

Good Profits In Sheep and Cattle.

Among Burleigh county's farmers and stock growers, who have been successful and thus assisting in blazing the way for the Missouri slope's future greatness, is F. Carstens, whose ranch is located in Cromwell township, about 18 miles northeast of this city.

Mr. Carstens came to Bismarck in 1885 as a farm laborer and engaged as such for two years until he had accumulated sufficient means to buy teams, and necessary equipment to commence farming on a small scale, and he engaged in exclusive grain raising during the seasons of '97-'99 inclusive. While fairly good crops were raised during those years, the methods that were in vogue at that time would not admit of the same profits that accrue under present methods, and Mr. Carstens found his accumulations represented in the value of his farm equipment and improvements.

In the summer of 1890 Mr. Carstens bought 300 ewes wholly on credit. Now it will be remembered that it was at this time that sheep values were at their zenith, and soon after commenced to decline. Yet notwithstanding this handicap the profits and increase on this sheep venture were such that at the end of three years they had paid for themselves with the high rates of interest that prevailed in those times, and increased to 650. It was at this time that Mr. Carstens moved from his farm in Sibley township to his present ranch in Cromwell, and has from the profits from this band of sheep made extensive and valuable improvements. Two years ago he sold out his sheep, and bought cattle, bringing in from South St. Paul 123 head of cattle, 100 of which were steers.

Mr. Carstens has 320 acres of land and a five years' lease of 320 acres of school land, with Apple creek running through the entire tract. A large portion of this is first class meadow land. Here he has a small but comfortable house, and a barn with conveniences for sheltering 300 head of cattle, with loft room for 100 tons of hay.

To a Tribune representative Mr. Carstens said: "During the time I was engaged in sheep growing values ranged from 47c to \$4 per head, so it will be seen I have had to take some of the bitter with the sweet," notwithstanding which I have found the sheep business fairly profitable, as you can figure from the statements already made—very closely approximating 100 per cent. How I shall come out with my cattle venture is of course wholly problematical, as I have not sold any yet; but if present values are maintained until another fall I feel quite sure of at least a fair profit, as with the equipment I have my hay costs me not to exceed 60 cents per ton, and with an average winter but about one ton per head is required for wintering, and an expenditure of an equal amount will pay for herding them during the grazing season.

"Of course I am fortunately situated at the present time, as I can use all the land that adjoins me for grazing purposes, but at present land values it would not require a very large sum to secure by purchase sufficient land for summer grazing."

While Mr. Carstens' accumulations during his 16 years experience do not assume fabulous proportions—probably close around \$10,000—the instances where such results have been accomplished are exceedingly rare in any country outside of the Missouri slope, and while such a sum cannot be said to place one in a position of affluence, the accumulation of it by the farmer or ranchman must be in a large measure the result of those habits of frugality that places him in a position to enjoy it in a far greater ratio than would be the case of the possession of an equal amount by the tradesman or professional man, to whom the ordinary luxuries of life have come to be regarded as necessities.

POSSIBILITIES OF NORTH DAKOTA

Jamestown Alert: J. W. Edinger, a farmer near Cathay, Wells county, is spending a day or two in the city with friends. He now farms 320 acres of land and does most of the work himself, his outlay for extra labor besides his own last year being under \$100, he says: He raised last year 1200 bushels of flax, 500 bushels of wheat, and his oats went 35 bushels to the acre. He keeps no stock except what is needed to do the farm work. These returns are practically for six months work with six months in which there is little to do except the chores. For the labor involved the results are certainly what can be secured in a few farming localities in any country. Mr. Edinger is a young man, has his farm all paid for, earned out of the land. It is another instance of what a young man willing to work, can do in North Dakota.

Mr. C. E. Crum is a resident of McKenzie township, his post office being McKenzie. His experience in this country is of interest to all desiring information regarding this section.

Mr. Crum is one of the early pioneers of Burleigh county, having come here from Illinois and settled in McKenzie township in the spring of 1882, locating on government land about two miles north of where McKenzie station now is.

For many years Mr. Crum confined his farming operations almost entirely to the raising of small grain; but during the past decade he has been gradually working into stock growing, until last year his only grain crop was 100 acres of corn. From this he harvested 2,500 bushels of good sound corn. When asked concerning the profits of corn culture on Missouri slope land as compared with Illinois, Mr. Crum said: "No more labor is required to plant and care for 100 acres of corn here than would be required for 40 acres in Illinois and while the

realize the almost utter impossibility of the acquisition of such a magnificent principality in—for instance—Mr. Crum's native state, by other than those in circumstances of affluence? At the time he came here the same amount of land in Illinois would have been worth at least \$40 per acre, requiring a fixed earning of about \$2,000 per year for taxes and interest—a burden that would bring dismay to the stoutest heart and cause the furrows of care to be drawn over an otherwise cheerful countenance. Here it has been acquired by easy stages and without a moment's feeling of unrest that is the constant lot of one laboring under a heavy burden of debt.

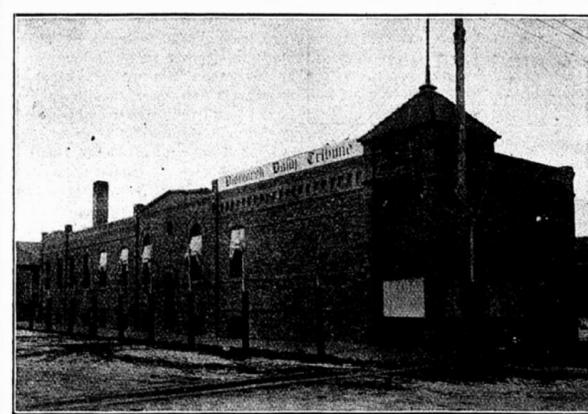
What has been accomplished by Mr. Crum can be accomplished by any man whose experience has taught him habits of frugality and the determination to make an earnest effort.

SHEEP RANGING AND SHEEP FARMING.

The following extracts are from an address delivered by Dugald Campbell, former president of the North Dakota Sheep Breeders Association, at the tenth annual session of the South Dakota Sheep Breeders Association at Brookings. Mr. Campbell, after nineteen years experience in sheep raising on the Missouri slope,

side camps is about 1,800 of a winter stock; and the greatest number one can properly care for around his home

nineteenth century and it behooves us, who, by many various paths, have found ourselves dwellers in a semi-



BISMARCK TRIBUNE BLOCK.

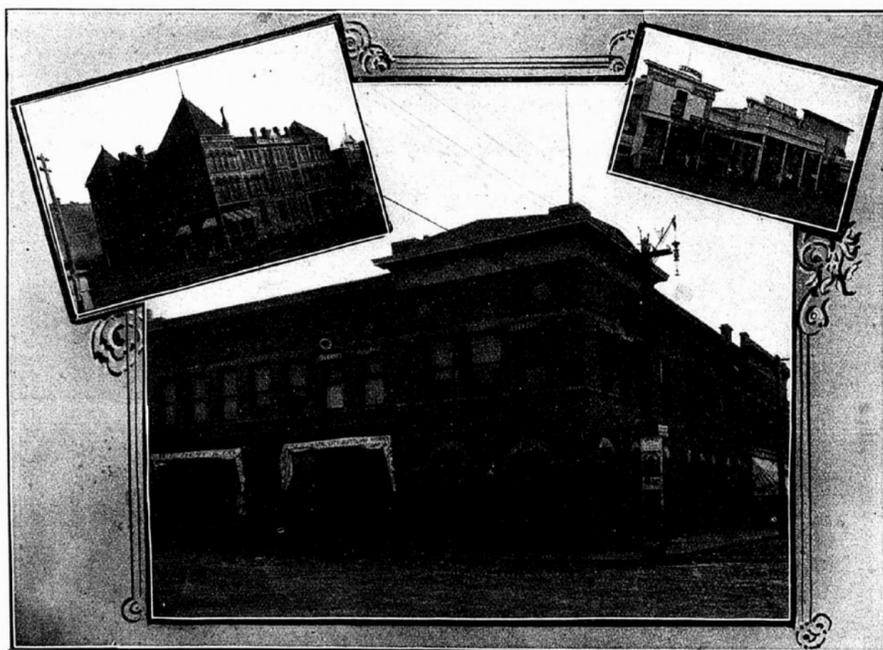
without moving camp is about 700. Five hundred is a good number to have in one place the year around. With that number well provided and cared for, the farmer in average years and times can count on a gross income from his sheep of from \$1,200 to \$1,500.

arid region, to ascertain its needs and adaptations. Our greatest need is a forage plant that will withstand our hot summers and cold winters. Trees and shrubs, and "all the fairer forms which cultivation glories in" are also sorely lacking.

"What we have a superfluity of is land and wind, politicians and gofers. How much has the nomadic ranchman done to improve these conditions? The stock farmer, owning perhaps a couple of sections of prairie land, will plow good and sufficient fire-breaks, which will protect his grass and hay. When this is done all over our land the annual prairie fires will have lost their terror, and we may look for some amelioration of our climate. The farmer owning his land and desirous of establishing himself permanently, will begin by setting out trees to shade and protect his home and children. By and by, having learned this most beneficial art, he will plant to shelter from sun and wind the cattle or sheep which have made him his livelihood, and for whose comfort and well being he feels himself responsible—at any rate to his own conscience."

Mr. Campbell then proceeds to relate the particulars regarding sheep ranging, taking a flock of 1,800 as of December 1st and relating in detail the experiences of range life—wintering, herding, warding off the wolf, the prairie fire, shearing, caring for the young, disposing of the wool, etc. Getting back to the subject of sheep farming again Mr. Campbell concludes as follows:

"Let me describe shortly the class of sheep farm of which you have many attractive examples here in South Dakota, the kind which is perfectly possible in North Dakota now, and along the lines of which the expansion of our sheep industry in these states, is mainly to come. A farm of two sections. One section fenced with dog proof fence. In one part of it are found well, wind-mill and watering troughs. Near this is a grove of trees which the well and



BUILDING BURNED IN 1888.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLOCK, BISMARCK.

SITE IN 1874.

average yield there is somewhat greater than here, the cost of the land to grow it on is not one-tenth as great. My experience convinces me that corn can be produced here at much less cost per bushel than in any of the so-called corn states further east. As Mr. Crum's early training in the school of agriculture was had on an Illinois farm, and as his experience in each state has covered a long term of years, he is certainly competent to pass upon this question of relative profits.

From a modest beginning Mr. Crum has gradually expanded until he now has one of the model farms and ranches of Burleigh county. As heretofore stated his home farm is situated about two miles north of McKenzie station and about twenty miles east of Bismarck. Here he has 160 acres of first class agricultural land on which are situated his farm buildings, including a comfortable and conveniently appointed farm house, three large barns, giving an aggregate of some 7,000 feet of floor space, with large mows and lofts for the storing of winter forage; machine sheds, granaries and cribs for the housing of machinery and the storage of grain—all well painted and in thorough repair. Here he also has a 200 foot 2-inch tubular well, in which there is a constant supply of 176 feet of pure soft water. The well is equipped with a large windmill and tank for convenience in watering the large amount of stock that is here kept during the winter season.

Four miles further north Mr. Crum has 800 acres more land under fence, through which courses Apple creek, constituting a well watered pasture with a luxuriant growth of grass, which is used for grazing cattle in summer and horses in winter. At present he is keeping 200 head of cattle, 1,000 sheep and fifty horses. These are kept on the "home" farm where has been quartered during the proper season sufficient forage to meet any contingency in the way of long winters or severe storms.

Here is a farm of 960 acres that is annually producing as much net profit per acre as the average stock and grain farm in the central west, and is therefore intrinsically worth as much as though it were located elsewhere, and it and its equipment and stock represent the accumulation of but practically a decade—for we have the owner's word for it that the first half of his residence here was consumed in learning the adaptability of the soil and climate. Does the reader

is conservative and not at all optimistic. The subject of his address was "Sheep Growing Under Range Conditions." Mr. Campbell draws the distinction between sheep farming and sheep ranging. The rush of settlers to the Missouri slope will soon destroy in a large degree the opportunity for sheep ranging. Mr. Campbell in the outset of his address says: "If I had chosen my own subject I would have spoken of sheep farming—not sheep ranging," and then continues: "The days of sheep ranging, as of cattle, east of the Missouri river, are numbered. There should be no regrets that such is the case. The Dakotas have been better sheep ranging states from the owners' point of view, than from the sheep's or herder's standpoint.

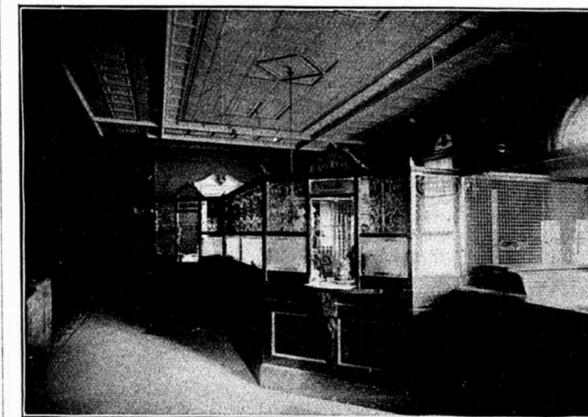
"I have been engaged in what we call Dakota sheep ranging for over seventeen years, and say now, that except when sheep were being fed full rations of hay in the winter I have never felt that it was possible to make them happy and comfortable as I wished. The winters in which we have not attempted to range on account of snow have been the most satisfactory to me and the best for the sheep. When we have fed twenty or twenty-five tons of hay to the hundred sheep, in four months winter, we have been sheep farming more than ranging; and the owner during these months has been able to take genuine pleasure in seeing well-filled sheep going out and in a comfortable shed where the blizzard has no terror, and where the prairie fire, the wolf, the wild oat, the shortened range are not even thought of.

"It is in the spring when we move to outside camps that the annoyances and troubles of the ranchmen begin.

"What we like, then, and think we require, is fresh range and free range; good water and plenty of it; a faithful herder and a kind Providence. What the ranger does not like are the prairie fires, wild oats, muddy waters, monthly or weekly herders, and perhaps worse of all—because unaccounted to it—pointed information as to the location of section lines and corners. Is it to be wondered at, that with these likes and dislikes the ranger is restless and looks abroad for a new location; or what is better for him, and the community, becomes a sheep farmer?

"In our country I would say that the smallest number for which one can profitably have a herder and out-

Where I come from the door is already closed to the ranchman looking for a new location to range even a couple of thousand sheep. But it is wide open and the opportunities are many, at comparatively small cost, for the man who is satisfied to farm and pet and make money for a few hundred head. I do not mean to say that sheep ranging will not be con-



INTERIOR OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

tinued for some time, but that it is a declining industry, and where carried on east of the Missouri river must be done under conditions different from what have prevailed, the principal difference being that we must now buy our grazing land and husband it as best we can. Already no one thinks of trusting to government or vacant land for hay or water.

"The meadow lands and watering places have to be owned. But heretofore our grazing has been practically free. Not much longer will that be the case. As citizens and well-wishers for the prosperity of our states we should welcome those changes. The man who is ranging over many thousands of acres of vacant land with perhaps only a quarter section of land as headquarters is apt to consider his residence temporary, and to make his improvements of the same nature. He is not likely to spend labor or money in testing the capabilities of the land, and there is little incentive to beautify his home with grove or garden. These western prairies and plains of America have been God's greatest gift to the latter part of the

windmill have made possible, and where the sheep, which deserve so much of kindness at our hands, can find shade during the hot noon hours of summer. The grazing capacity of this section will be greatly helped, if during April and May the sheep are herded on any other unoccupied land for a few hours every morning only. These few hours herding will not give the children that far away "would-to-God-it-were-evening" look, which today is so painful to see among too many of our little prairie herders. As to what breed is best adapted for this fenced pasture, each one has to determine for himself, what is best suited to his locality and his market. I would say with that countryman of mine when asked his opinion regarding a certain whisky. "Some whiskies are better than others, but all whiskies are good." All breeds of sheep are good, but some breeds will repay you and me better than others, according to our environments. So much for one section. The other section will be devoted to raising winter feed. Natural hay is easiest of all, but if our stock-raising has to in-

crease, something else has to be found to supplant or supplement what Dame Nature merely gave us to start in with.

On this section will be the home and the buildings. Here also will be a windmill and tank, by the judicious use of which the farmer has surrounded his home with a grove of trees, an orchard of hardy fruits, a vegetable garden and why not a garden of flowers? For reward, he will have the joy of having redeemed from the wilderness and made habitable one corner of the earth; for which, in years to come, his children will thank and bless him, that their youth was spent in a home—not a desert camp."

THE BIG BEND AND SHEEP RAISING.

To be perfectly honest and candid, isn't it a relief these days to occasionally sit down and talk with the man who hasn't made a success of everything he has undertaken; the man who is still looking for "worlds to conquer" in business enterprise? We feel it so, and to such we would like to sit down on a dry goods box and whittle a stick, figuratively speaking, and talk sheep, as a sure, quick and comparatively easy road to success.

Any man who can raise stock of any kind, with a very little practical experience, can raise sheep, and especially is that true here, where climate and surroundings all tend toward the success of the enterprise. While the country adjacent to Bismarck is essentially a stock country, we are just beginning to feel the on-rush of the festive homestead seeker, who is encroaching upon the domain of the cattlemen, cutting up the range, but not so with the man whose wealth is on the fleecy backs of a well bred band of sheep. Ten thousand sheep will "roll in the lap of luxury" where one thousand head of cattle would starve. Of the 107 varieties of weeds and grasses growing in this state, sheep will eat 156, and cattle not over 23. In other words where cattle ranging will soon be practically out of the question there is yet and will always be money made in the sheep business and plenty of range for all. The quantity of stock handled with the same outfit is what increases or diminishes the profits in stock raising of any kind; then why not raise what you can produce the most of with the facilities at hand?

We might cite a dozen instances in this immediate locality where parties have grown wealthy off of sheep raising. Take as an example Alfred Staley, north of Coal Harbor, who with but a small investment, in the past three or four years has raised 1,500 or more sheep worth from \$6,000 to \$8,500 and not one foot of land his own. His brother, Charles Staley, has done equally as well, and is still at it. One farmer in Emmons county, south of Bismarck, recently sold out his band of sheep for \$18,000 spot cash. He walked in twelve years ago. This sum did not include his other property accumulated during this period, and so we might continue to enumerate instances where practical experience proves the sheep industry second to none on the Missouri slope.

We have made money ourselves and expect to make more in sheep and so can anyone who gives it a reasonably fair trial.

A sheep ranch in this state should not be run on the same plan as those of the more western states, with their lack of grown feed, where sheep raising means nothing but herd, shear and ship. With the small expense attached to western methods of conducting this business, an average clip of four pounds per head gives a sufficient profit. The sheep turned off each year are bought up as "feeders" by the central states buyers as a rule, and there fitted for market. Aside from the small clip you will find also that "territory" wool is low in the market, on account of dirt and "dead" fibres, and you must also figure that they divide their mutton profits with the man who fits it for the market, (who by the way gets the lion's share). All of which points to good money in them here. You can and should do away with the methods that cause this drain in "territory" flockmaster's profits. The climate, bountiful water supply, great variety of fodder grown and growing tend to radically change methods in North Dakota, and makes it among the best fitted sections in the United States for the industry, it being all pre-eminently conducive to producing the weight, soundness, luster and yield, so essential to high grade fleece as well as fitting the lambs for a top price in the mutton market, to which they are shipped direct from the range, thus escaping the "middle man."

It might be interesting to note what a given amount of money will earn, based upon conservative figures gleaned from experience. Mr. Brown buys 100 sheep at \$3 and places them upon his Burleigh county ranch. An increase of from 100 to 120 per cent is not at all unusual, and with proper care is almost assured, while under like circumstances from properly bred sheep a clip of eight pounds is a fair average, which at the present price would give him about \$1 per head. Mr. B. trades his wether lambs for