

WILLMAR TRIBUNE.

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BY
JOHNSON & LAWSON.

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OFFICE IN GILGER BLOCK.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24TH, 1895.

A Discussion of the Justice Due the Transgressing Striker.

The Litchfield Independent finds fault with us for saying a good word for our strikers as follows:

"Some of the Willmar strikers in the Great Northern tie-up last spring were found guilty of interfering with the mails, at the U. S. court at Minneapolis last week. The local papers at Willmar rush to the defense of the accused, and denounce the verdict. The Tribune uses this language:

"Possibly these our good citizens violated some technical law as construed by a dogmatic court. Morally, and by the principles of justice and equity, they were justified in all they did. During the excitement, and fighting as the men and their sympathizers honestly thought they did, for their right to living wages, what was easier than that some should transgress some technical rule."

"Now the laborer in his inherent right to the just fruits of his toil has our earnest sympathy and aid, but we deplore seeing the workmen throw away their chances of bettering their condition, which they do every time they violate the law by interfering with the property and rights of others. This course never succeeds. As long as our laws and industrial system are as at present, a corporation or a capitalist has the same right as any individual to hold and use property. One can no more justify a railroad hand in interfering with the property of a railway than one can a printer who quits work because he doesn't get what he considers his just wages, or a hired man on the farm. Suppose the printers on the Willmar Tribune should quit work all at once, without notice, and not only that but should forcibly prevent others that the proprietor might employ from taking their places, and still further, forcibly enter the printing office and stop the presses and prevent the issuing of the paper. Can anyone doubt that the editor would consider his rights trampled on? In the case of the farm hand, would he be justified after quitting work in preventing the farmer from gathering his crops by forcibly unhitching his horses and driving them back to the barn every time the farmer attached them to the binder, or by following him up and stopping his machine by thrusting sticks into the gears? We think that in either case there would be some law invoked, and a great deal of leineny would not be used in dealing with the culprits."

"The cases are exactly parallel. The railroad corporation is allowed by law to run its trains, pay such wages as may be agreed upon between it and its employes, and if one man quits work to hire some one else to take his place if it can do so. It has the right to make up its train crews from A. R. U. men - non-union men, Chinamen or Hottentots, as it sees fit, and to pay them five dollars per day or five cents, as may be agreed upon by the parties. We say these things are allowed by the laws as they stand at present. We do not say that this industrial system is the best that can be devised, and we freely admit that very often the laborer does not get his just share of pay for his work. Corporate greed and power often oppresses the workmen and deals unjustly with him. Corporations often transgress the law themselves, but this gives no excuse for individuals to retaliate in the same manner. Violators of the law should be punished, whether they are members of the corporation or not, and it is only by upholding the law that the perpetuity of our government can be assured."

"There is a way to get at these grievances, but it is not in the line of action taken by railroad strikers when they interfere with the running of trains. It is through an intelligent use of the ballot. It is in the election of true men to make our laws, men pledged to the accomplishment of their duty in restricting the powers of corporations, in providing for arbitration or labor troubles, and in so shaping legis-

lation that these abuses can no longer exist. The voter has a further duty to perform in electing honest and fair men as judges in our courts."

Now while we admit the truth of much of the above, the question, if we are not mistaken, is broader and wider than the horizon of the Litchfield Independent. As a general proposition the statute law ought to be obeyed by everybody, but in actual life is quite different, however. Above and superior to all statute laws is the divine law of self-preservation. When our human laws fail to protect us, we are justified in executing the law of self-preservation ourselves. To be sure a man that takes the law into his own hand does it at his own risk and a jury of his peers is the ultimate arbiter of appeal. It resolves itself however, into a matter of judgment that the best minds may differ on, whether the act was justified or not. We are of the opinion, if you please, that that certain circumstances were a fair justification of most if not all of the unlawful acts the strikers committed, and the trial jury upholds us in this view. We know that there are at least mitigating circumstances that ought to be taken into consideration, and we are not at all ashamed of saying so, let it be called demagoguery or anything else. As Bro. Peterson has been very profuse in his illustration of points of law we will also furnish one.

Suppose Bro. Peterson should be assaulted in some back-alley some dark night by some man with a club demanding his money or his life. We will suppose that Bro. Peterson is a good match for the highway man in strength and courage and has a big jack knife in his pocket. Now what will Bro. Peterson do in such a fix? According to his philosophy he would proceed to argue with himself like this: I can probably overpower that highway-man, I can at least try. But even if that man robs me of my money it is wrong for me to take the law into my own hands. So I will let him rob me, and do nothing to prevent him. Because this robber transgresses the law, that is no reason that I should transgress it by assaulting him or perhaps kill him, in defending myself. No, I will wait 'til by an intelligent use of the ballot box, all highway men are stamped out of the state." This is Mr. Peterson the philosopher. But the actual Mr. Peterson would probably draw his jack-knife and rip up Mr. Highwayman before he had time to think. And a jury of his peers would justify him in doing so, justify him in executing the highest law of the universe, the law of self preservation.

C. J.
Congressman Eddy, writes us that he has never been a land agent for the R. R. Co. He says: "The fact is I never was a land agent for a R. R. Co. for a minute, and never sold a foot of land for a R. R. Co. or anyone else. I was in the employ of a R. R. Co. for about two years in a menial capacity, and drew my pay each month the same as a section-hand or brakeman does - and that is all the connection I ever had with any corporation."

We of course apologize to Mr. Eddy for our mistake in representing him as a land agent of the R. R. Co. as we had been informed, instead of an ordinary employe. We can assure him we do not wish to misrepresent any man. And while our attention is called to this matter of misrepresentation we wish to call to the remembrance of Mr. Eddy the speech he made in New London last fall, when Mr. he himself did most outrageously misrepresent Mr. Boen. Mr Eddy quoted part of a bill introduced by Mr. Boen and said a few sentences out of their context, and gave a meaning to what he had read entirely different from what a fair construction warranted. Since Mr. Eddy now realizes the injustice done to another by misrepresentation, we hope he will publicly apologize to Mr. Boen for the wrong intentionally or otherwise, that he did him, Boen, in that speech. Mr. Boen was in the hall, but the meeting was closed so quickly that the injured man had no chance to object. Everybody remembers this. Now if Mr. Eddy will publicly apologize to Mr. Boen for the above we shall think a good deal of Mr. Eddy after this. If not, we shall

simply remind him that every dog has his day and that poor chickens are apt to come home to roost.

C. J.
Bro. Crosby deplores that we are endeavoring to bring nationality into politics. No, Bro. Crosby, we beg leave to be excused. That was brought into politics years ago, long before we had anything to do with it. We remember for instance, how Scandinavians were exhorted to take pride in the fact that Knute Nelson, a Scandinavian, was the nominee for Governor. And really, if Knute Nelson was as good a man as his opponent, we fail to see why that wasn't all right and proper. We know that republican papers found no fault with that. We fail to see why the same reasoning don't apply to Mr. Boen, unless, indeed, you mean to say, that it is wrong to mention nationality when it favors a populist, but all right when it favors a republican. As to the merits of the two men there are of course difference of opinion. Mr. Boen, however, never insulted his constituents by sneeringly referring to them as willing to work for nothing, and still not be discontented.

C. J.
Some persons unfriendly to Dr. Johnson of the WILLMAR TRIBUNE seem to think we are assisting them to down the gentleman. We do not care to be placed in this position. Personally we do not know Dr. Johnson, much less feel any enmity toward him. He is evidently a gentleman of ability and has many friends among our own. When his newspaper ideas cross our own we feel justified in heading him off if possible and shall continue to take issue when we feel so disposed. But as for taking up anyone's quarrel, we beg to be excused and positively decline to do so. We do hope that this position will be understood as we feel above the style of editorial work which introduces the petty animosities of the writer in newspaper work. We prefer to settle personal matters in a different way. - Atwater Republican.

We can assure Bro. Satterlee that Dr. Johnson duly appreciates the above manly statement. It is small business to try to down any man, because he dare to speak his sentiment and refuse to crouch down to the powers that be. However much they try the enemies of Dr. Johnson cannot down him in Kandiyohi county.

The Press editor can read and appreciate Hegel, Kant, Max Mueller, Agassiz, Newton, Shakespeare, but this other great Coin is beyond his comprehension. We're sorry, and we hope the Willmar brother won't be too hard on us. It isn't our fault and we can't help it. - Paynesville Press.

Here is a confession for you! A man who claims to understand the most profound philosophy, Sanscritism, naturalism, deep researches in mathematics, etc., ancient literature, etc., says that a little every day common sense political economy is beyond his comprehension. Surely "Coin" hit it just right when he quoted the following bit of Scripture on the back of the title page on his book: "Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and hast revealed them unto babes."

The Willmar Tribune scores Hon. Frank M. Eddy, member of congress from the Seventh district, for his lately published interview in the Minneapolis Tribune, and more particularly on the following paragraph thereof: "If prices remain good the chances are that the silver question will never again gain the public attention that it held a month or two ago. Of course if wheat goes down or the crops get short there will be discontent, and that will bring it up once more." "If prices remain good" implies that they were good at the time of the interview, which was very recently and therefore Mr. Eddy must consider that 45 cents per bushel for wheat, 15 cents for oats and 20 cents for barley are "good" prices. Wheat has gone down even below 45 cents, and therefore, according to Mr. Eddy's opinion, the silver question will come up again. He may depend upon it, the News thinks, that this question will be discussed until it is voted upon again. - Moorhead News.

How to Preserve Binders.
When a binder will not work and the farmer will not pay for it, then it is called a calamity says the Reville Star Farmer. Every

machine company has special experts for the repair of "calamities." W. A. Johnson was the Deering man that was here during the past week. He knows all about a machine and is a bright and intelligent fellow. He gave us a few and simple methods of caring for machines after harvest that all of our farmer readers will do well to follow. Have a machine shed if possible. Always block the machine after harvest so that it may remain level. Prop the pole or tongue so that there will be no strain on the "A" frame. Then remove the sickle, oil thoroughly and wrap in burlap, which will prevent rust and improve the temper of the blade. Now take white lead and lard, mixed equally, and cover the needle, knotting hook, knife and all parts through which the twine passes. This will easily rub off next year and the parts will be in a polished condition. Next turn discharge arms in and pointing toward decks. This will take all strain off the compression springs. If these few and simple rules are followed, owners of harvesters and binders will save money, time, trouble and much swearing.

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Mossberg's Wonderful Healer is absolutely the only remedy on the market guaranteed to cure barb wire cuts and sores of all kinds on horses and other animals. Heals without leaving a scar. Try it.

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