

**THE GRANGE ADVANCE.**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, '76

H. H. YOUNG, Publisher & Editor.

**Republican Nominees.**

- For President—  
R. B. HAYES, Ohio;
- For Vice President—  
WM. A. WHEELER, N. Y.;
- For Presidential Electors—  
State—C. K. DAVIS, Ramsey;  
" —S. MILLER, Cottonwood;  
1st. Dis.—A. J. EDGERTON;  
2d " —A. K. FINSETH;  
3d. " —HANS MATTON;  
For Congress, (Second District.)—  
H. B. STRAIT;  
For county Auditor—  
S. J. WILLARD;  
For Sheriff—  
M. S. CHANDLER;  
For Register of Deeds—  
CHARLES McCLURE;  
For Judge of Probate—  
N. O. WERNER;  
For county Attorney—  
J. C. McCLURE;  
For Surveyor—  
WILLIAM DANFORTH;  
For Coroner—  
DR. E. S. PARKS;  
For Court Commissioner—  
N. O. WERNER;  
For Commissioner, 4th District—  
A. J. GRAVES;  
For Commissioner, 5th District—  
F. TETHER.

**The Republican Convention.**

The republican congressional convention for this district was held in this city, on Wednesday last. As that was our publication day, it was impossible for us to give more than a meagre outline of its doings last week, and it is now too late for a complete report to be acceptable. Hence we shall content ourselves with some general remarks concerning it. On the Tuesday previous, the delegates generally had arrived and it was an easy matter to ascertain the relative strength of the two principal competitors for the nomination, i. e., Hon. H. B. Strait and J. A. Thacher. The former was claimed to have forty-seven votes, giving him a majority of six over all opposition; and the latter thirty-eight, or seven less than a majority. The most influential friends of Major Strait did not, however, desire his nomination under circumstances which would render his election improbable, and having been told that there were a good many republicans in this end of the district who would not vote for him, they manifested a conciliatory and compromising spirit. They even expressed a willingness to withdraw his name, for the sake of harmony and adopt a more acceptable candidate.

Had the opposition displayed an equally accommodating disposition, it seemed to us that a compromise might have been effected easily at that time; but a few of the delegates who objected to Mr. Strait seemed determined to prevent any mutually satisfactory understanding. These indulged in denunciatory and abusive allusions towards Mr. Strait and his friends, and soon succeeded in exciting such antipathy as to put compromising wholly out of the power of everybody. Through Tuesday afternoon and evening, until after midnight, the disputes continued, waxing hotter until personalities came to be indulged in pretty freely. On Wednesday morning a calmer state of feeling existed, and those pacificatorily inclined tried to renew negotiations. Rice county's ten delegates, who were understood to be divided in opinions, were regarded as holding the power to dictate terms, and an appeal was made to them by a portion of the anti-Strait element to bring forward a new man, say, Mr. Buckham or Mr. Gordon E. Cole. But all the anti-Strait delegates would not agree to this proposition, and Rice county delegates very properly refused to introduce a further cause of discord. No successful effort was made or could be made to unite and organize the anti-Strait men, and, hence, their influence could not be fully exerted. As far as we could see, during all this time the friends of Mr. Strait were guiltless of anything worthy of complaint. They were united and calm, except when one or two would

occasionally be provoked into retorting emphatically to something severe uttered by their opponents. When twelve o'clock arrived, the anti-Strait men found themselves considerably confused, out of humor and demoralized and, apparently, they went in to the convention utterly destitute of any concerted plan of action. The Strait men, on the other hand, were united and knew just what to do. It was not strange, therefore, that the latter gained control of the convention from the start and maintained it throughout its sessions. In the interval of the recess for dinner, some outsiders essayed another effort at compromise, but the anti-Strait delegates were not in the humor for it and it had to be abandoned. It is doubtful to us whether Mr. Strait's friends would have listened to any overtures at that time, as it had become obvious that only about two-thirds of the opposition were really in favor of Mr. Thacher; and they concluded that the latter and his friends had no reason to complain of Mr. Strait, because it appeared that, if he were not a candidate, Mr. Thacher would hardly be able to secure the convention. Eighteen of the anti-Strait delegates were also opposed to Thacher, leaving him twenty-five short of a majority.

When the convention re-assembled at two o'clock, the first move made by the Thacher men was exceedingly unfortunate. This was the effort to shut out the Renville county delegation on the pretext of fraud. They were not possessed of a particle of evidence to prove their assertion, and the move became a mere inexcusable assault upon the delegation exciting only sympathy for the attacked party. If it had been successful it would have amounted to nothing, so far as Mr. Strait's nomination was concerned, and it was, therefore, exceedingly unwise to attempt it. In the bad humor resulting from all these causes the convention proceeded with an informal ballot, the result showing that while Major Strait had fifty adherents, Mr. Thacher had but twenty, the other eighteen anti-Strait votes being divided as follows: Rice 10, Chandler 5, Hall 1, Austin 1, Cole 1. Mr. Chandler's name being used without his consent.

Here was another mistake. The Thacher men had claimed thirty-eight votes, and yet they allowed this exhibit of weakness to be made on an informal ballot. As nine of these votes came from Wabasha and one from Swift county, it was demonstrated that Mr. Thacher did not even hold the entire Goodhue delegation, two members of which must have voted for Mr. Strait. Of course, this exhibit disposed the convention to hasten to a formal ballot, and as the other names had been withdrawn meanwhile, seventeen of the eighteen scattering votes were divided between Strait and Thacher, the former getting seven and the latter ten. The other one was cast for Austin. This gave Mr. Strait a majority of twenty-seven in a vote of eighty-eight, and proved that if he did obtain the nomination by unfair means, he had been careful to make a sure thing of it.

There is no doubt in our mind that Mr. Strait could have been defeated in this convention, but it was very clear on Tuesday evening that Mr. Thacher could not be nominated. The most prominent professed friends of the latter seemed determined to prevent anything being done which could tend to increase his strength, nor would they consent to have him withdrawn and another candidate substituted. It is hard to tell what motive actuated them, but the belief is entertained by several well-informed gentlemen in this city that a few of them are anxious to have Judge Wilder elected by the democrats, and believing that, if Mr. Strait were nominated, a large proportion of the republicans of this county would vote for Wilder in pre-

ference to Strait, they managed purposely to bring about the nomination of Mr. Strait, and yet did not let it appear that they were responsible for that result.

Still others feared that, if a compromise was effected, the new candidate taken up might be Hon. Martin S. Chandler, and knowing him to be a healthy man, possessing remarkable power of endurance and capacity for holding on, they reasonably supposed that if he once got the office they would not live long enough to ever hope to realize the fruition of their own aspirations. Hence, they did not want to compromise. They preferred to have Strait nominated rather than take the risk on Chandler. It is due, however, to Mr. Chandler to say that, so far as we can see and we have watched closely, he has done nothing to afford the slightest room for suspecting that he did otherwise than labor faithfully to procure Mr. Thacher's nomination. He certainly did not work to procure his own nomination, nor would he suffer his friends to do so.

In conclusion, then, these appear to be the real facts: Mr. Thacher owes his defeat principally to mismanagement on the part of his friends, and secondarily to the unfaithfulness of some of those in whom he confided. Mr. Strait's nomination is due, first, to the circumstance of his having a majority of the delegates in his favor, and, next, to his opponent's want of confidence in each other and consequent want of unity and organization. It cannot be said that there was unfairness in this convention, nor was any proof furnished that there was unchance, so far as we can see, he is as fair in the county conventions; much entitled to the support of the party as nominees are usually.

—The Minnesota State Agricultural Society has issued a large colored poster announcing the 18th annual exhibition, which takes place at St. Paul on the 3d, 4th, 5th and 6th of October. The bill was printed in Cincinnati, and it would be but justice to compel the committee to pay for it out of their private funds. There is no reason whatever why a State institution of this State should not patronize home establishments. Half a dozen offices in the State can do printing good enough for any show. But so we go! Nothing to exhibit at the Centennial, because we are too poor! Our leading educators proclaiming that the legislature will do nothing to advance the educational interests of the State! Our metropolitan press working against the interests of the State, by unnecessary exaggeration about the wheat crop! The local press teeming with accounts of destruction by grasshoppers and other pests! And, taking everything in connection, it seems to us that we are striving effectively to keep away immigrants, discourage our own people, and ruin the prospects of Minnesota.

—If the editor of the New York Sun would read the 14th and 15th amendments of the federal constitution, and the "necessary legislation" subsequently enacted by congress in conformity therewith, he would see the folly of his "Word of warning" article. These make it the duty of the President of the United States to protect voters at the polls, whenever the State authorities fail to make adequate provision for such protection. Shall the President neglect plain constitutional requirements?

—We see it stated that Mr. Buell has written a letter declining the congressional candidacy in the first district. We hope this is true, for we have a high regard for Mr. Buell and feel that it is an imposition to load him every year with the labors of an unsuccessful canvass. Let the democrats of that part of the State give him a resting spell, and trot out a new man for this occasion.

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