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EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday, - March 13, 1877.

Zoarites Forty Years Since.

A friend has shown us a letter written from Zoar, in Tuscarawas County, about forty years ago. It gives a general view of the community of Zoarites as it was then, and, probably, as it is now. We condense it somewhat, giving the substance in fewer words, as a fair and interesting representation of a remarkable people.

Their town is situated on the Ohio Canal, eighty-two miles from Cleveland. It is on a pleasant site on the eastern shore of the Tuscarawas river, the streets at right angles and broad, the houses neat, with ample gardens and pots of flowers.

In 1817 a number of indigent Germans landed at Philadelphia. They remained there some time trying to purchase land. A merchant of that city offered them several hundred acres of wild land, where the village is now, at a very low price, on long time. Mr. J. M. Bimeler and others came as a committee to view the place, on whose report the purchase was made. The ground was parceled out in lots among the purchasers, but they could not earn money enough to pay for it. Bimeler, who was a natural sage, recommended the plan of a community where all the property should be held and managed by three trustees elected by the proprietors.

They at first used nothing which they did not produce, and sold the balance for the common benefit. Bimeler soon became the supreme ruler, which included not temporal matters only, but moral and religious affairs. They paid for their land and had money to buy more, in all 6,000 acres, which fortunately included mines of iron ore and coal. They built two furnaces, the products of which were sold at Cleveland. During fifteen years no one left the community. If anyone proposed to join them he underwent a long probation to prove his industry, honesty, and morality. When received, all his property was conveyed to the community. They were then about two hundred in number. Every lot had its little vineyard of grapes of the best varieties. About five barrels of wine were made, which the keeper of their hotel dispensed to such as called for it in limited quantities, charging them with it at cost. Strangers could have a bottle of it at a high price.

Each Sunday Bimeler officiated as their preacher, the day being observed with religious services. They have no creed or sacrament, but are scrupulous as to conduct, requiring, as they say, not so much the form as the substance of religion. At the age of twenty-one their sons or daughters are at liberty to leave the community, but carry with them only their necessary clothing. The men are courteous and robust; the women stout and wear a blue tunic with coarse, heavy shoes, and they labor in the field with the men. Flour is made in their mills from their own wheat, and manufactories of almost all articles of domestic use are in the surrounding country. Money accumulates so fast that as individual stockholders they are all rich if the proceeds could be divided. Thus far they are content with a comfortable living in return for the light labor they are required to perform. No drunken, vicious, or idle person can remain in the community.—*Cleveland Herald, March 2.*

"Augers That Won't Bore."

Among the apt comparisons of President Lincoln none had more pungency than his description of incompetent army officers as "augers that won't bore." It is the standing reproach of our city government that it consists of a whole chest of tools as worthless as Mr. Lincoln's augers that would not bore. We have planes that won't take off a smooth shaving, chisels that will not cut, screwdrivers that can't be made to turn a screw, screws that can't be worried through a pine board; and it seems like a ludicrous insult to public intelligence to be haggling and dickering over the price of such a chest of worthless tools when the grand necessity is to replace them with a better set. Our people don't mind paying handsomely for good work. Their chief ground of complaint is that they are compelled to pay dearly for inefficiency and neglect. We have an expensive street cleaning arrangement that does not clean the streets; a Health Department that leaves all sorts of stench-diffusing and pestilence-breeding nuisances to poison the air in the summer months: a police department which leaves life insecure, murderers and burglars uncaught, and dens of gambling and pollution undisturbed; a common council that permits the street railroad companies to pack people like herrings in filthy cars and to swindle the city out of the taxes due from these roads, and other departments, which give us the filthiest markets, the shabbiest docks, and the worst paved streets in the world. It is a very idle and petty employment to be disputing over a ten per cent. reduction in salaries when the whole municipal service is so scurvy, ricketty, rotten and scandalous. If our policemen did their whole duty with vigilance and energy the city would not grudge them their salaries. If our streets were kept clean and wholesome the people would not grumble at the cost. If our health officers promptly abated all nuisances and kept the atmosphere of our dwellings sweet and untainted we should save enough in doctor's bills, funeral expenses and loss of employment by disease, to pay the expenses of their department thrice over. Moreover, the annoyance, discontent, ill-temper, and sense of outrage inflicted on us by the set of imbeciles and incapables which we dignify with the title of a city government would be cheaply got rid of by adding ten per cent. to salaries if we could not secure efficiency at a lesser rate. Whatever else is done or left undone, let us have augers that will bore, a city government that will discharge its proper functions.—*New York Herald, Jan. 22.*

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