

THE GRANGE ADVANCE

Historical Society.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY, FIDELITY.

IN UNION STRENGTH--IN KNOWLEDGE POWER.

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NO. 43.

—The riots growing out of the railroad strikes have ceased and order is restored. This is due to the facts that, in some instances, the demands of the workman have been acceded to and that the workmen were themselves generally opposed to rioting and destruction of property and did not want to seem to be parties to such outlaws. The excesses of the mob tended more to defeat the purpose of the workmen than all other causes combined, and it is to be hoped that their manly conduct in promptly expressing disapproval of and in aiding to suppress the mobs, will be allowed to operate as a strong influence in their favor.

—Jay Gould and a few others of his set are demanding a monarchy, as the only preventive of such scenes as have recently occurred in our large cities. It is a fortunate thing for Mr. Gould and his friends that they have lived in a free country for the last twenty years or so, they might otherwise be serving the State in striped livery; for, in a republic, there is more chance for the rich as well as for the poor to escape the penalty of their acts, than in a monarchy.

—The entire press of the country seems now to be demanding a strong standing army to suppress riots and preserve order. Gentlemen, when any large proportion of the people of a country have to be kept in subjection by force of arms, that country is no longer free. To constitute a free government, with free citizens, the former should be so conducted that the latter will be at all times ready to sustain it and protect it against violence.

—The rule is now to denounce tramps and unemployed persons. Would it not be greater wisdom to seek to discover what it is that leads a larger number of people in this country to become idlers and tramps and endeavor to find and apply a remedy? In a country like this there ought to be employment for all at good wages.

—“A man has a right to pay what price he pleases for labor,” says an astern exchange. Not true. No man has the right to take from another without rendering a fair equivalent. You have not even the right to overwork and starve your horse, nor would society permit you to do so. And is not a man of more value than a horse?

—A Connecticut lady, who had lost five husbands by powder mill explosions, is reported as being about to marry another powder mill hand. We presume that her object is to save funeral expenses.

—How like extracts from speeches in the English parliament in 1776 and '77 are some of the articles now going the rounds of the newspapers in this country! Are they plagiarisms?

—The Lake City Leader has changed its form and abolished its “patent insides,” and is vastly improved in appearance and interest.

—The Kansas City Times will please excuse us. We are not in the habit of puffing such schemes as it proposes.

Where is the Remedy?

Eaton, Ohio, July 23d. 1877.

Dear Sir: * * * Permit me to trouble you further. It is your habit to study pretty thoroughly every question about which you are called upon to express an opinion, and I have found your judgments to be generally sound. Now I am desirous to know what, in your opinion, has caused the existing hard times, and where we are to look for a remedy. Has the resumption act anything to do with it? And do you favor an expansion of the currency? * * *

Our correspondent has our thanks for his good opinion of our judgment, although we know that we often, unfortunately, fall into errors, even after having carefully analyzed the matter submitted to us. The questions he propounds are very important ones just at this time, and ought not to be answered hastily. The reply should be accompanied with a demonstration in each instance which will make its truth palpable. As we have not now room for this, we can only promise him that we will take an early occasion to answer him as his queries deserve.

We may say now, however, that we do believe that the resumption act and all preceding and subsequent forced contractions and expansions of the currency medium has had a good deal to do with causing existing hard times. We believe that the true remedy lies in the adoption of a financial system which will afford a currency susceptible of automatic contractions and expansions, when these are respectively demanded by the wants of trade. We care not whether the medium be gold, silver, nickel, copper, iron, parchment, or paper, or any or all of these, if it is so conditioned that its volume cannot be reduced or increased by combinations whether these be associated as bankers, brokers, merchants, or under any other name. Contractions by hoarding cannot, perhaps, be avoided, but when the financial system permits hoarding which may not be attended with loss of interest, it encourages constant fluctuations in the volume of the currency and in consequence, incessant variations in its relative value, which must, of course, work continual disturbances in values of all kinds of property and merchandise and render all investments in industrial enterprises unsafe, because of their uncertainty. Our present currency system places it in the power of a few men to contract and expand the volume of currency at will, and they use this means to enrich themselves at the expense of all other members of the community. In this we think lies the evil. But we will endeavor to explain the subject fully hereafter, as it demands discussion.

A Plow Trial.

On last Saturday an interesting trial of Sulky plows took place on the farm of Mr. Philip Storkle, on Featherstone prairie. There were a number of farmers present, notwithstanding the busy season, and the merits of two of the implements, at least, were pretty thoroughly tested and fully discussed. There were four different make of plows tried, to-wit, the “Wier plow,” for which Mr. Howard Libby, of Featherstone, is agent the “Crosby plow,” made by Messrs. Cummings, Noble & Dodge, at Dixon, Ill., Mr. C. Betcher, of Red Wing, agent; the “Garden City plow,” made by Messrs Furst & Bradley, at Chicago, Ill., for which Mr. C. Betcher is, also agent; and the “Skinner plow” Mr. Edward L. Baker, of Red Wing, agent. The trial demonstrated fully that these are all first-rate plows, and it was difficult to decide in favor of any one of them. The “Garden City” and the

“Wier” were fortunate in being represented on the ground by those with whom they were favorites, and, therefore, received greater attention than the other two. The “Crosby,” it is true had its agent on the ground, but it was not provided with a special team and but little work was performed with it, and the “Skinner” was like a poor boy at a frolic, whatever attention was bestowed upon it coming from the champions of its rivals. For these reasons, the contest was really between the “Wier” and “Garden City,” and it is hardly fair to the other that they should be mentioned as competing for the decision. Again, there was no organization of the spectators, no committee, no vote taken, and, hence, it cannot be certainly declared which way the majority decided. As far as we could ascertain the opinion of those present was nearly equally divided, but we cannot pretend to say in which direction the majority inclined.

Our own opinion in the premises would be of no value were we to give it, inasmuch as we are not a practical farmer and might overlook important merits. We think, however, that we are justified in saying that all the plows there were excellent, and one could hardly go amiss in purchasing any one of them. If a farmer should buy a “Wier” plow it is not likely that he would ever regret it, and the same would, no doubt, be the case if he should purchase a “Garden City,” “Crosby,” or “Skinner.” An attempt was made to test the drafts, but we do not believe that the test was sufficiently fair to justify a conclusion based upon it, and for this reason: the dynamometer used placed the team about eight inches farther from the plow than the ordinary draft. The effect was of course to make the draft heavier. The fact that the plows are hung differently to the frames forbids the conclusion that all were affected alike by this extension, as will be readily understood, and hence, a test which alters the position of the team relatively to the draft is really no test. In this case, too, one team was considerably taller than the other, a fact which would naturally affect the accuracy of the test.

The only conclusion, then, that we can come to is that the trial was decidedly inconclusive as to the comparative merits of the plows, but conclusive that they are all good.

—The politician who wishes to be successful in this country for the next few years, must study the subject of finance thoroughly, for the people will not continue to support those who favor a policy which leads only to general bankruptcy and ruin. And, in order to prevent the management of public affairs falling into the hands of incompetent charlatans, who will seek to attain honors and distinction by catering to the worst passions of the people, it behooves every intelligent citizen to understand thoroughly the great question of the day and insist upon the adoption of correct principles. What the country now has is a monetary system which tends to concentrate the wealth in the hands of the few; what it needs is a monetary system which will tend to diffuse the wealth among the many. This is not communism, and those who are so fond of denouncing, as communistic, every argument that is urged for the relief of the people, seem to overlook the fact that, in their zeal, they are advocating an oligarchy which is as odious to sensible people as the most radical socialism. It is the mean between these extremes that we need to strike.

—The Wier plow is admitted to be as good as the best, if not the best.

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