

Nebraska State Fair a Great Exposition of Agricultural Progress

BY F. A. BARROWS.
 One can estimate what the Nebraska State Fair has done for Nebraska not just how much it has done for every individual within the state. Probably no man, woman or child who ever visited this great exposition, which is the pride of every Nebraskan, has ever done so without going to their homes better fitted to meet the problems of life in better shape than if they had not attended the fair and seen with their own eyes and learned from personal observation many of the things which can be found there.

The Nebraska State fair, like all good things, started with a small beginning forty-six years ago. It was a hard struggle for a while, for Nebraska was not in the early history of the state the rich agricultural state of the last decade. Sometimes it seemed as though the organization would have to throw up the sponge and let the decision be given the Old Hard Times, who in the early history of the state defeated many a good man and many a good business in the ring of life, but the men bound it fought manfully for its life and won. It was a hard struggle, but Nebraska is full of men who have fought just as hard struggles in their efforts to win a home on the prairie and it was their fighting and resolutions to stick which finally won the day.

The progress of the state fair has been very rapid in the last decade. In fact, its progress has been almost phenomenal. The men behind the fair for the last dozen years can feel proud of the monument they have built to Nebraska's greatness as an agricultural and stock raising state. Each year of the state fair seems to increase its greatness until no fair in the whole United States can compete with this annual exposition which shows the diversity of the state's resources and the strength of its foundation.

A dozen years ago there was nothing but a cluster of old wooden buildings, approached through a wire fence and without sidewalks. Now modern and permanent buildings are rising on every side and walks and approaches of a permanent character cover the grounds. Additional tracts of land have been purchased to meet the demands caused by the growth of the fair, and it is only necessary to visit the great Nebraska annual exposition to realize that it is, indeed, a wonderful institution and worthy the name of being one of the best in the country.

The tract of land owned by the State Agricultural society comprises 182 acres, situated within a mile of the business center of Lincoln. Half a dozen modern and up-to-date buildings have been erected to meet the growing demands of the institution. The last one erected, last year, is the grand new agricultural and horticultural hall, costing over \$100,000. This, with the improvements put on the grounds, such as walks, sanitary closets and other needed adjuncts, makes the property of the association worth over \$750,000.



Scene at the Nebraska State Fair Grounds on a Thursday Afternoon Last August—The Great Amphitheater Packed to Its Utmost Capacity, and Thousands of Spectators Pressing Close Along the Fence Around the Turns and Along the Home Stretch, Eager to See the Racers.

Much of the credit for the success of the Nebraska State fair is due to the untiring efforts of the secretary, W. R. Mellor, who is recognized the country over among state fair managers as one of the best connected with expositions of this kind. However, he has been ably assisted by a State Fair board, of which C. H. Rudge, Peter Youngers, Joseph Roberts, J. A. Ollis, Jr., George F. Dickman, John F. McCardie, Charles Graff, William Foster, Hiram Myers and a dozen others might be mentioned, who, while not members of the executive board, have had much to do with the successful manner in which the yearly fairs have been conducted.

To give some idea of the number of people who are attracted to the fair each year, most of whom stay most of the week, below is given the number in attendance for the last five years:

1909	.....	23,138	1912	.....	106,934
1910	.....	130,114	1913	.....	137,198
1911	.....	107,729			

The falling off in 1913 is due to the fact that most of Nebraska suffered from

a partial failure of crops and a portion of it a total failure. As this is an agricultural state the condition of the crops to a great extent determines the attendance at the fair. The highest attendance of any one day was on Wednesday in 1912, when 59,335 people passed through the turnstiles.

With the prospects of a bountiful crop in 1914 there is every reason to believe that the attendance this year will far exceed that of other years.

The reputation of the Nebraska state fair has spread to such an extent that large numbers of people from over the country make the point of visiting Nebraska when the state fair is in progress and thus get the opportunity of seeing all at one time what the resources of the state are. The state fair has brought thousands of dollars to Ne-

braska which has been invested in lands by visitors and the extent of the fair as an advertising medium to the state cannot be measured.

The 1914 fair has been planned with a view of giving a tremendous boost to the internal resources of the state. The agriculture, horticultural, dairy and poultry exhibits will be unequalled anywhere in the west. The same statement can be established concerning cattle, horses and swine.

There will be a pure food show, a model dairy room, a better babies' contest, an educational exhibit, a traveling library room, and a boys' school encampment where the students will be given practical instruction in agriculture.

Of course there are amusements and thrillers. Not content with boosting the state and providing the educational at-

tractions, the board of managers has engaged a few of the best things that can be secured in the way of entertainment.

Lincoln Beachey will loop the loop, fly sidewise and fly upside down each day. He will make three ascents each day of the fair. Regardless of weather conditions Beachey has signed a contract to make the ascents. He is also barred from flying in any city within two hundred miles of Lincoln. This is regarded as the latest and best attraction in the flying art.

There will be a village of genuine Nebraska Indians to re-enact scenes of frontier life. Squaw races, tepee raising contests, relay races and all forms of Indian dancing will be given.

The speed program cannot be excelled. Under the new rules of the American Trotting association there has been a

genuine revival of interest. A number of favorites have been entered and there will be five harness and running races each day.

After a careful canvass of the east, a fireworks program has been outlined which will be entirely novel. Besides the specialties and artistic creations of experts, well known Nebraskans, both men and women, will be depicted in fire. The fireworks display takes place before the grandstand each evening.

There are a number of attractions which are absolutely new. The pure food show, as planned by Deputy Food Commissioner Harman, has never been attempted before on a state exposition grounds, it is said. The system of weighing and testing foods will be explained. Experts will demonstrate the methods for uncovering guile on food stuffs. Some of

the best food products made in the state will be on exhibition.

The Burlington railway will place a dining car in this department and will operate it through the fair in order to display the methods of handling foods on railway trains. All the latest labor saving devices for the kitchen will be shown. The club women of Nebraska have taken a keen interest in the pure food show. Reports of the lectures and summaries of the advice given by the experts will be circulated throughout the state.

A landscape artist has been engaged to show model groups of shrubbery for city and country homes. The center of the new agriculture-horticulture hall will be sodded for this purpose. This feature has never been attempted in connection with floral shows heretofore.

The county exhibits have always been a feature at the Nebraska State fair. Under the direction of Superintendent William James it is expected that half the counties of the state will be in line with samples of their resources. These displays will be exhibited in the new agriculture-horticulture hall.

THE NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

LINCOLN, Sept. 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th

Agriculture, Horticulture, Live Stock, Dairy, Manufacturing and Poultry Exhibits Which Prove Nebraska One of the Richest Regions in the World

The Educational Features of the Great 1914 State Fair have been increased. The schools of the state, the traveling libraries, the educational institutions, domestic science and the fine arts are represented by larger exhibits. The Better Babies display will be found in new quarters in the \$100,000 Agricultural-Horticultural hall.

Amazing Amusement Features—The Nebraska State Fair Has the Best in the Amusement Line.

LINCOLN BEACHY
 Will Loop the Loop and Fly Upside Down 3 Times Each Day.

He does his aerial gymnastic stunts rain or shine, calm or cyclone. His attraction is of such magnitude that at the conclusion of his last appearance on Friday, September 11, he will be whirled away on a special train to the Twin Cities where he will appear just one day. Beachey's contract with the Nebraska State Fair management prohibits his flying at any state fair WITHIN TWO HUNDRED MILES OF LINCOLN.

And Beachy, without a rival as an Airman, is but ONE FEATURE on the amusement program.

Patrick Conway's Celebrated Band will give FREE CONCERTS. This popular organization will be supported by Grand Opera Singers of international reputation and assisted by four state bands.

FREE CONCERTS morning, afternoon and evening.

Scenes from primitive Nebraska life will be re-enacted at a real

Indian Village
 THE OMAHA DANCE
 THE GHOST DANCE
 THE WOLF DANCE
 THE SCALP DANCE

And these will be given each day with all the fervor and savage fury of by-gone days.

A Relay Race Every Day
 Three squaws using 9 horses, 4 bucks in a mile dash, 4 squaws in an exciting mile race, 4 squaws in a Teepee Raising Contest, Foot Races, Fancy Roping, Bucking Horses, Picturesque costumes.

Free Vaudeville
 before the Grand Stand each afternoon and evening with the following stars of the amusement world:

SLAYMAN ALI'S WILD MOORS
 Marvels in Spectacular Athletics.

THE TASMANIAN VAN DIEMENS
 in Thrilling Aerial Teeth and Pyramid Acts.

TEDDY BROTHERS
 in Hilarious Knockout Stunts.

THE BENEDETTOES
 in Revolving Ladder Acts and the Marvelous Trick House.

Pain's Mammoth Fireworks display before the grand stand each night, Sept. 7-10.

Also remember that the Nebraska State Fair SPEED PROGRAM cannot be excelled in the west.

Harness and running races each day.
 Free Camping Ground with plenty of shade, wood and water for those who wish a week of open air recreation while attending the fair.
 Boys' School Encampment, offering eight courses of instruction.

Special Attention
 has been paid to the

Departments of Interest to Women

There will be a Dairy and Pure Food Show displaying the latest in household economics. Elaborate displays in FINE ARTS, TEXTILES and DOMESTIC PRODUCTS.

Help Boost Nebraska by Attending the Big State Fair
 Remember the dates, September 7-11.
 Special Trains on All Railroads
 W. R. MELLOR, Secretary, Lincoln, Neb. JOSEPH ROBERTS, President.