

ANOTHER SIDE PRESENTED

What a Conservative Agricultural Editor Thinks of the Markets.

Not Even the Best Posted Care to Buck Their Opinions in Speculation.

Farmers Should Consult Best Sources of Information and Act Accordingly.

A Conservative View.

The Alert is desirous of placing both sides of the wheat marketing question before its readers, especially those who reside in the country and have no access to daily papers, and other means of information. Extravagant statements are no doubt made on both sides.

The papers making a specialty of reporting the conditions of the market rely principally for subscriptions upon dealers in grain, and would not please their patrons if they brought information interfering with their wishes and plans. On the other hand parties interested in bulling the market—speculators—are equally unreliable where any information favoring their side is concerned. All agree that there is a great European shortage, but to what extent it will affect prices in this country is as yet only to be guessed at. The Russian shortage is large, and the London papers declare that famine in some parts of that empire is now actually witnessed, and that much greater suffering will follow. All of these facts seem to point to unquestioned high prices for the surplus from the great crop of America, which surplus has been magnified, however, by the press and other agencies, until it is said that the ridiculous impression prevails in Europe, that we have raised 700 million bushels of wheat this year.

Be this as it may, The Alert commends the following article on the uncertainty of the markets, to its readers, so that if high prices should not follow this harvest and farmers be disappointed, it cannot be said that this journal did not give a fair opportunity to consider both sides of the question. The article is from the Orange Judd Farmer—one of the most careful and trustworthy farm papers in the country,—and the opinions expressed are quite conservative in character:

Our experienced market editor, with his trained assistants, is at the board of trade and other produce markets, and at the live stock yards, during all the business hours of each week day, and is studying every source of information. These men do not speculate and have no personal interests to color their reports. If they did, other men would be put in their places immediately. The senior editor not only gathers from our market editor and reporters all the information they can give, but he daily studies carefully the general sources of information, the best commercial and other journals, official reports, domestic and foreign telegrams, etc., just as he has been doing for nearly forty years. In his view of

THE SITUATION OF TODAY, as to future prices, it is very uncertain, and if he had abundance of idle money he would not buy 1,000 bushels of wheat or corn or oats with a view of making a profit by either the advance or decline upon current prices. The most intelligent skillful men at the board of trade, those whose life business is buying and selling for profit, and have large sums at stake, will sell now at an advance of only a cent or two a bushel, or buy at a similar small decline. They have no abundance for the present uncertainty. The general crops of our country are undoubtedly large—just how large and how good no one fully knows up to this hour. The corn crop as a whole is far from being entirely safe against frost which may diminish it several hundred thousand dollars from what is now hoped for and expected. But the great factor affecting prices is

THE AMOUNT OF FOREIGN DEMAND. The shortage abroad is undoubted; that it is quite large is well ascertained—exactly how large the best reports do not agree. There is a disposition on the part of the "bulls," and in some leading journals, to make this entirely a question of statistics. They figure up the total present year's crop of wheat and rye, and compare this with the average consumption, and call the difference the amount that we shall be called upon to supply. This is

ERRONEOUS AND MISLEADING. One prominent journal which figures out a world's deficit of fully six hundred million bushels of wheat and rye, taken together, puts one-third of this deficit in Russia, including its dependencies of Finland and Poland. But who supposes that those countries will import the 200 millions? They will buy very little if any from abroad. They have not the means to do it with. They will try to live on a scant supply of roots and other cheap life-sustaining stuff, will suffer hunger, and some will perish. France will similarly economize. England will want 160,000,000 bushels, and will get most of it; business is far there and the richer class will help the poorer ones, and nearly all of that or its equivalent will go from America. The working classes, and almost all other classes in our country, are prosperous, and this prosperity will enable manufacturers to make larger sales, employ more operators, and pay them

enough to buy breadstuffs. This will add to the consumption and demand.

The Orange Judd Farmer is not a bear in the market. While commiserating the foreign sufferers, it greatly rejoices in the abundant crops and good prices to be realized by our own farmers. It prospers as its readers prosper. But it can not avoid words of caution against the excitement of false hopes and expectations that may cause many to hold their grain for prices that may not be realized. Please mark these words, to refer to 6 or 8 months hence.

Crop and Stock Notes.

George Orange has threshed 100 acres of wheat on his new Spiritwood farm and got 2,670 bushels, machine measure, from the 100 acres, which graded No. 1 hard. Last year Mr. Orange bought this farm of 180 acres of Cuyler Adams for \$1,800 with buildings on it which were worth as much as the farm cost him. Mr. Orange's wheat crop this year, not counting his oats, will pay the entire cost price of the farm. There is still a fine crop of oats to thresh on the farm.

A Mr. Sanford of Sykeston, was in Jamestown yesterday, returning from Chicago where he had been to sell a car load of beef cattle. He got \$1.80 per hundred for the entire lot. Two fat cows brought him \$135.40.

A car of wheat came down the Jamestown & Northern branch yesterday marked on the outside in big letters painted on a banner "40 bushels and 10 pounds to the acre." It came from the Jos. Duff farm in Foster county, and was being shipped to a commission house.

The above is beaten by a Stutsman county yield. James Creighton, near Spiritwood threshed out 2,428 bushels, machine measure, from a field of 60 acres wheat sowed on breaking. This is 40 bushels and 28 pounds to the acre. A field of summer fallowed ground on the same farm yielded 35 bushels to the acre. Fred Davis did the threshing and reports the figures as correct.

Jno. S. Watson has finished threshing on 170 acres north of Jamestown. He secured a little more than 21 bushels of wheat to the acre, which graded No. 1 northern. The grain filled seven cars and was sent to Duluth to be sold on commission.

County Commissioner Lusch has completed cutting but has not begun threshing yet. He thinks it will be to the advantage of everyone who had late wheat to keep the good and bad grain separate as far as possible. This will be hard to do, but he believes will pay for the effort. In some cases the frosted wheat on low places might be stacked together and the wheat on higher ground also stacked separate. The effects of frost are becoming more apparent daily.

The James river valley is underlaid with a substratum of shale, which acts as an effective drainage in a wet season. In a dry season the river valley farms suffer on account of the excessive drainage underneath. But abundant rains this year have produced magnificent crops in the river bottom. The crops in the valley were matured before those on the uplands, and were out of the way before the frost fell. This was owing to the fact that the river bottom crops were grown on sandy soil that was thoroughly drained, and hence the grain matured sooner than in the heavy upland soil which retained the moisture longer. Undrained soil retains an excess of moisture in a wet season and keeps the crops green longer than it does where the soil is sandy or underlaid with shale. All the sandy and gravelly land that was planted in proper season, was ready to harvest before the frost fell. In a drouth year the crops in the James river valley are almost worthless, while in a rainy season they are simply glorious. In 1884 some of the valley farms produced 40 bushels of wheat per acre.

Ninety acres on the farm of E. T. Kearney will show a very bad result from the frost, he claims. On the north side of the field the grain will grade rejected, and on the south side it is hardly worth cutting. Oats will be very light, he says, in many cases, from the frost. Some yields have been heard of that weighed as little as 22 pounds to the bushel.

Geo. Wylie, who has been superintending threshing in a field of wheat put in by himself and George Webster, reports that it will give a good yield, but the frosted berries are so numerous that they spoil the value of the good wheat, and the mill can not use it.

Beginning to Look Gloomy.

A. G. Chambers, general manager of the Northern Dakota Elevator company, says the Pioneer Press, does not take so happy a view of the crop situation in North Dakota, as some of the other elevator men whose views have been made public in these columns.

"There are so many conflicting reports as to the damage done by the late frosts in North Dakota," said Mr. Chambers yesterday, "that it is impossible to tell what the actual damage will be. We have had experienced experts investigating matters up there, but as yet we cannot make up any definite statements. It is too early for a man to go on record yet. I should say, however, in the way of a prediction that the frosts would cause a shrinkage of 5,000,000 to 8,000,000 bushels in the quantity of the North Dakota crop and affect the quality from one to two grades."

AN ADVOCATE IN MICHIGAN.

The Fair Land of North Dakota Written up in an Unusually Fair Manner.

Would Start a Ranch in North Dakota if a New Home was Wanted.

A Red River Newspaper Advising the Wheat Grower to Stack Grain.

Good Words From Michigan.

In his editorial correspondence Col. Sanford of the Lansing State Democrat, has succeeded in telling the Michigan people a good many home truths about North Dakota, and setting forth the merits of the country in a clear and unbiased fashion. His letters were written from Jamestown, and the following are some of the points made in reference to the state as a farming country:

The farmer of the Dakotas is about the most jubilant individual that you can find. After several years of indifferent crops, Dakota this year fairly laughs with a harvest. By the time this reaches the reader, North Dakota will have secured the most of her crop. And it is a truly marvelous yield. No man ever saw more beautiful and inspiring scenery. The growth of wheat, oats, barley and flax is stupendous. The soil is of unlimited richness and the growth of the cereals is unparalleled even in Dakota, and the yield will be from 20 to 35 bushels of wheat, and 50 to 75 bushels of oats.

The far famed James river valley is coming to the front grandly this year. For two or three years the Red river valley has had rather the best of the crops, but this year the reverse is true and the James river valley is pluming herself at the expense of Fargo, the metropolis of the Red. To an impartial observer there seems to be no just basis for the warm rivalry between these famous valleys. Each probably has no superior as a wheat raising district in the known world. The thousands and thousands of acres of grain, yellow and ripe for the sickle, are indeed a glorious sight. No where else in America can anything like it be seen.

But it is not to grain alone that North Dakota is looking for wealth. She is now paying decided attention to stock. No farm is complete, or properly managed, now, without its herd of cattle and flock of sheep. There are also horse ranches scattered through the country. This is adding greatly to the productive wealth of Dakota, and in a few years it will be almost as important as grain raising. The succulent grasses of this region are very nutritious, and are especially adapted to stock raising. The pasture continues good until late in the fall, indeed the pasturage may be said to last all winter. Not a few of the stock raisers will tell you that they did not put their sheep in pen or corral once during the winter. More commonly they have the straw stacks to run to, and the prairie grasses and the straw stacks will bring the stock through the winter in good condition.

Now, with a full view of the situation not unkindly of the fact that Dakota has suffered somewhat from drouth during some years in the past, I am prepared to say from a somewhat intimate acquaintance with this country for the past ten years, that North Dakota offers better facilities to the poor man who is willing to work than any other section of our country. Here he may get a farm of unsurpassed richness for nothing. He is not compelled to clear away a luxurious growth of timber and wait years before the land is cleared of stumps, but he may break his land and get a crop of flax or potatoes the first season, or he may even get fair returns if he sows out or wheat. His stock is growing up about him with the least possible labor, almost none at all. Railroads bring the markets to his very doors. The improvements in farm machinery make his farm life anything but the laborious drudgery which our fathers contended with in the states east of the Mississippi. Drouth sometimes diminishes the yield of his crops; but care and good farming will go far to lessen these evils. The country is full of farmers who have had fair crops notwithstanding the dry seasons. As an instance of this, one among many, we heard Prof. C. A. Sanford, who was formerly superintendent of the Lansing schools, but was impelled by failing health to become a Dakota farmer, say the other day that his wheat last year, which was about the worst ever known here yielded 17 bushels to the acre.

It may not be wholly without interest to the numerous readers of the State Democrat to say that the professor is meeting with gratifying success in tilling his farm of two sections, near Corinne, which is one of the finest portions of North Dakota. His greatest difficulty being 17 miles from market is about to be neutralized by the Soo line which this year builds to Valley City and will pass through his immediate vicinity. The man who gets a farm in North Dakota while it may be had without money and without price, and who goes to farming and stock raising with industry, economy and perseverance, will make a living and acquire a home with as much certainty and as little labor as he who looks the wide world over for a place in which to exchange his brown for a home and a livelihood. Any part of our country is afflicted with occasional drawbacks. These are exceedingly liable to be ephemeral and local. This season northern Michigan and parts of Wisconsin are suffering from drouth. Dakota is having an abundance of rain; next year it may be different. No part of our country is free from drawbacks, but one year with another Dakota has no more than her share. If I ever fell com-

pelled to change my business for any consideration I shall make haste open up a stock ranch and farm in North Dakota.

Stack, or Build Granaries.

Grand Forks News: If the railroad commission back down, burnt sulphur will not save them from the universal conclusion that they were bought off. Elevator agents now peddle around that they want boodle, in order to poison the public against them. The commissioners must go on. They cannot retrace their steps. Let people howl. The common school system was forced on the people against all their howls. "The law is good if a man use it lawfully." Stack your wheat.

The farmers have their own salvation in their own hands. It is as lawful for them to defy the laws as it is for the elevator and railroad trust. Let them stack their wheat and market it at leisure. Heretofore they have howled from Fort Pembina to Fort Sisseton that the railroad commission was in league with the monopoly. Now they have a commission that means to enforce the law. Let the farmers as one band, a solid phalanx back up the commission. If they have no granaries, let them stack.

Provision will be made to sell every bushel of wheat that it is obligatory upon the farmer to sell. Stack your wheat, let it slanting, heads high and full in the middle.

Fire-Break Machine.

E. C. Rice of Mandan, has shown the county commissioners an apparatus for making fire breaks on the prairie. The machine is his invention and has been used in Morton county for one or two seasons, with considerable success, it is claimed. It consists of a gasoline reservoir attached to an iron pipe about five feet long. This pipe terminates in a frame of smaller pipe, shaped something like a gridiron and covered with sheet iron. The gasoline runs from the can down the pipe, and generates a gas in the prongs of the frame, which, when the machine is drawn over the ground, ignites grass very quickly if it is dry enough to burn. Behind the machine are three iron discs, each several feet long. They confine the fire to the space burned, and prevent its spreading. Behind the last disc is dragged a wet cloth hide, loaded with earth. This effectively puts out any scattering fire that may be left, and a man follows in the rear of all to extinguish any burning manure or weeds. The machine is drawn by three horses. The strip burned over is five feet wide, and about 20 miles a day can be made if the grass is dry enough to burn readily. The cost of gasoline will run from 10 to 40 cents a mile according to the condition of the grass. The commissioners have purchased an outfit, which costs \$115, and the machine is expected to arrive here by next Tuesday. It will be operated, beginning at Windsor and run as far north as the county line, then east. Afterwards it will be sent south to the county line and thence east again. After wards other breaks will be burned, and the work kept going until all danger is over. Messrs. Lloyd, Jandell, Kearney and others will furnish the outfit to run the machine free, for the privilege of using it. Of course, if the plan is a success, the breaks made will only be a check in preventing any general fire. It is not intended that individual farmers rely on the county's efforts to protect their places. The danger from prairie fires is even greater than frost or hail, and there is great carelessness seen everywhere in the delays in making breaks.

An Invention for Threshers.

Another invention of interest to threshers has been made by a Barnes county citizen, Mr. A. A. Booth. It is for the purpose of conveying the sheaves of grain from the stack or wagon to the cylinder of the separator: The Sanborn Enterprise thus describes it. The machine in outline is an oblong box, nine feet long, forty inches wide and twenty-eight inches high. The bundles are forked from each side in to juxtapose feed troughs and on to a slotted feed table, through which tines are projected with a forward motion carrying the straw under the rapidly working band cutters and on toward the cylinder. Underneath are two alternately actuated feed tables to which the feed tines are bolted. These lower tables are corrugated to catch the sheafed grain which may drop through the slotted table above and carry it to the cylinder. Altogether it is a very ingenious and simple device, there being nothing about it to get out of order but what might be repaired with the ordinary tools usually found on a farm, and Mr. Booth is to be congratulated on his success.

Asylum Trustees' Meeting.

A regular meeting of the asylum trustees was held Thursday, President Faucher, Secretary Lieber, and Mr. Auld of Dickinson, being present.

The regular August bills were inspected and accounts allowed.

There being an appropriation for the purpose, it was ordered that a hot house be constructed adjoining the superintendent's office, to cost \$600. Work begins Monday next in cleaning out the artesian well. The machinery has been shipped and will arrive here next week.

WILL HEW TO THE LINE.

The Railroad Commissioners do not Fear Political Obscurity.

They Declare the law of Inspecting and Grading Grain Must be Enforced.

The Possibilities of the Future Discussed by a Member of the Board.

That West Superior Offer.

Commissioner Harmon of the railroad commission, has this to say in the Bismarck Tribune, about the West Superior proposition to handle North Dakota wheat:

"We met the Superior delegation," early in the day. It consisted of the best business men in that city. There were ex-governors, bankers, large wholesale and retail merchants, members of the board of trade and others who are in earnest in wishing to establish the outlet for our wheat through their city. The scheme proposed will be sure to work in time. It is quite a task to enforce this law and new complications arise on all sides. The Superior delegation proposed to build several elevators, say three for the present—and locate them on the lake front. The ground on which these elevators are to be built will be donated free and West Superior is willing to subscribe \$50,000 in capital stock. They ask the co-operation of North Dakota capitalists and I believe they will get it. The scheme is a worthy one, and forever settles a vexing problem. The wheat grading is to be in accordance with the laws governing the same, and which we are trying to enforce. This Superior market will simply be a large storing point and the wheat will be handled by the board of trade. Besides this there will be from \$1.00 to \$1.50 saved in freight on every car shipped to Superior. Minneapolis has friends in the state who are working against us. They are at points where they buy without opposition. Minneapolis buyers will not come in and compete with them and they in return skin the farmers for the Minneapolis parties. It may take several sets of railroad commissioners to enforce this law. The people tell me it will kill us politically. Well, suppose it does, there will be more to fill our places who will have the law to fulfill. I am not working for political glory, nor do I believe the balance of the board is, but we are going to enforce the law. Of course we cannot dictate where the farmers shall sell their wheat but we wish to establish a market of our own where our vast crops of No. 1 hard can be honestly marketed and the laws be fulfilled and the farmers have their full earning for their labor, which must be accomplished by a fair grade and an honest market."

To Keep N. D. Wheat Separate.

A committee of leading capitalists and residents of West Superior were in consultation yesterday in Fargo with a similar committee of the board of trade of that city, on the subject near and dear to every North Dakota man's heart—the grading and selling of hard wheat on its merits as a flour producer. After the Fargo conference, the West Superior men took a special train to Grand Forks on a similar mission. All parties are enthusiastic over the prospects of success of the scheme, the chief obstacles now being the opposition of Sawyer of the elevator companies, and J. J. Hill. In the discussion at Fargo, both sides agreed upon the benefits to come from the plan proposed, which is to have the wheat of this state graded here and sold on those grades in West Superior, Wis. This would draw competing buyers from all quarters of the country, and would help both that city and North Dakota. Another conference in the near future has been arranged between committees from Fargo, Grand Forks, the railroad commissioners of the state and West Superior parties. In a report of the meeting at Fargo the Republican says:

One gentleman declared that it was North Dakota that first raised No. 1 hard, and before that distinctive grade had never been heard of. That it was worth from two to five cents per bushel more than the wheat raised elsewhere, yet in the past and present soft wheat is shipped from Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Southern Minnesota, and run in with this in the elevators—and this wheat is called No. 1 hard. Their grade is improved and North Dakota's impaired, and the value of their's increased and our's decreased by the operation. The gentleman declared it was a gross outrage and injustice. What should be done was to establish a North Dakota grade that would be recognized in the markets of the world, and they at West Superior wanted to co-operate with Dakotans in bringing this about. He thought that the idea of inspecting the grain at the points of exit in North Dakota might not be practicable at present, but it would be practicable to have North Dakota inspectors at the West Superior elevators, and they would abide by their inspection down there. Furthermore, they would willingly establish facilities for handling North Dakota wheat distinctively. Now, they say, that for every car of wheat that goes over the bridge to Duluth, a dollar or dollar and a half toll is imposed. This would be saved by shipping to West Superior direct.

Coal is shipped to West Superior as

ballast, the freight almost amounting to nothing, and they would like to exchange coal for wheat. We could get coal cheaper shipped via West Superior than in any other way. They also want to establish a market for our wool at West Superior, and propose to make it an object to us to bring this about.

Drawing Party Lines.

The New York Voice reports the recent prohibition convention in North Dakota in full. The Voice is the national organ of the prohibitionists and maintains that cause impartially against both the old parties. The Voice asks why the organization of the third party is foisted if the republican party is doing all it can to enforce the law. The following is the report of the proceedings covered by a special dispatch:

A successful prohibition conference, called by Chairman Samuel Dickie of the national committee, has just closed its sessions in this city. Its principal business was to complete the state organization begun one year ago at Grand Forks. Shortly after the call for the conference was issued a few republicans undertook to head off the movement by calling at the same time and place a citizens' meeting to organize an enforcement league. It seems to have been their purpose to meet with us, outnumber us, and declare the reorganization of our party unnecessary. To avert the well-laid trap Chairman Dickie insisted upon securing a hall rather than the court house, and which being rented and paid for would be under our control. He also announced through the evening paper that to the deliberations of the congress were invited all who proposed to act with the prohibition party.

The conference met and completed the organization of the state committee, which was instructed to call a state convention in March for the purpose of selecting delegates to the national convention and transacting such other business as might properly come before it.

Baffled and chagrined at their failure to capture us the republicans had repaired to the court house and having met under a call, asking all friends of law and order to combine without reference to party they proceed at once to pass a resolution condemning the action of our conference in going on with the organization of the prohibition party. This resolution was passed five minutes before our members reached the court house. When we arrived there they proceeded to call our names without informing us of the resolution adopted. Their evident intent was to put us in the attitude of denouncing our own action. The game was a slick one and was engineered by C. A. Pollock, but it did not work. Chairman Dickie got wind of the situation and having asked and secured the courtesy of the floor proceeded to ventilate the little scheme in a breezy manner. He denounced the trick and insisted that under a non-partisan call such an act was an outrage and that the only manly and honest thing was to reconsider and vote down the resolution. After pouring hot shot into the masqueraders he closed by saying that unless promptly reconsidered and tabled he would advise every self-respecting prohibitionist in the room to take his hat and walk out of the hall. The motion to reconsider prevailed, and Mr. Pollock, a wiser if not a happier man was permitted to withdraw his little boomerang. The league then compelled the organization to adjourn. In the evening Chairman Dickie delivered a convincing address to a large and appreciative audience. I learned that after final adjournment of the league nineteen disgruntled republicans put their names to some expression of dissent from the prohibition party program. On the whole it was a great day for our party in North Dakota. We will be heard from in November, 1892.

A North Dakota Fable.

Grand Forks News: There was a North Dakota farmer once who kept a pet lion which he raised from a cub to a sleek roaring monster. Every year he worked so he might have enough surplus to keep this lion on nice fat beef and English mutton chops and fancy cuts. But there came a series of years in which it was nip and tuck whether the farmer should go hungry or the lion. The farmer grained and the lion savagely beat his sides with his caudal. This course of ill luck could not last always, so Providence one year blessed this farmer with a tremendous crop and he hastened to the lion's den to make merry with the king of beasts over the prospects for the season. The lion was very hungry, and as the farmer had left the door open to free access to his herd, the lion said to himself: "I will keep it all because I am the lion. Laws be damned! My necessity knows no law!" With that he bit off the farmers' head and possessed the flock.

Moral: Stack your wheat.

It's Getting Very Chilly.

Pembina Pioneer-Express: The elevator men have all been wearing buffalo overcoats in North Dakota since last week's frost. They are very susceptible to cold. The ground is said to be frozen to a considerable depth under the elevator buildings already.

Which Leg?

Fargo Republican: The Grand Forks Herald says obey the prohibition law and disobey the wheat inspection law. Which leg is the Herald going to stand on?