

Fair

Governor McGraw has announced the appointment of Dr. W.H. Hare, Samuel Cameron and F.A. Williams as members of the state fair commission.

Mr. Williams is a well known business man of Ellensburg and his appointment gives much satisfaction to the citizens of Yakima as of course do the two other appointments. Dr. Hare secures the long term and will hold office until March, 1899--Yakima Herald, March 5, 1896.

Fair

Two years ago 19 special policemen were employed on the state fair grounds. This year the commissioners expect to get along with 17 employes all told and give fully as good service.

The money heretofore expended for luxuries will be the paid out for the necessary expenses, premiums and prizes. There will be no places for favorites either political or personal--

Yakima Herald, Sept 3, 1896.

Fair

Prophets of evil have been disappointed this week as to the weather...

The races have been good, the attendance satisfactory, the pavillion exhibit much better than it gave promise of being in the start. The Indian features have been quite interesting, especially to the visitors.

There are many distinguished guests from abroad in attendance, including Governor John H. McGraw, Andrew Burleigh, J.L. Ronald; Secretary of State James H. Price. Yakima day was rather discouraging to the commissioners as there were only about 400 paid admissions. But the attendance increased with each succeeding day and the crowd on Thursday was estimated at 4,000 persons. (in part) Oct 1, 1896, The Herald.

Fair

Disgusted with the uncalled for criticism on his course regarding the holding of the state fair, Mr. A.B. Weed has resigned from the commission and now there is a vacancy to be filled.

The names of James M. Gilbert, Dr. W.W. Hare, Dr. G.J. Hill and D.W. Simmons are being canvassed in connection with the vacancy. Yakima Herald, May 9, 1895.

Fair

On Monday next , April 22, the State Fair Aid association will be prepared to redeem the stock certificates issued in the payment of labor and material upon the state fair grounds. The state appropriated \$3,500 for this purpose which will result in the subscribers receiving 96 cents on the dollar. Payments will be made at the office of the secretary, James M. Gilbert, upon the presentation of the association certificates.--Yakima Herald, April 18, 1895.

At the regular monthly session of the state fair commission on Monday evening it was decided that the state fair would not be held this fall.

The motion made at the last meeting was reconsidered and pending discussion after the reconsideration had been accorded, a motion was made no fair be held.

President Weed, in support of the motion, read strong letters from Hon A.W. Egle of Seattle and Hon John R. Reavis of Spokane, the outside members of the commission, highly commending the proposition to abandon the fair . Both of these gentlemen felt that only a positive deficiency could result were any attempt made to carry out such plans as had been made for the holding of the fair.

The grounds superintendent was authorized to purchase 100 shade trees of hardy growth for transplanting upon the grounds---Yakima Herald, May 2, 1895.

State Fair

The state fair commission has exhausted the two years appropriation of \$8,000 and no fair will be held next year under the auspices of the state.

The commission claims the expenses this year amounted to \$14,000. Of this \$4,000 was expended on the grounds; \$2,000 for premiums; \$3,000 on the races and \$5,000 on running expenses.

The receipts it is claimed were \$2,080 from the gates and grandstand; \$1,350 from concessions; \$1,090 from entries; \$1,500 from special premiums; \$300 from Seattle exposition and \$150 from other sources. To this is added the \$8,000 state appropriation. ...Yakima Herald, Nov. 23, 1899.

A gentleman in our popular column of "What People Say" proposed a stock company to take charge of the state fair in the future.

A better plan would be for the state to deed the property to the county and then let a county board of trade, duly incorporated, act as trustee for the institution. To obtain the best results there must be entire union and cooperation of the agricultural and business elements of the county--Yakima Herald, Nov. 30, 1899.

M.L. Matterson--In view of the present condition of the state fair finances now would be an opportune time for the farmers of the state to form a stock company and buy the state fair grounds and control and manage the institution themselves. This would take it out of politics and awaken more interest among producers, the lack of which has been the great drawback in the past. In some of the middle states this experiment has been tried and has proven most successful. Minnesota has probably the finest state fair ever year held anywhere in the United States. There the farmers are organized into a company and meet each year to elect officers. Yakima Herald, Nov. 30, 1899.

District Fair

The joint committee of Dairymen and members of the Commercial club met a second time last Saturday evening and discussed the project of holding a district fair at this place this fall. The committee consists of Messrs Weed, Horsley, Larson, Shanks, Richards and Shannon.

It was decided to go ahead and incorporate a stock company for the purpose of conducting a fair. The capital stock will be \$5,000. An informal canvass of the men present resulted in pledges given for over \$1,000.

President Baxter of the State Fair commission is opposed to the movement and does not favor giving the use of the grounds for a local fair. He maintains that it will interfere with the success of the state fair and make it more difficult to secure the appropriations necessary to keep that institution on its feet. -The Yakima Republic, January 26, 1900.

The new historical building at the Washington State fair grounds is being rapidly constructed. Saturday the frame for the largest window ever placed in Yakima county was put up. The window is 40 feet in width and is placed at the end of the structure.

Next week the big trusses on the structure will be raised. They are 64 feet in length and of steel. The structure will be completed the first week in September and will be 100 x 170 feet. Work is being done by Corbett & Raymond - The Yakima Herald, July 31, 1907.

Fairgrounds

Yakima county's building at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition is to be erected on the state fair grounds south of this city.

Excepting for the "staff" of which the exterior of the building is composed it will appear here as it does on the grounds at the fair. For state fair purposes the building will become the Women's Building and will be a splendid and welcome addition to the equipment of the grounds.

The women of the state have hitherto never had a sufficiently large building at the state fair and the past two or three years there exhibits have considerably overflowed the space allotted to them.

Hon. S. J. Cameron who is president of the state fair commission and James Sharp who is superintendent of construction at the fair grounds went to Seattle last week and went all over the Yakima building. It is their opinion that the structure can be torn down, transported here and erected again at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. At this price the fair grounds will get a splendid building which would otherwise be a waste as there is no further use for it and no market for it.

The building as it stands at Seattle is practically of three stories. There is a fine basement and two capacious floors above that. The timber is excellent.

When erected here the structure will be the most complete and best equipped on the grounds--The Yakima Herald, Oct. 27, 1909.

Fair--Street car

Ten cents will be the fare to the state fair grounds on the new line of the Yakima Valley Transportation company during the fair. The board of trustees at its regular meeting Tuesday afternoon fixed the fare at that price during fair week.

After the fair season the board expects to fix the rate of five cents each way \$1000 to and beyond the fair grounds but on account of ~~providing~~ providing temporary sidetracks and making temporary provision for handling the ~~expo~~ travel this year at a large additional expense over what it would have been had the company had time to make its permanent improvements, the board feels justified in making the charge--
The Yakima Herald, Sept. 16, 1908.

North Yakima Fair 1886.

North Yakimans boast of their fair, which they say couldn't have been beaten anywhere in the territory, barring races.

--Journal & Watchman(Walla Walla) Nov. 6, 1886

State Fair

The bill creating a state agricultural fair with permanent location in Yakima county near the city of North Yakima passed the lower house of the legislature on Wednesday.

This was the first appropriation bill passed and in order to get it through its friends had to cut and slash the measure as originally introduced in a manner that could not but satisfy the most rigid economist.

The desired \$40,000 for the first year and \$10,000 for the second dwindled down before the pruning knife to \$10,000 for the first year and nothing for the second, but the commissioners shorn of the power to create a deficit.

It was better, much better than nothing which we have been systematically getting in the past and Representative Weed and Senator Eshelman backed by their constituency are duly thankful and trust that the senate will see no obstacle to its passing that body nor the governor to signing the bill making it law.

Once permanently located here we'll take care of its future and see that it becomes a credit to the state, a benefit to the people, means of building up a great stock breeding industry in Yakima and a source of revenue to this city and county.

The bill provides for seven commissioners to be appointed by the governor, who shall serve without compensation other than traveling and living expenses during the time when they are actually engaged in attending to the duties imposed upon them.

They are to meet and procure a deed in warranty to a suitable tract of land as conveniently situated and as near as possible to North Yakima which land is to be donated to the state.

commissioners shall cause to be built the necessary pavillions, exhibition halls, stalls, stands and a mile speeding track of the most approved pattern.

The commissioners will have entire control and management, make rules, arrange meetings, remove employes and officers, arrange entrance and gate fees, lease stalls, stands, restaurant privileges and award prizes and premiums.

Fairs are to be held every year beginning on the first Monday in September.

Already a number of names are being canvassed for appointment as commissioners, among whom are Fred Parker of this city, J.R. Reavis of Spokane and John R. Patton of Tacoma.

Mr. Patton has a splendid stock ranch in this county where he is now feeding and caring for horses valued at \$198,000. These horses are mainly from Iowa and will be retained here if a suitable track is built.

Notable among the stock is Yendis, a five year old stallion from Sidney, valued at \$25,000; B. Wagner, a Wilkes colt value \$25,000; Chesterson, another \$25,000 stallion; Lady Wilkes, a \$10,000 mare with foal for which there is standing offer of \$5,000 when dropped and many other valuable animals.

Mr. Reavis is secretary of the Spokane chamber of commerce. Mr. Fred Parker of this city has had much experience in fairs, speeding associations and is an excellent judge of horses--^{Yakima} Herald, March 2, 1893.

Yakima

Volney Taft in a letter from Chicago to the father, writes that the Yakima exhibit at the World's Fair consists of "one apple and seven small jars of fruit."

This is a mortifying showing for the most productive section of the state. It is time than an organized effort was made to have this county properly represented.--Yakima Herald, July 8, 1893.

Fair

The following letter was sent the boards of county commissioners of each county of the state:

"As the first annual exhibit of the Washington State Fair of the state of Washington is to be held at North Yakima September 24 to 29 and as the county of Yakima has been favored with the location of the fair, the county commissioners are over zealous and anxious that every county in the Evergreen State of Washington shall be represented.

The state fair commissioners have offered as an inducement to every county in the state a sweepstake for the county making the largest and best exhibit of grain, fruit, vegetables, etc. a premium of \$100 for first prize, \$ 50 for second.

The state fair commissioners have a large number of jars to be distributed in the state for fruit exhibit...

After some advisability of employing a track shoer for the fast horses to be here it was decided to settle the matter by allowing the several aspirants to bid on the privilege.

R.A. Hume was chosen as solicitor and advertising agent for the state at large. He will leave this week for Port Townsend, Salem and Portland and other minor points.

The matter of judges for the races came up and the commission finally decided upon F.L. Van Dusen of Seattle, Mr. Small of Walla Walla; Mr. Charles B. Pond of Ellensburg, as first, second and third judges respectively. --Yakima Herald, August 16, 1894.

Fair

E.W. Price of Seattle has accepted the remaining unsold portion of the \$10,000 county warrant issued for the State fair grounds.

Surveys and estimates have already been completed and work will commence straightway on the construction of the track.

The buildings will not be erected till next year. The entire sum of \$10,600 has now been paid to President Parker and he now awaits the attorney general's decision as to the title-
Yakima Herald, October 19, 1893.

The state fair commissioners now have legal possession of the grounds and all necessary preliminaries have been executed.

Active work in construction of the track and preparation of the grounds will be begun on Monday next.

Pursuant to call of President Parker a meeting of the commissioners was held on Tuesday evening at which President Parker, John Reed and John R. Patton were present. The deed to the grounds, covering 120 acres from Elias A. Gilson, has been executed and is approved by the attorney general.

The commissioners resolved "that said land and water right so conveyed be and the same is hereby accepted as a site for the state fair of the state of Washington and the thanks of the commission are hereby tendered to the citizens of Yakima county for their liberal donation."

The president appointed John R. Patton and John Reed as a committee to have the site cleared and ploughed at once. It was decided to have the work done by the hour at 20 cents per hour and the same per hour for each team or span of horses employed in the work. The committee will also appoint a timekeeper at \$2 a day. They will

be foreman of the working force.

It was ordered that work on the construction of the track be commenced on Monday next under the supervision of the above committee subject to the direction of the commission.

The present and secretary were directed to advertise for bids for rough lumber for use in the construction of fences and buildings.

The secretary was directed to rent and furnish a suitable office for the commission. The office will be located in rooms above the Yakima National bank.

The home stretch of the race course will be seventy feet wide, said width being maintained to the point of the second turn. The back stretch will be sixty feet wide and said width shall be maintained to the northwest corner. The track shall be constructed in accordance with specifications to be prepared hereafter.

Sydney Arnold was employed to do the necessary engineer work at \$5 per day.

The preliminary work has finally been completed said President Parker yesterday" and the fact that it has been is not more pleasing to any one than myself. It has been an arduous task but now that the technical details have all been disposed of, work of a substantial character will immediately begin and results will be tangible. Sixty men have been put to work in clearing the tract and on Monday next activity will begin on the construction of the tract.

We will make it the fastest race course in the Northwest. We will probably purchase the lumber of the state fair buildings immediately but they will not be erected till next summer.

It is our purpose to establish a department in which exhibits from all over the state may be placed. This department will be open at all times under the supervision of the man who has charge of the grounds

during the time intervening between the fair terms.

It will be an interesting feature of the fair and can easily be maintained. Exhibits can from every section of the state are desired and an effort will be made to obtain them.

No relaxation of work will be had until everything is in perfect order for the state fair next year. We have reason to believe that it will be a grand success.

We will have a full board at a meeting to be held on November 10. Mr. Engle is now in the east--Yakima Herald, November 2, 1893.

Fair

Never was a busier scene observed in this ever active country than has been this week presented on the state fair grounds.

From sixty to eighty teams and two of three times that number of men with wagon, plow, scraper, pick, shovel and axe gave that beautiful plat of ground the appearance of active life and energy seldom witnessed anywhere.

The commission, after long and careful planning and designing and reshaping plans and designs, finally closed all preliminaries for vigorous operations last week and the latter were begun aggressively on Monday last.

The entire plat was cleared of sage brush in fifteen hours under Commissioner Reed's direction

Special work and are are being devoted to the track. A layer of eighteen inches of light material will be used about two feet from the surface in order to give it spring. It will be the most carefully constructed and swiftest race course in the state.

Entrance will probably be from the east. The stock buildings will be erected on the tract east of the race course. The park, although one of the prettiest in the country, will be appropriately improved. A miniature lake near it, on which there will be boats will also be enlarged and carefully improved.....Yakima Herald November 9, 1893.

A meeting of the State Fair commission was held last Monday, Fred Parker, president, John Reed, secretary and A.W. Engle, John R. Reavis and John R. Patton, commissioners, were present.

A financial statement was submitted and approved, showing total expenditures to date amounting to \$6,272.46.

The committee, intrusted with construction of the track was authorized to proceed with the building of stalls in accordance

construct pole fences, to consist of posts, caps and hub-board.

The president was empowered to employ Dick A. Ball as care-taker and farmer at the fair grounds, at a salary of \$60 per month. He was also authorized to purchase a span of horses, wagon and harness, not to cost exceeding \$270, for use on the grounds-- Yakima Herald, December 7, 1893.