

The Tribune.

CONSERVATIVE NEVER.

A. N. BROWN, PROPRIETOR.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1888.

NO. 18

The Village Election.

Next Monday our citizens will be called upon to elect a village president, three trustees, treasurer, assessor, street commissioner and constables for the ensuing year, and in the humble opinion of the TRIBUNE the people of Mt. Pleasant ought to be unusually careful in making their selection of civic officers at this time. By a large majority the people of the village and county adopted local option, and it is of paramount importance that they should now elect officers who will enforce the law in every respect, and who have no sympathy with the liquor traffic. It is the duty of every law-abiding Republican and Democrat to unite on men who are pledged to a rigid enforcement of law, regardless of any political considerations. The welfare of our village and the best interest of our citizens require the election of officers who can be relied upon to do their duties.

Especially should our citizens be careful in their selection of president, for on him more than on all others devolves the enforcement of law and order. A man who is ready to violate his oath of office in the interest of the saloons, one who is in sympathy with certain species of lawlessness, or who can be found patronizing liquor gambling dens at midnight hours, on Sundays as well as week days, ought not to be elected village president, we care not who he is or what his politics may be.

Let us have a law-abiding president and council during 1888-9 and give local option a fair and square trial. To be beneficial the law must be enforced, and this will not be done by officers who are in sympathy with the liquor traffic. This is a subject that ought to receive the careful thought of every voter in Mt. Pleasant, for on next Monday's election largely depends the question of sobriety and order in our village during the ensuing year.

PIONEER DAYS.

THE DISAPPOINTMENTS AND HARDSHIPS ENDURED BY SETTLERS.

Compelled to Eat Ground Nuts and Leeks
to Sustain Life.

Another Interesting Article from Mr. Chas.
Taylor.

Yet, I presume that there are not many, even among pioneers, who would vote in favor of passing through what many endured, for the best farm Uncle Sam could give, even if they could be set back to youthful years again. The incidents and trials that pioneers endured, perhaps will not be believed today by those who enjoy the civilization and privileges of the present times. It was a great undertaking to penetrate an unbroken wilderness, 50 miles from civilization, in the midst of winter, with no well-beaten roads to travel—nothing but wild trails with bushes cut just wide enough for a team to pass, snow deep, goods and provisions unloaded in the snow, with, perhaps, no place of shelter for the dear ones but some rude cabin partly built, and away from all society and privileges, sometimes miles beyond others and all alone with nothing but what had been brought along and no place to get anything. Yet the people were cheerful, and hoped for better things.

But when we heard that the land office was closed and no more land to be sold, it brought sorrow to many hearts, and cut off many of our hopes in regard to the improvement of the county and the department, for there were plenty of other countries in which there was not a settler, that would have been just as favorable for a reservation for the

missionary tour, I had been invited to stop some time while passing and take dinner at a certain place. Being a long distance from home and about dinner time I decided to stay, make a short visit and take dinner with the good people. When the dinner came on I was invited to try a dish of those delicious leeks.—I thought it would be impolite to refuse, as they stated they were just trying them for once to see how they would relish them. Well, I never wanted to experiment any further on leeks—that one dish satisfied my curiosity as well as my appetite for the leek "luxury."

Provisions were sent in from outside for some time, so that many got relief that way, but it caused a good deal of trouble. The poor did not get very much. Those who got any had to go to Alma for them and only get a few pounds of different articles at a time. So, those who depended on that source to have their wants supplied fared rather poorly. A good many had moved in among us who had no means to help themselves, and brought nothing with them, expecting to find everything here and it made hard times for all. Those people had to live;—we could not see them suffer too much, but we did think some of them ought to have remained outside a few years longer. It would not do to sit down and feast till all was gone. We always found some way to keep a little on hand for a stormy day.

During the years above mentioned there was a good chance to work. I. E. Arnold had the contract to build five school houses and two churches for the Indians, and it made work for men and teams. Logs had to be cut and hauled to mill and lumber drawn to the different localities. The writer found a good job in the business and an easier way to keep the flour barrel full and purchase other necessary things. But, then, it was difficult to get hands to assist, their plea being that there was provisions sent in and they could not leave home—their families could not stay alone. I had been sent out to try and get hands to work either in saw-mill or woods, but I had to go back and report that I could not find any who wanted work.

It made hard times, harder with many on account of buying those things that were worse than nothing. I must give a few incidents to show the folly of indulging in those things that only a de-

are in sympathy with the liquor traffic, it cut off many of our hopes in regard to the improvement of the county and the careful thought of every voter in looked like a black act of the Interior Mt. Pleasant, for on next Monday's department, for there were plenty of election largely depends the questions other counties in which there was not sobriety and order in our village during the ensuing year.

The Village Finances.

Last week Mr. John F. Ryan, the village treasurer, made the following financial report, which was accepted and adopted by the council last Monday evening:

STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF FUNDS MARCH 1, 1880.		
Balance in general fund.....	\$1,749 74	
Balance in sewer fund.....	236 12	\$ 1,975 86
Overdrawn on highway fund.....	306 24	
Overdrawn on water fund.....	1,069 07	
Cash actually on hand.....	600 55	1,975 86

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FROM MARCH 1, 1886 TO MARCH 5, 1888.		
RECEIPTS.		
Bal. on hand March 1, 1888.....	600 55	
RECEIPTS.		
General fund.....	14,747 68	
Highway fund.....	7,014 69	
Bridge fund.....	1,069 00	
Water fund.....	3,091 19	26,454 1

DISBURSEMENTS.		
General fund.....	15,111 44	
Highway fund.....	6,231 24	
Sewer fund.....	236 12	
Bridge fund.....	1,179 77	
Water fund.....	1,830 32	
Bal. on hand March 5, 1888.....	1,875 22	26,454 1

STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF FUNDS MARCH 5, 1889.		
Balance in general fund.....	1,385 98	
Balance in highway fund.....	477 21	
Balance in water fund.....	191 80	2,054 99
Overdrawn on bridge fund.....	179 77	
Bal. on hand March 5, 1888.....	1,875 22	2,054 99

In the above receipts I have included the amount of delinquent taxes collected.....	1,469 65	
Less cost of advertising.....	331 34	1,138 31

JOHN F. RYAN,
Village Treasurer.

It may be observed that the report covers two years, no settlement having been made with the treasurer last year. One feature, especially, of the report is worthy of particular notice. For six years no delinquent taxes had been collected. Paying taxes seemed a go-as-you-please affair with a certain class of our citizens. Poor people were compelled to pay their taxes, but speculators in village lots and a few others were permitted, through official favoritism or inefficiency, to go year after year without paying their village taxes, and nothing was done. Mr. Ryan would not be a party to such injustice, however, and he determined to put an end to it so far as he was able. For this purpose, last spring he advertised for sale all property on which taxes had not been paid, and the result was that he collected \$1,469.65 from speculators and others who were delin-

quent. It cut off many of our hopes in regard to the improvement of the county and the careful thought of every voter in looked like a black act of the Interior department, for there were plenty of other counties in which there was not a settler, that would have been just as favorable for a reservation for the Indians as this county, and where, perhaps, they would have been saved from many of the evils that have surrounded them here. The department, not satisfied yet, sent out another insult to cause us a good deal of trouble, besides a little cash. That was, that we must all go before some justice of the peace to prove our claims and make oath that we had settled and improved the land. The nearest place to which we could go was St. Louis, besides expenses and fees for the scalawag of a justice who, after he had filled his pockets with the funds, left for some more congenial clime, and left his family for others to support. This was all unnecessary, as we had a duplicate receipt from the land office calling for a deed, and those who never made any improvements got their deeds just the same as the rest.

We had plenty of trials to endure, but with all the bitter we enjoyed good health. There was but little sickness, and that mostly among those who came from other parts.

What has been considered the hardest times were during the years of 1858, 1859 and 1860. During the summer of 1858 about one half our crops were destroyed by the squirrels and other vermin. Every place was alive with them and it was a sight to see them so busy carrying away wheat and corn. In many places they even took the potatoes out of the hills and left us the smallest half.

The years 1859 and 1860 were years of frost. In 1859 the frost extended over a large portion of the Northern States. Here there was frost every month of the year, yet the spring was the most beautiful that we have ever had. Crops were got in early, corn was large, wheat looked fine and everything bid fair for an abundant harvest. The writer was about to visit western New York, where he had once lived, but, before starting, went over the crops to get a proper view of them to see how they would correspond with those he might see on his journey. I saw none that looked better. It was about the 27th of May I got up in the morning about four miles south of Lake Ontario and found the weather very cold. Men were at work with overcoats and mittens on driving their teams in the fields all day. That night here was a heavy frost

could not find any who wanted work. It made hard times, harder with many on account of buying those things that were worse than nothing. I must give a few incidents to show the folly of indulging in those things that only a depraved appetite requires, at a time when the families were suffering and begging for necessary things to keep soul and body together.

The first case was that of a man who had got out of tobacco, and sent his little boy to the place where they kept the vile stuff. He had but ten cents to buy with, yet the little fellow must go alone a distance of ten miles through the woods. The "store" was out of tobacco and the boy could get none. The next day he must go miles the other way, the result being the same. By this time the want was almost unendurable and the man about fit for the mad house.

Another man had a large family of small children with nothing to eat only what neighbors gave and his wife out traveling around gathering what she would receive. The husband and father started for Maple Rapids with \$40 that had been sent them from the East to get supplies with, but, being addicted to drink, the funds were all spent for liquor—all he had to show for it was a paper of tobacco.

If it had not been for the use of these things there would not have been as much suffering. It looked hard to see mothers and children crying for something to eat, and we could pity them in their sorrow. By my intercourse with the people I was led to see about as much of their privations as any one and it was often heart-rending to hear their reports of how little they had, but I had but little pity for those who indulged in things that were no help to their needy ones. And I believe that at this time and date there are scores and even hundreds in our county that are made poor because those vile things are used.

The last action to help those who needed help was the issuing of bonds by the county and placing them in the hands of William R. Robbins, of Salt River, to transact the business. People gave their notes for the amount they got, it being the most honorable way and would not encourage idlers. That help carried the people through until the harvest of 1861, which was a good year for crops, and then all would have been prosperous again if it had not been for the demonstration that Jefferson Davis and his followers got up down South. Uncle Sam wanted a little help to assist him in the effort to quell those disturbances, this taking a large number

Highway fund	1,000 00	
Water fund	3,091 19	20,454 1
DISBURSEMENTS.		
General fund	15,111 44	
Highway fund	6,531 34	
Water fund	236 13	
Bridge fund	1,179 77	
Ice fund	1,830 63	
On hand March 3, 1888	1,875 22	20,454 1

STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF FUNDS
MARCH 3, 1888.

Balance in general fund	1,385 08	
Balance in highway fund	477 21	
Balance in water fund	191 80	2,054 09
Overdrawn on bridge fund	179 77	
Bal. on hand March 3, 1888	1,875 22	2,054 09
In the above receipts I have included the amount of delinquent taxes collected	1,409 85	
Less cost of advertising	331 34	1,138 51

JOHN F. RYAN,
Village Treasurer.

It may be observed that the report covers two years, no settlement having been made with the treasurer last year. One feature, especially, of the report is worthy of particular notice. For six years no delinquent taxes had been collected. Paying taxes seemed a grudging as-you-please affair with a certain class of our citizens. Poor people were compelled to pay their taxes, but speculators in village lots and a few others were permitted, through official favoritism or inefficiency, to go year after year without paying their village taxes. Nothing was done. Mr. Ryan would not be a party to such injustice, however, and he determined to put an end to it so far as he was able. For this purpose, last spring he advertised for sale all property on which taxes had not been paid, and the result was that he collected \$1,469.65 from speculators and others who were delinquent in paying taxes. The entire expense of collecting this was \$31.34, which left a clear gain for the village of \$1,138.31. It must be remembered, too, that the expense of collecting this delinquent tax was not borne by any who had paid their taxes regularly. The entire expense was charged up against each description advertised and collected too, so that all the expense of the tax sale was paid by the speculators and others who had not been accustomed to pay their taxes, but who were compelled to do so by Mr. Ryan. He was a model village treasurer in every respect, and his action in compelling rich speculators to pay their delinquent taxes, thereby relieving the poor, will be remembered with gratitude by scores of the poor but honest taxpayers of Mt. Pleasant.

Rev. A. P. McDonald's children are convalescent.

all unnecessary, as we had a duplicate receipt from the land office calling for a deed, and those who never made any improvements got their deeds just the same as the rest.

We had plenty of trials to endure, but with all the bitter we enjoyed good health. There was but little sickness, and that mostly among those who came from other parts.

What has been considered the hardest times were during the years of 1858, 1859 and 1860. During the summer of 1858 about one half our crops were destroyed by the squirrels and other vermin. Every place was alive with them and it was a sight to see them so busy carrying away wheat and corn. In many places they even took the potatoes out of the hills and left us the smallest half.

The years 1859 and 1860 were years of frost. In 1859 the frost extended over a large portion of the Northern States. Here there was frost every month of the year, yet the spring was the most beautiful that we have ever had. Crops were got in early, corn was large, wheat looked fine and everything bid fair for an abundant harvest. The writer was about to visit western New York, where he had once lived, but, before starting, went over the crops to get a proper view of them to see how they would correspond with those he might see on his journey. I saw none that looked better. It was about the 27th of May I got up in the morning about four miles south of Lake Ontario and found the weather very cold. Men were at work with overcoats and mittens on driving their teams in the fields all day. That night here was a heavy frost, something that we had never seen there before at that season. It cut nearly everything to the ground; and when I got back home I found everything was frozen down—corn was completely killed. After planting the second time and when it got a fine growth it was again destroyed by frost on the night of the 24th of August, and but very little was raised this season. The year 1860 was but little better.

Some may inquire, how did the people live at that time? Well, some dug roots, or what may be termed ground nuts, in the woods, and ate leeks and about everything else that could be eaten. There were some who lived that way for months, having but a small portion of bread. It was claimed that leeks were very healthy for stock and they thought they would be for people, also. Never tried a dish but once. Being out from home on a

traveling around gathering what she would receive. The husband and father started for Maple Rapids with \$40 that had been sent them from the East to get supplies with, but, being addicted to drink, the funds were all spent for liquor—all he had to show for it was a paper of tobacco.

If it had not been for the use of these things there would not have been as much suffering. It looked hard to see mothers and children crying for something to eat, and we could pity them in their sorrow. By my intercourse with the people I was led to see about as much of their privations as any one and it was often heart-rending to hear their reports of how little they had, but I had but little pity for those who indulged in things that were no help to their needy ones.

And I believe that at this time and date there are scores and even hundreds in our county that are made poor because those vile things are used.

The last action to help those who needed help was the issuing of bonds by the county and placing them in the hands of William R. Robbins, of Salt River, to transact the business. People gave their notes for the amount they got, it being the most honorable way and would not encourage idlers. That help carried the people through until the harvest of 1861, which was a good year for crops, and then all would have been prosperous again if it had not been for the demonstration that Jefferson Davis and his followers got up down South. Uncle Sam wanted a little help to assist him in the effort to quell those disturbances, this taking a large number of our best men, and there were apparently but few left. Yet, we are thankful that those times are past, and are forgotten by many.

We behold vast improvements made—fine houses, pleasant homes, cultivated fields and almost a city, with fine streets and walks and large brick blocks with all the modern improvements, with stately churches and the sound of the church-going bells, instead of the terrible howl and song of the wild animals.

CHAS. TAYLOR,
(To be Continued.)

Note Carr & Granger's new advertisements in this issue.

Mrs. Rosecrans, a lady 22 years old married but not living with her husband, was found dead in her bed on the 5th inst., at a farm house near the village of Shepherd where she was working. She had the measles but was not deemed dangerous.