

THE COURTENAY GAZETTE

plains of this favored commonwealth, to disfigure its unwrinkled face and impair its conceded beauty.

The first white man, a Canadian trader, first pressed his foot upon North Dakota soil in 1780—came to trade with the Indians and buy furs. In 1811 a colony of Scotch highlanders under Lord Selkirk settled in Pembina County to cultivate the soil. In 1871 not fifty white families could be found in its present territory. In 1880 the number had grown to 35,000; in 1890 and at the dawn of the new century it had leaped to 314,000. It has soared to 437,070 in the last five years—an increase of 120,000 over 1900, which indicates that more than one-quarter of her present population have come to the state in the last half decade. Flying straws in the air show which way the wind blows.

The four corners of the earth have contributed to her population. The toilers on the sterile hills of New England find welcome conditions here. The mud waders and mountain climbers of Pennsylvania are here by regiments and have no desire to return to their former conditions. The Badger state men have come by train loads. Minnesotans have crossed the line to better their conditions. Iowa has profusely overflowed on our plains. Canada has furnished her full quota to the ranks of our farmers and business men. Europe has generously contributed of her intelligent, industrious, ambitious people who are optimistic breadwinners, satisfied only with the best, who readily Americanize into peers of their Yankee neighbors in the arts of thrift and good citizenship.

North Dakota contains 70,195 square miles, has 49,614 cultivated farms aggregating 9,364,000 acres under tillage, producing, in 1905, 70,000,000 bushels of wheat; 41,000,000 bushels of oats; 17,000,000 bushels of barley; 13,000,000 bushels of flax; 2,400,000 bushels of potatoes besides rye, corn, grasses, etc. The 1905 state board of equalization found 356,046 horses in the state, 631,844 cattle, 367,429 sheep and 96,372 hogs. The statistical bureau of the United States Department of Agriculture reports (1904) the value of North Dakota's crops, with the value of live stock sold and remaining on farms, to be \$128,896,011—flattering figures indeed, which fitly illustrate the swelling prosperity of her farmers and stock men.

At the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, North Dakota received eleven grand prizes, forty gold medals, forty silver medals and seventeen bronze medals. At Portland the state won unexpected recognition of her exhibits and returned

rejoicing, with colors flying—a sufficient proof that she can show off to advantage when she goes to the trouble to prink and crimp for recognition.

North Dakota is rich in coal deposits. They are mints of wealth, 30,000 square miles within her confines, reaching a thickness of over thirty feet in some places—the thickest and richest yet discovered in the lignite area. Seventy-six mines are operating at the present time. The product improves in quality proportionately to the depth of the shaft. A sure and cheap and permanent supply of fuel is guaranteed without any reference whatever to other coal regions; so no one is fretfully concerned over the problem of caloric for cooking and keeping warm and will not be for a thousand years to come. The anthracite coal disturbances of the east offer no terrors to North Dakotans. Native coal has grown in favor in the last five years; finds markets in neighboring states and its consumption has largely increased at home. It is excellent for kitchen, parlor, furnace or factory uses. The law requires all state institutions to burn native coal. In many places it crops out on the top of the ground and settlers pick it up by wagon loads. Recent experiments disclose the fact that lignite coal and peat are admirably adapted to the manufacture of fuel briquettes which are in every way equal to the best anthracite coal. It now seems certain that in the not distant future the manufacture of the briquettes will become an important industry in the state which will then possess an unlimited supply of fuel unrivaled in quality. Extensive peat beds are found. This peat, as stated, combines well with the lignite in the formation of fuel briquettes. North Dakota's fuel supply is fixed and sure.

Excellent pottery clay in large quantities is found in the western part of the state. North Dakota's display of pottery at the St. Louis exposition "was unsurpassed for beauty, finish and durability." Her clay beds await development and promise to render their share to the wealth of the state. "In the northeast part of the state clays are found which make the finest quality of Portland cement and a flourishing industry is being built up in that region."

The dairy industry is important and is imperative in its insistence for enlargement. It already has a fine start, but there are room, demands and conditions for vaster development. Butter of the best quality and body is produced from her nutritious grasses and the market is world wide. The business is profitable. There are eighty-two cream-