to depend on the trifling point of speed at a short distance, with light weight, and encourage the practice of gambling.

These things tend to attract and engross the minds of people, and by their prominence throw into the background the more useful objects of exhibitions, which only can be legitimately promoted. Hence, like other evils, they produce their natural consequences, and we do not believe that any society ever made anything, in the end, by obtaining money from such sources.

But other things demand attention. Nowhere is the observance of the maxim "The right man in the right place," of more importance than in agricultural exhibitions. It should be observed in filling all the offices, from that of president down to the awarding committees. The injustice or injudiciousness of the awards of premiums, is a frequent source of disaffection. No doubt there are many complaints without reasonable foundation; yet we have good grounds to believe that awards are not always made on a proper basis—not often through wrong motives on the part of committees, but from ignorance of the true principles involved. It should be the ob-

ject of societies to select men with special reference to what is required—men who know what are their duties, and knowing dare perform them.

Another matter which deserves more attention, is agricultural addresses. As our views on this point have hitherto been pretty fully expressed, we need not now occupy much space with remarks on it. In the selection of persons to deliver these addresses, the idea is too prevalent that a man who will *draw* must be had. The consequence is that in many cases some political aspirant is chosen, who makes a grand flourish, full of sound and flattery, but signifies nothing in regard to agriculture, and worth not one cent to the practical farmer.

On the whole, as the business of so-called agricultural addresses is generally managed in this country, we are inclined to think the public good will be promoted by discontinuing the altogether. They generally occupy time that of much consequence to the *working* attendant of the exhibition. Sometimes the society marched in a body through dust or mud (according to the weather) a considerable distance from the show ground and centre of all other business and after the reading of the important documents marched back again. Why could not all remarks which it is necessary to make on such occasions, be made at the dinner-table?

And this brings us to the subject of agricultural exhibition dinners, and what belongs to them. Under proper direction, the dinner is a very interesting and agreeable feature of exhibition, and not devoid of practical advantages. It is advisable to prevent, as far as possible, the interference of the dinner with business, and on this account it is better to make it a final winding up of the exhibition. The remarks at the table should comprehend everything in the way of speech-making or address that the occasion requires. And instead of a general address about nothing in particular would it not be better to have a special lecture on some agricultural topic? This would bring out ideas which would be suggestive far in regard to practical improvement.

Speeches at agricultural dinners in our country (or perhaps we should say in *this* part of our country,) are frequently too much on a mutual admiration plan. The speakers, being able to say anything on agriculture, feeling flattered by the invitation to show themselves, speak from the fullness of the heart towards those to whom they are indebted. Such personal and often very flat compliments are poor things to treasure up in the archives of a society professing a utilitarian object.

Another fault is the *length* of speeches. In most instances all that any one has to say he better said in the space of five or ten minutes than in a longer time. It should be understood that one man is not to waste time and the patience of the audience in a half hour's speech which interests nobody but himself. The facts or sentiments by which it is intended to ex-