

own church, and compares it to the profanation from which the Jewish temple was purged by the Saviour. Under the Fatimite Caliphs in the eleventh century, an annual fair was held at Mount Calvary, much to the benefit of the surrounding country, and the merchants of Amalphi were very favorably regarded by the infidels for the commerce which this was the means of introducing. But no matter when or what the origin of fairs might have been, it is plain to see that they arose naturally. Wherever men assemble together there is certain to be more or less traffic, and thus, while the fair may have grown out of an accident, it would have come sooner or later, nevertheless.

But notwithstanding the great antiquity of fairs, their charters are comparatively modern—the oldest of which there is any complete record being that of St. Denys', Paris, which Dagobert, king of the Franks, granted in the year 642 A.D., to the monks of the place "for the glory of God and the honour of St. Denys at his festival." The first recorded grant in England appears to be that of William the Conqueror to the Bishop of Winchester for leave to hold an annual "free fair" at St. Giles Hill. The monk who had been the king's jester received his charter of Bartholomew fair, Smithfield, in the year 1133. Sometimes fairs were granted to towns for enabling them to recover from the effects of war and disasters. Thus Edward III. granted a "free fair" to the town of Burnley in Rutland, just as in subsequent times Charles VII. favored Bordeaux, after the English wars, and Louis XIV. gave fair charters to the towns of Dieppe and Toulon. The importance attached to those old fairs may be understood from the inducements which, in the fourteenth century, Charles IV. held out to traders visiting the great fair at Frankfort-on-the-Maine. The charter declared that both during the continuance and for eighteen days before and after the fair merchants would be exempt from imperial taxation, from arrest for debt, or civil process of any sort; except such as might arise from the transactions of the market itself and within its precincts. In those days a fair had its staff of notaries for the attestation of bargains, its court of justice, its police officers, its sergeants for the execution of the decrees of the market judges, and its inspectors, whose duty it was to reject all articles unfit for sale or use. These fairs, as was but natural, gave way in time to more important exhibitions until the sale of food products was confined entirely to markets, and the fairs became specific meeting places for the introduction of specialties.

The fairs of England have always been and are now mainly devoted to the exhibition and sale of stock. There are cattle shows, horse fairs, sheep and swine exhibits, but nothing approaching in diversity of displays the exhibits of this country. In fact, outside of mechanical expositions, there are no fairs—as we term fairs in America—in England. Up to 1798 no attempt had been made anywhere to have a grand exhibit of machinery on a specified occasion. In that year the first industrial exhibition of consequence was held in Paris, and even then the French manufacturers did not display their products, the exhibits being specimens of French manufactures borrowed from the owners. The first industrial exposition of Great Britain was held in London in 1828 under royal patronage but was not successful. It stimulated enterprise in this direction, however, and local exhibitions of manufacturers were

held at Manchester in 1837, Leeds in 1839, and Birmingham in 1849.

Fairs, as now conducted in Canada and the United States, or perhaps we should have said in Toronto and St. Louis, are a distinctive enterprise far ahead of anything of the kind in any other parts of the civilized world, but they had a humble origin. A hundred years ago the people of the United States did not take kindly to what they termed "the peddling ideas of Great Britain," and no systematic effort was made to hold fairs. In 1810 a merchant of Albany, N.Y., named Watson, conceived the idea that a cattle and farm produce show, or more properly speaking, an agricultural fair, would be profitable. With the assistance of a few of his neighbors the idea was carried into execution at or near Pittsfield, Mass., and it was an unbounded success. Encouraged by this, Mr. Watson sought larger fields and asked the co-operation of the citizens of Boston to inaugurate a similar fair in that city. Not only did they emphatically decline, but his proposition called forth a letter of severe rebuke from ex-President John Adams. In nowise disheartened, however, Mr. Watson returned to Albany and in 1812 commenced organizing fairs in adjoining counties with measurable success. By 1819 the people had so far overcome their prejudices against such exhibitions and had so well learned their value that in that year the New York Legislature passed an act appropriating \$10,000 annually for six years for the promotion of exhibitions of agricultural products and domestic manufactures, to be divided among the agricultural societies of the state in proportion to the population represented by each, provided each society raised a sum equal to its allotment. From this time on the fairs of New York, stimulated by these appropriations, grew into such proportions that other States were attracted by them, and before 1858 many of the States had fallen into line. The display of agricultural implements and machinery and vehicles did not become the leading feature of American fairs until after the World's Fair at New York in 1853, although they had held a prominent place in many of the exhibits for a long time before. This World's Fair Company was organized in 1851, the city giving it free rental of Reservoir Square for five years on condition that the building should be of glass and iron and the admission fee not over fifty cents. The company also received some aid from Congress. The fair was opened on July 14th by President Pierce and continued 119 days. Although more than half of the 4,800 exhibitors were from foreign countries the chiefest display and the one that attracted the most attention was the exhibit of farm implements.

Canada, particularly Ontario, was quick to catch on to the practice of holding fairs, and these rapidly multiplied and grew in importance. As in the United States, some of these became permanent, while others had but brief life. The most important of those which have become permanent and have reached the importance and proportions of national exhibitions, noted the world over for the beauty and extent of their grounds, the magnificence and diversity of their displays and for the hundreds of thousands of visitors who annually attend them are those at Toronto and St. Louis.

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