

The Kansas picture book

Section 2, Pages 31 - 60

This early picture book of Kansas includes many illustrations promoting Kansas people, places, and events. It may have been funded by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad to promote immigration and settlement.

Creator: Tewksbury, George E.

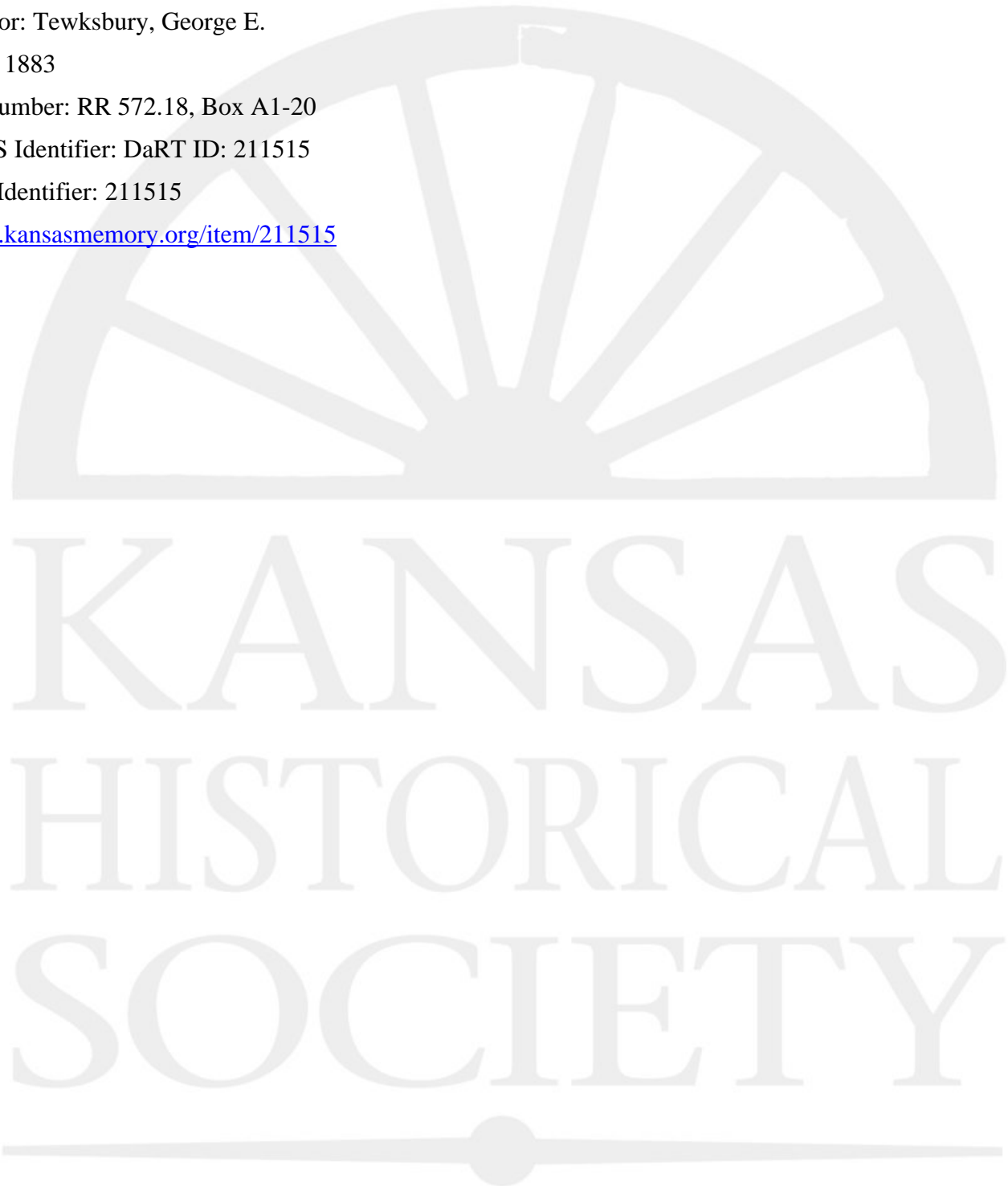
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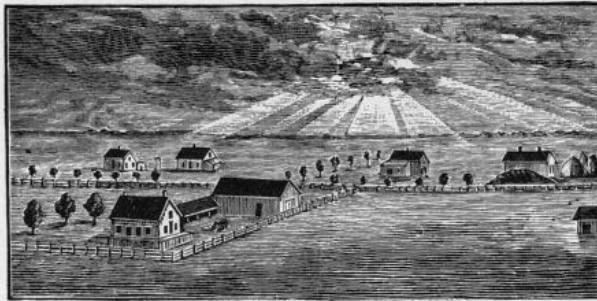
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who was very fond of them, and the sorrow was mutual at parting. But I suppose school advantages will come after some years, and until they do I must make a poor substitute for the old schoolmistress."

"From my experience of frontier life," interrupted the listener, "I should say it would not be so many years as you think before you have your school, nor yet so many before you have repaired the losses that brought you to Kansas."



THE NEW SETTLEMENT.

"We had an excellent church at home, and our church relations were of the most kindly sort."

No other words were spoken save good night.

One year later, his camp life ended, the appraiser revisited the scene of that night's

hospitality, which it may interest some readers to know lay a little south of the now flourishing town of Peabody. He had not forgotten his former entertainers, and was interested to know of their success or failure.

The dug-out was gone. On its site stood a trim white cottage. Eighty acres of the land adjoining was fenced and improved. The open prairie, which a year before the coyotes had peopled with their howlings, was now dotted with farm houses.

A warm welcome awaited him. Again the talk turned on home affairs—the change in the aspect of things was too marked to be passed by.

"We have thought often lately"—it was the father who spoke this time—"of what you said to us on that pleasant Sunday night twelve months ago. We are doing well in Kansas, as you predicted. The store which you see from the window is mine and not far off is a post-office." A school-house was near.

"You see that," said the wife, pointing toward it with pride, "and do you remember what I told you about the favorite teacher back in Michigan?"

"Yes," came the assenting answer, "I do, and I remember."

"Well, the old schoolmistress is here, and she teaches our children. And do you recollect my words about our former church? Already we have a congregation organized, and services are held each Sunday in the school-house, with the old pastor to lead in praise and prayer. And in these houses around us are many, if not most, of all the old friends we left in Michigan."

This is all the story. It is true to the letter, and proves for the thousand-and-first time what none of us who have lived long in the world would ask to have proved, that truth is stranger than fiction.

SCHOOL BELLS.

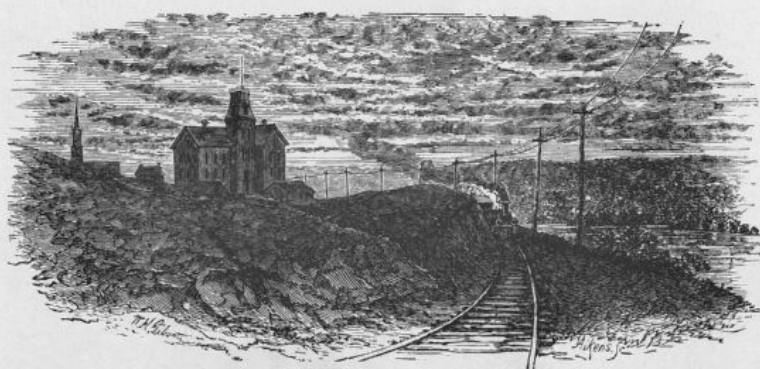
THOSE great civilizers, the school house and locomotive, have wrought their wonders in Kansas. In the whole stretch of the Upper Arkansas Valley there is no section, or quarter section, even, of land so much out of the world that a school house is not within practicable distance. Throughout the Valley the little white knowledge-boxes everywhere add beauty to the natural loveliness of the prairie scene, while in the larger cities the public school buildings are substantial, commodious and elegant. It is believed in



KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY.

Kansas that children well taught in the needful branches of learning make better men and women. They certainly make happier ones. It is believed that an education is the best worldly inheritance a parent can give his children. Colleges and seminaries flourish. The State University is located at Lawrence, and for such as wish to pursue their studies beyond the common school and academic courses, here is a most excellent institution with competent teachers,

offering all the advantages of collegiate instruction for a small tuition. The State Industrial College at Manhattan affords a complete and systematic course of great practical value. Closely adjusted to the course of study is industrial training in several of the arts, to which each student is required to devote at least one hour a day. A student following a single line diligently through a four years' course gains the essentials of a trade, and a reasonable degree of



THE MODERN KANSAS FORT.

skill. One eighteenth of all the land in the state has been donated by the general government for school purposes. The lands already disposed of have realized a permanent school fund of \$2,500,000. The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad Company contributes no small amount toward the school buildings, and is constantly helping in the support of the schools, for the whole body of its splendid land grant is taxed the same as it would be were settlers on the land.

FOREST AND FRUIT TREES.

THE timber in Kansas, except where trees have been planted, is found principally along the banks of streams, the timber belts growing narrower and lighter towards the west. The native trees include black walnut, hickory, cottonwood, oak, sycamore, hackberry, elm, maple, willow, ash, box elder, and locust, and the wood is used both in manufactures and for fuel. Some varieties make timber large enough to burn in five years from planting. Many of the early settlers get abundant fuel from trees of their own growth. In a few years more we may safely predict that the supply of fuel from cultivated timber in Southwestern and South Central Kansas will be sufficient for the wants of the population. A ton of coal and a cord of good wood bring about equal prices in the market. Osage orange is universally used for hedges. The cost to the farmer is nominal, and in four years from the time of planting, such a hedge will successfully turn stock.

Timber culture in Kansas has been encouraged by state enactments, as well as by act of congress. At first tree planting was attended with but little success, but with experience better results have followed, and there are now many counties dotted with miniature forests of from one to thirty acres on a farm. Since the settlement of the state, 140,000 acres of forest trees have been set out, the majority of them under the timber culture act, although a number of thousand have been started by farmers and others who had no timber claim. The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad Company employed a forester for several years, who, to settle the question whether trees could grow to the extreme western limits of Kansas, planted many thousand cuttings, which have since grown well, and now beau-



A YEAR'S GROWTH.

tify the towns along the line of its road. An extended reference to his work is found in the "Report on the Forestry of Mississippi Valley and Tree Planting on the Plains," made by special commission to the Commissioner of Agriculture at Washington. As prairie fires become less frequent, and the hygrometric condition improves with the advance of civilization, the wooded areas extend by self-planting. There are no data to show how great this spontaneous



PRODUCTS OF THE "TREELESS PRAIRIE."

growth has been, but the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, from whom other statistics have been obtained, makes a rough estimate of 20 per cent. of the number of acres.

The number of fruit trees in the state is as follows:

	Bearing.	Non-bearing.
Apple	3,028,110	3,590,333
Pear	97,369	164,302
Peach	5,983,140	4,089,803
Plum	293,474	339,516
Cherry	764,498	756,576
Total	11,169,597	8,940,931
		11,169,597
GRAND TOTAL OF FIVE VARIETIES		20,110,128

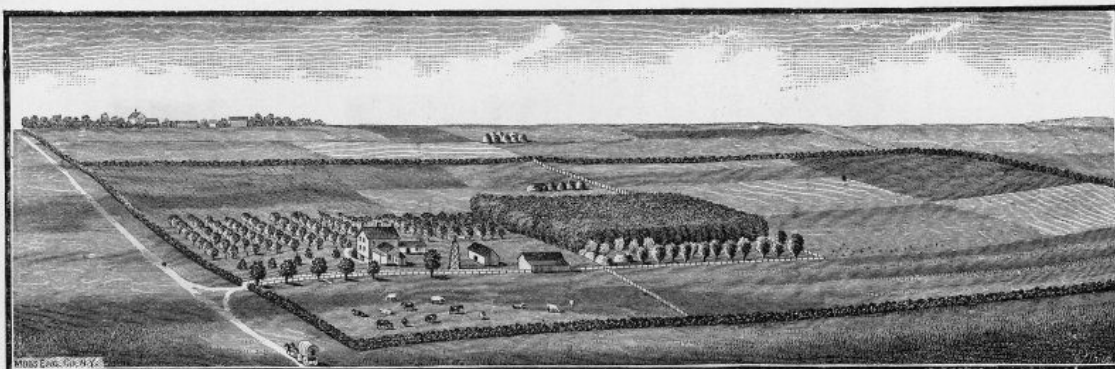
This is a tolerable showing for a new and treeless state "that won't grow anything"—10,000,000 peach trees and 6,500,000 apple trees, and more than half of them in bearing.

PRETTY WELL, THANK YOU.

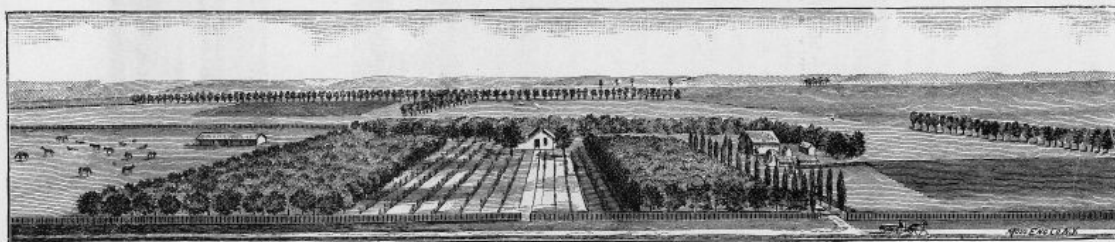
AN Illinois editor came to Kansas last summer to look around. Like everybody else who comes, he saw a great deal that surprised him. His own confession is that he came with a prejudice, expecting to find Kansas the ragged edge of civilization, with a low class of settlers ready to pull up and move at a moment's notice, provided they could stop shaking long enough. What did he find? A people and civilization commensurate with the possibilities of what he calls the best agricultural and stock raising country he had ever seen. "No ague, no shakes, no lawlessness, good society, good schools and churches, the people happy, and no graveyards to speak of." This gentleman was the editor of the *Bloomington Appeal*, whose travels "have taken him over at least two-thirds of the United States." He was right, too, about it. On the beautiful upland plateau of western Kansas, sloping from the west towards the rising sun, malaria and its pestiferous train of ills are unknown. If this book were an advertisement of St. Somebody's oil or Dr. Longlock's compound elixir of concentrated catnip (name blown in every bottle, none others genuine), we might publish testimonials from many men who have been relieved or wholly cured of pulmonary disorders by moving to Kansas. Instead, we will quote from a private letter written by an old army surgeon who left a thirty-years' practice in New York state and came to Larned two years ago. "I moved here," he says regretfully, "expecting lots of malarial and rheumatic patients, but I have found the region very healthy, and nothing to fill the pockets of the physician." If the doctor had turned his time and undoubted talents to sheep, cattle, or hog raising, or to diversified farming, he would, although an old man, have found something to fill his purse. Yes, we've got the ozone.



LOOKING DOWN THE WALNUT VALLEY FROM GURRY HILL



PRAIRIE FARMS OF JOHN SEGRIST AND ALEX. DADE, NEAR HUTCHINSON.



FRUIT AND GRAIN FARM OF PETER SCHNACK, NEAR LARNED.

THE BOUNTY OF THE EARTH.

MEN have sometimes murmured because they have failed in Kansas, usually through their own waywardness, to accomplish all they pictured in hours spent a-dreaming, instead of at the plow or by the sheep-fold; on the other hand, men have told stories of their prosperity here that do rival the recitals of the Vizier's Daughter. But whatever may be said of the fertility or poverty of Kansas soil—and on this question there can be but one opinion—the abundance or lack of seasonable rains, the heat or cold of the climate, the gentleness or fierceness of the winds, it is certain, as the Hon. John A. Anderson observes in his sketch of Kansas Agriculture, that the best evidence on these and all other points of practical interest to the farmer is that furnished by the crops actually raised or failed to be raised. There is abundant material to draw from in this matter, for the state has machinery for collecting the facts and making them plain. Yet in writing about the products of Kansas farms it is necessary to deal with figures of great



WHEAT LANDS IN PAWNEE COUNTY.

magnitude. It is difficult to realize the meaning of millions; it is easier to count by tens, or even by thousands, but Kansas has grown out of her thousands as a winsome girl grows out of her 'teens.

The state raises every field crop that will grow in a temperate climate, and many, like cotton, that are indigenous to semi-tropical regions. Wheat, corn, oats, rye, sorghum, broom-corn and flax are staples. The value of the splendid and abundant grasses, wild and tame, is incalculable, as no record can be made of the uncounted tons gathered by the farm animals themselves in every season of the rolling year. The grass crop, green and dry, is worth more than any other in this country, and Kansas is contributing her share. The



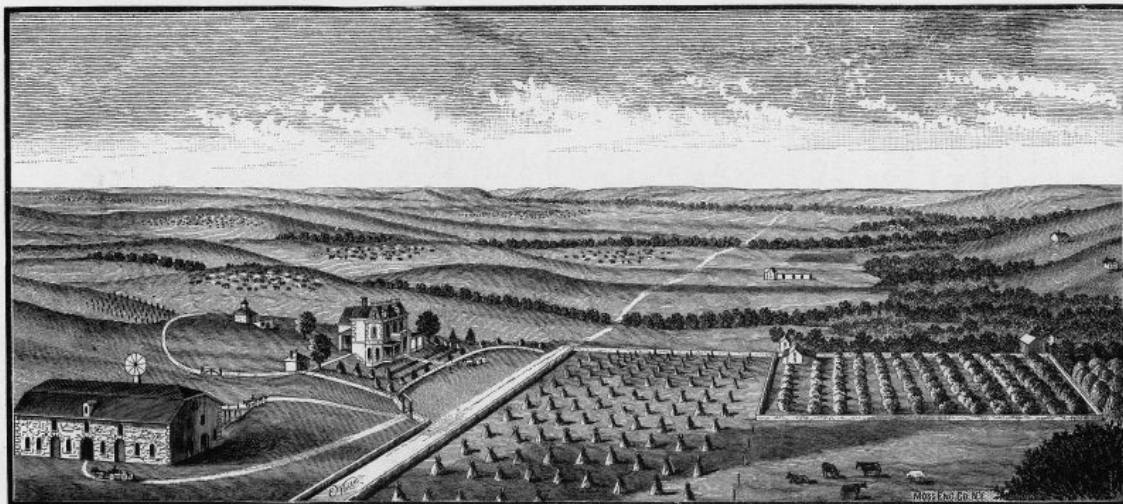
NEW FARM ON COW CREEK, RICE COUNTY.

increase in the breadth of grass lands is one of the most striking features of her agricultural returns. The total value of farm products in 1882 exceeded \$150,000,000. This is the latest computation, supplied by the State Board of Agriculture, as it appears in the new biennial report, now passing through the press. Of this aggregate \$108,000,000 is put down to field products, \$14,000,000 to increase in the value (not the value itself, be it remarked) of farm animals, \$27,500,000 to products of live stock, \$500,000 to market produce, and over \$1,500,000 to horticultural products.

The wheat area of the year covered upwards of 1,500,000 acres, yielding a product of 35,000,000 bushels, an average yield of twenty-three bushels to the acre. 4,500,000 acres were under corn, and the product was 157,000,000 bushels, which ranks Kansas fourth in the Union as a corn-growing state. 529,000 acres sown to oats produced 22,000,000 bushels, and the average yield may be easily worked out. Allusion is made elsewhere to the magnitude of the broom-corn and sorghum crops, and the profits thereon. 56,700,000 pounds of the former were marketed. The product of rye amounted to 4,450,000 bushels, and of flax to 1,650,000 bushels. 300,000 bushels of sweet potatoes were dug. Cotton and tobacco cut a figure among the lesser returns.

It is interesting to note the different scopes of country contributing to this aggregate wealth. To make a general division, the southern half of the state may be set down as being most productive and best suited to general husbandry. Through this prolific section runs the steel backbone of the great Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad. And of the south central counties the Arkansas Valley belt makes a showing that eclipses all the rest. In such matters, figures and the testimony of living witnesses are the only guides on which to base a comparison, and the home seeker, after looking into the matter for himself, cannot come to any other decision than that *there* is the best place for him to build his home. There he may share in the general prosperity which is animating the old Santa Fé trail with a new life, healthier, stronger, and more enduring than when its path through the long reaches of the silent Valley was only a highway for wagon-trains and Indian warriors. There he may grow him a fortune without going into a frigid and inhospitable wilderness. There he may send his children to day school and Sunday school. There he may live his life—and Heaven grant it be a long one—surrounded by the joys and comforts of his new fortune.

One-sixth of the population of Kansas have found homes within the Land Grant of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad. The state has an area of 52,000,000 acres, of which only 11,043,379 are under cultivation. With four-fifths of her land untouched by the plow, Kansas has room for several millions more people, and she will have them—probably in your time and mine, if not, then in our children's.



STOCK RANCH OF S. P. JONES, NEAR STRONG CITY, CHASE COUNTY.



THE JONES RANCH.

RICH men have various ways of enjoying their wealth. Mr. S. F. Jones made his money in Colorado, whither he went from Texas in 1869 to engage in the cattle business. When the ranch and stock at Las Animas, owned by himself and brothers, were sold to the Prairie Cattle Company in 1880, his share of the purchase price amounted to an independent fortune.

A year before this, however, Mr. Jones had moved to Kansas, with the intention of spending the rest of his life amid the comforts which such a state can afford, satisfied that he had found the best place in the West for gratifying a life-long desire to establish a stock-farm for the breeding of blooded cattle. He bought a small farm on Fox Creek, about three miles from Strong City, in Chase county, and commenced buying land of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad. His farm now covers 7000 acres, the whole of which is enclosed by a stone fence five feet high and two and a-half feet thick, costing about \$20,000. The entire tract is well watered, and altogether we may say that this is the best improved ranch in the state.

There are upon it at present about 500 high-grade and thoroughbred cattle, mostly Herefords, Shorthorns, and Polled Angus. One pasture containing 5000 acres last year grazed 1200 head, and the owner estimates that he now has \$3000 worth of steers ready for market. Thirty-eight Hereford bull calves have already been disposed of at \$70 per head. The sales of hogs thus far this season (Spring, 1883), aggregate \$2,500.

In the Spring of 1881 Mr. Jones commenced the erection of the stone residence, barn, and out-buildings, shown in the view of his farm on the opposite page. The material was taken from a quarry on the grounds, and in less than a year the improvements were completed. The residence, standing on a terraced slope facing the east, is a mansion in architecture and appointments. All the principal apartments are supplied with soft and spring water. The floors are laid with Brussels and velvet carpets, while large and costly mirrors, and the selection of appropriate furniture for the various rooms, witness the good taste no less than wealth of the proprietor.

Outside, one hundred feet to the west, is a reservoir with a capacity of 11,000 barrels, fed by three springs several hundred feet distant. From the spring-house an arched underground passage conducts to the kitchen of the house.

The barn is a mammoth structure, 108x60 feet, three stories high, and so

arranged that a four-horse team can drive on to any floor and turn 'round without difficulty. The first story is occupied by the owner's horses and a selection of his best cattle. Among the farm machinery in the building are a feed cutter, corn sheller, corn mill, and threshing machine, all of which can be run at one time if necessary by power furnished by a double wheel, thirty-foot wind engine. Residence, barn, and out-buildings cost \$30,000. A cut stone fence, with iron railings, encloses the house and grounds.

The owner of this vast estate is a man of fifty-six years of age, noted for his integrity, good nature, and unbounded hospitality; an enthusiast in all matters relating, no matter how, to the stock possibilities of Kansas. That he should have made the greater part of his purchase of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad—coming to the state as he did when land was more abundant than it is now, and with the additional advantage which money and a knowledge of the West imply—is much in praise of the railroad lands, and to the credit of the company's way of doing business.



LOOKING UP THE WALNUT VALLEY FROM BISSILL'S POINT.

BROOM CORN.

A PARAGRAPH goes the rounds of the country papers each season, that Kansas broom corn is bringing the highest figures in the Chicago market. Not only does the broom-corn plant grow to greatest beauty and perfection here, but Kansas is among the very few states, if not the only one, which can bring the corn to maturity, and at the same time secure the color. Let the brush turn red and half its commercial value is gone. In southwest Kansas no man who will attend to his business, harvesting his corn at the proper time, can possibly fail in securing a good green color, and



READY TO CUT.

consequently in producing a brush sought after in every market, commanding the highest price both at home and abroad. The secret lies in the climate. Like sorghum, broom corn requires a warm, dry atmosphere; even drought affects it but slightly. This granted, all that is required is a fair intelligence in the handling, and the profit is secure. We need not give figures to show the remunerative character of such a crop, a fact generally recognized by farmers everywhere, but it may be worth while to observe that there is a double profit to the grower, the seed being an excellent grain highly prized by stockmen. The new comer should inform himself of the possibilities of broom corn before deciding on any other crop. It is wise in him, after breaking the sod, to put in a seed that will yield a sure money return in a few months. He may want also to sow an area of winter wheat. In May or June let him plant his broom corn, and it will be ready to harvest by September, with the ground



PLOWING FOR WINTER WHEAT.

in splendid condition for wheat. All through the months of early autumn the manufacturers and dealers are on the ground buying the crop, and there being brisk competition the producer never fails to get a good round price for his corn. We can conscientiously say that Kansas outstrips all other states in this staple, since it grows one-third of the total product of the Union. The value of the crop for 1882, without taking account of the seed, which is worth from twenty-five to fifty cents a bushel, and yields from thirty to fifty bushels per acre, is estimated by the State Board of Agriculture at \$2,552,259.78. McPherson county ranks first, and Pawnee, the center of the wool growing district, second in amount grown. Both these counties are within the A. T. & S. F. land grant limit.



LOOKING SOUTH FROM MARION CENTRE.



A FENCELESS FARM IN SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS.

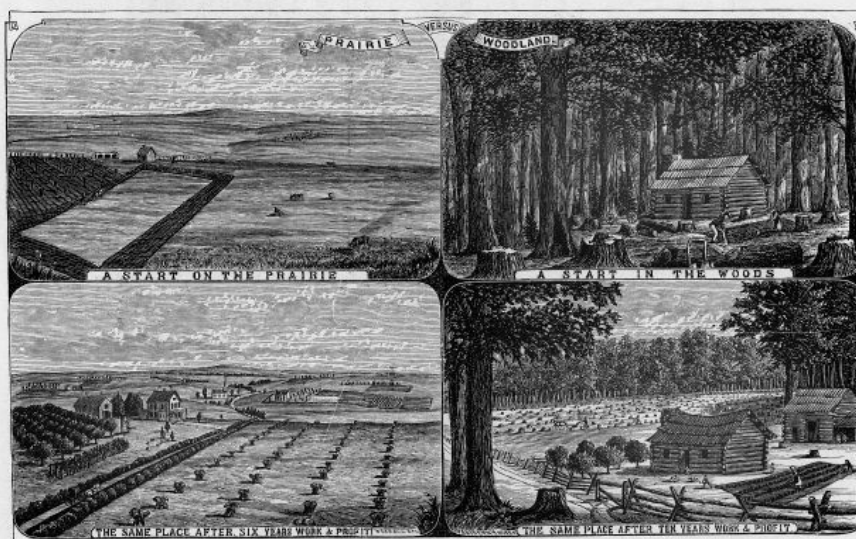


A YEAR'S WORK.

BREAKING prairie is an everyday sight in Kansas, but our picture does poor justice to the scene. Could engraver reproduce on his block the moist smell of the newly-turned earth, which the old ecclesiast declares "is wholesome to the body," or artist picture the dappled beauty of the growing crops alongside, thrusting their green blades up into the golden sunshine? Oh, the glories of a springtime on these prairies! Neither paint nor pen can picture them—the clear air, the soft blue sky, the well defined horizon, the rolling billows of grass, the rare bloom of the early flowers, and in the air the silent yet irresistible murmur of growth, for the earth is glad that man has come to lift the burden of its idleness. There stands the white school-house in the sunlight, repeating over and over again the name of Kansas. It is always a good time to come to Kansas, but the best of all seasons are the spring and summer, for it is then that nature clothes the land in her brightest robe, that all the world may see her.

And here we will turn to more practical things. In the summer of 1880, the Hon. Jas. W. Robinson, of Tremont, Illinois, broke the prairie sod on 152 acres of land in central Kansas. In the following September the sod was re-broken and sown to wheat, $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to the acre. Soon after the wheat was sown Hon. John Fullinwider purchased the land, paying \$1,600 for it, and \$456 (\$3 per acre) for the work of breaking, re-plowing, seed and sowing, making a total of \$2,056 for land and crop. Mr. Fullinwider, when harvest came, gave Mr. A. L. Wood one-third of the crop for harvesting and threshing, and for delivering his two-thirds in El Dorado. The yield was 4,204 bushels—twenty-seven bushels to the acre. Mr. Fullinwider sold his two-thirds of the wheat for \$3,220 in El Dorado. In other words, Mr. Fullinwider paid for his land and all expenses of farming it, and netted \$1,164, in a single year's operations. Mr. Wood sold his third of the wheat to Mr. Fullinwider for \$1,600, and cleared in his little deal about \$800. We could multiply instances if it were necessary, but this one, as the dashing Mercutio said of his wounds, will serve.

There are thousands of acres of land in Kansas just as good as that which produced this wheat, and much of it can be had for a tithe of the poor lands of eastern states. When a purchase is made of the railroad, credit is given with seven per cent. interest.



TELLS ITS OWN STORY.

ANOTHER RESOURCE.

MESSRS. Prairie Dog and Rattle Snake were the first farm-site speculators in Kansas. Dusty little dog and demure speckled owl, having bought out the original firm, now carry on business at the old stand, where customers are treated with the same suspicion as heretofore. The rattlers always objected to the Santa Fé Railroad coming into the Arkansas Valley, and when the stockmen took possession of the buffalo range, they left out of sheer disgust—that is, such of them as could escape.



A LIVELY NEIGHBORHOOD.

The four-footed population of the state is large and abundantly profitable. The Kansan, however, is a man of new resources. Although he has a yearly income of from 35 to 50 per cent. on his cattle and sheep investments—enough, it would seem, to satisfy a reasonable desire—you could hardly guess the latest device for adding to his profits. A company called the “Wichita Prairie Dog Company” has been organized, the object and aim of which, as set forth in



ALONG THE KANSAS RIVER.

THE KANSAS PICTURE BOOK.

51

its corporation papers, is "for the procurement and shipment of prairie dogs, in pairs or by the dozen, to eastern parties who may desire this delightful, cunning, and cleanly animal as a household or yard and garden pet." The price of



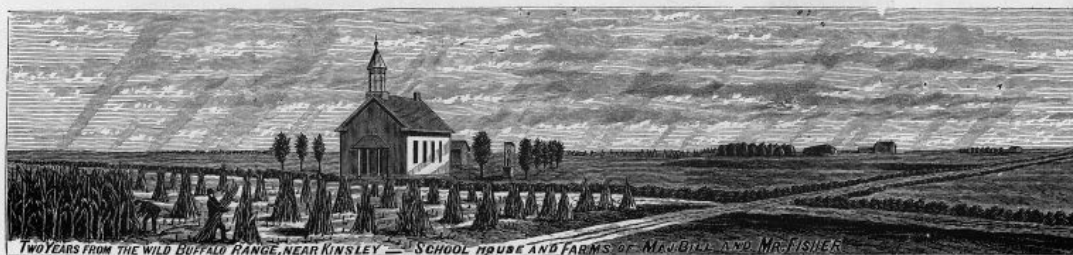
THE ORIGINAL TOWN SITE SPECULATORS.

young dogs will be merely nominal, while fully grown trained animals, with plated collars and ear tinklers, the company expect to express at \$5 per pair.

Gentlemen, the world moves in Kansas.



AN AMERICAN "PATIENCE."



DEVELOPMENT.

THE old order of things giveth place to the new with confusing rapidity in the West. A year is a long time in the history of a western state, and it is not safe to judge to-day by what was a year ago. We believe that the development of Kansas is unmatched anywhere. After the struggle for civil liberty the state leaped ahead, and with varying fortunes has ever since kept on the forward march; therefore it is difficult to-day to write a record of its prosperity which will not be out of date twelve months hence. The census returns were taken in 1880. The full compilation has yet to



THE FIRST CROP.



TWO YEARS FROM THE WILD BUFFALO RANGE — SCHOOL-HOUSE AND FARMS.

appear. So far as Kansas is concerned they can have but a relative and imperfect value. The new West grows while census enumerators sleep over their task. For instance, instead of a corn product of 105,000,000 bushels, which was the yield in 1880, the true figures, as supplied by the State Board of Agriculture, at Topeka, should be 157,000,000. So in wheat there has been a proportionate increase. 17,000,000.



YOUNG BUT LUSTY.

bushels, notwithstanding it represented the aggregate crop of a recent year, must now be multiplied by two to indicate the latest returns. Of oats, Kansas contributes 22,000,000 bushels, instead of 8,000,000, to the harvest. The sheep interest of the state has grown with the rest. The poor lame census bulletins—the very newest of them—are likewise worthless on this industry, except as curiosities. Sheep multiply in the Arkansas Valley even as did the flocks of old, and the farmers get the increase thereof to the profitable advantage of from 30 to 60 per cent. The advance by importation and birth for some years past has been at the rate of 100 per cent. per annum. While such a progression is going on, the census figures remain at 400,000 head. Including this year's lamb crop, the number of



THREE YEARS FROM THE
TREELESS PRAIRIE.



EIGHTEEN MONTHS FROM THE BUFFALO RANGE—AND HAPPY.

these profitable animals in the state now reaches 2,000,000. And so we are running away from our good friends in Washington. The sun may not move, Brother Jasper, of Richmond, notwithstanding, but it is certain all the world except the Census Bureau does, and that Kansas is keeping well to the front.



THE AXTEL PLACE.

One of the accompanying engravings shows the Axtel place, near Sterling. The second year's wheat crop on this farm netted \$10,000. Another, entitled "Three Years from the Treeless Prairie," shows the residence of the Rev. J. B. Schlichter, of the same place. "Eighteen Months from the Buffalo Range—and Happy," is a cut of the farm of G. B. Ketchum, near Kinsley, Edwards county.

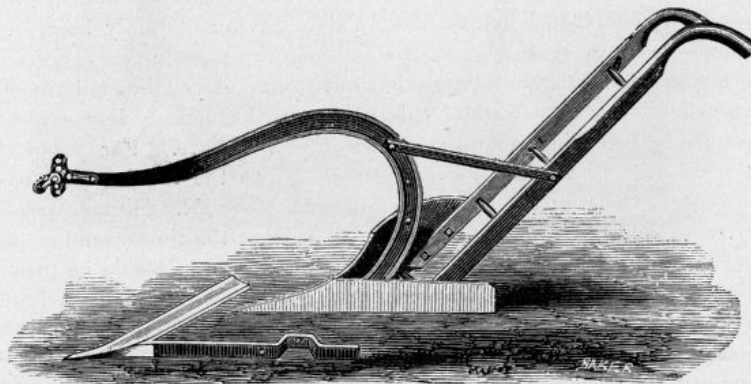


REDEEMING THE "DESERT."

IRRIGATION is doing for Western Kansas precisely what it has done for every other region of the globe where it has been intelligently practiced. The world is too old, and the people know history too well, for an argument to be granted on the subject of its benefits. Ancient and modern nations—Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Persia, China, India, Italy, Spain, and a score more which you may read about in the encyclopædia—have alike recognized them. In the valleys of Mexico and along the Rio Grande the plan of irrigating crops was in vogue long before the Spanish occupancy, and is still the only reliance for a yield of grain, fruit and vegetables. The fame of the ditches in California, Utah, and Colorado, is known round the world. The Mormons have done valuable service for the country in this one industry at least, the results accomplished in Salt Lake Valley having certainly been of signal importance to the western half of the continent.

In Kansas the work is of later date, but it has passed beyond the stage of an experiment—for all efforts of this kind must be more or less experimental at first, under differing conditions of soil and climate. For years the far western counties of the state were turned over to the ranchmen to have and hold forever. Occasionally there were men who *thought*. Horace Greeley was one of these, and he prophesied, now long ago, that the time would come when the rich valleys and broad uplands of the Upper Arkansas would be turned into fields of splendid promise by the spade of the irrigator. Already it is difficult to write dispassionately of what has been achieved. Here is a spot which until lately was looked upon as an impracticable waste, remote from any hope of agricultural or communal development, beyond the possibility of usefulness save as a grazing ground for cattle, a spot apparently slighted by nature and forgotten of man. Look! how the unforeseen comes to pass. See, now, this same tract transformed into a garden spot, yielding crops remarkable even in a state the value of whose farm products in a single year touches \$150,000,000. The western half of Kansas is a beautiful upland plateau, 200 miles long, and along the Arkansas Valley perhaps fifty more in width, averaging 2,500 feet in altitude, latitude corresponding to that of Virginia. In point of healthfulness of climate there is no region in the West to compare with it, and in fertility of soil none to excel it. The soil is a thoroughly decomposed rich clay loam, resting on a magnesian limestone formation, and containing in abundance the choicest elements of plant food, as witness the rich dark green of foliage of growing crops, and the hard white kernel of the grain harvested. This is the

tract pierced by the irrigating ditches, of which there are five now built, extending many miles and watering many thousand acres. The idle Arkansas is a peculiar stream. Its source is near the continental divide in Colorado, where snow lies the whole year, and as it starts from this birthplace and hastens southward, it leaves behind the primitive formation, and enters regions of more recent geological date, encountering a far more easily decomposed rock and a denser vegetation of forests and grasses, and consequently reaches the plains thoroughly charged with fertilizing materials, mainly inorganic in origin. Its water shed and tributaries can only be estimated by tens of thousands of square miles. The fall of the river in Kansas averages six and one-half feet to the mile, so that the work of taking water from it by ditches, and extending the ditches inland, is comparatively easy. The face of the country being smooth, and the slope toward the east continuous, the cost is not large. Owing to the heavy fall the water of the river is easily carried on to the uplands, thus bringing an immense area under moisture.



WHO KILLED THE GREAT AMERICAN DESERT?
"I," SAID THE GRANGER, "WITH MY TEAM AND PLOW,
I KILLED THE DESERT."

Garden City and Lakin, in Finney county, are the chief towns in the irrigable district. There are probably 50,000 acres of land in the vicinity of these places which can be bought for from \$4 to \$10 per acre. In a long and singularly able letter on the success of irrigation at Garden City, Mr. O. Ellison has the following to say to intending home seekers:

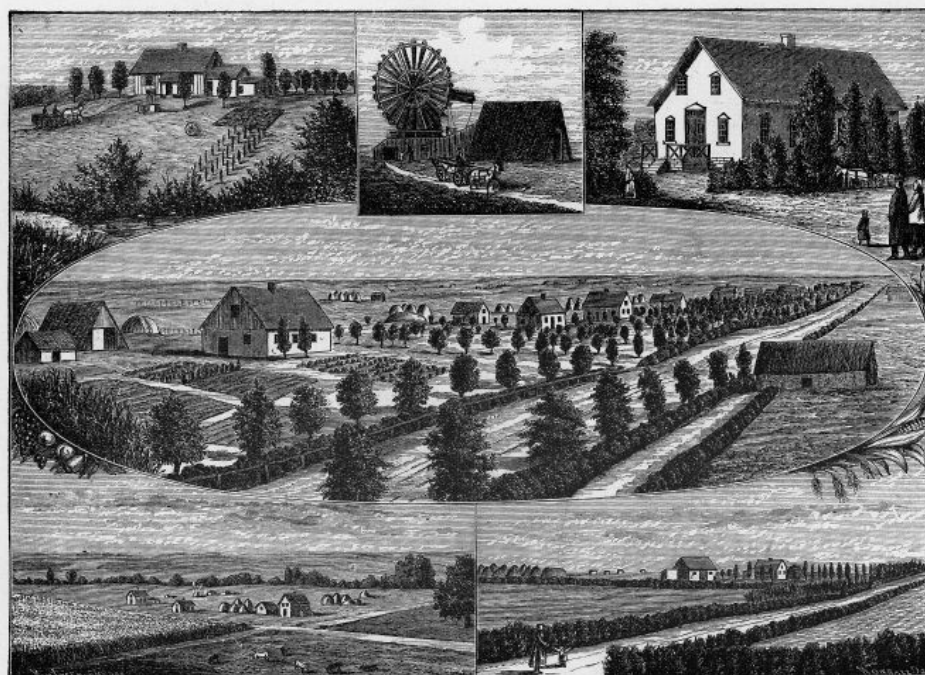
"Irrigation colonies afford many advantages over an ordinary farming community. Throughout Colorado and California it will be found that they have invariably attracted a highly intelligent class of settlers. As these communities grow older they assume the aspect of a suburban town of a larger city.

Schools and churches are more easily maintained, become of a superior class, because this system of farming does away with large, half-tilled farms. Every acre is made to yield its best; hence closer neighborhoods, increased social privileges, town libraries, etc. It is the only farming community in which the vexing problem of keeping the young men and women from a wholesale emigration to the cities is satisfactorily solved. Those who contemplate a move to the Ultima Thule of the extreme Northwest, I respectfully invite to a careful consideration of the claims of the Southwest before starting, whatever a skillfully manipulated advertising bureau may say to the contrary. The Northwest is, and always will remain, the Russia and the Finland of this continent. It is swayed by an autocrat as despotic as any that ever ruled a farmer's home. Spring wheat is the beginning, and also the end of that country. Not a single resource besides this fleeting, isolated one. The Southwest is the Germany and France of our land. In its very heart tower the Rockies, affording us not only



I DIDN'T.

scenery equal to the Alps, but the raw material for an industrial empire such as the world never saw. The Southwest will compete with Great Britain in its coal and iron resources; it will outdo Australia and California in its production of precious metals; it will rival France in fruits and vineyards, and mulberry plantations; it will challenge the rich southeastern plains of Germany in its harvests of cereals and vegetables. While through its entire length penetrates a railway system—the A. T. & S. F. R. R.—already one of the world's great highways, under a management so enlightened and liberal as to have carved out a front rank for itself among the greatest corporate organizations of the age, in the short period of ten years."



MENNONITE SETTLEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS.

FOLLOWERS OF MENNO.

THE famous colony of German and Russian Mennonites have homes in South Central Kansas, where they own and cultivate about 300,000 acres of land, the first purchase of which was made from the A. T. & S. F. R. R. eight years ago. Their farms would be a remarkable sight in any country; in a new state, where the land is prairie-level, and the methods of farming not over thorough, the sight of their fields and orchards, their trim buildings hedged in with mulberry, is like a glimpse of some fair new land of promise. Neat as the Dutch, thrifty as the French, industrious as the Germans, this strange people, who will not go to war nor to law, are in some respects the



A FAVORITE MENNONITE INDUSTRY.