

# COUNTY PROGRESS.

## Activity in Real Estate—Enormous Surplus of Products.

### THRIVING TOWNS AND ENERGETIC CITIZENS.

The greatest desire of the human heart is to own a home, yet comparatively few of the millions of people of our land own the roofs that shelter them, and the roof is perhaps not the mechanic or the small tradesman ever hope to own that which they most desire unless they remove to a more favorable locality, where opportunities are greater and competition in their respective lines is less; away from the influence of strikes and labor disturbances to a land of sunshine, cereals and flowers, where peace reigns supreme and plenty rich man is a king among kings; where nature smiles upon the industrious and wealth crowns the efforts of all those who labor.

All over the eastern and central portions of the United States thousands are looking with discontented faces at the unsatisfactory and unsettled condition of affairs, and the dependent prospect for the future. In all other communities of the east all trades are overworked and existing avenues are filled; all resources fully developed, and to the head for a growing family the prospect of a happy home and a prosperous future for his children give rise to many gloomy reflections. He has seen the chosen home of his early manhood develop from a wilderness through all the various stages of modern progress; he has helped to organize society, build churches, schools and factories; he has seen one doctor after another open new ideas take the place of the old order, and as the man of fifty years of age allows his memory to turn in retrospective view remembrance awakes with her busy train and he is dumb with amazement to think that his brief span of life has witnessed so wonderful a transition.

And with such thoughts would the other—is there a place, a country, where the building of a new empire will give to a coming generation a field of successful effort; where it is not too late to lay for his children the foundation of prosperity and comfort; a place where he can make for himself a home in which to pass his declining years in peace and plenty, surrounded by his posterity? For him we answer, yes, there is such a place. Read on.

But as stated above it is not our purpose to discuss the resources of this state in the brief space allotted to this article, but to direct attention to Griggs county. This subdivision of the state is situated in the central eastern portion of the state, some fifty miles west of the eastern border of the state and was created by legislative enactment in 1881. Griggs county is thirty miles in length from north to south and twenty-four miles wide, from east to west. It extends the same distance, comprising 790 square miles, which reduced to acres means 460,800. The topography of the county is little to gently rolling, and there is level or no waste land in the county. The soil is black alluvial, of great depth and fertility. The county is drained by the Sheyenne river and its tributaries. Plenty of pure well water is to be had in all parts of the county only a few feet from the surface.

Shipping facilities are afforded by the "Cooperstown branch" of the Northern Pacific railroad, which traverses the county. The Soo line and the Great Northern are also accessible from some points of the county. The products of the soil are varied. The harvests bountiful, while failures are unknown. Wheat is the principal crop of the county and the chief article of export. It is of excellent quality and usually grades No. 1 hard. Oats, flax, rye, barley and speltz grow to perfection and are extensively cultivated. All kinds of vegetables common to this latitude thrive well, especially potatoes, which are of fine quality and bring the very top prices at all times. Griggs county is comparatively a

new county, and only a few years ago was known as an unexcelled grazing country where the cattle barons counted their flocks by the tens of thousands. Today it is dotted with towns, villages and well cultivated farms, and offers homes to thousands upon the most productive soil with a good home market for the products of the farm, garden and dairy. No pioneering is to be done now. Railroads traverse the county; the roads and bridges are built and paid for, churches and schools abound while a ready cash market is found for all kinds of products only a few miles from the remotest corners of the county. Good farming land is within the easy reach of a man of limited means and a few years of thrift and industry are all that are necessary to place a poor man in possession of a good home. Good home markets, excellent schools, churches and organized society are a few of the advantages enjoyed by the tillers of the soil in Griggs county, North Dakota.

**REAL ESTATE.**  
From March 20, 1905, to Sept. 30th more than 14,000 acres of farm lands have changed hands in the county at an average price of about \$17.50 per acre. To pay the contract price, without interest, the sum of \$241,000 would be required. Divide 14,000 acres by 160 acres, which makes a good

trade from a large area. The streets are dotted with cozy cottages and handsome homes which form the border of substantial brick business houses which give the place an appearance of solidity and commercial activity. Civic and fraternal societies are well represented and the different church organizations are all in a flourishing condition. The public school of Cooperstown is not surpassed in the state and the people take a pardonable pride in their "temple of wisdom." A telephone exchange connects the city with the outside and an electric light plant is now being installed.

The business houses comprise the following:  
One abstractor, four attorneys, one State Bank, one National Bank, three barber shops, two blacksmith shops, two boarding houses, two firms brick and stone masons, one Methodist church, one Baptist church, one Congregational church, one Lutheran church, five contractors, three carpenter firms, five coal yards, one clothing store, two confectionery stores, one dentist, two drug stores, four department stores, five electric makers, four dry lines, one electric light plant (building), six elevators, one flouring mill, two general stores, two harness stores, two harness shops, two hardware stores, two heating and plumbing contractors, three hotels, two in-

### COOPERSTOWN BUSINESS MEN.

#### THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF COOPERSTOWN.

Good and safe bank is a great convenience to toy towns or city, and the people of this city daily show their appreciation of this strong financial institution by their patronage. The First National Bank was first organized as a state bank, and in 1900 was converted into a national bank. It has a capital stock of \$50,000 and a surplus and undivided profits aggregating \$15,000, while their books show \$246,000 to the credit of depositors. This bank covers all departments of general banking, receiving deposits, makes loans and discounts according to established usages, pays interest on time deposits, buys and sells exchange, does collecting and all other business coming under the scope of legitimate banking. The First National Bank of Cooperstown has been a strong factor in the advancement and upbuilding of this city and county, and is always identified with all moves intended to benefit the same. They make a specialty of first mortgage farm loans at the lowest prevailing rates of interest. No delay or red tape when making a loan through this bank, but the money is paid over as soon as security is found satisfactory and title perfect. The officers of this bank are well known men of affairs, of the strictest integrity and of known financial responsibility. The official roster is as follows: Robert Jones, president; G. H. Condy, vice-president; Iver Utgaard, cashier, and N. A. Patterson, assistant cashier.

### COOPERSTOWN BUSINESS MEN.

#### THE ONE PRICE DEPARTMENT STORE.

The shrewd buyer always goes where he can get the most for his money no difference whether his purchases amount to one hundred or a thousand dollars. This fact accounts for the great success of the One Price Department Store owned by Mr. Albert Larson. This gentleman has made Griggs county his home for the past twenty-three years and about one year ago he bought this department store, which was well favored by the start.

Mr. Larson occupies commodious quarters, 50x80 feet, nicely arranged and finely furnished. The store is large and very complete embracing dry goods, notions, ladies' and gentlemen's furnishing goods, the best of the latest styles and fashions and everything new and fashionable in footwear. The grocery department is stocked with a fine line of staple and fancy groceries, fruits, corn, feed, produce and provisions. Mr. Larson carries a complete line of shelf hardware, tinware and house furnishing goods, and his prices in every line of each department are as low as first-class goods can be sold for in a strictly one price store.

#### THE FARMERS' BLACKSMITH & SUPPLY CO.

One of the chief requirements of a town surrounded by an agricultural country is a first-class implement house. Such a house can be found in Cooperstown in the one owned and operated by The Farmers' Blacksmith & Supply Co. They carry a full line of kinds of implements in the field or on the farm, including plows and threshers, binders, mowers, rakes, plow seeders, wagons, buggies and a full line of parts and repairs. In addition to their stock of machinery this company does a general blacksmithing business and machine work. They are well equipped with the latest improved machinery and labor saving devices and they employ only workmen of skill and ability and every job that leaves this shop is fully warranted. G. W. Dwyer is president of the company, A. Rhodes, vice president, Fred Williams, treasurer, and S. Sanborn, secretary and manager.

#### CRANE-JOHNSON COMPANY.

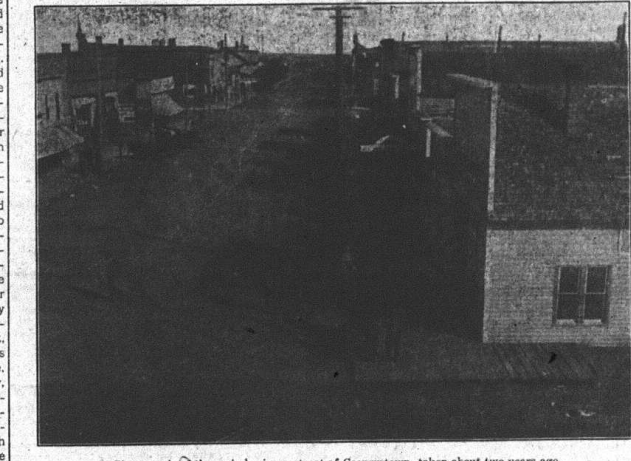
From the Crane-Johnson Co., property owners and contractors and builders can secure their every need in the building line promptly and at satisfactory prices. Few yards in this section are so well equipped with the high quality that capital cost experience can supply or suggest, and as a result the service rendered is at all times prompt and reliable. They carry a full line of lumber, lath, shingles, doors, windows, sash, blinds, etc., and have on hand a material of all kinds. They have a mammoth shed wherein all their lumber is kept, which keeps it bright and dry, ready for the carpenter's plane. The officers of this company are men of high business standing and enterprising and public spirited business men who are always to the front when the best interests of the county are at stake. The officers are as follows: Maynard Crane, president, C. T. Whidden, vice president, Geo. E. Macconnell, secretary.

#### PETER E. NELSON.

Banking and real estate business houses of this city is the hardware store owned by Peter E. Nelson. Mr. Nelson cast his fortunes with the people of this county twenty-three years ago and has been engaged in the hardware business for the past seventeen years. His reputation for fair and square dealing is well established and brings him trade from a distance. His stock is large and very complete, embracing sash and heavy hardware, bicycles, paints, oils, and everything usually found in a first-class hardware store. He also operates a first-class tinshop in connection and is prepared to turn out on the spot and in great quantities tin and sheet metal work. He also does plumbing in all its branches, making a specialty of installing steam and hot water heating plants. The men employed by this hardware store are men of high business standing and enterprising and public spirited business men who are always to the front when the best interests of the county are at stake. The officers are as follows: Maynard Crane, president, C. T. Whidden, vice president, Geo. E. Macconnell, secretary.

#### MRS. J. STEVENS.

Ladies who seek the latest creations in millinery should bear in mind the attractive parlors of Mrs. J. Stevens, who has built up a most satisfactory trade. She handles a full line of implements and farm machinery of all kinds including wagons and buggies of standard make and his prices are always right? Mrs. Stevens is fully acquainted with the demands of the trade at all times, and his goods are warranted to give entire satisfaction. He is a gentleman of good business qualifications, honorable and upright in all his dealings and stands high in business circles.



Photograph of the main business street of Cooperstown, taken about two years ago.

farm for any settler, and you have 87 farms or homes for that many families. Most of this land has been purchased by actual residents of the county, but there has been a steady influx of new home seekers, many of whom have been among the purchasers. Aside from this several thousand acres have been sold on contracts which do not appear on the county records. During this same time town lots to the value of many thousand dollars changed hands.

The aggregate amount of wheat and flax shipped from the county last year, as near as we could get it, is as follows:  
Wheat, bushels, 1,469,000  
Flax, " 463,000  
Total, 1,932,000

We were unable to secure the amount of other grains from some points, therefore the totals cannot be given, however, the total amount of all kinds of grain shipped from the county would exceed 2,000,000 bushels.

### COOPERSTOWN.

Cooperstown, the county seat and metropolis of Griggs county, North Dakota, is situated on the Cooperstown branch of the Northern Pacific railroad, thirty-six miles north of Sanborn, where it leaves the main line. It was named for Cooper Bros., pioneer settlers of the county, and was laid out and platted in 1882. The history of the town from this date is one of steady growth and development, experiencing no boom or forced growth. The United States census of 1900 showed a population of 648; the state census of 1905 gives the population as 1002. Cooperstown is conveniently located, near the geographical center of the county, and is a thriving, prosperous and progressive city, possessing many of the modern conveniences, surrounded by a fine farming country and draws a

Plenty of money for Farm Loans at State Bank of Cooperstown.

insurance offices, six implement dealers, one jewelry store, one jeweler, two job printing offices, three livery stables, three lumber yards, one music instructor, two millinery stores, two newspapers, one news dealer, three physicians, one tele dealer, two pharmacists, three plasterers, four painters, five real estate dealers, five restaurants, one bicycle and automobile repair shop, Northern Pacific Ry., two tailors, one telephone exchange, two wagon shops, one flax fibre mill, one tannery, one bakery, one shoemaker, one photographer, three wood yards, one pop factory, two veterinary surgeons, one pump dealer, one opera house.

An opportunity is offered here for new enterprises, such as a good cigar shop, marble works, brick yard, laundry, broom factory.

### ERICK ERICKSON.

In this review of the business men of this county we feel called upon to make favorable mention of Mr. Erick Erickson, the well known implement dealer and real estate man. Mr. Erickson has been in business here for the past fifteen years and his reputation for fair and honorable dealing with customers is well established and brings him trade from a distance. He handles a full line of farm machinery of all kinds and buys and sells horses. He is in the market at all times and pays the highest market price in cash. He has for sale a large list of the finest farming lands in this part of the state, and is in a position to offer most favorable terms. Mr. Erickson is one of the leading business men of Cooperstown, well and favorably known. Parties wishing to invest in land in this section will do well to see him.

### MISS SIGNE I. WIDLUND.

The love of music is inherent in the human heart, and nations in all ages, have placed in the front rank and held in high esteem their favorite singers of music, taught by local instrumentalists in musical circles in this section of the state, and possessing that rare and valuable faculty of imparting her knowledge to her students, Miss Signe I. Widlund is eminently fitted for her calling. Miss Widlund is a native of Sweden, and has built up the latest and best methods. She acquired her musical education in Europe and this country, under eminent teachers and instructors. Miss Widlund is patient, sympathetic and skillful with her pupils, and is a most successful teacher, which arouses the enthusiasm, which marks the successful teacher and makes the proficient pupil. Miss Widlund has been teaching here for the past seven years and has been most successful.

### C. L. BRIMI, M. D.

In reviewing the professional men of this city a prominent place must be accorded Dr. C. L. Brimi, who is a graduate of Rush Medical College of Chicago, graduating in 1887. He served as House Surgeon in the Norwegian Hospital for one year, when he returned to Cooperstown. He has been most successful in his practice here and is surgeon for the N.P. railway, superintendent of the