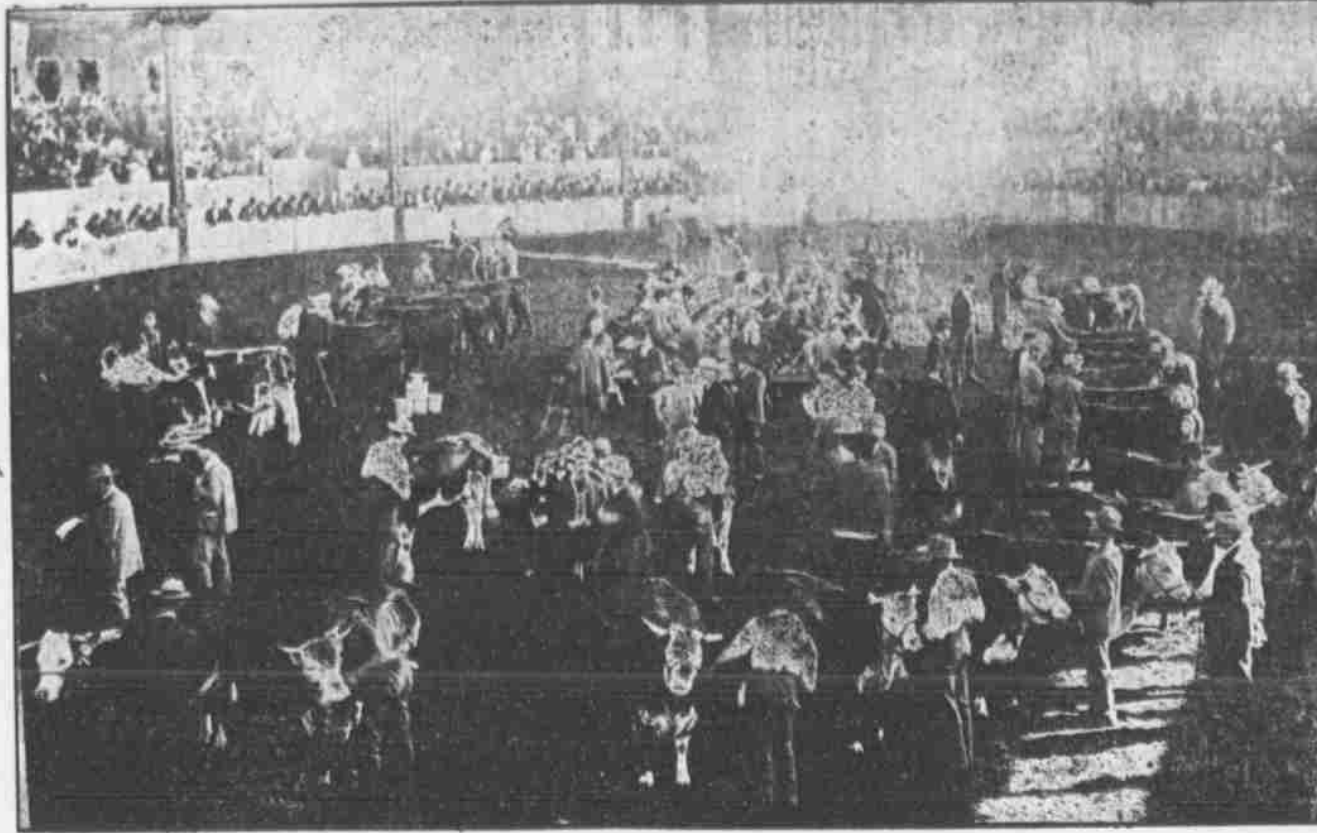


Modern Agricultural Fair---Its Origin, Development and Possibilities



HORSES ON EXHIBITION AT THE MISSOURI STATE FAIR AT ST. LOUIS.—Photo by Staff Artist.



JUDGING CATTLE IN THE NEW LIVE STOCK PAVILION AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR.—Photo by Staff Artist.



ANGUS SHOW HERD AT THE NEBRASKA STATE FAIR.—Photo by Staff Artist.

THE beginning history of the organization we term the agricultural fair dates back into the eighteenth century, when the primary purpose of the fair was the barter and sale of articles of merchandise and farm products. Under this system of barter and sale, the ordinary means of communication between countries were very limited fairs were of great use in the exchange of commodities.

In Europe they appear to have originated in the church festivals, which were found to afford convenient opportunities for commercial transactions, the attendance of people being such as took place upon no other occasion. Some of these festivals, from circumstances of place and season, speedily acquired a much greater commercial importance than others, and began, therefore, to be frequented by buyers and sellers even from remote parts of the world. Princes, magistrates and governing authorities of cities found it to their advantage to encourage them and many privileges were thus granted.

At a later date, when the convenience for travel had improved, when more populous towns had come into existence, with their dealers in miscellaneous wares and other evidences of advancement in trade, the necessity for the ordinary class of fairs seemed to have passed, and in many cases they degenerated into scenes of merriment, such as was found at Bartholomew fair, London (long since extinct), also Greenwich fair, Glasgow fair and Donnybrook fair, near Dublin. The boisterous merriment of these fairs of the old devices employed as most likely to attract a greater concourse of people, hence each fair had

its sport designed to be best adapted to its attendance, foot ball, wrestling, jumping, sack races, soaped pigs, wheelbarrow races, etc.

At a still later date many of the British fairs are found to have been almost exclusively in the interest of the purchase and sale of live stock, both improved breeds and animals to be sold to the feeder to be fattened for the butcher.

First Step in United States.

The first step toward organization for the encouraging and forwarding of agriculture in the United States was in the organization of the Philadelphia society for the promotion of agriculture in 1784. A similar organization was formed in New York in 1793 and in Massachusetts and South Carolina in 1792. At this time there was but little conception of how such societies were to be operated. They represented a new enterprise, both in this country and in England, where at this date they were just begun. The first proposition was to place the boards under government management and assist them by government aid.

Washington was greatly interested in the subject and was a member of the Philadelphia society. His, John Quincy Adams and Thomas Jefferson were practical farmers on a large scale. Arthur Young and Sir John Sinclair of England were active participants in agricultural organization at this time and in matter of information were esteemed authority. These gentlemen suggested the value of a national board fostered by government appropriation. Washington's idea was the formation of smaller societies which would be auxiliary

to the greater one. Upon this basis societies were organized and continued to be organized in the states with varying results.

Held at Washington in 1804.

The first agricultural fair held in this country was at Washington in 1804, at that time described as "a city in the woods." The premium incentive at this fair for the exhibition of choice produce and live stock was \$100, which was apportioned in the various departments.

The next fair was held by the Columbian Agricultural society for the promotion of rural domestic economy at Georgetown, D. C. This was held in 1810 and large premiums were offered, especially on sheep and wool. Bezelel Wells of Sturbeville, O., was a prominent exhibitor at this fair of the Black-top Delaine Merino sheep, a well-known type of sheep at our present day fairs.

In 1816 the Massachusetts society held a fair at Brighton, where premiums were offered for a plowing match of trained ox teams. These fairs excited much rivalry and a spirit of contest rapidly developed, as well as the advantage of acquiring hints for improvement in methods of work. They were also commented upon as good advertising mediums for the breeder of good stock, resulting often in a rich harvest in sales.

At many of the fairs addresses were made by prominent agriculturists on topics calculated to interest and instruct the people; also papers were read which were collected and afterwards printed for the benefit of the public.

For the first forty years of the nineteenth century the organization of county and state fairs was not marked with much energy or frequency. But the period between 1840 and 1850, state and county fairs were numerous formed over the country, and since that time scarcely an agricultural district within our national limits has been without the county or state fair, until at the present time no less than 2,000 active agricultural fairs are in organization in the United States.

Origin of Education.

The agricultural fair of the present day may very prudently be termed the legitimate offspring of agricultural education. The tendency is to seek information for a bettering of farm conditions everywhere, throughout all districts where agriculture forms a part of the business interests of the people. This desire for agricultural knowledge and training may be seen in the increased number of agricultural schools; in the disposition of our citizens for increased appropriations for the maintenance and better equipment of these schools; in the rapid growth of the farmers' institute, which has become in a measure the local agricultural school of the community or county in which it is organized; in the introduction of the elementary principles and the study of agriculture in the public schools. The tendency throughout seems to be for more practical knowledge on scientific and practical grounds. In no other occupation or profession is there so much interest manifested from among the common people. These evidences of increased interest in agriculture stimulate a disposition to rivalry among producers, and the agricultural fair is the recognized medium through which the ambitious tiller of the soil and the stock grower finds consolation in publicly demonstrating the merits of their production and fruits of their work. Thus we find the agricultural fair has become a necessity before the pressing demands of the breeder and producer in his efforts to fill the requirements that agricultural education has, and is making, for these object lessons that the agricultural fair so perfectly and satisfactorily supplies.

Scope of the State Fair.

The state fair of the twentieth century measures a higher standard of excellence in moral influence and educational ambition than has ever been previously obtained under agricultural organization.

The agricultural fair of today is as distinctly a part of the agricultural education of the country as are the influences which make it possible for a fair to be held and meet the endorsement of public sentiment. It is the ambition of the managers of the modern state fair to meet the expectations of the people and satisfy the demands of a higher class of exhibition and entertainment on the fair

grounds. The successful management of a state fair is too frequently estimated upon its ability to make money, regardless of the protection it offers its patrons.

The present tendency among state fairs is to permanency of location, the beautifying of the grounds by nature's adornments and landscape gardening, the building for the future and the keeping of these grounds free from the contaminating influence of vicious and immoral shows and concessions. The high moral standing of the state fair makes it worthy the guardianship it has assumed in the exhibition, care of agriculture and its kindred interests and industries.

Amusement Feature High Class.

The contemplated introduction of a higher class of entertaining features in the line of amusements for state fairs resulted in the organization of a western state fair circuit last winter at Des Moines. This association, as soon as it gets into working condition, will be able to arrange for special fair attractions of a highly entertaining character that could not be had for a single engagement.

The day has gone by for the cheap side shows at the state fair. The people demand more in advantages for recreation and amusement and this calls for the state fair auditorium and theater, where the tired visitor may rest under the influence of good music and instructive talent.

With the fair visitor the great central attraction is what he is most interested in. It may be live stock, farm products, fruits, machinery, dairy, bees and honey, mercantile display, fine arts or the race horses on the track.

The race horse has been the means of creating more contention in the agricultural fair than all other influences combined, and yet he is a legitimate factor in agriculture, when properly credited and given his natural and inherited rights as a free and untrammelled animal.

The strictly agricultural fair is advocated by a class of fair patrons as being the only legitimate exhibition, and therefore the only feature that should receive encouragement from the fair management. The horse race is condemned as vicious and damaging in its influence on the fair vis-

itors. The encouragement for betting and gambling is urged as a reason why this source of amusement should be excluded from the fair. Cruelty to dumb brutes is sometimes set forth in the attempt to make a case against the encouragement of the speed attraction on the fair grounds.

Race track gambling, where the horse is used as the medium for carrying it on, has nothing whatever to do with the exhibition speed attraction of the agricultural fair. It is proper to encourage the speed feature in horse breeding, because there is a legitimate purpose, use and demand for active, smart driving horses. They are needed for saddle and light harness use, and the breeding of these horses is a proper and legitimate industry on the farm. The racing feature is an entirely different proposition and has no direct connection with the agricultural fair. Neither the horse nor the breeder of the horse is responsible for the use to which he is put.

Educational Phase of the Fair.

The educational phase of the fair should never be lost sight of by the fair management in its attempt to amuse and entertain. The building of a fair that will at once appeal to the finer sensibilities of the educated and the learned in science and art is the demand of the times, and should be the aim of those having this work in charge. More refinement, more taste, more artistic display in decoration and the placing of exhibits is the demand at the state fair, and every effort to supply this refining influence should be exerted.

This refining influence is not confined to

any department or division of the fair and should not be. Throw out the proper encouragement by providing neat and well arranged grounds and buildings and the exhibition artist will bring every feature of display up to it.

The work of the artist is not alone found hanging on the walls of the beautiful and finely decorated buildings on the fair grounds, labeled "Fine Arts," "Mechanical Arts" and "Textile Fabrics," but in the live stock barns as well the artist has been at work, where are found the fine, glossy swine, finished more beautifully than the pencil of the master painter can picture. In the cattle stalls the same artistic work of the caretaker and scientific feeder are observed, as the massive skulls or prince of the herd stands at the head, the proud progenitor of a long line of successful prize winners. And the great, matronly cow, a no less prominent figure in her relation to the show herd, stands quietly and by unconsciously defies the picture maker in adding one more touch of the brush or the perfecting of a single line that will make her more acceptable in the eyes of the critic.

The state fair is a presentation to the public of the work of a great aggregation of artists and scientists, who come from the farm, the feed yard, the orchard, the factory, the workshop, the home and the school. The best of everything is collected into the showrooms and this great state exhibition at once becomes an institute of learning, a school for the eye, the ear, the heart. Men and women are made better in knowledge and better in spirit by attending a good agricultural fair, conducted upon a basis of education and morality.

Entertaining Little Stories for Little People

The Chickens' Napkins.

YOUR napkin, dear," reminded mamma gently.

Bernice across the table, lifted her little bread-and-butter face, and the tiniest of scowls traveled up and down between her eyes. Napkins were such a bother. She was always dropping hers.

"I wish there weren't any!" she murmured, getting down from her high chair to pick her up. "They always drop, and they get all mixed up when you fold 'em up."

"When you don't fold them up," corrected Earl laughing.

Bernice turned her dainty, beloved little ring over and over thoughtfully in her small hands.

"Then I wish I was a chicken," she announced slowly.

"Oh, chickens use napkins regularly at every meal," said papa.

"Chickens!"

The word came in an astonished chorus from all the children.

"Why, of course. Did you think they haven't any manners at all? I can tell you Mother Biddy is bringing them up better than that. After dinner you shall see. She teaches them to use their napkins very carefully."

"Only just one to them all?"

"Yes," papa said a little reluctantly, "only just one; but then it's plenty large enough."

The twinkles in papa's eyes were playing hide-and-seek.

It's so large they share it with their relations, their aunts and cousins and uncles," was the idea.

"Oh, my, I don't call that having good manners," cried Bernice scornfully.

The children started out with papa to the chicken yard, but mamma had to call Bernice back again to fold her napkin. That happened very often.

The chickens' meal was nearly over, but they watched them take the last few dainty zecks.

"That's the dessert. They eat it slowly because they've eaten all their hungry up," explained Earle.

"Where's their napkins? I don't see any," Bernice exclaimed in disappointment.

"Wait," said papa.

"Now watch!" he said a minute later, as the dainty little fellows finished their last crumbs. They walked a few steps and then every single one of them wiped his bill—this way, that way, very carefully—on the grass.

"Oh!"

"Oh, my!"

"Well," Bernice added triumphantly, "they didn't fold it up, papa."

Papa laughed; "but little girls must. And that's the difference between chickens and little girls"—Selected.

Greedy Tom.

Tommy was given a nice piece of plum cake by his mother, who said, "Give some to your sister, Tom." But greedy Tom went away to the barn and climbed into the hayrack to eat the treat himself, he lures the Brooklyn Citizen. "There isn't enough for me and Lucy, too," he said.

As he was thinking how good it would taste he fell fast asleep. A rooster came pecking near him, spied the cake and quickly made away with it while Tom slept on.

When he awoke no cake was in his hands, and he thought he had eaten it, but then remembered he had not.

Finally, there in the corner, he discovered the old rooster swallowing the last morsel of the cake. Tom ran at him. The rooster hopped to the ground and Tom after him. The rooster scampered out into

the yard and Tom too. Here he was met by Lucy, who held in her hand a piece of plum cake. "Tom, Tom, stop a minute," she called. "Well, what is it?" said Tom. "I want to give you a piece of my cake. Mamma gave it to me a minute ago and I want you to have some."

"Then was not greedy Tom ashamed of himself? Ah, yes, indeed.

Mistress Merryface.

Little Mistress Merryface dances down the way Hedged about by wags, With a chirp, a chirp, a chirp, Cheerful all the day.

"Sweet little bird," she sings, "Sweet the notes of gladness ring, Love looks from her eyes; Every sunbeam seems to slant Her way from the skies."

In the world a dismal place Hedged about by wags, Little Mistress Merryface Dances down the way.

Every day that follows night Brings new joys she has the right To possess or to share.

When she laughs all things appear Glad to know that she is near Hedged with her side.

Sadness may not linger where Her sweet song is heard; Every bird that hears her sing, By her laughter spurred; Grateful, joyful, jubilant, All the sunbeams seem to slant Downward but to let Little Mistress Merryface Dance down the way.

God has made us yet. —S. E. Kiser.

Indian Babies.

Little Indian babies are very dear and cunning, and have just as many admirers in the grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters and all the relatives and friends as little white babies have.

When a baby is to be placed in her pack, the quilts, two or three perhaps, are spread out on the floor or ground, and the baby is laid on them, her head in one corner, her feet at the one diagonally opposite. Then the sides are folded over and pinned; often thick cords or small rope is tied several times around the pack. The corners of the quilt at the head is left, so that it can be thrown over baby's face to protect it.

Until Indian babies are four or five months old they are not carried on their mother's back, but in the arms like other babies. When wrapped in the pack they are an armful, although the baby itself may be small. But later, what a good time the baby has on its mother's back, playing horse with her braids of hair.

When the Indian baby is old enough for playthings, bits of bone, little string and the quaint necklace is hung around baby's neck.

The babies accompany their parents to church, and often try to join in the singing.

The other day I saw a dear little baby girl wrapped in a coyote skin, and I thought of Baby Bunting.

Some of the Things I Do.

When I play that I'm a bird, Then I try to fly; Lifting up my pinafore Spreading out my pinafore Wide, wide, wide; You might think I was wings, If you truly tried.

When I play that I'm a horse, Eat my luncheon from a bag, Drink it from a pail, Smashed the cart up 'tother day—Baby in it, too!

When he's scared and runs away, What's a horse to do?

When I play that I'm a wolf, Then I howl and roar, Sniffing here, sniffing there, Round the nursery door, Diddy ah! he'll speak me soon, If I still annoy, Think perhaps this afternoon, I'll be a little boy.

—Laura E. Richards.

Pampered Cow on Most Expensive Pasture

VARIOUS degrees of luxury prevail in Omaha but it is safe to say that none of the leading citizens regale themselves on more expensive milk than William A. Paxton, wholesale grocer, builder of the office structure that bears his name, and one of the men who established the stock yards at South Omaha. Mr. Paxton's supply of milk, served on the table of his handsome residence at Twenty-fifth avenue and Douglas street, costs anywhere from 72 to 77 cents a quart, whichever way you calculate it. The larger figure would hit the price of the Paxton lactical fluid about right, however, and the Jersey cow that produces it has a right to be the proudest boy in the neighborhood in Omaha. This because she reveals, say, literally wallows in the most expensive cow pasture in these parts.

The cow pasture is on the north side of Farnam street, extending from Twenty-fifth to Twenty-sixth avenue, and the west half of it clear through to Douglas street. It is this pasture that makes the Paxton milk so costly for the sole and only revenue which this three-quarters of a city block bears to the owner, is the pasturing of said black Jersey cow. Within easy walk of the business district, on the main-traveled east and west thoroughfare of town, surrounded on every hand by stately dwellings, churches and schools, and with paved streets and cement sidewalks commanding its approaches, it is not remarkable that the Paxton property is listed by the tax commissioner at \$40,000.

This is for the whole block, which has

upon having a green, modern apartment house erected upon the erstwhile cow pasture, and its lone occupant banished to a cheaper (though they could not be greener) field. To date, however, rumor hath not borne fruit. The proud cow, like many other creatures, does not seem at all satisfied in its gilded cage, which, truth to tell, is surrounded by an iron fence of the cheapest pattern. One day during the summer she almost strangled herself and irreparably damaged the fence by trying to get at some rank weeds outside. The tender clover and the green growth from the golden ground were spurned by this cow. All she wanted was a few common weeds, such as the rangest maverick of the plains can nibble at will. But no; she blazed, and yet he is a legitimate factor in agriculture, when properly credited and given his natural and inherited rights as a free and untrammelled animal.

The strictly agricultural fair is advocated by a class of fair patrons as being the only legitimate exhibition, and therefore the only feature that should receive encouragement from the fair management. The horse race is condemned as vicious and damaging in its influence on the fair vis-

itors. The encouragement for betting and gambling is urged as a reason why this source of amusement should be excluded from the fair. Cruelty to dumb brutes is sometimes set forth in the attempt to make a case against the encouragement of the speed attraction on the fair grounds.

Race track gambling, where the horse is used as the medium for carrying it on, has nothing whatever to do with the exhibition speed attraction of the agricultural fair. It is proper to encourage the speed feature in horse breeding, because there is a legitimate purpose, use and demand for active, smart driving horses. They are needed for saddle and light harness use, and the breeding of these horses is a proper and legitimate industry on the farm. The racing feature is an entirely different proposition and has no direct connection with the agricultural fair. Neither the horse nor the breeder of the horse is responsible for the use to which he is put.

Recent Progress Made in the Field of Electricity

Edison's Motor Battery.

THOMAS A. EDISON announces that the new storage battery upon which he has been working for almost four years has been finished to his satisfaction and that he will at once build a factory for the manufacture of the battery cells for the trade.

At various times during the progress of work on the latest of Edison's inventions much has been promised respecting its decided advance over the storage batteries now in use, consequently expectations have been keyed rather high. If present promises are realized in practical operation, the invention will work an epoch in electrical storage batteries.

The battery or cell, as now perfected, will, it is claimed, drive a two-ton truck at the rate of 35 miles an hour, with half the weight of the old method.

A smaller dealer can operate a delivery wagon with its power at 15 per cent of the cost of maintaining a horse. An ordinary automobile will run 100 miles under ordinary conditions without recharging. Under the most favorable conditions 10 miles can be covered at a speed of 20 miles an hour.

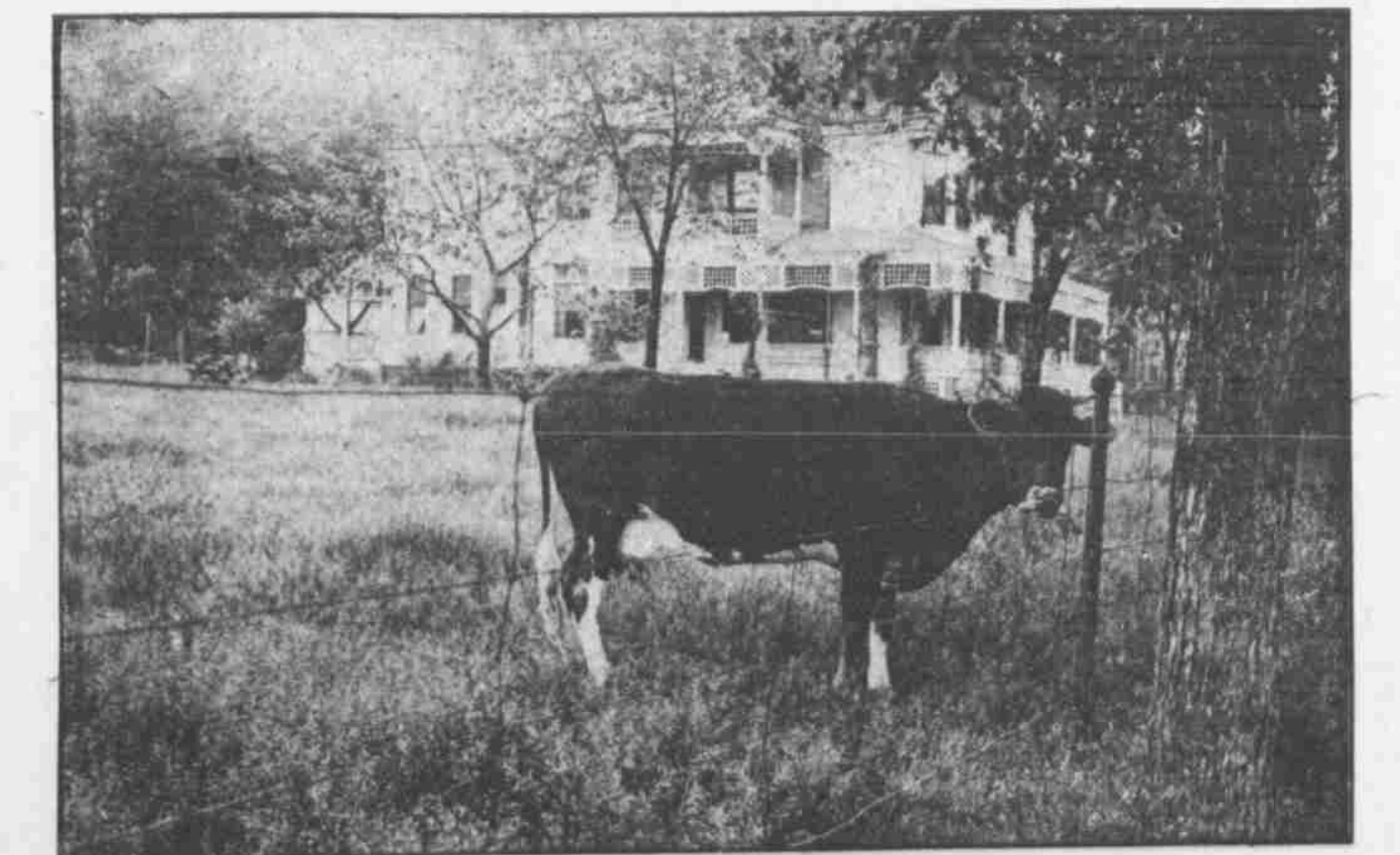
"The troubles in the battery I have been trying for two years to remedy have been purely mechanical," said Mr. Edison in an interview. "They have been greatly due to the swelling of the blocks, element, though it has succeeded in reducing the weight of the battery from 40 to 45 pounds per horse-power. It has taken time to find out what was needed for this battery, because we cannot look ahead and see just what such a thing is going to do after we have it sketched on paper. In the two years I have been experimenting we have turned out some 14,000 cells of the battery, and have operated 100 auto-vehicles.

"I do not pretend to have solved the problem for touring vehicles. That can only be possible when more charging stations are spread about the country. You can Cooper Hewitt of New York has helped solve that problem with his mercury rectifier, which takes the place of the old transformer and makes it possible to convert the alternating currents used in small towns so as to make them available for charging the batteries.

"With proper motor and wagon equipment we can take our cells and operate an ordinary delivery wagon for 15 per cent of the cost of maintaining a horse."

New Use for Electricity.

A practical electrician who at one time acted as selling agent for a firm manufacturing electrical supplies, including incandescent lamps, disclosed to the New York Times a "trick of the trade" which, though it has some slightly dubious aspects, is certainly interesting and entirely novel. While "on the road" in winter he was often obliged to pass the night in hotels where, though most of the "modern improvements" were present, the bed rooms were usually very cold and the sheets often very damp. When it was a hotel that had electric lights he materially mitigated these woes by extracting from his "grip" a thirty-two-candle lamp, equipped with insulated wires long enough to run from the bed to the nearest fixture and ending in a "plug" that would take the place of a lamp destined for illuminating purposes. When ready for retirement he would remove the lamp, usually a small one, attach his own big one, and, with the latter for companion, seek the seclusion of the icy sheets. They never remained long he declared, for a thirty-two-candle lamp gives out a considerable amount of heat, mild and continuous. In the circumstances, this would obviously be a simple



W. A. PAXTON'S JERSEY COW IN HER COSTLY PASTURE.