



Prosperity of the Growing Middle West

IN order to obtain disinterested, and at the same time safe and reliable opinions as to the prosperity of the middle west, and especially Nebraska, The Bee addressed the query to a number of railroad men and financiers. The replies generally indicate the view taken by the men who are near or at the head

President of the Chase National Bank of New York City.

NEW YORK, Sept. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: Complying with your request, it is very evident that the producers of the country are enjoying a maximum degree of prosperity, especially those who produce from the soil. The middle west is the great granary of the nation and it naturally follows that it shares to a greater extent in this prosperity than any other section. There is little or no difficulty in men finding employment, if they so desire. The harvest field during the season affords work for all. It is only the manufacturing centers and transportation centers that seem to have a surplus of labor and a large number of people in enforced idleness.

What I have said with reference to the middle west would seem to apply with especial force to Nebraska, with a wheat crop already harvested estimated at from 45,000,000 to 50,000,000 bushels, and a corn crop, practically assured, of from 190,000,000 to 200,000,000 bushels, and commanding the phenomenal price of 75 cents per bushel and upward. Nebraska, essentially a rural state, must be, if not rolling in wealth, at least enjoying that comfortable and happy degree of independence that gives to life its greatest charm and pleasure. Very truly yours,
A. BARTON HEPBURN.

Cashier Merchants' National Bank of Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, Sept. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: Speaking in a large way your state, I imagine, clears most of its business through the city of Chicago, while the east has evidence of the development of business in your state in its handling of the very heavy drafts made against both agricultural and packers' shipments, as also in the purchase of paper representing a rather generous credit extended, particularly to the packing interests, and direct connections between Nebraska and the seaboard states are not, I imagine, very extensive. It is possibly unfortunate that this should be true, as with a better understanding and a freer interchange of thought it is quite possible that less would be heard of the guaranty of bank deposits, and other "quack" remedies sought to be administered by those who apparently have no scientific knowledge of the disease they would treat. Very truly yours,
WILLIAM INGLE.

President of the Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank of Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: It seems to me the middle west is in a very strong position for continued growth in population and wealth. The farms of the west do more for the prosperity and success of the country than does the aggregate of all our other interests. Nebraska is a growing state, already having a large population. Its state banks nearly double those of Pennsylvania. Its bankers, some of whom I have had the pleasure of meeting, are men of wide experience and sound financial opinions. Very truly yours,
H. W. LEWIS.

President of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway.

CHICAGO, Sept. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: It is perfectly safe to say that business conditions in the west and southwest are better than those in the territory further east. In this part of the country we are not so dependent upon the manufacturing interest; but the manufacturers cannot hope to get into full blast again until the railroads are able to order liberally the things for which they are in good times the largest customers. When we order rails we set everything in motion back to the ore mines; when we order cars, not only the ore and coal mines are busy, but also the sawmills. Not less than 35 per cent of the total freight tonnage of the United States is created by orders placed by the railway companies, and the larger question the country now has to face is, shall these interests which produce such a large percentage of the business of the country be allowed to languish, or shall they be permitted to earn enough money to get under headway again?

Good crops alone, and large prices for farm commodities, will not make what we ordinarily call good times in this country; nevertheless the volume of general business is increasing. If the net earnings of the railroad companies bore the same relation to the business done as they did a few years ago I would feel more hopeful of the future. A large railroad business, transacted at less than a reasonable profit, is not all that we need. Yours very truly,
B. L. WINCHELL.

Vice President and General Manager of the Union Pacific Railway.

OMAHA, Sept. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: In response to your request to give you an opinion of the industrial and commercial conditions in the central west, particularly with reference to Nebraska:

The industrial conditions of the central west, referring particularly to the territory through which the Union Pacific railroad operates its lines, with the present outlook for crops and the satisfactory flow of immigration, presents a most satisfactory and inviting future, and is particularly beneficial at this particular time in view of the discouraging outlook which only recently preceded. With the rational consideration of matters affecting the public or general interest and individual and intelligent application in whatever business engaged, the preponderating influence in social and commercial and agricultural features will steadily develop to an extent that will make these states not only influential in their own immediate territory, but constantly growing more influential, industrially and commercially in national influence and on national questions. No one interest can selfishly promote its own benefits without detriment to others; co-operative work will produce the most advancing conditions for all and the successful foundation of a commercial form of government is to have all to be willing to carry out their share of an equitable distribution of the so-called burdens and in the same proportion participate in the prosperity.

What the state needs is further development and millions can yet be expended which will produce many more millions in return. The confidence of investors is always attracted in directions where commercial sanity exists and with this condition thoroughly developed all residents can gradually establish home comforts, independence and good citizenship. Yours very truly,
A. L. MOHLER.

General Manager Northwestern Railway Lines in the West.

OMAHA, Sept. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: The industrial and commercial conditions of the central west will continue to forge ahead and nothing can prevent it.

The state of Nebraska already has its reputation fixed as an agricultural and grazing state. Advanced methods in the tilling of the soil and improvement in the breeding and raising of cattle, sheep and hogs will doubtless continue and increase the reputation of the state as a field for the pursuits of agriculture and stock raising. A trained intellect tends for better results from farming and stock raising as well as in other vocations. Nebraska is awake to the needs of advanced and technical training for the highest success in these pursuits. Its chief educational institution is supplying this need, which means an easy and gradual increase in the spread and growth of these activities.

The average citizen of the central west, not living or traveling within the bounds of Wyoming, has no idea of the possibilities of that state. Such person is probably equally uninformed of the active effort being put forth to develop natural resources. National and state governments and private enterprises are united in the endeavor to conserve the waters of the state. The Boysen dam and Morton irrigation projects in Fremont county and the LaPrele project in Converse county are gradually changing the deserts to food-producing regions. This is but a prelude to the great industrial campaign which within the next decade will be approaching the full flush and pride of its strength. The natural resources of that state are so varied and abundant as to almost baffle prophecy as to which shall contribute most to the prosperity certain to

abound. At the present time the prospects for copper output from the Copper mountain district appear liable to equal, if not go beyond, anything heretofore resulting from copper mining in the United States. The Williams-Luman copper mine, located in this district, is beyond a prospect—it is an actual producing mine, with unlimited supply of ore, having a copper value of from \$40 to \$80, of from \$5 to \$10 in gold and \$1 to \$5 in silver per ton. Near by is the Boysen dam approaching completion. From waters impounded by it will come the power for operation of copper and other mining prospects that have been located in this district, and for the moving of the machinery of manufacturing enterprises, as well as afford water for irrigation.

In the South Pass or Atlantic City district, about twenty-five miles south of Lander, there are several mines and mining prospects of more or less promise, and the mineralized district seems to be pregnant with all kinds of precious mineral.

Coal is found in abundance throughout Wyoming and is being actively mined at various points on the Chicago & Northwestern railway.

There is no need of mentioning the great stock ranges from which thousands of carloads of sheep and cattle are shipped annually, moving principally to the markets at Omaha, Sioux City and Chicago.

The Belle Fourche irrigation project, near Belle Fourche, S. D., is being constructed by the government, and when completed will irrigate and put under cultivation 100,000 acres of excellent land located on both sides of the Belle Fourche river in Butte and Mead counties, South Dakota.

The crops that can be profitably grown are all kinds of grains, potatoes, sugar beets, alfalfa, hardy fruits and garden truck. Wheat grass, or the native hay, also produces an abundant crop when watered and sells for a high price.

The lands partly belong to the public domain and partly are deeded lands. The public lands can be secured as homesteads by the settlers. The average irrigable area on these homesteads is eighty acres. The land, when in cultivation, will be worth from \$75 to \$100 per acre and the crops produced will no doubt pay a good interest on this amount. An excellent chance for a man to secure a home and pay for the same from his crops.

The Black Hills region from its mines continues to put forth wealth seemingly unexhaustible.

The development in the state mentioned reflects future increase of population and the establishment of industrial communities, cities and villages. All these must in the end rely upon food-producing soil. Nebraska should appreciate its advantage. Any existing metropolitan city of the middle west, if it continues to grow in population and prosperity, must keep in touch with things that are doing in the regions named. F. A. WALTERS.

President of the Chicago Great Western Railway.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Sept. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: You ask me for my personal opinion of industrial and commercial conditions in the central west, with especial reference to Nebraska.

There can be no doubt but, compared with two years ago, industrial and commercial conditions in the central west are, to use the word most commonly used, "depressed."

The human mind in the individual and in the aggregate seems to be possessed at certain periods with a spirit of optimism, followed by a spirit of pessimism, to be followed again by a spirit of optimism, and so on in eternal round. From about 1895 to 1907 the spirit of optimism was abroad in the land; since then the spirit of pessimism has been in possession, which in a short time will be followed by another period of optimism.

Why the human mind should be thus affected is beyond my power to tell. I simply note the fact; let wiser men tell the reasons.

If all the people would
Just walk around the square,
Fill their lungs with God's fresh air
And come back again and hope,
The "depression" would be gone.

A. B. STICKNEY.

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