

# Agriculture at St. Louis World's Fair

Written for The Illustrated Bee by  
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ment of these will be intended to be absolutely complete, covering every phase of the various subjects.

As an instance let us take corn. There are scores of species and varieties, including the ordinary field corn, both flint and dent, sweet corn and popcorn. Accurately determined and properly labeled they should be of great interest and would serve to settle many questions.

But add to such an exhibit of the grain an equally perfect one of the various corn products including all the constituent parts and their derivatives, and it is quite impossible to foresee the good that may be done.

The products and by-products of corn are more numerous and varied than one would dream, until after making something of a study of the subject. They include a good many things besides cornmeal. There are, for instance, the animal foods and other products of the stalk, including cellulose, which is now applied to so many uses. From the grain come all the varied meal and cereal foods, corn flour, starch, alcohol, glucose, etc.

Incidentally, it should not be forgotten that alcohol may be and is made from corn so easily that but for the internal revenue tax it could be sold about as cheap as gasoline, and used for heating and many other purposes more economically than any known fuel. A graphic illustration of this fact would be interesting and should lead to an awakening as to the necessity of providing some way to make possible the general use of alcohol in the sciences and industries without the payment of revenue.

So far as is known no such exhibit of corn has ever been attempted. This important cereal has been introduced within so comparatively recent a time that much less is generally known about it than of

any of the small grains. It will be easy to see how in much the same way as is described for corn can be worked out interesting and valuable data regarding cotton, tobacco and sugar beets. In looking over the field of new methods of educating and appealing to the public the plan mentioned was evolved, and it is hoped and expected that great good may result.

The department of agriculture at St. Louis includes nineteen groups, beside live stock, which is to be handled as a separate section. These nineteen groups include the farms themselves as well as practically everything that the farmer uses or produces, and pretty much everything made from that which he produces. It follows agricultural products into their second and, sometimes, even their third or fourth generation.

Some other exhibits included in the department are agricultural implements of every nature, all processes used in the production of foods and drinks of every description, as well as the factories in which they are made and the machinery used in such factories or processes.

In addition there are all of the inedible agricultural products, such as the plants grown and used for fiber, for tanning and for the production of oil. Tobacco, and alcohol as produced from either grains or fruits, come under this department also.

Then there is all the literature on agricultural subjects and the agricultural press, the experiment station work of the Department of Agriculture and the various states, the method of construction of farm buildings, of buying, selling and leasing lands and all the multifarious processes connected directly or indirectly with agriculture.

Not only will there be shown all those exhibits which properly belong indoors, but methods and appliances connected with the growing of crops and rearing to be demonstrated outside. For this purpose

there has been set aside a very large area of ground upon which to carry on all such work.

The United States Department of Agriculture has applied for ten acres of space on which to show plots of the various grasses and cereals adapted to growth in various parts of the country. This will make not only a beautiful, but an interesting and educational exhibit.

Horticulturists will be glad to know that their department will be supplied with the very best possible facilities. Particular attention is asked to the splendid provision made for pomological exhibits. It will be recalled that at previous expositions it has sometimes been necessary to divide the fruit exhibits, placing portions in each of two or more spaces, so separated as to break the continuity of examination and rendering impossible such comparisons as should constitute one of the best features of such an exhibit.

The one enormous room, covering almost four acres of floor space, can all be taken in at a glance and will at the same time provide the opportunity for close and special study of varieties and species. This room will be at the same time one of the highest in the exposition, giving that full and complete ventilation so necessary to the successful exhibit of fruits.

The horticulture building will be visible from a greater distance than any other on the grounds, since it occupies the most elevated position. The beauty of the building, its commanding position and, particularly, its perfect adaptation to the use to which it is to be put, combine to supply conditions that are most satisfactory.

In addition to these general and larger arrangements, every detail necessary to the comfort and convenience of the exhibitors is receiving the most careful attention. A room of ample size is provided in which to unpack and prepare exhibits which will

be arriving hourly during the period of fresh fruit shipments. This room is on the first floor and so located as to be of easiest possible access from all exhibits. It will be supplied with tables, sinks, running water, ample light and every other convenience. At this room will be made all deliveries of shipments. Exhibitors can then be notified of the arrival of their shipments and can unpack and prepare them for display without a moment's delay. In the case of quickly perishable fruit, the saving of a few hours' time in placing it on the table is of the utmost consequence.

The outdoor exhibits in horticulture will include everything which it is possible to bring together in flowers, decorative plants, shrubs and trees. The beautiful setting for this sort of display consists of forty-two acres of ground surrounding the Agriculture and Horticulture buildings. This entire area has been placed at the disposal of the chief of the departments and he has agreed to cover it with the choicest products of the nurseries and floral establishments of the world.

It is a graceful tribute to agriculture and horticulture that the executive authorities of the exposition have set aside the solid tract of sixty-seven acres, consisting of a hill and approaches leading up to it, every inch of which is to be treated with agricultural and horticultural exhibits.

It is as if these departments were to constitute a large important exposition of their own, and shows clearly how self-contained are the rural interests. Perhaps nothing else could more clearly illustrate how large a portion of the capital and energy of the world are invested in these pursuits which are broadly classed as agricultural. The farmer himself would perhaps have a higher conception of the honorableness of his employment did he appreciate that half the money and half the people of the earth are engaged in like pursuits. FREDERIC TAYLOR.

## Art of Taxidermy Neglected by Americans

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**OUR TROUBLES,"** said a leading taxidermist, "are many, but our chiefest is due to the fact that not a single American millionaire has gone in strong for a collection of heads and horns. Nor can a single public institution in the United States rightfully boast of a collection that will compare favorably with even the third rate collections in Europe.

"For some reason, or other the directors of museums do not seem to comprehend the full zoological value of a good collection, and hence they begrudge spending any money to secure heads and horns of animals that are rapidly becoming extinct. In the twenty-five years I have been in business I do not believe that I have sold \$25,000 worth of goods to museums, and I am the largest importer and dealer in my line in America.

"As for the millionaire, it seems to be almost an impossibility to awaken him to the importance of making a collection. He will buy a head or two and a couple of dozen pairs of horns, and then he will be satisfied. Maybe, during the course of his lifetime, he spends as much as \$5,000 with a taxidermist, and then again maybe he doesn't.

"I attribute the American millionaire's neglect of the field of taxidermy to his hobby of establishing game preserves. He says to himself: 'Instead of having mere horns and heads around me, I'll have the real things—the live animals.' But he forgets that he cannot have many of the most noted animals of modern times in his preserves, for the simple reason that the few specimens now alive cannot be obtained for love nor money.

"Take the Alpine ibex, for instance. The king of Italy owns the only twenty now alive, and to kill one of them is lifelong imprisonment. A millionaire could not secure one of these animals no matter how much money he might offer for it, but he could buy quite a few heads and horns at prices ranging from \$75 to \$250, which are reasonable when you remember that the Alpine ibex is extinct for all practical purposes.

"As this is also true of many other animals—not a few of which are American—it behooves American museums and American men of money to make before it is too late collections that will give posterity an ample idea of the animals of the present day. Inspiration along this line should be taken from Europe, and especially from Germany and France. Every nobleman and every person of wealth in those two countries have collections costing thousands of dollars each. A castle in Germany is not considered habitable without its myriad of heads and horns about the walls and as for the hunting lodges they are filled to overflowing with specimens of taxidermy.

"I believe I have seen all the most noted collections in Europe and I know that it is no exaggeration to say that their combined value at present market rates is close on to \$50,000,000.

"On his Hanoverian preserve Emperor William has what I consider the finest and largest collection of horns in the world. It consists not only of specimens of the

German stag and of the roebuck, but of hundreds of heads and horns of foreign animals. Every American animal is represented and to secure the specimens the emperor has spent thousands of dollars through me. His American collection alone would put to shame the combined half dozen biggest collections owned in this country.

"After a month's inspection of the emperor's entire collection several years ago, I estimated its value at nearly \$3,000,000. And several of the emperor's subjects have collections almost as costly.

Fact is, the taxidermy business in this country would about go into bankruptcy if it were not for our mighty hunters and fishers. They have lately begun to use it to back up their seemingly tall stories of experiences with rod and gun.

"This is especially true of the fisherman. When he catches a black bass weighing eight pounds, he doesn't eat it, as was formerly the custom; and thus destroy all evidence of veracity of the story of the big catch that he relates to his friends. Instead he sends the black bass to a taxidermist, who prepares it for preservation at the rate of \$1 a pound. And then, when the fisherman has his story doubted by his friends, all that he has to do to prove his words is to lead his hearers up to the black bass, mounted on an appropriate base.

"The freak horn collector also contributes towards keeping the taxidermists in business. The average American seems to think that a pair of horns is not worth owning unless it is abnormal in some way. If a bull moose has twisted its antlers into some unnatural shape, we can dispose of them for two or three times the price we ask for a perfect pair, which the expert collector would rave over. Why, for one pair of exceedingly freakish moose horns I received \$2,000, or nearly double the money I got for one of the finest pairs of moose antlers I've ever seen. They had a spread of sixty-eight inches and showed forty-three points. But freak collectors passed them by without a second glance, and it took me nearly five years to dispose of them. The freak horns I sold in less than two weeks after receipt. Indeed, I cannot keep up with the demand for freak things.

"Of late years the mounting of Florida specimens has made considerable business. Alligators are brought up north in great numbers by the wealthy, who have developed the hobby of scattering the hideous saurians in life-like attitudes about their mansions. For one New York millionaire alone I stuffed a score of alligators last year, and he wrote me lately that he was forwarding me six more specimens.

"Buffalo heads? No sale for them. The only man who makes any money out of buffalo heads is the plainsman who has managed to secure several heads by hook or crook. He disposes of them to the hunters from east of the Mississippi, who take the trophies back home with them, and then call in their friends and say, 'See what I killed on my hunting trip west. The guide told me I was a very lucky man—probably killed the last wild buffalo on the plains.'

"Yes, the hunter prefers paying \$600 or \$1,000 for a head out west rather than \$350

for a much better specimen in the east. That's why I've a stock of twenty buffalo heads that I've been unable to sell since I bought them four years ago.

"Did you ever stop to think that the march of civilization is a great aid to taxidermy? Take Siberia, for example. Ten years ago we had scarcely any specimens of the Siberian ibex and roebuck in either Europe or America. But since the railroad has been opened specimens are coming out of the interior by the carload. The prices are still high, however. A fair pair of ibex horns will bring \$300 in the market any day.

Alaska is another country that of late years has been sending new specimens to the taxidermist. They, too, are costly, but the European collectors do not stop at prices, and so we are doing a good business in Alaskan heads and horns.

"But, say, if we could only induce the American millionaire to take interest in heads and horns, the taxidermist on this side of the water would not have to depend for a large part of his income on renting full specimens of bears and other fur-bearing animals to the furriers during the fur-wearing season, at from \$250 to \$1,000 a rental. If only one-twentieth of the interest displayed by Europeans over heads and horns could be transferred to this country, we struggling taxidermists would become men of affluence within a few years."

### Money to Burn

Mrs. Ann Law of Trenton, N. J., cooked a 20-cent steak the other morning with a roll of greenbacks worth \$300. Mrs. Law was going to Philadelphia on a shopping tour and drew \$300 from the bank. She laid the money, which was inclosed in an envelope, on a table in the sitting room. She decided to breakfast on steak before leaving home, and, gathering a handful of paper, kindled a fire in the kitchen stove. When the steak was cooked it dawned on Mrs. Law's mind that she had used the greenbacks for kindling. She gathered the ashes and took them to the mint in Philadelphia to find out if she could get her money back.

### Cost of Clothes

Barring the inhabitants of the earth who wear practically no clothes at all, the costume of the average Russian costs the least. Ten rubles, or about \$7.50, will clothe a male citizen of the czar's realm, while the woman's costume will cost less than \$2.

The man's costume consists of course

cotton trousers tucked into boots of half-dressed leather, a cotton shirt and a sheep-skin coat. A coarse Camlet caftan bound around with a sash completes the dress.

The women wear a sarafan, or long petticoat, which is held up by straps running over the shoulders, a chemise with sleeves to the elbow, a kerchief over the head and a pair of shoes. Stockings are sometimes worn, but more frequently the legs and feet are bound with strips of cotton or linen cloth. For outdoor wear a quilted jacket or long cloak is added.

The simplicity and cheapness of the dress is not due to any lack of vanity, but to the poor circumstances under which the majority of the Russians live.—New York Press.

### An Exception

"They say Shamrock is a Scotch boat."  
"Heet, mon, the Scotch wouldn't build an Irish boat."  
"Ah, wouldn't they? They'd build anything for the price."  
"Except one thing."  
"What's that?"  
"A cup winner."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

### The Financier

They say I'm paying too much rent.  
But really they don't know.  
They make me laugh. I don't pay half  
As much rent as I owe.  
—Philadelphia Ledger.

### HOW MANY HANDS

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