

NEBRASKA'S STATE FAIR WITH GOVERNMENT AID NATIONAL IN CHARACTER

War Department Exhibit Will Bring Home to Spectators the Grim Facts of War, While Others Will Show Relation of Agriculture to Winning the War.

Fifty years of "biggest and best" Nebraska state fairs culminate this year in a semi-centennial fair celebration. Under ordinary circumstances, the 1918 state fair would be a celebration of 50 years of usefulness to the state and its people. But this is not an ordinary year, and the fair this year will not be so much a state fair as a national fair. It will be dedicated to the government.

The government will have a large exhibit, which will be the center of interest for the average patron. Departments of War, Navy and Commerce will be represented. The War department exhibit will bring home to spectators the grim facts of the war. Machine guns, aircraft guns and other guns like those in actual use will be shown. There will be gas masks, uniforms, trench periscopes, rifles and all the other paraphernalia in actual use in the trenches in France. Nebraskans will have an opportunity to become familiar with the everyday things to which the boys refer casually in their letters, but which are strange to the home folks.

Models of battleships, dreadnaughts, cruisers, destroyers and other vessels will be shown in the Navy department, with projectiles, mines and other things of interest.

Relation of Agriculture to the War.
In the Department of Commerce exhibit, agriculture and its relation to the winning of the war will hold the main place. The weather bureau will show it is able to forecast destructive storms; the Forestry department display will graphically illustrate the conservation of wood, the use of windbreaks in protecting crops and stock, and the prevention of forest fires. The bureau of chemistry will throw light on misbranding and adulteration of medicinal preparations. Stuffed birds and animals and the value or harm these animals and birds do will be a feature of the display of the Department of Biology, and the bureau of entomology will explain the ways of destructive insects and how to combat them.

To the fisheries exhibit will be added a demonstration of pearl button manufacture, in which Germany reigned supreme before the war. War films and conservation films will be shown. Four-minute men will be on hand to explain and discuss war matters and assist the committee on public information.

New Hog Pavilion and Barn.
Nebraska is supreme in the raising of hogs. The new \$100,000 hog barn just completed will be in use and it is expected that the pens will be filled with pure bred stock. The building is modern in every particular, furnishing comfortable quarters for the stock and convenient coops of vantage for the spectators who go to look them over. Pork production is one of the leading industries of the country and doubly important in wartimes. The pure bred hog men are the foundation of this business, and as a matter of patriotism, will be on hand this year with large herds.

Both beef and dairy cattle exhibits

promise to be large this year. Food production must go on, in spite of high prices of feed, and the state fair gives producers an opportunity each year and a new impetus toward increasing the quality of their herds. Notwithstanding present discouragements, owners of pure bred herds generally realize that after the war is over the demand for beef and milk as well as breeding stock will be enormous, and are not cutting down their herds to any great extent.

Sheep Coming to the Front.
Shortage of wool and mutton has given the sheep business a fresh impetus in Nebraska. Last year the Nebraska state fair increased its premiums on sheep, making special classifications for Nebraska breeders. This brought out a much larger and better class of sheep than in former years, and the enormous increase in the number of sheep in Nebraska during the past year will no doubt be reflected in the sheep department at the 1918 fair. The general public would be surprised to learn how many different breeds of sheep there are and how different are the qualities of the various breeds. A trip through the sheep department and a visit with the various exhibitors is a liberal education to the average man.

Poultry in the back yard and poultry on the farm will meet and compete at the fair. Both have been encouraged by the government this year, as poultry is a valuable addition to the available meat supplies. The Nebraska fair has always had a splendid exhibit of high-class birds and entries made this year promise the poultry fans plenty of fine fowls to look at and admire.

In addition to the regular exhibits, a class for rabbits has been made, as rabbit breeders believe that the present meat shortage is giving them an opportunity to demonstrate the value of this little animal as a meat producer. Belgian and Flemish hares and white French rabbits will be shown and the differences between the various breeds demonstrated to interested spectators.

Home Grown Horse Exhibit.
No live stock exhibit has suffered from the war to the extent the horse section has. Last year there was a very small exhibit of horses of all kinds, except the children's favorites, the Shetlands, which were out in full force. For years past the finest draft horses have been imported from France and Belgium, and few American breeders have competed, as there was little chance for them, the French and Belgian breeders being experts in the breeding and developing of draft colts. After the importations were cut off, American breeders got their chance and are demonstrating the fact that fine draft horses can be raised in this country. Numbers of American breeders are expected to enter the lists this year with home bred and home grown colts as big and handsome as those that used to be brought across the water. The lighter breeds that had been practically displaced by the automobiles have regained their place in public estimation through the war demand, and it is



Looking West From 13th and O Sts.

hoped that the light horse display will approximate those in the days of the light horse's popularity.

Food Production and Conservation.
In spite of the hot winds and hail storms, which have damaged the crops in various sections of Nebraska this year, the agricultural display will be an eye opener. The weather damage has been "spotted," and the various counties will be able to get

together exhibits that will equal in size and quality those of former years, and that will surpass them in many cases. The western part of the state in particular has notified the board that the exhibit will be especially interesting, as this has been an unusually favorable season for that section.

Food conservation will be no less a part of the fair displays than food

production. There will be three main features in this department. The food training camp, carried on under the direction of the department of home economics at the university farm, will demonstrate by concrete example the use of substitutes in cooking. The domestic products exhibit will show to housewives the various materials obtainable for cooking and how to use them. The canning clubs, especially those organized among the boys and girls of the state, will have a splendid exhibit of the products preserved by them during the last summer for winter use and the methods used.

Plenty of Space for Babies.
In connection with the ever popular better babies exhibit this year, there will be a section for defective children. Such children may be brought for private examination by expert physicians. The advice given will be such as people usually must pay large fees to get. No war work is more important than the conservation of our children, according to the belief of the fair board, who are giving plenty of space to better babies this year.

Heavy bookings have been received for the machinery exhibit. Lack of men and animals to produce crops has resulted in a greatly increased interest in machinery and the invention and perfection of numbers of new machines.

The two most important features of this exhibit will be, as usual, the automobile and truck display and the tractor show. There are more kinds of trucks on the market than of automobiles.



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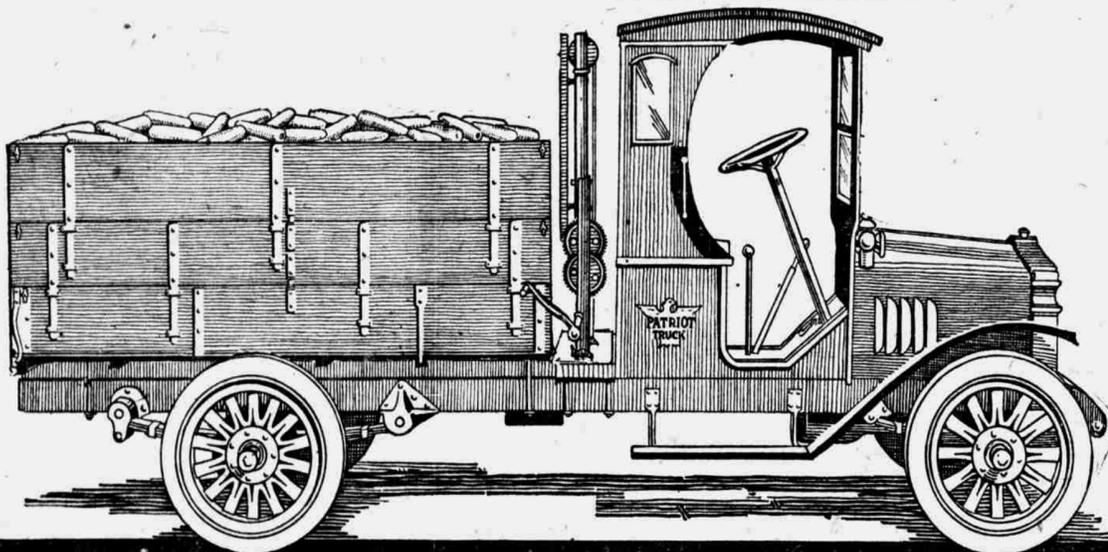
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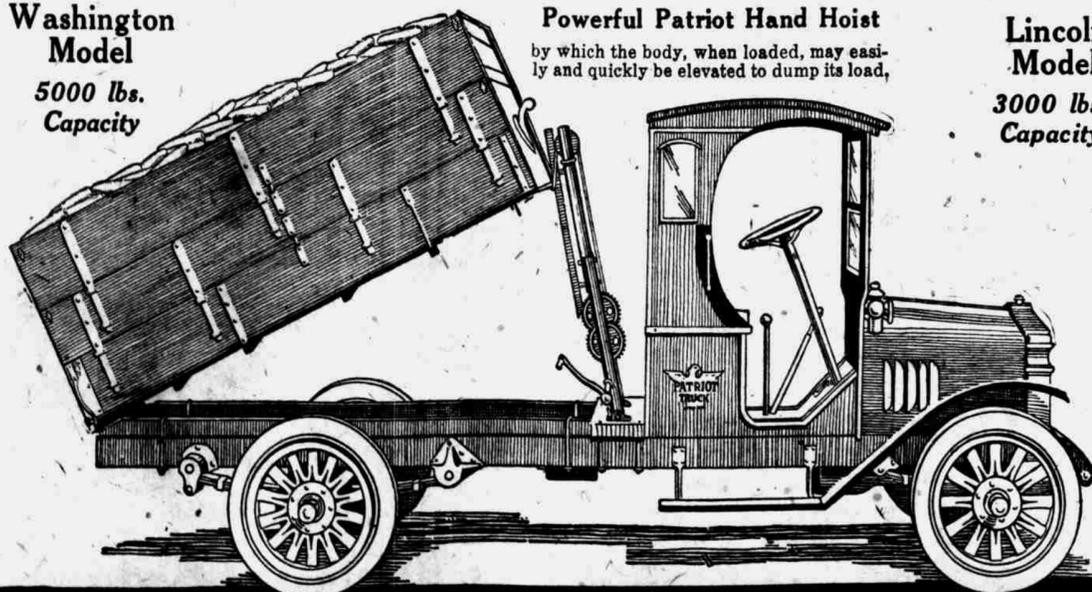
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