

The Northern Pacific Farmer.

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF THE NORTHERN PACIFIC COUNTRY.

Vol. III. No. 21.

WADENA, MINN., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1880.

Terms: \$1.50 Per Year.

Northern Pacific Farmer

OFFICIAL PAPER OF WADENA COUNTY.

HALL & WHIPPLE, Proprietors.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING

AT

WADENA, WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

RATES IN ADVANCE:

One copy one year, \$1.50
" six months, .80

Agricultural.

THE WHEAT MARKET.

That there is a screw loose somewhere in the market arrangements at this point is very evident. In hitching about to discover where the hitch is, one is led to the opinion that there is something radically wrong in the policy of outsiders buying wheat at points where their only interest is centered in the profit on the wheat as they buy and sell it, and, as a matter of course, they will buy it as cheap and give as little for it as circumstances enable them to. There seems to be no point so unfortunate in this respect as the towns in Wadena county, more especially Wadena. We are unfortunate in that our local buyers are simply the agents for outside buyers, and, while they are men as vitally interested in the healthy condition of the market here as anyone can be, yet they are simply agents working at the dictation of the outsiders. The farmer who is obliged to draw his grain to the N. P. at these points must take what these monopolists please to give him. The farmer whose natural outlet is Wadena but who can possibly draw their wheat to the more favored points, do so, and thus were unjustly deprived of the trade which our natural position accords to us.

Last year and this the markets at this point as compared with our neighbors, was satisfactory at the start but fell behind as soon as the bulk of the grain was ready to ship. Last year the explanation of this gross injustice was the fact that the railroad was incapable of moving the grain brought to the stations along its line, and hence at such places as Wadena and Perham where the wheat of a large and naturally tributary county could be driven away was induced to go to the other road. The N. P. company, apparently realizing this condition of things set about adding to their carrying capacity, providing more storage room at Duluth and along the line, and we were led to confidently expect that in the shipping season of 1880 Wadena would at least be kept at a par with her near neighbors and allowed to enjoy the advantages which her position ought to command. In fact this was promised, but it appears that while Perham and Motley can and do give 70 and 81cts., Wadena can (?) give but 77cts. To what are we to attribute the cause of this? To the difference in the quality of grain? Not at all. What then? We would like to know. As one of the agents here remarks, "How are you going to help it?" Is it an outrage to which we must submit year after year? Is there no help for it? The FARMER proposes to ascertain and enlighten its readers as soon as possible.

Since the writing above was put in type we learn that the market has advanced to 80cts, but what we want to know is, why is it so far behind the other points.

THE FARMER AS A VOTER.

We believe the time when the farmer should vote, and vote intelligently, has come. It is the duty of every American citizen who feels an interest in the country's welfare, to vote, and inseparable with this duty is the duty to know why and for what you deposit your vote on election day. Who is more deeply interested in the political economy of this nation, than they who take the wealth from the soil? Our position on politics is well known to our readers. We have been

and still are advocates of the farmers' interest as we see it. It is seldom that it falls in our way to make political remarks, except in our local department on local issues, but we believe that the issues of to-day are as important to the agricultural interests of the country as the best methods of farming. Since what is the value of crops when the public policy on finances is such as to render the markets unreliable, and perhaps destroy them altogether so far as profit to the farmer is concerned. Therefore, farmers, look after your interests by consulting the best means within your reach, and post yourselves as to how to cast your vote in November. If you are content to let well enough alone, vote for Garfield; if you want to run the risk of a change, vote for Hancock. But be sure you know what that change will be, first.

Less Land and Better Tillage.

Since pretty extended visits to different parts of Minnesota this fall, our conclusion is strengthened that it would pay the farmer to cultivate less land, and cultivate what they do work better; though, as a general rule, it cannot be said that farmers, to any very great extent, neglect the proper cultivation of their fields. A great improvement in this respect has taken place during the past few years; and nowhere is it more manifest than in the neighborhood of Northfield. Less straw is burned, and it is a source of great gratification to know that the farmers are generally saving the manure from their stables and applying it to the farms. A few years ago few, if any, of the farmers thought of such a thing.

Now, with a high tillage, it does seem that as much, and may be more, grain could be raised on fewer acres than is produced now. By doing so it would lessen the expense of seed, as well as its cultivation and harvesting. With ground thoroughly prepared and by the use of fertilizer, such as manures and plaster, thirty bushels of wheat to the acre would not be a great average on the old lands of the State. This could not be accomplished in the same fields year after year, but while one field on the farm is put into wheat, another should be producing tame grasses, such as timothy and clover; another to corn and oats, and still another to potatoes and vegetables, thus establishing a regular rotation of crops, the effect of which would all the time be going through the necessary preparation to produce a big crop of wheat when its time came.

The fact has become apparent to the farmers of the old settled portions of Minnesota, that the soil needs rest. It must sleep. The cultivation of wheat in the same field year after year will wear out any land. Even the rich, fat soil of Minnesota won't stand it. There is an end to all things. Seeding down these old wheat fields to grass, for two or three years, a wonderful change in the product of grain will occur. It gives it rest, and recuperates its producing elements.

It is notorious that as a general rule the small farm of forty acres produces more in proportion to the larger farms of one hundred and sixty and more acres, and why? Simply because the small farmer has more time to work it thoroughly and effectually. Look into Carver county where there are so many small farms. Why their owners have got rich off of forty acre homesteads. Such a thing as a failure of crops has never been known by them. The older we grow the more satisfied we are that less land and better tillage will pay the average Minnesota farmer.—Tribune

As it is well known to our readers, this has been one of the principles which we have warmly advocated for the past year. We have written line upon line bearing on the subject. Why? Because in this new country we are liable with a few good crops, to overlook the great laws of nature, and in the excess of our blindness lose sight of the fact that our land is grown weaker and weaker, until all of a sudden it falls altogether and we stand on the verge of despair, and heap hard epithets on our misnamed "misfortune," and cast around for some other "new country" to immigrate to. One object further is, to impress upon our friends the fact that our soil being good now, we should keep it so by proper care instead of waiting for a failure, and then begin to recuperate the wasted energies of the soil, necessitating a long and expensive process.

Dairy.

Winter Butter.

The farmer who has a number of cows and intends to make butter through the winter, should in justice to himself, to say nothing of justice to the consumer, make preparations to make good butter. He already has his cows, and no advice upon selection of the animal need be given. It is in order, however, to suggest that it is poor policy to keep poor cows through the winter. If you have one, two or a dozen animals in your herd, which have not shown good milking qualities, get rid of them, get rid of them! The shambles are the place for such cows; and it is high time that a decision as to what cows you are going to keep, and as to those you are not going to keep, was made. But the food question is pertinent and important. You have plenty of good hay, of course. If not, one of two things remains to be done, and it is unnecessary to question the policy of the suggestion; either buy hay or give up the idea of meeting with the best success in winter dairying. Indeed, unless you have hay of fine quality and in good quantity, it would be wisdom to dispose of your cows. But this may not be forgotten that hay alone, or hay and grain is not all that a cow needs. That used to be the way cows were kept. In fact, they had nothing but hay, and if anybody or anything in this world were ever glad, it watched the growing of grass in the springtime. Every dairyman should have a good supply of roots, and it is not difficult to secure this, even if we have been negligent in growing them. Mangels, beets and carrots are not so dear, that it will cripple any of us financially to lay in a stock. We do not know which is the best root for feeding dairy cattle, or rather we do not feel like advising, for each has his firm advocates. It is safe to say, however, that any of them are good enough. We should not advise feeding turnips, although we do believe that there is a good deal of nonsense about detecting the taste of turnips at all times in butter, when the cow has been fed on them. That it is often, and perhaps generally detected, there is no doubt. But we know of men who have fed turnips all their lives, and there is no more of a turnip taste to their butter than there would be to butter from a cow that never was within a thousand miles of a turnip. But there is a secret in growing or feeding in such cases, which we do not all possess, and, therefore, it is best to let them alone and feed something else. Remembering, in addition to what has been suggested, the matter of salting the cow, and so far, we are right.

Then comes the matter of facilities for making the butter. Is the milk room especially a milk room, or is it a cellar, in which there is everything else, from rotten potatoes to fragrant fruit? If the latter, the butter will be as fertile of flavor as a magician's apartment bottle is of liquids. Good butter cannot be made under such conditions, and it is all nonsense to suppose otherwise. If a single reader is situated in this unfortunate way, make a change at once. Have a milk room that will be a milk room, and not a compost heap. Keep the milk in one place and the rotten potatoes in another, and do not let bad flavors of any kind reach the milk, cream or butter. If that advice is followed, you will have good butter.

Having obtained this result, remember our oft repeated injunction to please the eye. People like nice yellow butter much better than they like white butter, although it may be just as fine in quality. Don't be afraid, therefore, to use artificial coloring. It is easily prepared, and can be had already prepared, and when properly added to the butter, it increases its value, and makes it really more palatable, although the latter depends upon the imagination. Then send your butter to market neatly packed, and you will be satisfied with yourself and the winter dairy.

Poultry.

Raising Geese.

No land or water fowls can be so easily or cheaply raised as geese. They will thrive well on pasture alone. It is of the first importance to breed from large matured specimens, and when once mated, the same birds can be retained as breeders for many years. The gander, however, is apt to get cross with age, and hence has to be changed. Two or three geese, or sometimes four, can be

mated to one gander. The goose will lay 13 to 15 eggs. When ready for setting, she should only have 13 eggs. She is a splendid setter, and should not be disturbed. When leaving the nest, to feed, she covers her eggs, like the duck, although not so well. The period of incubation is thirty days. They usually commence laying in February. Large, common hens, Cochins or Brahmas, can be used as setters, giving each hen three or four eggs. Turkeys will also hatch the eggs well. On account of the thick shells of the eggs and the long period of incubation, it is recommended to make the nest on the ground or moist earth, and during the last ten days or two weeks, to sprinkle the eggs with tepid water. The gander will frequently assist his favorite mate in the labors of incubation, and after the goslings are hatched, is very vigilant in his care for them. At first, the goslings should be kept warm, and fed "little and often" with hard boiled eggs, bread crumbs, or scalded meal, not neglecting a plentiful supply of greens and grass. They are soon ready to turn out to graze, and will pick all their food, mostly grass, in the fields. They require no other food so long as this lasts, and they can be marketed in fine condition, called in England "green geese." After the supply of grass is cut off by winter, the geese can be put up to fatten, if so desired. This should be done in a dark place, and they should be well fed, on oats, meal or barley meal, or a mixture. A bunch of sweet hay should be tied up within their reach.

Geese can be raised profitably with very little water, only plenty to drink and a large tub full for bathing. One valuable peculiarity of geese is that they always give notice of hen-roost robbers, whether biped or quadruped, by their shrill cries, and hence are excellent "watch dogs."

Domestic Department.

PUFF PUDDING.—Beat six eggs, six spoonfuls of milk, six of flour, a good lump of butter, and bake quickly.

APPLE FRITTERS.—Beat three eggs light, add one teaspoonful of salt, and one of sugar, grated rind of half a lemon and juice, one pint of milk, half pound of chopped apples, half pound sifted flour, stir it well together, fry in hot lard or on griddle as pancakes.

GREEN CORN PUDDING.—Twelve ears of corn grated, one quart of milk, two eggs, tablespoonful of sugar, one of flour, two teaspoonfuls of salt; bake four hours, serve with butter. Good.

FRENCH ROLLS FOR TEA.—One pint of milk, two good spoonfuls of butter melted in it, when cool add one tablespoon sugar, one spoonful salt, one egg well beaten, one tablespoonful of good yeast, flour to make stiff enough to roll, mix in the pan, let rise until wanted for tea; place upon the board and roll with rolling pin half an inch thick, cut into squares, lap the edges together, place in the pan to rise, bake in a quick oven, handle as little as possible.

Neighborhood News.

PARKERS PRAIRIE.
Items pretty scarce.
Farmers pushing their fall's work this fine weather, but its rather dry plowing. It will be the first of Nov. before all the threshing is done.
The oat crop is rather light. 30 to 35 bushels per acre, and light at that.
Elder Reaves is off to Rochester, attending convention.
John, son of Eld. Thomas, of Leaf Valley, arrived from Illinois last week. He comes to stay.
School begun the 4th.
Our village still improves.
A grist mill would do a capital business here. F.

LEAF RIVER.
Locals rather scarce.
Farmers are making good use of the fine weather, doing up their fall's work.
Mr. A. R. Wiswell, started Monday to visit R. Wiswell in Illinois.
Town caucus on the 23d, at 2 o'clock p. m., at the school house on section 8.
Mr. Barnes has a good one on the Professor, and he don't charge anything for telling it.
The proposed road through this

town to Shell River, will open up some as fine homesteads as Minnesota affords, within a half day's drive of Wadena, both prairie and timber can be got on the same quarter with running water the year round.

Preaching at the school house next Sunday by the Rev. Mr. Maltby, don't forget to come out.

Jim says he is going to make it hot for the wolves.

Mr. Herron, of Wadena, paid our town a visit last week. Its rather hard on buggies John, but come again and we will make it all right next time. O. K.

COMPTON.

Fires have begun to run, and farmers would do well to take every precaution against them.

Fred Purget has moved into his new house, and looks quite cozy.

Threshing is nearly finished here, and the yield is good. J. Mee, Sr. received 26 bushels and a peck per acre, and Geo. Mee 20 bushels per acre. A. M. Darling had a piece of oats on sod, which went 70 bushels per acre.

Rolph Hay had part of a setting of wheat burned by a steam thrasher last week. The loss was promptly and satisfactorily settled by the owner of the machine. Mr. Hay's crop is the best in Compton so far as known, the yield being between 28 and 30 bushels per acre.

Mr. Cyrus Blair and family, leave for their Shell River home this week. We are very sorry to lose them.

A new postoffice called Ramsdell, has been established on section 8, Oak Valley. Rufus Darling Postmaster. Mr. Darling has also opened a store, and drives quite a thriving business.

Quilting parties are getting to be quite common among the ladies lately. A very jolly one came off at Mrs. Ruth Howell's last week.

MUGGINS.

BLUFFTON.

Wheat is just rolling into the new elevator here, and is of general good quality. Some samples we have seen from town of Inman looked particularly heavy; the yield in that neighborhood being from 18 to 25 bushels per acre, and some higher.

Our new section "boss" has built him a house, and now Mrs. Shaw is presumably happy.

Although rather late, we are pleased to notice the event. Mr. A. Waldron and Miss Mary Stinar, were married at the residence of the bride's father, by justice Barwise and are now domiciled in town, adding one family more to our population.

Numerous fires have been running around for the last day or two; yesterday being disastrous to many. We understand that Mr. Doty lost most of his hay, and that four others here had large quantities burned up. With the high winds and the dry state of the brush, there is no telling where the fire will go and where the damage will end. I would just gently hint, however, that the parties who set out the particular fire above mentioned, had better keep dark, as it would not be good for their health if found out.

C. D. Baker's log stable was observed to be on fire yesterday afternoon; cause unknown. There were a yoke of cattle inside at the time, and it was with considerable difficulty that Burr Lancaster, who first observed the fire, got them out; he having to use a knife to gad them out. FACT.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

Three thousand bushels of wheat per day has been the average receipts at our warehouses during the past six days.

Why don't the ladies and gentlemen of Wadena organize themselves into societies for the pleasant passage of the long winter evenings now upon us? In contrast with what we had last winter, or rather what we did not have, is the elegant new hall of Mr. Peake's, and there is certainly timber enough to make several societies, under whose management our social interests would be advanced very materially. We should render our village one as pleasant to live in, as it is profitable to transact business in. A literary and debating club would furnish many pleasant as well as profitable evenings, as would also a dramatic association, and a social club for holding parties. Really, some action should be taken in this matter.