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The Lignite Test.

The report of the North Dakota lignite test made at the Walter A. Wood Harvester works, St. Paul, the latter part of April, has been made public by the St. Paul chamber of commerce, and is not as favorable to the North Dakota fuel as its friends and advocates could wish. The results of the various tests show that the value of the lignite as compared with Youghiogheny screenings is about 50 per cent. They show also that in burning the lignite a larger boiler power is necessary to get the same results than in burning Youghiogheny coal. The boilers were the Stirling water tube type, and the draft was that afforded by chimney, varying from .3 to .4 of an inch of water. The grate bars were not changed, they being such as the company uses in burning Youghiogheny screenings. It may be, and probably is, a fact that better comparative results would have been obtained from the lignite had it been burned by forced draft; this, however could not be arranged for. It may also be that a special grate adapted to the burning of lignite would have produced more satisfactory results.

While the figures obtained from the tests which have been made by this committee are not such as would show that lignite would be an economical fuel for localities far distant from the mines, as compared with Youghiogheny coal, they yet show that in localities reasonably near the lignite mines, and the freight to which therefore would be small, lignite can be advantageously used.

The committee directed special attention to the fact that in burning lignite coal there is an almost entire absence of smoke, the carbon appearing to be thoroughly consumed.

Soo & Sue Sound right but they don't look right for **SIoux CITY** through which **The North-Western Line** runs Superb Pullman Sleepers between Minneapolis, St. Paul and Omaha.

Does Farming Pay ?

A correspondent of the Agricultural Epitomist has the following remarks on the question as to whether farming pays :—

If a merchant in the city is able to earn a competency of \$3,000 to \$5,000 a year he is considered wealthy by most people, yet this entire sum is often expended in providing the ordinary comforts of living, and at the end of the year he is in proportionate progress but little ahead of the well-to-do farmer who has not been compelled to pay a rent of several hundred dollars a year for his home, but, rather, has got his living from the homestead as he went along. Farm life is self sustaining and preservative. A young man in the country working at \$1 per day and board is proportionately better off and more independent than a clerk in a city on \$700 a year, who has to expend \$500 for a living. One can save at the end of the year just as much as the other, and if there are chances in favor of either for obtaining a competency, they are in favor of the country boy. Any farmer who can support himself on a farm comfortably and make it pay a net income of 3 to 5 per cent on its cost, is far ahead in competence of a man who lives in a city on a magnificent salary and who has to spend it all for life and appearance. It is easy to figure that not one farm product is grown with profit. One may prove falsely that it is a losing business to live at all, and that no economical man can afford to rear a family.

When the interest on the cost of the farm, the time of the farmer, the value of the manure, the taxes on the house and woodland, and everything else, are all charged to the crops, the farmer ought to be bankrupt. Nevertheless he finds a little money in his pocket as a surplus.

There is a story of a mathematical captain who defeated armies and gained victories by computation; and farmers are ruined by crazy arithmetic, for every crop grown is shown to be raised at a loss. And yet we live along, and no honest farmer gets acquainted with the sheriff,

or ends his days in a poor house. But, on the other hand, the farmers are the bone and sinew of the country, upon whom all other classes of the people depend, and then they are the most independent class of people in the world. Very few clerks ever become wealthy, for to pass into steady employment and good salary your merchant requires you to pass in popular society, so as to draw custom. To do this you must be ready with a helping hand for every entreaty that comes around. You can't take a day now and then to rest up, to go hunting or fishing, as you can if you are a farmer.

I get all this from experience—nothing is guessed at. Farmers should give their boys an agricultural education, so that they will know more about business farming; then we would have more good farmers, and I know we would hear less about the farm not paying.

Area of Spring Wheat.

The May report of the Washington department of agriculture says in reference to the possible changes in crop area that a decrease is clearly indicated in spring wheat, with the exception of the newer States, where the influx of immigrants causes an annual increase. From the States which raise spring wheat the following reports have been received from the state agents: Michigan—Area of spring wheat will be decreased. Wisconsin—Farmers will practically abandon spring wheat acreage. Minnesota—Acreage of spring wheat will be decreased from 10 to 15 per cent. Iowa—Wheat and oats will suffer decrease in acreage. Kansas—The low price of wheat is having the effect of reducing the acreage of spring wheat. South Dakota—Less wheat will be sown, but the change will be made gradually. North Dakota—There will be a marked reduction in wheat acreage. Montana—The acreage of wheat will be somewhat increased. Colorado—Wheat acreage will be decreased from 25 to 50 per cent. Idaho—No appreciable change. Washington—Wheat area will suffer reduction,