

EVENING STAR

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A VISIT TO THE FAIR

We have seen the State Fair at Tampa and pronounce it a great success. The exhibits are not only creditable, but the attendance is growing steadily from day to day and so far has been in excess of 5% over last season. Saturday was a banner day and the grandstand at the races was crowded to overflowing and animated lines of humanity crowded along the inclosure of the track to see the best racing ever witnessed in Florida. The line-up of the fleet-footed ones was about perfect. There were whippers in front and rear and no monkeying permitted by the jockeys and preparations for a race lasted hardly a minute until the word go was given and the horses were off like a shot out of a cannon. The contests were most spirited, the speed made was unusually good and the amusement was great.

It would be impossible to go into details about the exhibits in the main building, but as already remarked, they are fine. Manatee, Polk, Orange, Ocala, Hillsboro, Pasco, Columbia and Hernando counties are largely in evidence, while way off Fort Pierce on the east coast was prominent with its fine pineapple display, rivaling Punta Gorda's exhibit, among them specimens of General Gilchrist's growing. Farmer Appleyard who directs the destinies of the Lake City Index, can be seen exploiting the hog and hominy campaign of Columbia while King Cotton sits enthroned in the middle of the booth, the personification of prosperity and growth. Farmer Appleyard, with the assistance of his charming daughter, is doing a land office business in taking orders for Columbia's famous syrup from northern tourists and re-supplying Tar Heel people with the famous red ear corn that a century ago came from that noted state and since then has run out and now is sought for again from Florida and Farmer Appleyard proposes to supply the demand from old Columbia, one of the best agricultural counties in the state.

Tarpon Springs has a magnificent display of sponges, headquarters for same and where most of the work of gathering them from ocean's depth is done. The work of doing the same was to be exploited by installing an immense tank to be filled with water, in which a diver was to operate and demonstrate how sponges were taken from the ocean, but the glass front was broken Saturday and created a young flood in the main aisle of the exhibit building.

Jackson, the Hillsborough county farmer, who supplies the visitors to the fair with cane juice, was again on deck and his faithful mule is turning the press that grades out the liquid. The poultry exhibit is worth an inspection. We most forgot to call attention to Hernando county's school exhibit, by long odds the foremost in the collection and in charge of Major Russell, the zealous and untiring worker for educational interests in his county. Friday will be Hernando's school day at the fair and every public school in the county will be represented with a big delegation.

A word about the amusement part of the fair. This feature is said to be unusually good, the hippodrome excels everything of the kind ever seen in Florida. They will entertain you for an hour and a half and make you forget that you have troubles of your own. The athletes in wrestling bouts are strenuous in the extreme and will call you down to a standstill to see the work of muscles. The educated ones are the wonder and admiration of the range. Your visit to the fair is incomplete without taking them in. They do all manner of tricks that make you stand and marvel. They lay on their backs and with feet roll balls, they climb ladders, walk tight ropes, dance, pull the carriage, etc. They act with human instinct and are guided by the sound of a small machine.

The eighteen-inch horse born in Jacksonville is on exhibition and by his marked intelligence attracts every passer-by. But then there are others and to enjoy them see them. The banquet to the hungry and thirsty editors was the piece de resistance which we were up against from 8 to p. m. to 1 a. m., striving manfully to show the appreciation for the favors showered upon us by the State Fair directory. That the banquet was correct in every particular it need only be said that M. Garcia, of the Gran Oriente restaurant, Ybor City concocted the gastronomy. It was fine. Some sixty-five of the editors of the state and the pencil

down to the royal feast, so admirably presided over by Senator Crane, of Hillsborough. He sat at the head of the table. On his right sat Congressman Sparkman one of the most faithful and beloved of congressmen, with Secretary Appleyard, of the State Press. To the toastmaster's right sat President Joe Humphreys, of the State Press and to his left Mayor Frecker. Several hours were devoted to a heart to heart consultation of the sumptuous bill of fare, when the toastmaster, in a few appropriate remarks, said the oratory of the evening would be of an informal character and persons around the festive board would be called upon to speak on the question now uppermost in our minds, namely, the State Fair and its benefit to the commonwealth. In the absence of Governor Broward, detained by official duties, Attorney General Ellis was called on and said many nice things of our state. Mayor Frecker spoke for Tampa and her phenomenal growth, as an instance, \$400,000 taxes in 1894. Taxes levied in 1907 twenty million, with a pay roll of 200,000 a week in the making of cigars. He eulogized the spirit of the business men of Tampa, that made the material conditions to which he referred possible and the State Fair a success.

President Joe Humphreys spoke for the State Press and their efforts to promote the material success of the fair, as supplemented by the editor of the Star, who said that to make any fair or exposition a success, there was need of a campaign of education; that the state should not only give liberal appropriations for a state fair but supplement it for county exhibits, in this making displays competitive.

Attorney S. L. Carter of Gainesville, made a capital speech and making the local hits of the evening in his witty remarks about Fort Brook, Jack Trammell and Capt. Lester. Senator Trammell of Lakeland, and candidate for attorney general, was one of the speakers and spoke well, while Senator MacWilliams of St. Augustine, proved the wit of the evening and Smile and Push Powell of the St. Petersburg Daily Independent, fairly bubbled over with enthusiasm and patriotic devotion to the cause of material progress in the state. He said much as the people of his town and the west coast desired a new county, the people of St. Petersburg telegraphed to the friends of county division to support the State Fair appropriation, which was in danger of losing out at the last moments of the legislature, and let the division go. He also said that when a state like Illinois expends 100,000 a year to add one grain of corn to an ear, in production, surely Florida could give \$50,000 to run a state fair.

Congressman Sparkman made, as he always does, a very clever and acceptable speech. His desire had always been to be an editor and paid the profess, a high eulogy and thought their opportunities to do good, promote and improve and inspire a desire to grow in various along all lines of usefulness and expansion.

President Brown, of the State Fair Association, came in at a late hour and was warmly welcomed and the crowd insisted that he make a speech. His remarks were brief, thinking the legislature and the press for the aid they had given him in promoting the fair. Without their aid his efforts would have been in vain. Later he would go over the state and speak to the people of his candidacy for the United States senate.

Then we adjourned, the meeting having proven in every sense enjoyable and pleasant.

Notes

We had the pleasure while in Tampa of seeing Mr. G. A. Petteway, an important turpentine operator around Leroy and a resident of Ocala, but now of the Gulf Coast and a factor in its commercial life. He wore a smile that wouldn't come off, for it told of the arrival in the Petteway home of a sweet baby, which the father and mother were proud of.

Mrs. Bate Perdue of Brooksville, was a guest of the Tampa Bay and enjoying the fair for a day.

We shook hands with Mr. Durrance, a former merchant of Ocala, now of Tampa. We shook hands with Harry Walters, who is one of the able assistants at the Anti-Monopoly Drugstore. Also Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Groves who went down last Friday. Mrs. Groves expects to remain several weeks.

We missed the genial A. P. Jordan, of the Punta Gorda Herald and Rule, of the Fort Myers Press, General Ltv. of the Bartow Courier-Informant and the veteran editor, Frank Walpole, of the Manatee Record but did have a word with Mrs. Neva Childs of the Arcadia Champion, who is assisting in the woman's department of the De-

General Albert Gilchrist candidate for governor, was on the grounds and making new friends and supporters to his cause, which is growing daily, nor must we overlook Mrs. Simmons, of Ocala, and son, Wm. Dehon, also Col. Adam Elcheiberger and children, who were taking in the exhibits. Last and best, the hospitality we enjoyed with Wallace Stovall and his

charming wife. If there is one thing that the energetic editor of the Tampa Tribune enjoys above all other diversions it is to entertain his friends at his hospitable home, nor anything his friends have more than their delightful enjoyment.

Tampa is growing by leaps and bounds. Houses spring up over night and new enterprises for the city's prosperity marks the recurring every year and all who see it note this expansion and growth with pride. If you haven't seen Tampa in a year and the present State Fair, take a day off and see them.

Secretary Huffaker of the State Fair, is the pride of the pen pushers and no favors he can confer does he permit to go unsatisfied.

A LOVELY RECEPTION

The reception given Saturday afternoon by Mrs. Dorothy Edwards and Mrs. Edward Maloney in the spacious parlor of the Ocala House, in honor of Mrs. Sam A. Rawls, was a thoroughly social and delightful occasion.

The parlor had been artistically decorated with ferns, rubber plants, palms, vines and cut flowers. The chandeliers were entwined with bamboo and sprays of yellow jasmine and the mantles were banked with jasmine and ferns.

Receiving at the front door were Mrs. Charles Lloyd and Mrs. E. L. Carney. Mrs. Lloyd was most attractive in a very becoming costume of lavender with hat to match. Mrs. Carney wore lavender and looked unusually well. Little Miss Louise Rentz in blue silk with slippers and stockings to match held the silver tray for the cards. In the hall the guests were met by Mrs. Arthur Hardaker and Mrs. Sistrunk who introduced them to the receiving line. The former wore a lovely gown of lavender voile over taffeta, the latter was very attractive in a blue embroidered voile with hat to match.

Receiving were Mrs. Maloney, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Rawls, Mrs. Henry Perkins, Mrs. Christian Ax and Mrs. Carrington. Mrs. Maloney wore a becoming gown of black Surah silk trimmed with black lace. Mrs. Edwards looked exceedingly handsome in a black lace over black taffeta, trimmed with a rope of pearls around her neck and the guests found great pleasure in this opportunity of meeting her after her summer in Europe. Mrs. Rawls was lovely in a white cloth suit with an exquisitely dainty lingerie waist and carried a beautiful bouquet of violets. Mrs. Ax wore an exquisite costume of black lace over white taffeta with diamonds. Mrs. Perkins was charming in black net spangled in silver over silk with diamonds. Mrs. Carrington wore grey silk with a real lace jacket.

At the prettily decorated punch table Mrs. Blalock and Mrs. Jack Rentz served delicious punch. On the table were two large cut glass vases filled with pink and white carnations.

Delicious vanilla and chocolate ice cream, cake, pink and white mints, salted almonds were served by Misses Caro Liddon, Florence Mellon of Tampa, Annie Matthews, Leafy Sylvester, Sallie Camp, Louise Harris and Annie Atkinson. As the guests were served little Miss Martha Kate Rentz, in pink with her heavy suit of hair falling below her knees, presented to each a valentine as a souvenir of the delightful afternoon.

Assisting during the afternoon of this lovely reception were Mrs. Abe Brown, Mrs. L. James Knight, Mrs. D. M. Smith, Mrs. Croft, Mrs. Edward Rentz and Mrs. Hugh Williams. Miss Ethel Haycraft, one of Ocala's most talented musicians, played during the afternoon. Mrs. Edwards' and Mrs. Maloney's reception was a great success and the one hundred guests calling between the hours of three and five o'clock were delighted at getting an opportunity to see Mrs. Rawls again before she leaves for her new home, which is a matter of sincere regret.

WILL LEAVE FOR THE FAIR

Mr. H. H. Whitworth of the Hiawatha Lake Stock Farm, is busy crating a carload of hogs which will leave tomorrow for the Tampa fair. Whitworth is a stayer, has plenty of sand in his craw and is coming home decked with blue ribbons. That is the spirit that makes and keeps state fairs.

If in any way we've misinterpreted Editor Harris' article on "Jaundiced Editors," we sincerely beg his pardon.

The fine oak tree in front of W. D. Tompkin's livery stable was girdled last night and today it is being taken down. It is needless to add that an indignation meeting was held this morning by those who had saved the life of the tree once and thought the trouble was over, as the street had been paved around it. Now the question arises by whose vandal hand was the wreck wrought? It is a point that should be settled.

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