

# New Ulm Review

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## EXCITED OVER THE SCHOOLS

Tremendous Mass Meeting for the Purpose of Electing Directors.

Through Which in Its Various Phases Beggars Description.

C. Strickler and A. F. Reim Elected by an Overwhelming Majority.

Unscrupulous Methods Employed to Excite the Voters.

Saturday night witnessed in New Ulm the most exciting and bitter public meeting ever held in New Ulm. The two candidates on the school board, caused by the expiration of the terms of O. C. Strickler and F. Friedmann, were to be led and it was war on either side as to who should fill them. Strickler was a candidate for re-election and he seemed fully bent upon ousting Friedmann. Reim was put up in the latter's place and an opposition party then took up the name of Friedmann and coupled with that of Frank. For days before the faction first referred to labored and quietly. The other side was awakened until Saturday and then a fur flew. Claims and counter claims were made all day and at night it culminated in a seething, surging multitude congregated about the hall, anxious to fight.

It was an interesting sight, fit for an artists' word picture. Candidates grew excited. Men rushed too and fro. Women were rushed to the polls and then hurried off after more. Not until every vote was safely in the ballot box did the excitement cease.

In the hall the scene was tumultuous. Speakers sought to get the floor but were pushed down by a moving, restless crowd. Men tried to talk, but the stamping of feet and the yells of excitement drowned every voice. The chairman was almost powerless. Over chairs, benches and even people the crowd surged on and hovered around the polls. At last they were opened and then what a rush! Only a photograph could picture it. Words have no meaning to describe such a surging throng.

When the ballots were counted it was found that Strickler and Reim were overwhelmingly victorious. In the neighborhood of 560 votes had been cast for the two candidates while the others received less than 300. The reason is apparent. Notwithstanding the position of director of the public schools is one to be sought after but should rather be thrust upon the man who is honored therewith, rigs were being run the interests of certain candidates and scheme or effort was spared to get the voters, whether all of them knew at they were voting for or not. It matters not who practiced these methods. A people who were standing around Turner Hall are the best judges as to it and it is only necessary for the Review to say that they are far from being open. Calm deliberation should direct educational movements and not wild exaltation and heated excitement.

The combination which was made in the school fight Saturday night will win every election, but it is a conundrum that bothers to know how they are going to add matters after they have won.

Deputy Auditor Jorgenson as he stood watching the strange mingling of people constituting that peculiar multitude remarked that even S. D. Peterson would find difficulty in determining how to handle such a crowd.

The Review doesn't believe in allowing Turners, Lutherans Catholics or anyone else to run the public schools. What does it believe in stirring up strife there is no need for it, just to see two or three men who want to see mountains out of mice and who wish to have great wrongs to right in order to accomplish personal ends.

At the meeting an individual whose profession is that of saving souls spreading the doctrine of charity fellowship among all men, made it his business to create discord by constant references to his neighbors (for he creed of charity all men are brothers) and also to laugh and scorn those who were disappointed by their inability to show that coarse part of their nature which glows over another's downfall. Do you know, we despise such a man. He is utterly lacking

in those traits which his teachings should inspire, and were we thoroughly imbued with the worst qualities of a bum politician, we do not believe we could show more of the spirit of narrowness and selfish exultation. Even Ingersoll, unbeliever that he is, might read such a man a lecture on charity and on the duty that one owes to another, that would bring the blush of shame to his cheek if a spark of manhood were left smouldering within him.

Frequently we have been told that a newspaper should not be afraid to speak its views, nor should it deviate from what it believes to be right. The Review is honestly endeavoring to do this in all that comes up, be it scandal, politics or school matters.

No one should be on the school board because he is a Turner, Lutheran, Catholic, Methodist or Congregationalist. He should be there simply because he believes in the public schools as an American institution, teaching American loyalty and love for the government under which we all live and thrive. We have no time for any other doctrine than that.

The claim is made since the election that if there hadn't been so much lying on the side of Friedmann and Frank that there wouldn't have been such a big meeting, and yet the friends of neither of those gentlemen knew anything of a school fight until Saturday morning. Why, then, was there so much agitation at certain places by the other side on the night before?

The Review has stood by Mr. Reim in every matter in which he has been interested and proposes to do so this time. We have confidence in his fitness to make a good member and we do not believe he will do anything to injure the public schools as some in their excitement have dared to say. Neither do we believe that had he known what was being done to advance his cause on Friday evening that he would have countenanced the methods.

The REVIEW wants to be fair to all who took a well-meaning part in the contest. The Lutherans who were present were led into it because one of their men had been put in nomination—and he is a good man too—and because they had been made to understand that great issues were at stake. They are a large portion of our tax-paying citizens and are entitled to an equal voice with all other factions, if factions there must be. They were honest and justified in their advocacy of Mr. Reim, and under ordinary circumstances no one could justly criticize them. As it is, it is only the alliance of conflicting elements which they were drawn into and which was started by others outside of their society with a motive that is open to censure. For that they were hardly to blame, not knowing at the time the real object of the prime movers.

One of the excuses given by the agitators for the unnecessary demonstration of Saturday evening was to the effect that the Turnverein was running the public schools. The REVIEW has absolutely no interest in the success of any society but it would like to call a halt to all such prattle as this of the politicians who out of their desires to win are shrewd enough to bring to their aid the various church societies who are at war with the Turnverein. It is true the majority of teachers as well as the superintendent belong to a certain society. That makes no difference. As long as the schools are properly conducted and produce good results, no fault should be found whatever. The moment the predominant influence attempts to instill its own ideas into the school instruction, then should objection be raised and not till then. This has not been done so far and there is no valid excuse to be given for the issues raised in the recent fight. It was a contest solely of men; a contest of selfish interests that never had as its motive the advancement of a single principle or the betterment of any department of the schools. The REVIEW is pained therefore to be compelled to report its occurrence in New Ulm. Since our earliest childhood days the public school has been held up to us as the foundation of our superior intelligence as a nation and the mainstay of the institutions that are dear to every true American. To have them made the plaything of two or three scheming politicians is naturally, therefore, a source of feeling regret.

Here's a prediction! Watch and see how near it comes to being true! The \$400 appropriation is to be secured and in course of time Nix is to be ousted from the schools.

We would impress upon all who are apt to read these articles that the REVIEW doesn't care one cent who gets on the school board so long as personal spite is kept out of its councils and the welfare and progress of the schools is kept constantly in view.

All who noticed the calm and manly manner in which the Lutheran ministers and their candidate conducted themselves at the hall and compared their action with that of a certain other gentleman of the cloth, were bound to respect them. No one can make us believe that Reim and his true friends would ever endorse all of the methods that were used to indirectly advance their cause.

Here is what Prof. Searing, of the Mankato Normal School says: "The graduates of the New Ulm schools are among the best we receive. They show evidence of careful and thorough training much above the average. I have a full appreciation of the educational work that is being done in our neighboring city." Prof. Searing is an educator of long experience and pronounced merit, and his opinion should weigh well in the balance when compared with that of those who seldom visit a school.

The story was started by one of the agitators that if Turner Hall was located on Front Street, State Street would not have been graded. The story has nothing to do with the school question, as we can see, but to illustrate its absurdity it is only necessary that the petition which brought about the grading of State Street was headed by A. F. Reim and that the improvement was paid for largely by people residing along the said Street. Furthermore, Mr. Strickler, as a member of the Board of Public Works voted for the improvement, and certainly no one thinks of accusing him of being run by the Turnverein.

It is a bad sign of popular corruption sufficient to cause fear, when liquor is employed in the ordinary political struggle after office where money is at stake, and perhaps a living, but when men are so anxious to secure control of educational matters in order to execute selfish desires and vent personal spite, that they will spend whole nights in a saloon and even tarnish the sanctity of what was once a place of religious worship by employing the fasces to destroy the more upright and patriotic influences that would guard the sacredness of the public schools, then it is enough to cause one to think that Americanism and loyalty to American institutions have lost their weight with some people and are as nothing compared with personal greed and individual ambition. Heaven forbid, though, that all of us should ever come to fall so low. Rather be losers always than to taint the citizenship of which we are proud by resorting to ward politics to run the schools which are to fit the youth of this land for the responsible duties of government.

The gentleman who made the speeches at the New Ulm Brewing Co's saloon on Friday evening and who for the first time in the history of New Ulm introduced beer as a motive factor in settling educational interests, gave it out in boastful terms that if it hadn't been for him the lower part of town would never have secured the \$3,500 school house. People, who lived here before the town was blessed with the presence of this remarkable ward worker and educational beneficiary, will remember that C. W. H. Heideman in years gone by introduced a resolution at the meeting of the school board and impressed upon the members at that time the necessity of setting aside lots for the purpose of a school building in that section when one became necessary. The board agreed to the resolution and now that the need is apparent the members, whom the Cincinnati orator would so much like to down and who have all along been in the majority, voted to let the people say how much money they wanted to spend for the building. The people voted and the gentleman who now claims all the credit had no more to do with it than the man who said "We did it" after his wife had killed the bear. These are the

facts in the matter and the Review is surprised that a stranger should be believed in preference to men who have made New Ulm what it is and defended it in times when its homes were threatened with impending danger.

The special school tax for 1891 in the three leading towns of the county was as follows: New Ulm, 16 8-10 mills; Sleepy Eye, 21 mills; Springfield 29 2-10 mills. Does it appear from this that our schools are not being run upon an economic basis?

For two years Prof. Nix through skillful letter writing secured the state aid when our schools were not entitled to it, and also lowered the cost of education per capita by changing the method of instruction. Now comes his reward. His enemies would turn him down and out, simply because they cannot have their own way about everything. Is it right? Is it just and fair?

When the state board finally withheld the appropriation the only reason given was that the number of pupils was less than that required by law. The work of the school was highly commended and pronounced excellent by the High School board. Now, what are we to conclude. Simply this; that the New Ulm schools are doing just as good work in the eyes of the state board now as they did under the old system and are doing it at less expense. Why cannot the voters appreciate this?

In 1884, the special school tax, including interest and sinking fund, was 29 9-10 mills; in 1885 it was 20 3-10 mills; in 1886 it was 19 1-10 mills; in 1887 it was 18 7-10 mills; in 1888 it was 16 3-10 mills; in 1889 it was 16 2-10 mills; in 1890 it was 15 9-10 mills; and in 1891 it was 16 8-10 mills. The increase in 1891 was due to the sinking fund as appears from the official reports, so that the decrease has been steady, while the progress of the schools has been rapid. How do the would-be reformers expect to get around this when they argue for a change?

Mr. Silverson, who is a member of the school board and whose solemn duty it is to attend its meetings, was absent on Friday evening and it has since come to light that he spent that time amongst a crowd of voters, where beer flowed with unaccustomed frequency, telling them that the school board was disposing of lots without his knowledge and without reporting to him the manner in which the receipts had been handled. Had Mr. Silverson been at the other meeting instead, which had been called according to law to examine the treasurer's books and report, he would have heard in the regular routine of business what had become of all that money and why the lots had been sold. Two questions therefore arise. Had Mr. Silverson any right by such statements to make a direct slap at the integrity of such men as Peter Scherer, E. G. Koch, F. Friedmann, Dr. Strickler and F. Burg and has Mr. Silverson any right to criticize the actions of the Board when he don't attend the meetings and doesn't keep track of what is going on?

The chief bug-bear which Messrs. Silverson and Strickler have tried to place before the people to lead them to change the present management of the schools is that of the annual state high school appropriation of \$400. This the schools have not been receiving for the past three years and before the people accept this talk it would only be showing justice to the accused if the matter was thoroughly investigated.

Financial reasons, of course, are what come nearest to the tax-payers. While not of so much real importance as the educational welfare of children they nevertheless strike deeper and have more weight. Statistics, therefore, gathered from the official records, and which perhaps have never been examined closely by the gentlemen who are so anxious to father a change, may throw some light on the subject.

In the year '85 to '86 the schools were under the supervision of the high school board and received the \$400 appropriation. That year 551 pupils represented the attendance and 13 teachers were employed. Latin was one of the required studies for a full three years' course and it was almost impossible to secure enough pupils (five) to take the Latin course in order to secure the state aid. That year the sum of the salaries paid

to the thirteen teachers including the superintendent amounted to \$8,750. Of this, \$936 was secured from the current school fund of the state, set aside by law for the payment of teachers wages, only so that the district really paid only \$7,814. This began to appear burdensome to the board and at the next meeting it was unanimously agreed to change the system at the recommendation of the superintendent. What is known as the revolving system of dividing the teachers and classes was then introduced and a high school course, equal to the demand although not under the supervision of the state high school board, was pursued. It worked satisfactorily and for two years more, Prof. Nix through his own efforts secured the state aid. Difficulties that were entirely uncalculated for on the part of the state board arose and since then the state aid has been denied, except on one condition—that the high school afford two distinct courses, which are to fit the pupils for the college department of literature, science and arts in the University of Minnesota. From a common sense view this is not required and its adoption, while bringing in \$400 from the state, would necessitate an extra teacher if not two, at a cost of \$800 and perhaps \$1,300 for salaries and the addition of another room. Men of such good business ability as E. G. Koch, E. G. Pahl, F. Burg, Geo. Doehne, F. Friedmann, and Wm. Hummel's saw the folly of such an expenditure and the utter in-necessity of a classical course when pupils could hardly be forced to take it, and acted according to their best judgment. Such stories as those circulated to the effect that they were influenced by prejudices or whims are groundless. They are given out merely to estrange the voters, and the REVIEW invites careful consideration from all as to the good sense of a change.

A comparison may also be of interest and of aid in refuting the seemingly plausible arguments that are poured into the ears of the taxpayers. In '86, we have said, the sum of salaries paid to teachers and superintendent was \$7,814. The school, bear in mind, then numbered 551 pupils. Now in the school year of '91 to '92 the sum of salaries paid for all the teachers and superintendent was \$7,725 and deducting \$2,111 obtained from the current school fund, we have a decrease over '86 of \$2,200 and the pupils number 557. In '86 they were receiving state aid and thereby gained \$400. Now they do without state aid and save \$2,200 in salaries by a careful and intelligent adjustment of classes. Which do the taxpayers, whom the politicians so much desire to reach, prefer? It strikes us that Prof. Nix and the old school board weren't trying to bleed the people so very bad after all. In fact we find that they have been saving us money all along, and that facts and figures generally give the lie to street talk.

**A Woman Takes Poison.**  
Last Wednesday in the town of West Newton near Fairfax a married woman, named Mrs. Wm. Dickmeyer, ended her life by taking poison. The dose consisted in two teaspoonfuls of Paris green and the agony lasted for several hours before it resulted in death. She had been troubled with melancholy, it seems, during the past few years and her life was far from a happy one. To New Ulm people she will be best known by her maiden name of Sophie Stark. For several years she worked at the home of August Schell.

**A Phenomenon.**  
Those who were out of doors about ten o'clock Wednesday night witnessed one of the strangest sights in the heavens that was ever seen. Different people have different ideas of it, but it appears that a slender column of light arose slowly from the east and continued to rise until it had crossed the zenith. Then it halted for a while, and finally extended itself down to the western horizon, and remained for a half an hour or more stretched across the sky from east to west, and brightest on the western half. It appeared like a ribbon of the purest white and caused wonder and awe among all who saw it. Some of the more superstitious were frightened at the sight. It did not radiate like a northern light, though toward the close it wavered.

The Review office has secured a first-class job printer and has also supplied all of its presses with power. It is therefore enabled to execute good work and turn out jobs with dispatch and at less figures than its competitors. Bear this in mind when you want cheap work.

## TWELVE THOUSAND KILLED

That is the Story of a Volcanic Eruption on the Island of Sangis.

A London special of yesterday says: The steamer Catterthun, which has arrived at Sidney, N. S. W., reports that when she touched at the island of Timor there was a rumor current that the island of Sangis in the Malay archipelago had been destroyed by a volcanic eruption and that the whole population, comprising 12,000, had perished. The Catterthun steamed for Miles through a mass of volcanic debris.

A native from the Talant islands, who was at San Angelim four weeks ago, brought a remarkable story that several other natives had just returned from a voyage. They had intended to land on the island but were prevented by the sight of mountains belching forth smoke and fire. They reported "that the whole island was on fire. The water along the coast was covered, they said, with half-burned wreckage, pieces of houses and charred bodies. The whole population, estimated at 12,000, seemed to have been swept into the sea or burned, as not a living soul was to be seen. Streams of lava were still flowing toward the shore, showing that the activity of the volcano had not abated.

The steamship Catterthun brought a similar story into port with her yesterday. Near Sangis, her captain said, she passed through miles of debris dissimilar from anything he had seen at sea. Posts and sides of huts were mingled with such utensils as the natives of the Philippines use in cooking. Many unrecognizable objects, resembling charred human trunks, were also seen. Articles of head dress in the wreckage were identified by a sailor, who had lived in the Philippines, as belonging to the natives. The vessel was passing through the wreckage from 10 a. m. to 10:30 p. m. These reports are partially credited here although they are believed to be exaggerated. The formation of Sangis is volcanic and several small craters near the center of the island are known to have threatened activity during the last ten months.

## They Will Debate.

Friends of Ig. Donnelly have challenged Prof. J. T. McCleary to meet the former in debate upon the political issues of the day, the same to take place at Slayton sometime in August, and the Professor has accepted the challenge. Mr. Donnelly has a national reputation as a speaker, writer and politician, and is the acknowledged national leader of the People's party, and the fact that he has consented to meet Mr. McCleary in debate is an acknowledgement that he deems him a foe man worthy of his steel. He will find the Professor a courteous gentleman, fair in every respect and well versed in every point under discussion, who will confine himself to the facts, and compel the sage to discard the rambling discussions he has been carrying on of late and resort to matters of fact, provided he has any such ammunition in store, or retire in disorder from the field.

W. R. Hodges of the Sleepy Eye Herald was a caller at the REVIEW office on Monday.

The good people of New Ulm wear diamonds. They own four times as many as our people. The assessor of that place found just one hundred dollars worth, while we could produce but \$25 worth. And still the papers up there kick while we are not saying a word.—St. Peter Herald.

In referring to the Democratic congressional situation, the Mankato Review says: Very few names have been suggested, so far, but as time advances and the prospects as to the outcome develop they may become more numerous. C. W. H. Heideman of New Ulm is being urged in his own county, and is willing, we understand, to accept the honor, in which case he would make a persistent canvasser.

The annual re-union of the society of the second regiment Minnesota veterans will be held at St. Peter on Friday, September 16th. Capt. E. St. Julien Cox and A. A. Stone are appointed as a local committee of arrangements with power to add to the committee such other veterans as may be available for service thereon. Gen. Jennison will be the orator. Parade, banquet, fire-works, visit to places of interest and fair grounds during fair, reception, speech by Judge E. St. Julien Cox and other attractions will be presented to entertain the guests.