

Land of Continuous Agricultural Income—Opportunities for Diversification Unequaled—Home of Fruits, Grains and Grasses—Natural Stock-Raising and Poultry Region.

# GRIGGS COUNTY

IDEAL HOME LAND

ROOM FOR MORE

Centre of World-Wide Communication—Splendid Schools and Numerous Churches—Friendly Neighbors; Caste Unknown—Its People Live Instead of Exist.

Occupied first by Hudson Bay Company traders and trappers, it was not until General Sibley crossed the county in pursuit of the Sioux Indians that anything definite was known concerning this region. The first permanent settler did not arrive until 1879, but he was so closely followed by others and in such numbers that the county was organized on its present boundaries in November, 1882, seven years before the admission of the state into the union. The first settlers were nearly all homesteaders on government land, they and others later buying from the railroads the government land allotted to them by Congress and at a still later period buying from the state the two sections in each township reserved for the public school fund. As the government land became scarcer up to the present time when there is none, the price has advanced from 50 cents to from \$30 to \$55 per acre.

In 1883 what is known as the Cooperstown Branch of the Northern Pacific was built as far as Coopers-town, and in 1898 this was extended northwestward across the county. This road with the Great Northern

which crosses the northern part of the county east and the southern part of the county in a northwesterly direction and the Soo which is near the southern boundary have up to the present afforded the markets for Griggs county products. The Midland, a Winnipeg to Gulf project, has a survey across the county with the grade completed as far as Wimbledon.

Griggs County is situated on the western slope of the Red River Valley. It is composed of 20 townships with a land surface of 455,127 acres and 2,408 of water. The surface ranges from level to gently rolling dotted through the northern part with little lakes surrounded in most cases by native timber. It slopes toward the east, the whole county being well drained by the Sheyenne River which flows through the eastern tier of townships and empties into the Red River near Fargo.

The State Agricultural and Geological Survey describes the soil as follows: "Silt loam predominating, accompanied by loam, sandy loam and clay loam; dark brown in color, rich in organic matter; retains moisture well; one of the most valuable

soils in the northwest; adapted to all cereals, flax, vegetables, small fruits and forage crops; clay subsoil." Well water in abundance.

We have more than enough moisture for any and all crops. Last year, which was an unusually dry year here as elsewhere, those of the farmers who worked their land properly had very fair crops and, selling them at 17 year prices, received good returns for their investment. It has been said only too truly that an eastern farmer would live on what a Dakota farmer wastes. This wastefulness has been caused by the very fertility of the soil which gives such good returns from even slipshod methods.

Dakota winters seem to be ranked by eastern people as in the Alaska class, while as a matter of fact they do not approach that season of the year in Chicago or New York in disagreeable features. The altitude is higher and atmosphere so much dryer than at zero in New York or Chicago.

The climate is healthful and invigorating both summer and winter. The days of the summer being much longer than those in more southern

latitudes lengthens the growing season that much. Seeding is generally done in April, some farmers seeding as early as March and from then on to the last of May, depending on the season and crop sown. The average hourly velocity of the wind here is less than at Boston, New York, Buffalo, Rochester, Philadelphia, Toledo, Alpena, Mich., Chicago or St. Louis.

Twelve years past the average temperature has been:

La Crosse .....	45.9
Houghton, Mich. ....	40.2
Dubuque, Iowa .....	47.2
Bismarck, N. D. ....	40.1

Wheat has been and still is, to a large extent, the staple crop, but flax, barley, rye, oats, and of late years, speltz and durum wheat have been increasingly grown. Wheat has ranged from 10 to 40 bushels per acre; flax has ranged from 10 to 25 bushels per acre; barley has ranged from 20 to 45 bushels per acre; durum wheat has ranged from 12 to 40 bushels per acre; oats has ranged from 30 to 75 bushels per acre.

The native prairie grass has always been largely used, but brome grass, millet, timothy and more re-

cently clover and alfalfa are being grown successfully. Corn, also, is recognized as a successful crop.

Fruit trees, where protected by wind breaks, have yielded well, but wheat has long loomed so large in the farmer's eye that only enough people have given any attention to fruit to show what can be done. Among the small fruits raspberries, currants, gooseberries and strawberries have done well; strawberries two and one-half inches in diameter and 2,000 quarts in one season from less than an acre of ground. Vegetables of all kinds are grown successfully.

Its people are cosmopolitan in their origin though the Scandinavian, Yankee, German and Irish form the largest part of the population. Nearly all of the states to the south and east are represented, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa probably ranking first in numbers.

Educational conditions are of the best, the twenty townships having in all seventy schools in three-fourths of which school was taught over seven months during the past year. There are four graded schools, one

of which is ranked by the state as first grade and all stand high in the state classification. In addition the state offers the best of advantages for advanced study in all lines, these various institutions being easy of access to Griggs county students, all lying within a radius of 100 miles.

There are 20 churches in Griggs county.

The total value of church property in county is \$80,000. The county itself is well supplied, as there is hardly a township in which there is not at least one country church, besides the congregations that use the school houses. Nearly all the denominations of the Christian churches are represented.

The ten banks in the county show for September 2, 1915:

Total capital .....	\$200,000
Total surplus .....	108,000
Total deposits .....	\$1,200,000

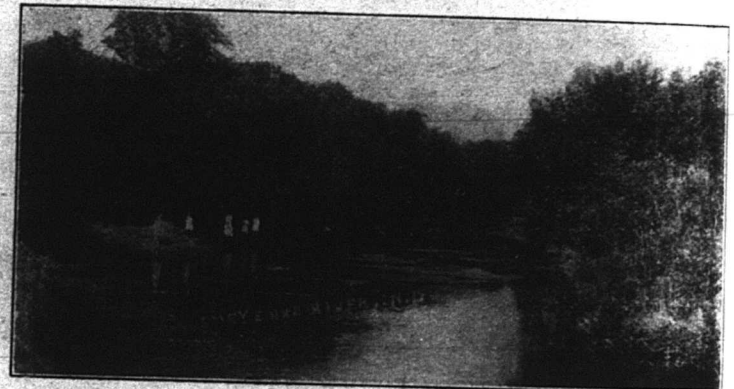
Valuation of the county as left by the State Board of Equalization for 1915, including real estate, personal property, and railroads is estimated at \$6,000,000.

Rural free delivery routes within county .....

Rural free delivery routes partly



RED WILLOW LAKE



THE SHEYENNE RIVER