

WHY WAS OUR FAIR A FAILURE.

This is a question to which it may be well to give a little attention, now that the fact of the failure is fresh in the minds of all who attended it. That, as an exhibition of our agricultural or mechanical products, an advertisement of our agricultural or mechanical skill and capabilities, or an expression of the intelligent enterprise of our people, it was a miserable, contemptible, disgraceful failure, needs no demonstration. But why? Surely it was not the "hard times." There is no fee charged for entering articles or animals for exhibition, and the actual money outlay required to bring either from the most distant parts of our county is not worth estimating. The money cost of placing on exhibition samples of his crops, flocks and herds is not great enough to deter any well to do farmer in Centre county, if "the times" were even "harder" than they are. Was it because this is the "centennial" year? Shades of '76 defend us from the wrath of our people if we should insult their patriotism by admitting this! Certainly the great national anniversary which has brought us the homage of the world, should prompt us to do our best, instead of our worst. It cannot have been this. Was the management weak, negligent, inefficient? We think such a charge could scarcely be maintained. It is no disparagement to any of his predecessors to say that the society has never had a more faithful, untiring, or capable secretary than Mr. GEPHART, and we know whereof we speak, when we say that he has worked day and night for the success of the fair, without wages or reward, and almost without thanks. Chairman BEAVER, with Messrs. RISHEL, HUNTER and others of the Executive Committee, and that sturdy old veteran, SAMUEL GILLILAND, as a volunteer member, have spent much of valuable time and money too, in their untiring labors to have the grounds repaired and put in suitable condition and in completing the numerous and wearisome details of the preliminary arrangements.

In addition to all the ordinary work, a sub-committee appointed for the purpose, have published a monthly paper containing much matter of general interest to the farmer, but devoted mainly to giving information regarding the fair. This committee has put in days of conscientious hard work in the endeavor to make a paper acceptable to the farming community, and have distributed it throughout the county, free to all who would read it, even *prepaying the postage*.

A complaint was made that the Society devoted too much attention and money to the racing class of horses, and too little to those of the more useful classes. The Society at once struck the racing class from its list of premiums, and the executive committee added to the general stock premiums the amount of money usually expended in racing premiums.

In short, we believe that those charged with the management of the Society's affairs have, without exception, labored faithfully to promote all its interests, and we do not believe that it was because of official neglect that our fair advertised to any strangers who may have visited it, that in all things pertaining to agricultural enterprise, Centre county, the geographical centre of the Keystone State, and the seat of the State Agricultural College, is at least twenty years behind her sister counties.

That her exhibition was a most successful failure, we are compelled to admit, and for the reasons for this failure we must look to those who are responsible for it; namely the farmers, mechanics, manufacturers, housewives and all others who failed to appear as exhibitors.

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