

NATIONAL CORN SHOW PROVES TO BE A POPULAR PROJECT

How an Idea Has Grown Until It Embraces the Whole Country and Many Interests. All Bent on Increasing the Grain Yields and Consequent Profit of the American Farm

"Aye, the corn, the royal corn, within whose yellow heart
There is health and strength for all the nations."

WHETHER there is a farm in all the vast expanse of the country there is with it the ever pressing problem of how to get from the soil the greatest possible profits. Since farming first began the question of the greatest results from the given area and given labor has concerned the man who through his efforts has fed the multitude. The National Corn exposition, organized on a broad plan by broad men in Omaha one day last January, was designed as a fitting place where the problems solved by the individual combined with those worked out by all his neighbors—and men in different states and different climates—could be presented and the best methods of all combined into a real recipe for farming which would be worthy the attention of the most practical and sagacious gray-beard in the rural. It has been known for ten years that if the recipes of some farmers were generally applied the result would be a profit to the nation of millions of dollars annually.

"If the international live stock shows and the world's fairs will inspire breeders to produce better stock and the workshops and factories of America to surpass those of the world in the fine and mechanical arts a great national corn and grain exhibition will inspire the farmers to produce better grains and grasses," was the argument of the business men who formulated the plan. When the suggestion was made to a small handful of business men of Omaha, South Omaha and Council Bluffs they readily subscribed a fund which will be ample to make the exposition a success and December 9 to 19 were selected as the dates for holding the exposition in Omaha, after all the state and county shows in the various states had been held, that each might contribute to the great national clearing house the best corn and other grains which their exhibitors entered.

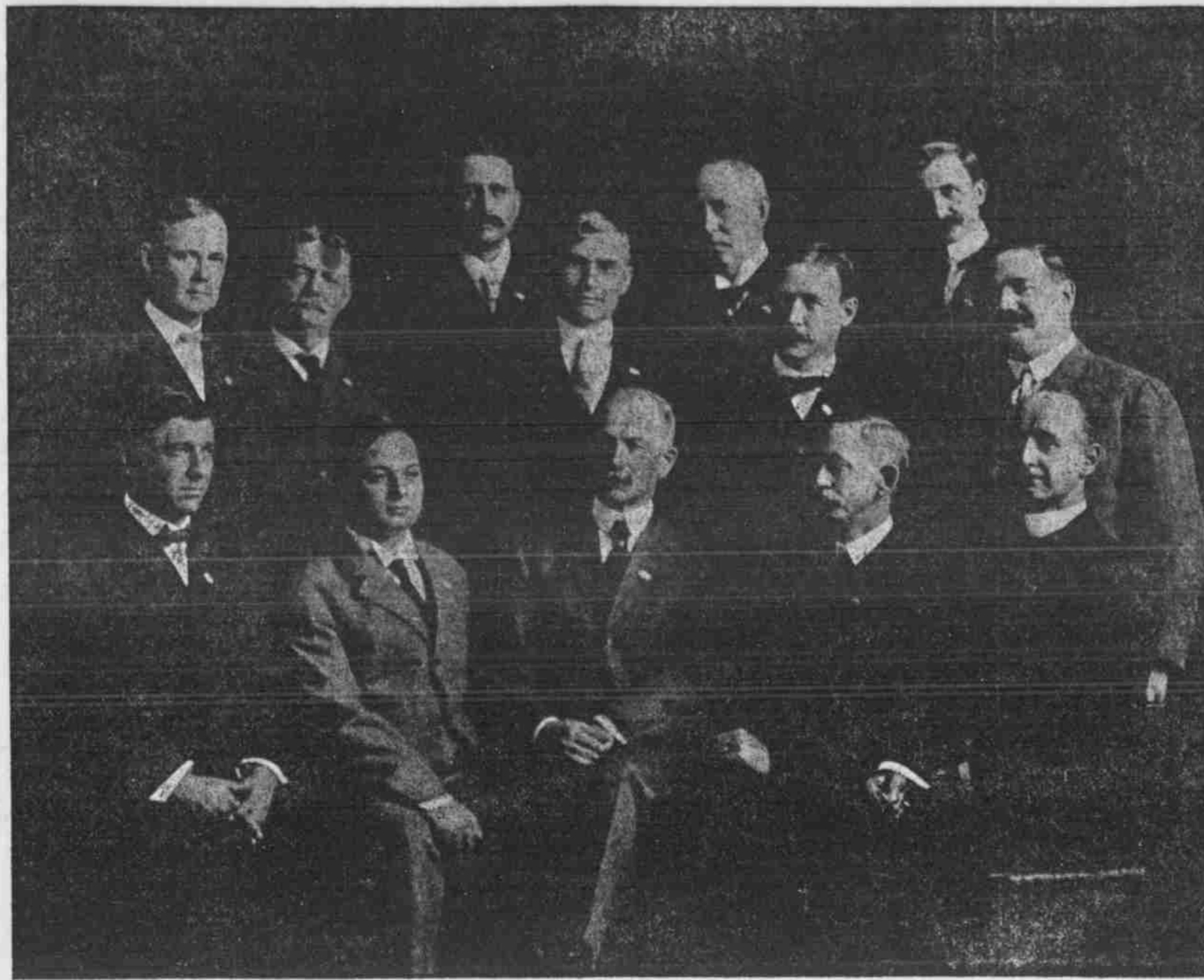
The practical work with farm crops had passed the experimental stage. It was known that local contests, county corn shows, short courses and county fair exhibits of corn and grains had been an inspiration to the American farmer. A "new farmer" had been evolved, just as a "new woman" was evolved, and this new agriculturist is a man who no longer meets the seasons with brute force and simply plows, plants, fights weeds and reaps, but an intelligent worker, who combines brains with muscle.

Profits of the New Farmer

Within the last decade it has been found that by practical scientific farming the "new farmer" quadruples his crops, creates new cereals, fruits and trees, and annually produces six times the wealth of the national banks.

It was planned then to show in Omaha in one great exposition what the new farmer had discovered, how he discovered his wonderful farm, discovered its new worth with the aid of science and invention, agricultural colleges, agricultural experiment stations, agricultural explorers, an agricultural department, weather bureau, bureau of animal industry, bureau of plant industry and sundry other aids and educations which have made farming twice as easy, doubly as interesting, vastly more intelligent and uplifting and three times as profitable.

In bold relief stood the record made by Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, North Dakota and Kansas. The states had proved that the scientific way was the practical way and the National Corn exposition was designed to emphasize the fact and bring those interested in agriculture together from all sections of the country for a great



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: STANDING—BRUCE McCULLOCH, E. B. HUCKINGHAM, F. L. HALLER, THOMAS F. STURGESS, D. B. FULLER, ROME MILLER, J. WILKES JONES, EMIL BRANDEIS. SITTING—VICTOR BENDER, C. C. ROSEWATER, G. W. WATLES, C. F. MCGREW, CHARLES W. MARTIN.

DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL CORN SHOW ASSOCIATION.

might have plants growing under glass in various stages of development of the country volunteered to secure samples of corn grown in all countries where they sell seed and the exposition began to take on an international scope before the idea was well understood.

Grain exchanges in all parts of the United States and particularly those of the west were quick to grasp the opportunity to do something practical to improve the crops and increase the yield. Grain dealers' associations of different states were among the first to endorse the movement—and have since given it more substantial endorsement by contributing to the premium list and what is considered more important by the management, inspired interest in local contests in all parts of the country, which will result in more and better samples being sent to the exposition at Omaha.

If the National Corn exposition makes nothing else it is going to make traffic for the railroads.

Interest of the Railroads

The railroads saw this long before the organization became a fact and it took little urging to secure the assistance of the main lines of railroad in the west, which have distributed thousands of circulars which they published themselves, covered the waiting rooms of depots with large show bills and several of the roads have put special men in the field boosting the National Corn exposition.

If the business men of the country, the manufacturers of agricultural implements and the merchants who are assisting to organize and carry through to complete success the National Corn exposition have a selfish motive the railroads can be said to have one. They do not hesitate to say that the exposition means much to them, because it means more grain to haul, but they also add that it means better times for all, and if there is one business which wants good times all the time it is the transportation business.

Implement manufacturers were just as much interested in starting the latest of western enterprises as railroad men. Modern farm equipment should be more in demand. The makers realize that they can sell thousands of gas engines and dynamos for putting electric lights on the farm if the farmers had more money, and if they once knew the conveniences of such modern power and of electricity. The manufacturers of farm machinery and implements of all kinds responded at once when the National Corn exposition was presented to them.

It took but a few words from Governor George L. Sheldon of

Nebraska to secure the favorable consideration of Secretary James Wilson of the Department of Agriculture. There was a thing which Governor Sheldon wanted for the National Corn exposition and that was recognition. He got that, and besides the secretary of agriculture, formerly dean of the Iowa Agricultural college, promised to install a still for making denatured alcohol at the National Corn exposition and demonstrate to thousands of visitors how alcohol suitable for a fuel and to generate power could be made from the refuse about a farm.

Women Have a Share

With all these forces at work, together with the assistance of the National Corn Growers' association and agricultural colleges in all parts of the country, the National Corn exposition could not help but be a success, but from a volunteer source has come much of the encouragement which has made the board of managers confident of success.

The women school teachers were these volunteers.

While county superintendents in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Kansas took an active interest as a general thing, it was the women county superintendents and the teachers who gave the most encouragement to the "big clearing house for ideas." It has come to be a common thing for teachers to have classes in the elements of agriculture in the schools even of some western cities. The state superintendents encourage the work and special bulletins and helps are issued for the teachers who have made agriculture so interesting that the youngest children in school are brought into close touch with nature and early take a keen interest in the functions of the farm. Little by little as the new agricultural thought has spread almost all departments in the world of agriculture and industry demand the National Corn exposition as a place where the people could see and understand the possibilities of the country, of the soil and climates of America. The movement seemed to be a part of the plan for the "conservation of natural resources," and strange it reached its height just about the time the talk of conserving the nation's resources began.

Among the first to urge the National Corn exposition was P. G. Holden of the Iowa Agricultural college, originator of the "corn gospel trains" and the man credited with increasing Iowa's corn crop over 12,000,000 bushels in one year. The state corn shows were really the outgrowth of the efforts of Prof. Holden, who started

corn contests at his short courses, and these developed into county and state shows. Prof. Holden wanted to see the idea developed one step further. He wants a national corn show held every year as a sort of university to the other short courses and contests. Prof. Holden had seen the show held in Chicago one year and that little attention was paid to it there. In the city where there are a score of big public shows each year, from automobiles to flowers, and from live stock to jewelry, a corn show seemed to attract little attention. It was attended—as a curious and novel show, but was not taken seriously. Prof. Holden wanted to see it taken seriously and he knew the people about Omaha—in the very center of the corn, wheat, hay, grass and oats country of America—would take the corn exposition seriously, appreciate it, support it and profit by it.

Holden Locates the Show

With this in mind, Prof. Holden, as a vice president of the National Corn Growers' association, threw the weight of his influence and secured that of others to hold the show in Omaha this year—and every year hereafter.

While the exposition to be given in Omaha in December is called a "corn" show, it is in reality a grain and grass show, all classes and all kinds being included in the exhibits, from wild hay of the western prairies to alfalfa, which now flourishes on the great plains long ago tired of producing sage brush. But that "corn," majestic, fruitful and wonderful plant, will be the chief exhibit and remain king there is no doubt. It will be seen in all its many forms and in endless variety of types. Almost 150 different products of the corn plant will be seen in the different exhibits, from confectionary to "rubber" buttons, from starch to whisky, and from breakfast food to medicine.

Stretching in a string three and a half miles long around the big Omaha Auditorium the ears of corn exhibited will be shown. These will be ears of almost perfect corn, corresponding to the prize stock at a live stock show, and demonstrating that the American farmer is no longer contented with "scrub" grain any more than with "scrub" stock.

A few years ago "scrub" live stock was more commonly found on the farms than today. The county, district and state fairs have been important factors in creating the interest in live stock improvement. Remarkable progress has been made. Today very few stock growers are willing to take chances on "scrub" live stock bringing a price with a profit when sold on the great markets of the country in competition with the finely bred and well finished stock. Cheap grazing lands and cheap feed are admitted to be things of the past. Higher priced land and higher priced feed make it imperative that intelligent, systematic care be given to the herds in order that they will yield a profit when selling time comes.

States Are Waking Up

These very earnest men who are back of the corn exposition movement claim the same thing applies to grain in many ways. The grain producing states have just awakened to the necessity of increasing the yield and improving the quality of grains and grasses. It is not enough that we should have a few plant breeders who are giving their time to the matter, they argue, but every grain grower must apply himself and aid in bringing about conditions that will give a better quality to grain, grain that will "top the market" and equal the finish of American live stock and the perfection of American mechanical arts.

The experts declare the smut in wheat and oats is responsible for an annual loss ranging from 8 to 12 per cent of the crop in many



P. G. HOLDEN.

meeting and a great presentation in graphic form of the accomplishments of those who have been working for more and better crops.

"Every farm should produce the greatest possible profits," was one of the underlying ideas of the organizers of the National Corn exposition. And they went about advertising the big exposition to be held in Omaha in December as a meeting and exposition to bring to the agricultural interests of the United States the combined knowledge of the agricultural college specialists, the "science with practice" farmers, together with the results in graphic form of the study and work at a thousand experiment stations in as many communities. Governor Albert B. Cummins of Iowa was the first state executive to issue a proclamation calling on the farmers of Iowa to support the National Corn exposition movement as a movement which means a better and a brighter day for all. This proclamation of the governor of Iowa was followed quickly by Governor Sheldon of Nebraska appointing a commission of Nebraskans to look after the interests of the state at the big corn show and urge the importance of the whole enterprise on the farmers in all parts of the state.

Growth of the Idea

This action of the two western governors was quickly followed by governors in many other states appointing commissions or urging upon the agricultural interests the importance of the great exposition at Omaha, which is to be really the first big agricultural show in a country more dependent on the farms than anything else. Some of those who contributed their influence were Governor Johnson of Minnesota, Governor Hanley of Indiana, Governor Coe of Iowa, Governor of South Dakota, Governor Brooks of Colorado and Governor Hoch of Kansas.

Before the enterprise had been before the people three months twenty-two states had joined hands to co-operate in the corn exposition; the prominent agriculturists of Mexico had taken a hand, offering a trophy worth \$1,500 and arranged to make an exhibit. Then the men from the largest plant breeding stations of Great Britain expressed their willingness to make an exhibit at the exposition in Omaha and forwarded many packages of seed that they meant with which to illustrate their lectures. Seedmen in all parts

Fresh Field for American Capital

CONSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 22.—Among the many political changes of an international character which have been brought about by the unexpected change of government in Turkey there is one that may work peculiarly to American advantage. Previously closed to all intents to American enterprise, Turkey will now welcome brains and capital from the United States and will grant valuable concessions, I am told, to all honest investors from across the Atlantic.

Particularly advantageous to American capitalists is the fact that they belong to a country known to have no political interests or territorial ambitions in the Ottoman empire. A statement to this effect has been made to the American embassy here by the Young Turk Committee of Union and Progress, the present dictators in the land.

The announcement—made unofficially, but by a member of the committee after consultation with his colleagues—was not entirely unqualified; it came in answer to a question as to whether an application for a railway concession would be welcomed by the Turkish government at this moment. And it was also stated that not only in railways, but in investments of all kinds, American capital is earnestly desired, the Young Turks believing that the benefit will be not only direct, but also in the secondary way of assuring or assisting to assure the integrity of the empire.

Besides this, the continuance of the Young Turks' success depends almost entirely on the immediate installation of civilizing institutions. Their work—I use their own argument—is primarily one of education, and of the immediate, quick education of several millions of people, who are likely to ask within a year, "What has this constitution done for the country?"

Ignorant, from the determined suppression of schools by the old regime and poverty-stricken to a degree, the great masses of the people naturally expect some material and immediate advantage to accrue from the experiment with a western form of government. Many of them, the great illiterate majority, do not know what a constitution means and are still devout in their old, devotion to the padisha, whose old ministers, they believe, were guilty of deceiving him.

Their education, the first necessity of the proposed reforms, must begin with an actual, tangible betterment of their condition. Many of the Young Turks, the leaders of them, know that the country without capitalists, without engineers, with few men of experience and success in any line of organization, and with an almost bankrupt treasury, can do little in the way of improvements for many years to come, and it will be found necessary to throw open the doors to honest European and American investors generally.

Printing presses and all printing machinery as a beginning have not only been struck off the list of things denied entrance to the country, but, according to a notice from the sublime porte, distributed broadcast, are now allowed to come in entirely free of duty. In consequence of this mushroom journals have sprung up so rapidly that recently they, the journals, have had to apologize for the poor quality and the size of their paper, having drained southeastern Europe temporarily of its stock.

Of course there have been some serious abuses of the liberty of the press, but the Young Turks, except for remonstrating with the editors, have let them alone, declaring that the free publication of papers, even if they create serious controversies, will inspire

the people to learn how to read and to write.

The matter of education by the press will take care of itself. In that of enlightenment by western engineers a beginning has been made by securing the services of Sir William Wilcox, the famous British engineer, who did so much in the way of reclaiming the valley of the Nile. His choice is also in American favor, as Sir William is known to appreciate the hustling qualities of American contractors. To Mr. Lelshman, the American ambassador, Sir William said recently: "Your engineers make the dirt fly and I hope we shall have some of them here."

The needs of this country are inestimable. As pointed out in a prospectus handed to the first American capitalist to arrive since the proclamation of the constitution, there is room for the investment of millions upon millions of dollars. In Constantinople there is need for tramways, where only some few miserable horse cars now run; there are no electric lights, no telephones, little sewerage and drainage, not even a fire brigade, hand pumps still being used.

And these are also the requirements of every city in the empire. Throughout the country, railways, telegraphs, irrigation systems, harbors and river improvements and many other works are in grave demand.

The grain products of the rich plains of Syria are now unmarketed because there is no feasible way of bringing them over the mountains of the Mediterranean coast; carpets, spices and such valuable things alone warranting the expense of costly transportation by mule and camel. Mineral deposits—already discovered and marked out by explorers, are lying almost without exception in unbroken ground.

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J. WILKES JONES.

communities and they have confidence that they will find a rust resisting small grain.

One of the objects of the corn exposition is to show those interested in agriculture how to check the tremendous leak, the loss to a country which needs so much grain at home and whose surplus is needed to feed a hungry world.

In the show at Omaha there will be many original ideas and it will be unlike any show ever held in the world. Special attention is being paid to wheat, and Manager J. Wilkes Jones originated the "milling test" for this grain. Instead of simply giving the wheat the tests which grain exchanges in the primary markets of the world give wheat the National Corn exposition has arranged to take samples of wheat and mill it, grinding the samples into flour and from this flour bread and other bakery products will be made. The proof of the wheat is in the baking, according to Manager Jones, and while some are disposed to "knock" certain varieties of wheat, the corn exposition management expects to be able to show that some of these varieties which grain buyers and millers buy at a discount make just as good bread as any wheat in the world. When an exhibitor has seen his grain milled and baked he will have a way of knowing whether he deserves a premium or not, as he can eat his own bread while in Omaha if he chooses.

For prizes at the corn show a list aggregating \$50,000 has been compiled, which consists of cash and valuable merchandise and farm machinery. The highest prize to be won is probably the champion sweepstakes on corn. The ten-ear sample of corn which wins this place at the big corn exposition will take \$1,000 in gold, the Mexican trophy worth \$1,500 and some \$400 or \$500 in class premiums. This means some grower will get between \$250 and \$300 per ear for ten ears of corn. The entire list is liberal and according to vice presidents of the National Corn Growers' association the most comprehensive premium list ever published.

The buildings will consist in the main exposition building, which will be the Omaha Auditorium; the alfalfa palace, now in course of construction; an industrial building, and a big-audience room, where band concerts and lectures will be given. The outlay for the big show will be something more than a quarter of a million dollars.