



HARVEST SCENE—COOPER BROS. FARM
GRIGGS COUNTY, DAKOTA

The above cut of harvest on the Cooper farm inadequately expresses the magnitude of the Cooper Brothers farming business. The home farm contains 27,000 acres of land that cannot be duplicated in its productive capacity outside of the valley of the Nile. Seven thousand acres of this land are now under cultivation, and the yield during the present season has been

Wheat, 140,000 bushels.
Barley, 25,000 bushels.
Oats, 25,000 bushels.
Under ordinary circumstances the revenue from the capital invested would be enormous, in spite of the fact that in buildings, stock, etc., the farm is as well equipped in proportion as the ordinary 100 acre farm of the settler. Wheat unfortunately has not been as low in twenty years. The firm consists of T. J. Cooper, of Chicago, and Rollin C. Cooper, of Griggs county.

The brothers are typical Americans who have met and conquered fortune in a day and generation never to be duplicated in the opportunities offered to enterprise, sagacity and tenacity of purpose.

The elder brother, T. J. Cooper, was born in Shorham, Vt., and at an early day removed, with his family, to Michigan, where his brother, R. C., was born. His first business venture was in Goodhue county, Minnesota, where he was a country merchant for several years, and by the exercise of extraordinary business capabilities amassed a snug fortune. In the spring of 1861 he removed to Park county, Colorado, just northeast of Leadville, within a few miles of what was to be the greatest mining camp on the globe, although the great base ore finds of Leadville were then unheard of. His mining was both gulch and quartz, and the tale of his ups and downs rival the stories of the Argonauts of '49. He was a partner of old "Squar" Jones, of Independence, Mo., who, as a miner, was known by every prospector from Colorado to the Pacific. He made no great stake, and to better his fortunes in '64 and '65, during the great Indian war on the Platte, followed freighting from St. Jo, Mo., to Denver. The trains were all a hundred wagons strong, and each train was accompanied by a small army to defend it, and freights were 25 cents per pound. The profits were enormous, and here T. J. struck pay gravel in earnest, thanks to enough capital to go with. Eighteen hundred sixty-six found the adventurous miner back in the gulch mines of Montana, near Helena, and here he went broke to his last dollar. His credit, however, was good, as he was known to be honest and sagacious. He returned to St. Jo, Mo., bought a large stock of hardware, and went into the hardware business, and he succeeded. Every cent of profit was ventured in cattle on the Colorado plains, and, in 1870, he pulled out with a stake, which, to some, men, would have seemed a competency.

He returned to the east and, having already acquired large interests in Chicago property, went into the real estate business at that point. The Leadville excitement broke out; the old mining spirit was too strong to resist, and he went in on the top wave and struck it rich in "Little Chief" and other mines. Grown conservative with an assured fortune, he then, with his brother, turned to the country which years can not impoverish—and where gold is so scattered over its fertile acres that centuries will find it richer rather than poorer—Dakota.

Rollin C. Cooper was born in Michigan, and at an early day joined his elder brother in Red Wing, Minn., where he attended school. He went to Colorado with T. J., and remained with him until he was nineteen, when he went to farming with his brother H. H. in El Paso county. They farmed it four years and made some money, and then went into the hardware business in Pueblo. Continuing the hardware business, they ventured in cattle and sheep, after securing good ranges. Here they remained, made money, and prospered ten years, when, in western fashion, they cleaned up everything. R. C. went to Leadville with T. J., and there, like his brother, struck pay gravel and went up on a bound to a top shelf, out of the reach of high water.

They joined in the venture in Griggs county dirt, and while R. C. Cooper is the driving, careful manager of the great wheat farming operations; T. J. Cooper takes an active interest in the business, and visits Cooperstown as often as he can leave his Chicago business.

Mr. T. J. Cooper married a sister of Millard Washburn, of Red Wing, Minn., and they have two children, Charles, a resident and farmer of Griggs county, and a daughter, married and settled at Red Wing.

Mr. R. C. Cooper married his accomplished wife in El Paso county, Col., where her father is a general merchant. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper are active workers in the Congregational church, and are first and foremost in any good work. Mr. Cooper is chairman of the board of county commissioners, and to his exertion Griggs county and Cooperstown are indebted for their present prosperity.

When his magnificent outfit camped in Griggs county there was not a settler on its 720 square miles of prairie, and but four men in the timber upon the river. His word is as good as his bond, and his bond is worth a hundred cents on the dollar. No settler ever left the Cooper ranch empty handed, if he was in need, and the jealousy, which usually follows wealth and prosperity has never cheated the genial giant out of an hour's rest, nor ruffled his unflinching good nature. He is the incarnation of business from the word go, and is never at rest until sleep overtakes him. Wherever there is any public enterprise on foot, the ques-

tion is: "What does Cooper say about it?" or, "What will Cooper give?" so that it is a kind of a cold-blooded, matter-of-fact conclusion that Griggs county and Cooperstown without Cooper would be equal to the play of Hamlet, with Hamlet omitted.

Elsewhere we present a cut of the Lenham Elevator, built by Barnett & Burdett elevator company, of Minneapolis.

The Cooper Bros.'s elevator is built upon the same model, but larger, and now, after iron roding, is as strong and well appointed an elevator as there is in Northwest, and perhaps a trifle stronger. The business of the elevator this season, during which it was erected, has been equal to the most sanguine expectation of its proprietors. Beside handling the enormous crop of wheat from the Cooper farm, under the management of Mr. R. C. Brophy it has done a splendid business in the handling of wheat for the public. Every train that has gone from Cooperstown this fall has had a goodly proportion of its cars marked: "From R. C. Brophy, Cooperstown, D. T. (COURIER PRINT)."

Mr. Brophy's grades have been uniform and fair, and he has earned an enviable reputation as a wheat grader while running the Cooper Bros.'s elevators, as he had before when in the employ of the Lenham Elevator & Lumber Co.

Reuben Cleveland Brophy is a native of Illinois, and is a descendant of Moses Cleveland, the original Cleveland in New England, and from whom Grover Cleveland is a direct descendant. He studied dentistry with Prof. T. W. Brophy, his brother, a professor in Rush Medical college, in Chicago, and practiced dentistry two years. He was in the machine business at Glyndon, Minn., for five years and earned an enviable reputation as a business man at that point. He was afterward with T. A. Olmstead in the wheat business in Duluth, and married Mr. Olmstead's daughter, one of the most accomplished and attractive young ladies in that city of the unsalted sea. He afterward came to Cooperstown, where his valuable experience, and the social qualities of himself and wife, has made him one of the leading men of the place.

St. Paul Day: R. C. Cooper, of Cooperstown, Dak., situated at the terminus of the Sanborn & Cooperstown branch of the Northern Pacific, said: "I think that at least three-fourths of the wheat in our part of the country has been marketed. What will be the effect on prices due to the stopping of shipments to Duluth, I do not know. We are paying 48 cents at our place for No. 1 hard. At this rate the farmer is not making one cent. It costs about 45 cents per bushel to raise the wheat and 48 cents hardly brings a man's money back. The elevator men have not a hard time of it, but on the contrary have made some

money. It is all nonsense about there being suffering for the necessities of life. The farmers in our district all have wheat which can be ground into flour. They also have hogs, and pork is in good eating. Then they have cows and poultry, and will not suffer in the least. They are a great deal better off than the 800 operators who were thrown out of situations at Waltham, Mass., the other day. The effect of low prices will be to decrease the acreage of wheat next year, and the people will turn their attention more to stock."

"What will they raise for their stock?"
"Well, we can't raise corn, we are too far north; so, as a substitute, we raise barley, add I like it a great deal better. It makes just as good feed, and is a great deal easier to handle."

Current Gossip.

The Keystone Commercial moves to Ellendale.

The squatters have been driven out of Yellow Stone park.

Beecher may succeed Lowell, as minister to the court of St. James.

Judge Andrus will winter in Valley City in the office with his cousin, G. K.

The Redfield war is over. The records were returned to the place from which they were stolen.

D. O'Malley, of Valley City, and H. O. Sterl, of Sanborn, have been appointed county commissioners of Barnes.

Rugg, the ex-business end of the St. Paul Day has been bound over to keep from opening any more of Stanley Waterloo's female correspondence.

The Dickinson Press suggests that Missouri pull down her vest. The Devil's Lake Inter-Ocean remarks the same thing, while the Chicago Current follows suit. Next.

There are now eleven counties in Southwestern Dakota which do not grant saloon licenses, and after the 1st of January the number will be increased to fifteen or sixteen.

Thirty degrees below zero Thursday morning by E. W. Hagerly's spirit thermometer. The ordinary cheap mercurial thermometers vary ten degrees, and are entirely unreliable.

California and Oregon seem determined to sell their surplus wheat when they can and at the current price, whatever that may be. Over 6,000,000 bushels are now afloat and on their way to the United Kingdom.

Carp for Cottonwood Lake.

On Saturday last there came by express, from the United States Commission of Fisheries at St. Paul, several hundred German carp, consigned to Messrs. Weaver & Braughman, who had made application for them for Cottonwood Lake, where, during the season to come, LaMoure's citizens can pass many pleasant hours boating and fishing.—Progress.

BOWDEN & BUCK,

GENERAL

MERCHANTS

CLOTHING

A Specialty.

We Will Duplicate all bills made at other stores and knock off 10 per cent on every kind of goods.

CLOTHING

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AWAY.

Men's Suits.....	\$2 95
Over Coat.....	2 45
Hat.....	35
Pair of Shoes.....	1 15
Shirt.....	25
Neck Tie and Collar.....	14
Total cost of outfit.....\$7 19	
Extra good suit.....	\$6 50
Wedding Suit.....	8 50

The largest stock west of Fargo The lowest prices since the war, or ever in Dakota.

Bowden & Buck.