

THE HERALD and Free Press, the best local and family papers, both for only \$2.50 a year.

Detroit Free Press Prize Story Competition. Something About It, and How It Turned Out.

In the early part of the year The Free Press offered three prizes, the first of \$1,600, the second of \$900 and the third of \$500, making \$3,000 in all, for the three best serial stories sent into it before May 1.

The first premium was the largest prize that had ever been offered for a serial story. The conditions were that the stories should not contain less than 60,000 words, that they might be on any subject that the writer may choose to select, that the MS. must be typed written, that each installment should end at a point of such interest that the reader would be anxious to see the next, and that the story should have the greatest amount of movement with the least amount of tiresome description. Two of these conditions The Free Press was obliged to modify.

It was seen even before the first MS. was received that the time given was too short in which to complete a good serial story, and so the time was extended to July 1, thus giving authors two months longer. This extension of time was made before the first MS. was received, and so was fair to all. The next condition, as to type-writing, was modified so that any story in clear script would be received.

Referring to this competition the Chicago Tribune says: "About a year ago The Detroit Free Press offered premiums for the three best serial stories that should be sent to it before July 1, 1889. As nothing has yet been heard of the result, it is supposed that the mass of manuscript offered has smothered the judges, if not the entire Free Press establishment."

The Chicago Tribune is nearer right than it imagined, probably, when that item was penned. The \$3,000 offer of The Free Press called forth manuscripts, not only from every part of the country, but from every part of the world. Over seventy-five manuscripts came from England alone. Several stories were received from Australia, and one or two from New Zealand. South America sent in some, but the great bulk of manuscripts came from the United States. The Judges, as the Tribune surmises, were almost smothered underneath the immense accumulation of manuscripts. It was proposed, when the large number received were counted over, that the best thing The Free Press could do was to have the judges read only the first three chapters of each story. But, on considering the matter, it was thought perhaps a story which did not appear to amount to much in the first three installments, might develop great strength as the story went on, and so every manuscript received was read through with the greatest of care from beginning to end.

of the best that could be offered to a newspaper for serial publication. It is a most powerful and most brainy work. In finish it stands head and shoulders above the ordinary successful novel. Its humor is of the refined kind and there is plenty of it. The women characters are specially attractive, and the love element, though subordinate, add to the strength of the plot material. The interest is held to the end, and the end is fitting and satisfactory. We can hardly call to mind a kind of a newspaper reader who would not follow the developments of the plot. There is the murder to arrest and hold the masses. There is the judge himself, who claims the attention of the legal fraternity; the doctors, the 'right reverends and wrong reverends of every order,' and all who are interested in a psychological problem; there is the newspaper man to call out the praise of the most critical class, his co-workers; there are two or three characters whose humor will fill all the demands for that always attractive element of a story; there is the literary finish to satisfy the lover of high-class novels, and lastly there is Margaret, with her love and her lover, and her delightful womanly qualities to fascinate—well, all of us."

Both THE HERALD and Free Press one year for only \$2.50. Harney Valley Grain. Such a drouth as this of the present season has never before in the history of the Harney country been known, and may never again. Notwithstanding its severity, however the record was made for the valley on the ranches of the following named gentlemen:

J. C. Woolley 1351 bu. Levens Bros. 111-1/2 Peter Clemens 800 J. A. Wilson 156 A. J. Brown 77 O. V. Motley 178 J. W. Jones 30 J. W. Hixon 30 Chase, Zeltler 36 Jackson Bennett 19 Dunnington 22 Lucy Baird 125

The T. A. McKinnon & Alberts' threshing machine records the following work done during this threshing season: P. F. Stenger 420 bu. Smith & Young 103-1/2 Wooley & Kettelman 81 A. J. Wilson 156 Peter Clemens 800 Williams 150 Henry Engler 64 Krieke 40 W. R. Laypool 29 W. D. Buchanan 75 Roter & Gilbert 25 Thos. Patton 58 A. J. Burckland 191 Campbell & Dugan 293 A. J. Brown 77 Marshall 10 O. V. Motley 178 Jas. Peerie 103 J. W. Motley 178 J. W. Jones 30 Jason Hixon 30 Chase, Zeltler 36 Jackson Bennett 19 Dunnington 22 Lucy Baird 125

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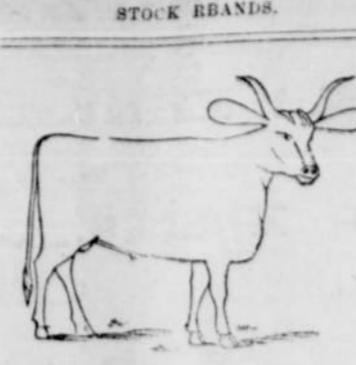
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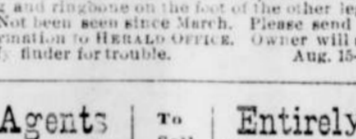
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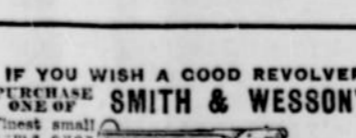
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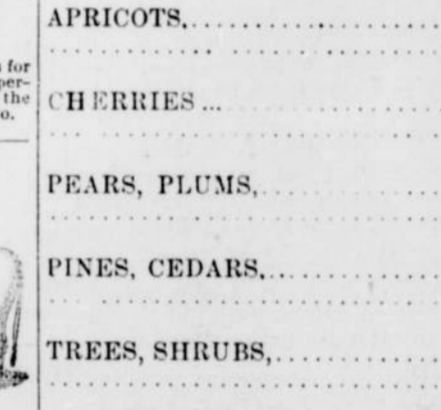
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