

State Fair Again—At Alton Ill., Sept. 30th,
Oct. 1st, 2d and 3d.

Something more on this subject may not be amiss.

Each Fair of the Illinois State Agricultural Society, has been better than the one preceeding it. The Fair at Chicago last year, got up while the society was but two years old, and with an empty treasury, was equal to any State Fair ever held, while it far exceeded those of many older and wealthier societies.

The Executive Board of our society is determined that there shall be no going backward in the coming Fair at Alton, which is intended to be a grand exposition of the labor and art, not only of Illinois, but of the whole Mississippi valley.

For our liberal premium lists of over \$7,000 is open to all, and we may expect the competition of the farmers, stock growers, mechanics and artists of neighboring States, with those of our town. The manufacturers of the two great cities, Chicago and St. Louis, will here be pitted against each other, and all will do their best, while Illinois stock growers will turn out to support their well-earned reputation.

Preparations are made on a grand scale for the proper exhibition of everything. The Fair Grounds, situated only one mile from the city and easy of access, comprise twenty-five acres of fine grove and open sod, abundantly watered by good spring and six wells. These grounds have been laid out, and the structures erected, under the direction of Mr. J. A. Miller—the Architect of the Alton Committee of arrangements—with great taste and judgement. The buildings are much larger and more commodious than usual; consisting first of an immense "Palace of Industry," built in the form of a cross the center being a rotunda 80 feet in diameter, with glazed sky-lights, (the Artists will like this) and tasteful arrangements throughout, for the exhibition of fine Arts. The main body of cross is 55 by 280 feet, including the rotunda, with the limbs large in proportion—the whole thus being equivalent to five ordinary structures of the kind. Besides this there are two substantial buildings, each 100 feet long, for heavy implements, textile fabrics &c.; and another building of the same length for motive power and machinery, with the society's tent for kitchen garden and dairy products. There are 250 stalls, for cattle, horses &c., of a much better character than usual—each being 8 by 12 feet; with 100 pens for sheep and swine, and abundant accommodations for poultry, &c. There also, a plenty of offices, a dining hall 50 by 200 feet with twelve refreshment stalls, &c., &c.

Ample provision is made for the feeding and lodging of visitors to the Fair. The hotels of the city, besides their own excellent accommodations, have provided several large steamboats, to be moored at the wharf in close proximity—the charge of all being fixed by agreement with the society. And then the people of Alton will throw open their doors;—while St. Louis is close at hand, and boats and Railroads will take visitors down at night, and return them in the morning, at prices which competition will make moderate.

Highly satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Railroads of Illinois. Visitors to the Fair are to be charged one way only, being passed back free, on having their Railroad tickets stamped by the Recording Secretary on the Fair grounds. Animals and articles for exhibition, go free both ways; in-freight being charged, but again refunded on the return of articles with our certificate.

It is also understood that steamboats on the Illinois and Mississippi rivers will carry at greatly reduced rates; though I am not informed of the terms of agreement made with them, by our Vice President, Col. Ross.

Let all come to this jubilee of Industry. Few if any, that do, will ever regret it. More can be learned here in four days, of the productions and resources of our glorious Prairie State and some of her sisters, than could be in a month spent in traveling.

JOHN A. KENNICOTT
Cor. Sec. Ill. State Ag. Society