

## THE TERRITORIAL FAIRS.

I wish to present through your columns a few thoughts in reference to the Territorial Fair, which closed yesterday. In fishing around for expressions of opinion as to the comparative quality of the exhibition, it seems to be the general view that, taken as a whole, it was to some extent behind that of 1890. The stock and fine arts were perhaps an exception in this regard, being particularly fine. Such is, I believe, the popular estimate of the exposition.

It is my opinion that, in times of equal prosperity, no Utah Territorial Fair should be behind any of its predecessors. More than that, each successive exhibition should, on the contrary, be ahead of all those of the past.

If this be not the case there is something wrong. There must either be a diminution of interest on the part of those who ought to be exhibitors or a stagnation of material development. The latter is certainly not the reason, because the Territory is making rapid material progress.

This anomalous position induces me to ask a question as to the reason for the meagre progress made by our Territorial Fairs, so far as their quality is concerned. Is it because the leading objects of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society are becoming subordinate to mere catch-penny side-shows? This is a subject of importance to the whole Territory, and therefore ought not to be hastily dismissed.

The society was chartered and formed "with a view to promoting the arts of domestic industry, and to encourage the production of articles from the native elements of this Territory." All appropriations and grants made to the association were bestowed with a view to the promotion of those most worthy purposes. The Fair grounds, on which the exposition building now stands, were conveyed in trust to the organization on condition that the objects defined in the law should be carried out. In the event of failure to comply, it is provided that the grant should be void and the lands revert to the grantor. Anything which has a deteriorating or stultifying effect upon the objects described is at least opposed to the genius of the law.

Are the extraneous features referred to becoming a hindrance to the encouragement of agricultural, manufacturing and artistic pursuits?

Anything that is mixed with our Territorial Fairs which distracts popular attention from the legitimate exhibits must have that effect. That the masses of the public do have their attention diverted, almost to absorption, by this side-show business, is a fact too patent to be disputed.

It may be urged on the other hand that these specialties are necessary in order to make the exhibitions pay their way. I contend, however, that if clap-trap is a detriment to the attainment of the objects of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society, it were better to obtain means in a more reputable way to make up any deficit in meeting the expenses that might occur, even if it should have to be met by appropriation.

I hold that some exhibitions given in connection with our Territorial Fairs have a smashing effect upon the dignity of the society, which surely should

not degenerate into an organization for providing "circus business" for the delectation of the more thoughtless of the people.

The moral effect of such spectacles is also, in my opinion, open to serious question. The giving of premiums to couples who step forward and go through the ceremony of marriage in the midst and under the gaze of a multitude of people is not only foreign to the development of agriculture, art or manufacture, but of doubtful propriety. It is against sound public policy and morality to rob marriage of the sacredness in which it should be held. Such object lessons as these spectacles afford are not conducive to the growth of sound sentiments in the minds of either young, middle-aged or old. Even those who gather to witness such sights are not enraptured with the good taste of the principals, and consequently of the projectors. Perhaps the most repulsive feature of all is the silly and pernicious practice of voting for the alleged prettiest girl. I regard it as a misfortune to any girl who is in such a manner thrust before the public. If she be sensible she will hardly feel flattered by the distinction. It takes away that modest retirement which properly belongs to young ladies. It is not healthful to select girls from the mass and thrust them unceremoniously before the public gaze. If those who are thus treated have a tendency towards vanity, the effect must be particularly regretful, as it is always wrong to feed a human weakness. It is also liable to cause heart-burning among those who are not selected. This feature of our Fairs should be made conspicuous by its absence.

The balloon and parachute business does not belong, in my opinion, to the sphere of such an august organization as the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society. Nothing more need be said upon that point.

I hope that between now and a year hence such considerations as those embodied in this communication will be duly weighed, with a view to eliminating from our annual Fairs everything having a tendency to hinder the attainment of their legitimate objects.

FAIRFAX.

## THE UTAH COMMISSION REPORT.

*Hon. John W. Noble, Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.*—SIR:—The Utah Commission respectfully submits the following report of its proceedings for the year ending September 1, 1891, during which period four sessions have been held in Salt Lake City, and one in the City of Ogden, covering in all a period of about seven months. One session was rendered necessary by reason of the fact that Congress imposed upon the Commission the additional duty of making a reapportionment of the Territory for Legislative purposes, which will be more fully referred to hereafter.

## REPORT ON ELECTIONS.

Elections have been held under the supervision of the Commission since September 1, 1890, as follows:

Congressional	1
General for members of the Legislature and county and precinct officers	1
Special elections	3
School Elections	3
Municipal elections	26

In the following cities:

November 20, 1890	Beaver City, Beaver county
December 8, 1890	Ephraim, Sanpete county
February 9, 1891	Ogden, Weber county
August 3, 1891	American Fork, Utah county
August 3, 1891	Payson, Utah county
August 3, 1891	Nephi, Juab county
August 3, 1891	Pleasant Grove, Sanpete county
August 3, 1891	Lehi, Utah county
August 3, 1891	Manti, Sanpete county
August 3, 1891	Alpine, Utah county
August 3, 1891	Spanish Fork, Utah county
August 3, 1891	Coalville, Summit county
August 3, 1891	Brigham, Box Elder county
August 3, 1891	Park City, Summit county
August 3, 1891	Tooele, Tooele county
August 3, 1891	Springville, Utah county
August 3, 1891	Fillmore, Millard county
August 3, 1891	Corinne Box Elder county

And in the following towns:

August 3, 1891	Kanab, Kane county
August 3, 1891	Salina, Sevier county
August 3, 1891	Heber, Wasatch county
August 3, 1891	Monroe, Sevier county
August 3, 1891	Santaquin, Utah county
August 3, 1891	Huntington, Emery county
August 3, 1891	Midway, Wasatch county

Total . . . . . 34

## OFFICERS Elected.

## Municipal.

Mayors	19
Councilors	138
Presidents of Towns	7
Town Trustees	35
Recorders	20
Treasurers	19
Marshals	19
Assessors and Collectors	20
Police Justice	1
Justices of the Peace	40

## County and Precinct.

Selectmen	50
Collector	1
Superintendents of District Schools	25
Coroners	2
School Trustees	10
Justices of the Peace	169
Constables	129

## Territorial.

Delegate to Congress	1
Commissioners to Locate University Lands	3
Members Legislative Council	12
Members House of Representatives	24

## TOTAL OFFICERS Elected.

Municipal	318
County and Precinct	886
Territorial	40

Total . . . . . 744

Registration officers appointed by the Commission	345
Judges of Election appointed by the Commission	1,107
Board of Canvassers appointed by the Commission	10

Total . . . . . 1,462

## REGISTERED VOTERS IN SALT LAKE CITY.

June, 1889	5,494
June, 1890	7,621
June, 1891	10,273

## REGISTERED VOTERS IN UTAH TERRITORY.

June, 1887	19,270
June, 1888	21,925
June, 1889	31,201
June, 1890	34,143
June, 1891	39,171

VOTES CAST FOR DELEGATE TO CONGRESS, NOVEMBER, 1890.

People's Party	16,338
Liberal	6,912
Scattering	28

Total . . . . . 23,278

VOTES CAST FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Democrats	14,369
Republicans	6,397
Liberal	7,411
Scattering	63

Total . . . . . 28,239

VOTES CAST FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Democratic	13,809
Republican	6,787
Liberal	7,396
Scattering	47

Total . . . . . 28,039

Total vote cast in the Territory for Selectmen . . . . . 30,334

The result of the election for members of the Legislature was:

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	
Liberals, or anti-Mormon	4
Democrats	8

Total . . . . . 12