

The House has passed by a strictly party vote the bill proposing an amendment to the Constitution by which the right of suffrage is to be conferred without any restriction, upon the black race. A condition was first proposed which would render it necessary for all persons, both white and black, to be able to read in order to exercise the right of suffrage, but the bug-bear of unpopularity scattered all such conditions to their holes; and in the face of a fact well known, and acknowledged by the Republican organ of the State, that intelligence is the best safeguard to our government institutions, and the only rightful condition to be imposed upon voters, and the matter is made worse by opening the door to a degraded and untutored race who will require generations of generations before they are fitted to perform, with discretion, the duties of an American citizen. And yet while the *Press* concedes that the permanency of our government requires some restriction of the elective franchise, it applauds the action of the Legislature in extending it and says "truly the world moves."

If the proposed amendment passes the Senate, Minnesota will have been the first State which has, since the war began, taken any action towards allowing the negro to vote. The Republican Legislature of Illinois have only repealed a law which prohibited blacks from entering the State upon penalty of a fine to be collected by a sale of the services of the party convicted. The right of egress and ingress is all they propose to grant.

The *Mankato Union*, a Republican paper, has also denounced its impolicy in strong terms, and its opinion will not be without weight, if the proposition comes before the people. The *Mankato Record*, the organ of the Valley Democracy, opposes it in the following language:

Laying aside all prejudice against the negro, and viewing it wholly in the bearing it will have upon the interests of the State, we cannot but look upon the adoption of this proposition as extremely disastrous. At present there are less than three hundred negroes in the entire State who would come within the provisions of this act. But once adopted, and Minnesota being the only State in the Northwest where negroes would be permitted to vote and hold office, we should have a wholesale immigration of that class of persons. While there are doubtless some respectable and worthy exceptions, they are, as a people, ignorant, indolent, and addicted to petty thieving.

Let it be known that this class of persons, four months after escaping from Southern slavery, are here endowed with all the sacred rights of free born intelligent citizens, and it would prove a most effectual barrier in directing the better classes of white immigrants to other States. The fact that Minnesota gave these privileges to negroes would be extensively advertised by the immigrant agents of rival States, and greatly to our injury. Indeed, we are firmly of the belief that not only would the adoption of this amendment have the effect to retard and prevent immigration, but it would induce many good men, already in the State, to leave it.

We hope all citizens of Minnesota, regardless of party, having the good of the State at heart will unite in voting down this measure.