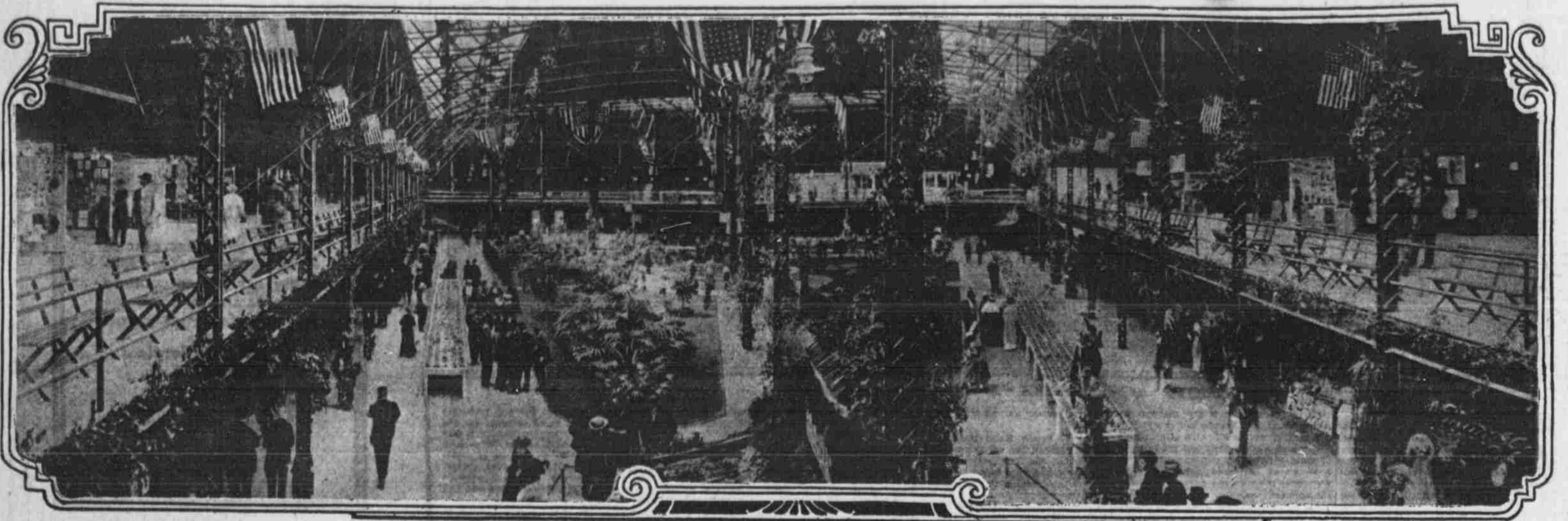


Nebraska State Fair an Institution of Much Importance



INTERIOR VIEW OF THE GREAT AGRICULTURAL PAVILION AT THE NEBRASKA STATE FAIR GROUNDS, ONE OF THE FINEST EXHIBITION HALLS OF THE COUNTRY.

BY EARL B. GADDIS.
THE state fair, like Christmas, comes but once a year, and like Christmas it, too, brings good cheer and a number of other gifts of vast importance to the people of the state. It provides them, for instance, with a most alluring opportunity to learn more about their state through contact with the people and products of all sections. It is a big education in itself, an education assembled at a tremendous cost and dealt out to the people at a singularly low price. The state fair was not built in a moment. Its history has been years in making, and its successes have been the result of the best thought and attention of some of the most public-spirited men of the state. There have been hardships to go through, and there have been paths to carve through mountains of trouble. Every man who has put his hands to the plow has had to stick to it, and has not dared to look back even though a myriad of distracting sounds filled the air. Assembly of the products of some thirty

or forty counties of the state each year in what is known as the county collective exhibits is a great treat in itself. The exhibits contain the best of everything raised in each of the entering counties. This feature has been steadily growing from year to year. The following comment on county exhibits by President Roberts of the state fair is timely and interesting. He says: In Nebraska we divide our state into three districts in the department of county agricultural exhibits. These three districts are called eastern, central and western. We justify this from the fact that Nebraska, being 400 miles long east and west and lying immediately east of the foothills of the Rockies, contains land lying at an altitude from 800 to 5,000 feet, therefore natural agricultural products of the eastern and western parts of the state are foreign to each other and make their competition impossible over any certain scale of premiums offered. In this department we offer in the county collective exhibits \$2,500 in premiums, also \$25 for best display of same. In addition we permit each article to compete for premiums offered for that specific product. In 1914 our total premiums paid in the agricultural department amounted to \$4,366.55. Our judges score each county exhibit and all participating in the premium money must score within 60 per cent of

the best score made in each district. This rule eliminates the seven-hour exhibitor, but aids in uniform excellence. All counties coming within this percentage divide equally 60 per cent of \$2,500 of the offering, and the balance is divided as to number of points made above the minimum.
Men Who Make the Fair.
 The character of the men who take this interest in their counties and who are always bringing them to the front in discussion of the strong points of the state is such that they are easily entitled to designation as master boosters. Says Secretary Mellor, who knows them all: As an educational feature for our state fairs the county exhibit system has a place practically at the head of the column of exhibit attractions. The county collective booster is nearly always a man of broad experience and deep insight. He is frankly an enthusiastic booster for his own community. Such men have ever been invaluable workers in the ranks of that noble army that is fighting the battle of improved agriculture. Give the county exhibit booster, the man with the "collective bug," a chance to reach the public. He brings an important addition to the curriculum of the farmers' short course in practical agriculture—the modern state fair. The pioneer promoter of what is now

the modern fair was one Elkanah Watson, a Pittsfield (Mass.) man, who dreamed dreams much like all other men who ever brought anything new to the world in which they lived. Soon after the year 1850 this man Watson began the advocacy of the plan of showing animals and products at public gatherings. He insisted that in this comparison of products the people would learn more about the strong points of farming and stock raising and that all exhibitors and all spectators who interested themselves could gain valuable information by this means. The Tri-State fair held at New York was the first recognized fair of which there is any history, and the record is fairly accurate that Watson was the one who gave impetus to it. The march toward bigger and better fairs from that date was not as rapid in the efforts east as one would think it should have been. It remained for the west to take up the idea and develop it to the utmost. Practically all of the great state fairs of the middle west were organized during the period of 1850 and 1870, and those now recognized as the strongest appear to

have been given the breath of life at that time by men of the Watson caliber. Nebraska held its first territorial fair in 1859 and Robert W. Furnas and J. Sterling Morton were the men who were its godfathers. Both were advocates of advanced agriculture and both had much to do with giving the idea a firm start in this state. **Interesting History.** At a meeting of the state fair managers not so very many months ago an interesting discussion arose as to the purposes of the state fair and what it achieved year by year. The discussion was never reported by the newspapers, but it was full of meat for all that. Frank G. Odell, now of Omaha, scored the hit of the day when he gave vent to the following along that line—something which might be applied to the coming state fair. His talk, as recorded in his own language in the state fair board's records, was as follows: **Organization of the Fair.** There are seventeen exhibition departments of the state fair. These include horses, cattle, swine, sheep, poultry, agricultural products, dairy, domestic products, bees, honey, textiles, fine arts,

educational, machinery, better babies, and a class known as specials. Thus with the addition of the little lots, practically everything, including manufacturing products, are to be found on the grounds. Exhibitors and entrants in the classes where premiums are to be given will be increased this year, according to statements of the board of managers. Agricultural hall, an immense building, was thrown open to the public for the first time last year, and despite its size was well filled. This year additional space has been provided for in this building and in adjoining structures it is predicted that all of this will be taken up weeks before the fair opens. The machinery exhibit will probably not be affected as badly this year as last, when some of the large fellows determined to stay out of the exhibition game. The smaller ones are now making more elaborate preparations to show their wares to the visiting farmers and they have reserved space at an amazing rate for the event. Machinery hall will be filled and with the aid of the automobile section, which has transferred its quarters there, will

present an imposing array when the first crowd of sightseers swoops down upon the halls. All the open spaces theretofore allotted to the machinery exhibits will also show up well by the time the fair gets under headway and there will be quite enough to keep busy the people who want to look over everything on this midway of machinery. **Live Stock and Other Exhibits.** Horses, cattle and swine exhibits have been gaining in size and value for the last six years and the entries this year indicate that 1915 will be recorded as better than 1914, just as that year was recorded better than the previous year. The live stock parade, the feature of the closing day of the fair, brings out in imposing array the blue ribbon winners of the various classes. Those who have not seen before what magnificent specimens of stock are owned in this state can see them at a sweeping glance. Arrangements of the exhibition pens and barns this year will make it easier than ever for the attendants to take in the sights of pure bred stock. It will be a trip worth while, according to the prom-

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The Nebraska State Fair at Lincoln, Sept. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

"Bigger and Better Than Ever"—INSTRUCTION--AMUSEMENT--INSPIRATION

DeLLOYD THOMPSON

The Tumble Bug Aviator who originated the aerial plunge which resulted in the death of Beachey. He will race Barney Oldfield—Aeroplane vs. Motor Car. He will loop the loop, fly upside down and give the death-defying tumble from the clouds every day, Sept. 6-10

BARNEY OLDFIELD

Daring racer of international reputation, will race with the aeroplane, give exhibition drives and race against his record every day Sept. 6-10.



JOHNNY RAIMEY, One of the Contestants in the State Fair Auto Races.

THRILLING AUTO RACES

Seven Speed Contests Each Day, September 10-11

Most amazing aggregation of attractions ever offered to the Nebraska public.

**DISBROW, RAIMEY
 ENDICOTT, KILPATRICK
 KIZER, GUNNING**

And Many Other Kings of the Dirt Track.

BEST AGRICULTURAL, HORTICULTURAL, LIVE STOCK AND POULTRY DISPLAYS IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY THIS YEAR

MODEL RURAL SCHOOL HOUSE--EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS--PURE FOOD, DAIRY AND BETTER BABIES SHOWS--EXHIBITS FROM NEBRASKA INSTITUTIONS

Complete Line of 1916 Models on Exhibition at the Automobile Show

DESERT JOE,

The racing ostrich, will be on hand to challenge Horse, Auto or Motorcycle in Speed Contests. Without driver he annihilates space at a dizzy clip. Nothing of this kind has ever been seen in the state.

THREE HARNESS AND TWO RUNNING RACES EACH DAY, SEPT. 6, 7, 8, 9

Omaha Day, Thursday, Sept. 9. Special program for visitors from metropolis. Green's, Hagenow's and Fifth Regimental Band. Concerts Sunday afternoon and evening, Sept. 5th.

FREE VAUDEVILLE--BAND CONCERTS--PAIN'S SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS

JOE STECHER, Champion Wrestler of the World,

Will Appear at the Coliseum, September 7 and 8. ATHLETIC CARNIVAL, September 10.

VISIT THE GREAT NEBRASKA STATE FAIR THIS YEAR. BOOST FOR NEBRASKA AND NEBRASKA'S INSTITUTIONS
 JOSEPH ROBERTS, President. W. R. MELLOR, Secretary.