

# RANDOLPH COUNTY, ILL.

## Something About Southern Illinois—The Crops of Randolph County—The Game Law.

Correspondence of The Chicago Tribune. CHICAGO, July 20.

### EGYPTIAN ABOUT SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

For some cause, Chicago, the metropolis of this great State and of the Northwest, has all but totally neglected to lay claim to the richest and most productive of its territory.

For many years past it has been a common belief among many of our citizens that the period had arrived when they must go elsewhere to find homes for themselves and their families; that Illinois had passed the time that made it attractive to the immigrant; that the new settler must needs seek another field of operations to win his fortune and be happy; that here in Southern Illinois all was occupied; that no more space was left for settlement and the enjoyment of good homes. What a mistake! No more false notion, or rather a want of a correct knowledge of the country, ever existed; for while other States west of us offer rare inducements, our own broad Commonwealth possesses within its border untouched millions of acres that require but little development to supply the wants of hundreds of thousands.

By the course of the Central, the great artery dividing the State north and south, the people of the Garden City have imagined, it seems, that they have taken within their grasp all that is worth having. But not so. In a large measure they have but passed by the immense resources of the country, have left them on the other side to be taken up by other people and by other cities. The tier of counties bordering on the Mississippi, west of the Central Railroad and south of St. Clair County, is among the richest in the State. It is within this territory that the inexhaustible coal fields of Southern Illinois are located, 72,000 acres of which are imbedded in Randolph County alone; it is here where the broad corn fields of "Egypt" lay, a country which never fails to produce in abundance, and whence annually go forth to supply the South and unproductive sections millions upon millions of bushels of grain; it is here, in a few years now, will be found the largest wine vineyards of the United States, excepting, perhaps, California. Already our grape fields are attracting universal attention; in fact, without the fear of contradiction, it is one of the most productive regions of the whole continent, adapted to the production of all the cereals—wheat, in favorable seasons, yielding from twenty-five to forty bushels to the acre, and corn, with anything like fair cultivation, more than one hundred bushels per acre; and grasses, fruits, and vines of the temperate zone, as well as cotton and a great variety of tropical products, and is, in most part, the best natural grazing region of the continent, where herds increase and more rapidly multiply, and at less cost, than in any other section. This is not all. On the uncultivated bottom and hill lands are to be found, in greater abundance than any other part of the State, almost unlimited forests of oak, poplar, cottonwood, cypress, maple, ash, black walnut, and other varieties of wood suitable for ship-building, and useful in the different kinds of wood manufacture.

### EGYPT THE BEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

It is no vain boast to say that "Egypt" stands proudly among those in the front rank of all the favorable sections of the West. As an illustration of this fact, simple though it may seem within itself, speaks volumes of undeniable truth.

Mr. John W. McCormack, an old and highly respectable citizen of Sparta, this county, not long since returned to his home from an extended tour through Missouri and Kansas. Mr. McCormack had removed to Johnson County, Missouri, with a view there to remain; but the country, he says, did not suit him. His object in leaving this county, his old home, was to find a better home, a better and more productive country, but this, he says, he could not do. Mr. McCormack is of the opinion, after making a fair, square search, taking an honest look with an unprejudiced eye over some of the most favored portions of the territory west of us, that "Egypt"—Southern Illinois—is the best country in the world, and no man will ever leave it unless he has become too lazy to work; that none but lazy men will leave this garden spot to better their condition. It is so. In point of wealth and advantages, its immense valuable coal fields; its rich agricultural lands, adapted to all kinds of field products far in advance of the northern counties of our State; its adaptability for the raising of all kinds of fruit, wine vineyards, etc.; its inexhaustible quarries of the very best of limestone, and its close proximity to the great Iron Mountain of Missouri, is, indeed, no vain boast to say that we shall soon proudly stand among those in the front rank of all the favored sections of the West.

Yet, with all this vastness of wealth and promise of future greatness, crowding as it were, upon us, Chicago has turned its back to us, and compels channels to be opened up over and through which all this richness drifts to foreign marts of trade and commerce. It is into the lap of the Chicago merchants all the productions of this great country should flow, and thence be distributed to the world. But if her people persist in denying themselves the advantages and privileges they might and ought of right enjoy, it is their own fault and not ours, and other cities do and will continue to reap the harvests that legitimately belong to her.

Can Chicago, in the future as in the past, get along without supplies from our immense coal deposits, the most extensive and the purest in the known world, yet undeveloped for the want of enterprise and the application of capital? Can Chicago afford to allow the rich, limitless productions of our immense spreading grain fields, fruit orchards, in a few short years not to be equalled anywhere, wine vineyards, stone quarries and extensive forests of unsurpassed timber, find a market elsewhere? Can Chicago afford to pass this immense wealth, legitimately her own, over into the hands of other cities, other interests, to enjoy, without a struggle? It is thought not, and the people of this section of the State desire and ask that the wealth of Chicago see to it that a straight line railroad soon be constructed to reach the coal fields the iron of Missouri, and other great interests anxiously waiting development. We say to the capitalists of Chicago come, and we will welcome you with all the aid at our disposal to open up this great country yet in its infancy.

### THE CROPS OF RANDOLPH COUNTY.

UPON THE PRODUCTIONS OF THE COUNTY hinge all the vitality and life of every other interest. When the farmers reap sparingly trade and commerce languishes, and the business of the great cities of the world, for the time, move slowly; hence the importance of a correct knowledge of what each locality is furnishing for the constant demands for support and trade.

The wheat crop, while, perhaps, it is not yielding the number of bushels anticipated in the early part of spring, the turn-out will be good, almost an average, the county over, and the quality of the grain, generally, is pronounced excellent. Randolph County will not fall short this season in its exportation of flour, but rather foot up an increase at the end of the year, from the fact that new farms are constantly being opened up and put under cultivation.

Oats and grass, from the effects of the early frosts, may not turn out as liberal as was expected, but it can be safely stated that no one will suffer for the want of these necessary productions.

The breadth of land put in corn this season is somewhat greater than for some years past, and the manner of preparing the soil, seemingly, better calculated to insure a heavy yield. At any rate, all over the county corn promises a greater abundance than for a number of years previous, and the chances are that Randolph County's corn crop will fairly astonish our own people. The corn crop in the Mississippi bottoms, immediately over the Mississippi, ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> this year will also be immense.

Peaches and apples will turn out fair, although not a full crop. Grapes, in many localities, never promised finer. Some vineyards will yield heavily. The Concord and Virginia seedling are the varieties mostly raised about here, and our vine-growers say they are the best for this soil and climate. That portion of Randolph County lying next to the Mississippi, and on up to Prairie du Rocher—the northwest part—is especially adapted to the growing of grapes, and the day is not far away when we shall have some of the best and most extensive vineyards in the United States.

Potatoes, no doubt, have suffered from the ravages of the bug, but it is still believed that we will have enough and to spare.

Fat cattle, from some cause, are scarce, and rule high. Hogs, however, are plenty, and it is believed now that pork this coming fall will be exceedingly low.

The General Assembly, last winter, under the provisions of the new constitution, enacted the following law, which went into effect on the first day of this month:

SEC. 1. That it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to hunt with gun, dog, or net within the enclosed grounds or lands of another, without first obtaining from the owner, agent, or occupant of such enclosed grounds or lands, his, her, or their permission to do so.

SEC. 2. Any person or persons violating Section 1 of this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not less than \$5 or more than \$50 for each offence; and shall also be liable for any damage done to the fences, crop, stock, or premises of any owner, agent, or occupant of such enclosed grounds or lands, and in default of payment of any such fine and costs the court shall imprison such person or persons convicted in the county jail of the county in which such misdemeanor may have been committed, for a term not less than one day nor more than six months, in the discretion of the court: Provided, any such person shall be discharged at any time from such imprisonment upon the payment of such fine and costs. No prosecutions under this act shall be instituted except by the owner, occupant, or tenant of the enclosed premises upon, or his authorized agent.

SEC. 3. One-half of all such fines collected by virtue of Sec. 2 of this act, shall be paid into the common school fund of the district in which the offence shall have been committed, and the balance to the informer.

The provisions of this act are having the desired effect in this locality. The people generally observe it, and say that it is just what is needed for the purpose that has long been needed.

EGYPTIAN.