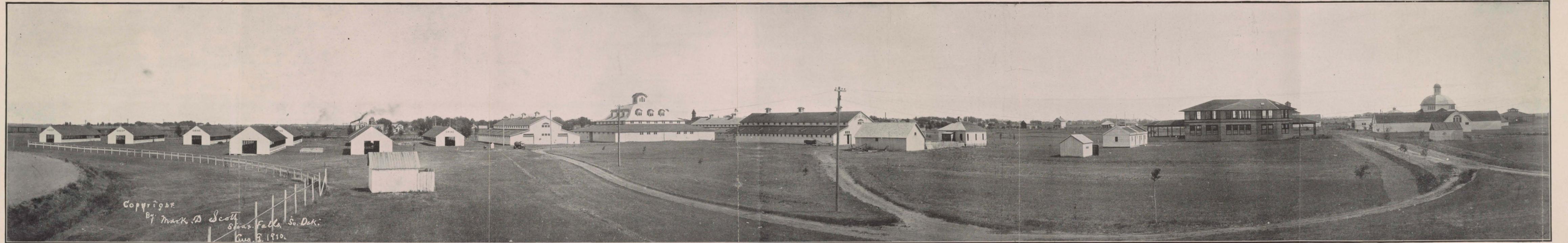


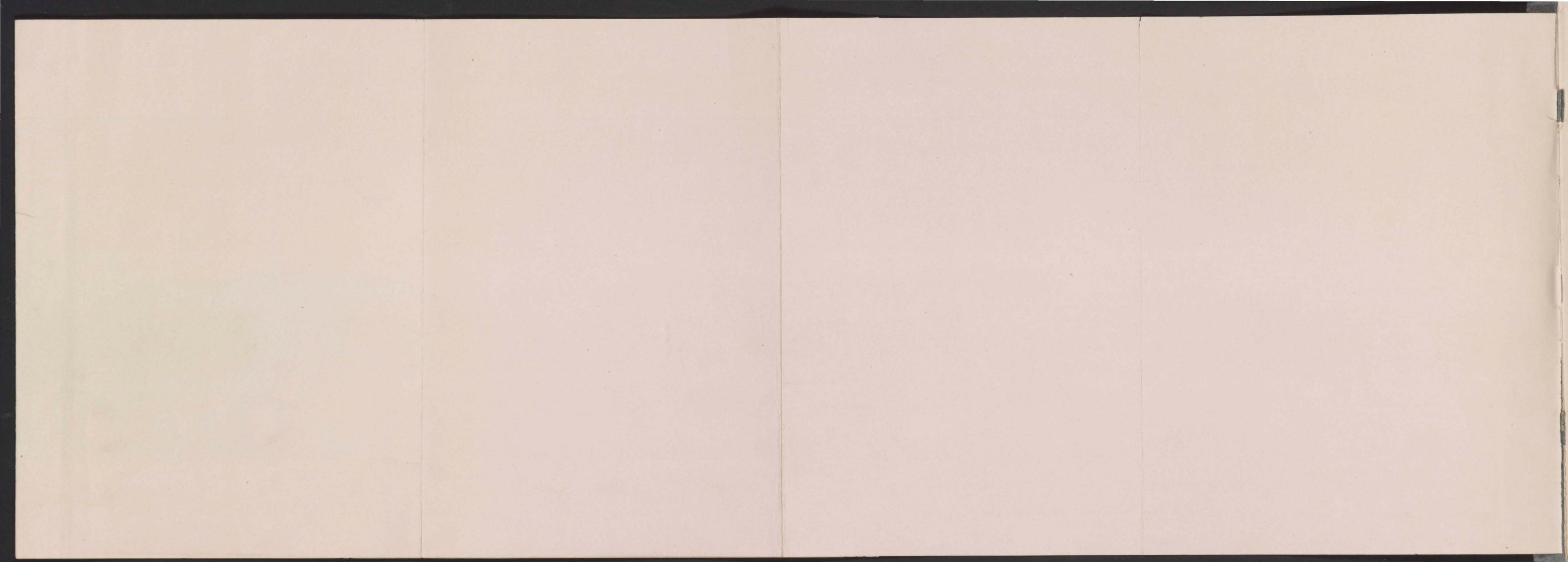
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PAMORAMA VIEW OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR GROUNDS



South Dakota. State fair board

# The South Dakota State Fair

FROM ITS ORIGIN—1885 TO 1910—ITS SUCCESSES AND FAILURES.

**T**HE history of the South Dakota State Fair is too closely woven into the history of the commonwealth of which it is a part, contains too much that is romantic, and even pathetic, for the first generation of a proud young state to permit it to lapse into the vague, unreliable status of tradition.

This year of grace, 1910, the quarto centenary of its existence, is perhaps a fitting time to make a permanent record of its origin, its early struggles and vicissitudes, and its development from a mere phase of Anglo-Saxon ambition into an institution worthy a place in the front rank of State Expositions.

Its origin was an act of the Territorial Legislature, approved April 25th, 1885, and signed by Governor Pierce at Bismarek, the then capital of the territory. The territory embraced within its limits the two states bearing that name, with an area of 141,445 square miles and containing on fringe along its eastern of pioneer homesteaders over its eastern half. The ed at that time 169,789 153,671 hogs, 136,966 valuation of all the pro real and personal, was

Among our ancestors our more immediate "Pil at concerted action for of feeble origin and slow eral compliance with Mr. the tadpole to the frog, through the more highly developed units of being toward the standard of perfected existence—first the things themselves, puny, immature infants, tottering with feeble steps, gaining size and strength with years, the rules and laws for organization and control evolved painfully from their necessities and their mistakes.

The pioneers of the west, profiting by the experience of their progenitors, created first the body of the full-sized institution and then "breathed into its nostrils the breath of life."

The legislative act, approved April 25, 1885, created the Board of Agriculture for the purpose, as set forth in the act, of "forwarding the interests of agriculture, horticulture, manufacturing and domestic arts." This Board consisted of a president and one



The Women's Building—South Dakota Appreciates Her Women

ly scattering settlers—a border and a sprinkling scattered at random entire territory contain—horses, 410,071 cattle, sheep, and the assessed perty within its limits, \$96,499,549.39. beyond the sea, and even grim Fathers," efforts the common good were growth—evolved in lit-Darwin's theories from and successively, up

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Agricultural Building—It is Too Small for the Exhibits

vice president from each legislative district. The Board was given supervision over all county and association fairs, but its principal function was to organize and maintain an annual exhibition of the products of the territory in agriculture, stock raising and other lines, to be known as the "Annual Territorial Fair." An appropriation of \$5,000 was made for its organization and maintenance.

The first Board of Agriculture held its first meeting at Mitchell June 17, 1885. That the membership of this first Board was wisely chosen is amply shown in the broad and solid foundation laid by them upon which the mammoth expositions of more recent years have been built up. Their fitness for the task is further in evidence in fact that the mistakes, inevitable in launching an enterprise of such magnitude, under adverse conditions, were promptly corrected by themselves.

It was decided to hold the first Fair in the fall of that year, 1885. The plans were matured and the work actively begun. The Dakota Farmer, then published at Huron, was made the official organ of the Board.

The first question, and a most difficult one, was that of location. There was keen competition among the larger towns of the territory, especially among those within the limits of the present state of South Dakota. Sioux Falls, Pierre, and Huron, each submitted offers of suitable grounds and race track, advertising and considerable sums of money. After several ballots the bid of the city of Pierre, submitted by Mr. E. P. Miller, was accepted. Later, however, this action was reconsidered because of the—at that time—distance and isolation of Pierre from the most thickly settled portions of the territory. A resolution was adopted, setting forth the opinion of the Board that, aside from pecuniary considerations, good judgment constrained them to change their decision and relocate the first Fair at Huron, where, by reason of its accessibility to the more thickly settled and fully cultivated sections of the territory, the success of the Fair would be more certain.

A committee, with Judge Bennett as chairman, was appointed to close a contract with the city of Huron. An executive committee consisting of C. A. Bliss of Brown County, President, J. V. White of Clay County, L. C. Winslow of Minnehaha, A. W. Page of Beadle, Alonzo Wardall of Grant, H. P. Packard of Spink, and Thomas Davis of Davison, was appointed to organize, supervise and conduct the Fair.

The first Fair, held September 29 to October 2, 1885, was a success both in the matter of exhibits, and attendance, and financially, the gate receipts for one day reaching nearly \$3,000. The exhibits of products of the territory were so large in volume and so magnificent in quality as to astonish visitors from adjacent states. Many exhibitors of farm implements and machinery were present from outside the state, competing keenly in the display of their goods for the inspection of Dakota farmers. Among these the John

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Deere Co., The Moline Plow Co., Monitor Drill Co., and others are still regular annual exhibitors at the State Fair. The officers in charge of the first Fair were:

C. A. Bliss, Brown County, President.  
W. F. T. Bushnell, Beadle County, Secretary.  
John E. Bennett, Clark County, Treasurer.  
Col. Edward Sterling, Huron, Superintendent of Grounds.  
A. W. Page, Broadland, Superintendent of Construction.  
Thos. Davis, Mitchell, Supt. of Horses and Speed Dept.  
Paul Page, Mitchell, Superintendent of Cattle Department.  
J. D. Wagner, Frankfort, Superintendent Swine Department.

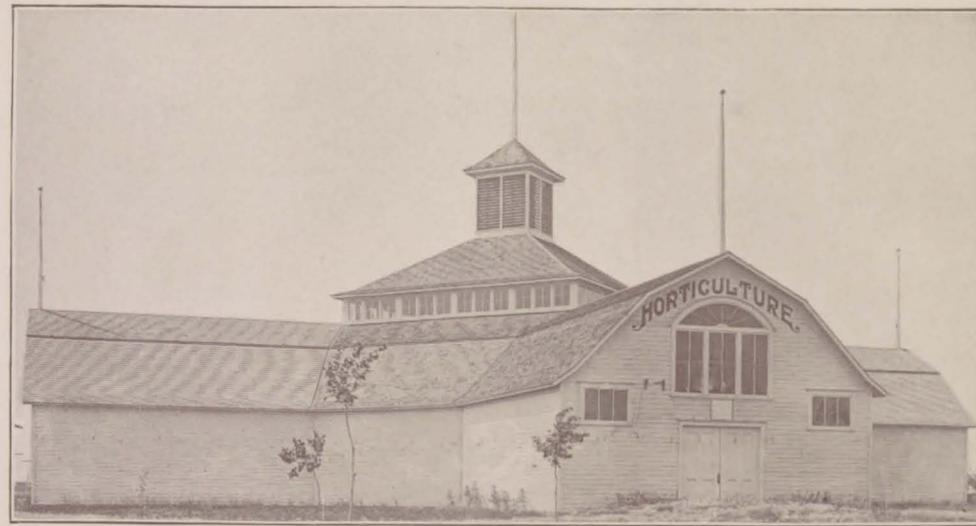
Chas. Preston, Oakwood, Superintendent Sheep Department.  
Blades, Centerville, Superintendent Poultry Department.  
I. E. Youngblood, Blunt, Supt. Machinery Department.  
G. H. Keys, Ellendale, Superintendent Grain Department.  
L. W. Needham, Pierre, Superintendent Dairy Department.  
E. DeBell, Sioux Falls, Supt. Horticultural Department.  
Mrs. James Anderson, Madison, Supt. Textile Department.  
Mrs. Lauren Dunlap, Huron, Supt. Woman's Department.

S. M. Bishop, Gettysbury, Superintendent Pantry and Kitchen Department.

The gate receipts aggregated very nearly \$7,500.00, and the Fair, for a first effort, in a large and sparsely settled territory, with inadequate means of communication and scant resources, was a gratifying success. The officers who had made a success of the first Fair were unanimously chosen for the year 1886.

The Fair of 1886 was again located at Huron, and was again considered successful, the receipts exceeding those of the previous season by about \$2,000.00.

There was even keener competition for the location of this second Fair than for the first one, five bids being submitted, as follows: Huron, Madison, Mitchell, Aberdeen and Grand Forks, each bidder offering free use of grounds, buildings, tracks, etc., with bonus in advertising and cash running up to \$4,000. Fifteen members of the Board were present at the meeting. On the first ballot four votes was the highest number cast for any competitor, but on the seventh, Huron received nine votes against three each for Aberdeen and Grand Forks. While there was no "sulking" by the disappointed competitors, and the fair was successful to the extent of increasing the receipts, as stated, by some \$2,000, it cannot be doubted that the practice of offering the Fair as "spoils" to be fought for could not fail to cool the ardor of friends of the unsuccessful bidders. It is scarcely questionable that if, at this time, the Fair had been permanently located at some point, easily accessible to the then settled



The State's Horticultural Building—It is Always Filled

portions of the territory, such action would have been quickly felt and even in those pioneer days a beginning could have been made in acquiring the indispensables of permanent success. It is, however, no reflection on the Board that it felt its way cautiously. Hind-sight is always more accurate than foresight.

In planning the fair of 1887, the Board decided to continue the practice already inaugurated of holding two successive fairs at one point, and the city of Mitchell, having made the most liberal offer, was chosen for the next two years.

This year the territorial legislature, recognizing the Fair as a growing institution of great and growing value, made an appropriation of \$3,000 for its support, which was continued by its successors from year to year for fourteen years.

The former officers were re-elected and continued its management with energy and diligence. The gate receipts reached almost \$7,000, and with other receipts and the appropriation, were sufficient to bring the Fair through without a deficit.



Beadle County Building

It is interesting to note that at that date the only property recorded as belonging to the Fair Board is a desk, four chairs, and other office furniture, among which is a typewriter still extant and in use in the office of the Secretary, and was used in this year of grace, 1910, in preparing this history.

The fourth annual Fair, again held in Mitchell in 1888, was again under the management of C. A. Bliss and W. F. T. Bushnell. The Fair was conducted on the same high plane as its predecessors, but was less successful financially, leaving a deficit at the settlement of accounts.

In 1889, the President and Secretary, C. A. Bliss and W. F. T. Bushnell, who had conducted the Fair through its first four years, resigned, and were succeeded by R. E. Coddington as President, and C. W. Downey, Secretary. The retiring officials

were accorded by the Board and by the people of the state the meed of praise and gratitude justly due them for the skill, energy and persistence with which they had launched and guided through the critical stage of its beginning, this vastly important enterprise.

The Fair of 1889, at Aberdeen, was held on the grounds of the Brown County Fair Association. It was a high grade exhibit of the resources of the territory, but because of the extra expense of moving and the confusion consequent upon a change of location and management, was not quite successful financially.

After the division of the territory in 1889, and the admission of the state of South Dakota, the Board became the State Fair Board. It continued its former policy, holding the fairs of 1891 and 1892 in Sioux Falls. Although the contributing territory was divided by statehood, the influx of immigration, the rapid development of the new state and the improved climatic conditions of that

year appeared to have fully offset the division of support. The Fair of 1891 was larger and more successful in a financial way than any former exposition, the receipts aggregating nearly \$10,000. In 1892, although the high standards of exhibits was fully maintained, the financial and industrial depression under which the entire country was suffering, was felt in the reduced patronage. There was a small deficit, which was met by an appropriation by the next legislature.

In the year 1893 there was again a change in the official management, Chas. Keith being elected President and W. F. T. Bushnell, Secretary. The Fair was again located at Aberdeen for a period of two years, and the Board made most strenuous efforts to promote successful expositions, but the financial stringency prevailing throughout the country, and the successive dry seasons, with short crops and resultant "hard times," were obstacles impossible to wholly overcome. In 1893 the deficit was more than \$2,000, and in 1894 it amounted to over \$5,000, about one-half of which was covered by legislative appropriations.

The Board was reorganized with O. C. Kemp as President, and M. H. Kelley, Secretary. Early in the new year the management began to plan for the fair of 1895. It had become manifest that a "state fair on wheels" could not be made a permanent success. The biennial moving entailed a very considerable extra expense, disorganized the work, and was inconvenient for the regular patrons of the Fair, both visitors and exhibitors, and those who wished only to attend and see the exhibits. A resolution was offered by G. W. Harris that the Fair be located at one place for six years. After consideration of this proposition, the Board petitioned the legislature for authority to locate it permanently for a period of not less than five nor more than ten years, which authority was granted.

The fair of 1895 was held at Sioux Falls, with only moderate success, the receipts aggregating nearly \$9,000. Negotiations were then opened with that city to locate it there for a term of years, but owing to some misunderstanding with the citizens' committee, the contract was not closed. Later the Fair was located at Yankton for nine years. By the terms of the contract, the State Board was granted the use of the grounds and buildings of the Yankton Fair Association. The Board owned no real estate, and under the practice hitherto prevailing, had not felt warranted in equipping itself with adequate office paraphernalia on account of the expense of moving long distances annually or biennially. The Yankton contract obviated this difficulty in a measure, but the grounds and facilities, though most creditable to the new county and fully equal to the demands of a county exhibition, were inadequate for a State Fair. The location, too, at the extreme edge, and almost in a corner of the state, was remote from a large portion of the contributing section and was inconvenient of access. While the halting of the "perambulating fair" at one spot for a long term of years was a step in the right direction, results have shown that its chief value was in demonstrating the necessity of that prime requisite of success, a permanent location at a central point, on its own grounds, which could be enlarged and improved from time to time in pace with the demands of a growing state.



One of the Horse Barns

Nine successive Fairs were held at Yankton, managed with care, diligence and marked ability, always of high grade in respect to the exhibits, but with only indifferent financial success, the receipts varying from \$4,623.34 in 1900 to \$8,751.54 in 1904, the high point for the nine year period, being \$146.17 less than the receipts of the last fair held in Sioux Falls, in 1895. The nine year period was begun auspiciously under the presidency of Hon. Frank W. Byrne of Faulkton, with M. H. Kelley still serving as Secretary. J. E. Platt of Clark County, was elected Treasurer, and has filled that important position acceptably, and with marked ability, continuously for fifteen years. This is the longest term ever served by an officer of the Fair Board.

In 1898 W. R. Harris succeeded Mr. Byrne as President, and W. B. Dean was elected Secretary. In 1901 the Hon. John Armstrong, since deceased, succeeded Mr. Harris in the presidency. Mr. C. C. Moulton succeeded Mr. Armstrong in 1902, and H. S. Fletcher was elected in 1903, W. B. Dean still serving as Secretary. During all these years experience had been educating the people of the state, and especially the members of the Board having active management of the Fair, both to its important bearing on the development of the state's resources and to the imperative necessity of a permanent location, on its own grounds conveniently accessible. At the annual meeting of the Board in January, 1903, John H. King and H. S. Fletcher were appointed a committee to confer with the Central South Dakota Fair Association and Company. The company agreed to deed the Board the corporate limits of the grounds then used by the Central Fair Association in hand, the Board authority to acquire and began at once the organization of the State Fair upon a permanent basis.



One of the Cattle Barns

Beyond an annual appropriation of \$3,000.00 towards the payment of premiums and annual expenses, the legislature of 1905 was the first to recognize the State Fair with a liberality proportionate to the vast interests promoted by it.

This is not due to a lack of appreciation on the part of preceding legislatures nor a parsimonious spirit, but rather to the improved conditions and the development of the state; to the largely increased population, the larger areas brought under cultivation, the growth and recognized importance of the stock growing industry and the widespread movement among farmers to breed up their stock. The time had come for the infant state to throw off its swaddling clothes and take its rightful place among the commonwealths of the nation, and it did it. The legislature of 1905 authorized the permanent location of the Fair at Huron, and appropriated \$15,000.00 for the improvement of the grounds. This was followed by an appropriation of \$2,000 for 1907, \$15,000 for 1908, and \$18,000 for 1909. The effect of proper recognition by the state and the resultant action of the Board not only on the financial success of the Fair, but

upon the industrial development of the state, will be apparent in the succeeding pages of its history. With authority of law and means at its command, the Board instantly began to perfect its work.

The buildings and improvements of the South Dakota Central Fair Association were purchased for \$1,015, the deeds were secured to the grounds and improvements, and for the first time in its history the South Dakota State Board of Agriculture became a real estate owner living in a home of its own. Measures were at once taken to secure new buildings. The grand stand of the Yankton Fair Association was purchased and removed to Huron. During the first year, before the legislative appropriation became available, more than \$3,000 was expended for improvements. The success of the Fair of 1906 was an ample vindication of the policy of liberality. The receipts rose to \$15,978.47 and it became clearly apparent that it was impossible to handle the increased exhibits, the business or the crowds in attendance, with the facilities at hand.

A showing and an legislature of 1907, which appropriation of \$35,000, \$2, year, \$15,000 for 1908,

The Board began at buildings most imperated the work with such opening of the Fair in hall, horse barns, sheep new poultry building and the grand stand existing. During the following year two more swine barns year Beadle County set an lowing, and which, doubt time, by other counties of of a commodious and ele \$4,500. This building gives ampler space than can be granted in the agricultural hall for the display of a separate county exhibit. Its spacious verandas afford a gathering place for neighborly reunions of the people of the county, while they, and the observation pavilion on the roof, attract the general public to the exhibit of that county.

The Deere & Webber Company also erected a commodious concrete building, especially designed for the display of their lines of farm implements and machinery. The large increase in the number of entries of cattle and swine necessitated more room and one additional cattle barn and two more swine barns were built before the opening of the Fair of 1908. An office building for the use of the President and Secretary was also erected on the grounds.



Some of the Hog Pens



Some of the Sheep Pens

and it became clearly possible to handle the increase, with the facilities at

appeal were made to the responded with an appropriation of \$18,000 for 1909.

once the erection of the building was needed, and press-vigor that before the 1907, the new agricultural and swine barns, and the were ready for occupancy tended one hundred feet. another cattle barn and were built. During this example well worth following, will be followed in the state, in the erection of a grand building at a cost of

During the follow latest and finest buildings ished and occupied. Two of \$8,000 each were grant for a woman's building pavilion.

The new woman's occupied for the first modern cement structure, height and with spacious ornate building on the worthy of a place in any Its use as a place for so attending the Fair and functions during the Fair its popularity.



The Poultry Building—Just the Right Size

There is also a magnificent mining exhibit showing specimens of every product of the mining section of the state, gold, silver, and tin ore, slates, mica, coal, building stone, marble and granite. It was collected and arranged at great labor and expense. At the close of the Fair it was purchased by the Board for \$2,100, and will hereafter be on exhibition every year, with such additions as the development of the state's important mining interests shall be able to make to it.

The effects of permanency of location, better facilities and generous support by the legislature, were quickly apparent. The receipts of the Fair rose from \$15,978.47 in 1906 to \$22,392.95 in 1907, increased to \$26,046.79 in 1908 and again to \$43,217.27 in 1909, a net increase of nearly three hundred per cent in three years. While this gratifying condition was, in a large measure, the result of the change of policy, it cannot be wholly attributed to that cause. A period of unparalleled national prosperity, simultaneous with a cycle of propitious seasons, has stimulated both immigration and development. The population of the state, the contributors to the exhibits, and the sources from which the patronage must be drawn, had increased from 250,000 according to the territorial census of 1880 to 455,000 for the state in 1895. In 1885, the year of the first Fair, the assessed valuation of all the property in the territory was \$96,499,549.39, while in 1906 the assessed valuation of the state of South Dakota was \$129,216,887.00.

In 1885 the number of horses in the territory was 169,789, of cattle 410,071, sheep 136,966, swine 153,671, while the auditor's report for 1906 shows 494,689 horses, 1,221,702 cattle, 481,226 sheep, and 373,460 head of swine, a decrease of 29,760 from 1903.

A comparison in detail of the entries for exhibition in the various departments of the Fair of 1885 with those of 1909 would be of great interest, but unfortunately the records of entries were not preserved. The records of the Secretary's office afford no data for such a comparison farther back than 1906. Even this comparison is exceedingly interesting, and is valuable in showing the wonderful agricultural progress made by the state, as reflected in the annual exhibitions, during the short period of four years.

ing year, 1909, the two on the grounds were generous appropriations by the legislature, one and the other for a stock

building completed and time last year, 1909, is a 48x80, two stories in verandas. It is the most grounds and is well modern exposition park. cial gatherings of ladies for musical and literary has already demonstrated

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF ENTRIES

	1906	1909
Total Speed Entries .....	39	183
Horses:		
Stallions .....	24	118
Brood Mares .....	8	35
By Breed they were divided as follows:		
Percherons .....	24	101
Clydesdales .....	4	10
Belgians .....	..	43
English Shires .....	..	29
Coachers .....	2	37
Grade Horses .....	..	9
Shetland Ponies .....	6	1
Jacks .....	2	6
Standard Bred .....	13	29
Driving .....	..	21
Saddle .....	..	4
Cattle: Total Horses .....	51	290
Shorthorns .....	49	74
Herefords .....	15	82
Galloways .....	10	5
Red Polls .....	17	27
Polled Durham .....	15	27
Holsteins .....	..	20
Jerseys .....	6	1
Aberdeen Angus .....	8	40
Sheep: Total Cattle .....	120	276
Shropshires .....	24	51
Cotswolds .....	..	10
Oxford Downs .....	..	20
Hampshires .....	1	1
Horn Dorsets .....	6	..
Angora Goats .....	13	13
Swine: Total Sheep .....	44	95
Herds .....	18	59
Poland China .....	38	92
Durocs .....	22	71
Chester Whites .....	12	33
Yorkshires .....	9	1
Berkshire .....	..	18
Total Swine .....	81	215
Exhibits in the Apiary Department .....	3	54
Exhibits in Dairy Department .....	..	45
Exhibits in Horticultural Department .....	209	356
Exhibits in Poultry Department .....	242	1,000
County Exhibits .....	2	13
Individual Agricultural Exhibits .....	162	253
Domestic Science, Cookery, Preserving Art, Needle and Fancy Work and Art .....	800	1,227

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE FAIR FROM 1894 TO 1909

1894 .....	\$8,899.71	1903 .....	7,335.15
1896 .....	6,237.70	1904 .....	8,751.54
1897 .....	6,547.97	1905 .....	12,263.00
1898 .....	5,527.25	1906 .....	15,978.47
1899 .....	6,109.25	1907 .....	22,392.95
1900 .....	4,623.34	1908 .....	26,046.79
1901 .....	5,848.50	1909 .....	43,217.47
1902 .....	7,359.75		

A PAYING INVESTMENT

For its investment of \$60,000 the state owns now improved real estate worth \$105,900, as follows:

Grounds, 85 acres within Huron city limits .....	\$20,000.00
One horse barn, 72x144, capacity 108 stalls .....	4,500.00
Three cattle barns, 72x144, capacity 416 head .....	12,000.00
Two sheep barns, 26x96, capacity 48 pens .....	1,400.00
Six swine barns, 26x96, capacity 124 pens .....	4,200.00
Four speed barns, 32x144, capacity 100 box stalls .....	4,000.00
Two speed barns, 24x96, capacity 50 box stalls .....	400.00
Track, Judges' Stand, Superintendent Speed Building....	3,300.00
Grand Stand, seating capacity 6,000 .....	8,000.00
Agricultural Hall, 160x16, built in form of cross with large dome in center .....	5,750.00
Horticultural Hall, 144x144 .....	4,000.00
Woman's Building, 48x80, two stories .....	8,500.00
Poultry Building, 48x96 .....	2,350.00
Dairy Building, 26x96 .....	1,250.00
Office Building .....	500.00
Two Artesian Wells .....	1,500.00
Plumbing .....	2,500.00
Closets, etc. ....	250.00
One Combination Stock Pavilion, 120x120, 72 stalls, seats 1,500 people .....	6,000.00
One custodian's residence and barn .....	1,350.00
One Creche .....	150.00
Other improvements, fencing, grading, wiring, planting trees, lawns, etc. ....	14,000.00
	<u>\$105,900.00</u>



Dairy Structure—This Place is Always Filled to Overflowing

incoming legislature the most pressing wants and the importance of holding its proud position in the van of state fairs.

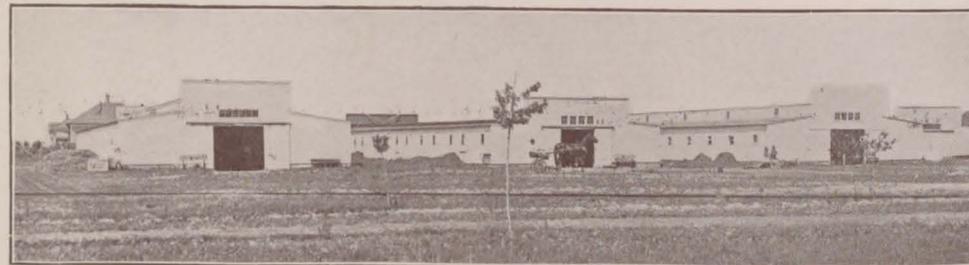
First: Modern sanitation is imperatively demanded both for an appearance creditable to the great state of South Dakota and for the protection of the health of the many thousands who visit the Fair. The cheap, temporary closets and open sinks, adopted as temporary expedients under stress of inability to provide anything better, are a reproach to the state and a menace to health. A liberal appropriation, with the "emergency clause" in the act, should be one of the first acts of the session. It should be sufficient to provide adequate sewerage for the entire grounds, connecting with the ample new sewer system being built by the city of Huron, which surrounds the grounds. It should also provide modern toilet rooms for the accommodation of the public, and traps for carrying off all surface water and kitchen and stable slops.

Another indispensable requisite to keeping the State Fair in pace with the growth of the state is a modern machinery hall, equipped with modern electric power plant, for the exhibition and demonstration of the vast aggregation of implements and agricultural machinery which manufacturers and dealers are striving already, without proper facilities, to show to our people. Space and power for driving their machinery, could be leased every year to the scores of exhibitors desirous of showing their goods to our people, to repay the original outlay in a few years, and it would afterwards be a perpetual source of revenue to the Fair. The power plant should be sufficient, in addition to the power needed in the hall to drive the dynamos for lighting the grounds and to furnish power for an adequate system of waterworks.

Another urgent need of the Fair is a modern steel and concrete grand stand for the speed ring. The present wooden stand is behind the age. The

## Fair Has Vindicated Itself

**T**HE South Dakota State Fair has vindicated its right to existence. From the humblest beginning, before the state of which it is a part was created, it has grown, in a quarter of a century to proportions which challenge the admiration of the entire northwest, and has, by its virility and its usefulness attained to a place in the front rank of state expositions. Its quick and ample response to a touch of fostering care by the state fully justifies the Board, whose members, being responsible for its management, have carefully studied its needs, in urging upon the



Part of the Quarters for Racing Horses

State Fair of Minnesota has a steel and cement grand stand erected at a cost of \$250,000, for which the state legislature appropriated \$200,000. The Iowa State Fair at Des Moines has a similar structure costing \$200,000, of which the state legislature appropriated \$100,000 from the public treasury. The South Dakota State Fair Board has never been lavish in the matter of expenditure, nor extravagant or unreasonable in its requests for financial assistance. It will present modest estimates for these improvements, which the progress of the Fair and its capacity to fulfill its function in the state's development demands. The legislature should consider them in a liberal spirit as an investment in an institution which has already "made good."

The act creating the Territorial Board of Agriculture appropriated \$5,000 for its equipment and support. For fifteen years there was an annual appropriation of \$3,000 toward the payment of premiums and expenses. The legislature of 1905-1907 appropriated in the aggregate \$60,000 for improvements. Of this amount, invested in betterments, \$44,952.89 has been returned to the Fair in the increased receipts of the three Fairs held since making over those of the most successful Fair held previous to that date. It is manifest by this that appropriations by the state for needed improvement and enlarged facilities, are not gifts nor money sunk, but are really wise investments to bring back direct returns in addition to the indirect benefits accruing to the whole state from the Fairs.

The Fair of 1910 is yet to be held. The opportunity this year is great beyond that of many former occasions. The season has been generally unpropitious throughout the country. The crops of South Dakota are far above the average and better than those of any adjoining state. The eyes of the whole country are upon the state. It is a good time to make a showing. The efforts of the Board have been, are, and will be commensurate with the opportunity. Everything has been provided for the greatest Fair in the state's history except the exhibits and the attendance. These two prime requisites of a successful Fair are beyond the reach of the Board. They depend upon the people of the state. Will the people rise to the occasion?



Secretary's Office—Where Business is Transacted



## EXPERIENCE OF OLD TIME COUNTY FAIRS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Its organic act gave the Territorial Board of Agriculture supervision of all county and district fairs. Its records disclose the holding of fifteen county and association fairs in the fall of 1886, within the limits of the present state of South Dakota. Of these all but six resulted in deficits ranging from \$17.80 up to \$1,700.

The following table shows the fairs held, the value of the grounds and property of the associations, the amount offered in premiums, and the financial result of the fair:

Name	Value of Property	Amt. Prem.	Deficit
Charles Mix County .....	\$200.00	\$301.50	\$250.00
Brown (Agricultural and Ind.) .....	1,500.00	904.85	1,000.00
Bon Homme County .....	2,000.00	324.25	900.00
Hughes County .....	2,500.00	593.00	908.00
Spink (Union) .....	1,020.00	982.00	.....
Brookings County .....	.....	307.70	.....
Brown County .....	.....	295.25	.....
Turner County .....	3,000.00	333.00	.....
Lake County .....	3,500.00	427.75	1,700.00
Grant County .....	250.00	385.00	150.00
Spink County .....	.....	588.50	195.00
Faulk County .....	.....	327.50	17.80
Minnehaha County .....	.....	1,591.95	.....
Lawrence County .....	4,000.00	1,148.50	500.00
Clark County .....	.....	340.00	.....
Sanborn County .....	300.00	513.25	372.00

If any county or district fairs were held during the three remaining years of territorial existence, the records have not been preserved.





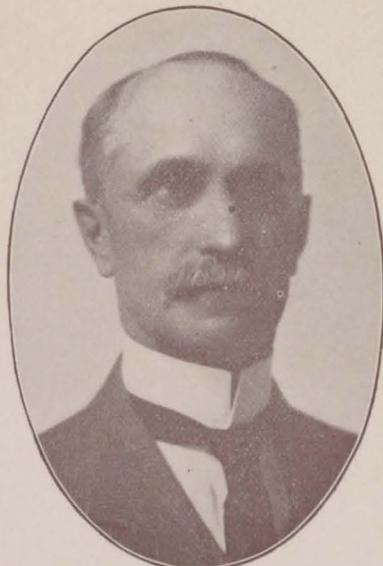
W. S. HILL, Alexandria  
Supt. Horses and Cattle

## Members of the State Fair Board

1910



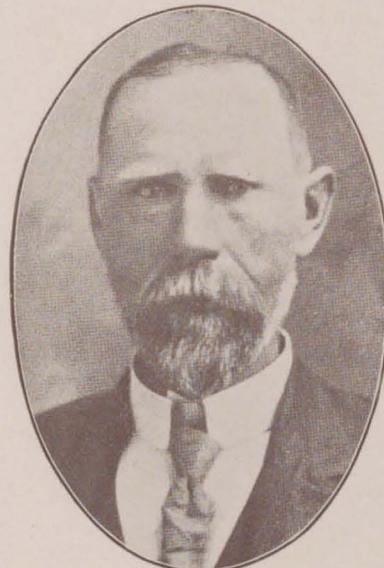
C. W. DEANE, Beresford  
Supt. Sheep and Swine



J. W. CAMPBELL, President, Huron  
Supt. Grounds and Machinery



C. N. McILVAINE, Huron  
Secretary



W. G. FAULKNER, Burkemere  
Supt. Gates and Tickets

## The South Dakota State Fair

HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA



ISAAC LINCOLN, Aberdeen  
New 1910 Member

## Superintendents of Departments

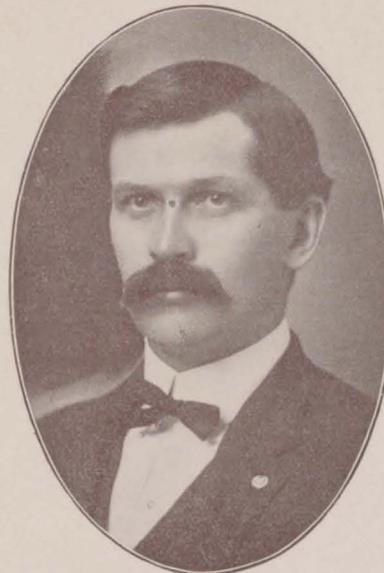
1910



A. E. CHAMBERLAIN, Brookings  
Supt. Boys' and Girls' Contest



MRS. A. D. TINSLEY, Sioux Falls  
Supt. Woman's Department



J. FRED OLANDER, Pierre  
Supt. Educational Dept.



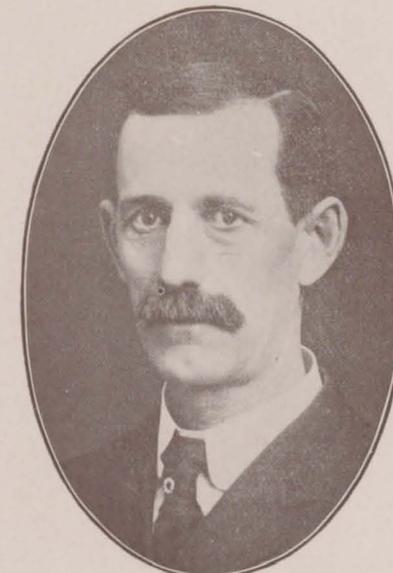
HUGH SMITH, Howard  
Supt. Speed



HENRY CLAUSSEN, Beresford  
Supt. Dairy Department

## The South Dakota State Fair

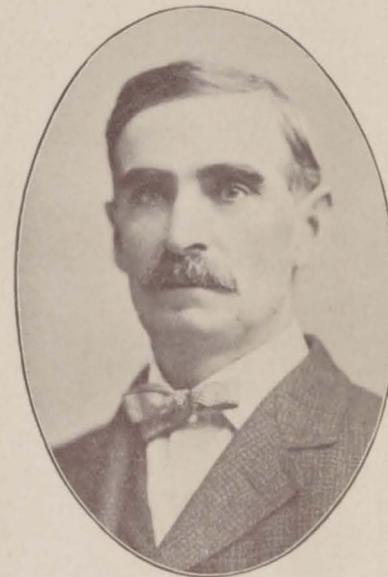
HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA



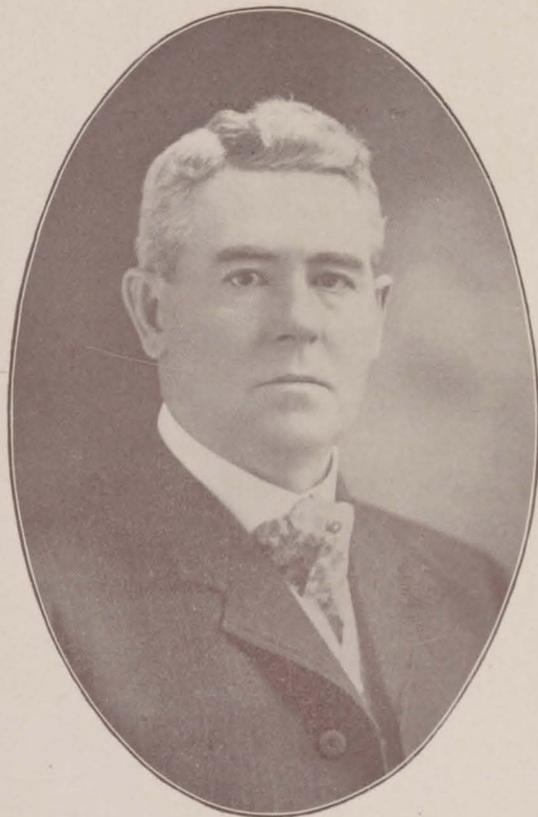
R. A. MORGAN, Vermillion  
Supt. Apiary



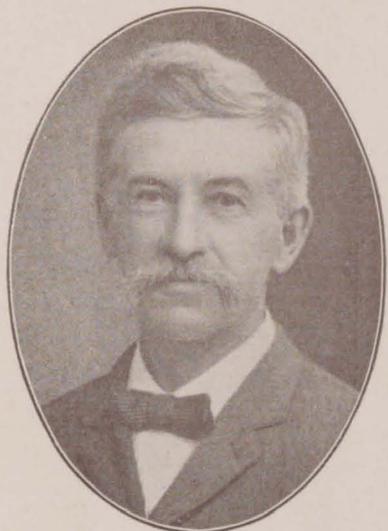
JOHN S. PYLE, Huron  
Superintendent of Concessions



J. C. HALL, Ordway  
Retiring Member



GOVERNOR R. S. VESSEY

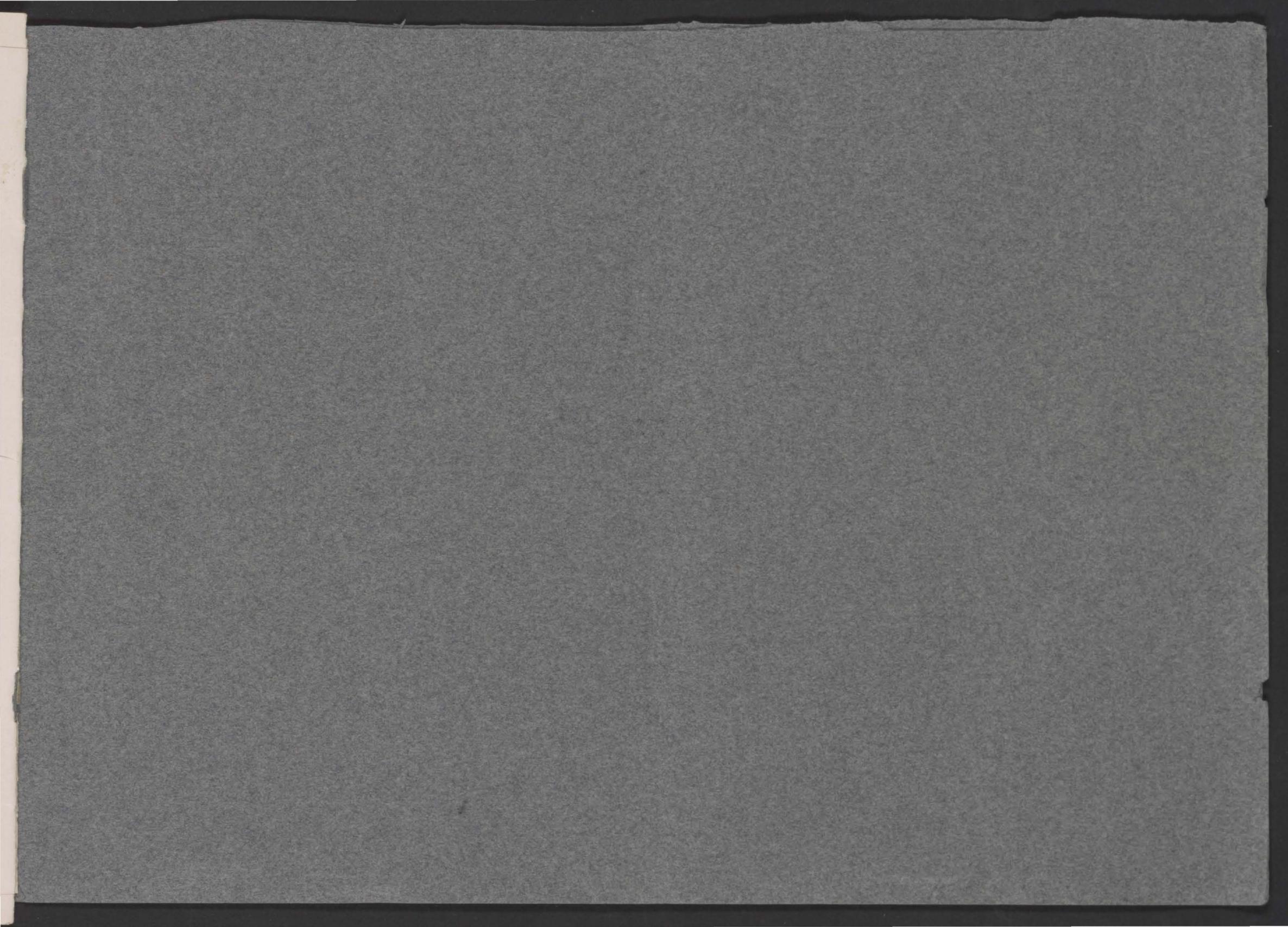


H. C. WARNER, Forestburg  
Superintendent of Horticulture



WM. SCALLIN, Mitchell  
Superintendent of Poultry

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