Anderson Intelligencer

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THE ANDERSON FAIR.

A Brilliant and Merited Success.

We gave last week a brief outline of the successful exhibition of the Anderson Farmers' and Mechanics' Association, which was at that time in full progress. Eight years ago this Association was organized, and as the season returns for holding the County Fair, we cannot avoid reflecting upon the energy, perseverance and energy of a few brave, hopeful spirits who were determined to inaugurate such a progressive institution in our midst. It required time and patience to make the beginning, and bring together enough capital and energy to place the Association upon a permanent footing. But this has been done most successfully, and as the seasons roll around the managers have the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts are largely appreciated by the public, who patronize the County Fair as exhibitors and visitors.

The Association may be regarded as one of the fixed institutions of Anderson. With ample grounds and substantial buildings, which are free from every incumbrance, the County Fair will always hold a secure place in the popularity and affections of the people, and in future years the names of its projectors will be honored even more than at the present time.

The Eighth Annual Fair eclipsed all of its predecessors in many respects. The number of animals and articles on exhibition was greater than any preceding year, while the programme of the entire occasion was more varied and interesting. We have not the space to enter into details concerning the line of articles shown in the various departments, although we would like to mention hundreds of the superior and meritorious entries made by exhibitors. At the risk of proving tedious, however, we will venture to glance at the several classes of entries for the benefit of those readers who were not present at the County Fair.

In the field crops, there were a larger number of entries than heretofore, and many of the specimens exhibited were quite superior, particularly the corn and cotton. The display of field crops was made under a temporary shelter erected near the main building, and was decidedly more effective than usual, which must have been pleasing to the farmers, as they noted the special prominence given to the products of the soil.

In cattle, hogs and poultry, there was considerable competition. Some of the cattle were highly creditable to the exhibitors, and not often excelled at State Fairs in quality. The swine entries were not so numerous as we would like, but the breeds were well selected and made a fair display. The poultry exhibition was exceedingly fine, embracing many new varieties of fowls, showing that our section contains quite a number of poultry fanciers, who are determined to improve the country in this respect.

The exhibition of horses was much larger than last year, and the animals were spirited and showy, some of them having a pedigree from the finest stock in the United States.

In the household department, there was an excellent display of jellies, preserves, pickles, jams, salads, cakes, breads, wines and canned fruits—the total number of entries exceeding the most sanguine expectations, and reflecting [illegible] on the Anderson [illegible] credit upon the ladies. There were four hundred and twenty-one entries in the several divisions of the household department.

The manufacturers' department was unusually full and interesting. Steam engines, cotton gins, plows of every description, guano distributors, buggies and other vehicles, sewing machines and cotton presses make up the first division; a splendid assortment of leather, harness, saddlery and dress boots comprised the second division, while the domestic carpets, counterpanes, coverlets, woolen and cotton socks attested the skill and industry of the ladies in supplying these essentials for home consumption.

The needle and fancy work this year embraced a wider scope than we have ever known, and the committee were required to examine one hundred and thirty-eight entries—the handiwork of ladies from Anderson, Greenville, Camden, Augusta and other places. It was an almost endless task, and we will not undertake a recapitulation, for fear that we would be lost in the labyrinth of high-sounding and peculiar names, which always perplex the masculine intellect. Every one averred that the display was [illegible] and lovely, which must be the testimony of the present likewise.

The fine art and [illegible] department were not so full as usual, but the pictures and flowers were certainly meritorious, and received much praise from visitors.

The attendance on Wednesday was not very large, and the day passed off without any incident. On Thursday morning, it was quite apparent that much interest was now manifested in the County Fair, and persons from all parts of the country were wending their way to the Fair Grounds. The public attention was concentrated mainly upon

THE COOKING CONTEST,

which seemed to have attracted many persons, since all were eager to know when the young ladies would begin their dinner. At twelve o'clock, the ropes were stretched around the shelter built expressly for the contest, where four cooking stoves were already in position, and the multitude gathered quickly to witness the beautiful scene. Four young ladies entered the list for competition, namely, Miss Mamie Partlow and Miss Mamie Bleckley, of Anderson; Miss M. Cullough, of Williamston; and Miss [illegible], of Greenville. Each one was provided by the managers with all the [illegible] to cook the dinner, [illegible] was accomplished, [illegible] the preparation of the dinner, the young ladies showed much skill and energy. When all this was over, the dinner was served.

[illegible] an hour there were busy and active movements among the contestants. Graceful, skillful and dexterous hands were employed in the culinary art for this occasion, and the lookers-on wondered at the ease and placidity of the youthful cooks. It was a novel and interesting sight to all, and we may well imagine that the young gentlemen around were sighing for a divinity like one of the contestants to preside with such consummate skill over their destinies. But the dinners were finally cooked, and the savory dishes of biscuit, corn bread, coffee, rice, fried chicken and broiled beef-steak were placed upon the table, and each young lady arranged the victuals to her own taste and inclination. An invitation was then extended to partake of the meal, and the following officers of the Association, with their invited guests, were assembled around the table, viz: B. F. Crayton, Esq., President; Maj. W. W. Humphreys, Col. J. W. Norris and Mr. D. J. Sherard, Directors; Jas. A. Hoyt, Secretary and Treasurer; Mr. B. Frank Sloan, of Oconee, Maj. R. A. Griffin, of Abbeville, Maj. E. M. Rucker, of Elbert Co., Ga., and Mr. R. E. Sadler, of Hart Co., Ga., Advisory Directors. The invited guests were Hon. J. P. Reed, of Charleston; Mr. Allen, of Greenville; Col. J. W. Livingston, of Oconee, Rev. A. Rice, of Anderson, Maj. George Seaborn, of Pendleton, and Col. F. E. Harrison, of Andersonville.

The tempting dishes were tested and tasted by the gentlemen whose duty required them to make the award, and then the onslaught began indiscriminately, wherein disappeared the light, flaky biscuits, the juicy beef-steaks, the fried chicken and the other et ceteras with astonishing celerity and much satisfaction to the inner man. It was a difficult question to decide upon the respective merits of the different dishes, where all the young ladies had acquitted themselves with such credit, not one of them making a failure. Later in the day, the officers of the Association met to make the award of a splendid cooking-stove, and it was determined to assign the same to Miss Mamie Partlow, of Anderson, as the best cook. But the officers were not unmindful of the decided merit evinced by the other young ladies, and it was resolved to present each of them with handsome premiums as tokens of their acknowledged superiority in this line. Before the regular premiums were delivered on Friday afternoon, therefore, the four young ladies were invited to come forward and receive the award of the committee, in whose behalf Mr. B. F. Crayton announced their decision in favor of Miss Partlow, and congratulate the young lady upon her success. He then turned to Misses Bleckley, McCullough and Henning, and presented each of them with a cake basket and a silver ladle, which action was vociferously cheered by the crowd, which recognized the justice and propriety of donating these souvenirs to the young ladies.

The entire contest was conducted with becoming modesty and diffidence, and it would be truly difficult to find another feature so pleasing and entertaining. Although new to the majority of our people we are confident that none will decry the utility and beauty of such contests among the fairer creation, when conducted properly and in such generous spirit.

CLOSING SCENES OF THE FAIR.

The number of people in attendance on Friday was between fifteen hundred and two thousand. The speech of Gov. Chamberlain was an attractive feature of the day, and was listened to most attentively. The exhibition of stock and tying the ribbons interested the greater portion of the crowd, who were anxious to get a peep at the favorite animals.

The music furnished by the [illegible] burg Silver Cornet [illegible] pleasing [illegible] Spartanburg Band was another feature, and added greatly to the success of the Fair. These gentlemen are not only fine musicians, but their conduct was such as to make a most favorable impression upon every one, and Spartanburg may be congratulated upon having such an admirable organization in its midst.

The distribution of premiums took place on Friday afternoon, which closed the regular programme of the Fair, and the vast throng began to disperse, satisfied with the brilliant success which attended the entire proceedings.

A Tournament came off in the afternoon, in which there were nine Knights contesting. The riding was very good, and the prizes were awarded as follows: First prize, gentleman's saddle, Mr. B. T. Acker; second prize, given by the Fair Association, Mr. John B. Anderson; third prize, riding bridle, Mr. Williams. The judges of the contest were Messrs. M. C. Parker, S. C. Humphreys and J. L. Orr. Only a few Knights were in costume.

Governor Chamberlain's Visit to Anderson.

It was announced last week that Governor Chamberlain was expected to arrive in Anderson on Thursday afternoon, having accepted an invitation to attend the County Fair, and deliver an address upon the occasion. The train on the Greenville and Columbia Railroad did not arrive at the usual hour, and it was soon ascertained that the delay would last several hours, in consequence of the Anderson train running off the track near Belton, which necessitated the Governor's remaining over night at Belton. At ten o'clock on Friday morning, however, Governor Chamberlain was met at the depot by a committee on the part of the Anderson Farmers' and Mechanics' Association, consisting of Hon. J. P. Reed, Maj. W. W. Humphreys, Col. F. E. Harrison and Maj. E. M. Rucker, and escorted at once to the Fair Grounds. The ceremony of reception at the depot was brief and appropriate, in which Maj. Rucker extended a cordial welcome to the Governor as the Chief Magistrate of the State, and to which Gov. Chamberlain responded in a few well chosen sentences, expressing his gratification and pleasure at meeting with his fellow-citizens of Anderson County on such a [illegible]

[illegible] the Fair Grounds, [illegible] by Mr. Crayton, [illegible] tion, who took [illegible] of inspection [illegible] and around [illegible] the people [illegible] o'clock the vast throng gathered in front of the centre stand, from which Gov. Chamberlain was to address the crowd. He was introduced by Mr. Crayton, and for nearly an hour interested his hearers with a sound, practical speech, in which he eschewed politics for the most part, and devoted his thoughts to agriculture and kindred topics.

The Governor began his speech by congratulating the citizens of Anderson County upon the most creditable exhibition which he had witnessed as to the industrial progress in their midst, and expressed the emphatic opinion that, in solid and substantial prosperity, the county of Anderson was the first and foremost county in the State. He complimented the ladies upon the admirable display of their handiwork, and commended the zeal manifested by them in sustaining and encouraging the County Fair, which was an index of the genuine progress and substantial improvement of the community. The evidences before him that a diversified system of agriculture was in vogue here were truly gratifying. There was no safety for any country in trusting its fortunes to any single product, no matter how remunerative might be such a crop. Here, not only cotton was on exhibition, but grain, vegetables and hay, which support families and render the population independent of the outside world, and besides there are some excellent specimens of manufactures—all these contribute to the general weal, and speak volumes for Anderson County. But not until cotton is largely woven into fabrics to clothe us, and the busy hum of machinery is heard all over the land, will the prosperity within our reach be surely attained. Now, it has to be borne away at great expense, and is brought back in manufactured products, while the producer pays the profit which ought to help enrich the country. This section possesses resources almost infinite, with a soil bounteous to produce, and water power abundant to manufacture, and there is no reason to prevent an almost endless progression. He was glad to see that Anderson was pursuing a diversified agriculture, which was a long step towards permanent prosperity. Others may boast more factories, and were fortunate in their possession, but in solidity of improvement he did not think any county can successfully compete with Anderson. He did not come here, so much as the Chief Magistrate, but he is the chief servant of all the people, and was always willing to lend his service in uttering some word of encouragement to the farmers to follow on in the same path, which will make them self-supporting and self-reliant.

He then adverted to the subject of education, which he regarded as important in the pursuit of agriculture as in any other business of life, and laid down the broad proposition that liberal education and generous culture were as necessary to the farmer as to the minister, lawyer or physician, if success was to be attained. Agricultural Fairs are a means of education, and he complimented Mr. Crayton as the moving spirit of such an enterprise, which reflected credit upon his energy and sagacity. One thing has always been an honor to the South—the honorable position of the farmer and planter was always recognized, and in future it would be cheering to know that their influence will be heard and felt to a yet greater extent. No man can successfully follow any pursuit, unless he has faith and confidence in that pursuit, and he urged the farmers to maintain an unswerving faith and exalt their calling by every honorable means.

One or two [illegible] thoughts of a practical nature he desired to suggest. He had reflected much upon the fence law, and his conclusion was that the best interests of agriculture required that the law shall be made to compel the stock to be fenced and not the crops. It was a monstrous burden of expense to maintain the present system, which was exhausting the supply of timber, and the preservation of the forest was not only essential for timber, but also for the maintenance of the climate, as had been abundantly proven in certain sections where the soil was denuded of timber over large areas of territory and became dry and arid. But this is not the only reason that the interests of the farmer required a change in the law. It will improve the stock, as nothing else can, and common prudence will teach the lesson that their own advantage will be gained thereby.

Another practical idea was enforced, which every one who has tried it will endorse. All our work upon the farm should be thorough, and plowing deep was the main-spring of success. Every inch of depth will guard the coming crop against excessive heat or superabundant rains. Use improved implements on the farm, and do not drag over the fields the same as preceding generations, for modern improvements meant the saving of labor and more skillful cultivation of the crops.

In conclusion, Gov. Chamberlain said it was his chief desire to use his office as a means of blessing to the people. Whatever ambition to gain honors actuated him in the past, he now felt only its duties and responsibilities. He advised every one to turn away from evil, which had sorely afflicted the State, and look forward hopefully to the future. It was not for flattery or as a returning compliment that he alluded again to the people of Anderson County, who were on the highway to prosperity beyond, and he urged them to pursue the path without deviation. Be devoted to these occasions; let products of skill and industry continue to be exhibited as a stimulus to all, and cherish these festivals of industry and enterprise. Stand united in the cause of good government, and this country will be made to bud and blossom as the rose, and after all the difficulties and evils of an unhappy era will pass away.

We have endeavored to give the main points of Gov. Chamberlain's address, which was well received by the large and attentive audience. He was the guest of Judge Reed during his brief stay in Anderson, and returned to Columbia on Saturday morning, seemingly delighted with the visit among our people.

The granges of Marshall county, Iowa, practice the economy which they preach. A narrow gauge railroad lately built by them has been laid with wooden [illegible] manufactories [illegible]

Railroad Meeting in Walhalla.

On Monday night last an informal meeting of delegates to the meeting announced to take place on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., at Walhalla, in the interest of the Blue Ridge Railroad, was held in the reception-room of Coleman's Hotel, to consider what should be presented to the meeting on the following day. The meeting was organized by electing Mr. A. Scott, of Franklin, N. C., chairman, after which the views of various delegates representing the counties of Macon, N. C., Rabun, Ga., and Oconee and Anderson, S. C., were called for, the expression of which gave rise to an earnest and animated discussion of the various plans of procedure suggested.

The meeting then went into full and free conference, appointing Messrs. R. A. Thompson, of Oconee, E. Cannon, of Clayton, N. G. Allen, of Franklin, B. F. Whitner and J. Cochran, of Anderson, a committee to draft resolutions embodying the sense of the meeting, and to report them to another meeting of the delegates on the next morning. At the appointed time Tuesday morning, the meeting assembled to receive the report of the committee, which was a series of resolutions affirming an abiding interest and confidence in the Blue Ridge Railroad, and expressing a willingness to assist in its construction as soon as it can be extricated from Courts, by private as well as County subscriptions.

An executive committee, consisting of Messrs. R. A. Thompson, B. Frank Sloan, B. F. Whitner, J. Cochran, R. E. Cannon, W. L. Jay, James Robinson and Dr. Morrow, was appointed and entrusted with negotiating with the bondholders, to secure an agreement for the sale of their bonds if possible, and to memorialize the Legislature for such legislation as may be needed. Messrs. James Robinson, [illegible] Morrow, J. W. Harrison, E. M. Rucker and F. W. Dawson, were appointed a committee to visit Washington, and endeavor to secure an appropriation from Congress to the road.

The following sketch of its present condition and prospects [illegible]

The length from Knoxville to Marysville is 196 miles, [illegible] miles are in South Carolina, and [illegible] miles is completed, connecting Knoxville and Walhalla, leaving [illegible] on which 50 per cent. of the road has been done. In Georgia, there are [illegible] miles, upon which 60 per cent. of work has been done. In North Carolina, there are 40 miles, upon which [illegible] has been done. The work upon this section is very light, as it is a build ridge all the way through. In Monroe, there are 72 miles, of which, from Knoxville to Marysville, are completed, and about twenty per cent. of work upon the remainder has been done.

The resolutions were [illegible] by the meeting, and ordered to be presented to the mass meeting for education. The State of Tennessee was represented to be able and willing to build its portion of the road, as soon as there is any prospect of its completion. Macon County is also prepared to do the grading of [illegible] miles of the road in that County, and the city of Knoxville is ready to furnish [illegible] as soon as the work is actually [illegible] The meeting was harmonious [illegible] and, giving promise of good results.

A mass meeting was held in Fair Grounds, where speeches were made to those in attendance by Messrs. E. M. Rucker, E. B. Murray, T. H. [illegible] and Samuel McGowan, favoring the road and urging its completion. Letters were read from Gov. Chamberlain, ex-Gov. Perry and Hon. Jas. Robinson, regretting their inability to attend the meeting and expressing favorable sentiments towards the enterprise. The resolutions from the meeting of delegates were offered and unanimously adopted. Col. Cochran then offered a resolution requesting the Legislature to give the use of convict labor to this enterprise, and requesting the Governor to use his influence to secure such legislation as may be necessary to carry out this request, which was also adopted. The meeting then adjourned to meet in Knoxville, Tenn., on the 20th of January next, and all counties and States along the line were requested to send delegates. The utmost good feeling prevailed during the whole meeting.

Our Texas Correspondence.

Dallas, Oct. 26, 1875.

Dear Intelligencer: In the two letters heretofore written, I dwelt at length on the advantages offered by Texas to those seeking a new home. And when I say Texas I mean Northern Texas, as my observation has been confined entirely to this part of the State. I propose to show at this time some of the disadvantages the settler has to contend with. First and foremost of these is the scarcity of water. This is an objection that addresses itself particularly to a person from the upper part of South Carolina, where at the back of almost every hill a spring of pure, cold water can be found. And just here permit me to say, I would remark, that the man who leaves upper Carolina in search of a more congenial climate, or in search of anything else, intended to make a pleasant place to live in is a fool. In all the travelling I have ever done, I have never found any place that surpassed Anderson, Greenville, Spartanburg, York, Abbeville, Aiken, in all the physical requisites to a happy home. In this city there is considerable difficulty in getting water by digging on such a scale as would be desirable. There is water, but it is hard, almost lime enough in it to tan a calf hide, and as it is found in a quick-sand stratum it is always gritty and cloudy. It is totally useless for laundry purposes, and in temperature is little below that of fresh milk. The drinking water of the city is derived in part from some large springs in the suburbs, whence it is transported in tanks drawn by oxen, and sold at ten cents a gallon. All who are able have cisterns. And, if you will allow me to relate an incident, perhaps, I will remark that there is a lot, or more than a lot, of water in cisterns here in town for the man who can construct one. No such work has yet appeared here. The only water that is drunk is procured either from some cistern or from the water wagons above mentioned. What is said of the city is true of the greater part of North Texas. Water is rare and generally when found is very far down. Not one farmer in ten can have a good well dug on his place, so he is compelled to haul water or do without. Now, this is a great disadvantage, and one which should be considered by those who intend to come to Texas. Many of the settlers, in order to secure a home, have purchased land, and have gone to work with a will, determined to make a home, but after a year's trial, have become disheartened and discouraged, and have left their homes and their crops, and have returned to their old homes, or have gone to other places, where they could get a living for themselves and their families. Many of the settlers who have come to Texas have come with the idea that they could make a living by raising stock, and have located their homes in the prairies, where they could have the range of the country for their cattle, sheep and hogs. But they have found that they could not do so, for the country is now fenced in, and they have to pay for the privilege of grazing their stock on other people's land. This is a great drawback to the settler, and will be felt more and more every year. The country is now fenced in, and the law compels the stock to be kept off the cultivated lands. The law is a good one, and will be productive of much good to the country. It will force the people to raise their own stock, instead of relying on the range for their support