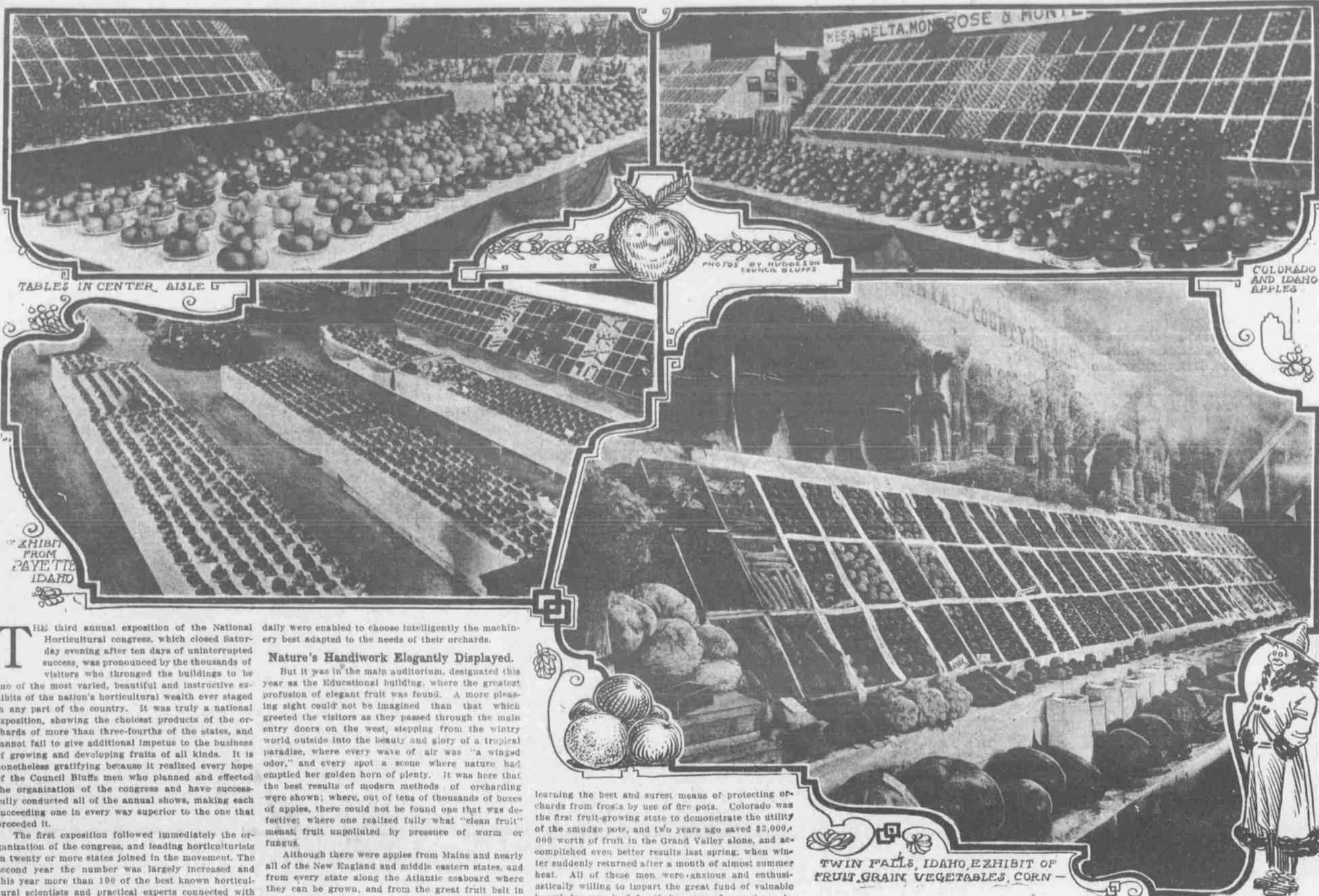


# Fruit and Corn Display at Council Bluffs Best Held There



TABLES IN CENTER AISLE

PHOTOS BY HUDGESS ON COUNCIL BLUFFS

COLORADO AND IDAHO APPLES

EXHIBIT FROM PAYETTE IDAHO

TWIN FALLS, IDAHO, EXHIBIT OF FRUIT, GRAIN, VEGETABLES, CORN

**T**HE third annual exposition of the National Horticultural congress, which closed Saturday evening after ten days of uninterrupted success, was pronounced by the thousands of visitors who thronged the buildings to be one of the most varied, beautiful and instructive exhibits of the nation's horticultural wealth ever staged in any part of the country. It was truly a national exposition, showing the choicest products of the orchards of more than three-fourths of the states, and cannot fail to give additional impetus to the business of growing and developing fruits of all kinds. It is nonetheless gratifying because it realized every hope of the Council Bluffs men who planned and effected the organization of the congress and have successfully conducted all of the annual shows, making each succeeding one in every way superior to the one that preceded it.

The first exposition followed immediately the organization of the congress, and leading horticulturists in twenty or more states joined in the movement. The second year the number was largely increased and this year more than 100 of the best known horticultural scientists and practical experts connected with horticultural colleges and experiment stations, including many state entomologists, co-operated in the work of the congress. The exhibits this year demanded more than twice as much as was required in either of the other years, and after this was provided it was found to be necessary to limit all carlot displays to 250 boxes, letting that number represent the full shipment of 640 boxes constituting a car.

In the Auditorium and temporary annexes a scene of beauty met the eyes of visitors that pictures or words can but feebly portray, and the photographs herewith present but a faint hint of the brilliancy of the spectacle where every tone of nature's unmatchable color scheme blended in a harmonious whole.

The exhibits covered all sections of the United States, even those states which felt the deadly chill of real winter weather in April and May, when all of the orchards except those cared for in accordance with the lessons taught at previous horticultural expositions lost every fruit bud, and from portions of Canada and Mexico. The immense Auditorium was a blaze of color from the floor to its vaulted roof, the tables and banks of ripened fruit forming a beautiful foundation upon which to rest the skillfully designed color scheme of complementary ornamentation. The arrangement was so perfect that everything, even the shafts of sunshine that streamed through the high windows, became a part of the general plan and added to its beauty. In no part of the Auditorium was there an inharmonious object or an unsightly spot. The exposition opened on Thursday, November 10, and continued ten days.

### Corn Show a Feature.

This year for the first time a corn show feature was added, backed by an organization designated as the Missouri Valley Corn Growers' association. It was planned and carried through by men like Prof. Bruce W. Crossley, and all of the field experts of the Iowa Agricultural college, assisted and encouraged by such men as Prof. Holder, the apostle of improved corn culture. The work of these experts has added several million bushels to Iowa's corn crop this year. They found prompt and hearty co-operation, not only among the members of the newly formed association in Iowa and Nebraska, but throughout both states. Exhibits were also received from other adjoining states, making the first corn show really something of a national event. The corn show was staged in an annex to the main Auditorium, constructed especially for the purpose. A full carload of grasses and grains was used in the decorations and a most attractive and beautiful exhibit of corn was made.

The other annexes, which provided 40,000 square feet of floor space, were devoted to the horticultural products of field and garden and the exhibits and demonstration of all of the machinery and labor-saving appliances that modern horticultural science has called into being. For the first time in the history of horticultural competitive contests there was a national contest between the makers of spraying machinery, with rules and awards made by a committee comprising Prof. J. B. Davidson and Lorenz Greene of the Iowa State Agricultural college, and experts from Cornell university at Ithaca, N. Y., and from the Nebraska State university. The competitive tests were made under conditions approaching actual service, and the fruit growers who witnessed them

daily were enabled to choose intelligently the machinery best adapted to the needs of their orchards.

### Nature's Handiwork Elegantly Displayed.

But it was in the main auditorium, designated this year as the Educational building, where the greatest profusion of elegant fruit was found. A more pleasing sight could not be imagined than that which greeted the visitors as they passed through the main entry doors on the west, stepping from the wintry world outside into the beauty and glory of a tropical paradise, where every wave of air was "a winged odor," and every spot a scene where nature had emptied her golden horn of plenty. It was here that the best results of modern methods of orcharding were shown; where, out of tens of thousands of boxes of apples, there could not be found one that was defective; where one realized fully what "clean fruit" meant fruit unspotted by presence of worm or fungus.

Although there were apples from Maine and nearly all of the New England and middle eastern states, and from every state along the Atlantic seaboard where they can be grown, and from the great fruit belt in the Ozarks of Missouri and Arkansas, and also from every one of the middle west states where science and modern methods secured exemption from frost damage, it remained for the western states—Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Washington and Oregon—to show the world the highest types of fruit development and win the lion's share of the big prizes.

The intermountain states brought fruit enough to more than three times fill the space in the exposition buildings. Idaho alone sent six cars for exhibition and a half dozen more for a reserve stock and to supply the demands of exposition visitors for a box or two to take home. Idaho's exhibit was a big exposition of itself, and it required several thousand feet of floor space to stage their offerings.

The Namapa Fruit Growers' association had a carload exhibit gathered under the direction of Hon. Silas Wilson, and in charge of Frank G. Stephens, son of E. P. Stephens of Crete, the well known Nebraska nurseryman. The Council Valley Fruit Growers' association also had a carload display in charge of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Carr. The Manville fruit orchards of the Boise valley staged a carlot exhibit and had several other carloads in reserve, in charge of B. F. Hurst, manager of the orchard property; B. F. Rayburn, traveling salesman, and Mrs. Etta Rayburn, the professional packer. The Payette Valley Commercial club presented a carlot display in charge of Will Wells, with Brown and Donovan, two bright Payette newspaper men, always present to do the talking. Twin Falls had a large box display in charge of G. H. Smith and Allan P. Senior. The Idaho Irrigation company occupied another vantage point with a magnificent display in custody of H. P. Blodgett of Shoshone. A. E. Wood of Payette found quarters near by to show up an equally alluring exhibit.

In addition to the fruit displays, Idaho came to the exposition with a carload or two of vegetables, grains and alfalfa that swept away all of the major prizes. And every particle of the products of this and all of the other western states was grown on irrigated lands that only a few years ago were classed as worthless.

### Colorado Strongly Represented.

Next to Idaho, Colorado had the largest exhibit at the exposition, comprising a great profusion of the varied horticultural products of the state. Nine counties were represented in the fruit display alone, in charge of Thomas H. Mahoney of Grand Junction, the active member of the state's immigration society; Clarence Lyman, who proved to be one of the most entertaining and instructive of the daily lecturers, and who willingly appeared on the program every day, and several times a day, with a splendid assortment of moving pictures; Prof. E. P. Taylor, state entomologist, whose hourly talks grew into a continuous performance; N. A. Glasco of Loma, Charles A. Smith of Grand Junction, H. A. Richardson of Delta, who has been one of the most indefatigable workers at all three of the Council Bluffs expositions; G. W. Dyer of Cedar Edge, W. T. Bozeman of Cortez, R. E. Turpin of Grand Valley and many other Colorado fruit growers who came and went during the progress of the big show.

The Colorado men, in addition to having one of the largest and most attractive displays, were looked upon as the men to whom all of the other fruit growers in the country should go to school, for the purpose of

learning the best and surest means of protecting orchards from frosts by use of fire pots. Colorado was the first fruit-growing state to demonstrate the utility of the smudge pots, and two years ago saved \$3,000,000 worth of fruit in the Grand Valley alone, and accomplished even better results last spring, when winter suddenly returned after a month of almost summer heat. All of these men were anxious and enthusiastically willing to impart the great fund of valuable knowledge acquired by their years of experience in fruit development and protection in all its phases.

### Enemies of Fruit Closely Hunted.

The fruit growers of Colorado have state and district associations which work in harmony for the interests of all their members. If a new pest comes into an orchard the local horticulturist is called and that unwholesome thing gets a degree of attention immediately that quickly eliminates it, and every member of the association is taught and drilled in the nature of the pest and the methods of destroying it. The teachers are Prof. Taylor and his lieutenants, and the association pays the bills. If new spraying machines are placed on the market, or a new material is discovered, the experimenting is all done under the direction of the association's experts and at the cost of the association. While every incentive is held out for original investigation, no grower need use his time in making experiments. He can get all of the information that has been secured to date by simply expressing a willingness to receive it. In the planting of trees, their culture and development, their care throughout the season, care of the fruit after it ripens, the association has its experts on the ground to guide and direct, to foster and advise. The result is that in these beautiful Colorado valleys the greatest universities for practical instruction are found, and men who go there with a willingness to work and be taught how to work are not allowed to fail, no matter how little they know of the work of fruit growing.

### Oregon and Washington in Line.

Oregon and Washington had exhibits that arrested the attention of the exposition visitors. Their displays were not as large as those of other western states, but each exhibit had so many varieties of perfect fruit that they were of great value to the grower. The Washington exhibit, in charge of Dr. Miller of Chehalis, assisted by N. W. Starr, was one of the most notable in some respects in the exposition. Dr. Miller's orchard has a large number of trees of the famous Delicious variety, and the effect of these trees upon the other varieties in the orchard has established the fact that the Delicious is one of the strongest pollenizers of the apple family. One of the distinctive features of the Delicious, which is a newly developed hybrid, is its Bellflower shape and five prongs at the blossom end. Of eleven varieties shown in the Miller exhibit every one evidences some of the strong characteristics of the Delicious, showing that magnificent apple is forcing its characteristics upon all its neighbors. Grimes' Golden, Winesap, Rome Beauty, Black Twig—all apples of the flattened form—have been perceptibly elongated and their ends given five-pronged elongation by the strong pollenizing power of the Delicious. The quality of none of the apples affected has been deteriorated by the dominating individuality of the Delicious, but all have shown marked improvement in favor.

Oregon's display, like that of its sister state, was limited to an imposing array of splendid varieties and, like those of Washington, showed the effects of new environment and different soils. There was as much difference between the Winesap grown in Oregon and Washington and that produced in Iowa and Nebraska as between two distinct varieties, and the changes produced by the western environment in every case seemed to be a decided improvement. Portions of the

Washington and Oregon exhibits were of additional interest for the reason that they were grown on non-irrigated lands, and afforded excellent opportunities for determining the relative fruit values of the same varieties grown under the two conditions. The expression was universally in favor of the irrigated fruit. The Portland exhibit was in charge of G. H. Florence of Portland.

A significant feature of all the western exhibits was the assertion, backed up by proof whenever questioned, that the apples on exhibition were the regular commercial pack taken from the stock ready for market, and in no instances selected for display purposes. Every one of the western exhibitors was eager to be questioned, even if the questioner challenged the accuracy of some of the tales told of wonderful fertility of soil and capacity of trees. Proofs almost as authoritative as holy writ were instantly forthcoming when statements were doubted. Single apple trees that bore more than sixty bushels this season were told of and photographs produced showing the tree propped by huge posts and its overlaid boughs held aloft by supports until it appeared to be growing above the trestle work of a bridge.

Utah and Wyoming did not attempt to make much of a showing. Frosts and severe unseasonable weather rendered the apple crop too nearly a failure, but Utah made good with a display of photos of peach orchards and tales of wonderful productivity of its irrigated soils.

### Nebraska Not Entirely Out of It.

It required something of a seer to promise a display from Nebraska when Jack Frost completed his work last spring, but nevertheless one of the prettiest tables at the exposition was covered with Nebraska apples. The display was made by the State Horticultural society and was in charge of G. E. Christy of Johnson. More than a dozen varieties were shown, all superb specimens of their kind. It was pointed out that those varieties are the kinds that should receive the greatest attention of Nebraska fruit growers. Among them were Rhode Island Greenings, Newtowns, Delicious, Missouri Pippins, York Imperials, Winter Bananas, Red Romanes, Roman Stems, Iowa Blacks and Smith's Cider, many of them the world's standard fruits. They compared very favorably in color and size, and also in flavor with apples grown under more hospitable surroundings.

The Arkansas and Missouri exhibits were entered by the Ozark Fruit Growers' association and were in charge of Captain G. T. Lincoln of Bentonville, Ark.; D. E. Eicher, president of the Arkansas State Horticultural society, and a number of others. The exhibits represented one of the greatest fruit-growing districts in the world, and which was almost unheard of until these national fruit shows came into vogue. The Ozark association represents 40,000,000 bearing fruit trees and 20,000 acres devoted to the culture of small fruits.

North Carolina made a splendid exhibit under the direction of Prof. W. N. Hutt of Raleigh, one of the leading scientific horticulturists of the United States. He is one of the founders of the National Horticultural congress and one of its most enthusiastic workers. Maryland sent Prof. C. P. Close of the College

Park station, second vice president of the congress, with a lavish display of its best fruits and nuts.

Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin and South Dakota joined Canada in showing that May freezes cannot wholly extinguish the apple crop, and each one found enough splendid fruit to make creditable displays. Far away Maine sent shipments of its hardy Pilgrim-day fruits, some gathered from apple trees that have been bearing for more than seventy-five years. It should be remembered that an apple tree in Maine does not begin to bear until it is about 25 years old, and some of the venerable New England trees from which the fruit was gathered were a century old.

### Educational Value Was Great.

The close of the exposition emphasized the importance of such events. National fruit expositions are the most potent agencies for bringing about the perfect conditions that will characterize the noon era of a period which is now just dawning, and which will indeed be glorious; for the fruit growers insist the whole level of humanity will be carried forward to heights undreamed of now. The community of interest of orchardists is emphasized and the bonds of brotherhood strengthened. Lagging energies are spurred into new activity. The weakness of overconfidence is jarred and modified. The orchardist who has taught himself to believe that his locality is the ne plus ultra location for the development of good fruit is taught the wholesome lesson that nature is prodigal of her favors and manages to even up things pretty nicely all over the country. Most of all is the truth enforced that good results are the product of good care, intelligent methods and constant industry.

The concrete benefits were many and great, but the exposition was especially a great advertising medium for the fruit sections which took part. It further stimulated the interest in fruit growing and the demands for fruit lands, especially in the west. The educational value of the show cannot be estimated and it is very certain that no grower who attended it can truthfully say that the information he received in grading and packing was not worth the price he paid for his journey to the show. Many a grower went to the exposition and opened up his display with a feeling of pride that indicated his belief he had the finest fruit ever grown. In many cases this confident individual was doomed to disappointment when he was forced to make comparisons of his exhibit with the displays of other competitors in the same class. Growers were forced to admit that there were other sections of the country which grow fruit and packed it in as elegant a manner, and often a little better, than they did. One very pleasant thing about the whole affair was the fact that in each case where there was disappointment it was followed by frank admission of defeat and the expression of the determination not to let it happen again.

Everywhere, from the opening day until the lights were turned off Saturday night, the concrete lessons taught covered intensive methods, concentration of energy upon small orchard areas, the highest development of each individual apple, peach, pear and other fruit; the fullest comprehension of the nature of the tree required for its greatest productivity and development of perfect fruit.