

SEVENTY THOUSAND LAWYERS.

David Dudley Field, the oldest lawyer in active practice now living, and not far from the forefront of the profession, has given to the world his views on the modern bar. He says that the average lawyer of to-day is not averse to seeking business by urging people to go to law for a division of what may be made out of the suit; that the lawyers that can't get legitimate business must create litigation, or seek some other method of making a living. Of course, Mr. Field condemns all this as "dishonorable and disreputable," but he candidly acknowledges the fact that such practices prevail.

A cause must be found for this state of affairs, and the great New York advocate thinks he has discovered it. There are too many lawyers for the population. By the census of 1880 there were 50,000,000 people in the United States, and 70,000 lawyers, one to each 715 people. In France in the same year there were 40,000,000 people and 6000 lawyers, or one to each 6667 of the population. It need occasion no wonder, therefore, to learn that courts are being multiplied in this country; that the number of judges is being increased, and that the dockets of the courts are overcrowded, and the judges in a constant flurry to keep up with the ever onward march of litigation. And as decisions increase in number, precedents thereby multiply, successful lawyers are largely becoming those who can find in the multitudinous and multifarious volumes of reports of thirty-eight States, and of the United States courts the latest judicial pronouncement on the question in dispute. It is clearly a matter of chance, or rather of industry, and the client who has the lawyer of stronger constitution and greater perseverance is more than apt to win.

It is thus clearly the duty of the press to advocate the adoption by our young men of other spheres of activity than that of law. When our average rises to that of France, then—and not till then—should the legal factories—our law schools—resume operations.—Times-Democrat.

CONGRESS AND FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

We observe that a number of our exchanges are inclined to question the wisdom of the appropriation by Congress of \$2,000 to each State to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture for Institute meetings. We think, however, it is occasioned by a misapprehension as to the manner of use of this \$2,000.

It might, indeed, become an injury if the Secretary should take the management out of the hands of those who in each State are well acquainted with the wants of the section, and presume to dictate who should speak and teach in all places. But this would be a stretch of authority which could not be expected, as even a small portion of common sense must be accorded to any person occupying the position of a member of the President's Cabinet. Give us the \$2,000 and the Institutes in all our States.—Maryland Farmer.

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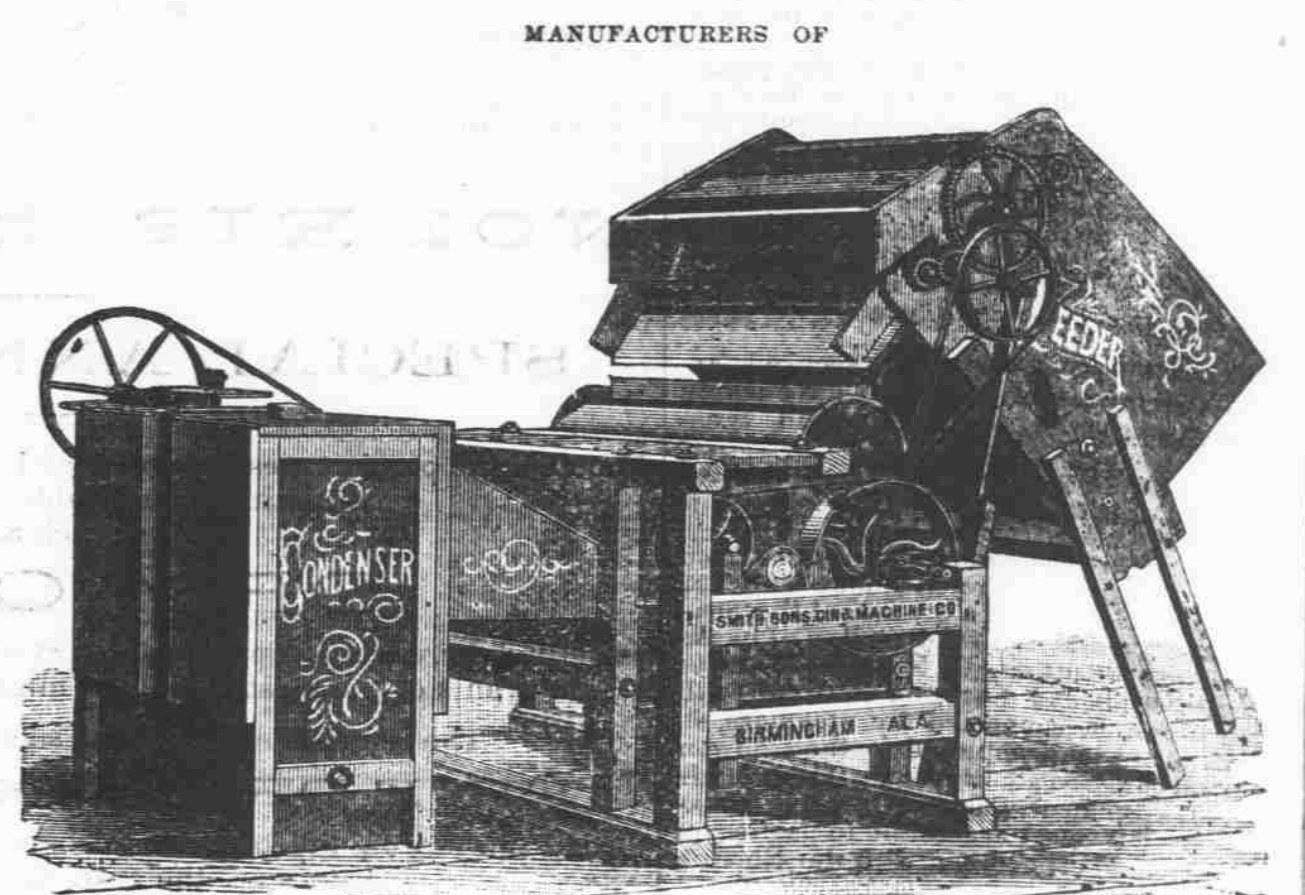
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