

# COUNTY SEAT FIGHT!

## Over 76 per cent. Vote To Move County Seat From Sherbrooke.

### Hope Received 57 Per Cent. of the Votes Cast For Removal.

#### THE VOTE:

HOPE.....	583
FINLEY.....	333
SHERBROOKE.....	316
SHARON.....	76
PICKERT.....	18
Total.....	1326

Now that the County Seat Contest is over it may be of profit to look back over the field and view the situation.

It will be remembered that this question was opened up by Finley and they made claims of support owing to the fact that they had done so. We replied that we thought the time was not ripe to open up this question, and for this reason we had taken no steps to bring on a contest. Of course we were in the race, and always were, though it seemed to be regarded by some Finley folks as an imposition for us to think we might be entitled to the County Seat. They seemed to think they were the only candidate that should be allowed to enter the field. This was evidenced by an article published under date of May 11th, by a citizen of Finley, which says: "If I could see that some other town could get more votes than my town—I wouldn't be a dog in the manger and refuse to let the horse eat because I couldn't."

As an evidence of their foresight and spirit of prophecy we refer to the votes for the two towns, namely Hope 585, Finley 333. Who appears to be the dog in the manger?

It has been the aim and intent of our committee to conduct a clean campaign, and if our readers will think over the letters and statements that have been made by us we do not think they will find any "mud slinging" in referring to any competitor, while we do not think this "entirely true" of those who have been fighting Hope. Along this line we might refer to a misrepresentation under a heading of "16 Months Record at Hope." They state \$50,000 in debt and interest which the people had to pay and nothing to show for it. "What are the facts; on Nov. 8, 1884, the date the county seat was voted to be moved to Sherbrooke, the outstanding obligations were \$17097.23 and this included \$5000.00 for legal expenses in organizing the county, and the county had lots and building in Hope, books, furniture, safes etc. They sold the building and still own the lots in Hope, for which they are getting rent. Even if there was extravagance which there nearly always is in new counties, why lay it to the people of Hope, as they did not constitute the Board of County Commissioners, and at present there are less than 10 persons living in Hope who were here during the old county seat fight? It is a fact however that after moving to Sherbrooke the county was bonded for \$20000. on which \$18000. interest was paid. Of course this was economy. Hope offered the county a proposition of where they would not have to bond the county, by donating a Court House for five years, and also \$10000. as a starter toward a building fund. A tax of about one mill for 5 or 6 years would have given us all the funds we needed.

Even this was misrepresented by Finley who circulated hand bills stating this was "hedged about with conditions which they (Hope) did not have

to fill," thereby refusing to admit that a "Certificate of Deposit" from a National Bank is good for anything and further casting reflections upon the integrity of our County Auditor who signed receipts for the \$10000. and also for the \$5000. bond guaranteeing that the building would be furnished for 5 years. The Banks have consented to leave their certificates in Mr. McPherson's hands for a time and if any citizen who in Sherbrooke during court, or for any purpose, we would like to have them look them over and satisfy themselves that they are genuine.

We just wish to call attention to the fact that Hope's Campaign has been made on the merits and advantages of our town and if you will think back you will remember that Finley's Campaigners spent most of their time telling you about "that wicked gang down in Hope," and didn't really give you any reason why the County Seat should be in Finley.

As to an agreement being made with Finley not to give a bonus, this is not true. Hope citizens held a meeting and discussed the advisability of not filing the petitions, and it was decided that while we felt our chances were by far the best of any town, that the county sentiment was hardly advanced to a point where it would be possible to get the required vote, but if Finley would withdraw, we would also do so, and a committee composed of Messrs. Cassell, Kraabel, Warner, Shippy and Moores was appointed to meet Finley representatives in Sherbrooke. This was the only matter talked of at this meeting, and no other instructions were given the committee. If there was any talk of a bonus by them it was simply an individual expression of opinion on the part of some of the men present, for if they had desired to make such an agreement they had no power to bind the people of Hope. They state there was no agreement, and we are willing to allow the citizens of the county to pass judgment upon the integrity of the men named. The Finley representatives refused to withdraw the petitions, stating that they wanted it to come to a vote this fall, win or lose. We then left our petitions to be filed when Finley delivered theirs to make the required number. These petitions did not specify any town in particular, but the next day, being the last day allowed by law for filing the petitions, and in the afternoon, Finley representatives appeared before the Board with a petition signed by Finley citizens asking that the name of Finley be placed on the ballot and when this was denied, suggested that the names of every town in the county be placed on the ballot, appearing to want Finley's name alone on the ballot, to give them an advantage, or if not, to split up the vote among all the towns so Hope couldn't get it, and even then they referred to Hope acting "dog in the manger." Hope has never used this in any of her campaign literature either. Nor did we ever refuse to give Finley

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citizens a hearing and to treat them in a gentlemanly manner, as when our representatives were in Finley last Friday night, at which time they were virtually invited to leave town.

We are content to let the people of the county render judgment as to who conducted the most gentlemanly contest, and which place has used "gang" methods.

We go over these things simply because the integrity of our citizens has been attacked and we wished to set the matter right while it was fresh in mind, and then let it drop, as the election is over and we have no complaints to make as to the results. In fact we feel that on account of the matter having been opened up before it should have been, and we only having a week to present our special inducements to the voters of the county, then in addition having to oppose a lot of misrepresentation on the part of the opposition, had to meet a campaign whose only motive appeared to be "Anything to beat Hope." As an evidence of this Blabon people state that a bunch of Finley boomers (?) were in Blabon the day before election and told them if they would support Finley this time 10 years from now they would work to land the county seat in Blabon. Wherever they went it was not so much "Vote for Finley" but "Vote against Hope." So we feel that against this combination of unfair opposition we have reason to feel well satisfied with the vote we received. We recognize the right of every citizen to his own opinion in this matter and to vote these sentiments and we take this occasion of thanking those who stood by us so loyally and while Hope isn't the county seat, yet we have one of the cleanest and most progressive little cities in the State and one that we believe some day Steele County citizens will point to with pride as their County Seat.

#### FLOUR! FLOUR!!

Buy your winter's supply now. Price \$2.85, in five sack lots. Either at the mill or Kraabel-Donaldson & Co's. store. Every sack guaranteed first-class or money refunded.

C. S. MOORES.

#### APPLES! APPLES!! APPLES!!!

The Palace will receive two cars of fancy apples for winter—one car from New York and one from North Yakima, Wash.