

The Vernon Woolen Factory

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following language the respect in which the agricultural country at large held Mr. Louden:

WILLIAM LOUDEN

Nearly everyone who works in a barn provided with modern labor-saving equipment has reason to regret the passing of William Louden, of Fairfield, Iowa. His inventions for use in the barn were on the same plane as those of McCormick, John Deere and others in the field.

The first hay carrier was manufactured by him in a little shop on his father's Iowa farm. He invented the first flexible barndoor hanger, the principle of which is used in practically every door hanger today. From his efforts came the first patented manure carrier, as well as many other now commonly used devices that have made work in the barn quicker and easier. And many farmers owe the good construction and convenience of their barns to the barn-planning service which he established and made free to all who needed it.

There was still another distinctive feature to William Louden's career. His business, by then growing nicely, was swept completely away in the prolonged panic that began in 1873. Despite the gloomy counsel of others he began all over again, with a firm faith in himself, his country and the work he was doing. The country needs his kind and his spirit now.

THE VERNON WOOLEN FACTORY

On Monday last we had the pleasure of taking a tramp through the extensive woolen mills of Allender & Ketchum of Vernon. Although a resident of the town, it had been over a year since we had taken a view of the interior of the establishment, since which time it has been almost wholly fitted out with new machinery of the latest improved patterns adopted to the most exquisite manipulations of the fibre. * * * * * What most interested us was to see the amount and variety of machinery, pickers, fullers, carding machines, spinning jacks, looms and dressing machines. They have three spinning jacks in operation and will soon have eleven looms going, with a capacity for turning out about 2,000 yards of cloth per week.—The *Bentonsport Signal*, Bentonsport, Iowa, April 23, 1868. (In the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

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