

July 7, 1917

Address at Closing of Industrial Fair

The Governor spoke as follows:

Men and Women of Guam

The first Industrial Fair has now reached its end. It will be interesting to learn what benefit you have derived from it.

Guam has the habit of hiding its light under a bushel. The object of the Fair was to make the light shine in the open. It has shone, you have seen the light.

The exhibits have been beyond expectation.

It has been said that cattle do not thrive in Guam. To have seen the cattle exhibit refutes this statement. At least, the exhibit shows that cattle may thrive. The quality and breeding were beyond question. I urge cattle owners to take to heart what they have seen at this Fair. If some can make such a success, others can do as well. Visit the Agricultural Experiment Station. Breed your cattle to the blooded stock you will find there. There is no expense. There are some practices you must abandon. The veterinarians will tell you of them. One practice is especially harmful and illogical. Many farmers use their largest and strongest animals for working and keep the smaller ones for breeding. This practice tends to stunt the cattle in each succeeding generation. It is killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Absolutely the reverse practice should be followed. Set aside your strongest and finest animals for breeding, and work the inferior ones. In this manner the stock will continually improve.

The whole of the animal exhibit was remarkable. The carabaos, pigs and sows, goats, poultry, chickens, turkeys, ducks would have attracted attention anywhere. If some can raise such fine specimens does not that inspire you to see what you can do in the same line?

The exhibit of copra was very instructive. Copra is the most valuable product of the Island. It is not food, and it does not add much in economic value, but it brings in money; that is, a little money, for the middlemen reap most of the profits. Until the Islanders learn to acquire schooners of their own, and load them with copra and other products, and send them to the best markets, they will not make what they ought to out of exports.

The exhibit showed much. In the first place good coconuts are needed. It is necessary to plant the best variety of trees, to space them sufficiently, that they may have plenty of light and nourishment. These trees on the Plaza, that are widely spaced, yield the most and the best coconuts on the Island, I advise those of you who have thickly planted groves, where light and air do not penetrate, to cut down about half the trees. The remaining half will produce more and better coconuts.

Next the nuts must be gathered at the right time. They must not be too young, or too old. One of the best looking exhibits was made of nuts that were gathered too young, and though handsome, was not as valuable as other specimens that were made from riper nuts. Copra from mature nuts yields about twice as much oil as that from young nuts.

Then comes care in drying. There is almost no odor to properly dried copra. Keep it clean and do not let it get wet. There is no one step that affects so much the value of the final product, and that may make all the difference between the highest grade and various inferior grades.

Coffee was also shown in small quantities, but of an excellent quality. Coffee grows on the Island almost without care. The soil and climate are exceptionally favorable. I have used only Island coffee since I first came, and I prefer it to all others. Good coffee is worth about three times as much by weight as good copra. It can be shipped much more readily. It is never offensive in odor, as copra frequently is. The freight would be one-third. Coffee is to my mind beyond dispute the most desirable crop to raise for export.

The exhibit of tobacco shows what can be done in that line. Tobacco grows well in Guam, and of good quality. It requires much more care in cultivation and curing, but it brings a price that is sufficient to pay for any such efforts. Guam should produce all its own tobacco and not be dependent on imports of an inferior quality and at a higher cost.

The food products were the most instructive of all. While some few things will not grow in Guam, the same is true of the tropics in general; but the variety of things that will grow, and successfully, is astonishing. Rice and corn are the most valuable for food. Large quantities of rice are now imported. This is wasteful and extravagant. All the rice needed should be grown on the Island, where rich rice lands abound.

The fruits and vegetables were numerous, of great variety, and excellent quality. It was good to have them exhibited. Those who grew them know how it was done. Advice to others is go and do likewise.

The subject of food dominates all others. The Island should be self-sustaining. It is not, for the reason that at a liberal estimate not a fourth part of the fertile land is cultivated. There are enough inhabitants to cultivate it all. If the trips of the transports and the Supply should cease there would be a food panic in a couple of months. The exhibits at the Fair show what can be done. Products such as you have seen can be grown by all of you.

Every effort is now being made to stimulate agriculture. Farmers are encouraged to spend most of their time on their ranches, returning to town only for church on Sunday. This is meeting with considerable success. It should be continued. To this end the Insular Patrol are now making a census by localities of the men capable of agricultural work, and also a list of all fertile lands not now cultivated. There is an intimate relation between these two lists. It is proposed to organize the laborers in groups and see that they have land to cultivate. There are many large tracts of land that are not now utilized. The owners must take steps to see that they are put to use, for agriculture or grazing. It is probable that in the near future the land tax will be remitted to those who use their land, but other taxes will have to be raised to take its place. Those who do not use their land will thus bear a larger burden, which they can escape by proceeding at once to turn their idle land to account. Consult with the Insular Patrol. They are in charge of this work,

and their efforts have produced most valuable results.

The world war and the President's proclamation are impelling reasons that the food products be increased at this time. When it will so clearly add to the prosperity of the Island there is all the more reason for losing no time in this praiseworthy endeavor.

The industrial exhibits, including prepared foods and preserves, were also numerous and remarkable. There were articles exhibited that old residents had never before seen. This is proof enough of the value of the Fair. The bushel is now torn away and the light shines in the open. All these articles, now that we have seen them, must be made in larger quantities and put on sale. Susana Pharmacy already makes a modest display of such articles, under guidance of the ladies' committee, that searches out the native products and puts them on sale at the Pharmacy. It is contemplated to bring many more such articles together in an Island Government store, if the details can be satisfactorily worked out; but it will require much planning. The idea is to make these products better known and to stimulate their production and sale, for the benefit of both producers and consumers. After a need and a market have been created, the inhabitants are urged to open stores of their own, for the sale of native products.

Other features of the Fair have been important and interesting. The Red Cross have done a thriving business in increasing the membership lists, and in selling tags and commodities. The ladies' committee, as usual, have been of great assistance in this direction. The total receipts for the year to date are roughly \$1,000. This should be increased by enrolling everybody as members. The proceeds, as you know, are to relieve distress, by war or otherwise. Some of the funds go to the central committee, others are retained in Guam for possible local use.

Susana Pharmacy has also done good work in disposing of its wares, and increasing its funds. This is a branch of Susana Hospital Association, a charitable organization that does infinite good on the Island.

The games, sports, amusements, concerts, parades, dances have all been a great success. There are too many of them to name separately. Now that they are understood, I look to see many more inhabitants taking part, as in the automobile, lantern, and fancy dress parades.

The drill of the Guam Cadets is however worthy of special mention. They antedate the Guam Militia but are now a part of it. They furnish most of the officers of the Militia. Their smart appearance, military bearing, and correct drilling made a fine impression. The inhabitants of the Island see in the Cadets the first fruit of universal military training, which they themselves petitioned the Governor to establish. On this drill they bore for the first time, along with the national colors, the Island Flag of Guam, (Field blue; a central medallion of two shields base to base vertically, bordered in red; sea, land, sky; a lateen canoe, a bit of shore, a coconut tree; motto GUAM, red.)

Much more could be said of the Fair. The essential features have been scarcely more than recited. It has been an object lesson and an inspiration. Its success is apparent to all. The Fair has certainly come to stay, and will even improve on the present most creditable showing, and also with every recurrence. May every profit therefrom inure to you and to your Island.