

### Alfalfa Fields the Gold Mines of Nebraska

(Continued from Ninth Page.)

superior to corn, which gives too much of the carbonaceous elements. For stock in the feed yard it makes the best of "roughness," as it is termed, but to put on heavy fat and prevent shrinkage some grain is required also.

It is not always safe to pasture all stock on alfalfa. Cattle and sheep are apt to suffer with bloat, though horses show no ill effects and hogs thrive wonderfully on it. Men of science are expending much brain force in endeavoring to discover an anti-toxin, which shall stay the ravages of cholera and swine plague. When farmers feed their hogs more alfalfa and less corn disease will begin to disappear.

#### Ornamental as Well as Useful.

Aside from its usefulness alfalfa has an aesthetic value, for it is one of the most beautiful of farm crops. Green earliest in spring and latest in autumn, it is never at any time unsightly. To live in the midst of alfalfa fields is like living in the midst of a beautiful garden. The blossoms are deep purple when they open, but change in the sunlight to lighter tints, and are delicately fragrant. The flowers are very attractive to bees and yield the finest quality of honey.

Here is a picture of an ideal Nebraska farm or ranch; this is a distinction without a difference, except that the former term conveys an eastern and the latter a western idea.



A comfortable and commodious house set in a grove nearly surrounded by waving fields of alfalfa, purple with bloom. The click of the mowers is heard from the MONTHS OLD.

shaded porch one can see the workers in the field cutting, raking and stacking the crop for feeding through the long winter. In the distance is a field of corn, sufficient for the needs of the stock. Two fields of alfalfa are enclosed by a fence. These are the hog pastures—one for the little grunTERS and their mothers, the other for those of larger growth. Beyond the barns are the cattle yards, stocked with beautiful Herefords, with roomy sheds for shelter and racks for abundance of alfalfa hay. From these shipments are made every winter of sleek animals grown on alfalfa and finished on corn. The herd has grown from small beginnings and when the farmer sells a load the proceeds belong to him, and not to some one else. The ranchman or farmer, whichever you choose to call him, drives up in a comfortable road wagon and sits down on the porch to chat with his wife. He has served his time at labor and earned the right to superintend while others work. A bee house and poultry yards are in view. One daughter manages the poultry, another has charge of the bees. One son manages the swine department, another the cattle. These young people are not in a hurry to get to town to work for somebody, nor do they need to knock about the world to seek a fortune. The foundations of a fortune are already laid for them in man's noblest and original as well as safest and surest occupation, agriculture.

There are hundreds of acres in Nebraska which are now used in growing light crops of corn or which furnish scanty pasture of wild grasses which would yield glorious returns sown to alfalfa. The sand hills regions and gravel beds will grow wonderful crops of this plant. Some of these lands can be bought for \$5 an acre; others up to \$10. Capitalists looking for investments can find none safer than these sandy alfalfa lands of Nebraska. M. B. DAVIS.

#### Quaint Features of Life

General Edward Grady reports that a farmer in St. Thomas parish, near Charleston, S. C., derives an annual income of \$6,000 to \$8,000 by silk culture, and that some of his neighbors get from \$800 to \$1,000 a year from the same product as a "by-crop" and "without neglecting other plantation work."

Derby, Conn., steps to the head in the list of novel causes of strikes. Thirty girls in a factory there stopped work because one of the employes persisted in eating limburger cheese with her lunches, and, as the factory happened to be rushed with orders, the strikers won and the limburger-cheese luncheon was banished.

A church soprano in New York has got a verdict against a railroad on the ground that an injury to her leg has impaired her worth as a singer. If she were a comic opera artist the justice of her plea would be obvious to all. As it is, it is necessary to explain that she has been a singer in an Episcopal church, and with one leg shorter than it really ought to be she cannot kneel gracefully and would limp in a procession of the choir.

#### Gloves Given Away

A pair of Princess kid gloves is given away by the Atlas Glove Co., whose advertisement on another page tells all about it.



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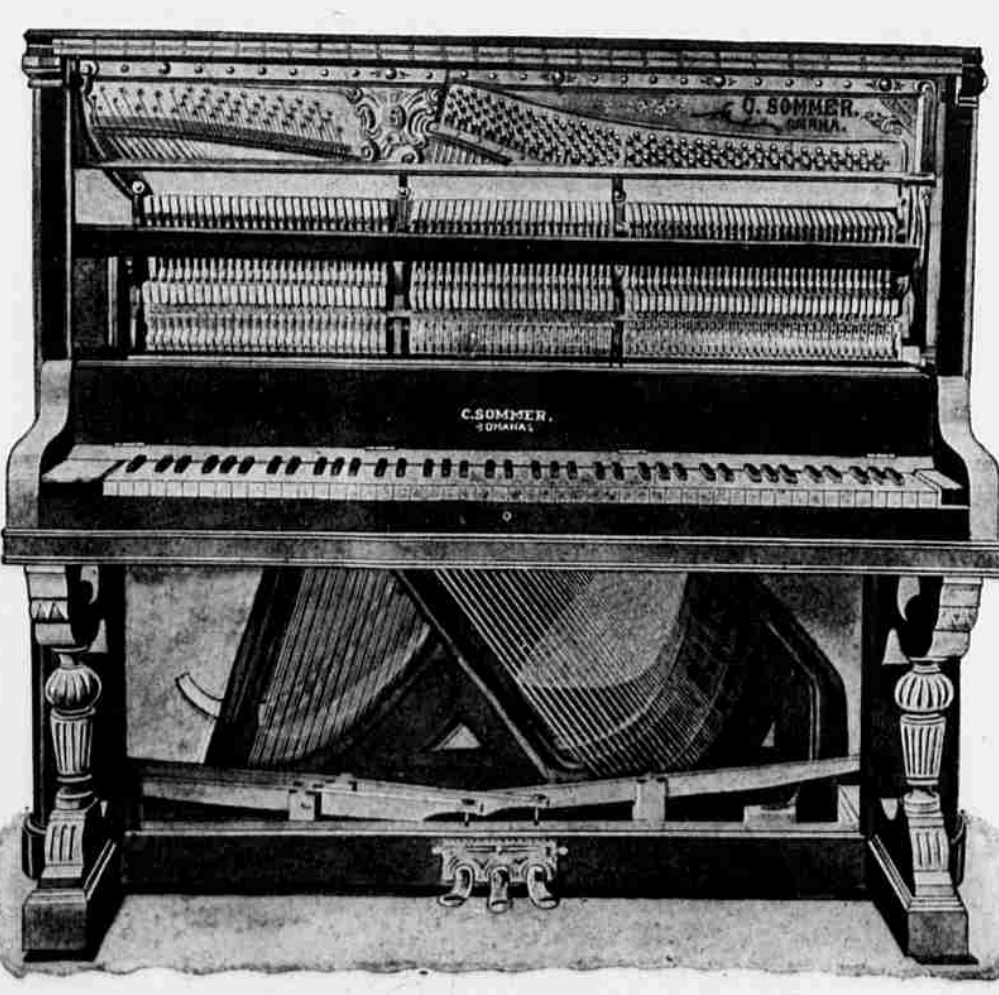
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