

Western Advance.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT
WORTHINGTON, NOBLES COUNTY, MINN.

Terms: Two Dollars per year, invariably in advance. All orders will receive prompt attention. Communications intended for publication must be accompanied by the real name and address of the writer as a guarantee of good faith—not necessarily for publication.

COLONY INFORMATION.

We devote a page of this issue to giving information concerning the National Colony. We hope that our foreign subscribers, and others to whom this issue is sent, will read the paper and then hand it to their neighbors.

ADDRESS.

All letters addressed to Miller, Humiston & Company, Worthington, Nobles county, Minnesota, will be promptly answered, and full information given concerning the National Colony.

REMITTANCES.

All remittances for Certificates of Membership, lands or other investments in the Colony, should be made by express, Post Office Order, or Bankers' Drafts payable to the order of Miller, Humiston & Co.

HOW TO COME TO THE COLONY.

All persons living east and south of Chicago, should go to that city and take the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad to St. Paul. The connections by this route during the greater part of the year are close, and colonists will save time and expense by going that way. Those who have certificates of membership will save \$8 45 on each ticket between Chicago and Worthington and from 25 to 40 cent, on freight. The run from Chicago to this place is made in from 30 to 35 hours.

GOVERNMENT LAND.

There are several townships in Nobles County in which the government lands remain almost untouched. The lands nearest the villages and the railroads are, of course, taken, but the vacant lands are near projected railroads, and post offices and country stores are established almost as soon as the lands are taken.

GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL COLONY.

The letters received at the Colony office indicate that the influx of settlers will be greater during the present than the past spring. The panic and the open and disagreeable winter in the States south of us, have turned the attention of thousands toward the newer lands of the great Northwest, and many are already packing their boxes to start for the National Colony. A few have arrived thus early in the spring and are putting houses upon their lands. At the beginning of another Colony year, therefore, it may be interesting to review briefly the growth of the Colony.

The National Colony, as most of our readers are aware, began to settle here in the spring of 1872, just two years ago. At that time there were a few settlers about Okabea, Graham and Indian lakes, but those who arrived at Worthington as early as April looked in vain over nearly the whole vast prairie for a single habitation. By the first of June about fifty houses could be counted in Worthington, and between 100 and 200 on the prairie around the town. The improvements in the town the first year cost between \$20,000 and \$100,000. Probably 10,000 or 12,000 acres of land were broken during the breaking season of that year. During the spring of 1873, the influx of settlers was probably not as great as the first year, but the town nearly doubled in substantial improvements during the past year, the principal buildings erected being the Okabea mills, at a cost of between \$35,000 and \$40,000, and the Union Church, at a cost of from \$3,500 to \$4,000. During the year a public library, a Seminary of learning, a bank, and a number of new branches of business were opened, and the town more than doubled in business, social, educational and church interest. Throughout the County the amount of breaking was increased to about 15,000 to 20,000 acres, and the farming population reached between 3,000 and 4,000.—Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry and an Agricultural Society, said to be the largest county society in the State, were organized. Hundreds of thousands of trees were planted, superior breeds of stock in many instances were imported, better farm houses were constructed, and even before a wheat crop had been raised, our farmers were pulling down their barns and building greater. The most extensive farmer in our midst is Prof. Humiston, the manager of the Colony. Last spring he opened three farms, averaging about half a section, each under the immediate management of a practical farmer. Early in the spring, Mr. Jonathan Ames, of Toledo, took some 2,000 acres of land with a view of ultimate improvement. His farming operations last year covered between 300 and 400 acres. Mr. John Alley has taken about a section of land, and is preparing to open a dairy farm. Mr. I. P. Durfee has opened a farm of about 400 acres, and is giving his attention chiefly to grain.

Mr. Oliver Raitt came here last year, from Mc Gregor, Iowa, and opened a stock farm on the East lake. In the fall he was taken with brain disease and died, thus cutting off the further prosecution of a farming enterprise from which much was expected. We mention these because they are the largest farms opened in this county. Other farms, ranging from 80 to 320 acres are no less intelligently and energetically conducted, and there are few farmers here who do not see the superior farming possibilities of this country and who do not believe that this county will in ten years be one of the garden spots of the west.

The National Colony, the first year, was looked upon as an experiment.

Last year it was admitted to be a great and established fact. At the beginning of the third year, it is looked upon as the most prosperous and promising new community in the State, and its influence is felt not only throughout Minnesota, but throughout a large portion of Iowa and Dakota. Worthington is admitted to be the principal town and business point in Southwestern Minnesota, and it is conceded by non-residents that it must become a city of the magnitude of Mankato at least.

As to the moral influence and standing of the Colony it is beyond that of any community in the West to which our knowledge extends. The sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage has for two years been excluded from Nobles County; educational institutions have been successfully inaugurated and a remarkable energy has been displayed in church work, the Methodist Episcopal Church purchasing Miller Hall at a cost of some \$7,000 and Union Congregational Society building, as before stated, a beautiful church at a cost of between \$3,500 and \$4,000. These features have shown such a high state of moral and religious development in the community, that a prominent position and a wide influence are inevitable. The foundation of the National Colony is now fairly laid in an enduring moral and material basis, and the superstructure cannot fail to be one of the most remarkable in the West.

WORTHINGTON.

A gentleman who has held an important State office, and who has seen nearly all the larger towns of Minnesota grow from a few huts to populous and wealthy centres of trade, recently said that Worthington was undoubtedly destined to become one of the important towns of the State. Located as it is, just half way between Mankato and Sioux City, and being so located that it is naturally the best point at which nine or ten counties can meet the railroad, it cannot fail to expand rapidly into a thriving city. In fact, nine counties are now trading here, and Worthington is recognized as the business, railroad and educational centre of a large extent of country extending into Iowa and Dakota.

At present we have but one railroad, and we do not anticipate the building of any other road to this point in less time than from three to four years.—Nor do we think it would be to our advantage to have another road at present. In five years time the country now tributary to Worthington will have made the town of so much consequence that it can command the branch to Sioux Falls and also the Southern Minnesota which is now feeling its way westward. The town once established and recognized as an important city, other railroads will be greatly to our advantage in making this a jobbing and manufacturing centre.

For the information of persons abroad, we give the subjoined details: The largest buildings in Worthington are Miller's Hall, built at a cost of over \$7,000; the Worthington Hotel, built at a cost of about \$10,000, and the Okabea Flouring Mills, which cost from \$35,000 to \$40,000, and have a capacity of over 100 barrels of flour a day.—There are three other hotels in the place, the Farmer's, the Third Avenue and the Okabea, all good sized houses.

Nearly all branches of business are represented, prominent among which are three stores for general merchandise, three hardware stores, three lumber yards, two drug stores, two flour and feed stores, two meat markets, one boot and shoe store, one clothing store, one confectionery, one grocery store, one furniture store, one fuel yard, one livery stable, one bank and one printing office, one harness shop and a variety of mechanical occupations. There are also in the place three lawyers, three physicians, two dentists, two jewelers, four real estate dealers and four builders. There are two grain warehouses besides the grain elevator connected with the Okabea mills.

It may also be an interesting fact that there are in Worthington some fifteen or twenty college graduates and some ten or twelve persons who now are or have been teachers of music.

There are two schools in the place, a graded district school, with two teachers, and the Worthington Seminary, with a corps of eight teachers. There is but one church edifice in the place, a beautiful house, with basement, built by the Union Congregational Church at a cost of between \$3,500 and \$4,000. The Presbyterians, we understand, contemplate building during the Summer. Strictly speaking, there are but three church organizations in the place, viz: the Methodist Episcopal, Rev. J. W. Lewis, pastor; the Presbyterian, Rev. Wm. Jackson, pastor, and the Union Congregational, Rev. J. B. Sharp, pastor. The Episcopalians and Lutherans have occasional services.

Worthington has besides a public library, a Masonic Lodge, with a hall and quite a large Post of the Grand Army.

TAXES.

Settlers from other States, where expensive bridges and roads are necessary and where crime is rampant, often remark upon the ease and the little expense with which a country like this can be turned into a garden. There is not a stream in Nobles county that probably cannot be well bridged at any point for \$200 or \$300, while the mere earth, with a few inexpensive culverts here and there, will make a capital road in any direction. It will be a long time before we shall need jails or pauper houses, or expensive county buildings, or, in short, heavy taxes. Nobles county is not only a refuge from the liquor traffic but also from heavy taxes.

THE WINTER.

An old resident of the State said recently that in sixteen years he had known but six winters more severe than the one now closing. This is equivalent to saying that the average winter in Minnesota is not severe. Last winter was an exceptionally hard one throughout the whole country, and was, according to the records kept at Fort Snelling, the severest one known in the Northwest in fifty years. But the present winter has been nearer the average Minnesota winter. The weather has been mild and generally beautiful. Clear, crisp, sunny, invigorating days have been the rule, and there has been no disturbance of the elements which rose to the dignity of a storm. Some blustering days we have had, and occasionally, for half a day, there have been such demonstrations in the sky as to suggest a "blizzard," but the barometer has steadily persisted in predicting good weather, and the barometer has been true in its prognostications. During the greater part of the winter the sleighing has been good and there have been few days too severe for a child to be abroad enjoying the sleighing. On New Year's day the Union Sabbath School of Worthington enjoyed a sleigh-ride on Okabea Lake. There were over twenty sleighs in the procession, which was headed by the Worthington Cornet Band, with flag flying, and so mild was the day that many of the children went without gloves and wrappers. Up to January first, not a day passed without the customary game of croquet in the yard of the Worthington Hotel.

This is an "open" winter in Minnesota. Settlers from those states where an "open" winter means rain, mud and a large proportion of the population sick, are decided in their praise of this climate. While they read of impassable roads, of business almost suspended because of the mud, and of much sickness and many deaths in their former homes, they are enjoying bright skies, good sleighing and the most exuberant and abounding health. No disease whatever has prevailed here during the winter. It is a rare thing to meet a person with a cold or a cough. Three or four deaths have occurred during the winter, two of the persons being infants and one an aged man who died of apoplexy.

Two points, then, seem to be settled definitely in the minds of the settlers in the National Colony, viz: that, in both soil and climate, Southwestern Minnesota is unsurpassed.

THE WORTHINGTON SEMINARY.

From the first the founders of the National Colony determined upon two things. One of these was that the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage should be prohibited within the Colony limits, and the other was that the Colony should be made an educational centre. Both purposes have been carried out in good faith. A Seminary of learning has been established at Worthington at which the young can secure a good education as can be secured at similar institutions in the Eastern States, while at the same time they are safe from the temptations of the liquor traffic.

The Worthington Seminary was opened in November last, with a corps of eight teachers. The design of the Seminary, as announced by the founders, is to prepare students for a collegiate course, or to qualify them to engage successfully in business. The institution is under the patronage of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is designed to be auxiliary to the Hamline University, already located between St. Paul and Minneapolis and destined to become the leading Methodist institution of learning in the Northwest. Those preparing for college may prepare at the Seminary for entering the Freshman or the Sophomore classes.

The success of the Seminary from its opening was a surprise to its most sanguine friends. Great credit is due the Rev. B. H. Crever, who was the founder of Carlisle College, Pennsylvania, for his labors in securing the early opening of the Seminary, and his services were cheerfully recognized by his election to the Presidency of the institution. His efforts were vigorously seconded by Prof. R. F. Humiston, who has had twenty-five years experience as an educator, and who has accepted the department of Natural Science and donated to the Seminary, at a cost of between \$500 and \$600, a quantity of beautiful apparatus for the illustration of physical science. Chas. F. Dunning, B. A., of Delaware, an experienced educator, has been secured as Principal.

Rev. B. H. Crever is now abroad presenting the claims of the Seminary to the friends of education in the East. That it will be founded on an enduring basis, and that its influence will be felt for many years to come throughout Southwestern Minnesota, Northwest Iowa and Southeastern Dakota, no longer admits of a doubt.

SCHOOLS OF NOBLES COUNTY.

We learn from the County Superintendent of Schools that there are twenty-nine organized school districts in the county, and that eleven petitions for the formation of eleven more districts are now before the Board of Commissioners. Before the end of the year we shall have at least fifty districts in the county. In most of these, schools will be held during the coming season. Our Worthington school has two departments. The teachers are efficient and earnest, the discipline is admirable. The progress of the pupils is satisfactory and the attendance is fully 90 per cent of the enrollment.

For the training of a corps of teachers, a Teachers' Association has been organized, which meets once a month. The membership already numbers thirty persons, and the papers read show a very high degree of culture and professional training.

THE OKABENA FLOURING MILLS—THE LARGEST MILLS SOUTHWEST OF MINNEAPOLIS.

In November, 1872, Mr. C. Z. Sutton, of the firm of Sutton and Lundy, from near Dayton, Ohio, visited Worthington. The character of the people, the temperance and educational features of the Colony, and the prospect that these prairies would soon be waving with miles of wheat, determined the selection of Worthington as his future home and base of operations. He returned to Ohio and at once began preparations for transferring his mills to this place. Early in May, 1873, Messrs. Sutton & Lundy began the erection of the mill, which was completed in September. As this is the most important manufacturing enterprise which has thus far been established in our midst, a detailed description of the mill will be of interest.

The building is four stories in height, and with the machinery cost between \$35,000 and \$40,000. Attached to the mill is an elevator with a capacity to store from 30,000 to 40,000 bushels of wheat. The engine which drives the machinery is one of eighty-five horse power, with balance wheel twelve feet in diameter and weighing about four and a half tons. Messrs Sutton & Lundy had not originally intended the introduction of the Middlings Separator into their mill, but on arriving here they found that they could not manufacture flour of the best brand in the market without this process, and therefore determined, at an additional expense of some \$10,000, to introduce the Separator. The Middlings Separator is a Minnesota invention and can be applied, we understand, only to the harder varieties of spring wheat raised in Minnesota and the Northwest. The flour made by this process commands from one to two dollars more per barrel in the New York market than the best St. Louis brands, or than the best brands made from winter wheat.—From the New York Exchange Reporter and Price Current we quote the following, giving the price of leading Minnesota and St. Louis brands:

Minnesota Sup. Extra	88.70 @ 92.25
St. Louis Triple Extra	8.90 @ 10.25

In the manufacture of this brand, the flour passes through the usual process, that portion which is separated from the middlings and barreled up forming the second best brand. The middlings are then passed through the separator and the dark particles are separated from the white. These white particles are then returned to the burrs and re-ground. Thence they pass to the bolting cloths and the flour thus obtained is the whitest and best brand known in the markets of the world.

To form a clear idea of the mill, we must begin at the beginning and follow the wheat until it is finally barreled up in the form of flour. The wheat is received at the second story of the elevator, then passed to the story below and is thence elevated to bins above, there being separate bins for the different grades. When ready to grind, the wheat is elevated to the cupola of the mill, (which may be called the fifth story), and there passed through a storage separator which runs about 400 bushels an hour. Thence the wheat passes to the story below, or the fourth story, and is there run through an Oats and Weed Separator which separates the wheat from whatever oats, weeds, etc., it may contain. Thence the wheat passes to the next or third story and is run through the Smutter, which scours the berries and passes them to the next or second story, where they are again run through a smutter and then raised into bins just over the burrs. There are five runs of stone in the mill, four for wheat and one for corn. The wheat is then passed to the burrs and ground, and the meal is carried up to the top story and passed to the bolting chests, of which there are two single ones, one double one. These chests are each 20 feet long and 18 high, the single ones having each 3 reels and the double one 6 reels. From these bolting chests the flour is carried to the packer for this brand of flour and packed for shipment.

The middlings are carried to the Separator, of which there is one in the upper story and two in the third story. The meal passes over a series of silk cloths which allow the portion to be re-ground to pass through, while the other portion is carried off and received at the end of the Separator. The white particles which fell through the cloth are then carried down again to the burrs, re-ground and passed again to the bolting chests, whence the flour is passed to another packer used exclusively for packing this brand, which is the best brand made, equal to the best Minnesota brands and surpassing all brands not made by this process. Near the packers is what is called the Duster, a box made to receive the dust which is ordinarily wasted in mills. This dust passes into the box through a tube in which is a suction fan which carries the dust into the box with great force. The particles of flour being heavier than the particles of other dust, fall to the bottom of the box, while the foreign and lighter particles are carried off and blown through an opening in the side of the mill, in which is placed an iron grate. In the basement there is a similar contrivance called the Steam Duster. This is constructed to receive the steam dust which arises from the burrs during the process of grinding, and which is so ruinous to the lungs of millers. This dust is taken at the burrs and carried through a tube by means of another suction fan and is caught in the steam duster in the story below.

Thus in this most complete and admirable mill, the very middlings, heretofore sold for feed for the lower animals, is made to yield a brand of flour which leads the markets of the world, and the very dust usually wasted, is gathered, cleaned, and made to yield its share of flour.

Messrs. Sutton & Lundy have invested from \$40,000 to \$50,000 in their mill, and when working to their full capacity, they manufacture over 100 barrels of flour a day. Their returns from New York, to which most of their flour is shipped, will in ordinary times be from \$500 to \$800 per day, which will, in the main, be distributed among our farmers and laboring men.

This is only the initial mill of a series which will soon be demanded at this point. We are in the heart of an excellent wheat-producing country, and with nine different counties now trading here, the wheat which in a few years will pour into Worthington, will require a vast system of elevators and mills to dispose of it. Five to ten years hence will witness an endless procession of teams winding along Okabea Lake, bringing the golden Minnesota staple to a series of mills like that of Messrs. Sutton & Lundy.

MINNESOTA AIR.

It is not probable that Minnesota air differs in essential constituent elements from any other air. But there is more oxygen and less foreign material or impure vapor to every lung full, than there is in probably any other air below the mountain altitudes. In fact, Minnesota might be called a mountain State, though there is not, strictly speaking, a mountain on all its surface. The whole State lies at such an altitude that it might be considered a mountain-top twice as large as all New England. The Mississippi River rises in this State and flows southward, the Red River of the North rises here and flows northward, and the great Lakes rise in Minnesota and flow eastward. In fact, it is down hill in all directions from Minnesota. Hence we catch the balsamic breezes that blow down over hundreds of miles of northern forests before they have taken up a breath of malarious impurity or lost any of the virtues gathered from the pine forests.

Where, then, is the top of Minnesota? Singularly enough, the top is in the southwestern corner of the State. The highest lake in Minnesota is Okabea Lake, whose "voice of many waters" lulls the people of Worthington to sleep on summer nights. The waters of Okabea Lake flow southward through Ocheeda Lake to the Missouri River, and northeastward through Heron Lake to the Mississippi River. The highest point in Minnesota, from 1,200 to 1,300 feet above the level of the sea, lies on the ridge about four miles west of Worthington. Hence we claim the climate of the mountains. On this point, the testimony is all one way. There is no more healthful region on the Continent. Men in this section are alive with a superabundance of oxygen and electricity. Men die here as well as elsewhere, but they live a lively life while they do live. No man can escape the cares of life by coming to the National Colony, but he can secure increased strength to his back-bone to bear them.

A SUMMER RESORT.

Graham Lakes, near the northern line of Nobles County, is destined to become one of the favorite lake resorts of Minnesota. There are three crystal lakes, set in a frame of timber, which pass under the name of Graham Lakes, and within a radius of six miles there are some ten or twelve more lakes. For a quiet resort, with good fishing, boating and bird shooting, we do not know of their equal. There are at present very inferior accommodations for visitors at this resort, and but little effort has been made to advertise the place, yet last summer from fifty to a hundred persons were turned away for lack of accommodations, and already letters are beginning to arrive from parties at Cincinnati and elsewhere asking if accommodations can be had. Mr. Warren Smith, of the "Island," we learn, intends to enlarge his house with a view to accommodating guests. An effort is being made to secure the location of a hotel and water-cure at these lakes during the coming summer.—There is no finer point on the western prairies for the location of a hotel and water-cure, than the second point on the Bookstaver place now owned by Mr. Ames. This point commands a view of nearly the whole East lake, and from the top of the hotel, on any clear day, the eye could see twenty lakes, and the towns of Worthington, Hersey and Heron Lake. On mornings when there was a looming mirage, the country would be visible for 30 or 40 miles in all directions, and it would be worth a trip from the East to see the wonderfully beautiful and seemingly spectral but nevertheless real map of lakes, rivers, groves and towns spread out beneath the eye.

CLIMATE OF SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA.

Here in Southwestern Minnesota we get the Minnesota climate at its best. We are several hundred miles south of the region of extremely rigorous winters, while we are still far north of the ague or malarial line, being about 100 miles north of the latitude of Chicago. It may be an interesting fact to our readers abroad to know that Worthington is several hundred miles south of the latitude of Paris, over 1,100 miles south of the latitude of Edinburgh, and about 1,600 miles south of St. Petersburg.

QUININE AND WHISKY.

One of our druggists informs us that since he took charge of his drug store in July last he has sold but one ounce and one-third ounce of quinine, and that his sales of whisky for medicinal, mechanical and chemical purposes have averaged but one gallon a month. The fact is, we don't indulge in ague nor ardent spirits in this community.

According to the U. S. Census of 1870, Minnesota is the healthiest State in the Union.

EXEMPTION FROM EVILS.

It is an old adage that there is no royal road to wealth, and it is a true one that there is no place where men are exempt from the ills of life. Neither is there any frontier life without its hardships. Let no one come to the National Colony expecting that this is a garden spot growing crops without tending, or that this cream of the prairies will produce butter without churning. Men must labor and wait here as elsewhere, and must undergo some of the hardships of pioneer life. What we claim for the National Colony is that both climate and soil are exceedingly favorable; that the Colony managers are spending tens of thousands of dollars in locating settlers on government lands and in building up the agricultural and other interests of the county, and that there is no other frontier community in the country where men can start with so many advantages and favorable surroundings.

The claim is justly made that we have fertile soil, convenient markets, healthful climate, and cultivated, Christian society; that we have superior mail, railroad, school, church and other privileges, and that we have no ague, no consumption, no liquor traffic, no crime, no ruffians nor desperadoes, no Indians and no poisonous reptiles. There have been one or two imported cases of ague and of crime since the Colony was founded, but this climate is remarkably free from both physical and moral malaria.

THANKSGIVING.

The colonists of the National Colony have originated a unique method of observing Thanksgiving Day. Two such occasions have passed since the Colony was founded and each was celebrated by a general gathering of the people at Worthington to partake of a bountiful dinner, followed in each instance by toasts and responses, music and social enjoyment. On the second occasion of the kind between 500 and 600 persons took dinner, and under the stimulus of what is known as the "Minnesota appetite" they ate about fifty turkeys, several flocks of chickens, a few loads of pumpkins baked into pies, and then browsed over vast fields of other pies, cakes and articles of food besides. While numbers of New Englanders were compelled to forego the customary Thanksgiving turkey on account of the financial pinch, there was no one in the National Colony who was not invited to line his stomach with "good capon" and fat turkey.

One of the interesting features of the occasion was the awarding of two silver medal prizes for the best two specimens of bread baked from flour furnished by Messrs. Sutton & Lundy of the Okabea Mills. These gentlemen contributed a barrel of their best brand which commands \$12 25 in the New York market when the best St. Louis brand commands but \$10 25. The flour was made from the middlings of Minnesota Spring wheat. There were some forty competitors for the prizes. The bread was the wonder and adoration of every one. Here were settlers from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, and other States who did not hesitate to declare that the bread was the whitest, the lightest and the finest they had ever seen. Some who had just arrived in the Colony, and who had been notified before coming to Minnesota that they must prepare to eat dark bread, were astonished to see such snow-white and beautiful loaves made from Spring wheat flour.

A FINE VIEW.

Day before yesterday we took a sleigh-ride to the highest point in Minnesota, in company with a gentleman from Michigan who is looking with reference to opening a mercantile house and farm here. This point is four miles west of town on the State road. The day was not as clear as usual, yet on looking around nearly the whole county lay in sight. Northeastward we saw the timber on Graham Lakes, some 18 miles distant; and moving the eye further to the east, we saw the timber on Heron Lake, some 22 miles distant from our point of observation, and then looking to the southeast, we saw, twelve miles off, the timber on Round Lake. Ocheeda and Okabea Lakes, were, of course, plainly seen and apparently near, and Worthington loomed up on the shore of the West Lake like a young city. Although the country is not seen to advantage when covered with snow, the view was beautiful.

The prairie is green and the lake sky-blue and Worthington is shining out in the light of the Summer sun, there are few prairie views equal to the one from this point.

INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

There is a strong probability that the State Inebriate Asylum will be located in the National Colony. It seems to be conceded throughout the State that Worthington is the point at which to locate such an institution if any respect is to be paid to the fitness of things. But whether the State institution be located here or not, we wish to announce that the National Colony has made the whole of Nobles county an Inebriate Asylum, the benefits of which are freely extended to all who come among us. The inebriate will here find the temptation withdrawn and Christian sympathy extended to him in his efforts to reform.

PROFITS OF TREE CULTURE.

An annual bounty of four dollars an acre is allowed by the State for tree culture on the prairie. Thus the bounty on forty acres of trees, the amount required to secure a tree claim, is \$160 a year. A man may therefore buy a farm near Worthington at \$10 an acre, take a tree claim, and pay for his farm near town out of ten years' bounty drawn from the State, thus making the tree claim pay for the farm, and having both farms and the trees besides!

TREE CLAIMS.

Quite a number of persons who have taken homesteads and find that they cannot live on the land themselves, are preparing to change their homesteads into tree claims. Whatever may be said about the tree law, it is evident that it will secure the object for which it was enacted, viz: the planting of trees. Ten years from now there will be two or three hundred per cent. more trees in Nobles County than there would have been had not the tree law been enacted. The man who grows forty acres of timber on these prairies does the county an inestimable service and is doing a kind of farming which ought to be universally encouraged, and which cannot fail to pay.

Mr. Hunt, of Grand Rapids, Mich., was here during the week looking with reference to opening a mercantile house and a large farm.

Mr. Anderson, who recently arrived from Iowa, has purchased a farm across the Lake, and is building a house.

COST OF CRIME.

A gentleman who visited the Colony last Summer from a county in Iowa where there is little liquor sold, said that crime had cost his county but \$100 for the year previous, while in the adjoining county where liquor is freely sold, crime cost the people \$6,000 for the same year. Nobles county may justly claim to be the banner county in this respect. Thus far crime has cost us comparatively nothing. Two cases of assault and battery and three prosecutions for selling liquor the first year constitute the criminal record of Nobles county for two years. As population increases, there will doubtless be an increase of crime, but our present almost absolute exemption from crime, due chiefly to the exclusion of the liquor traffic, is a fact beyond any question. We can give the money which would go to prosecute criminals and support paupers, to the building up of our public library, our schools, and our churches.

THE TEMPERANCE FEATURE.

The temperance feature of the National Colony is a fact. It is rigidly enforced. Public sentiment sustains law, and there is not a grog-shop in Nobles county. The town charter of Worthington contains a clause of perpetual prohibition. There was a severe struggle the first year, but the liquor element saw that the Colony managers and the colonists were determined to enforce the temperance feature and it withdrew. Prof. Humiston prosecuted three liquor sellers who attempted to sell liquors here the first year; he retained the best legal talent which the State afforded, and the Colony Company set aside \$5,000 to push the cases clear through the Supreme Court, if necessary. The people promptly formed a Temperance Alliance which held weekly meetings and public sentiment was kept screwed up to the sticking point. The liquor sellers and their friends soon succumbed and we claim to have the cleanest community, morally speaking, in the West.

The difference in latitude between the Winnipeg country, where some of the finest wheat and largest vegetables on the continent are grown, and Southern Minnesota, where the National Colony is located, is as great as the difference between Northern Ohio and Southern Kentucky.

Southwestern Minnesota is admitted to be the garden of the State and to contain the cream of the prairies.

Southwestern Minnesota has the climate of the mountains and the soil of the river bottoms.

The wheat crop of Minnesota last year was about 23,000,000 bushels. Minnesota raises more surplus wheat than all the states and territories west of the Mississippi, not including the Pacific side.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

We learn that Mr. John Alley is preparing to open a dairy farm in this vicinity. That this section will in a few years become one of the finest dairying regions in the West, no one can doubt who considers our luxuriant grasses, our numerous lakes and our dry winters. The New York Bulletin, in a recent article, speaks of the steady growth of this branch of business and of the high prices prevailing, and says:

"It needs only to be pointed out to be recognized as a fact, without demonstration, that this industry offers unusual inducements to capital seeking investment; for, as we have shown before, this state of the trade is not the result of any accident, nor of short crop anywhere, but is the result of causes which have been steadily growing for the past two years, and are still operating to an indefinite extension of the same result. In our last review we showed why the consumption of this food was much more rapidly increasing than its production, and that the causes were in their nature permanent."

HERSEY AND BIGELOW.

There are two villages, with railroad stations, in the Colony besides Worthington. These are Hersey, lying in the northeastern part of the county, and Bigelow, lying southeast of Worthington. Both are rounding into thriving villages, with postoffices and stores of various kinds. Hersey has quite a large hotel for a small village. The country around each of these villages is all that any farmer could ask. About Bigelow it is more rolling and will always be well adapted to fruit and wheat growing. About Hersey the country is more level, but the land lies beautifully. To our eyes there is no prospect in the county than that about Hersey. Seven miles north of Hersey lie Graham Lakes, and about ten miles eastward lies Heron Lake, the timber on each of the lakes being in sight. Both Hersey and Bigelow must be centers of quite a local trade. There is a strong probability that a colony of Cumberland Presbyterians from Pennsylvania will locate around Hersey during the coming summer.

THE TREE LAW.

Our Congressman, Mr. Dunning, has done by the prairie regions of the West quite a service by his amended tree law. The leading provisions of the law are: 1. That three years, instead of one as heretofore, are allowed in which to do the breaking, ten acres being required the first year, the second and twenty the third year from the date of entry. 2. Four years, instead of one as heretofore, are allowed in which to plant all the trees, ten acres being required the second year, ten the third and twenty the fourth. This is where a quarter section is taken. 3. When less than a quarter section is entered, the number of acres to be planted bears the same proportion to the quantity entered that forty acres bears to one hundred and sixty, that is, twenty acres of timber to eighty acres of land. 4. When a quarter section is entered, a patent can be secured by cultivating the trees eight years instead of ten as heretofore.

TREE CLAIMS.

Quite a number of persons who have taken homesteads and find that they cannot live on the land themselves, are preparing to change their homesteads into tree claims. Whatever may be said about the tree law, it is evident that it will secure the object for which it was enacted, viz: the planting of trees. Ten years from now there will be two or three hundred per cent. more trees in Nobles County than there would have been had not the tree law been enacted. The man who grows forty acres of timber on these prairies does the county an inestimable service and is doing a kind of farming which ought to be universally encouraged, and which cannot fail to pay.

Mr. Hunt, of Grand Rapids, Mich., was here during the week looking with reference to opening a mercantile house and a large farm.

Mr. Anderson, who recently arrived from Iowa, has purchased a farm across the Lake, and is building a house.