

IOWA WAS PROSPEROUS IN 1869

Keesville, New York, Nov. 13, 1931.

To THE ANNALS Editor

My Dear Sir:

With this I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I came across in a rare number of a local newspaper of the long ago, the *Essex County Republican*, Keesville, N. Y., September 23, 1869. It may have a little historical value. I am sending it on for your files.

Yours cordially,

S. G. AYERS

Librarian Emeritus of Garrett Biblical Institute.

Iowa Falls, Iowa, Sept. 15, 1869.

Mr. Editor:

In spite of unfavorable weather, and frequent rains, grain of all kinds will give more than a middling yield. Wheat as far as threshed shows an average of between 20 and 30 bushels to the acre, while some new lands will yield over 30. Oats never were better. Hops are yielding enormously. Some of the farmers are selling their wheat for 90 and 93 cents per bushel; others confident of a higher price, refuse to sell at that. Land is "quiet but firm, with an upward tendency," mostly in the hands of actual settlers.

The Iowa Falls and Sioux City R.R. is now operated as far as Fort Dodge, by the Illinois Central R.R. Co., and the remainder will be taken possession of as soon as twenty miles on either end of the road is finished. The work is being pushed vigorously forward, both west from Fort Dodge and east from Sioux City.

It is hoped that before another spring opens the Mississippi and Missouri rivers will have another band of connection. Some tremble for fear the numerous railroads that are making a spider's net of our Prairie State, will demolish our wood belts, and leave the inhabitants "out in the cold." But let the eye wander over the inhabited part of the state, wherever a house is to be seen a thrifty young grove adjoining will also be seen, or perhaps surrounding the house for a protection in winter.

New coal beds are constantly being discovered and worked all over our state. At present mining is done from the slopes along

the valleys of the numerous rivers, but when the demand renders it necessary the coal may be reached by sinking shafts away from the rivers. About us on every side is a country as rich as the sun ever shone on. Whoever would be with us, and have a home in a state so flourishing and so sure to be great, can come as soon as they wish, and Iowa will stretch out her hands in gladness to receive you.

M. E. BROWN.

DISCREDITED LAND TITLES

We hear that sundry land-speculators are perambulating the country, selling land situated in "Carver's Grant," in the North-west region of the United States & extending particularly into the Territory of Wisconsin. This said Grant is pretended to have been made to Carver in 1767 by two Indian Chiefs, (who probably had no right to dispose of it,) in direct contravention of the laws of the civilized nations, and a then recent Proclamation of the British King. Of course, the title is good for nothing, and has been expressingly discredited by both England and the United States; and every body who buy under it will be swindled—unless they pay in Wildcat.—*New Yorker*, May 5, 1838.

CONSOLATION APPOINTMENT

Under a Washington date line of April 24, 1841, the *Iowa City Standard* quotes: Gen. James Wilson, of New Hampshire, was this morning appointed surveyor general of Iowa and Wisconsin. It was at one time expected that he would be appointed governor of Iowa. The general is one of the most distinguished public speakers of the day, stands high in the confidence and good will of the new Administration, has a high reputation in his own state, and will be a great acquisition to these flourishing territories.

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