

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189

are of European origin.

Fairs ~~was~~ originally held at stated periods & as temporary markets on which all manner of goods were offered for sale or exchange. This was when population was sparse & the means of travel & transportation slow & tedious. But as the dangers & difficulties of intercommunication diminished & cities & towns were built up the fairs, as places for the disposition of wares sold, were superseded by permanent shops or stores.

2

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189

On the U.S. These temporary
Fairs for the sale of mer-
chandise were never known,
but the term, in this country,
has been & still is applied
to church or charity Fairs.
But the term ~~was~~ has be-
come to have a different mea-
ning & now more frequently
designates a collection of
superior products, which
are exposed, not for sale,
but solely for public in-
spection, & for careful ex-
amination by experts, as
to their respective qualities.

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189.

Our annual Fairs are features peculiar to this country. They are identified with a grand movement for bettering the material condition of man & must therefore be regarded as one of the most significant signs of advancement of the 19th Century. The decadence of Agricultural Fairs ~~throughout the broad land of our~~ ^{throughout the country} is always indicative of a lack of Agricultural prosperity, as the reverse

4
State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189 .

is the case where they are yet
annually held-

~~Dr~~ Elkanah Watson, of Albany
N.Y. a retired merchant, was
the real author of the present
system of Fairs & Cattle Shows,
holding the first one in 1810.
Retiring from active bus-
iness he removed to his farm
near Pittsfield Mass & con-
ceived the idea of interes-
ting the farmers of his
neighborhood in holding
an exhibition of improved
breeds of cattle & superior
products of the soil, for

5

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189

The purpose of proving what might be accomplished by proper culture. This first Fair was a success & for the purpose of enlarging the next he appealed to the citizens of Boston for aid, but failed to get a single favorable reply. Ex. President Geo Adams wrote in a pithy, single sentence: "You will get no aid from Boston: Commerce, literature, Theology, médecine, the university, and universal

State of North Carolina,
 Executive Department,
 Raleigh.

189 .

politics are against you."
 But Watson was not to be
 rebuffed. In 1815 he re-
 turned to Albany, & at
 once proceeded to orga-
 nize an Agricultural
 Society & to establish
 Fairs & Cattle shows in
 the neighboring counties.

But along with these fairs
 came Agricultural Addresses—
 a custom now more honored
 in the breach than the observance,

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189

politics are against you".
But Watson was not to be
rebuffed. In 1885 he re-
turned to Albany, & at
once proceeded to orga-
nize an Agricultural
Society & to establish
Fairs & Cattle shows in
the neighboring counties.
But along with these fairs
came Agricultural Addresses
to a N.C. audience. Apart
from the benefits derived
by the farmer in the consumption
of farm products the

7
State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189

social feature of outlook
and exchange of methods
are not to be lost sight
of. The farmer unlike most
professional men has no
secrets in his trade and is
ever willing to share his
knowledge & experience
with his fellow man.

I regard to say that while
there seems to be an over-
production in farm products
Agriculture has not kept
pace with other professions
& the farmers condition
is not so prosperous as in

8

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189

days past & gone. Yet notwithstanding this lack of prosperity there seems to come a time to all men, who have accumulated a fortune in other pursuits, to dig & delve in mother earth. And to this class of farmers great credit is due for the average farmer must have profit as well as progress & in no other way can he procure it more readily or economically.

It is true that the use

State of North Carolina,
 Executive Department,
 Raleigh.

189 .

of commercial fertilizers
 is a gigantic stride for
 Agriculture but they can
 apply ^{profitably} only to special crops,
 such as Trucking fruit-
 growing &c for the low
 price now ruling in the
 staple crops of our country
 precludes their use.

It seems a fortuitous co-
 incidence that the Agricultural
 & Mechanical College should
 be in juxtaposition, that
 they may have the mutual
 benefits arising from their
 work.

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189.

In conclusion & on behalf of
the N.C. Agr. Society & as the
Governor of N.C. I extend
to you all a hearty welcome
to the Fair & to our Capital
City - I now declare the
Fair open.