

THE ROYAL ROAD TO FARM-LANDS BEST FAR-FAMED MINNESOTA RED RIVER VALLEY

MARSHALL COUNTY'S MONEY MAKING SOIL

By John A. Monger

THE ZONE OF PLENTY

HERE is no period in the world's history, that we know anything about, that equals the present age in aggressive and progressive farm-home building, as it pertains to soil development, as that taking place in this section of the Minnesota Red River Valley. This is an age of specialization in every calling of life with a view to reap the big profits out of the money invested in industrial and commercial enterprises and the cultivation of the soil. The "chance days" are gone, nothing is taken for granted, but the plan and scheme of specialization has been developed to the fullness, that profits may be accurately figured in advance. Thus, we find more prosperity and real wealth among the masses than ever before in the world's history. It used to be said, and only a few years ago, that when an individual had amassed \$50,000 he was "as rich as a Jew." Today, \$50,000 is but a vest-pocket piece of money, for wealth is figured on a larger scale. It is a quarter, a half or a million of dollars to be well-to-do, and fifty to one hundred millions to be rich. We are living in an age of big things, and what is more, the masses of the people, by virtue of a more general diffusion of knowledge, especially among the younger generation through public schools and college education, has made this possible. It is not so many years ago that the farmer was called a "hayseed" and was the butt of jest, yet today, his is the most potential profession in all the callings of life. The transition has taken place by the unnatural drift of population to the cities and towns, building up great centers of population, curtailing the natural development of the agricultural domains, thus causing a shortage of food production for the feeding of the non-producers in the cities. This state of affairs has so increased the cost of living, that it has all but pauperized the city dweller, no matter what his earning capacity. This has grown to such alarming proportions that to stem it a systematic propaganda has been organized, its slogan being "Back to the Land", where the real money-making occupations exist. The "hayseed" farmer of yesterday, is the opulent man of today, if he knows anything about soil cultivation; and by specializing he can make more real money from 160 acres devoted to diversified farming, alfalfa, clover and silos, dairying and stock raising, corn and hogs; crop rotation; wheat, oats, barley, flax, all root crops and small fruits, than the highest-priced wage-earner in the cities, no matter what his occupation. The "hayseed" of yesterday, is today the real man of affairs, the independent American citizen. On his 160 acres, especially in this cream of farm-lands best, in the world-famous Minnesota Red River Valley, Marshall county, he will not only provide a living for himself and family, but will earn, from his fertile acres a net profit of from \$1,500 to \$3,000 annually, that affords him the opportunity of giving his children: first, a rural education, then a High School and Normal, which can be topped off with a University education, and what is more, his surplus earning capacity from these acres will provide a competency in the hey-day of life, to enjoy the things that have been vouchsafed to him as a tiller of the soil. The other side of the picture: the city man, whether his earning capacity be \$1,000 or \$5,000 per year, it matters not, is all absorbed in the thralldom of city life, and when his title as Manager, Head Book-keeper, Cashier, Superintendent, or what not, has been taken from him, through dissipation or in the eventide of life by a younger man, he goes down with the sunset without a dollar, simply because the high price of living, and the constant and growing demands upon his daily stipend, have absorbed all his earnings. Is it then any wonder, that there has been a constant trekking back from the great centers of population to the land? This, in part, accounts for the great state-wide filling in that is going on, that many believe will give Minnesota a million more population when the census is taken in 1920. A large percentage of this new million population will come to the Minnesota Red River Valley, owing to the greater fertility of the soil, climatic conditions, and cheap land values, and for the reason that Marshall county has the cream of the soil, besides being in the premier wagon and automobile road section; the best of railway transportation facilities for reaching the high-priced cash markets to feed the non-producers in the Eastern states.

We are writing this article in the capital city of Warren, which a few years ago was the greatest primary grain market from farmers' wagons for No. 1 Northern wheat in the world. This was in the days when, like all other new sections, wheat was the one crop, the yield being fabulous, compared with other sections, owing to the fertility of the deep, black alluvial soil, overlaid with porous clay, making it almost inexhaustible. The soil was mined and not cultivated in those days, and as a result it became wheat-sick, then came a period of diversified farming, which has resulted in reaping three dollars from the soil in crop yields where one was obtained before. Wheat cropping, to our mind, is a lazy man's job. It was a lure that even the Eastern farmers fell for, after lo-

ating here to build anew. There was no stock to take care of, all that was necessary was to turn over the virgin soil, seed and harvest, four month's work out of twelve. The condition is not to be wondered at, for all new countries have had the wheat-growing craze. It started in Maine, in the pioneer days, drifted to New England, then to the Ohio Valley, down through the Mississippi Valley, with laterals extending over the Western states. Iowa is a shining example. Her early farmers raised nothing but wheat, until the rust, smut and chinch bugs made it impossible to crop the land any longer. Then they turned their attention to corn and hogs, dairying and stock raising, small fruits and vegetables, and their land that had become almost cropland, gave an abundant yield. Land values that had stood stationary at \$20 to \$40 per acre, improved farms with suitable buildings, took a jump to \$100 and \$150 per acre, and today they are priced and sell at \$200 to \$300, as a result of crop specializing. What has occurred in Iowa is now due in Minnesota, especially in Marshall county, where land values range from \$40 to \$75 per acre. Improved farms in the next few years will be selling for \$100, and some will be selling at a premium of \$150 per acre. This, then, would seem a good time for the agriculturalists of the Eastern states to buy a farm in this amazingly rich soil.

Soil Most Important Factor.

The most important factor of any commonwealth, as well as the welfare of all civilized nations, lies in the soil. Marshall county's soil is a decomposition of the glacial drift which accounts for its incomparable

grain gives an abundant yield, which has made this section famous as the world's greatest bread basket, supplying the staff of life to millions of non-producers in the great cities of the United States and Continental Europe. Marshall county is one of the favored agricultural sections that the Federal Department of Agriculture referred to, when they credited Minnesota farms with the largest average cash income per capita in the North Central, West division, when, covering the crop of 1913, they gave the total value of the products of the American farm as \$10,000,000,000, and the cash income at \$5,000,000,000, as a record of the 60,000 American farms.

Marshall County's Triumphal Sway.

Among the counties of the Minnesota Red River Valley contending for supremacy's sway, there is none that has made greater advancement in town building and soil development than that of Marshall county, that we have rightly named, "The Royal Road to Farm Lands Best". Marshall has reached such a height in county development as to capture the admiration of all men who have any knowledge covering the fertility of soil of this great, pregnant Valley. It is one of thirty counties that produced 23,000,000 bushels of No. 1 Northern wheat in 1914, or sixty-six per cent of the total of wheat crop of Minnesota, that has made it world-famous as the granary of the world; also far-famed for its creameries, there being fourteen, that produced 733,371 pounds of butter, and paid the farmer dairymen \$167,030.25 in 1913, while as a shipper of live stock, poultry and potatoes, she leads where others follow in the Valley, stamping Marshall county, as not only the bread-and-butter section of Minnesota, but also a leader in diversified farming; a county that is twenty-five and one-half miles wide by seventy miles long, located in the Northwest portion of the State skirted by the Red River of the North, while the Thief River runs in a southwesterly direction, giving it the best of drainage facilities, while in rail-

others at the Fourth Annual Farm Crop Show of the Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association held at Crookston, in February, 1915. These grand champion sweepstakes prizes for the Northern district included the five counties North of the Southern boundary of Polk county. The prizes awarded were: Sweepstakes—best ten ears of Minnesota No. 23 White Dent Corn, best two quarts of oats, best two quarts of barley, best peck of potatoes. In district prizes there were awarded to Marshall county exhibitors in competition with the rest of the Minnesota Red River Valley counties; corn: two first, two seconds and one fourth; wheat: one first, one second, two thirds and one fourth; oats: two first and one fourth; barley: one first; rye: one second and one fourth; flax: one second; potatoes: two first and one second. This stamps Marshall as first among all counties in Minnesota as a producer of prize-winning crops. The eminent rank that Minnesota has attained at the National Corn Exposition, during the past six years is largely the result of the wonderful exhibits of grain produced on the farms of Marshall county and exhibited by the farmers. In 1909 it was the clover in Marshall county that received the highest award at the Omaha Farm Show. In 1910 Marshall county's oats won the magnificent Colorado Trophy, as the best grown oats in the world. At the National Corn Show, Dallas, Texas, in February 1914, A. D. Vansickle of this county won first prize on spring wheat, sweepstakes for hard wheat, Northern section, first prize on white and black oats, and second on two-row barley, while other Marshall county farmers won first prizes on rye and flax. If it is prize-winning soil that you are looking for in selecting a new farm home, you will certainly not pass up Marshall county.

LIVE STOCK BREEDERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

There is probably no county in the Minnesota Red River Valley that takes a deeper interest in live stock breeding, so much so, that on February 18th, 1915, during the Farm Crop Show at Crookston, the Minnesota Red River Valley Live Stock Breeder's Association was organized with the following officers: Thos. H. Canfield, Lake Park, president; Frank Jeffers, Red Lake Falls, vice-president; C. G. Selvig, Crookston, secretary - treasurer; board of directors, E. S. Schroeder, Moorhead; K. O. Bolstad, Fosston; C. L. Spaulding, Warren; L. Jensen, Clearbrook; F. A. Green, Stephen; J. A. Houske, Halstad. This Association is not limited to breeders of pure-bred stock, but was organized for the purpose of improving the stock. This is a forward movement, as this Valley offers exceptional advantages for the raising of dairy and beef cattle, horses, sheep, hogs and poultry. This is a natural dairying section, as all varieties of feeds, clover, alfalfa, barley, oats, flax and corn, besides other nutrients for growth and fattenings, are raised in abundance, making this an ideal stock-growing section.

Then there is the Red River Valley Shorthorn Breeders' Association, that was organized as a branch of the Red River Valley Live Stock Breeder's Association and is closely affiliated with it. The officers are: Frank Jeffers, Red Lake Falls, president; Wm. C. Miller, Warren, vice-president; and C. O. Carlson, Erskine, secretary-treasurer. The object of this association is to promote the Shorthorn cattle interests in the Northern section of the State. Any one interested in the advancement of, and betterment of the "Red, White and Roans" in the Red River Valley, is eligible to membership.

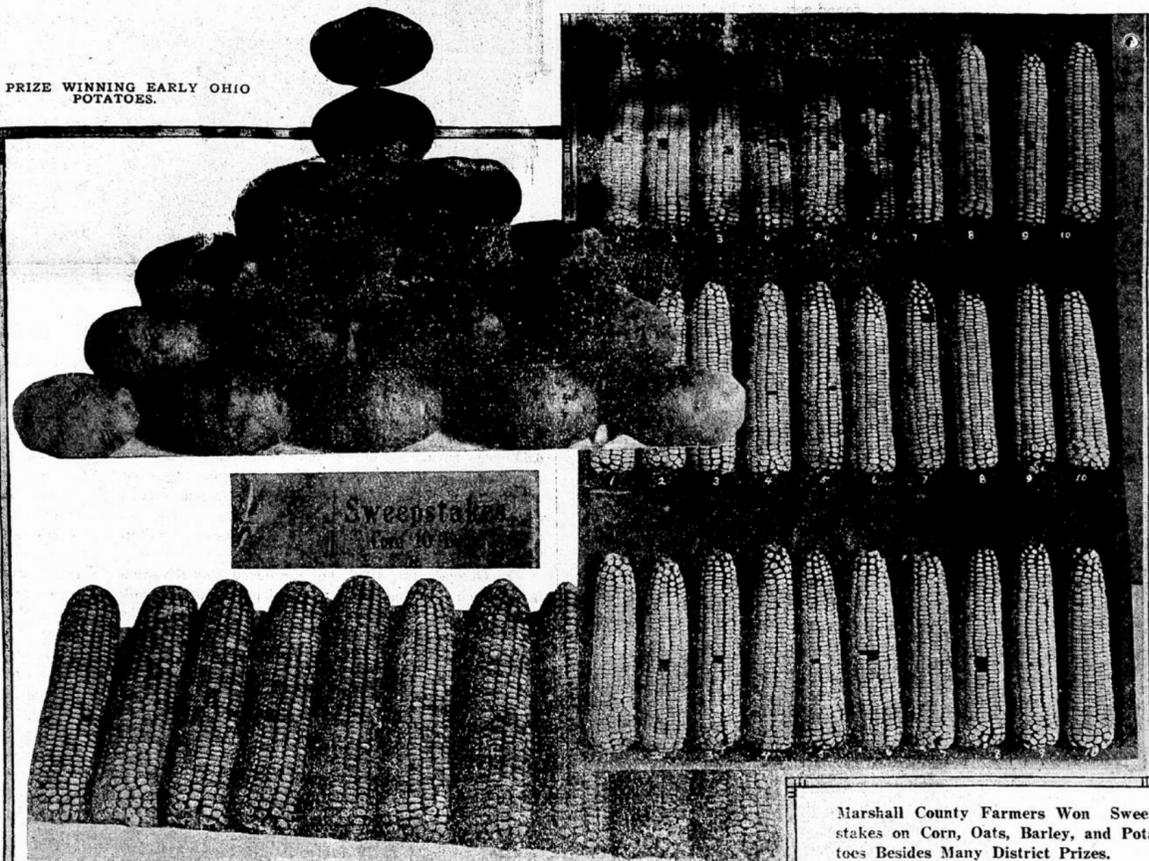
The Red River Valley Holstein Breeder's Association is another live stock breeder's association, that bids fair to become a patent factor in encouraging and promoting the breeding of the Holstein-Friesian cattle. While only in its infancy its membership embraces some forty members. The officers are: C. L. Spaulding, Warren, president; and W. W. Hall, Mentor, secretary.

The Red River Valley Guernsey Breeders' Association is but another. Its aim is to call the attention of the people of the Valley and of the country at large to the fact, that generations of patient and skillful breeding, have made the Guernsey cow the most economical milk producer. The officers are: J. A. Houske, Halstad, president, with L. Jensen, Clearbrook, secretary.

County Ranks High As Breeder Of Pedigreed Stock.

In looking over the neatly printed pamphlet covering the Red River Valley Live Stock Breeders' Association, we find that Marshall county is well represented, as the following list of breeders will prove: F. A. Green, Stephen, Angus cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs; W. W. Hall, Mentor, Holsteins; Hardesty & Son, Grygla, Holsteins; David Johnson, Warren, Holsteins; Arthur Kurz, Warren, Holsteins; L. Lamberson, Warren, Polled Durhams, O. I. C. Swine, and Shropshires; H. L. Melgaard, Argyle, Red Polls, Shropshires, Large Yorkshires and Wyandottes; Wm. C. Miller, Warren, Shorthorns, Poland Chinas, Rhode Island Reds; G. N. Morkassel, Warren, Shorthorns; Ed Rosendahl, Warren, Red Polls, and Duroc Jerseys; C. L. Spaulding, Warren, Holsteins; Joseph Tagley, Mentor, Holsteins. These are but a few of the many breeders, but it is enough to prove that Marshall county is well up in front rank as a breeder of pedigreed stock.

Some of the Many Prize Winning Exhibits from Marshall County at the Minnesota Red River Valley Farm Crop Show, Crookston, Feb. 16-19, 1915



PRIZE WINNING EARLY OHIO POTATOES.

Marshall County Farmers Won Sweepstakes on Corn, Oats, Barley, and Potatoes Besides Many District Prizes.

fertility and its ability to produce all kinds of crops suitable to the temperate zone. The soil is a rich black alluvial loam, and a sandy loam, with clay subsoil. The surface of the county is divided into two parts: The Western half, or the part lying adjacent to the Red River of the North, is prairie, and the Eastern portion is a mixed prairie and timber land.

Climate.

The climate is all that could be expected of any one section. The air is always bright, clear, invigorating and healthful. No dismal, prolonged rainy spells are experienced. Showers well distributed throughout the season are pleasant features, quickly overcome and without serious damage from the severity of the worst ones. The average annual rainfall for several years has been approximately 30 inches. The snowfall is not heavy, though it varies from year to year. The winter temperature record is most favorable, the average being about 20 degrees. The cold weather of winter is not severely felt on account of the dryness of the atmosphere at that time, and the people are prepared for it.

Golden Opportunities For Settlers.

A large portion of Marshall county offers amazing opportunities for new farm settlers, owing to the cheapness of the land, nearness to trading centers, with the best of railroad transportation facilities. Improved farm-lands with splendid buildings, range from \$40 to \$75 per acre, land embracing the deep alluvial gumbo soil of the far-famed Minnesota Red River Valley, not excelled in fertility by any other soil on the globe. It is Nature's best gift in soil, in a section which requires no strugglesome toil or hardship for crop production, where all that is necessary is to break up the virgin prairie, sow the crop and the golden

roads it has the "Soo" Line, with 77 miles, and the Great Northern railway with 54 miles of trackage, giving splendid transportation facilities. The whole area of the county is 1,675.04 square miles, or a land area of 1,071,129.11 acres and a water area of 895.01 acres, and from the latest official figures, the land surface is divided into 2,121 farms; which have near-by trading centers in the following towns: Warren, Argyle, Stephen, Oslo, Viking, Middle River, Alvarado, Newfolden, Strandquist, Grygla, Gatzke, Radium, Germantown and Holt.

Marshall county as a whole, offers unlimited opportunities for the settler and home-maker, where the resources of the soil are more pregnant for diversified farming, than that of the Mississippi Valley, or the Delta lands of the Nile, with all the best environments of twentieth century life.

Marshall county is in the golden dawn of a new era of continued prosperity, vouchsafed to its splendid resources. Its career since it was organized as a county, February 25th, 1879, has been one of wonderful achievement and progress, for this amazingly rich section. It has passed through the test of the lean and fat years alike, and has emerged, strong and triumphant. Marshall county's career as a county is just beginning, for what is thirty-six years in the life of a county, in a section like the Minnesota Red River Valley? Only a passing period to give its people time to take advantage of the waiting opportunities in town and farm-home building.

Sweepstakes Prizes.

As a fitting illustration of the fertility of the soil of this county, where scientific farming holds full sway, we have only to mention that Marshall county's farmers carried off five sweepstakes prizes and many