

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR.

Success of the Fair—Floral Beauties— The Cattle and Horses—Grant, Logan and Grierson—Improvements at Chi- cago.

From Our Own Correspondent.

CHICAGO, Ill., Wednesday, Sept. 6, 1865.

The Illinois State Agricultural Fair is now under full headway in this city. It is located on the race course of the "Chicago Driving Park Association," about three miles south of the centre of the city. The exhibition is decidedly successful in all its departments. I shall not attempt anything like a full description, for the task would be a long one, and the space it would occupy would have to be counted by columns. Its general features are, of course, like all agricultural shows on a large scale. The entries are more numerous than on any previous occasion, and the general excellence of the articles on exhibition is worthy of remark.

Floral Hall, which is ninety feet by thirty-two, is the most attractive part of the exhibition in an esthetical point of view. The floral kingdom is well represented for this season of the year.

CATTLE.

Illinois abounds in fine stock, and the various herds are well represented. The premiums offered are liberal; but I suppose the advertisement which such an occasion constitutes is one of the principal inducements causing proprietors to exhibit.

Twelve premiums are offered for short horn bulls, and twelve for Devon cows and heifers. Two premiums for milch cows; eight for grades and crosses; five for fat cattle of any breed; four for work oxen and steers; six for herds of any breed; the first premium being \$100; and two premiums of \$50 for sweepstakes.

Hon. JOHN WENTWORTH, from his extensive plantation at Summit, in this county, makes a fine show of Durhams. D. A. GAGE, one of the proprietors of the Sherman House, is also on the ground with a fine assortment of short horns, from his suburban farm. The central counties of the State are represented by J. N. BROWN & SON, of Sangamon County; J. H. SPEARS, of Minard; J. HILL and J. H. PICKERELL of Macon; J. C. BONE, of Sangamon; also had much fine stock of various foreign breeds. The Insane Asylum at Jacksonville is represented by a very fine lot of Durhams, eighteen in number. The central counties of the State is the great stock-growing region of the West, and here the importation from abroad commenced many years ago and is still continued. There are also several herds of noble stock from Iowa, embracing Durhams, Devons and Herefords.

Several premium committees in this department made their awards to-day. The show of horses is fully equal to that of cattle, the number entered comprising specimens of the most noted lineage on the turf, including the *Messenger*, *Eclipse*, *Diomed*, and other bloods; while here and there could be seen the *Lexington*, *Mambrino*, *Timoleon* and others; and occasionally one could see the stoutly-built, burly Arden stock, the giants among horses.

Among the most prominent exhibitors are Messrs. DILLON & Co., of McLain County, whose entries comprise thirty-six fine draft horses of Norman extraction. Of these, *Little Giant*, a three-year old iron-gray stallion; a five-year old stallion, also gray, named *John Burt*; *Lady Margaret*, a beautiful Norman mare; and *Stephen Gilbert*, a ten-year old Arden horse, especially drew attention.

Messrs. BONTA & LAWRENCE, of Kentucky, have on exhibition a very fine thoroughbred bay stallion, of six years, named *Shakespeare*.

R. ROBINSON, of Niles, Ill., has on exhibition *Young Clydesdale*, a draught six year old dapple-gray stallion, of a remarkably solid appearance.

Besides these, there are a large number of blood horses of almost every stock in the country, some of them appearing remarkably fine.

The number of fine sheep is much larger than at any previous fair held in this State, and fully evinces the increased attention paid to the business of wool growing by land-holders. Sheep of an appraised value are quite numerous, and all the entries in this department are remarkable, both for appearance and the fine quality of their wool.

Among many other exhibitors, Messrs. FIELD & BINGHAM and WRIGHT, of Vermont, are perhaps the most extensive, their entries comprising a number of exceedingly fine specimens of Merinos and South-downs.

The number of fine-looking swine is truly remarkable, some of the best blooded stock in the country being on exhibition. Among the most prominent exhibitors are JOHN WENTWORTH, of Chicago, J. M. GRAHAM, of Champaign, and T. J. CROWDER & BRO., of Springfield, whose stock, consisting of Suffolks and Berkshires, attract universal admiration.

The department for implements and machinery generally, is better filled than I ever saw at any previous fair, East or West. It comprises a vast variety, especially of farm implements, which have been brought to great perfection and into extensive use in the West.

Farm products are here in abundance, though, of course, giving a very inadequate idea of the agricultural resources of our State.

Our leading Generals visited the fair yesterday, and drew away the attention of the multitude from the other departments of the exhibition.

About 4 o'clock, a carriage entered the grounds, in which were seated Lieut.-Gen. GRANT, Major-Gen. LOGAN, Major-Gen. GRIERSON, and several other notables. The superintendent of the grounds conducted the party around the track, finally driving up at the Judge's stand. Up to this time, the party had not been recognized by the spectators. At last the presence of the Lieutenant-General became whispered around, and the crowd ran from every direction toward the carriage. The General alighted, and ascended into the Judge's stand, where the crowd obtained a full view of him. Being called upon for a speech, he shook his head, and thereupon Gen. LOGAN addressed a few words to the multitude. He said they had all come there to see the fair and the trotting, and it was therefore not proper that any speaking should be done. The General was tired already from making speeches, and begged to be excused.

At the conclusion of Gen. LOGAN's remarks, loud cheers rent the air, and soon after the three Generals reentered their carriage, and left the grounds.

Gen. GRANT left last evening for Galena.

Our city is full of strangers and a larger number than in any previous year will visit the fair.

The city of Chicago has just entered upon another extensive and expensive improvement, having for its object the creation of a current in our river, and in this way cleanse it of its rank impurities.

The Board of Public Works held a meeting yesterday, and made the awards for the deepening of the Illinois and Michigan canal, through which the filthy water of the Chicago river is intended to flow, to be followed by the clear, blue water of Lake Michigan. The awards made yesterday were for the whole of the work, and were as follows: Messrs. HOSBROUCK and CONRO, of Milwaukee, 2,625,865 cubic yards of earth at 29 cents per yard, \$703,500 85. Messrs. LEDLIE, LOWELL and DENNISON, of New York State, 320,553 cubic yards of earth at 37 cents per yard, \$121,934 61; 364,996 cubic yards of rock at 98 cents per yard, \$357,696 08. The entire cost of the work will amount, according to these contracts, to \$1,183,131 54.

The distance to Lockport is about eighteen miles. At this point the "divide" is overcome, and the current flows into the Illinois. The plan recommended by the commission of engineers, and adopted by the Common Council, provides for the deepening of the canal between this city and a point three miles this side of Lockport, so that the waters of the lake will flow up the river into the canal, and finally be discharged into the Illinois River. At the present time the surface of the canal between the points mentioned is about eight feet above the level of the lake. When this excavation shall have been completed it is calculated that the current produced in the river will be at a rate of one mile per hour, and will prove sufficiently rapid to purge the channel of all impurities.