

THE COURIER.

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By Ed. D. STAIR.

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The new year promises to be a propitious one, indeed, for North Dakota.

The license for retailing liquor in Griggs county has been placed at \$500, spot cash—in advance. This fact may help to dispell the fears of many eastern readers who imagine that whiskey and ruffianism rule on the frontier.

No town on the face of this great and glorious mundane sphere ever enjoyed a more prosperous or healthier first year than has proved the one just closing for Cooperstown. The place had the right men at helm on the start and the voyage is proving a propitious one, the port of unusual commercial importance being now in plain sight.

This has been an "off" year in the Northwest for railroad building, yet Dakota stands third on the list of states and territories in the number of miles of new railroad constructed in the first nine months of the year. New York leads with 677 miles; Pennsylvania comes next with 296 miles; Dakota stands third with 288 miles.

SOME one has said that a man has no home until he owns one of his own. Here in Griggs county remain a few townships of as fine land as the sun of heaven ever kissed with serenity, and it can be had for the simple taking. Why will not the toil worn farmer of the comparatively barren east aside the yoke that binds and tie himself to the land of plenty? Heed the lesson of the hour and come while yet there is time.

Cost of Raising Wheat.

Competent and experienced farmers estimate the cost per acre of raising wheat in Griggs county the first year as follows, which is an over rather than an under estimate:

Breaking.....	\$ 3 00
Backsetting from \$1.50 to.....	2 00
Harrowing and seeding.....	75
Seed wheat (14 bushels).....	1 50
Harvesting and threshing.....	3 25

Total..... 10 50

The cost for each succeeding season will be about \$3 less, making it cost \$7.50 to \$8 per acre. The crops generally average from 20 to 30 bushels and will safely bring 90 cents at threshing time, giving the farmer from \$18 to \$27 per acre for his crop, or a profit of from \$7.50 to \$17.50 for every acre cultivated the first year, with an additional \$3 for following seasons. In short a farmer with limited means can come here, buy a farm if he wants improved land, and pay for it from one year's crop. This is a fact none can gainsay, for it is evidenced by the propositions of many large land owners, who will give land valued at \$10 to \$12 per acre for the first crop therefrom.

Loves the Truth.

The editor of the Daily Independent, at Belair, Ohio, has been out here and is not afraid to give his honest opinion regarding the country. He says:

"Dakota has a great future. In its immense area it has less waste land than any of the western or southern states. I doubt if leaving out its little lakes, which are by no means waste land, (many of them are beautiful sheets of water) there can be more than one per cent. of the soil that is not tillable, and easily tillable; no timber to cut and burn; no stumps or roots to stop the plow and induce profanity; no stones to make culture difficult. A level or gently rolling surface, on which it is a pleasure to either hold the plow or drive, here invites the farmer to stir its rich soil, which with favoring conditions of moisture and of warmth, yield as rich returns as any part of the world. If breaking up the surface here increases the rainfall here as it unquestionably has done for Kansas and Nebraska, and the increased humidity of the atmosphere decreases the extremes of temperature, as it certainly will, Dakota will be one of the most richly productive states in the Union. Under very unfavorable circumstances of tillage and an adverse season I see here better potatoes, onions, beets, turnips and squashes than I have seen in Ohio. With better culture and an average season the possibilities of this territory are hard to overestimate. Trees of half a dozen kinds are growing well. The ash, maple, aspen, balm of Gilead and willows thrive best, and make fine annual growths, so that in the future the treeless plains of Dakota may produce plenty of timber."

REAL VALUES.

A Chapter on Assessment Showing the Relative Wealth in North and South Dakota.

The accusation is often made with regard to Dakota that it is a "boomed" land and that its values are merely on paper and lack materiality. Such unfriendly critics will no doubt feel surprised to find that for the year 1883 the assessed value of property in the territory is \$69,154,609 and that this is an increase over the preceding year, 1882, of over twenty-two million dollars, the figures for that year being \$47,000,000.

The following detailed valuation, the figures therein being supplied by Territorial Treasurer McVay, will show first the relative financial strength of North and South Dakota, the divisional line being at the forty-sixth parallel:

Counties.	Assessed Valuation.
Aurora.....	\$ 550 335
Beadle.....	1 071 439
Ben Homme.....	1 183 905
Brookings.....	382 186
Brown.....	2 205 920
Brule.....	436 084
Charles Mix.....	78 144
Clark.....	415 911
Clay.....	1 108 084
Codington.....	1 368 791
Custer.....	379 0 5
Davison.....	919 530
Deuel.....	280 715
Dewey.....	578 782
Douglas.....	199 440
Grant.....	885 838
Hamlin.....	439 354
Hanson.....	364 474
Haskell.....	583 023
Hughes.....	714 582
Hutchinson.....	881 837
Kingsbury.....	771 014
Lake.....	632 428
Lawrence.....	3 738 090
Lincoln.....	1 149 539
McCook.....	1 236 677
Minnehaha.....	2 325 544
Mitchell.....	264 396
Moody.....	708 943
Pennington.....	521 801
Spink.....	2 041 965
Sully.....	70 281
Turner.....	977 498
Union.....	1 024 257
Yankton.....	1 827 584

NORTH DAKOTA.

Counties.	Assessed Valuation.
Barnes.....	\$ 210 028
Burdick.....	3 297 542
Cass.....	6 539 000
Dickey.....	264 663
Grand Forks.....	5 069 284
Griggs (only 1 1/2 years old)	1 289 735
Kidder.....	601 123
La Moure.....	1 418 475
Morton.....	1 016 265
North Dakota.....	225 263
Nelson.....	2 791 984
Pennington.....	371 332
Ransom.....	1 237 465
Richland.....	2 638 525
Stark.....	240 425
Steele.....	235 012
Stutsman.....	2 967 657
Traill.....	2 134 389
Walsh.....	7 701 253

\$37 006 810

"Look on this picture and then on this." It is comparatively easy to make sonorous assertions such as that South Dakota is richer than the northern portion, by no means the half, of the territory. But figures will not lie, that is when they are used by honest men, and as Mr. McVay's will come under that category this may be fairly considered as the end of all paradvantage on that point. These figures show that the nineteen counties of the northern division have an assessed valuation of nearly five millions of dollars more than the thirty-five counties south of the forty-sixth parallel.—Fargo Argus.

Didn't Want to Get Started.

A gentleman who has lived and prospered in North Dakota for two years was met by an old friend in San Francisco a few weeks since, and the Californian started off with the interrogatory:

"If I may judge from your appearance, Dakota is a very healthy country?"

"Now, see here, my friend, don't get me started about Dakota, for the longer I talk the more I'm wound up. Yes sir, Dakota is a very healthy country. Physicians are a drug in the market, and if we ever call one of them Doctor, it is through courtesy and out of respect for the services they have performed among other people. They never get a chance at us, for we never get sick."

"How about the winters? Are they not very cold?"

"Yes, but not the kind of cold you have here or in the eastern states. Our cold is dry; yours is wet. Our cold does not penetrate; yours goes clear through the system and doubles you up."

"How low does the thermometer go?"

"I've seen it at 45° below zero."

"What do the people do to keep warm?"

"Go about their business. Ride over the prairie in bobsleds, cutters and wagons. Walk and run through the streets, snow ball each other and feel so deuced good they don't know what to do with themselves. They bob right up into the exhilarated air with the elasticity of an exhilarated angel in buffalo robes, and sing out to their neighbors, 'How's this for high?' They have good appetites, clear consciences and lots of dust." Yes sir, we're happy, healthy, and most of us wealthy. We can raise almost as much wheat and stock to the square acre in Dakota as they can in Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. We've got schools and churches, railroads and telegraphs. Live newspapers and free lands. But, my friend, it won't do for me to get started on the subject of Dakota, for when I do I can't stop."

Oh, What is This?

It is a car load of those Genuine "Stoughton" Wagons for Odegard & Thompson. No better wagons on wheels. They will sell now, you bet they will. They always sell the year around "and don't you forget it!" Good goods are staple in a go-ahead country like this.

NORTH DAKOTA.

As Modestly Figured out by P. Donan, a Man Cautiously Conservative.

North Dakota has almost exactly the same area as her southern sister section, including the far-famed wheat fields of the Red River Valley of the North, the vast and scarcely explored Devil's Lake and Turtle Mountain region, the valleys of the James and Missouri, and the mighty pampas of the northwestern counties, where the flocks and herds of a nation may find pasture. It is a magnificent domain of 75,000 square miles, while New York has but 40,000, Pennsylvania 46,000, Ohio but 39,000, and all six English states combined 65,000. The population January 1st, 1883, was estimated at 110,000. Since that time many new counties have been formed and organized, tens of thousands of acres of government and railroad land have been taken by new settlers, hundreds of new farms have been opened up, more than a score of flourishing towns have sprung up where prairie grass was unbroken then, and all the older towns have grown with marvelous rapidity; so that it is safe to assume that the population of North Dakota has increased at least 30,000 in the eleven months since January 1. The ratio of growth is in every respect without precedent or parallel.

The taxable valuation of North Dakota in June, 1880, was \$7,324,700; in June, 1883, \$70,000,000. The postal revenues of North Dakota for the year ending June 30th, 1882, \$75,234.

In June, 1880, there was but one private and two national banks in North Dakota; January 1, 1883, there was fourteen national and twenty-two private banks. In June, 1880, there were but nine churches; in January, 1883, there were seventy-six, costing \$406,000. In June, 1880, there were but seventeen school buildings; in March, 1883, there were 327 public and 13 private schools, since that time Fargo has completed an elegant \$85,000 high school building and the foundation of half a dozen collegiate institutions have been laid in various portions of the Territory.

In June, 1880, there were in North Dakota but ten weekly newspapers and one daily; in January, 1883, there were eleven daily, forty-two weekly and six monthly publications, and new ones have been established at the rate of from one to three a week ever since to supply the demands of an intelligent newspaper reading people, daily growing in numbers. In June, 1880, there were but 136,358 acres in cultivation; in January, 1883, there were 883,357, and the value of the wheat crop alone for 1883 is estimated at \$15,000,000.

In June, 1880, there were but 290 miles of railroad in operation in North Dakota; in September, 1883, there were something over 1,000 miles in operation and several hundred more in process of construction. North Dakota has to-day a greater railroad mileage than Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Florida, Oregon, Arkansas, Mississippi, Nevada, West Virginia, Delaware or Rhode Island, and the two sections together have nearly 3,000 miles.

The number of acres of land entered during the year ending June 30, 1879, under the act of congress requiring actual settlement and cultivation was 27,507, during the year ending June 30, 1883, the entries reached the enormous aggregate of 6,550,567 acres.

Sanborn Enterprise: Picking wild flowers in December, growing in their native beauty on the open prairie, is a luxury enjoyed by few beyond the confines of the tropics, and yet this pleasure is reserved for the inhabitants of North Dakota this season. Incredible as it may seem, Mr. Michael Gillis plucked a neat little bouquet of blooming beauties from the Prindle farm Wednesday afternoon. They are a dark red flower, and grow on the prairie in abundance through the summer season. The inflorescence of those shown us was perfect, and the freshness and verdure of the stems conclusively proved them to be of recent growth.

For men's fur goods go to Nelson & Langlie's.

Fine line of fresh confectionery at Odegard & Thompson's.

Nelson & Langlie "only" keep the celebrated "Acorn."

It will do you good to call at Odegard & Thompson's if you want flour or provisions. We will give you good bargains.

Talk is cheap, but we won't be undersold. You can bear it in mind all day. Odegard & Thompson.

We will not be undersold in North Dakota. Lenham Elevator & Lumber Co.

A fine calf boot for \$2.75. Also a largest stock of winter foot gear at Odegard & Thompson's.

Our goods will bear inspection with any stock in this market, and all we ask is a call to convince you that by buying goods of us it is money in your pocket. Nelson & Langlie

Farmers clean your seed wheat. The Lenham E. & L. Co. will sell you a machine for \$25.00 that will take out all foul seed.

We have too many knit underwear and will give you some cheap if you call soon. Odegard & Thompson.

Call at Whidden Bros.' for horse blankets, bed spreads, comforts and quilts. Marked low.

Odegard & Thompson will sell you good calico for 5c per yard; full width sheeting 8c; and dry goods cheaper than ever.

Whidden Bros. have never before urged their customers for a dollar, but any thinking man can understand that owing to the sudden change—the death of one partner—it's necessary to wind up the present business. Don't forget to pay.

THE COMBINATION

—HAS AGAIN COMBINED.—

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OX FEED, HEN FEED,**

PIG FEED and FEED for any and all of Dakota's useful and beautiful beasts and birds. Come and see us here, then walk over to the

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You will also find warm **BOARDING STABLES**
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Asst. Supt. Passenger Traffic, St. Paul

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S. F. BOYD,

Gen'l Tkt. & Pass Agt., Minneapolis, Minn.

Notice—U. S. Land Office, Fargo, D. T., Dec. 15, 1883. Complaint having been entered at this office by Elias J. Moan against Thomas W. Karns, for abandoning his Homestead Entry No. 9863 dated March 24, 1882, upon the S 1/2 of N 34 and E 1/2 of S 34 section 4, township 18 N, range 58, in Griggs county, Dakota, with a view to the cancellation of said entry; the said parties are hereby summoned to appear at this office on the 7th day of February, 1884, at 2 o'clock a. m., to respond and furnish testimony concerning said alleged abandonment.

E. C. GEAREY, Receiver.

Old newspapers for sale of the Courier office.