decoration of their booths, and the result was a very neat, rich, and attractive show.

Our scores of butter and cheese were slightly lower than the year previous, owing to the effect of the severe and protracted spell of dry and hot weather preceding the Fair; a cause wholly unremediable by any concerned.

Exhibitors are anxiously waiting and hoping for a new Dairy Building, and I am quite certain that with a larger and better building the exhibit would be more nearly in keeping with the greatest of interests in our Commonwealth, and we could show to the world, Wisconsin as she is—the Greatest Dairy State in the Union.

Respectfully submitted,

L. E. Scott,
Superintendent.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT.

To the Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture,

GENTLEMEN: I herewith submit to you my report of the Department of the Fine Arts during the State Fair of 1908. Every interested and reflecting visitor of the Fine Arts department notes with pleasure the development of this department from a chaotic battle ground of prize seekers to a well ordered display of truly artistic efforts. The provision that all exhibits entered must be delivered in the building by Saturday evening preceding Fair Week gives the management an opportunity to sort and place the individual exhibits in such a way that they show to the best advantage while giving, at the same time, an harmonious appearance to the arrangement as a whole. This can be said in particular of the south half of the building where the more serious efforts in painting, drawing and photographing were hung. There was an air of distinction to the principal wall of painting that would have been a credit to many a professional exhibition. The decided improvement in the exhibit of artistic photographs was particularly noticeable. Some of the partakers have the distinction of being contributors to the International Photo Salon. As there are a number of Wisconsin artists who enjoy international fame as photographers, the management will endeavor to have still bet-
ter and more representative exhibitions of photographs in the coming years.

The north half of the building was devoted to the display of china painting, arts and crafts work in wood, leather, needle work, also sculpture and the lesser attempts in painting. In spite of its efforts the department has not yet been able to arouse a real interest in the newly installed arts and crafts display which is far from representative of the work done in the state. This may be partly due to the disproportioned allotting of premiums, and partly to the ignorance of the exhibitors in general as to the existence and aims of this department. The management is convinced of the usefulness and attractiveness of this department and will make a study of the reasons for its nondevelopment, and if possible will devise some means of remedy.

To the average visitor the display of china painting will seem to be on the decrease. As to quantity, this is certainly the case. By persistency on the part of the judges, the professional exhibitors who filled the greater number of our exhibition cases until a few years ago, have now practically cleared the field, and instead of the stagnation caused by the continual repetition of the same kind of work, there are signs of new and living interests which are promising for the future.

Thus it is apparent that the Art Department is striving continually to become more and more what it ought to be—to become more and more efficient in its mission to promote and stimulate the study and practice of art in all its branches in the state, and by means of well arranged exhibitions to influence the taste of the state fair visitors; thus serving an educational purpose of great consequence.

The professional prizes found practically no competitors. Desirable exhibitors for this class can hardly be expected to display their productions in the present unsafe and poorly equipped building. But the art department can promise that if once housed in appropriate quarters, it will be able to secure a display of much higher standard than is possible under present conditions, while it believes that even now our exhibitions will favorably compare with other exhibitions of a similar nature throughout the country.

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Nelson,
Superintendent.