

The Nation's Farmers

After twelve years of service as head of the department, the secretary of agriculture in his twelfth annual report to the President just issued, renders a comprehensive account of his stewardship and presents a review of the progress of agriculture in the United States during this period. Concerning the farm production of 1908, he says the farmer has created wealth by the billions. Production has been above the average of recent years with few exceptions; and, while some prices have fallen, others have risen.

The farm value of all farm products of 1908 reaches the most extraordinary total in the nation's history—\$7,778,000,000. This is about four times the value of the products of the mines, including mineral oils and precious metals. The farmer contributes 87 per cent of the raw materials used in those manufacturing industries which depend mostly or considerably upon agricultural materials, and these industries use 42 per cent of all materials used in all industries.

The gain in value of farm products in 1908 over 1907 is \$290,000,000 and would have been larger had not the prices of cotton and hay been low. The value of products in 1899, the census year, being taken at 100, the value for 1903 stands at 125; for 1904, at 131; for 1905, at 134 for 1906, at 143; for 1907, at 159; and for 1908 at 165. During the last ten years the wealth production on the farms of this country has exceeded the fabulous sum of \$60,000,000,000.

Corn—Greatest of all crops is Indian corn, whose production this year is 2,643,000,000 bushels. The value of this crop is \$1,615,000,000. This wealth, grown out of the soil in four months of rain, sunshine and some drought is enough to cancel the interest-bearing debt of the United States, and to pay for the Panama Canal and fifty battleships. This crop is worth this year nearly as much as the great crops of cotton, wheat and hay combined. Compared with the averages of the preceding five years, the quantity is 2 per cent higher and the value 43 per cent higher.

Hay—The greatest hay crop in history has been gathered this year, 68,000,000 tons, or 12 per cent above the average of the preceding five years. Its price is \$2 per ton less than it was a year ago, but still the farm value of the crop is \$261,000,000 or 6 per cent above the five-year average.

Wheat—Wheat is 1 1/2 per cent in total value. The 660,000,000 bushels of this crop are estimated to be worth \$620,000,000 to the farmers or \$66,000,000 more than the most valuable wheat crop heretofore produced.

Oats and other cereals—Although the oat crop suffered from drought the value is \$321,000,000 for 789,000,000 bushels or 10 per cent above the five-year average product.

The barley crop, 167,000,000 bushels, is 13 per cent above the five-year average and its value, \$86,000,000, is 23 per cent above. Both have been exceeded only once.

Rye remains in the notch that it has occupied in production in recent years, but its value, \$22,000,000, is 17 per cent above the average.

Mrs. Carter Durand was in the city Monday.

For Sale—156 acres of land adjoining Albert on the south, 24 acres in alfalfa, 93 acres in wheat, one-third goes with place, 5 acres of spring crop, balance in pasture. All under fence, 2t.
W. H. WOOLARD,
Albert, Kans.

Mrs. W. F. Graham, who has been visiting her parents, M. r. and Mrs. A. M. Sipes, was taken seriously ill last week and removed to the hospital for treatment. Mr. Graham came down from Gray county Saturday evening to go to be with her.

A Home and an Income.
A business building and a six room house, rental value about \$100 per month; also a large residence and large shady lawn and seven blocks of ground, a pleasant home and good investment. Owner has to leave. Price \$16,000. Address Box 745, Dodge City, Kas.

PILES get immediate relief from Dr. Sharp's Relief Ointment.

Threatened Suit Brought

As was talked of some months ago, the Santa Fe has brought suit in this county to enjoin the county commissioners from collecting the tax levied by this county, under the Barnes high school law. In our last issue attention was called to an opinion handed down by the supreme court in a test case brought in Allen county. The decision was based on the fact that while a majority of those voting on the proposition were in favor of the adoption of the law there was not a majority of the electors who voted at the same election in favor of it, many electors failing to vote either way on the proposition. The same situation exists in this county.

At the election when it was voted on, there were 3311 votes cast, but only 1230 for the adoption of the law. A temporary injunction has been granted by the probate judge, in the absence of the district judge from the county, and the case will come up at the next term court which will be in March. The levy made in this county the past year was two-tenths of a mill, producing about \$6500 in taxes—Great Bend and Holsington schools are the only ones in the county thus far who have qualified for participation in the fund. Others can do so. Under the law pupils from any district in the county may enter the high schools without payment of the usual tuition fee for non-residents. The law was amended at the last session so that at any other elections where the proposition is to be voted on, a majority of those voting on the same will be sufficient.

O. P. Holmes of route 5 is a new subscriber to the Democrat.

Mr. Will Edmans has gone to his home in Charleston, Illinois, to spend Christmas.

Miss Pearl Emley arrived home from Lawrence Friday evening, and will spend the holidays here.

Mrs. Anna Lewis, mother of Dr. L. D. Lewis, left Thursday evening for Richmond, Virginia, where she will spend the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Wilcoons were down from Galatia several days last week. We expect to see these worthy people residents of Great Bend some day, believing that they have earned a rest from the hard farm work.

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Chas. Zoth of Grant township, and Jos. Bahr of Walnut township, both old time friends of the Democrat, were in the city Saturday and called to renew their subscription.

P. J. Meyers of Homestead township, Grant Adams of Olathe and Fletcher White of Okimaha, Okla., have answered the appeal of the editor and sent the wherewithal for the Democrat.

A. J. Eveleigh of Albion township was a county seat visitor Friday last, and called at this office to renew his Democrat subscription. Mr. Eveleigh says the wheat in his locality is doing well.

Urban McGreevey left the first of the week for Logansport, Indiana, and other eastern points for an extended visit with relatives. Urban is a hard working, steady young man, and is entitled to a little vacation.

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