

The Fargo Argus of Sunday, November 31st, contained a writeup of all the counties of the state, and the statistics and general outline of each county was portrayed in an able manner. The Argus deserves great credit for its enterprise. The following is what is said of Steele county:

Steele county was organized June 13, 1883, being formed from portions of Traill and Griggs counties, and has an area of 720 square miles, or over 460,000 acres.

The Sheyenne river runs north and south just beyond the western boundary, and the Goose river flows through the northern and eastern portions of the county.

It is one of the best counties in the state outside of what is known as the Red River Valley, the eastern half being unexcelled for raising grain and general farming, while the western half is more especially adapted for stock raising. No better lands can be found in the state for sheep raising, several flocks of which are already proving profitable, and several more of the substantial farmers have signified their intentions of embarking in the business on a large scale.

Many of the farmers of Steele have become financially independent, by raising grain alone, the yields of wheat having been from thirty bushels and over per acre down to fifteen on the poorer lands, and other crops in proportion. Of course there are hundreds of acres that have never yielded even the smaller amount, but, in such cases, it is generally the fault of the inexperienced person who tills the land, and because he lives in the country, thinks he is a farmer, although he knows nothing of the science of farming.

However, successful as some of the farmers have been by giving their attention entirely to wheat, they are rapidly learning that it is more profitable to diversify their interests, and are surrounding themselves with the best grades of all kinds of stock.

The assessed valuation of the county is about two millions of dollars, with a bonded indebtedness of only twenty thousand dollars, and although the taxes are light, there is plenty of money in the treasury and county warrants are cash.

The census just taken shows the population is 3,766, and a more industrious, energetic and prosperous people can not be found in any county.

The schools of the county have attained to a high standard, and the numerous church organizations are in a prosperous condition.

One thing the county is in need of, that is better railroad facilities. Hope, at the terminus of a branch of the Great Northern, and Colgate, a few miles south of it, are the only points that have the advantages of a railroad. Sherbrooke, the county seat, located at the center of the county and surrounded by splendid wheat lands, is without a railroad. The Portland branch of the Northern Pacific runs within a short distance of the eastern line of the county, and thus Traill county gets the credit for hundreds of thousands of bushels of wheat marketed at the various stations of this line that come from Steele county. All the government lands have been taken up for years but there are still splendid opportunities for investors in wild lands at prices ranging from \$3 to \$10 per acre.

Persons of small means, who desire to buy lands and improve them, can do so on the crop payment plan, and certainly no easier way could be desired. Many have taken advantage of this plan and are the possessors of fine farms in consequence.

Enquiries may be addressed to the editor of The Hope Pioneer or to the Hon. M. B. Cassel.

—Fargo Argus.