

# GREAT CENTRAL FAIR

*To be held in Philadelphia, June, 1864*

## COMMITTEE ON PRODUCE, PROVISIONS AND SHIPPING.

PHILADELPHIA, March 20, 1864.

The Committee on Produce of "THE GREAT CENTRAL FAIR FOR THE SANITARY COMMISSION," herewith present you with the Circular of the Executive Committee, which so fully sets forth the importance of the Commission, in aid of which the Fair has been instituted, and the efforts they propose to make it a great success, as to leave but little to add on these points.

The great interest committed to our charge, it is confidently expected, will respond liberally and patriotically to the call which is now made upon it.

Our Committee appeals to all who are engaged in producing or dealing in the staple productions of the soil—Farmers, Grain and Flour Dealers, and Millers. Also to all engaged in the Provision Trade, and to Ship Owners, Ship Agents, and others engaged in commercial pursuits.

1st. We appeal to the FARMERS of our land. In the midst of this gigantic war, whatever evils may have been felt in other industrial pursuits, yours has flourished and prospered. "Seed time and harvest" have not failed you; the early and the latter rains have descended, and the fruitful earth, under the blessings of a benign Providence, has yielded you an abundant return for your labor, and filled your garner to overflowing. Prices of all agricultural products have, for the past two years, ruled far above the average, and you, as a class, have prospered despite the terrible civil war which has brought ruin and distress to so many of your countrymen.

Will you not, then, each of you, give liberally and cheerfully from your abundance to relieve the sufferings and to minister to the wants of the brave soldiers, "who have left their homes to defend yours?" Send us liberally, either in produce of such articles as you can best spare, or in money, as may be most agreeable to you.

2d. To the DEALERS IN PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS we also appeal. Your trade has been less disturbed by the war than perhaps almost any other. With large crops and high prices, your business has been perhaps even better than before the breaking out of the Rebellion. Remember, then, while you are engaged in the peaceful pursuits of business, and enjoying all the comforts and blessings of home, there are those who endure hardships, privations, sickness and wounds on the tented field, hazarding everything dear, even life itself, for the defence of our common country.

3d. To the MILLERS we also confidently appeal; as a class, you are large operators, enterprising, wealthy and patriotic, and we shall be grievously disappointed if we do not receive a generous response from you.

4th. To the SHIPPING INTEREST, whose enterprize sustains the commerce of our city, and sends the flag of our country to every clime, we look for a noble response, commensurate with the magnitude of the interest which you represent.