

THE ROYAL ROAD TO FARM-LANDS BEST

FAR-FAMED MINNESOTA RED RIVER VALLEY

MINNESOTA'S ADVANTAGES.

These figures ought to show farmers in states where land is selling at from \$200.00 to \$300.00 an acre, that they can sell out there, come here, buy twice or three times as much land and increase their production three to five fold over what they have at home. This is a business proposition. If a man could buy a \$100 bond bearing 6 per cent interest at 50 cents on the dollar he would be foolish to pay \$150 for another which is no better.

MATTER OF LAND VALUES.

Farmers who own land worth \$300 an acre can buy three acres of the most fertile land in this state for the selling price of every acre they now possess, and on the three acres of Minnesota land they can grow from four to five times as much as they can on the one acre they now possess. It ought to look good to the big farmers in the other states, hadn't it?

Below we give you an interesting table showing average yields per acre for a period of five years:

	Bu. Corn	Bu. Oats	Bu. Rye	Bu. Potatoes	Tons Hay
Minnesota	35.3	31.8	19.5	23.0	107
Iowa	36.4	34.9	18.5	26.6	77
South Dakota	25.9	23.5	15.3	18.1	77
Nebraska	22.6	24.8	15.0	18.2	64
Kansas	15.6	16.6	14.0	16.1	52
Indiana	37.5	30.9	15.0	26.6	77
Ohio	38.6	34.7	16.2	27.1	83
Illinois	33.2	32.6	16.5	29.0	66

MINNESOTA'S WEALTH IN FIGURES.

The department of Commerce of the Census Bureau in its figures on the national wealth just made public, shows Minnesota's wealth to be \$5,547,000,000, a figure above those of Michigan and Indiana and just below those of Missouri, New Jersey and Massachusetts. These are fine, impressive figures, and the relative standing of Minnesota among the states is gratifying indeed. It comes to \$2,673 per capita while the average for the whole country is only a little more than \$1,800 per capita. This is good as far as it goes; still when Minnesota brings its acres now under cultivation up to the maximum of their capacity in crop yields and the unimproved or idle land of millions of acres is put under the civilizing touch of the plow, it should reach the ten billion dollar mark.

These are the conditions that make for expansion, while other sections of the country are stunted and dwarfed. To agriculturalists we would say, that Northern Minnesota is a section that has three hours more sunshine than that of the Ohio valley, where the sun of prosperity never ceases to shine upon the man who has the ambition to better his condition in life. This is especially true in the Minnesota Red River Valley, as it is in a class all by itself, having the very cream of the soil.

BACK TO THE LAND FOR THE HARVEST OF DOLLARS

THIS is the stimulating "call" that every ambitious American should take advantage of before land values go beyond the men of small means. Back to the land means an independent livelihood in youth and middle age and a well rounded fortune in the hey-day of life. Back to the land is a business proposition, as more dollars can be harvested from farming, gardening, and horticulture, dairying and stock raising, than can be earned in high priced clerical positions, or by skilled artisans in the overcrowded cities and towns. Awakened to the true situation, the things that lure the farm boy and girl to the city have lost their glamour. It has not been so much the lack of pleasing environments in farm life that has drawn these people from the farms. But the great increase in the earning capacity of the soil is now sweeping them back to the farms in the mad chase after the commercial dollar, as represented in agricultural pursuits.

The key to the situation is that the cities require more and more each year to feed the non-producers than is grown upon the farms, until the average wage-earner's income is barely sufficient to cover the wants of living, leaving but little surplus for what are termed the amusements of life. This condition is growing more intense, and as a result the man in the city has at last awakened to the realization that his only hope of betterment is back to the land. In the great centers with populations of from a quarter of a million up, the wage earner has not a spare dollar left after paying expenses, as the fixed charges of living, such as clothing and rents, eat up his earning capacity, leaving nothing for a rainy day, making him dependent upon benevolent societies for sickness and burial expenses. All of the great playhouses, places of amusement, lakeside resorts and summer pastimes are almost wholly sustained by the rural population and the wealthy classes. This condition has so fastened itself upon the toiling masses in the centers of population as to make their situation almost one of despair. The only open door for these people is back to the farm, the slicing up of the big farms into smaller units, and filling up of unoccupied lands, which are still within the reach of all in this great valley. A vast domain capable of supporting a million new homeseekers. This land is in the heart of the most fertile region the sun of prosperity ever shone upon. The values are only from \$40 to \$65 per acre. The weeds of the country are timothy and clover, the yields are phenomenal, and, what is more, contain 17 per cent more nutrition than the same grasses grown in Iowa, Illinois, Kansas and Nebraska.

The cool nights, pure water, nutritious grasses and temperate suns of summer are all necessary for the production of the milk which goes to make butter and cheese, carrying the purest flavors, which can be only produced in their greater perfection in regions like the Minnesota Red River Valley. These products are a valuable heritage to this section, developing

with the passing of the years and providing a veritable gold mine to the dairy farmers.

For stock raising, this region has few equals, owing to the abundance of grasses and root crops to carry them through the feeding season, and more especially the dairy cow, while poultry raising has its profits and has proved a paying by-product.

FAME OF THE VALLEY SPREADING.

In the beginning of the world, the Creator, in His magnificent wisdom, created what we call space for the evolution of the progress of the Universe, not for a few, but for all of His creatures in the likeness of God. If this is true, the special gifts in climate, rainfall and soil were so distributed as to give equality to those who would use their talents in taking advantage of the specially endowed zones, like that of the Minnesota Red River Valley. In truth, every man is the architect of his own fortune. In this Valley it does not require analyses of soil, the critical study of the methods of farming, nor the growing crops of a certain season, to determine whether a given region is adapted to profit making and home building in agricultural pursuits. There are other evidences calculated to fit one for the rendering of an intelligent verdict. The qualities necessary to the enduring success of farming in any region are matters that cannot be determined in the chemist's laboratory, by the conclusions of theorists, nor the observations of tourists. All this would be deception. It is practical results that tell in crop production, by actual tillers of the soil, in a given territory. This can best be judged by

is for intelligent young men and women to go on the farm and do their share in building up the country's wealth. Our prosperity depends upon the building up of the farm and the advancement of agriculture. The cost of living will be lowered by intensive farming, intensive dairying, intensive trucking, and specializing in up-to-date methods. Do not go to some wondrously way off place for cheap lands. Better buy forty, eighty or one hundred and sixty acres in the Minnesota Red River Valley, near some good market town, where success is assured at the start, and where land values are sure to double.

MINNESOTA A SURE CROP REGION.

There is a realm of information that every tiller of the soil should know, covering the Nation's wealth by states, in crop yields. The federal statistics covering thirteen principal crops for 1914, ranks Minnesota ninth with a value of \$180,430,000, then followed by Pennsylvania, \$173,961,000; New York, \$161,919,000; Georgia, \$155,167,000; Wisconsin, \$152,321,000; North Dakota, \$144,293,000; Michigan, \$139,899,000; Oklahoma, \$134,159,000; North Carolina, \$124,918,000; Kentucky, \$118,325,000; Alabama, \$114,255,000; South Dakota, \$106,488,000; Tennessee, \$106,456,000; and South Carolina, \$101,373,000. These figures should be self assuring to new farm home builders who are coming in from other states, that they are making no mistake in selecting Minnesota as their future home.

The favorite crop producing zone is that of the counties comprising the Minnesota Red River Valley, and their sister counties, some thirty in number, that

where the conditions are more favorable for the development of the live stock industry."

Minnesota needs live stock because the system of farming which has been practiced here has reduced fertility and lowered the productive capacity of the land. The history of Minnesota is the history of all new states. The first settlers are those who have little or no capital to invest in live stock, and who naturally devote their attention to the growing of crops which can be converted at once into cash. This method of farming is likely to continue as long as the soil produces well. Until a few years ago, Minnesota ranked first of all the states in the Union in the production of wheat. Large areas have also been devoted to the production of other grains, such as barley, rye and oats, much of which has been shipped out of the state. Farmers generally are aware that stock raising aids in retaining fertility and are giving more and more attention to diversified farming.

CORN MAKES PROSPERITY.

No one thing is contributing more to the prosperity of Minnesota than the increase in the production of corn. The total production of this grain has doubled in the last ten years, and quadrupled in the last twenty years. It is the large revenue from corn growing, much corn being marketed in the form of live stock, that is causing land in Iowa and Illinois to sell for more than \$200 per acre. The increased production of corn is having a similar effect on Minnesota land, but it will be more pronounced when all of it is fed to live stock.

Corn is a cultivated crop and it cleans the land of foul weeds. It is more valuable to feed than to sell for cash, when properly used. The growing of corn means the growing of more clover and alfalfa, which are so extremely valuable as supplementary feeds. These crops will do wonders for the fertility of the land. It costs no more to prepare ground sufficiently fertile to produce thirty bushels of wheat to the acre than it does land so depleted that it will produce only fifteen bushels, nor does it require more seed. The extra yield is almost net profit. More corn, clover, alfalfa and more live stock to convert it into meat and milk products, with the manure put back on the land, is certain to increase production and make every farm more valuable to its owner.

Other Favorable Crops.

That corn gives large yields in Minnesota, that barley succeeds in the North, where corn is less certain, that clover makes a splendid growth in nearly every section of the state, and that alfalfa has more recently proved its adaptability to the soil and climate, are important conditions favorable to the development of the live stock industry in Minnesota.

CLIMATE BEST FOR LIVE STOCK

The climate is particularly desirable for meat producing animals, because better gains can be made in cold than in hot weather. It is easier to protect such animals from extremely cold weather than to keep them comfortable in times of intense heat. Cattle and sheep in the process of fattening do not ordinarily suffer from cold weather if they are sheltered from the winds and are kept dry.

With the state's numerous shipping associations, with trunk lines of railroads furnishing excellent transportation facilities, and with good markets conveniently near, the farmers have unexcelled means of getting their animal products to the consumers.

GOOD PRICES GOOD INCENTIVE.

But the one favorable condition which should furnish the great incentive to the development of the live stock industry is the fact that prices on all animal products are high and there is no reason to believe that there will be any marked decline. The world's population has increased much more rapidly than has the number of farm animals. The combined population of all the great live stock countries of the world has increased approximately 20 per cent since 1900, whereas the number of cattle in these countries has increased only 2 per cent in the same period.

A LIVE, PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

In all great movements of the world's progress, no matter how adverse the situation may be, men are found to fill the niche at the opportune time. Here in the Minnesota Red River Valley, there was need of more progress, more advancement, to take advantage of its natural inheritance, pregnant soil, and ideal climate, that it might compete with other sections not so richly endowed by Nature. The moving spirit to accomplish this was Leslie Welter, of Moorhead, with the co-operation of other men with advanced ideas, covering the agricultural zone of the ten counties that comprise the Minnesota Red River Valley, who organized the Red River Development Association in 1914, and that has made more progress along right lines of farming, than any other in the State of Minnesota, or, for that matter, the Northwest. It is both pleasing and gratifying for us to be able to grant this mark of recognition to the work already accomplished. In this work, President Welter has been ably assisted by Vice-president Donald Robertson, of Argyle, second Vice-president C. G. Selvig of Crookston Agricultural School; Treasurer Geo. G. Johnson, of Thief River Falls; Secretary A. E. Piffner, of Argyle, and its able board of directors. The counties of the Valley comprise Marshall, Roseau, Kittson, Norman, Mahanomen, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Clay and Becker, counties that have bonded themselves together to place their advantages before the outside world; to open up new avenues to the waiting opportunities of the Minnesota Red River Valley, with its wonderful fertility of inexhaustible soil, that has set a new pace in farm development that has heretofore lain dormant. It is such organizations as the Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association, that have put a new link in the chain of prosperity of not only this Valley, but the whole of Northwestern Minnesota. There is new life in the whole Valley, not only among the farmers, but the business men.



Pure Bred Stock at the Northwestern Experimental Farm, CROOKSTON, MINN.

the individual prosperity of the farmers, their farm houses, barns, silos, and flocks. In such a test the farmers of the Minnesota Red River Valley will be found in the well-to-do, independent-wealthy class.

The great prosperity of the farmers of the Minnesota Red River Valley has advertised its resources in every tongue. It has become known as a district of homes, happiness, prosperity, model farms, model towns and live-wire men and women. Commercial Clubs have awakened up. Hundreds of farmers' clubs, annual crop shows and fairs, live stock and shipping associations and co-operative enterprises have been organized. County agents are at work preaching the true doctrines of crop rotation, wheat, oats, flax, barley, potatoes, all root crops and small fruits, diversified farming, alfalfa, clover and silos, dairying and stock raising, corn and hogs, the great money makers of the farm, the real work of empire building in farm lands best, in the Minnesota Red River Valley.

The most hopeful sign for the success of the movement "back to the soil," is that of scientific agriculture, the teaching of soil cultivation in the public schools.

Let us take a look around the corner. In 1910, the United States had 50,000,000 acres in wheat and produced 695,000,000 bushels. If we had succeeded in splitting the difference between Germany's twenty-eight bushels to the acre, and Great Britain's thirty-three bushels to the acre, we should have had a crop of over a billion and a half bushels. The call today

produce sixty-six per cent of the State's wheat, or 23,000,000 bushels in round figures. In the thirty counties comprising Northwestern and West Central Minnesota, according to the census of 1910, there were 60,890 farms in this territory, averaging in size 195 acres, with 142 acres per farm improved. Each farm was growing on an average of ten acres of cultivated crops, that is, corn and potatoes and seventy acres of grain. There was an average of seven dairy cows, seven other cattle, and seven hogs on each farm. The average yield of each, throughout the section, for 1910, was 34.1 bushels. The average yield of potatoes was 117 bushels. The average price per acre of land has practically doubled in ten years, 1900-1910, and since that time the increase has been even more rapid.

LIVE STOCK A BIG PROFIT MAKER.

It is oftentimes the better part of discretion in discussing the question of such great import as that of progress in crop and stock, to quote from authoritative sources, men who, by training, education and occupation can speak from actual results. The best authority we can quote, covering the subject of live stock and corn cultivation is Howard R. Smith, formerly of the division of Dairy and Animal Husbandry, Minnesota College of Agriculture, but now with the Agricultural Extension division of the Great Northern Railway, with his headquarters at St. Paul:

"There is no section of the country where farms need live stock more than in Minnesota, and no place