

STATE FAIR PRONOUNCED SUCCESS, THAT OF 1916 WILL BE BETTER YET

(BION H. BUTLER)

Southern Pines, Oct. 30.—Up to last week a story of the State Fair coming from me might have been regarded as biased by a personal desire to see the fair a success. As the fair closed a week ago yesterday and my connection with it ceased then what I have to say may be taken as the opinion of a newspaper man, viewed solely with the newspaper eye, or if prejudiced at all, prejudiced by that interest in the progress of the State and its institutions, which are not open to the question of favoritism.

It is a mystery to me how I got tangled up in these things, but when Col. Pogue notified me last spring that I had been appointed to a place on the executive committee of the fair I concluded to go with the crowd, and make use of the chance to help to get North Carolina more into the limelight. It was a live crowd I fell in with. Col. Pogue is an old war horse who has been doing this work for years, and he is an encyclopedia on fair affairs, and a hustler for the work. I did not know so much about that at the beginning of the campaign as I did at the close. Aided by C. B. Denson, the treasurer, and backed by a strong advisory board of the big men of North Carolina, Col. Pogue laid out a more comprehensive program than ever, and carried it out.

Parrish Man of Business.

Fortunately to help Col. Pogue the association elected a president of the fair association, Capt. E. J. Parrish, of Durham, a man who is business and progress from his boot heels to his hat, and that topped out a combination that left nothing to be desired. The work these men did showed this fall. It will show for many a year, for they have started several things that can not stop right away. Capt. Parrish in his inaugural address set North Carolina to thinking over some of the things proposed. The dominant note of his administration was to produce at Raleigh something that should make the State better known to itself and its neighbors. Nobody doubts but that has been done. The advisory board started out to provide new buildings, but found the financial conditions and the limited time against the scheme for this year. But they started something, and at the meeting of the executive committee of the fair on Thursday night of fair week that project was given another push. It will not be allowed to stop until it has worked out to a finish that I believe will be bigger than the committee is figuring on.

For some time the men who have been handling the fair have been striving to broaden the lines of operation. It was left for Capt. Parrish's administration to get the forces joined and bring the issue to a focus, and I think that has been accomplished. He arrived at the psychological moment that we hear of, and with the work that had been done before him, the backing of the advisory board and the persistent work of Col. Pogue, he has left a record that the State feels right well satisfied with.

Several things commended this fair from the start. It was early announced that it was to be an absolutely clean amusement enterprise, a State-wide opportunity for publicity, an exposition of North Carolina resources, and a reunion of the people from all quarters. Later the ideal of a homecoming was introduced, and all these things were carried out.

Perfect Order Prevails.

In two days mixing with the vast crowds on the fair grounds, I saw one bottle of whiskey, not a single man that gave any sign of intoxication, one encounter where two men were disputing over something, but they were quickly separated by their friends without any physical violence, and I heard not an offensive word, saw not an offensive action, nor an offensive exhibition in any of the attractions. If the Fair Association had done nothing more than give the people of North Carolina a clean and attractive outing it would have deserved credit. This thing pleased and entertained the people, and I don't believe I can get better evidence of its worth than the opinion of my 12-year-old boy who stood with me watching the interest of the people in the various harmless amusements. He said, with the wisdom worthy of an older mind:

"The number of these shows might be criticised, but you see they bring here crowds that want to be entertained. That's a good thing for them. It's a good thing in more ways than one. It affords them amusement at a mighty low cost, for they can go into almost any of these shows for a dime, and it is worth that to them. But it also brings a lot more people here than would come if the shows were not here, and that brings those people into contact with the agricultural and industrial exhibits, which is worth a lot to them. It brings them

in touch with a lot of things. This fair opens the world right wide to a host of folks who would move in a much narrower channel if they never got away from home attracted by just this kind of thing. I think the fair is a good thing, and that the shows are highly important in making the fair a success, don't you?"

Now, in my superior high brow style I had not looked at it from the boy's point of view, but when he showed it to me I had sense enough to see that he had the idea.

I let that kid lead me around. He had to get a closer look at the flying machine, and he stopped a minute to figure out the centrifugal influences that held the motorcycle on the wall in the side show, and the gyroscope top, and it was necessary to hunt up the iron works where they are making shells for the government. We sized up the road building, and the poultry, and the resistance of the trusses that support the grand stand with its weight of people, and the Haywood county apples, and the well take the premium list and go through it. I shoved that boy up against a lot of men worth while for him to know. Gov. Daughtridge, of Rocky Mount; McLean, of Lumberton; Everett, of Durham; Patrick, Wadesboro; McMillan, of Wilmington; Fred Olds, that compendium of North Carolina history and achievement who ought to be in every boy's library, and a string of them that will keep him thinking he has been overrun with greatness and give a far better conception of the personal factor of his State.

Educates In Hundreds of Ways.

What it does for that boy this fair is doing for thousands of other boys, you know, for it broadens and educates in hundreds of ways we do not realize until the boys and girls take up the subject after they get home. And it gets the boys and girls who are farther along in years than these, for all ages are the gainers.

I am not trying to tell anything about what we saw at the fair. My motive is rather to show that the fair was a pronounced success, and it was the biggest success in its influence which will be exerted next year in making the fair of 1916 a bigger success.

A big lesson is to be learned from this fair. At its inception Capt. Parrish appealed to the newspapers of the State to take a hand in presenting to the people of North Carolina the possibilities of the fair as an educational and publicity factor. Col. Pogue followed this appeal by a similar one, and the newspaper men responded. I am of the opinion that in doing so they have cast bread on the waters, for it seems to me that Col. Pogue and the new president, whoever he may be, are going to plan their campaign right away to make the next fair a broader one than this one, and that they will try to reach the point eventually where the State Fair will be such a State-wide exposition that it will have such an income that every fair can advertise liberally with the papers and pay them considerable sums of money for the service. I am confident that had the fair been favored with good weather this year the income would have been such that the advertising appropriation for next year would have been made much larger. Unfortunately it can be made only as big as income warrants. I have not yet heard what this season's income is. But I know that in the next two or three years the income is going to be much larger than ever, for the fair this year has taken on another color.

True to Name.

It is useless to speak of the exhibits and try to refer to them except in a general way, for they were too many, and were seen by too many people to take time to describe them. The impression as a whole, and the general result is all that can be cited. Primarily it was an agricultural fair. In this respect it was true to name, and Col. Pogue says the exhibits from the counties were in greater number by far than previously. The work of the girls' canning clubs, the boys' corn clubs, and things of that sort cannot be overrated in their importance. This exhibition of what the children of North Carolina are doing is worth to the State all the entire fair cost. It is a practical showing of an asset that had not until lately been suspected. The boys and girls have presented tangible evidence that if the cotton crop should be absolutely wiped out North Carolina can turn to something else and produce unlimited millions of value. A pound of pork is worth as much as a pound of cotton and a jar of tomatoes will appeal to a hungry family more than some other things that have heretofore been looked on as the whole dependence.

New Hanover county was up with an exhibit, which is gratifying from

several view points for it brings that corner of the State into a little closer touch with the State, and puts Wilmington and Raleigh a little closer together. Rowan, Cumberland, Haywood, Guilford, the Sandhills country, and several sections were on hand, all of them part of the commonwealth.

Durham county had a fine exhibit. It was interesting not only because of the good collection of farm products, but also because of the manufacturing the Durham mills undertook at the fair. The substantial co-operation of the big concerns shows how this fair ranked with the big industries, and the value they put on its work. Another thing in the Durham county exhibit of note was the educational display. From the primer class to the completed work of Trinity College the display was a miniature of educational progress. I venture the literary work shown in the Durham educational collection was a revelation to a lot of folks. Books on several lines of thought, publications, and an oddity in the collection of the ballads heard in the county, brought out a new phase of State life.

The Sand Hills exhibit hung to the idea of diversification of product. It had the goods there to prove its case, and close along side was the Cumberland exhibit, which should have been right along by the suffrage booth, for Cumberland county showed a farm scheme operated by a woman, and it was extremely good. Variety, abundance of product, excellence of individual article all showed what the women can do as well as what Cumberland county can do.

Prime Products Exhibited.

They caught it coming and going. The agricultural department of the State, the educational department, the insurance department, in a space that should have been much larger to accommodate the valuable exhibit, and I don't know what all, were there to show what this old State can do when it tries. But enough of the enumeration. The point is that the counties and the departments and the boys and girls and the old folks and the women and everybody, had taken interest enough to gather up their prime products and bring them together to show the State what it can do, and to show other states what can be accomplished in North Carolina. I don't recall for sure whether it was Capt. Parrish or that other creditable North Carolina product, Col. Wade Harris, who is making the Charlotte Observer another thoroughly creditable North Carolina exhibit who referred to Secretary Daniels as one of the most satisfactory North Carolina articles exhibited at the fair.

In starting out I said this article was planned to be the view of a newspaper man on the fair. It is legitimate therefore to include all the things I saw there as far as I can recall them, and while I stood trying to hear what Mr. Daniels was saying my newspaper instinct was by force of habit putting him under the inquisitorial microscope. A North Carolina exhibit, all except the silk lid, and that bunch of d'cers flashed up there was the first that has come under my notice in this State in several years. When I was young like Daniels and Parrish and Craig and Benehan Cameron I used to be partial to a silk hat, and some day may cultivate the habit again as I get old and dignified.

Gauging a North Carolina Product.

A North Carolina exhibit, and if you stop to think, a product that moved from a newspaper shop down to Washington to presently find himself in authority in a great department of a great government that is standing on the danger line which is all that separates it from sharing in a world-wide war. As a newspaper man, cold-blooded as newspaper men are, I can separate Daniels from his surroundings and size him up merely as a factor and not as a man. It is a right trying time, but that good-natured looking chap addressing the crowd in the grand stand at the fair is not talking to me at all. He is talking to the crowd while I am taking his gauge at Washington. They have not caught him asleep once since the war broke out, when I come to think of it. I like to see a newspaper man make good, but that is not the whole thing. As a newspaper man I claim a sort of credit for the craft when one of them does make good. So far Secretary Daniels has showed them a clean slate. That knowledge of the true and the false that comes to the newspaper worker has stood this man in good stead. His blue pencil training taught him long ago how to boil most anything down to the virtues it contains. A newspaper man has so long been accustomed to measuring up his stuff by the test that if it does not show up right in the paper in the morning it is no good that not many bluffs get past him. Another thing about a newspaper man as a managing editor of a government depart-

ment. Years ago when McCulloch was editor of the St. Louis Globe Democrat, which in his day was one of the great papers of this country, somebody asked him what constituted a good newspaper man and he answered, "Knowing where hell was going to break out next, and having a way there when it broke." Daniels has signed his men, and looking over the names and pictures of them as they have been appearing in the paper in the last few weeks, from Edison down, you know they are all artists in the lines.

Chief Marshal's Good Work.

I told Everett once if I had my build and countenance I would be doing Spartacus or Virginius on the stage, but he says he would rather be a lawyer than to deluge the shores of Rome with blood. When they made him the master of ceremonies they picked royal blood. Everett got away with it with all the grace of Lord Chesterfield and the military grace of Front deBoeuf, or the Black Knight himself. He made the fair a success event.

But all this is not what I want to say. The fair is finished. What I find in it is this. It has awakened so many new enthusiasms that it becomes a State-wide matter to take advantage of all the new enthusiasm and the old enthusiasm to swing the tide in toward a much bigger and better fair than ever. It was a good idea to propose another Durham man as president, for it gives to the fair a Durham flavor. No matter if the Durham man succeeds another, for I am any guesser on John Spruill he would give the folks something to think about pretty soon that would cause them to entirely forget entirely where he is from. That he deserves is to be regretted. The new administration will start to get new buildings for the fair if that is possible, and to bring more counties into the exhibit next year, and to interest a wider area in the next event. They will succeed just as far as the people of the State stand behind them. The men who are certain to be on the next president's staff are planning for his assistance. Maj. Graham and Col. Pogue are planning to make next year the big fair. Raleigh and Durham have joined hands over the future. These two towns will have a hand extended for Wilmington, Greensboro, Charlotte and all the big and little towns in the State.

The movement has been started to make the State Fair a powerful force to develop the resources of North Carolina, and the people have realized more this year than ever that the enormous work accomplished by the fair in the past can be broadened and made more important by widening its scope and its field of influence.

The State Fair is not a money making proposition, that is not for itself, but I am satisfied after seeing it last week, mixing with the crowds for two days watching the people, seeing exhibits, hanging around and noting the detail, that it is a decided money making institution for the State, and that the State is a winner on every dollar that is put into the State by the people by the patron, by the public, or in any other way.

Looking Ahead.

The fair last year I believe was a gratifying success. I think the fair this year will show it to be a financial success, and Col. Pogue says in other respects it was more of a success than ever. Yet he hopes right now, and Capt. Parrish hopes, and Maj. Graham hopes that the fair next year will beat any previous fair all to pieces. That being the case now is the time to plan for next year, to plan for all the useful things that a fair can be made to do for the State and for the people. In the Sand Hill booth at the fair last week Clyde Davis, secretary of the Sand Hills Board of Trade, told me that right there he was figuring on a better way to exploit the Sand Hills country next year, and we don't want to let him get too much of the best. My connection with the fair association ceased last week. Therefore, I can freely advocate that we all start right now to make a fair next year. The event that will put out the rest to sleep. We don't want to let Virginia or Georgia or Ohio or Indiana or any other state be held up to our State as something that has our State among the second division players. Do we?

NASAL BLOW FRAUGHT WITH WOE.

Danger to Eye and Ear If Headset Chief Is Improperly Used.

Milwaukee Dispatch to Cleveland Herald.

Blowing the nose the wrong way is the greatest danger to mankind, according to the eye, ear and nose specialists in convention.

They ascribe the menace to ignorance of the proper nasal blow and have decided that rather than blow improperly children should be taught to spit.

This new doctrine was made a dogma of the specialists through an address by Dr. E. Metzbaum, of Cleveland, who pointed out that by closing both nostrils and then letting go with a blow there is danger of causing ear troubles and internal abscesses.