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Out Among the Corn Fields.

A trip up north last week proved that no-section of the county had any particular advantage over any other in the matter of fine corn or prospects of a big yield.

We received an invitation to be present at the selection of a site for the new bridge across the Sioux river by the Lyon and Lincoln County Commissioners, and of course attended such an important event. The new bridge will be located on the section line between August Swanson and John Cederstrom, one mile east and eight miles north of Canton, crossing the river with a single span of 120 feet.

We left town going east past the elegant home of A. M. Ringheim just north of Augustana College. Mr. Ringheim has one of the finest farms in the county and his home is within a block of the city limits. We turned north on the east line of the Ringheim's farm passing and turning east at the corner of Rev. Teltie's place traveling between fine corn fields on the Schlager, Teltie and Hvattum farms, and again we turned north stopping on the top of Spion Kop, so called, the most prominent elevation on the east side of the county, where we had a magnificent view of rural wealth and beauty in a charming circle of ten miles or more. To the south and east nestling amid broad acres and fine groves are the homes of Ed. and Henry Hvattum, O. C. Gilbertson, J. L. Mattison, E. A. Shulson, Jacob Jennewein, Nels Nelson and beyond are the Iowa bluffs sloping gently down to the Sioux river. To the west down in the valley are the fine farms of M. H. Lybarger, Chris Cruse and Henry Brandon, and to the north for seven miles lay a beautiful panorama of fine homes, handsome groves and big corn fields, with County Treasurer Hokenstad's home in the distance in a fine grove of old trees planted years ago. To the left are the rich farms of Perry and John Juel and behind a Juel grove the smoke of a steam thrasher curled skyward, and to the north of the Juel farms are the fine homes of M. J. Aus, Martin Monrad, and Lars Lander. These farms are among the best in the county and are owned by men who are growing rich from honest toil and good management. In the middle of the northern picture stands the fine home of M. Mattison, the old David Thompson farm, Rev. Hofstad's fine old home, the Anderson place managed by U. T. Sande, the Darwin and Willis Brown farms and the home of the Skatterbol brothers, big genial progressive hustlers. To the east of the Darwin Brown farm is the Fowler place and on the north the fine Ringheim home. It's a beautiful view one has from the top of Spion Kop, and at no other elevation in the county can be seen so many fine farms and beautiful

homes, and everywhere corn fields rolling in golden wealth.

Passing down the northern slope of the hill we drive north and among the finest homes on that road is the handsome new residence of A. H. Bainbridge on the Nienstadt half section, a little north of the familiar old home of Henry Mecholson, now a booming ranchman out in Lyman county. The Bainbridge home is modern in every respect and built out of the best material to be had. We turned west at the corner of Iver Nelson's big farm, containing about one section, and few men can get more out of a good farm than Mr. Nelson. His place is under a high state of cultivation and is one of the best stock farms in the county. The Robley farm south of Mr. Nelson is one of the best and away back from the road stands the home in a fine grove.

Again we turn north at the Jensen-Nelson corners and over to the west we see the top of Mr. Jensen's handsome home. He is another farmer who is making money out of cattle. We pass the Shield's farm, cross the ravine and pass through Mrs. Swanson's half section and turn in at the home of August Swanson to see his new residence, and there we met Messrs. Cuppett, Smith and Schlager and Bent Olson who had unhitcheed and were under the guardianship of Mr. Swanson. The painters had charge of Mr. Swanson's house which we may safely say is one of the best in the county, and will cost between \$6 and \$7,000. It contains every modern improvement and will be heated with hot water. Mr. Swanson is one of the most progressive young farmers in the county and will be a millionaire if he keeps up his present speed. From Mr. Swanson's we drove down to the cozy little home of John Cederstrom and turned down into the grove where a fine dinner was awaiting the visitors, mention of which was made last week. Just beyond the Cederstrom place is the home of Paul Bankson in the northeast corner of the township. Cederstrom and Bankson are pioneers and close friends and are mighty good men and are wealthy, and no men in the county are more deserving of success.

On our way home after driving a mile west from the bridge site, we pass the farms of A. H. Wells, Pat Gorman, August Swanson and Chas. Wells, and the old P. B. Wahl place now owned by Juel Rowe. Then comes the famous old homestead of Joel Chapman now managed by Mr. Thornton, and then the half section farm of Mayor Dean of Canton, and east of Mr. Dean John Olson has a fine farm. On the west side are the Andrew Nelson and Rowe farms and to the south the Amasa Brown homestead and the Wallace Mitchell half section, all under good and careful management, and Wallace Mitchell is one of the big cattle men of that sec-

tion. Next on the west side of the road are the Charles and James Mitchell farms and the old Abbott farm now owned by Ed. L. Wendt. On the east side is the half section farm of W. N. Leffert with a road fence a mile long. The Lefferts, father and sons, are without question among the most careful and successful farmers in the county. E. J. Straw owns a nice quarter south of Ed. Wendt's and then comes the Walnut Grove ranch of Gudmund Skartvedt, with its big barns and cattle sheds, clover fields, fine grove and 640 acres under fence, within which one may count two hundred head of short horns, with many horses, hogs and a big bunch of sheep. The Skartvedt farm is a fortune. To the south comes the J. D. Cloud, B. F. Ketchum, the Lybarger homestead, the Miller farms, the W. M. Cuppett and C. B. Kennedy farms and then Canton.

Everywhere on that 22 mile trip big corn fields were the chief attraction and such corn fields no one has ever seen in Canton and Dayton townships, with ears that looked thick enough and long enough to make a suitable "big stick" for the man in Washington who is doing so much to make the farm homes of the nation attractive. It was a delightful trip and the beauty and charm of rural wealth and happy homes makes a picture no artist could paint.

Brother Jacobson was not our guide on this trip but as we had been over that part of the county many times it kept the writer busy telling Mrs. Linn where so many good people lived.

No Recruits for the Grand Army.

One of my pilgrimages never loses its charm and is never omitted. As long as it is possible I want to be present at the encampments of the G. A. R. and also of the Confederate veterans. These events are to me more interesting than any other gatherings, no matter how brilliant or interesting they may be. Think for a moment of all that it means. Other organizations may continue uninterruptedly as to membership, recruited by new blood year by year, but there can be no recruits for the G. A. R.; every time the old boys march with feeble and palsied steps, more and more frequently comes the thought that each is near his last bivouac. No others can take their place as survivors of the great Civil War; they can only hand down the memory of those days as a heritage to a younger generation, but the actual membership must soon cease to be.—Joe Mitchell Chaplin, in National Magazine for September.

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