

SPECIAL MESSAGE

OF

THE GOVERNOR OF IOWA

TRANSMITTING

Report of State Agricultural Society,

FOR THE YEAR 1875.

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SPECIAL MESSAGE.

STATE OF IOWA, }
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
DES MOINES, Feb. 8, 1876. }

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith for the consideration of the General Assembly the annual report of the Secretary of the State Agricultural Society. This document contains the mass of information usual with the reports of this officer, and is an interesting presentation of facts concerning the agricultural products and resources of the State. Of the value of these reports I need not speak; the series have been before the people too long to require any laudation. This report, it will be remembered, comprises the introductory part of the annual publication of the Society's proceedings, and is there accompanied with essays upon various topics of interest to the farmer. For the publication of this compilation, provision is made by law; but it has been the custom also to publish the Secretary's report proper at the same time as those of the institutions more directly under the control of the State, in order that its facts may be presented to the people at an earlier day, and in more convenient form than the full volume would offer. I suggest, therefore, that the General Assembly provide for the printing of an earlier edition of this document—say, the same number as of the other documents.

I also invite your attention to the suggestions of the Secretary in relation to the needs of the Society, and ask that the General Assembly consider the same in conjunction with the work the State Agricultural Society has done, and is calculating to do in the future, for the development of the material interests of the State.

SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To His Excellency, Hon. Samuel J. Kirkwood, Governor of Iowa:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1107, Code of 1873, the Board of Directors of the Iowa State Agricultural Society have the honor to present the following report, being a "General view of the condition of agriculture throughout the State" for the year 1875.

Hereto appended are the proceedings of the September meeting at Keokuk, and the January meeting at Des Moines; detailed reports of Treasurer and Secretary, showing financial operations during the year; reports of awarding committee of the twenty-second State Fair; abstracts and reports of the County and District Societies auxiliary to the State Society; valuable statistics relating to imports and exports; essays, and other papers which it is believed will form a volume of interest as illustrative of the condition of agriculture for the past year.

The year just closed was a period of abundance and general prosperity. None can review the fact, and, making a comprehensive estimate of the blessings that have been every where poured out, without the profoundest emotions of thankfulness to the Giver of every good and perfect gift. Iowa, indeed, seems a land especially blessed of God.

The harvest was such as to meet the the highest desire of the husbandman. Commerce was increased to immense proportions. General good health awaited the enjoyment of the needful fruits and products of the earth. Intelligent labor was rewarded, and skill and thrift added to utility, the means of luxury, culture and refinement kept pace with the progress of material wealth. Iowa homes were adorned, and cities and towns and villages and farms presented cheering proofs of an advanced condition of comfort and elegance.

Many thousands of the citizens of the old world have found new homes and associations on the broad acres of Iowa. These people will add to the productive capacity of the State. They will gradually grow into the forms of our civilization, and in due time become a part and parcel of the forces at work to achieve for Iowa a prouder destiny than fancy even dared imagine.

The past year but adds to the growing grandeur of the State. No step backward has been taken. The people have stamped improvement on time as it passed; and in every element the State is more worthy the pride and affection of her sons and daughters than ever before.

There have been, it may be stated, local disturbances, if not disasters, that have fallen here and there. But the areas were greatly circumscribed and produced no perceptible effect upon the sum total of good results. The winter was severe, and the summer was marked by a considerable apparent reduction of the ordinary temperature; yet the grass crop, perhaps the most important of all, when regarded in all its varied relations and uses, was above the average for several years past; and the crops of corn and wheat, the next in value, were nearly up to the ordinary standard. The "hateful grasshopper" did not accomplish so great damage as in former years on the western border. There were no wide-spread or devastating tornadoes, destroying property or life. There were no extensive floods, and losses from storms, or what is termed "unfavorable weather," were few and localized.

All kinds of farm stock, except hogs, escaped alarming epidemics; and the very perceptible increase of improved breeds of cattle, horses and swine, indicates that Iowa is a favored spot for investment in live stock.

It will further appear in the analysis of the condition of the principal products under their appropriate headings, that the year has been replete with successes and prosperity, and that none of our people have good cause for murmuring or repining.

CORN.

This is, and must continue to be, among the most valuable products of our soil. The comparative ease with which it may be raised, secured and marketed, makes it a staple article. Even when the area of tame grasses becomes much larger the crop of corn will not be diminished. In the older settled portions of the State, the necessity of restoring the losses to the soil by the exhaustive process of continuous corn crops, is already apparent. Rotation, direct fertilization and more careful culture have decreased the acreage and yet maintained the average product. The more newly occupied fields will soon require similar treatment, and corn while it will not be all the crop of the farm will yield its share of the treasures, besides the grass, wheat and oats.

The wet spring prevented the usual early planting; much of the seed rotted, making it necessary to replant, not only the second time, but the third in several of the counties. Much complaint is made of the seed. Worthless seed, in a large degree, depends upon the planter himself in not giving that care and attention in its selection and preservation, which ordinarily would prove a protection against loss and failure, the frosts of August 21, 22, and 23 were very damaging to the crop. These were preceded by several days of wet weather including deluging rains in September, the crop not being sufficiently advanced to overcome these unfavorable circumstances there is an increase in the yield, but a very great deficiency in the general quality, both as to weight and feeding qualities.

The amount of corn raised in the Union is enormous; in 1870 the crop harvested 760,944,549 bushels, and in 1865 estimated at 932,000,000 bushels, or an average of over twenty-six bushels to every soul in the land. Illinois gave the largest production, 130,000,000. Iowa took the second in rank with 69,000,000 bushels, and Missouri came next with 66,000,000 bushels. In 1874 the entire product was 854,000,000 bushels. These figures show what vast importance this crop has attained, and what immense quantities are annually consumed; but statistics force the conviction upon us that the average yield per acre compared with the maximum yield is very low, probably not more than one-third what the land might produce. The very highest average of any State in the Union was Kansas, with thirty-nine bushels per acre, and for the United States the average is twenty-four bushels. How insufficient these averages are may be considered from the fact that there are numerous well attested cases in which the yield has been from seventy to one hundred bushels per acre. We have the following sworn statements on record. In 1864 James Barker, of Scott county, raised on two acres 184 bushels, or 92 bushels per acre. His cultivation was as follows: Land, rolling prairie, facing the east; the ground was plowed about *one foot deep* in the spring, harrowed well and marked off in hills three by four feet apart; planted May 10th. As soon as it came up was well worked both ways with a double-shovel plow; after eight days worked again in the same manner; after ten days more plowed to the corn with a one-horse shovel plow. For premiums offered by this society on field crops by boys under sixteen years of age, in 1865, Harlan B. Quinton, of Lee county, was awarded the first premium for best one acre of corn, he having

harvested 116½ bushels. Rufus Lyman, of Pottawattamie county, received the second premium for 105 bushels to the acre. A. B. Lyman, of the same county, produced 111½ bushels. These statements are not only applicable to the corn crop, but to other cereals.

It may be said, perhaps, that these are instances of scientific farming; in reply it may be asked whether it is wise to sneer at any farming as scientific, that will produce two or three average crops from an acre of ground in one season? Experience teaches that the difference in a crop between careless and thorough cultivation is one-half. There is little doubt but that the great crop of Iowa could be raised on one-half the area, and with less cost if a more thorough mode of cultivation were practiced.

The present crop almost equals the magnificent yields of 1870 and 1872, and is at least a fourth greater than that of 1874. This would make the entire product 1,000,000,000 bushels; and but for the unusual early frosts and incessant wet weather the crop of the west would not only have astonished the world, but even the western planters themselves. The area planted in Iowa in 1874 was 4,700,176 acres; the increase the present year will make an aggregate of 5,000,000 acres; this at the same ratio of yield as the previous crop, would give the product of our State a grand total of 150,000,000 bushels, or a little over one-sixth of the entire production of the United States.

The decrease in price of nearly one-half, compared with this time one year ago, will not give to the producer as much money by nearly \$6,000,000 as the previous year's crop. This will prove a serious disaster to the farmer, affecting every branch of industry dependent upon the agriculturist for its support.

Reference to table of prices of corn hereto appended will afford further illustration:

	DECEMBER, 1871.	DECEMBER, 1872.	DECEMBER, 1873.	DECEMBER, 1874.	DECEMBER, 1875.
Price in New York.....	\$.30	\$.25	\$.62	\$.97	\$.74
Price in Chicago.....	.40	.31	.59	.71	.51
Price in Des Moines....	.21	.16	.33	.42	.25
Receipts at Chicago....	41,482,911	47,360,987	38,302,554	35,215,911	26,783,946

CONDENSED ITEMS OF THE CROPS.

Harrison county reports the average at 80 bushels per acre, and in many instances 100 bushels were produced; Mills county the yield from 40 to 90 bushels, but damaged in portions of the county by grass-

hoppers; Grundy yields from 30 to 60 bushels, half a crop and badly shrunk, and selling from twenty-five to forty-five cents; Allamakee reports half a crop, damaged by early frosts and rains; Appanoose and Chickasaw a third of a crop and very poor in quality; Delaware, crop damaged twenty per cent. by early frosts; Fayette, Iowa, Jasper, Johnson, and Marshall counties injured by early frosts; Howard county almost an entire failure from cool summer and early frosts; Keokuk and Lucas counties report three-fourths of a crop, by reason of wet weather; Mitchell, three-fifths of a crop, damaged by early frosts; Monona, one-fourth of a crop, damaged by incessant rains; Monroe, crop damaged by June and July rains and early frosts; Montgomery, damaged by grasshoppers. Northeastern District, crop injured by cut worms, and frost on night of August 21st. Osceola, one-fifth of the crop destroyed by grasshoppers; Page, reports losses by grasshoppers, and Winneshiek reports 2,000 acres badly damaged by the early frosts; Dubuque and Louisa counties report the average at 60 bushels per acre; Black Hawk and Boyer Valley District, report 55 bushels; twelve counties report the average at 50 bushels; eight at 45 bushels; eleven at 40 bushels; one at 36 bushels; six at thirty-five bushels; two at 32 bushels; nine at 30 bushels; two at 28 bushels; five at 25 bushels; three at 20 bushels; and Monroe county at 12 bushels. Two counties report the price at fifty cents per bushel, two at forty cents, five at thirty-five cents, fifteen at thirty cents, twenty at twenty-five cents, eight at twenty cents, and six at prices varying from twenty to fifty-five cents.

MOVEMENTS OF CORN BY RAIL IN 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, AND 1875.

RAILROADS.	BUSHEL 1871.	BUSHEL 1872.	BUSHEL 1873.	BUSHEL 1874.	BUSHEL 1875.
Burlington & Missouri Railway...	1,352,434	1,981,476	996,079	978,137	967,336
Illinois Central.....	101,480	261,120	19,970	189,400	967,336
Chicago & Northwestern.....	1,400,411	726,143	1,170,354	.....	.....
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy.....	1,055,101	353,349	637,620	637,620	.....
Milwaukee & St. Paul.....	10,180	560,346	6,614	9,422	.....
Keokuk & Des Moines Railway...	759,211	1,271,407	257,875	7,209	15,846
Dubuque Southwestern.....	60,000	63,000	3,700	.....	.....
Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific.....	5,189,095	3,364,464	1,791,375	3,112,499	.....
Sioux City & Pacific.....	125,808	87,493	153,501	116,947	169,344
Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minn.	1,141,865	292,097	840,048	1,739,639	.....
Central of Iowa.....	.....	353,150	394,800	856,050	.....
Totals.....	3,872,524	12,357,940	6,893,774	5,577,318	.....

* Received by the C. & B. Q. R. R. from B. & M.

† From Burlington, Iowa.

‡ Includes shipments from Nebraska—about one-third of this amount.

WHEAT.

The crop of the past year has been short in yield, and is of inferior quality. For the United States the crop of 1874 is nearly 310,000,000 bushels. The harvest of 1875 will show a decrease in the product of twenty *per cent.*, or in round numbers 62,000,000 bushels, and with the quality in consideration the result is not a flattering one to the producer.

In 1870 Iowa produced 29,435,692 bushels; in 1872, 32,437,836 bushels, in 1874 the area sown was 3,759,900 acres, producing 43,428,008 bushels, an increase in two years of 10,991,172 bushels. Assuming that there was no increase of area in the past year, and accepting as a basis the abstracts of the different counties reporting, and adopting the average yield per acre of the previous year, we have a product of only 37,759,900 bushels, or a decrease of nearly 6,000,000 bushels. Estimating it at the lowest cash price (fifty cents per bushel) we have a deficit of \$3,000,000.

These losses do not occur in our own State alone. But eight States in the Union are above the average; and while Iowa in 1874 was only four *per cent.* below the average, the decrease for the year closed is twenty-three *per cent.* Of the foreign countries Russia reports a general failure and is deprived of its expected harvest. France will be a competitor for foreign wheat as her crop has also been reported a failure. With a consumption of at least 200,000,000 bushels including seed, this leaves the United States with a product of 246,000,000 bushels, only 46,000,000 of the year's crop for export. Great Britain consumes 176,000,000 bushels annually, yet does not produce enough to feed her population; and while the United States and some of the European nations produce more grain than the population can consume, there is each year a surplus for export, and separated widely as we are, a good crop in either country tends to lower the prices materially, while on the other hand, a poor crop tends to raise the prices. The present prices of this cereal have no stability, and with the decrease over the whole region it remains to be seen what effect these exports will have on the market value of the crop before the close of another harvest.

To further illustrate this estimate, showing a decrease, the following wheat items are appended: Adams county, crop damaged by rains during blossoming time; Adair, by rains; Allamakee, injured by insects

and after harvest by wet weather while grain was in stack; Appanose, a failure by wet weather; Audubon, by grasshoppers and wet weather in June; Black Hawk, less in area than for several years and damaged by wet weather; Buchanan, twenty *per cent.* less in yield; Butler, crop badly injured from rains; the same of Boyer Valley District and Calhoun; Cedar, by insects, storms, and wet weather; Cerro Gordo and Cherokee, by rains; Chickasaw, by rains in harvest time; Clarke, almost a total failure from incessant rains; Crawford, by rains; Davis, not much sown but crop of good quality; Decatur, nearly a total failure from extreme wet weather; Delaware, thirty *per cent.* lost by insects and storms; Dickinson, Dubuque, Fayette, Floyd, and Franklin, slight damage by rains; Greene, by storms and wet weather; Hamilton and Hardin, by the same causes; Harrison, decrease in area and loss by rains; Henry, fall wheat an entire failure and spring damaged by chintz bugs; Ida and Iowa, injured by rains in harvest; Jasper, crop rejected in the Chicago market; Jefferson, damaged by heavy rains; Johnson, by rains before the grain had ripened; Jones, grades No. 2 and rejected; Keokuk, portions of county by hail storms; Louisa, fall wheat an entire failure and spring wheat damaged by rains; Lucas, by excessive rains; Lee, declining in area, by reason of the severe winters; Madison, severe losses by incessant rains; Mahaska, damaged by scab, and a large amount of wet weather; Marion, by rain; Marshall, crop blighted; Mills and Monona, by severe rains; Monroe, by insects and wet weather; Montgomery, by rains at time of maturing; Northeastern District, portion by wet weather, and others by chintz bugs; O'Brien, by rains; Osceola, by storms and grasshoppers; Page, by wet weather and grasshoppers; Polk, by cold and wet weather in spring time; Ringgold, nearly a total failure by the ravages of chintz bugs; Shelby, by grasshoppers; Union, from unfavorable weather; Van Buren, almost a complete failure from incessant rains; Wapello, sixty *per cent.* of a loss from wet weather; Wayne, almost an entire failure from the same cause; Winneshiek, ten *per cent.* better in quantity and quality than the previous crop, and Woodbury damaged by heavy rains.

It is gratifying that some of the counties reporting the destruction of crops in 1874 by grasshoppers, should in the past year present a showing in excess of any other counties. Of these Dickinson reports an average of twenty-five bushels; Emmet, twenty bushels; Humboldt, sixteen bushels, and Floyd, twenty bushels. A few items are appended further showing the condition of wheat. Two counties report the average at twenty-four bushels; one reports the average of fall wheat at

twenty-two bushels, and spring wheat at fourteen bushels; one reports eight to seventeen bushels; one reports nineteen and one-half bushels; one reports twenty bushels; two report eighteen bushels; two report sixteen bushels; nine report fifteen bushels; two report fourteen bushels; thirteen report twelve bushels; one reports eleven bushels; fifteen report ten bushels; one reports nine bushels; nine report eight bushels; one reports seven and one-half bushels; five report seven bushels; two report six bushels; five report five bushels; one reports three bushels; and one county an average of only two bushels, which in the previous year reported an average of eighteen bushels.

It is not encouraging to record this large deficiency in the wheat crop. But failures may teach valuable lessons, from which the intelligent and thinking may profit. They may teach a better system of cultivation, and enforce the necessity of a more diversified system of carrying on farm operations. Wheat, year after year, on the same soils, without exchange of seed, without fertilization, without judicious rotation with grasses, corn, etc., and without the added benefits and blessings of groves and orchards, without live stock and the appliances necessary to its profitable rearing, cannot but fail here as it has failed everywhere under similar treatment.

Again, it is conceded that the acreage may be decreased and the products not lessened. We have veritable examples in our own history. In 1860 D. B. Clarke, of Pottawattamie county, from two acres sown in wheat, raised eighty-nine bushels and fifty pounds. In 1873 Joseph Stuff, of Jefferson county, produced seventy-one bushels and four pounds of wheat from two acres.

Only a few years ago the distance from European markets, the interest in capital, cost of transportation, etc., were figured up against us, showing that we could not compete with the principal wheat-growers of Europe. Experience has proven otherwise. Our means of transportation have been improved; our production has become cheaper; distance has been shortened, and to-day we find our farmers competing with these growers in their own markets, and our breadstuffs have gained a permanent foothold in the principal markets of the world.

By a careful review of the abstracts of counties it will be seen that there is a wide difference as to the prices of cereals; and there is little reason to look for any marked improvement in values, either in this or foreign countries, until a large portion of the inferior wheat is consumed. Then will the producer be rewarded with remunerative prices, so that the increase will make up, in a degree, the deficiency in quantity.

THE TABLE APPENDED SHOWS THE MOVEMENT OF WHEAT BY RAIL FOR THE YEARS SPECIFIED.

RAILROADS.	BUSHEL IN 1870.	BUSHEL IN 1871.	BUSHEL IN 1872.	BUSHEL IN 1873.	BUSHEL IN 1874.	BUSHEL IN 1875.
Burlington & Missouri.....	607,120	775,008	567,172	2,441,708*	4,255,669	.....
Chicago & Northwestern.....	4,920,326	4,769,508	6,386,134	3,382,639	.....	3,139,036
Chicago, R. I. & Pacific.....	2,486,079	.....	2,246,329	3,031,017	3,165,008	4,553,150
Illinois Central.....	3,461,100	3,111,230	2,744,300	5,660,330	3,751,200	.....
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy	311,461	.....	161,895	380,953	653,897	.....
Minnesota & St. Paul.....	2,165,573	1,926,221	3,834,408	5,020,182	4,821,757	.....
Keokuk & Des Moines.....	625,293	616,805	694,490	1,410,802	804,114	707,846
Dubuque Southwestern.....	339,333	310,800	62,700	193,270	207,515	116,960
Sioux City & Pacific.....	195,007	242,158	569,912	1,307,316	1,120,308	1,276,923
Central of Iowa.....	.....	.....	657,700	1,408,400	1,403,138	1,224,100
Burlington, C. Rapids & M.	.....	.....	1,365,828	2,916,527	2,951,775	4,161,307
Chicago, Dubuque & M.....	.....	.....	.....	615,615	.....	.....
Chicago, Clinton & Dubuque	.....	.....	.....	276,045	.....	.....
Totals.....	16,311,842	11,783,579	19,322,877	28,644,769	23,132,479	.....

The receipts of wheat in Great Britain from the United States and Canada during the first ten months of 1875 were 43,550,000 bushels, and of flour, 4,836,578 hundred weight. The amount of wheat in the United States and Canada in sight on the 11th ult. was 16,585,389 of bushels, which New York alone had, in store and transit, 6,568,042 bushels.

CATTLE.

The prosperous condition of the department of cattle has ample cause of congratulation. Diseases, so destructive to them in foreign countries, and not entirely unknown in portions of our own domain, have not prevailed. In England and Wales half a million cases of foot and mouth disease are reported, resulting in a loss of \$1,000,000. Our herds are sound and healthy, and while we are comparatively free from epidemics now, would it not be well for our breeders to direct their attention towards the prevention of the introduction of these diseases, now so prevalent in foreign countries? Although these maladies may not be attended with fatal results, they would cause much annoyance and have a great tendency to lessen the interest in cattle raising that is so general among Iowa breeders.

* Received by the C. & B. Q. R. R. from B. & M.

† From Burlington, Iowa.

‡ About one-half from Nebraska.

§ About two-thirds from Nebraska.

The home demand for thoroughbred short-horns has been very large, and the prices paid greatly advanced. The number of breeders is steadily increasing. As men find themselves able they are gradually improving the general stock by infusion of good blood. The knowledge of the greater worth of improved breeds is not confined to the few, but is the property of many; and it seems only a question of a short time when the use of superior strains of animals boasting a pedigree, will be very general indeed.

The dairy farmers, whose profits during the year have been greater than the grain grower, have prosecuted their calling with increased vigor. Cheese dairies have returned satisfactory profits, and their success in future work will be still greater. It is also gratifying that increased attention is given to rearing dairy stock at home, as shown by the advanced prices of cows, and the liberal demand and fair prices of butter and cheese.

The records of thirty-two sales made in Canada, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, and Indiana will illustrate this idea, and place in permanent form the partial importations during the year:

The total number of females imported from these sales is 450, at a cost of \$132,579; and of males 65, at a cost of \$26,385, a total aggregate of \$158,964. Of these Muscatine county imported 144 females at a cost of \$64,115; twelve males at a cost of \$8,235. Polk county 22 females at \$9,775; four males at \$4,905. Union county two females at \$785. Dubuque county one female at \$290. Mahaska county six females at \$2,065; two males at \$395. Montgomery county ten females at \$2,090; two males at \$270. Linn county ten females at \$4,605; four males at \$580. Lee county two males at \$355. Jasper county seventeen females at \$11,205; three males at \$1,360. Marion county three females at \$470; one male at \$395. Humboldt county two females at \$360; three males at \$230. Lucas county three females at \$780; one male at \$140. Buchanan county ten females at \$4,225; one male at \$460. Johnson county eleven females at \$3,535; one male at \$100. Marshal county one male at \$400. Jefferson county one female at \$195. Harrison county one female at \$250. Poweshiek county twelve females at \$2,124; four males at \$525. Clarke county one female at \$240; one male at \$320. Mitchell county one male at \$110. Van Buren county two males at \$180. Dallas county one male at \$190. Franklin county one female at \$360. Story county four males at \$435. Benton county twenty-five females at \$11,600; one male at \$5,000. Henry county ten females at \$2,045; three males at \$465. Decatur county seven females

at \$1,205; three males at \$450. Floyd county two females at \$680. Tama county twenty-two females at \$4,625; four males at \$555. Cedar county four females at \$1,270, and two counties not named, twenty-two females at \$4,575, and two males at \$295.

When it is taken into consideration that there were no sales of herds in our own State in 1874, the following shows that very much has been accomplished, through the energetic labors of our own breeders in 1875. Reference is made to seven public sales, aggregating \$220,600, of which 472 are females at a cost to the purchasers of \$194,475; and 109 males at \$25,625. Of this number 49 females were exported to other States by which the sellers realized the sum of \$31,450; and six males exported, bringing \$2,050. The remainder of the animals were retained, and distributed through thirty-eight different counties of the State. Could the individual sales that have been made be added, the record would be such as to stimulate our pride and greatly encourage this interest. The highest price paid for any single animal, was a male at \$6,100, and a female, at \$4,000. A glance at the above figures shows a comparatively low average in prices of male animals. The farmer with moderate means could purchase an animal with an acceptable pedigree, and the investment would certainly pay the interest on the cost, to say nothing of the value in improving the character of the grades. For instance, we have 1,436,459 head of cattle according to census report; if all these were high crosses there would be added at least five dollars per head in their market value, giving in round numbers \$7,000,000 greater wealth to our State.

Increased interest is manifest in the improvement of Devons, Jerseys, Ayrshires, and Herefords. These breeds have especial points of excellence which have proper recognition in many quarters. The demand for them is very limited. Their rearing is confined to a few individuals; but as their advantages and superiority become more generally known, they will assume their proper rank among the cattle of the State. At the annual State Fairs Iowa's thoroughbred cattle are not shown, the display is not a just representation of the advanced state of progress in this department. Breeders are prone to enjoy their honors at home; but let it be hoped, their State pride will be sufficient motive to bring their stock and let the thousands of strangers in attendance carry home with them the best impressions as to the condition and ability of our State in this respect.

The following table shows the results of public sales of Short-Horns for the past five years in the United States and Canada:

YEAR.	No. of sales.	No. of head.	Amount paid.	Av. price.
1870.....	16	495	\$ 109,557	\$ 343
1871.....	15	497	117,911	280
1872.....	29	1014	317,256	313
1873.....	6	1893	982,799	528
1874.....	6	2676	1,051,953	390
Total.....	178	6445	\$ 2,618,579	406

The subjoined table shows movements of cattle through the sources named and for the years as specified:

RAILROADS.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.
B. & M.....	21,849	28,711	38,680	48,908	70,448	96,705	*167,048	83,142
C. R. I. & P.....	22,515	25,267	29,211	44,404	63,491	56,980	67,142	106,407
Illinois Central.....	4,521	8,206	12,761	10,583	11,382	9,248	7,290	18,538
C. & N. W.....	28,966	15,851	24,466	25,006	31,244	30,865	.....	.....
C. B. & Q.....	1,910	2,026	5,404	.....	2,024	1,135	126	.....
M. & St. Paul.....	1,839	4,331	2,321	9,686	1,297	1,134	.....	.....
K. & D. M.....	10,241	14,016	9,639	13,263	15,336	17,469	21,968	.....
D. & S. W.....	2,088	2,142	1,850	1,674	1,674	1,490	1,044	.....
S., C. & P.....	.....	1,264	1,527	2,791	2,117	1,867	2,953	.....
Central of Iowa.....	.....	.....	.....	1,569	12,512	8,946	13,780	.....
B., C. R. & M.....	.....	.....	.....	11,609	125,039	16,975	28,170	.....
C. D. & M.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,785	.....	.....	.....
C. C. & D.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	221	.....	.....	.....
Totals.....	82,821	90,141	29,253	100,184	200,437	356,417	279,365	.....

HOGS.

The general interest in the past few years to improve the breeds of this stock has been decisive, and it has attained a prominence that is gratifying to every one. Importations are of frequent occurrence, not only from other States but even from foreign countries. Could we present the figures of our exportations they would astonish even those who are especially engaged in the business. Enormous prices are paid for procreative animals, and while these sums have been paid by the enterprise of a few persons and breeders, these have received and deserve the highest eulogiums for the improvement and introduction of the fine blooded stock seen in our country. There are various breeds, but it is a matter of fact, that in our great hog growing region the

* Received by the C., B. & Q. R. R. from B. & M.
† From Burlington, Iowa.

‡ About one half from Nebraska.

Receipts of cattle at Chicago in 1873, 764,428; in 1874, 843,906; in 1875, 920,813. Increase 1874 of 79,877. Cash value of same, \$46,912,150.

Berkshire and the Poland-China have grown in favor, while the Chester Whites are not so popular as they were some years since, nor, as the merits of the best specimens seemed to deserve. During the past year Essex, Suffolk and Short-faced Lancashires* have been imported, and their merits will be fully tested by these breeders.

The disease known as hog cholera has been very destructive in many localities, and there is no remedy. There is an infinite variety of treatments recommended, but as yet all have failed in their mission to find a "cure." The destruction by this disease, especially of young stock, has had a marked effect on the total crop; and when it is considered that the medium of marketing our immense corn crop is largely through this channel, it is certainly of the highest importance that some effort should be made, even to the outlay of large sums of money, to discover a remedy to arrest that which is annually destroying hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of this valuable product.

Also, care should be taken with the young stock during the winter and spring months, as they suffer more, and depreciate in value more rapidly than at any other time. Provide comfortable quarters for them, an abundance of food, so that it can be fed regularly while it will do the most good; keep the stock growing, and the results can not but be highly satisfactory. The neglect of this rational plan of care is one of the principal causes of so much half fed stock being put upon our markets.

The following tables indicate the number of hogs carried east, and through the sources named; and when it is considered that these figures do not show what is exported in the shape of dressed hogs, lard, cured meats, etc., nor what is consumed at home, the entire product must be regarded as one contributing largely to the material prosperity of the State.

RAILROADS.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.
B. and M.....	144,886	182,943	187,380	215,969	240,226	*401,275	*611,429	*571,897
C. R. I. & P.....	131,944	125,965	136,131	.....	314,978	531,001	493,579	490,349
Illinois Central.....	19,329	42,437	35,328	56,392	62,191	98,898	86,598	106,407
C. and N. W.....	126,388	61,258	7,476	111,553	124,615	229,813	.....	.....
M. and St. Paul.....	4,768	10,613	70,639	5,095	17,577	18,645	11,530	.....
K. and D. M.....	146,367	11,078	122,059	105,745	174,535	135,401	167,432	8,250
D. S. W.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32,940	18,268	11,569	.....
S., C. & P.....	.....	.....	.....	4,201	11,296	17,499	16,900	15,511
Central of Iowa.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	59,850	30,100	61,900	72,912
B., C. R. & M.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	73,548	145,032	127,111	152,109
C. D. and M.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
C. C. and D.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals.....	424,771	568,583	501,463	542,933	1,032,476	1,679,117	1,587,520	.....

* Received by the C. B. & Q. R. R. from B. & M.

† Includes shipments from Nebraska, about one-half of this amount.

‡ From Burlington, Iowa.

Receipts at Chicago of hogs, 3,912,110, cash value, \$68,461,925.

The table appended shows the number of hogs packed in the various packing points in Iowa, during the winter season of 1874-75 and 1873-74, embracing the period between November 1st and March 1st:

	1874-75.	1873-74.		1874-75.	1873-74.
Annamora	500	1,000	Iowa City	2,500	2,150
Bellevue	450	400	Keokuk	72,000	62,280
Birmingham	None.	2,400	Lebanon	100	100
Bloomfield	1,300	1,300	Lyons	100	None.
Burlington	10,150	35,800	McGregor	1,600	600
Cedar Rapids	54,620	72,810	Manchester	None.	125
Clinton	601	100	Mount Pleasant	700	500
Conner	20,000	10,000	Muscatine	5,000	9,000
Decorah	10,000	6,000	Nesqueh	150	100
Des Moines	4,000	7,250	Oskaloosa	800	800
Dubuque	74,017	45,500	Patterson	35,000	6,500
East Des Moines	1,000	1,000	Peoria	100	100
Edgelyville	None.	3,280	Red Oak Junction	100	600
Farmington	5,679	8,720	Sabula	37,318	31,450
Fort Dodge	None.	400	Sidney	350	None.
Fort Madison	3,100	4,000	Sioux City	11,280	10,000
Glenwood	300	65	Waverly	2,000	1,000
Grinnell	200	200	West Point	500	1,000
Hamburg	3,900	600	Wilcox	150	500
			Winterset	500	800
Total				409,997	370,734

This showing of 1874-75 we have an increase of five packing houses, and an increase in number of hogs packed of 39,193. Pork packing has become one of the great industries of the State, and large quantities of cut and cured meats are exported annually. The facilities for carrying on this branch of business have been so greatly multiplied, the whole packing trade has been reduced to so perfect a system, that no particle of the animal is now wasted: all is economized either as food, or in the form of some commercial product. The business involves a heavy capital, gives employment to a great number of men, and as the future wealth of our State will come largely through stock growing every auxiliary should be put forth to secure the very best marketable breeds.

PACKING STATISTICS.

The following table exhibits a few of the important facts connected with the packing interests of Iowa for 1875, ending December 31st.

NAME OF PACKER.	Post-Office ad- dress.	Number of hogs killed.	Pounds of cured meats shipped.	Pounds of hams.	Barrels of meat or pork.	Pounds of lard per hog in pounds.	Gross cost.	Amount of wages paid.	Average net weight.	Number of men employed.	Best breeds for poses.	Amount paid for cooperation.	Where obtained.
T. M. Sinclair & Co. (1.)	Cedar Rapids	54,620	3,367,670	1,548,824	1383 Barrels	\$ 1,204,402 28	\$ 6.06	.....	153 Gross	Between 200 and 300	Berkshire.	.....	We make the greater portion.
T. M. Sinclair & Co. (2.)	Cedar Rapids	72,123	4,378,108	2,148,933	578 Barrels	\$ 1,460,005 20	\$ 6.81	.....	172 Gross	Between 200 and 300	Berkshire.	.....	Koosuk and vicinity.
George B. Smith & Paterson & Timber- man	.....	72,000	3,360,000	2,046,000	644 Barrels	\$ 1,100,000 30	\$ 6.55	857,000	200	235	Improved Berkshire.	\$ 35,000,000	Doque and Jackson town, Iowa.
P. G. Stiles	Sabula	37,622	4,051,520	1,088,096	256 Barrels	\$ 1,235,625 62 1/2	\$ 6.91	1,226,005	203	60	Mixed Poland China and Berkshire, or Chester White and Suffolk.	\$ 13,418 20	Doque and Jackson town, Iowa.
J. M. Tuttle	Des Moines	82,600	3,846,000	669,000	None	\$ 1,120,000 35	\$ 6.29	\$10,000	210	60	Berkshire 1st, Poland China 2nd.	\$ 12,000,000	from fold- ing, made in Iowa.
H. Nelly A. N. Cattermole C. N. Schaefer	Fort Madison	1,200 40 200	.....	.....	2 Cars.	.....	.....	.....	.....	225	White Suffolk each, lard shipped, each.	\$1,250 41.00 41.00	Fort Madison.

COMPARATIVE TABLE BY STATES.

The following tables exhibit, by States, for the seasons of 1874-75, and 1875-76 respectively, the number of bags packed, between November 1, and March 1, the average gross weight, average yield per head of land of all kinds, total product of land, the average price paid per hundred pounds gross, the aggregate cost, and the aggregate production of Mess, Prime Mess, Clear, and Rump Pork, together with the grand aggregates and general averages of the West in a period of five years.

STATES.	NUMBER OF HOES.	WEIGHT.		LARD.	PRICE.				BARBELED PORK, 1877-78.			
		Average Gross Wt.	Aggregate Gross Weight.		Total product of Lard, lbs.	Aggregate cost,		Prime Mess.		Clear.	Rump.	
						1874-75.	1875-76.	1874-75.	1875-76.			1874-75.	1875-76.
Ohio	871,286	207,667	276,617	241,737	47	40,606	30,511	35,495,729	\$9.50	\$14.50	\$10.50	4,644
Illinois	2,014,770	1,570,855	207,264	276,617	664,590	869	33,761	37,318	77,280,338	69,488,163	6,701,144	4,456,848
Indiana	660,467	290,224	255,711	255,711	101,430	107	34,751	33,257	20,725,810	21,105,827	6,554,878	11,107,529
Iowa	1,000,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	100,000	100	100,000	100,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Kansas	48,264	63,681	216,516	275,189	10,620,002	25,968	37,127	1,317,108	2,424,084	5,914,083	8,802,411	6,613,820
Michigan	93,579	256,840	261,754	267,031	85,253	478	28,253	28,253	7,625,699	7,625,699	7,625,699	7,625,699
Minnesota	31,150	291,620	282,222	282,222	7,141,065	37	268,98	476	20,735,712	20,735,712	20,735,712	20,735,712
Missouri	704,688	257,465	276,066	106,252	257	27,751	35,811	759,637	833,871	7,048,891	48,959	78,959
Nebraska	78,590	735,107	257,465	276,066	106,252	257	27,751	35,811	759,637	833,871	7,048,891	48,959
North Dakota	20,322	21,662	215,368	244,625	5,724,321	132,267	33,814	759,637	833,871	7,048,891	48,959	78,959
Tennessee	7,220	251,303	258,327	258,327	2,216,500	301	30,812	254,600	28,175	1,603,533	44,536	148,473
West Virginia	288,520	251,303	258,327	258,327	74,000	200	20,000	132,000	1,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Pittsburg, Pa.	4,000	10,000	250	250	1,000	25	25	132,000	132,000	132,000	132,000	132,000
Atlanta, Ga.	4,000	10,000	250	250	1,000	25	25	132,000	132,000	132,000	132,000	132,000
Totals	5,537,124	5,383,810	292,475	298,229	1,438,354	910	34,061	35,292	103,432,170	\$10.65	\$16.00	\$11.85
Grand Totals—												
1874-75	5,537,124	5,383,810	292,475	298,229	1,438,354	910	34,061	35,292	103,432,170	605,095	96,770,450	\$63,370,329
1875-76	5,537,124	5,383,810	292,475	298,229	1,438,354	910	34,061	35,292	103,432,170	605,095	96,770,450	\$63,370,329
1876-77	5,537,124	5,383,810	292,475	298,229	1,438,354	910	34,061	35,292	103,432,170	605,095	96,770,450	\$63,370,329
1877-78	5,537,124	5,383,810	292,475	298,229	1,438,354	910	34,061	35,292	103,432,170	605,095	96,770,450	\$63,370,329
1878-79	5,537,124	5,383,810	292,475	298,229	1,438,354	910	34,061	35,292	103,432,170	605,095	96,770,450	\$63,370,329

OATS.

The general condition of this crop, in June, was one of unusual thrift, and promised an extraordinary yield. In portions of the State that promise has been fulfilled. It was secured in good condition and is superior in quality. In other portions vast quantities of the magnificent crop were blown down by the wind storms, and in this condition were greatly damaged by repeated deluging rains during the period of its ripening and securing, reducing the prospective yield about seven per cent. of the whole.

The area in this cereal is nearly 1,000,000 acres, which yielded 35,000,000 bushels, adding to our wealth not less than \$9,000,000, for the grain alone; to say nothing of the varied, economic uses of the straw. Twenty-two counties report damages and much loss by storms and wet weather, and four counties report injuries from the grasshoppers. Dickinson and Floyd counties report the average at seventy bushels per acre; Buena Vista and Cherokee, from thirty to sixty bushels; three at sixty bushels; Jones, from forty to sixty bushels; Grundy, from forty to seventy-five bushels; fourteen counties report the average at fifty bushels; twelve report forty-five bushels; sixteen report forty bushels; seven report thirty-five bushels; five report thirty bushels, and seven report from twenty-five to forty-two bushels. Four counties report the price at thirty-five cents, and but one above this price; fourteen report thirty cents; twenty-six report twenty-five cents, and fifteen report twenty cents.

Rye, barley, buckwheat and flax have never occupied a prominent position with our agriculturists, being chiefly grown for home consumption, but in the aggregate they add very materially to our wealth. Thus, in 1874 the State's product of rye was 430,652 bushels; of barley, 3,468,008 bushels, and of buckwheat, 170,577 bushels. These, at a fair market valuation, would reach in value \$2,323,641.

POTATOES.

The potato is regarded as an indispensable farm product. Next to corn, from the facility of making, securing and marketing the crop, it enters largely into the sources of revenue of the farm. To illustrate its value, its increasing importance and demand, the following figures are appended:

The first appearance of the crop in the United States census was in 1840, when the yield was reported at 108,298,060 bushels; in 1860 the

yield was 103,990,224 bushels, of which Iowa produced only, including sweet potatoes, 282,363 bushels; in 1870 the entire product was 165,047,297 bushels, and of this quantity our State is credited with 5,648,912 bushels, or an increase in ten years of 5,666,649 bushels; in 1874, 78,617 acres were planted in Iowa, yielding 7,590,040 bushels, an increase in four years of 1,923,390 bushels. Although the present crop sustained severe damage where planted on low lands, from the continuous wet weather, and was injured by early frosts, yet it was of unprecedented yield, and the quality was very superior. Increasing the area planted to 80,000 acres as the past year's cultivation, the yield will reach the enormous sum of 10,000,000 bushels; an increase over the previous year of nearly 2,500,000 bushels, increasing the revenue of the agriculturists \$2,250,000.

To further illustrate, the following items are appended from various sources:

Louisa county reports the average at 400 bushels per acre; Ida at 350 bushels; Buena Vista from 100 to 200 bushels per acre; Grundy from 25 to 100 bushels; four counties report the average at 300 bushels; three at 250 bushels; one at 180 bushels; and one at 175 bushels; eleven counties report the average at 200 bushels; eleven report the average at 150 bushels; ten report the average at 100 bushels; three report 125 bushels, and ten counties at various averages from 45 to 130 bushels.

The reported injuries from the Colorado beetle and grasshoppers have been very light in comparison with other years. No apprehensions are felt for an invasion of grasshoppers in 1876.

The present heavy crop will pay a fair profit even at twenty cents per bushel, and at the Chicago price, forty cents, will leave an inside margin for freights and commission. There are various ways in which the crop can be economically used. In many localities a good portion of it is converted into starch, and proves remunerative to the farmer and manufacturer. Potatoes form a valuable food for all farm stock, and as they have sometimes formed a considerable item of export, it might be wise to take due care of the present supply which may be in good demand before another crop is raised.

The following is a partial statement of the amount exported:

Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway.....	1,086,325 pounds.
Keokuk & Des Moines Railway.....	8,062,980 pounds.
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, from B. & M.....	3,818,690 pounds.
Central Railroad of Iowa.....	1,281,000 pounds.
Illinois Central Railway.....	1,959,800 pounds.

ARTIFICIAL GROVES OF TIMBER.

The census of Iowa in 1863 returns 8,360 acres of timber planted; in 1865, 20,285 acres; in 1874, 46,007 acres, an increase in nine years of 25,772 acres planted; or about one-fifth of the entire amount of our native timber. This is a gratifying result and shows that our farmers are awake to the necessity, and value of artificial groves; and, more especially, when the rapidity with which not only our own forests but those of other States are being swept away, is taken into consideration.

It is estimated that we have, in the United States, of standing pine timber 320,000,000,000 feet: and although the figures would seem to indicate an inexhaustible supply, yet it would only require a few years to diminish this amount to such an extent that the available lumber will cost treble what it does now, so great is the destruction of these fine forests. There are various reasons for this; among them, the unusual demand of the past year; the fear of loss by fire, and the burning of timber; the idleness of an enormous capital invested in mills, machinery, etc.; the dependence of thousands of persons upon this product for an existence; the commercial greed, and a short sighted economic policy.

The great want then is, to profit by the teaching of experience and provide for future demands; and not only for the future, but our fields and orchards demand these trees now to protect them from the severity of our winters; our flocks and herds need and deserve them; and our vast prairies send up their petitions for groves to beautify and give them salubrity.

The increased attention given this subject,—the effort to provide for the future; and the practical working of the exemption laws are illustrated by reports from the following counties:

Harrison exempts artificial groves and fruit trees to the amount of \$55,513; Grundy \$100,000 of its valuation; Cass \$96,321; Story \$104,147; Ringgold, fruit and forests \$34,868; Hardin \$88,624; Black Hawk in timber \$125,073; Dickinson in timber \$100,000; Howard 526 acres of

fruit and forests at \$40,000; Iowa 572 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of fruit trees, and 251 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of forests, amounting to \$75,787; Madison 515 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of forests at \$51,525, and 1152 acres of fruit trees at \$57,600; Greene \$38,062; Butler reports 3496 acres of timber planted, and Shelby at \$21,600, or an actual tax exemption of \$432. Total amount as exempted of the above counties; \$989,120. Could we append the total aggregate it would form no mean item of what Iowa is doing in this direction.

To further encourage this important interest, this Society in 1870, offered a premium of one thousand dollars, for the best ten acres of artificial timber payable in 1881; also a premium of two hundred and fifty dollars, payable in 1878, for the best five acres of orchard. For the one thousand dollar premium there are four competitors and for the orchard premium two competitors. An annual report is required of the competitors, setting forth the history of the grove and orchard, giving all the facts connected with the growth and cultivation. These have been complied with up to the present time. These reports promise to be a valuable acquisition to our collected experiences.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT SOCIETIES.

Eighty-six of these organizations have submitted their reports on the condition of agriculture in their several counties for the year 1875. Five new societies have been organized, and seven heretofore on the records have failed to report.

In too many instances, these official reports are made without any just appreciation of their value and importance; complaints are frequent that the Secretaries have not time to neglect their own personal business to attend to this, and we hope some plan will be adopted by which they will receive compensation for their services. They are required by law to report upon the condition of agriculture under penalty if neglected. Let the law also provide that they shall receive a certain percent of the State appropriation in lieu of the total amount being paid to the Society which they represent.

The following comparative table shows number of Societies reporting, number of members, receipts, amount paid in premiums, and indebtedness, for the years named.

	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.
No. of Societies Reporting	45	58	65	72	82	89	92	88	86
No. of Members	21,323	21,638	24,073	26,907	34,685	31,065	29,961	23,975	20,101
Receipts from all sources	\$23,477	\$52,470	\$65,209	\$76,139	\$120,370	\$90,447	\$88,324	\$102,294	\$106,581
Paid in Premiums	18,180	33,990	39,573	58,334	67,697	73,535	70,639	77,836	75,934

Reported indebtedness of the Societies, \$62,114; showing a decrease of the debt of nearly \$8,000 from the year 1874.

Referring to the abstract, showing the financial condition of these numerous organizations, it is gratifying to note among many of them evident signs of prosperity, while others exhibit lack of interest, and present lamentable tokens of decay.

From a careful comparison of the several reports within the past few years, it is obvious that a manifest interest is being maintained in the annual exhibition of these societies; also a general desire, in the larger societies at least, for a more thorough system of conducting them, and a greater degree of solicitude in the arrangement and conveniences for the comfort of exhibitors, and the care of stock, the household, the farm products, and the arts and industries of the country.

The offering of more liberal prizes at the annual Fair, has awakened a healthy spirit of competition and rivalry, and through their instrumentality has been affected in a great degree the improvement of the stock of the State.

The annual Fairs are doing a good and noble work, giving opportunity for comparing experiences, for the interchange of thought, and for preparing our young men for a better and more successful prosecution of an advancing agriculture, and therefore they should receive active aid and encouragement.

TABLE

Showing names of Officers for each year of the Iowa State Agricultural Society. Time and place of holding every Fair, and receipts.

YEAR.	PRESIDENT.	VICE-PRESIDENT.	SECRETARY.	TREASURER.	LOCATION.	TIME.	RECEIPTS.
1851	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 25, 26, 27	5,000
1852	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 10, 11, 12	5,000
1853	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	3,002
1854	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	3,002
1855	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1856	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1857	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1858	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1859	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1860	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1861	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1862	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1863	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1864	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1865	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1866	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1867	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1868	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1869	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1870	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1871	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1872	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1873	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1874	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818
1875	Thomas W. Claggett	D. P. Inskeep	J. M. Shaffer	W. H. Campbell	Valparaiso	October 8, 9, 10	2,818

THE SOCIETY'S EXHIBITION IN 1875.

The Twenty-Second Annual Exhibition was held on the grounds of the Union Agricultural and Stock Association near the City of Keokuk, September 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, and October 1st. The attractive Fair of the previous year had not been forgotten and ample arrangements were made for an unparalleled display of the resources of the country than had yet been attempted. Everything was in superb order for the comfort of exhibitors and visitors. Everything looked propitious; the members of the Board were united in all that pertained to its success. The local committee ever ready to acquiesce in all the requests and demands made by the Board; even more, the liberality of the citizens of Keokuk in caring for the immense concourse of people expected, the auspicious opening of the Fair; all these combined gave cheering promise of the ultimate success.

A review of the whole arrangement on the third morning of the Fair was highly satisfactory and encouraging. Fruit and floral halls were well filled and tastefully arranged. Fine Art Hall, with its almost unnumbered articles of utility, value and beauty, was crowded. The grain and vegetable hall was never more worthily filled, and it was truthfully said that a better exhibition had never been witnessed in the State, and it might be said on the Continent. All the several departments of household industry were remarkably well represented. The women first decorated the halls, festooning them with evergreens and adorning them with flowers and works of beauty; and then from their storehouses, brought forth a host of useful and attractive articles to fill them, and excite the admiration of every exhibitor. Too much can not be said in praise of the industry, the skill, and good taste of the women who patronize the Fair, and make it the exponent of their best achievements in the arts of the household, kitchen, pantry and parlor. Mechanical hall was well filled with specimens of skill; the display of agricultural implements and machinery, though not as great in numbers as the previous year, was unsurpassed in quality. The cattle shown were of the best herds in the country; and while there was a decrease in numbers of entries from the Fair of 1874, the exhibition was far superior. Sheep and hogs were well represented, particularly the latter, the display of which was most liberal in quantity and most excellent in breeds; and in fact, everything that constitutes a State Fair and makes it a benefit to the public was presented. But contrary to all expectations, and the cheering hopes of the third day,

Thursday morning, the fourth day, which is commonly regarded as the particular occasion for the general attendance of the people, a terrible rain storm began causing anxiety and even a shade of sadness to pervade every exhibitor, visitor and manager of the Fair. This anxiety and this sadness were intensified, from the fact that last year the Fair resulted in a heavy loss from a like calamity, and it was hoped that the Fair of 1875 in its receipts would make up the deficiency. But the uninterrupted rain of Thursday dispelled this hope; whole trains of cars loaded with people, at a distance in the early morning, arrived, and their occupants hardly left the levee. The citizens of Keokuk who had been timely prepared by the proclamation of the mayor, were ready to suspend their business, close their doors, and make a grand gala day for themselves, their employees, and their families. The city was ready to come out *en masse*; but none were so bold as to face the terrific rains that fell that day; and the consequence was a deficiency in the contemplated receipts of not less than \$7000. This, as will be seen by the treasurer's report, reduced the Society to the point of bankruptcy. Premiums and other expenses remain unpaid, and all this the result of a single day's unpropitious weather. The income of the Society, depending as it does upon the receipts of the Fair, and which are variable and uncertain, while its expenses are incapable of much reduction, its financial condition is now as in the past a matter of anxious concern to its officers and members.

In order that this Society may still continue in the good work it has already achieved, (and its beneficial influences can be seen on every hand) it should have ample pecuniary resources, and a numerous body of earnest working members and supporters.

THE TABLE APPENDED SHOWS THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES IN THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS FOR THE YEARS NAMED:

ENTRIES.	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875
Cattle.....	145	160	146	125	81	74	67	78	91	105	129	167	244	333	249	236	299	236	242	299
Horses.....	182	196	179	150	120	150	217	176	188	149	278	247	558	218	284	344	344	344	344	344
Mules.....	22	10	33	37	23	85	23	30	12	11	34	34	50	46	35	33	23	23	23	23
Sheep.....	27	19	26	38	47	52	44	27	118	138	81	112	145	149	121	150	48	48	48	48
Swine.....	113	80	25	25	126	181	221	225	378	428	438	448	448	448	448	448	448	448	448	448
Implement.....	109	192	130	190	128	100	131	139	251	222	418	338	703	758	530	899	708	708	708	708
Farm products.....	216	414	475	673	487	393	489	549	709	695	1291	1901	1679	1410	2136	2790	2498	2498	2498	2498
Other classes.....	885	1069	1044	1209	1107	1032	1279	1334	1790	1594	2348	3807	4082	3447	4105	5337	4335	4335	4335	4335
Totals.....	885	1069	1044	1209	1107	1032	1279	1334	1790	1594	2348	3807	4082	3447	4105	5337	4335	4335	4335	4335

Showing a decrease of 982 entries from the preceding year. In comparison the greatest decrease is in entries of sheep and swine.

The following schedule shows receipts, amounts paid in premiums, on percentage of receipts, and premiums for the years named:

RECEIPTS.

1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.
\$8,052	\$8,054	\$2,813	\$2,116	\$3,721	\$2,053	\$1,454	\$7,877	\$8,522	\$8,522
1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	
\$9,527	\$7,132	\$12,075	\$11,287	\$19,164	\$18,091	\$17,394	\$15,286	\$12,624	

PAID IN PREMIUMS FOR SAME YEARS.

1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.
\$1,384	\$1,679	\$1,612	\$1,032	\$2,307	\$2,053	\$3,988	\$3,349	\$4,183	
1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	
\$3,947	\$1,810	\$5,475	\$7,012	\$6,898	\$9,553	\$9,097	\$10,406		

The competition of other States resulted in the following distribution of premiums, and shows that our people are not unmindful of the good results arising from the annual Fairs: Iowa received \$5,062; Illinois, \$2,024; Missouri, \$946; Kentucky, \$41; Wisconsin, \$10; Ohio, \$10; Pennsylvania, \$10; Massachusetts, \$10; New York, \$2; Canada, \$335. Total to other States, \$9,388. In addition, the sum of four hundred dollars was paid by the society to the Horticultural Society towards payment of premiums in that department, and which is not included in the above amounts. Other States represented: Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Michigan, Louisiana and Indiana—in all sixteen States.

PER CENT OF PREMIUMS PAID.

1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.
.50	.55	.32	.47	.40	.50	.51	.31	.42	
1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	
.34	.52	.40	.62	.36	.50	.52	.62		

The following table exhibits distribution of premiums in Iowa by counties for the years 1873, 1874 and 1875. In addition to those awarded premiums the counties of Clarke, Cedar, Cass, Dubuque, Fayette, Jasper, Keokuk, Mitchell, Page and Wapello were represented in the entry book—in all, forty counties, or an increase of two over the preceding Fair:

COUNTIES.	1873.	1874.	1875.	COUNTIES.	1873.	1874.	1875.
Appanoose.....	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 8.00	Jefferson.....	\$ 482.00	659.00	\$ 429.00
Benton.....	225.00	151.00	15.00	Johnson.....	296.00	\$ 188.00	94.00
Buchanan.....	15.00	2.00	50.00	Jasper.....	115.00	100.00	.....
Burlington.....	21.00	.....	.....	Keokuk.....	110.00	185.00	.....
Bremer.....	3.00	.....	.....	Lama.....	16.00	27.00	98.00
Boone.....	25.00	.....	.....	Linn.....	1,204.00	14.00	79.00
Black Hawk.....	318.00	5.00	138.00	Lee.....	115.00	2,173.00	1,665.00
Cerro Gordo.....	.....	.....	50.00	Lucas.....	50.00	.....	38.00
Clarke.....	40.00	375.00	231.00	Mahaska.....	667.00	841.00	518.00
Crawford.....	.....	.....	.....	Marshall.....	401.00	.....	.....
Cherokee.....	4.00	.....	.....	Muscatine.....	415.00	278.00	209.00
CClinton.....	258.00	.....	30.00	Marion.....	53.00	50.00	45.00
Cedar.....	209.00	80.00	.....	Mills.....	15.00	.....	.....
Delaware.....	185.00	.....	14.00	Monona.....	1.00	.....	.....
Dallas.....	50.00	.....	10.00	Monroe.....	.....	.....	20.00
Davis.....	.....	25.00	3.00	Polk.....	406.00	175.00	234.00
DeWitt.....	192.00	.....	.....	Pottawattamie.....	48.00	.....	.....
Des Moines.....	116.00	155.00	138.00	Scott.....	216.00	322.00	37.00
Franklin.....	30.00	.....	.....	Story.....	122.00	40.00	10.00
Floyd.....	.....	.....	.....	Tioga.....	3.00	.....	.....
Hardin.....	119.00	.....	.....	Van Buren.....	101.00	275.00	128.00
Henry.....	45.00	89.00	155.00	Washington.....	101.00	135.00	71.00
Howard.....	10.00	.....	.....	Webster.....	.....	5.00	.....
Harrison.....	9.00	.....	.....	Wapello.....	119.00	85.00	.....
Iowa.....	57.00	.....	.....	Warren.....	.....	100.00	75.00
Jones.....	205.00	233.00	225.00	Winnebago.....	.....	10.00	.....
Jackson.....	57.00	.....	.....	Woodbury.....	275.00	.....	.....

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Iowa.

The Board of Directors of this Society most respectfully beg leave to present for your consideration the following memorial:

They ask for it that attention and respect, which the over-shadowing importance of the subject demands, and they profess themselves ready, as the representatives of this Society, to present the claims herein set forth, in such a form as your honorable body may see fit to direct.

FIRST.—They claim that our State is, and must continue to be, at least for many years, mainly an agricultural people; our mines and ores are only subsidiary to the products of the field. Our manufactures are but in their infancy, and failures, disappointments, and losses must precede the day when the manufacturer and producer shall be brought face to face, and the State shall be independent of the looms, factories, machinery, and the skilled labor of other parts of the world.

The Society which we have the honor to represent was organized in

1854. Without aid from the State, it completed the first two years of its existence. From 1856 to 1872 the State besides publishing its annual reports, contributed \$2,000.00 annually to the Directory to enable it to accomplish its purpose. In 1873, the legislature under a mistaken notion of economy, reduced the appropriation to \$1,000.00, and at the special session which adopted the revision of 1873, this was taken away and the State Society was left to depend upon its own resources, not for usefulness only, but for a bare existence. Your memorialists conceive that the act of the previous legislation utterly depriving the State Society of any appropriations, was passed without due consideration.

The large majority of that body was made up of farmers, and it is natural to suppose, that they would not deny to their constituency engaged in the same pursuit so small a pittance as \$1,000.00 per year.

SECOND.—As far as your memorialists have been able to gather the facts, the legislatures of other States and the Parliaments of other governments, have esteemed it their highest duty to foster, protect and encourage such an organization as the State Agricultural Society represents. The question does not seem to be as to the necessity of aid, but as to the amount necessary to be appropriated and the manner in which it shall be expended. All States and Nations from Maine to Japan, from England through all her dependencies, to every recognized power in Europe, have felt the need of such an organization, and have exhibited their appreciation by lavish expenditures of money, by the employment of the highest talent, by the education of men to the place where a man was needed, and by showing that money lost in experiment, was money saved in general practical results. Iowa demands—and your honorable body should see to it that nothing shall stand in the way of its accomplishments—the very best effort, of the very best minds, to control or direct its agricultural advancement. For the employment of this talent the State must spend its money, and spend it freely.

THIRD.—They claim that this Society is the only faithful exponent of the agricultural wealth of the State. It is not such an element as it should be; it has fallen far short of what it could have accomplished with more favorable surroundings; but what it *has* done, has been well done. Its records are classical. To the citizen or stranger, they are of inestimable value in forming an opinion of what Iowa did in the years, what Iowa might have done—and what remains for Iowa yet to do.

The utterances of this Society have been treated with consideration everywhere over this broad land. It is then, worthy of the largest encouragement. Your honorable body will express the will of your constituents by making an annual appropriation, commensurate with the importance of the interests which this Society has in charge.

FOURTH.—They claim that without efficient aid from the State, the annual Fairs become dependent upon the weather during the days of the exhibition. Your memorialists offer \$15,000.00 in premiums. The expenses, with the most careful economy in the organization and conduct of the Fairs, can not be less than from \$5,000.00 to \$8,000.00. To pay premiums and expenses, this involves a sum of about \$12,000 to \$15,000—sixty per cent. of the premiums being the amount usually awarded and claimed. Should the Fair receipts from side-shows, gate entrance, refreshment rights, etc., fall short of the \$15,000, by reason of disastrous weather, then the Society is on the edge of bankruptcy and ruin. The statistics of the finances of the Society will show that the ratio of expenses to premiums paid, will compare most favorably with any similar organization in the land. Yet, the State should extend its strong arm and not allow so grand an instrumentality in promoting so grand an interest as agriculture to depend for its very existence on the changes of the weather, or mayhap, the caprices of an isolated community among which its annual Fair is held.

FIFTH.—They claim that the comprehensive system, or word, or expression, agriculture, is a unit. It embraces all the material interests, and the State Society has recognized this fact. It has employed no meretricious arts to achieve success. It has ignored all clap-traps, as balloon ascensions, fast horses, thimble-rigging of any kind, to fill its coffers, while its funds have not been wasted on speed, it has encouraged good horses, and paid liberally for their presence. While it has paid two hundred dollars for a trot, it pays two hundred dollars for grain and vegetables, that the humblest farmer may enter the list and win. It has not stopped here, but the orchard, the work-shop, garden, studio, laboratory—all the varied departments which make the several esthetic or mercenary pursuits of man or woman, find a fit position for their representation. But this special idea of unification should have a broader, deeper basis, and a larger sphere of design than is outlined in the past or present of the State Agricultural Society. Your honorable body should, at this present session, appropriate \$5,000 annually to the Society, leaving the features of the organization, in the main, without material change. But all legislation should be shaped so that

in due time it may become a department which shall embrace not only specific matters in agriculture, but the mechanics and arts of life as well. At the annual gathering there should be, and there can be, a display of: 1st, Agricultural products; 2d, Horticultural; 3d, Mechanics; 4th, Arts; 5th, Science—all under one management, having one head, having one foundation and source of life and strength, and that fountain, the State. They claim that this and much more may be done, and pray that you may place in the hands of the Society \$5,000 per year to aid in its accomplishment, and your memorialists will ever pray.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

We hereby return our thanks to those who have aided us in the compilation of this report. We acknowledge our indebtedness to the officers of the several railways for their continued favors in the furnishing of statistical tables which are of the utmost importance and value to our people; to Hon. Sidney D. Maxwell, Superintendent Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, for valuable figures; to the Department of Agriculture, from which interesting facts have been obtained; to the press of the State; to the county secretaries for their courteous and prompt answers in matters pertaining to this office, and to all others to whom credit is due.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN R. SHAFFER, *Secretary.*

FAIRFIELD, IOWA, *January 10, 1875.*