

# THE GRANGE ADVANCE.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15, 1873.

## OUR FAIRS.

The season of fairs has come and gone. The fairs have been held and are with the past. Some have been well attended, at others the attendance has been very small; some have had a good display while one of our richest agricultural counties had not much over a dozen articles on their grounds. Some profit has been derived from each and all these fairs. The idea of offering a premium for the best of each kind of products, and then bringing together the farmers of the whole county to examine these best products and to compare notes is a good idea. It has a tendency to stimulate to efforts for higher excellence in production. Then it is a sort of object teaching, a kind of teaching by which all may be interested and all may learn. Yet it is to be doubted whether one-tenth of the profit, interest or pleasure has been gotten out of these fairs that is possible and ought to be realized. It is very evident that the interest is flagging in some places, and in others horse racing is taking the place of what is much more important.

Now these fairs should be made events of so much importance as to be looked forward to with longing and anticipation, should result in great profit, and be looked back to with pleasure. They should be made a sort of agricultural camp meeting, to which the farmers should come up with their families for a sort of aesthetical, intellectual and physical feast, so to speak.

As so many of our farmers have entered the gate and chosen the way of wisdom, have learned the dignity of the calling of the husbandman and how necessary to it are instruction and knowledge, they should use every effort to improve these fairs, and to make them a means of elevating the cultivator's calling, imparting and obtaining information. To this end each exhibitor should be required to accompany each article entered for a prize with a full statement of the manner of its production. For illustration, if wheat be entered for a prize, let the sample be accompanied with a statement of the quality of seed sown, and from whence obtained, the amount sown to the acre, the kind of soil and the manner in which the ground was prepared, the time and manner of sowing and harvesting, the weight per bushel and the yield per acre, together with the whole cost per acre of producing. Let prizes, and not small, stingy ones either, be offered for the best essays on the best and cheapest kinds of machinery to buy on a farm, the best modes of working and taking care of the same, and on other subjects of interest and profit to the practical cultivator. Let time be set apart for the reading of the essays. They will be as interesting as a harangue by some politician or office-seeker, and vastly more profitable. Let the young people have a hand in. Let prizes be offered for the first, second and third best orations and declamations by scholars from the public schools. If the farmers are going to take the position in this nation which belongs to them, they must learn to speak, to write essays, and to debate, and must teach the same to their children. In the evenings let bond fires or camp fires be kindled to shine over the prairies like beacon lights to drive away the darkness of the night, fit emblems of the other lights that have been kindled all over this land to drive away ignorance, and the time be taken up in discussions of agricultural topics, in exhibitions by the young people, in songs, music and plays. Let the farmers go up to these annual feasts, with their tents and their provisions, prepared to camp out and make of these, social family gatherings of the laborers, the harvesters and gleaners in the fields given by the Great All Father to his children.

Reader, this is no fancy picture. By a little effort on the part of each one all this can be accomplished, and when this is done we shall see an advance in agriculture of which even the most hopeful Patron has never dreamed.

## HUMBUGS.

A man professedly in the interest of a neighbor called at our office the other day, on behalf of his neighbor, to make some inquiries with regard to a lottery said to have been recently started somewhere in Wisconsin, which said lottery promised to make a man rich for the small sum of two dollars. We had no information with regard to said lottery to give, but such as we had we gave unto him, and we take this opportunity of giving the same to our readers. The first advice we gave was, that if that neighbor had two dollars that he did not know what to do with, to try to find some needy person to bestow his charity upon, where it was needed and would be appreciated. Second, That men in this country did not run lotteries to make other folks rich, that those who do run them are generally able to live without charity, and always able to earn an honest living in some honest way. And third, that men run lotteries to get money and not to give it away, and they generally propose to keep all they get.

There is a growing tendency in this country to gamble in everything, a tendency to strive to get wealth without earning it, to obtain money without returning an equivalent.

Men gamble in wheat, in railroad stocks, in prize packages. They gamble when they buy and when they sell, when they build churches and when they build orphan asylums, when they go to the fairs and when they go to the shows. All this is only another exhibition of the insane love of money and worse than insane dishonesty that is sapping the very life of this nation. It has grown out of the fact that men, by stock gambling, or by other still more dishonest practices have become suddenly rich. No honest man desire the property of another without returning an adequate equivalent; no one invests in any kind of a gambling or chance operation without expecting, or at least hoping to get more than his money's worth. Designing men take advantage, in a thousand ways, of this terrible cupidity and dishonest sentiment existing everywhere to make themselves rich. We see the papers full of flaming advertisements of splendid chances for agents to make a fortune in a few days, or of things for sale at one-tenth their cost; of places where by investing a dollar thousands may be made; and what is more wonderful these advertisers find thousands of fools to believe them. They find enough to believe them to make it pay to buy their way into advertising columns of the best newspapers, admission into the most sacred places, and to give them the effrontery to stick up their nefarious business under the very noses of honest men in places consecrated to nobler and better things.

We were shocked and saddened to see one of these infernal, hell-born, stealing institutions admitted within the inclosure of the fair grounds at our recent State Fair.

We do not know nor care who was to blame for this; it may be that no one was to blame; but we will say this, that if it was the fault of any one of the managers of the Fair, he ought to be plowed so deep as to the management of State Fairs, as never to be seen in this direction again. This institution was one of those two-legged, strong-lunged servants of the devil—whom if we wish to insult human beings and the Great Creator who made man in His own image, we may call—men who follow up circuses and shows and commene their operations by driving through streets and scattering to the crowd nickle, postal currency and small-bills, and using every means possible to excite the cupidity, and for the time being to take away the reason of their victims. This one operated like all others of his kind. He sold soap, or some other worthless article, and gave the purchasers a chance—a chance to lose their money. He offered his chances at two dollars each, offering to pay back the money if no prize was drawn. Several took this bait. Then he commenced offering the money back, and one, two and three dollars more if there was no prize, until he roped in ten, the next step was to get all to agree to divide equally whatever prize was drawn. He opened the envelopes, and in one of them found—O! wonder of wonders—a number calling for five dollars. Out of the twenty dollars taken from the ten men, he gave them fifty cents each, and pocketed the fifteen dollars clear profits. Yet these men seemed to think it was all perfectly fair, and stood gaping ready to be taken in again by the same or some other trick of the operator. As we passed around the grounds we heard this bellow's harangue for hours, and whenever we looked that way saw a crowd. We have more particularly described this operation, because informed that the same thing has been done at previous fairs, and because men of the same kit have visited every town of any size in the State, where circuses or shows have passed, and have taken thousands of dollars out of the State this season; and what is sadder yet, farmers who have gone to the fairs, or come into the towns to see the shows, have been among their best customers. Now it is proposed to show up in THE GRANGE ADVANCE, as occasion may require, every humbug of which we can hear, but our readers will greatly lighten this task by remembering some of the principles which may be applied at all times.

1st. Whenever any enterprise is presented and urged, whereby to make a sudden fortune, or to get money or anything else without earning it, that may be stamped as a humbug, for splendid chances never have to go begging.

2d. Men engage in trade to make money, and do not make a practice of either giving away their goods or selling for less than their value or cost, and whenever they profess to do either of these, there is a humbug somewhere.

3d. All chance operations are humbugs to a certain extent, for the operator always calculates to make dishonest and exorbitant profits, cover all the enormous expenses of advertising, and only to distribute a sufficient number of prizes to whet the appetites of his customers.

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

ON THE FAIR GROUND,  
Litchfield, Minn., Oct. 9th, 1873.

The Fair is not nearly as much of a success as the farmers of this beautiful county are able to make it, yet it is as much better than the Goodhue County Fair, as the State Fair was better than this.

Among the stock on exhibition, worthy of mention, I noticed a splendid spring calf, owned by Edwin DeCoster; also a beautiful heifer calf owned by Frank Williams; a milch cow, owned by N. A. Vrien; some beautiful young Ayrshire cows, owned by John M. Waldron; and a thorough bred, short horn yearling bull, owned by the same; also a splendid yearling bull, owned by Wilton Gordon. T. C. Jewett shows twelve head, all the product of one cow in four years. All but the parent cow and her first calf are grades. Mr. Jewett, it will be remembered, took four premiums at the State Fair. A very nice matched team is shown by Nils Swanson, three and four years old. There is a very nice two year old stallion exhibited by John Peifer, of Darwin; also a fine nine year old stallion weighing 1,587 pounds; and a four year old weighing 1,450 pounds, owned by John Duckering. Mr. Duckering also showed two Chester White pigs, nine weeks old, which he sold for \$23.

Mrs. Amasa Wheeler exhibited specimens of very nice hop yeast and salt rising bread. I was very much interested by a shawl, a blanket and a carpet made from the wool by Miss Agren. There is a very creditable floral display for a frontier county.

Among the curiosities I find a cigar case from Japan, a piece of olive wood from the Holy Land; a towel made by hand fifty years ago, spun and woven; and a piece of sandal wood, Callas, Peru. I also noticed a very curious egg, having at one end a perfect tail.

Considerable amusement was created by a sack race. Six boys were put into regular sized wheat bags, with the tops fastened around their waists and their hands tied behind their backs. The race was won by Thomas O'Brien, a son of the well known Dillon O'Brien. All the others fell down and floundered upon the ground before they reached the goal.

A scrub race afforded considerable fun and more excitement I did not learn the name of the winner.

I find a strong feeling among the farmers up here in favor of taxing the railroad lands; some go so far as to favor governmental appropriation to test the validity of existing laws on this subject. As THE ADVANCE will probably have something to say on this subject at a future time, I will say no more at present.

Captain Ara Barton, of Northfield, is now (Oct. 10th, 3 o'clock P. M.), delivering the annual address. It is thoroughly practical. He is giving his experience with the different kinds of wheat, and gives the preference upon the whole to the Scotch Fife. He then proceeds to give his experience with the different kinds of stock, horses, cattle, sheep and pigs. I wish I could give the whole of it, but will refer to it at greater length at a more convenient season. The farmers on all hands speak very highly of the address on account of its being so very plain and practical. The speaker severely condemned the careless manner in which farmers used their machinery.

## OLD SETTLERS' BANQUET.

I was invited this evening to the Old Settlers' Banquet held at the Litchfield House, which invitation was gladly accepted. About seventy-five of the oldest inhabitants partook of a supper, which for abundance of everything good was old-fashioned enough to suit the most ancient individual present. During the supper, Mrs. Jewett revived old memories at our table, by relating some of her experiences during the Indian outbreak. Although so far out on the frontier she and her husband remained at their home during the whole of that terrible time. After that their crops were destroyed by hail, and once their house was suddenly removed and shattered by a tremendous wind storm. Senator Ramsey here remarked that the only passage of Scripture applicable to her case was this: "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth." When justice, free and ample, and in immense quantities had been meted out to the supper, we adjourned to Masonic Hall to indulge in a sort of old-fashioned Methodist class meeting. Arrived at the hall, Judge Smith assumes the chair and states the object of the meeting. He is anxious to preserve the early records of the county before they shall have been swept into oblivion by the remorseless hand of time. He desires everyone to contribute interesting facts of this nature and he will record them. He strongly urges all old settlers to join the association and hopes that every one present will be perfectly free to give his early experience upon this occasion. He will now call upon the first territorial Governor of Minnesota.

## GOVERNOR RAMSEY.

Says he is glad to meet the old settlers of this county. Nothing warms his heart

like the presence of the old pioneers of the State. They are the founders of what in the future will be a great empire. Every one of them, no matter how humble his part, should feel proud of this fact. We should feel proud of the fact that we are the fathers and mothers of the great race that will soon make the name of the State of Minnesota one of the grandest on the list of States. He is very glad to learn that the chairman is making such efforts to preserve the early records. They will be a precious heirloom to posterity. "Myself and the chairman have already reached a period in life that warns us we have not more than fifty or sixty years longer to stay here, (laughter,) and we should be committing these early records to paper, that they may speak for us when we are voiceless in the grave." He is now referring to what the State Association is and what it has been doing. Every one who was in the State previous to January 1st, 1850, are members of the Association. The annual meetings are decreasing every year, and soon there will be but a handful left.

His commission as territorial Governor was signed by Zachary Taylor, and bears date April 2d, 1849. He is now giving an account of the legislature of '49 and '50. It consisted of Frenchmen, mixed bloods and Americans.

The whole population of Minnesota and what is now Dakota Territory was then about 4,000; now Minnesota alone numbers about 600,000 and during the war we furnished the government with 25,000 men. How miraculous is the change!

## DANA E. KING.

with his little wife came 700 miles in a lumber wagon to seek a home in the West. "My wife frequently carried brush to help bridge over the miry places, and at other times I shouldered her and carried her across the streams. We were plumb full of faith, but had mighty little cash. I started out with ten dollars in my pocket." Mr. King is now relating humorous incidents in the early history of Meeker county, and the old settlers are enjoying them hugely. He borrowed a bag of corn meal from Dr. Kennedy, and the Dr. told him to use a mighty coarse sieve or he wouldn't get much meal. The man who had plenty of hoe cake and hominy in those days was a lucky man.

## JESSE BRANNAN

is now telling of the times when they had no roads, but went by the groves in the day time and the stars by night.

Captain Atkinson cannot speak but he is a mighty good listener.

Judge Smith related some very humorous incidents in relation to the early post masters and justices of the peace, and thus closed one of the happiest and most enjoyable occasions in the history of Meeker County.

## ITEMS FOR PATRONS.

STATE AGENCY FOR MINNESOTA PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

WINONA, Oct. 11th, 1873.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Grange of Minnesota, held at St. Paul, September 25th, I was elected as State Agent and gave bonds to the amount of \$50,000 for the faithful discharge of my duty. My headquarters will be at Winona, where all orders and communications should be addressed. I desire to make this State Agency a success, as a business agency in the interests of the Patrons, by purchasing goods at wholesale rates direct from manufacturers. This can be done best by centering our entire trade as much as possible in the State Agency.

Please make use of this Agency to the fullest extent, and build up the business interest of the Grange in the State. I ask for your hearty co-operation, for without this nothing can be accomplished.

Fraternally yours,

J. S. DENMAN, State Agent.

A BANNER WORTHY OF MENTION.—We have just been shown by brother Leland Jones, of the Burnside Grange, of Goodhue county, a beautiful banner painted by W. E. Hawkins, of Red Wing. On one side of the banner is a sheaf of wheat and plow, above which are the words, "Burnside Grange P. of H., No. 148," and below are the words, "Equal and exact justice to all, special privileges to none." On the reverse side are the same words, and in the center a vase filled with rich fruits, and surrounded by intertwining wreaths of most beautiful flowers. The whole design is most happily conceived, the work artistically finished, and leaves a very pleasant impression.

The banner is to be mounted on a staff with gilt ball and ear of corn for a head.

A new Grange is to be organized in West Florence. Another is talked of in the corner of Featherstone on Hay Creek.

The Red Wing Grange is No. 353 in the State of Minnesota.

The Burnside Grange P. of H. numbers about fifty members, and holds a special meeting on Wednesday of this week to initiate new members. Patrons plow deep and sweep clean.

The charter of the Boston Grange, P. of H., has been revoked by Dudley Adams, W. G. M. of the National Grange. The members claim that they are all interested in farming pursuits, and have appealed to the National Grange. Of course monopoly organs will raise a cry of joy, but do not let Patrons be the least disturbed; that the order is able to meet and deal with such questions only shows the strength of the organization. The matter will be tested by the proper authority and settled in accordance with right and equity. And the discussions and decision of this case will be of great importance to the order. The order is new and some such precedent as the decision of such a test case will be of great use.

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