The rising flood of Dakota corn flows out upon the plains

THE earliest pioneers halted at the far fringes of the forest, startled at the vastness of the rolling prairieland that swept away to the sunset. Startled and awed by this mysterious meadowland, carpeted with wild flowers, streaked with sparkling rivulets and the broad channels of great rivers! Amazed at the birds that sang and nested there, and the endless herds of bison grazing in grass that grew waist-high over thousands of miles of treeless plains!

Here was the dazzling land of the Dakotas. Today the dark brown soil, rich in all necessary elements, is being submerged under alfalfa and corn—corn, the golden gauge of civilization. For where there is corn there is agricultural stability—silos, milch cows, pure-bred cattle, hogs, poultry, a complete diversification that raises the standards of living and insures against the depression that often follows one-crop failures.

CHARACTERISTICS: The eastern Dakotas constitute a geographical entity that is a continuation of the rich plains of Iowa and Minnesota. It is simply newer country rapidly taking on the characteristics of the old. Southeastern South Dakota is one of the richest corn areas in the world. From this point the flood of corn moves northwestward, giving place by degrees to wheat and flax and the open range. Farms dot the prairie even in the remotest parts; and thriving towns are springing up rapidly. Abundant deposits of good coal!

INDUSTRY: The industry of the region is based almost entirely on its agriculture. About 80% of the population of the eastern Dakotas is agricultural. The industries centering in cities like Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Fargo, Aberdeen, are chiefly packing livestock products, distributing agricultural implements, shipping grain and distribution and maintenance of transportation.

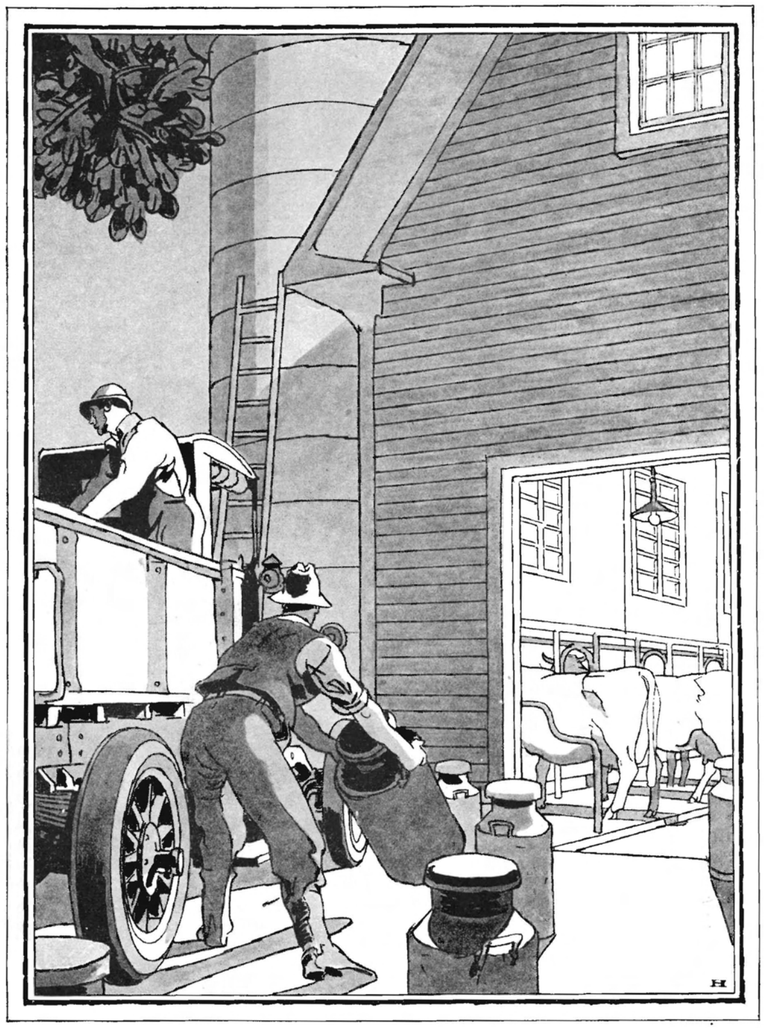
AGRICULTURE: South Dakota, as a state, though 36th in population, ranks 8th in corn production, 4th in spring wheat, 5th in barley, 3rd in flaxseed, 5th in oats, 4th in rye and 1st in wild hay. These are the leading growing crops, though the yield of a variety of other crops, principally alfalfa and clover, is very high. Cattle are raised at high profits because of the cheapness of forage.

CULTURE: The Dakotas have existed as states for only 36 years. Modern ideas, therefore, govern their aspirations. Community life is very strong, and the interest paid to education is striking. Education is provided for everyone in the state, with special provisions for the transportation of children living at a distance from schools and advanced education for those who have no high schools in their vicinity. The state colleges, normal schools and technical institutions have a high reputation. All leading religious denominations are represented in the larger communities throughout the region.

The Corn Palace

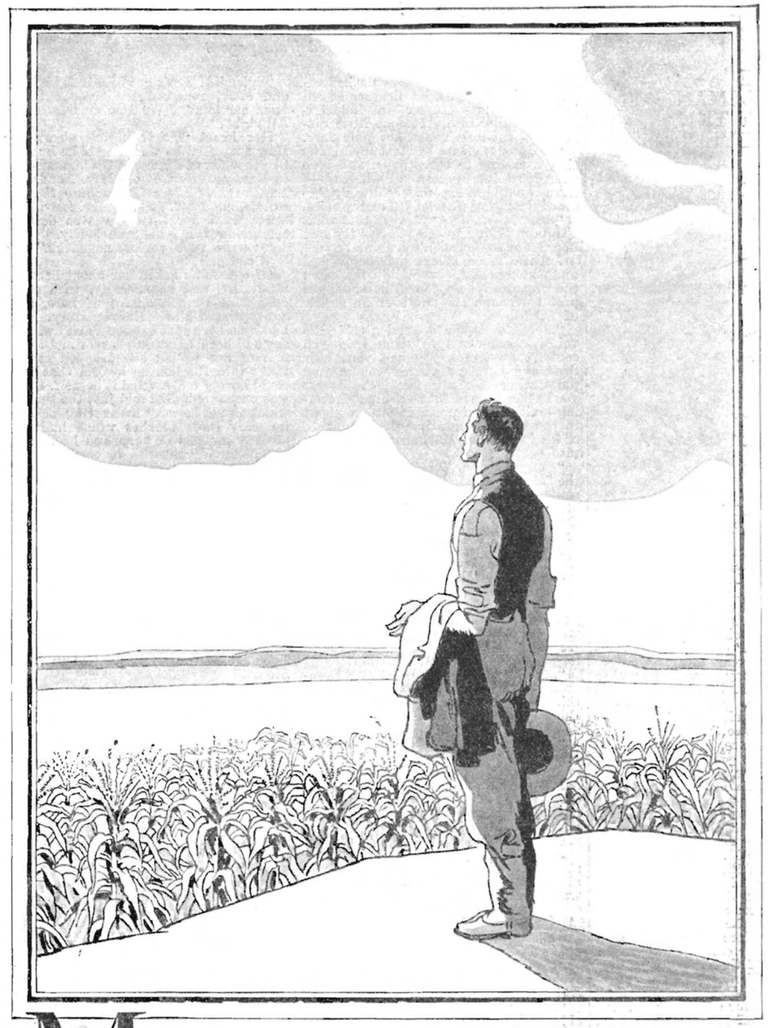
Nothing is more expressive of the character and spirit of this region than the Corn Palace at Mitchell. This remarkable institution developed spontaneously as a community expression of joy at the completion of the harvest. Architecturally the building is unique, its outer walls being covered with elaborate mosaics laid in natural colors in harvest corn and grain. A festival is held here for a full week, and visitors come from many parts of the United States. This prairie town raises a fund of about $40,000 to entertain guests and visitors, and the best talent procurable is brought thousands of miles.

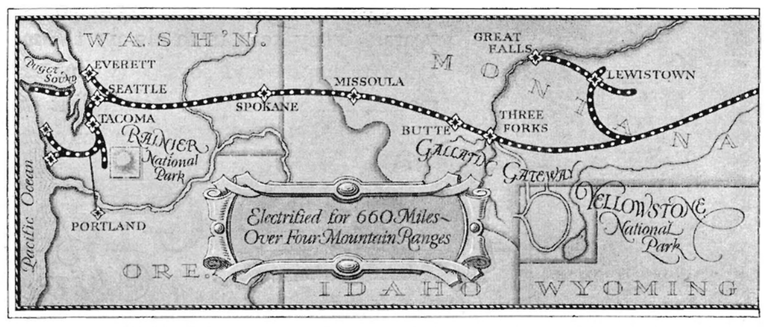
The Dakotas are young—virile—boiling with energy and ambition and new ideas. As rapidly as tractor plows can turn the virgin sod new wealth is being created. The present generation is bound to see tremendous expansion in industries and agricultural wealth.



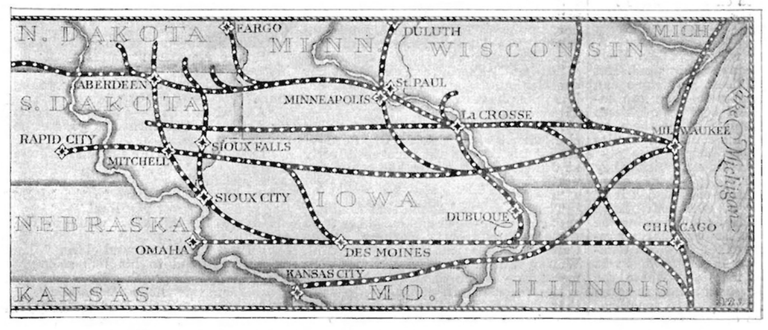
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