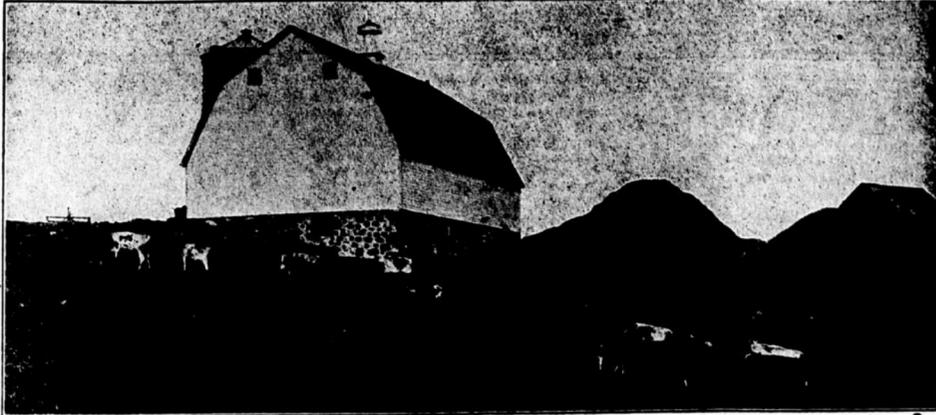


**BARN, SILO AND HERD**

on the W. S. Davison farm, three miles west of Williston. A field of 60 acres of corn was matured on this farm the present unusually unfavorable corn season. Alfalfa, corn, cattle, hogs and silos spell prosperity.



ust, the growing season. That don't seem like very much water to people who live where it rains 20 to 30 inches but it is enough, and the fact is established by four successive years of good crops with little if any more than normal rainfall. This season, up to now, there has been considerably less than normal. Our soil is of nature to hold and conserve the moisture if given half a chance by deep plowing and thorough cultivation. The average date of killing frost, in the fall, is shown to be about September 14th. This has been one of the coldest summers ever recorded frost occurred nearly every month, but hurt nothing but corn. Last season practically all the corn matured and there were fields all over this country of from 20 to 60 acres that yielded from 30 to 68 bushels per acre. This year the fields that mature will have hustle.

"That does not surprise me any, and it ought not to discourage you farmers with corn raising, for this was one of the worst corn seasons ever known, even in many parts of the so called corn belt," put in Eastman, "we've got poor prospects for even half a crop, in our country."

"That is the building and offices of the Dakota Western Telephone Company. It has about 700 miles of long distance lines reaching out from here which are good business getters for Williston. That's the Williams county court house, this is the county seat, and the court chambers of the 11th judicial district are located in Williston. That place on the corner is a cigar factory, employs eight or ten men; those things all help."

**TOWN'S LOCATION THE BIG ADVANTAGE**

"There are five big garages in this town, all of 'em busy. One agency sold over 300 cars last year. You see this is an important distributing point for pretty nearly everything the surrounding country uses, vehicles, implements, groceries, merchandise of all kinds. I don't mean, Mr. Eastman, that the country around and the smaller towns, get all their supplies here, but a large part of them. About 50 traveling salesmen make their homes here. Williston is located in the natural center of a territory that is not only large but very productive; that is the biggest thing that has made the town grow and keeps it growing. They are going to build an armory and auditorium on that site this fall, a good one and a dandy big one, the business men subscribed \$10,000 of the \$25,000 it will cost."

"Gosh, you don't say so," broke in Eastman, "that's what I call real boosting. That is a mighty pretty building, what is it?"

"The Elks Home, club headquarters for over 250 members. It is a handsome building, well arranged and comfortable inside, too. There are three of our four city school buildings. The old Central building, the new \$25,000 high school and the Annex, built to piece out. Over that way about half a mile is the Westlawn school, a fine eight room building. Williston schools are among the best. Good equipment, well paid teaching corps of 27; the enrollment exceeds 800, I believe. Just notice some of these homes, and the lawns around them. This Russian olive grows fine here, makes good hedges and is ornamental."

"I have been noticing--nice home-like appearing homes, and lots of them. I am surprised, it all just proves how blamed little we, of what you call the East, know about the country west of us. I never saw nicer lawns anywhere. Just look at that flower garden, I didn't suppose flowers would grow way out here. What is your water supply?"

"The Missouri river. This is the first point where the Great Northern's main line to the coast touches the river. No better

water in the world right from the snows of the Rockies. The city recently installed a filtration plant to take the silt out, then the water is put through the mains by electrically driven pressure pumps. That high tank you see on the west side holds a supplementary supply, in case of a big fire or a broken main. You ought to see the beautiful ice they get off the river. The old Missouri runs muddy but always freezes clear as glass.

**HE HAS TO MULTIPLY BY FOUR**

"Isn't this just about as nice a site as you ever saw for a city? Plenty high above the river--our altitude above sea level is 1870 feet--plenty of room for growth, level enough but a nice slope to carry off the sewage, and good soil to grow grass and trees and gardens."

"It surely is a fine site, good view in every direction," Eastman spoke with unfeigned enthusiasm, "and the town is about four times as big and about four times as well built as I supposed. What did you say the population is?"

"The state census, taken last spring, shows 4,678; it don't

**H. A. NELSON'S BONANZA FARM**

In Nesson Valley, Williams county. Corn field, grove and alfalfa stacks in the distance. Picture taken July 17, 1914; 60-acre field yielded 68 bushels per acre, mature dent corn.



hurt our conscience a bit to call it 5,000, we will have that by the first of the year. In 1910 the census showed about thirty-two hundred. Nice healthy growth, and the county made nearly as good a showing, climbed from 14,000 to 19,000. How large a county? Better than eighteen hundred square miles--about 35 north and south by 55 east and west and some it, along the river, goes up and down besides. Splendid natural grazing country, down there, just made to order as a place to raise blooded cattle and horses--water, grass, shelter, and plenty of soil to grow feed grain.

"Yes that's the public library, the town is proud of it, 4,000 good books free to country people as well as town. There's a very convenient little auditorium on the lower floor. It's maintained by the city of course, trained librarian in charge. Willis James, an old time friend Jim Hill, donated money for the building, you see Jim named the town after him. There will be three fine churches on these corners when these two are finished. This one is one of the best in the state, cost nearly \$40,000 all told. See those new houses going up? They build nearly the year around here, I expect not less than forty new homes will go up this year, not a boom growth, but a steady growth. Taxes, I guess, are just about the same as in other young, growing cities, fairly high, a young city is like a small boy, takes something to keep them growing. Williston changed to the commission plan not long ago and that means doing the city's business on a cash basis. They will put in a new white way system this winter, need it, too.

**NOTHING LIKE SHOWING THE GOODS**

"It is always something to pay for. The West is so ambitious that it keeps itself hard up, but we are on a solid basis here--got the resources back of us and under us. Most of we farmers are switching to the safe and sane, diversified system and that will win. Some of them have won already. Better farming and safer farming with the milch cow, the beef critter and the hog given a place is the thing, and our farmers are seeing the truth a lot sooner than in some older sections. They are organizing to better their business and social conditions and a live, practical county agent is on the job to help them. Something like forty farm clubs hold interesting meetings all winter, big picnics in summer. The better farming section of the Agricultural College sends out good speakers to talk at the winter short courses for farmers. Banks? There are three, good strong ones, two are among the big ones of

the state. The stocks in the stores are large and high class as to quality, people come a long way to trade here. No, no daily paper, but two good weeklies. This is the postoffice, built by Uncle Sam. Post office receipts in 1914 were \$30,800, that proves business. Just as good a building as money and labor can construct--sawed Bedford limestone, granite and concrete; finished in marble and bronze on the first floor and in oak on the second. Cost complete over \$100,000 dollars. The upper floor is occupied by the offices of the Williston Land District and weather bureau will move in soon. Not much land left open to entry but there is some grazing land left and some brush land on the river that is valuable for growing alfalfa and it is being grabbed up right along. But a man can buy raw quarters as cheaply as he can gain title by filing; there are always a few of the drifters and speculators ready to sell. I hope I aint talking your arms clear off, Mr. Eastman, you see it is some satisfaction to boost when I am able to show the goods I am talking about. A man is bound to believe at least half that he sees. But it gets my goat when I go back to the old home town and try to answer their questions very fair and conservative, admitting that there are a good many difficulties to be overcome out here; that a man has to work with both head and hands and not expect to get rich in a year or two; that the mercury crawls down in its hole sometimes and once in a while a dry spell makes us worry. And then when I mention, sort of casual, about 2,000,000 bushels of grain being marketed in this town in one year, and 50 and 60 bushels of good corn to the acre, and stock living out doors all winter rustling most of their living, and range fattened steers bringing \$140 and over, in Chicago in the fall; tell 'em there's rich native soil they can buy for \$18 to \$30 an acre that will produce as much, when it is farmed the same, as their \$200 and \$250 land, and that it is right in the midst of better chances for enjoying life than they have, some of those cracker barrel philosophers look wise and grin and call me a liar without ever saying a word. I tell you Mr. Eastman I get so disgusted I feel like saying to them: "Sure, you'r right boys, it's so cold in winter that half the people freeze to death and the other half get massacred by the Indians in the spring and it is just as well they do because they would starve to death anyway on this Great American Desert. I tell you the wise ones

**SURPRISED TO HEAR OF NATIVE COAL**

"Now I will take you down this way and show you the Farmer's Creamery, one of our new co-operative concerns, a couple of flour mills a big wholesale house and seven elevators, the railroad yards and the river. I hope it will not be long until there are as many creameries as elevators in this county. Williston is a division point, you know, and the railroad pay roll is a big item in local business. To my notion about the finest feature of this country is something you have to experience to appreciate; it is the hospitable and buoyant spirit of the people."

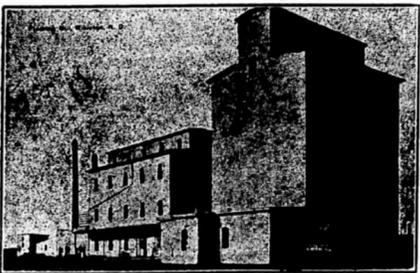
The stranger saw his chance to turn a compliment. "I am ready to believe that now, Mr. Jones. What about the fuel question in this country?"

"Glad you spoke of it. That is where we are unusually fortunate. Nature has given us an endless supply right at our doors. Here comes a load of coal now, I'll just grab a chunk to show you. There, that is North Dakota lignite. Millions of tons of it under this country; it's a two-story plan, the government will deed the top floor to a homesteader but reserves the coal in the basement, but many people got titles before that law was made. There are at least half a dozen mines within sight of town that have a big output. There is a big government power plant, for pumping, and generating electricity, out about three miles, built right at the mouth of a mine that reaches into the hill half a mile; you must see that while you are here. This lignite is a sort of woody coal, you can see the wood grain in it. It makes an extra hot fire and burns up to a white ash like wood without forming any greasy soot like ordinary soft coal. It falls apart pretty badly when long exposed to the air and when it gets hot and gives off a heap of gas while it is burning. It will not be long until most all lignite is briquetted before it is burned. The state scientists have worked out the proper process and have a small plant in operation. You see they crush this coal, heat it and take out the gas, about 1,100

(Continued on page 8)



**WEST LAWN SCHOOL**  
Williston  
A well equipped eight-room school



**WILLISTON MILL COMPANY'S PLANT**  
One of the largest in the state, home of "Opportune Flour." Williston's other flour mill.

**THE WHOLE WHEAT MILLING COMPANY**  
Manufacturers "Silver Sheaf" brand. Williams county produces the highest quality of milling wheat known.

**A PARTY OF FARMERS**  
and business men of Ray and Tioga, Williams county, on a tour for crop inspection, viewing a field of fine alfalfa.

**EVIDENCES OF PROSPERITY**  
Field of wheat on farm of Larkin Hart, north of Williston. Whitefaced on Jay Grantier's ranch, McKenzie county; Holstein's on E. A. Sharpe's dairy farm, east of city.

