

A WELL DESERVED COMPLIMENT.

We are glad to learn that Mr. F. E. Morse, the efficient and gentlemanly General Western Passenger Agent of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway, in Chicago, was lately made the recipient of a very elegant gold watch chain, with charm attached. The donors were his railway friends and fellow employees in the office, who had conducted their operations of preparation for the gift in so quiet a manner that Mr. Morse had absolutely no intimation of their intentions until upon entering the office early one morning he found the valuable gift upon his desk, accompanied with the list of the names of the donors.

While chronicling this pleasant affair, we take the opportunity of commending the Michigan Southern route between Detroit and Chicago to Western travellers and tourists, as equally pleasant, well-equipped, and well-managed with the more frequented Michigan Central route. We have travelled both and know whereof we affirm.

WEEDS.

We have a painful impression that, taking the country at large, weeds are on the increase, and at the same time it is our settled conviction that high culture is of but little avail without clean culture. Too much care cannot be taken to destroy the annual weed crop before it goes to seed. The proverb is quite true that "One year's seeding makes seven year's weeding." We have a law for the thistle nuisance, but it is practically a dead letter. We ought to have a general and stringent law, to the encampment of weeds, for it is of little use that one farmer diligently keeps down these pests, if his neighbours let them increase at will. There is, we believe, such a law in the State of Iowa, inflicting heavy penalties for weed growing, and if we mistake not, it is lived up to. This piece of wise legislation if carried out, will do much to place Iowa in the foremost rank of Agricultural regions. In the absence of adequate legal suasions we could wish every farmer had the same horror of weeds, to which Joseph Harris of the *American Agriculturist* gives expression in one of his recent "Walks and Talks":

What I have on the brain is *weeds*. Some people think that with modern agricultural implements, and the vast extent of fertile land in the United States, we shall produce so much more grain, and meat, and wool, than can possibly be consumed by our population, that prices will fall so low that they will be no profit in farming. Were it not for weeds and insects, such probably would be the case. My own farm and the Deacon's are overrun with weeds. We are fighting them to the extent

of our ability, and are meeting with gratifying success. Our farms are becoming cleaner and cleaner every year, but even yet the weeds cost us more than all other taxes—town, county, State, and national—direct and indirect combined. I do not mean that the labor of destroying them costs so much, but the weeds that escape, damage our crops to such an extent, that we lose half our profits. You must recollect that the actual profits of farming, after deducting the interest on capital, the cost of labour (our own or others'), the wear and tear of implements, etc., are exceedingly small. I know of comparatively few farms where, after making these deductions, the actual profits are more than \$5 per acre. On the other hand, I know of scores of farms where, at least on some fields, the weeds damage the crops \$10 per acre. And depend upon it, no farmer can be really successful until he makes an earnest persevering effort to clean his land. It is fortunate for us, that the means used to accomplish this object will do much towards enriching the soil.

THE COMING EXHIBITIONS.

The time for our annual Fairs, Provincial, Western, Central, County, and Township, is just at hand. We confess to a fear lest in some quarters and in some respects, the thing should be overdone, and a division of interest and attendance, lead to discouragement. It need not be so after people will only rally and sustain these Exhibitions, as they ought to be sustained. As our means of inducing this, we transfer to our columns the following admirable address of a Wisconsin Agricultural Society, the object of which is to stir up farmers and others to a proper interest in these matters:—

The object in establishing and maintaining Agricultural Societies is improvement in the processes and products of agriculture. It is customary also to foster and stimulate various other branches of industry, inasmuch as practice does not interfere with the primitive object, and adds materially to the interests of Fairs.

The success of these societies depends somewhat upon the skill and energy of the officers, but much more upon the appreciation by the whole community of the benefits of such societies, and a general co-operation in sustaining them.

But will our society, if properly sustained and managed, aid in improving all kinds of farm stock; in introducing more economical machinery for raising, harvesting, handling and threshing our crops; and stimulate improvements in all the industrial pursuits?

If so, it should receive our earnest support. We have made vast improvements in all branches of industry and especially in implements and machines since the days of our fathers.

A great change has been made in agricultural implements within a few years, and manufacturers have made use of fairs to advertise their wares; by which means they have been brought under the immediate notice of the farmer, who has commented upon their excellence and imperfections, and im-