

47

and quality. Mr. Yeager, ^{farm} county agent, and I assisted with organization, secured an appropriation from the county board of commissioners to cover about one fourth of the premium list and with a few suggestions as to the management of the fairs and arrangement of exhibits, left the communities to their own initiative. We were much pleased with the spirit of cooperation and the successful management of the fairs. I sent each woman who had charge of a department, a circular letter making suggestions as to the arrangement and decoration of her department and was much pleased to find these suggestions followed very carefully and when the hour for the opening of the fair arrived, everything was in the place with department managers at their posts exhibiting an air of satisfaction, which indicated a successful accomplishment of what they had undertaken to do.

The spirit of community pride and of cooperation was very noticeable. China Grove, a small town held its first fair. The mayor of the village was made president and he gave attention to the minutest detail, seeing that every plan was carried out successfully. The managers were made up of town men and farmers, members of the women's club and farm women. Everyone of them worked very earnestly for the success of the fair. Perhaps the most outstanding exhibit in the woman's department was an exhibit of fifty baskets and trays made of reed. The direct product of the girls short course in Raleigh. Two girls from the China Grove district learned basketry at the short course and gave demonstrations in their community, resulting in an exhibit at the fair. This exhibit attracted much attention and these girls and members of their families have been giving demonstrations in other communities."

ANNUAL SHORT COURSE FOR GIRLS

The short course for the girl club leaders is held for two weeks each year. Peace Institute, Raleigh, has opened its doors to the girls for the last two years, and this year it housed the annual school for agents as well.

Each county was asked to send as many of the club girls to the short course as it could finance, and 130 entrants was the response. In some instances prize winners in poultry work, cookery, canning, and home improvement had their expenses paid by civic clubs, banks, or interested individuals, and in many cases the trips were financed by the county demonstration councils. Bladen, Columbus and Stanly sent each 15 girls, and Cumberland and Davidson sent 12 each. The county school superintendent of Stanly county drove the agent and club girls to Raleigh in the school truck a distance of 123 miles.

Since the annual short course is to be in the nature of a reward for club work well done as well as to fit the girls for leadership the idea is to give them class work in the morning and in the afternoon send them on trips around the capital city and to its many interesting institutions. The evenings are given over to recreational features.

The program of work for 1922 included- How to prepare and serve a meal, jelly making; how to do over old furniture, household furnishings, and basketry.

The assistant state agents says: "It is gratifying to get reports from our little club girls such as this: 'I have taught some of our club girls how to make those baskets and next meeting I am planning to carry a table and show them how to fix over old furniture and make it look new. I am sure we will do our part in showing the other club girls what we learned while we were at Raleigh'. One agent writes 'The parents of the girls were as much delighted as the girls themselves. I think the fact that the children had something to carry back to show made a most favorable impression. One father said he had never spent the same amount of money when he felt he had gotten such returns'. Another club girl writes: 'I have written to the different places to get the material to make some baskets. Nearly everybody that has seen my basket wants me to make the m one. I am going to make one dozen and send them to the fair for Mrs. Morris to sell for me'."