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Days are Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

PART THREE.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1903. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR.

Utah's First Fairs AND THE Men Who Made Them.

As the years roll on the development of Utah's industries further unfolds; on all sides are noted advancement, progress and enterprise. None stands still. Today sees some new enterprise started; tomorrow witnesses its growth throughout the state. Possibly in no direction is this so marked as in regard to the state fair. As each year comes round the verdict is that it is "the best ever," but as sure as fate when the next exhibition is thrown open to the public previous efforts are found to have been eclipsed.

Last year saw a good fair. This year the twenty-sixth exhibition of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society at the Agricultural park is a better one. Next year promises to be still better, and larger. The one drawback to the fair is the lack of adequate room where to exhibit perishable articles, fruit and products. The erection of another building will eventually allow all to exhibit who so desire. This year numbers who were late had to be turned down on account of lack of space.

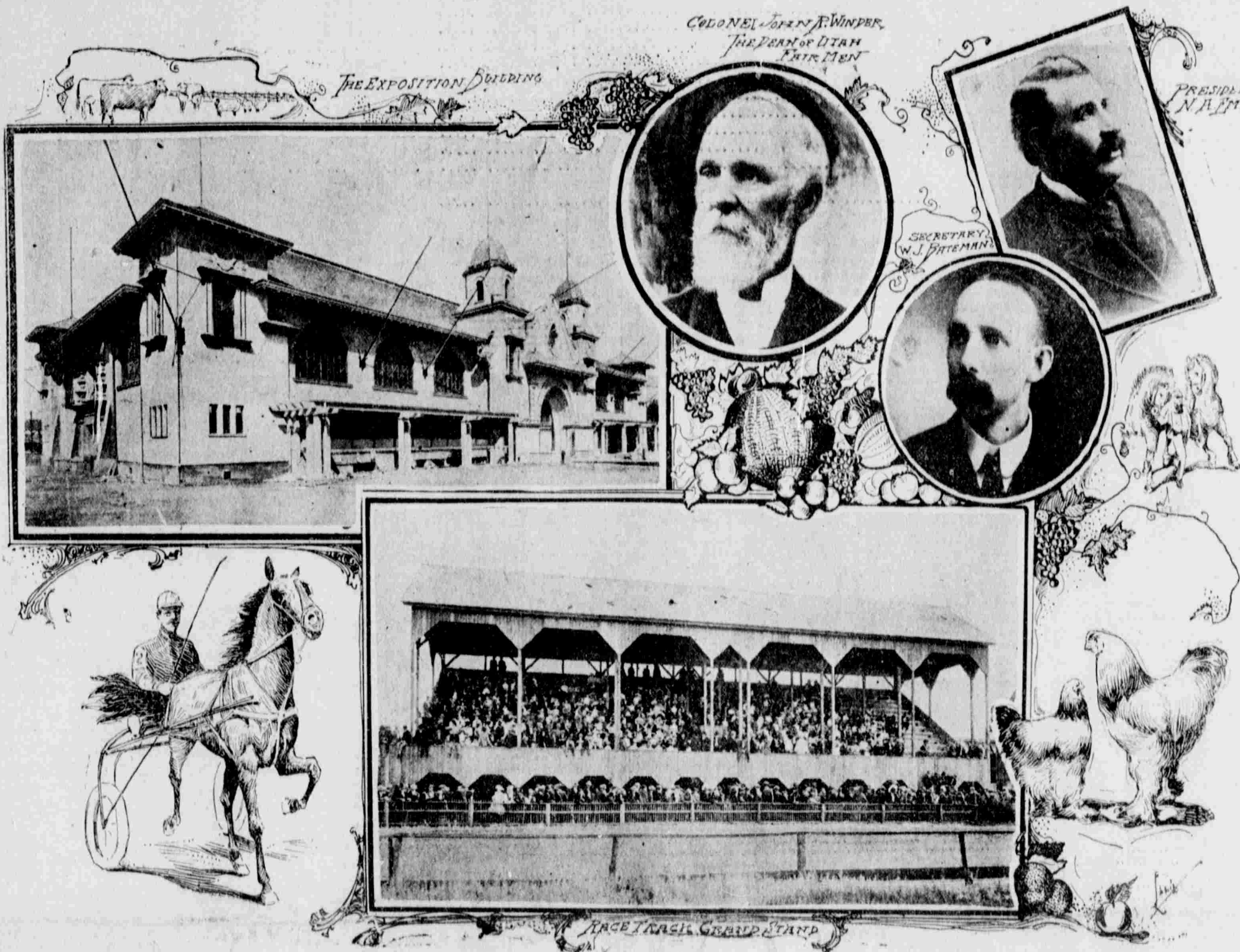
But not only in the direction of exhibits is there a marked improvement. When it comes to amusements, the midway, horse racing and other features this year's program is a delectable one and gives evidence of new blood at the helm.

THE ORIGIN OF FAIRS.

Utahans are proud of their fair, and well they may be. Most of them claim that their fair was the first held west of the Missouri river; and today it still keeps in the foremost ranks of Western state displays. The institution of a fair, a meeting held at stated times and places for purposes of trade, however, does not belong to Utah. According to Prescott's history of the Conquest of Mexico fairs were held among the Aztecs centuries before the advent of the Spaniard on American soil. Then traffic was carried on by means of barter and partly by means of regulated currency of different values. This consisted of transparent quills of gold dust; of bits of tin cut in the form of a T; and bags of cacao, containing a specific number of grains. But fairs existed long before even those days. The French chroniclers attribute the legal institution of their fairs or "foires," to the time of King Dagobert, although authorities state that they doubtless existed long prior to that time.

Be that as it may; there was a similarity between the first fairs held in Utah and those of the semi-primitive old and new worlds. In both cases coin of the realm was conspicuous by its absence. Commodities and goods for barter were the medium of exchange. In both cases when the family went to the fair from a distance oxen were generally the motive power that hauled cumbersome vehicles. Today the visitor gathers up his olive branches and boards the electric trolley. All cars lead to the state fair, at least there is no difficulty in getting transferred from any part of the city. Even on the very outskirts of the state every water tank and boxcar depot bears an announcement that special rates prevail for the state fair. Exhibitors and spectators avail themselves of these rates and converge to the common center.

In the old days they had just as big



FACES AND SCENES AT THE EXPOSITION GROUNDS AT AGRICULTURAL PARK.

samples of produce, fruits and handicraft; not such a large variety, perhaps, but nevertheless, what there was good and the best the territory could produce.

That this year's fair is such a good one is due to the indefatigable efforts of President Nelson Empey and his tireless aids, J. G. McDonald, vice president and general amusement and advertising manager; W. J. Bateman, secretary of the society, and S. A. Mann, assistant manager.

COMMENCEMENT IN UTAH.

It was in January, 1886, less than nine years after the advent of the pioneers, at the time when Fillmore City was the capital of the territory of Utah and the legislative sessions

were held there, "with a view of promoting the arts of domestic industry, and to encourage the production of articles from the native elements of the territory," that the assembly passed an act "forming and chartering" the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society. "They shall hold," says this act, "an annual exhibition at Salt Lake City, or at such other places as they shall deem proper, of all such agricultural products, stock and domestic manufactured articles as in their opinion to be drawn by the treasurer of

said society and expended by the board in awarding premiums for the best specimens of native productions."

OTHER APPROPRIATIONS.

At subsequent times other appropriations were made by the legislature to the society, notably the sum of \$5,000 for the importation of improved breeds of sheep, and \$1,000 to assist in establishing a bureau of statistics. These appropriations were made at a time when the Territory of Utah could ill afford to spend the money. Subsequent

Manufacturing society got along as best it could. For some reason still to be explained the lawmakers did not extend the helping hand to the society which at the outset it had been led to expect, and as it had no funds of its own, and no way to obtain any except by the holding of fairs, the result was an exceedingly precarious and uncertain livelihood for the society. However, the board of directors maintained its organization, and struggling bravely on, continued to give exhibitions in old and new buildings.

for a building commensurate with the needs of the state. They had done the same thing on numerous other occasions. Finally, in 1884, the Legislature of that year, through one of its committees on agriculture, of which Hon. William B. Preston was chairman, appropriated \$15,000 for fair buildings, but the bill containing it was vetoed by Governor Murray. At length a compromise was arrived at.

Finally, when the smoke of legislative battle cleared away, in 1888, it was found that in addition to its original assets, that it had ten acres of land in a good location in Salt Lake City, \$20,000 to its credit and a brand new board of directors. It was also found that the law had been so amended as to make the president and directors elec-

tive by joint vote of two houses of the assembly, their perpetual succession prerogatives having been taken away.

THE NEW BOARD.

The new board that was at the helm when the bark was once more launched consisted of President John R. Winder, directors: Francis Armstrong, Jas. A. Bean, Nelson A. Empey, Hector W. Haight, James H. Moyle, Smith Parker, John D. Peters, William H. Rowe, Charles Read, Arthur L. Thomas and E. M. Weller.

The board at once selected Francis Armstrong vice president; Heber M. Wells, secretary, and Elias A. Smith, treasurer.

No time was lost in getting down to work with the result that on Oct. 3, 1888, the doors were thrown open and the display made was such as to astonish all who came to view the fair. This fair was the commencement of the successful exhibitions that have marked the regime of the Deseret Agricultural & Manufacturing society in Salt Lake City.

FINAL LOCATION.

The story of the growth of this institution until its quarters on the east side were not large to accommodate the exhibits is well known to every one. Last year the fair opened in its spacious new quarters at Agricultural Park, on the banks of the Jordan river, at North Temple street, where it now has 60 acres in which to expand. Every building that has been erected on the grounds is of a substantial order and built to last, as the promoters feel that the old stormy days are now relegated to the dim and distant past, and that there is nothing but sunshine and prosperity ahead.

IN DAYS OF OLD.

That the exhibit has grown since the first time the products of the then Territory of Utah were shown in Salt Lake City goes without saying. The files of the Deseret News for Oct. 17, 1889, show, however, that even in those early days there was a diversified assortment of exhibits, even with second prizes down to 50 cents each in some cases. Here we learn that the late President Wilford Woodruff secured the much coveted \$5 premium for the best fenced and cultivated farm of not less than 20 acres, taking prizes also for the best cultivated garden and the best one acre of sugar cane. John White did not cut any figure in livestock circles in those days; the man who captured the biggest prize in the entire fair for the best Durham bull was W. A. (commonly known as "Bill") Hickman, Gen. D. H. Wells, A. O. Smoot, Wm. A. O. Smoot, Wm. Rydahl, John Henson, J. Murdoch and other well known names also appear among the livestock prize winners. Glancing over the list of prize winners Utah seems to have been strong in those days on sugar cane, it is also interesting to note that 43 years ago Eli B. Kelsey pulled down first and second prizes for the best five acres of beets, the presumption is, however, that they were not sugar beets, for a search of the files brings the investigator up among the latter eighties before sugar beets are prominently mentioned, and then only in the form of a request on the part of Elias Morris for seed and data from Germany. Charles Twelves

(Continued on page twenty-six.)

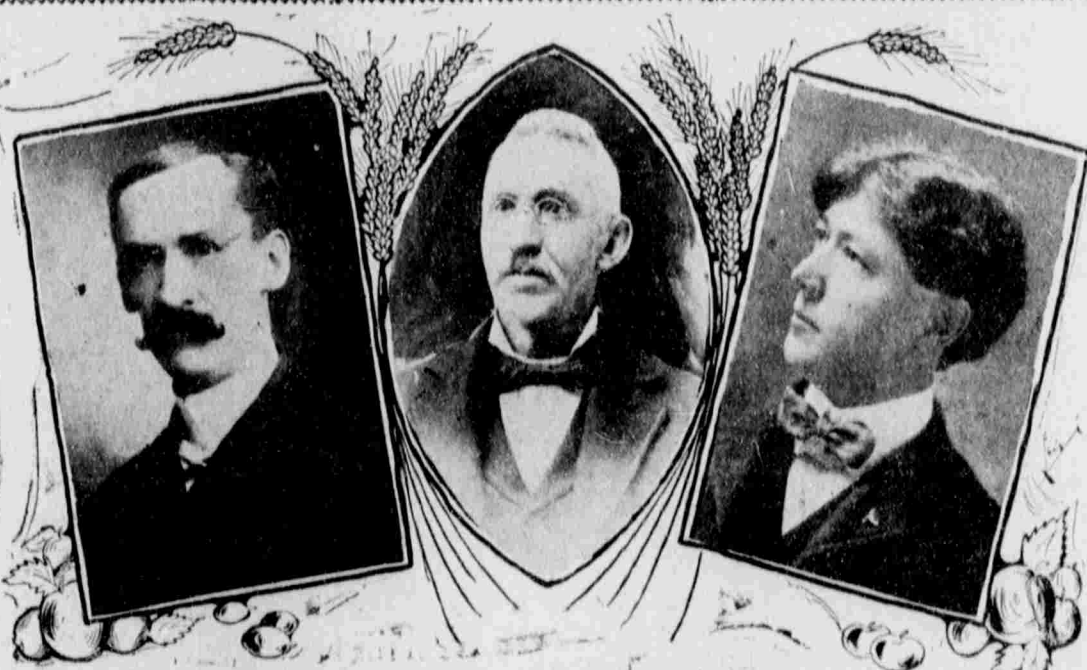
A CHAT WITH THE FATHER OF UTAH'S FAIRS.

To Hon. John R. Winder belongs the distinction of being the oldest consecutive exhibitor in the State Fair. From the first exhibition up to the one which opened last Thursday he has never missed a single fair and has secured enough blue ribbons and premiums to cover the walls of a fair sized room. Throughout the length and breadth of the state he has long been known as "The Father of Utah's Territorial and State Fairs." During this period he has filled the offices of director and president only to resign the latter important office at the age of 79, two years ago. He still stakes a great interest in the doings of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing society, and to quote him verbatim, "I have trained my boys to exhibit in the interest of the advancement of the state."

"There is some difference between the early exhibitions and the one now being held," remarked President Winder when asked by the "News" to tell something about the first fairs held in the Territory of Utah, "for in the early days it was distinctly a showing of handicraft. Today the big concerns with their up-to-date machinery have practically driven out the small man. This advancement has deterred many from exhibiting. I would like to see more handicraft exhibited, for instance, no longer have such exhibits as those of home made matches, made by a man named Nelbaur; rope by Wm. A. McMaster, who used to grow the hemp and convert it into rope and twine in his own rope walk; hand made nails; combs manufactured from the horns of Utah cattle, and home made articles generally. The early fairs were exhibitions of purely domestic manufacture. There were no other attractions for many years."

"I can recall the first fair which was held in Utah. It took place in the Tithing yard where all the stock was shown, while the old Deseret News building and the adjoining structure were given over to the exhibition of perishable articles. This building was crowded with exhibits and there was no charge for admission. In fact, if I am not mistaken, there was no charge for admission made until the D. A. & M. society took up permanent quarters on the Tenth ward square. At this exhibition there were all kinds of domestic articles shown such as suits of clothes, and good clothes they were, too, which originally grew on the backs of Utah sheep, the women taking the wool and carding and weaving it into cloth with their hands, then they cut and sewed the material until a finished suit was the result. There were all kinds of exhibits there. I remember a man named Ezra Sabin, who exhibited the first revolver that was made in this part of the country; President Brigham Young exhibited cloth, rolls of goods and live stock; President Woodruff, also, was a great believer in the fair and took a great pride in it and exhibited for years. The early fairs were essentially primitive; while we have outgrown them now there is one feature which we cannot beat to this day, and that is the imported Durham stock owned by William Jennings."

"After exhibiting in the Tithing yard the fair moved to the old Council house, where the big Deseret News building now stands, and remained there until it burned down; then a move was made to the Thirteenth ward meetinghouse and grounds; then to Social hall, still later, it again moved to the old city building on West Temple below the Tabernacle block, finally to the Tenth ward square and last year to the Agricultural park. It is only of late years that shows, horse-racing and kindred attractions have been added. In the old days it was public spiritedness that brought out the exhibitors, and, for that matter, the same holds good today."



J. G. McDONALD,
Vice President and General
Amusement and Advertising
Manager.

H. J. FAUST,
Earliest Life Member of
the Fair - Admitted
March 1, 1883.

S. A. MANN,
Assistant Amusement Manager
D. A. & M. Society
for the Year 1903.

ion will be best calculated to stimulate the people of this Territory in industrial pursuits, and best subserve the cause of domestic industry; and shall award premiums for the best specimens of such articles and animals as they will permit to be entered in the lists for competition; and shall annually publish a list of what they will consider entitled to premiums and fix the rate and award premiums as they may deem proper, provided, that other articles than those included in the list shall be admitted and arranged for by the board and be exhibited under their direction."

THE FAVORED CHILD.

After reading over this act it will be gathered that the original intention of the legislature was to make the society a favored child of the state, to be fostered and strengthened by periodical appropriations.

"For the purpose of starting this enterprise," says the charter, "and aiding the president and directors in carrying out the objects contemplated herein, the sum of \$1,500 is hereby appropri-

ly further, larger and more frequent appropriations were set aside for the fostering of the annual exhibition.

FATHERS OF THE FAIR.

In the first place, at the very beginning, there were elected by the joint vote of the assembly, a president and six directors, and these were given authority to elect a treasurer, secretary, and such other officers as might seem necessary, including the selection of their own successors. The personnel of the original board was as follows: Edward Hunter, president; directors, Charles Oliphant, William C. Staines, Seth M. Blake of Salt Lake, James Brown, Sr., of Ogden, and Calvin C. Pendleton of Parowan.

DARK DAYS ENCOUNTERED.

For a few years everything went well. Much interest was taken in the annual fairs, the statistics were reported regularly to the Legislature, and the territory felt the benefit of well directed and intelligent labor in the interests of home industry. Then came a period when the Legislature seemed to be disposed to let the Deseret Agriculture &

market buildings, ward halls and even on the sunny side of buildings. During this period the officers constantly made appeals to the Legislature for assistance that it merited as a public and educational institution. The lawgivers, however, turned a deaf ear to the pleadings of the promoters. After holding 15 very creditable exhibitions the board eventually succumbed to the inevitable. No cash was forthcoming to make the awards and consequently there were no exhibitions. For seven weary years the society was not exactly dead, but it most assuredly was sleeping, while outside the fierce storms of political turmoil swept the territory of almost every vestige of public endeavor tending toward advancement and prosperity.

AN EXPOSITION BUILDING.

Then the promoters of the annual fair awoke once more.

It is a matter of conjecture who is entitled to the honor of having given the Territory of Utah an exposition building. President John R. Winder and Secy. A. M. Musser both petition-

FREAK AND OTHER PRIZES OF PAST FAIRS.

Not the least interesting features of fairs of days gone by were the "freak" premiums that were offered in various competitions. While they smacked of advertising novelties, nevertheless they afforded considerable interest, and the contests were closely followed. A glance through the old records of the society makes interesting reading. For instance, a well known musician and the incumbent county clerk in 1889 came out with an advertisement, in the following language, for a certain tonsorial parlor that was located where the Deseret News Annex now stands:

Goddard & James of the Temple barber shop offer for the next Territorial Fair a ticket entitling the holder to one year's hair cutting and shaving at the Temple barber shop, for the best essay on the "Modes and Manner of Barbering Among Different Nations."

Here is another: S. F. Ball & Co. will give as a premium for the coming fair, one four-tier wedding cake, to be given away with the premiums of the Little Roundy Company, and Charles Wankless, to the couple getting married on the fair grounds, but with this exception, that the two bottom tiers of the cake be cut up and distributed immediately after the ceremony. If more than one couple present themselves, the top cakes with the ornaments to be obtained by a drawing.

This is the way a then leading jeweler in 1889 got himself talked about:

I will give one lady's gold stem winding watch to be given to anyone under 15 years of age, who will write "Hollaeder Jeweler" the most times on a card to be furnished for the purpose.

Still another by a firm which is still doing business in this city:

A lady's dressing case, valued at \$25 for the best young lady plantist who never studied outside of Utah.

Beauty prizes were all the rage in the early nineties, Miss Jennie Huxley, the then rising young contralto, was in 1890 awarded the beauty prize as the most beautiful young lady at the fair. A few years later John M. Young, the city marshal, won the gold medal for the most popular man in Utah.

In 1889 the state fair also held a baby show, with prizes ranging from \$25 down. The successful babies, who are well along toward early man and womanhood now, were in the following order: Oakley Johnson, city; Jean May, city; twin babies of Mrs. Ellis Evans, city; Melvin Conway Kennedy of Milford; Hudson D. Neslen, city, and Percy M. Ross of Salt Lake.

One of the earliest typewriting competitions in Utah was held at the exposition building on the evening of Oct. 3, 1889. F. T. McGurran, Geo. W. Ritter and L. L. Pratt were the entries. The result found Mr. Ritter as the winner with the following score:

Mr. Ritter wrote 219 words, of which five were deducted for errors, leaving 214, at an average of 62.4-5 words a minute.

Mr. McGurran wrote 225 words, of which 15 were deducted for errors, leaving 210, at an average of 61.5 words a minute.

Mr. Pratt wrote 215 words, of which 16 were deducted for errors, leaving 199, at an average of 59.7 words a minute.

Andrew C. Pearson of Draper won the prize of \$14 in the mental arithmetic contest in 1891.