

Gambling Unnecessary

Sometime ago mention was made in these columns of the decision by the management of the Southeastern Fair, at Atlanta, to cut out all games of chance and questionable features that had been permitted at previous fairs. The great annual fair at Atlanta closed Tuesday night, and, the constitution of that city, states "with all records of attendance broken," more than 170,000 people having passed through the gates to the fair grounds during the ten days the exhibition was open. This does not look as if the fair had lost anything of popular appreciation and support through the adoption of a policy of greater care in entertainment features. On the contrary, it looks as if the people heartily approved the step taken by the southeastern fair management, just as the Times-Union predicted, in previous comment, would be the case.

President Hastings, of the Southeastern Fair Association, in a signed article, in the Constitution of Wednesday, reviewing the fair just closed, says:

"The public, judging from the many questions asked, is interested in knowing how the experiment has worked out of staging a large fair without the usual games of chance and skill that have been looked on as a necessary accompaniment of the amusement features. In answer, we want to state frankly that the radical experiment of eliminating every sort of game has apparently been a success and we prefer to run the fair without them if we can continue to have the same support from the public that we have had this year. Whether this year's policy can be maintained is absolutely dependent in the public.

President Hastings states that the fair management "sacrificed receipts of some \$20,000 from the games of chance and skill," and that "the

elimination of them also reduced night gate receipts some \$10,000 to \$15,000," but that notwithstanding these sacrifices, for the sake of a clean exposition, the management is gratified to report that the fair attendance of this year "enables us to pay all expenses with a very modest balance over."

From a financial standpoint, this must be most gratifying, alike to the southeastern fair management and to the public that so generously supports it. More than the financial gain, however, is the higher estimation in which is held the management that dares to sacrifice receipts in response to popular demands for clean public entertainments.

It is to be hoped that the public will show the same appreciation for the decision of the Florida state fair management, which has announced elimination of objectionable features at the coming fair here, as has been shown the Atlanta fair management. As the results, in point of attendance, have been gratifying in the instance alluded to, it is reasonable that the Florida people will put their stamp of approval on the "clean" fair policy announced for the great fair that is to take place here in the last week of November. — Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union.

BUSINESS HAS A BETTER OUTLOOK

A Wellesley, Mass., dispatch, dated Nov. 19, says: Ten reasons why the business outlook in the United States is favorable and why business men should assume a more optimistic attitude are given by Roger W. Babson, famous statistician. Here they are:

"First, the working people in this country are in possession of the great majority of the bonds issued by the United States government during the war. This is a very favorable sign, for it shows that the great mass of people are in a sound financial condition."

"Second, that as a result of the coming of national prohibition two and one-half billion dollars previously wasted in this industry yearly is now available for business projects that are more useful and more likely to promote the welfare of all people."

"Third, that in spite of the widespread opinion to the contrary, the federal reserve banking system has been an important factor in stabilizing financial conditions in this country."

"Fourth, that advertising is now an influential means of moulding public opinion. This profession has now reached such an advanced and scientific stage in its development that it is a logical means by which the people of the country can be convinced that contrary to their present opinion, business is really on a firm basis and that here is no cause for the present depression."

"Fifth, that the argument that the falling off of our foreign trade will prove ruinous is ill-founded, for such trade only constitutes 5 per cent of the total. What little stoppage there has been in this field, therefore, is of little or no consequence and will have no noticeable effect on the general business outlook."

"Sixth, that recently the standardization of manufacturing processes has been increasing with such amazing rapidity that there has been a considerable reduction in the cost of commodities. This is a permanent influence of no mean importance and should not be slighted in any consideration of the future of industries in general."

"Seventh, that all statistics gathered recently offer overwhelming proof that seasonal fluctuation in production in this country are rapidly increasing. This will prove to be very

beneficial, as it will tend to make the demands for labor more constant.

"Eighth, that taxation will be radically reduced in the near future."

"Ninth, that rapid progress is being made in industrial education with the result that the men employed in industrial plants are much better trained for their tasks and are performing them with far greater efficiency. The trade schools that are now established in all sections of the country are accomplishing wonders in this way."

"Tenth, that the United States as a result of the war is now a creditor nation instead of a debtor nation, and, therefore, is in a very powerful position in the business world."

TAXABLE INCOME INCREASES

A Washington dispatch dated, Nov. 19, says: Despite the loss of 74 members of the country's million-a-year income class, the taxable income of the United States increased in 1918 by over \$2,272,000,000, as compared with 1917, according to the income statistics issued tonight by the bureau of internal revenue. Income reported for 1918 amounted to \$15,924,639,255, against about \$13,700,000,000 in 1917, though 141 persons filed returns for incomes of \$1,000,000 or over in 1917 and only 67 in 1918.

Personal returns filed during 1918 numbered 4,425,114 and the tax, both normal and surtax, amounted to \$1,127,721,835, the average tax for each individual was \$254.85. As compared with 1917, a growth of 952,224 was shown in the number of returns filed. The increase in the total tax was \$436,228,881.

Returns for income of from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 were filed by 178 persons, while 1,516,839 persons filed returns to income from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Incomes from \$2,000 to \$3,000 were shown on 1,496,878 returns, and from \$3,000 to \$4,000 in 610,095 returns. For incomes from \$5,000 to \$10,000, 319,356 returns were filed and for income from \$10,000 to \$15,000, 69,992 returns.

Over 30,000 persons made returns on income from \$15,000 to \$20,000, and 16,000 on income from \$20,000 to \$25,000, while 9,996 persons reported incomes of from between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

The largest tax, amounting to \$147,428,655, was collected on incomes from \$50,000 to \$100,000, with \$142,448,679 collected on incomes from \$10,000 to \$25,000 next. Incomes between \$1,000 and \$2,000 paid \$24,481,000.

The number of wives filing separate returns from their husbands was 35,942, the income represented being \$33,218,749.

Of the industrial groups from which income was derived agricultural and related industries led, with 372,336 returns reporting a total net income of \$1,122,532,163.

Income derived from investments for the year was \$4,847,914,000. Rents and royalties paid \$975,679,666; interest on bonds, notes, etc., including fiduciaries and foreign sources, \$1,402,485,691, and dividends \$2,468,244.

The twelve southern states, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia had a total of 463,890 personal income tax returns, or 10.48 per cent of the country's total for the calendar year of 1918. They reported a total net income of \$1,649,774,194, or 10.35 per cent of the country's total and an increase of \$200,868,770 over 1917. The total tax paid by these southern states was \$82,224,400, or 7.26 per cent of the total paid by the whole country and an increase of \$35,730,545 over 1917.

Texas led southern states in the

number of returns, with Virginia second, Oklahoma third and Georgia fourth. They ranked in the same order in total net income, while Alabama showed the largest increase in total net income of any of the southern states. In amount of income tax paid Texas ranked first, Louisiana second, Virginia third and Oklahoma fourth of the southern states.

Statistics for southern states include:

Florida: Returns, 19,102; income, \$63,681,401; increase, \$9,302,905; tax, \$3,267,463; increase, \$782,546. Percentage of total returns, .43; of income, .40; of tax .21.

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