Kansas historical collections

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This seventeen volume series is the first serial published by the Kansas State Historical Society from 1875 until 1928. The publication of the Kansas Historical Quarterly followed in 1931. Volumes 1-10 were officially titled the "Transactions of the Kansas State Historical Society." The title changed to "Collections of the..." beginning with volume 11. The series contains addresses and papers delivered at the annual meetings, biographical sketches, compiled historical information, and transcriptions of select collections in the Historical Society's holdings. The first seven volumes contain biennial reports of the board of directors. Beginning with volume 8 the biennial reports were published separately. Searchable tables of contents and indexes for each volume are forthcoming.

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that are usually found in a story of this type. The setting of the story is at Lawrence and the surrounding country. The author tells of the murder of Dow and Barber, free-state men, at the hands of the proslavery advocates, the "bogus" legislature, the ribaldry of Sheriff Jones and his followers, the peace party at the Free State Hotel, and finally the sack of Lawrence.

Mrs. Muriel Culp Berry has written two short stories of the border-war period. In "Jane Orchard, Heroine," she writes of the guerrilla war of 1862 and Quantrill's raid on Lawrence. The heroine's hair turns white from the fright and anxiety she suffers during the raid. "John Brown's Soul" is a story of the war on the Wakarusa and of John Brown at Lawrence during that time.

Mrs. Margaret Hill McCarter has written two novels that deal with the border troubles in Kansas. "The Price of the Prairie," while it is mainly a novel of the post-bellum period, gives the reader an idea of the struggles of the settlers near the town of Springvale, Kan., before and during the Civil War. The author tells of Quantrill's raid on Lawrence and the visits of bands of ruffians to Springvale after the men of the village have left to fight with the Union forces. Only the old men and the boys are left to protect the town. The boys are only in their early teens, but they bravely assume the burden that is placed upon them.

"A Wall of Men" begins in the middle fifties and pictures the kind of people who first settled in Kansas Territory, and the purpose that brought them here. The setting is around Lawrence and east to the Missouri line. It is a story of the struggle between the free-state and proslavery forces. Each side is determined to win—the free-state settlers by peaceable means, and the proslavery forces by any means possible. The sufferings of the early settlers in this part of the state are vividly portrayed. The Kansas droughts are long and hard to bear, but they are not as terrible as the unreasonable and wanton killing of innocent men by the proslavery forces in the territory. The author emphasizes the courage and fortitude of the free-state women when father, son or brother is waylaid and brutally murdered. The women hold the claims while the men fight for their rights and the freedom of the negro. Lawrence is sacked by Sheriff Jones and his band of outlaws from Missouri, the Wakarusa peace treaty is signed, the two contending forces make merry at a farcical peace party in the Free State Hotel at Lawrence. At the end of two years of vendetta warfare Lawrence is destroyed by Quantrill, yet the free-state settlers do not give up in their determination to make Kansas a free state. John Brown, through his attack on Harper's Ferry, adds his bit to the drama of the early struggle in Kansas. With everything against them the brave free-state settlers hold out in the face of the ill will of Governor Shannon and the president of the United States. Everything points against them, but they finally win out and Kansas enters the Union a free state.

"Free Soil," by Miss Margaret Lynn, is another novel of the struggle to make Kansas a free state. The story begins by telling of the righteous indignation of the New Englanders when they heard of the work of the border ruffians in the interests of slavery in Kansas. Men of the New England States felt that since the territory had been thrown open to slavery the question whether the state should be free or slave should be settled by the citizens. When they heard of the attitude of the Missourians they were incensed and

many of them set out for the new territory in the interests of freedom and avowedly against slavery. The New England Emigrant Aid Society was organized and gave assistance to many of the free-state settlers who came to Kansas during the time of the border troubles. The author tells of the wanton murders of free-state men and of the work of John Brown and his sons in their efforts to help the free-state party and also to free the slaves. The women have an especially hard time of it, as they must remain at home on the lonely prairie while the men are aiding in the defense of Lawrence.

Not all the Missourians in the territory, however, are bad. Many of them mean well, but are unable to control the freebooters, who are in the territory and carry out their depredations in the name of the proslavery forces.

This novel covers substantially the same ground that is covered by Mrs. McCarter in "A Wall of Men." It treats of the same historical incidents but has less of the emotional description that is so characteristic of Mrs. McCarter's novels.

"Marching On," by Ray Strachey, is a recent novel of the years preceding the Civil War. The story begins in the early thirties and ends with the beginning of the struggle between the North and the South. The question of slavery is thoroughly discussed and many of the prominent leaders on both sides are mentioned. A great deal of space is given over to a discussion of John Brown and Kansas. The story shows the steady march of events that led up to the Civil War.

"Sons of Strength," by William R. Lighton, is a story of the border-war period beginning in the spring of 1854. The trials of the free-state settlers, aggravated by the hatred of the proslavery element from Missouri, are shown. The border ruffians are depicted as cowardly and inhuman; they are usually drunk and always brutal. The town of Lawrence is the center of interest, and it is also the main setting of the story. John Brown is cast in heroic mold and portrayed as a man with a wonderful strength of character. The war of the Wakarusa is colorfully told and pictures the proslavery army as composed of low, degraded men.

The hero of the story was left at a foundling home in Ohio when he was a mere baby. He remained here for a time and was then taken from the home by a man and wife who belong to the Quaker sect. As the boy approaches manhood he hears much talk of the trouble in Kansas. The old Quaker wishes to go to Kansas and do his part for the freedom of the slaves, but he is too old to stand the hardships of frontier life. The boy, whose name is McCullock, remained with the old Quakers until their death. After he had taken care of the affairs of his foster parents he set out for Kansas. He joined a train of emigrants who entered Kansas through Missouri. As the train nears the Kansas border, McCullock comes upon a slave owner beating a little negro girl. McCullock and the slave owner's son, Pokey, tie up the slave owner and depart for Kansas. They settle on claims on the Wakarusa river and build themselves log cabins and barns. They take part in the war of the Wakarusa, but when the free-state forces of Lawrence will not attack the proslavery forces, the two boys decide to visit Franklin in hopes that Pokey will be able to see his mother. They saw Pokey's parents and found his father as degraded as ever. Pokey saw him push his mother over, and she fell against a wagon wheel and was injured. Pokey and McCullock

carried her away, but she died in a cabin on the way to Lawrence. Pokey vowed vengeance on his father, but when his father later rode up to the cabin Pokey would not shoot. His father, however, did shoot, and Pokey was wounded, though not seriously. It is at this critical moment that McCullock discovers that he is Pokey's brother. The story is rather hazily told and is not well unified.

"The Entering Wedge," by William Kennedy Marshall, is a story of the love of Dan Rogers, a Missouri slaveholder, for Winifred Woodbury, a girl from New England. The story takes us once more over the border war, with its outrages committed by the Missourians and the wanton murder of the free-state men, Dow and Barber. The author tells of the sack of Lawrence by Quantrill and the inhuman murders committed by the mob. Here again we meet John Brown, but not in the heroic role in which he is usually cast by many writers. Winifred Woodbury and Dan Rogers are both well educated. Often they appear at public gatherings and speak for their respective sides of the slave question. They are married soon after the close of the Civil War.

ARMY LIFE IN KANSAS.

With the close of the Civil War emigration from the East began to fill Kansas with hardy young men who had gone through the long and arduous campaigns of the war. These young men had fought with the armies of both the South and the North. They came to Kansas to take up land in accordance with the homestead laws. The western two-thirds of the state was still menaced by hostile Indian tribes, and, to curb their depredations, the United States government established numerous army posts throughout Kansas and many of the other western states. Although these posts were intended to protect the settlers, many outrages were committed by the Indians before the soldiers could reach the scenes of their activities. The United States government was slow in giving the army commanders orders to proceed against the Indians, and as a consequence the state militia often had to be called out to quell Indian uprisings. These old army posts were abandoned by the government as danger of attacks by the Indians decreased. Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth, however, are still used as permanent army posts.

From reading stories about the army in Kansas we are given a very good idea of the extent and the barrenness of the prairie within the borders of the state. The most prolific writer of this type of fiction was Captain Charles King. He had a wide experience in the army, having been stationed in nearly every part of the West. He has written fifty-five novels of a lighter type about army life. His interest was primarily with the army. Kansas is mentioned only incidentally when the troops, about which he is writing, happen to be on duty within the state. Captain King and John Coulter are the only authors who have written novels solely of army life within the state. Other authors mention the work of the soldiers only incidentally.

Col. Henry Inman in "General Forsythe at the Arickaree," which is included among the stories in "Tales of the Trail" and "Stories of the Old Santa Fe Trail," tells of the battle of the Arickaree, which was fought by a picked detachment of United States cavalry. He gives a vivid account of the battle, and of the attempts of the army scouts to get word of their predica-

ment to the commanding officer at Fort Wallace, which was one hundred miles away. This story, which can be found in both of these books, gives a very good idea of western Kansas and the danger of Indian raids on the prairie in those early days.

Mrs. Margaret Hill McCarter, in "The Price of the Prairie," tells essentially the same story of the battle of the Arickaree as does Colonel Inman. In addition Mrs. McCarter gives much of the history of the Nineteenth Kansas Cavalry, and of the severe test it went through during its winter campaign of 1868 against the Indians. The author intimates that the sincerity of the Kansas settlers was shown by the courage and endurance of the men who volunteered to serve during this campaign to free the state from the depredations of hostile Indian tribes. In the course of the story Mrs. McCarter mentions the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Sioux, Kiowa, and Dog Indians.

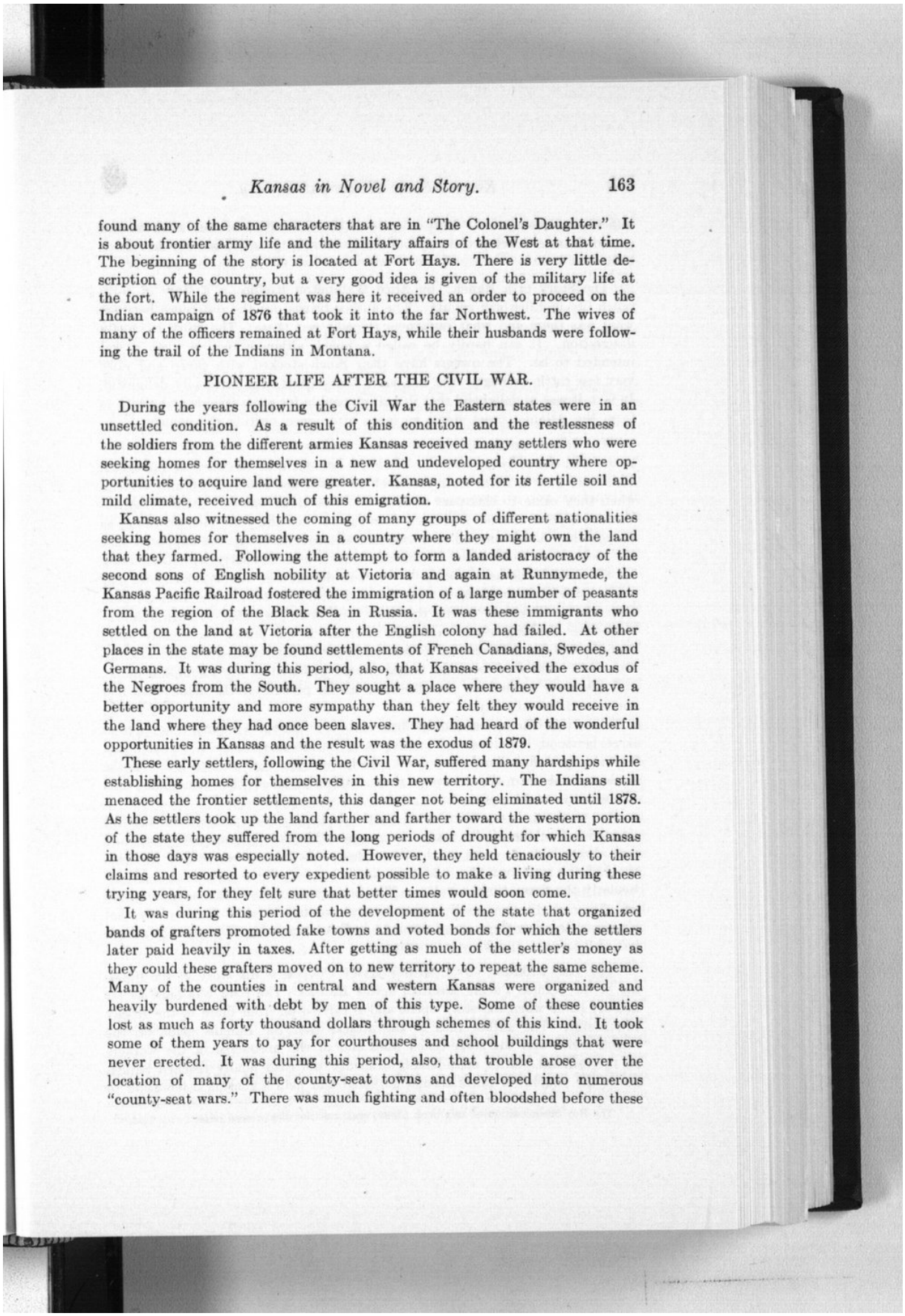
In "The Last Frontier," Courtney Ryley Cooper tells again of the battle of the Arickaree. He gives the reader a very good idea of the status of the military troops in Kansas during the building of the Kansas Pacific Railroad. It seems that the army men in Kansas at that time were never able to determine just how much authority they really had. The author tells of General Custer's scouting expedition that came to naught, of his arrest and final reinstatement. It was at this time that reservations were located in the Indian territory and the tribes taken there. The agents, who were to issue supplies to the Indians, robbed them and set up trading posts with the stolen goods. These illicit traders, for the sake of the profits, supplied the Indians with guns and ammunition with which to fight the whites.

"Mr. Desmond, U. S. A.," by John Coulter, is a story of army life in the West. The setting is at Fort Leavenworth. The novel is mostly of life at the army post and of the efforts of Colonel Desmond to get a commission for his worthless son, George. By a great deal of political "wirepulling" he finally manages to obtain the commission. The Colonel's wife is of the opinion that the army is made up of the aristocracy of the country.

Capt. Charles King has written three novels that deal, to a certain extent, with army life in Kansas. "The Colonel's Daughter" is a story of army life and particularly of the social ambition of Colonel Pelham's wife for her daughter, Grace. She wishes this daughter to marry a wealthy second lieutenant, but Grace is in love with Captain Truscott. This is at a time when the regiment is stationed in the far West. The story ends at Fort Hays, where the regiment finally arrives sometime in the seventies. Jack Truscott is a social outcast because of his loyalty to the wife of his deceased comrade, Captain Tanner. Captain Truscott remains faithful to his trust, and his loyalty finally wins him the Colonel's daughter. In this novel Captain King mentions Tommy Drum's saloon in Hays. Tommy Drum also ran a saloon in Victoria, Kan., at the time the English started the settlement there.

"Campaigning with Cook; and Stories of Army Life" tells of the beginning of the Indian war of 1876. The first chapter relates to the order received at Fort Hays, which sent the Fifth Cavalry into the far West to fight the Indians. The regiment, or a part of it, at least, really started from Fort Riley. At this time Captain King was a lieutenant with the Fifth Cavalry.

"Marion's Faith" is another story about the Fifth Cavalry in which are



found many of the same characters that are in "The Colonel's Daughter." It is about frontier army life and the military affairs of the West at that time. The beginning of the story is located at Fort Hays. There is very little description of the country, but a very good idea is given of the military life at the fort. While the regiment was here it received an order to proceed on the Indian campaign of 1876 that took it into the far Northwest. The wives of many of the officers remained at Fort Hays, while their husbands were following the trail of the Indians in Montana.

PIONEER LIFE AFTER THE CIVIL WAR.

During the years following the Civil War the Eastern states were in an unsettled condition. As a result of this condition and the restlessness of the soldiers from the different armies Kansas received many settlers who were seeking homes for themselves in a new and undeveloped country where opportunities to acquire land were greater. Kansas, noted for its fertile soil and mild climate, received much of this emigration.

Kansas also witnessed the coming of many groups of different nationalities seeking homes for themselves in a country where they might own the land that they farmed. Following the attempt to form a landed aristocracy of the second sons of English nobility at Victoria and again at Runnymede, the Kansas Pacific Railroad fostered the immigration of a large number of peasants from the region of the Black Sea in Russia. It was these immigrants who settled on the land at Victoria after the English colony had failed. At other places in the state may be found settlements of French Canadians, Swedes, and Germans. It was during this period, also, that Kansas received the exodus of the Negroes from the South. They sought a place where they would have a better opportunity and more sympathy than they felt they would receive in the land where they had once been slaves. They had heard of the wonderful opportunities in Kansas and the result was the exodus of 1879.

These early settlers, following the Civil War, suffered many hardships while establishing homes for themselves in this new territory. The Indians still menaced the frontier settlements, this danger not being eliminated until 1878. As the settlers took up the land farther and farther toward the western portion of the state they suffered from the long periods of drought for which Kansas in those days was especially noted. However, they held tenaciously to their claims and resorted to every expedient possible to make a living during these trying years, for they felt sure that better times would soon come.

It was during this period of the development of the state that organized bands of grafters promoted fake towns and voted bonds for which the settlers later paid heavily in taxes. After getting as much of the settler's money as they could these grafters moved on to new territory to repeat the same scheme. Many of the counties in central and western Kansas were organized and heavily burdened with debt by men of this type. Some of these counties lost as much as forty thousand dollars through schemes of this kind. It took some of them years to pay for courthouses and school buildings that were never erected. It was during this period, also, that trouble arose over the location of many of the county-seat towns and developed into numerous "county-seat wars." There was much fighting and often bloodshed before these

difficulties were settled. But, in spite of the difficulties of this after-the-war period, Kansas developed slowly but surely into the prosperous state that she is to-day.

"The Story of a Ranch," by Alice Wellington Rollins, is a story of early ranch life in Ellsworth county. The author brings out the difference between what was there and what easterners thought was there. The story is mostly description. It can hardly be called a novel, although that is what it was intended to be. The owners have their ranch stocked with sheep and raise very few cattle or hogs. The life, as it is described, was extremely delightful. In fact, it was so delightful that it was impossible for some friends and relatives from the Atlantic coast states to leave after once visiting the county.

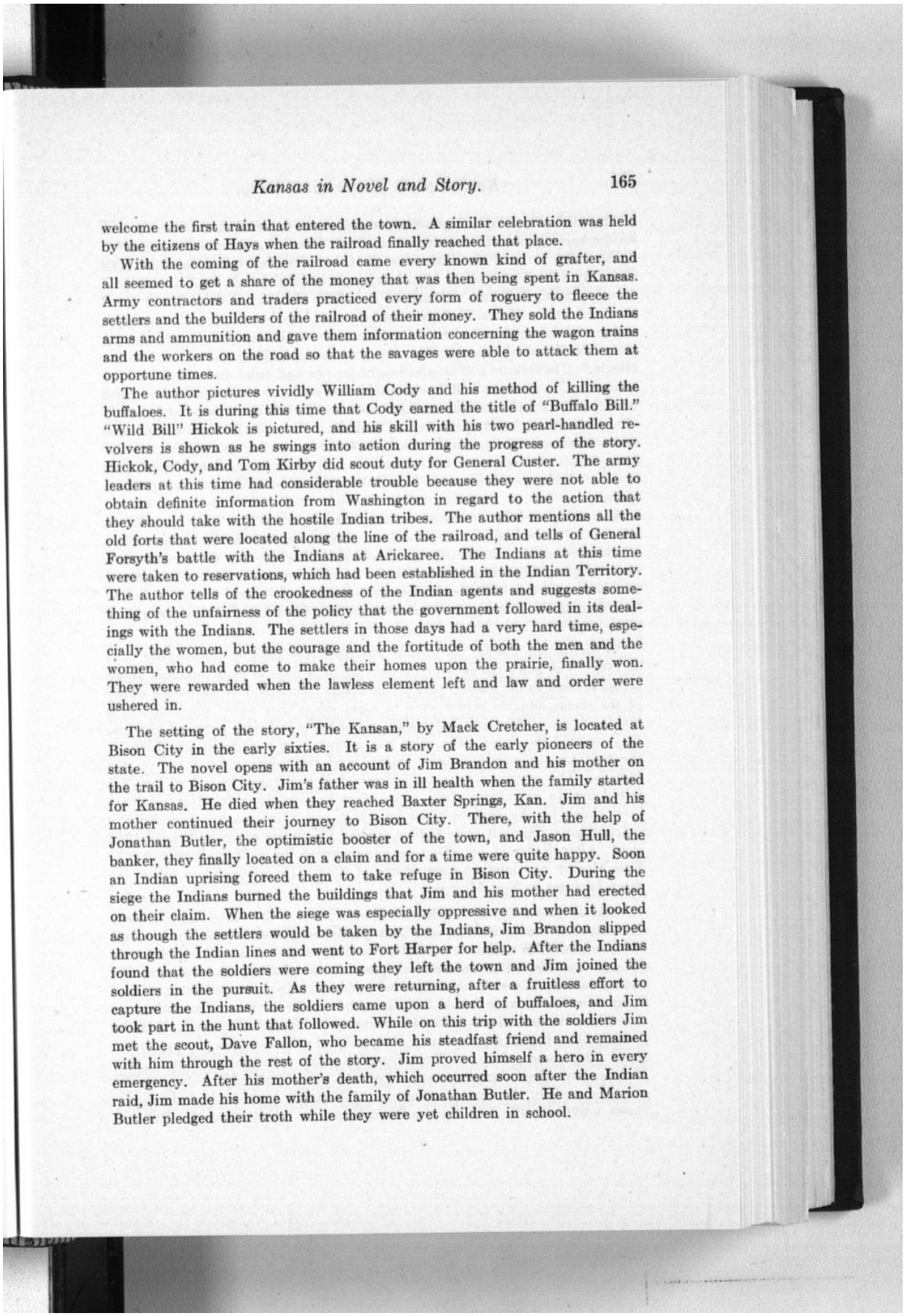
"The Ranch on the Oxhide,"* by Col. Henry Inman, is a story of the late sixties and the early seventies in Ellsworth county, near the town of Ellsworth. This story gets its name from the creek on which the Thompson family settled, when they came to this part of Kansas. The creek was called the "Oxhide" because a yoke of oxen had been found dead with the yoke still on them, as though they had been tied to a tree and left to starve. It was supposed that the owners had been killed by Indians who left immediately without looking for the oxen. The author gives a very full description of the country at that time and tells of the dangers that faced the early settlers. The Indians were especially troublesome during this time, but went peaceably to their reservations after the long winter campaign of 1868. It was during these early years that the Indians massacred a settlement about twenty miles from the Thompson ranch. The settlers in the neighborhood gathered at the Thompson home, and the men formed an expedition to go in pursuit of the band that had committed this atrocity.

When the Thompson family first came to Ellsworth county they found large herds of buffaloes and antelopes. The streams were full of fine fish. The family at first lived upon game which the boys were able to kill. As the settlers came into the territory they ruthlessly killed the game and soon almost none could be found.

One of the girls was carried off by the Indians and kept by them for five months before she finally made her escape. The family was prosperous and was always able to raise good crops; their only danger seemed to be from the Indians and from the wild animals that infested the neighborhood, particularly the fierce timber wolves. The boys enjoyed hunting and fishing and one time caught two small Indian ponies and five small buffalo calves that happened to enter their corral during a buffalo stampede. The story is simple but well written and very interesting.

"The Last Frontier," by Courtney Ryley Cooper, is the story of the building of the Kansas Pacific Railroad across Kansas. The road was built as far as Fort Riley when the story opens and is carried on from there to the Rocky Mountains. The author tells of the attacks that the Indians made on the wagon trains and the stage-coach lines and of the massacres of the workers on the railroad. After considerable difficulty the road finally reached Salina, where the people for miles around gathered and held a rousing celebration to

* The Boy Scout edition of this book (1898) was used for the present paper.



welcome the first train that entered the town. A similar celebration was held by the citizens of Hays when the railroad finally reached that place.

With the coming of the railroad came every known kind of grafter, and all seemed to get a share of the money that was then being spent in Kansas. Army contractors and traders practiced every form of roguery to fleece the settlers and the builders of the railroad of their money. They sold the Indians arms and ammunition and gave them information concerning the wagon trains and the workers on the road so that the savages were able to attack them at opportune times.

The author pictures vividly William Cody and his method of killing the buffaloes. It is during this time that Cody earned the title of "Buffalo Bill." "Wild Bill" Hickok is pictured, and his skill with his two pearl-handled revolvers is shown as he swings into action during the progress of the story. Hickok, Cody, and Tom Kirby did scout duty for General Custer. The army leaders at this time had considerable trouble because they were not able to obtain definite information from Washington in regard to the action that they should take with the hostile Indian tribes. The author mentions all the old forts that were located along the line of the railroad, and tells of General Forsyth's battle with the Indians at Arickaree. The Indians at this time were taken to reservations, which had been established in the Indian Territory. The author tells of the crookedness of the Indian agents and suggests something of the unfairness of the policy that the government followed in its dealings with the Indians. The settlers in those days had a very hard time, especially the women, but the courage and the fortitude of both the men and the women, who had come to make their homes upon the prairie, finally won. They were rewarded when the lawless element left and law and order were ushered in.

The setting of the story, "The Kansan," by Mack Cretcher, is located at Bison City in the early sixties. It is a story of the early pioneers of the state. The novel opens with an account of Jim Brandon and his mother on the trail to Bison City. Jim's father was in ill health when the family started for Kansas. He died when they reached Baxter Springs, Kan. Jim and his mother continued their journey to Bison City. There, with the help of Jonathan Butler, the optimistic booster of the town, and Jason Hull, the banker, they finally located on a claim and for a time were quite happy. Soon an Indian uprising forced them to take refuge in Bison City. During the siege the Indians burned the buildings that Jim and his mother had erected on their claim. When the siege was especially oppressive and when it looked as though the settlers would be taken by the Indians, Jim Brandon slipped through the Indian lines and went to Fort Harper for help. After the Indians found that the soldiers were coming they left the town and Jim joined the soldiers in the pursuit. As they were returning, after a fruitless effort to capture the Indians, the soldiers came upon a herd of buffaloes, and Jim took part in the hunt that followed. While on this trip with the soldiers Jim met the scout, Dave Fallon, who became his steadfast friend and remained with him through the rest of the story. Jim proved himself a hero in every emergency. After his mother's death, which occurred soon after the Indian raid, Jim made his home with the family of Jonathan Butler. He and Marion Butler pledged their troth while they were yet children in school.

The author tells of the grasshopper year, and the evils and outlawry that accompanied them. The stern justice of the frontier is enacted when Skinner Smith and a party of the settlers set out to recover their horses that had been stolen by a band of outlaws. The settlers faced prairie fires, Indian raids, and drought; many left and returned to the East, while a few stayed and faced the hard times. Jason Hull, the banker, and Jonathan Butler, the optimist, remained because they had faith in the country, or because they could not get away. In the meantime Jim Brandon got some schooling and established the "Bugle." Through its columns he fought for law and order and sound business methods. He always stood for the right and made sacrifices himself in order to help others. He was mobbed for his efforts when he exposed the perfidy of the officers of the Western Trust Company. However, he kept up the fight and finally won. Jason Hull, who had been representing the district in congress, lost the nomination for reëlection, and, in an impassioned speech, he nominated Jim to fill his place. Jim won in the election by an overwhelming majority.

This novel vividly portrays the unyielding spirit of the early pioneers in the face of grave difficulties. The faith of Jim Brandon as he trudges along beside his wagon with his rifle on his shoulder, on the way to Kansas, when he is only twelve years old, and after he has just buried his father, is evidence that he cannot fail. That sort of spirit is bound to win, and it was that spirit that carried the Kansas pioneers through long years of doubt and worry to prosperity.

"A Son of the Plains," by Arthur Paterson, is a story of the frontier days of 1873. The story opens with the driving of a herd of two thousand sheep across Kansas to the eastern part of the state. While Nat Worsley, the owner of the sheep, and his herder were in night camp they heard the sound of a running horse. They kept watch and, as the horse and rider approached them, they stopped the horse. The rider was a cowboy who reported that back on the trail twenty men had been scalped and two white girls stolen by the Indians. The cowboy was so badly frightened he refused to return, but Nat forced him to accompany them in an effort to save the girls. Nat, who had been stolen by the Indians when he was a boy and kept by them for five years, disguised himself as an Indian, entered the Indian camp, and rescued the girls. After Nat sold his sheep he accompanied the girls to their home in New Mexico, and later he married one of them. He continued to follow the sheep business in New Mexico.

"Life at Laurel Town," by Kate Stephens, tells of the early times in Kansas following the Civil War, and particularly of life at Laurel Town, which is Lawrence. The author tells of the founding of the university and its early struggle for life. The crooked schemes of the grafters are shown in the county-seat fights and in the efforts of bands of fake promoters who induced many counties to vote bonds to railroads in order to have the roads cross the respective counties. After the counties had voted the bonds, and delivered them, the surveyors nearly always found a better right of way for the road. The women of Laurel Town resort to many expedients to furnish their churches, but they always succeed. Political movements of the day are discussed, especially the grange movement. The latter part of the volume discusses university life and the pranks indulged in by some of the students.

The main interest of the author seems to be in the farm life of the early pioneers of the sixties. Her father was a lawyer in an eastern city. Coming west for his health he settled on a farm near Paola, Kan., and took a lively interest in the life of the community. The author mentions the early struggles of the free-state settlers at the time of Quantrill and his border ruffians.

"Dust," by Haldeman-Julius, is a story of the early settlers who came to the vicinity of Fort Scott in the seventies and settled on land about thirty miles from the town. The father was sick and about ready to die when the family of three children and the parents came to Kansas. The baby died from undernourishment and the father died also soon afterward. The burden of the support of the family fell on the shoulders of the fourteen-year-old boy and his mother. The boy was unfeeling and seemed to have little sympathy for anyone, but he was an excellent worker and very successful in his management of the farm. The mother died about the time the daughter was old enough to marry, which the girl soon did. Martin Wade bought his sister's interest in the farm for thirty dollars an acre, although he felt at the time that she was not entitled to the money, as she had done very little to help pay for the land. Martin continued to prosper, since he had a good farm and fine stock. After much haggling he finally leased the coal right on his farm, for which he received sixteen thousand dollars. When he was closing the deal with his banker the banker told Martin that he needed a wife. Since his sister had been telling him the same thing Martin decided to marry. He felt that any girl would have him, now that he had money, so he went to town to look over the eligible girls and select the one he wanted. It was a purely business proposition with him. He chose Rose Conroy, proposed, and was accepted. Rose was a girl of taste and refinement, but thought that she could make Martin happy in spite of the difference in their tastes. Although they prospered on the farm, neither of them was happy. Rose lost sympathy for Martin, who expected her to bear children and do all of her work without any help. The first child died at birth, for which Martin blamed Rose. He was rough and inconsiderate. Later, another child was born, but Martin was cruel and unsympathetic toward the boy because his interests were not the same as Martin's. The boy was killed in the mines, where he had been working as a shot firer, so that he could have money to buy books and leisure to read them, which he did not have at home. Rose became more like Martin every day. Martin finally died from blood poisoning that he contracted from a sick cow. After his death, Rose moved back to town.

This sordid book pictures only the low and mean things in the life of its two chief characters. Novels are probably interesting when they depict life, but a good novel does not necessarily need to emphasize the drabness of life to the exclusion of the little joy and happiness that may be found in even the poorest lives. Martin Wade was not necessarily a product of the life that happened to be his. Many Kansas boys have gone through more than he had to contend with and have developed into good men. While this novel might be true of a few isolated cases, it is not the typical farm life of Kansas.

"Trail's End," by G. W. Ogden, is a story of the little town of Ascalon, in middle western Kansas, in the days when the railroad companies were trying to get men to settle in the state. The story opens with Calvin Morgan, a young professor of agriculture from Iowa, tramping across the prairies of

Kansas in search of a place where he could settle and raise wheat, for he felt that that was what would save the state. As he tramped across the prairie he met old Joe Lynch, the bone man, who had made his living for years by gathering bones, following the slaughter of the buffaloes by the railroad companies. Old Joe told Morgan that he never lacked for bones to gather. The settlers, who came in groups, starved out, and then he found a new crop of bones from the horses and cattle that died during the periods of drought.

Morgan rode into Ascalon with Joe Lynch. There he saw Judge Thayer, with whom he expected to go to look at some land. The judge had just appointed Seth Craddock town marshal. Craddock ordered Morgan to leave town, but instead of leaving town, Morgan took the new marshal's gun away from him. From that time on Morgan's troubles began. Craddock had just come up over the Chisholm Trail with a herd of Texas cattle. Between him and the cowboys, who came with him they tied Morgan to a freight train, thinking that he would be killed, as he was forced to run along beside the train. Through good fortune Morgan escaped with his life. Later he returned to town, became city marshal, and cleaned out the gun-toting element of Ascalon. In his work as city marshal Morgan had killed some men whose blood he then felt was on his soul. This prevented him from telling Retta Thayer that he loved her. Retta Thayer also felt that he was guilty. Later, when the town was threatened by Seth Craddock and his gang, she asked Morgan for help. She forgave him, for she saw that he had only done his duty as city marshal. Morgan and Retta were married and had a fine home in Kansas. The town of Ascalon disappeared, but another was built on the same site. This novel presents a good picture of early life in Kansas, during the years following the Indian troubles in the state. The town of Ascalon existed only during the later years of the cattle drives from Texas.

"The Wind before the Dawn," by Dell H. Munger, begins with the grasshopper year in Kansas. It tells of the hardships of the early settlers during the years of drought. The plot of the story is the struggle of Elizabeth Farnshaw to get along with her husband, John Hunter. Hunter was a University of Illinois man, but was greedy and owned everything on the farm, including his wife. He mortgaged everything that he had to buy cattle, for he thought that he could make money by doing so. He told his wife nothing of his business affairs. Finally his business methods got him into difficulty and he left his family. Then Elizabeth took over the management of the farm, making a decided success of the business. After she had things running smoothly, her husband returned, a reformed man. This is a drab story without any note of cheer or brightness in it.

The main character in "His Love for Helen," by J. B. H. Janeway, crosses western Kansas seeking a place to settle after he had sold his business in the East. The author gives a very good idea of western Kansas, although not much of the story is located in the state.

"In Sunflower Land," by Roswell Martin Field, is a volume of short stories, many of which are about Kansas. The author tells of the grasshopper year, the periods of drought, the cyclones, and the help that the settlers received

from the Eastern states, during the hard times. Also, he discusses the general political situation, to a certain extent, and shows something of local politics in the early days. Some of the stories are quite humorous.

"The Passing of Jack Thompson," in "A Colorado Colonel and Other Sketches," is a story of a horse thief who is cleared on the testimony of his wife, who thought him innocent. On the way home he confesses his guilt to her. When he is shot in the back, as they journey homeward, she finds that she is not at all sorry. She leaves immediately with the assassin, who is the man she really loves. "A Kansas Emigrant," in the same volume, pictures the hardships of the early settlers during the dry years in the state, when many of them found it necessary to return "to the wife's folks" in the East.

"Sons of the Border," by James W. Steele, is a collection of stories and sketches that he published in the *Kansas Magazine*, during its first year, when Henry King was its editor. The volume contains nine short stories and nine sketches, most of which relate to the western border during the years preceding 1870. Only one of the stories relates to Kansas. That one is about the suffering of a family following an Indian raid. The heroine of the story dies of grief on account of the loss of her lover, who was killed by the Indians. Her mother and two sisters were carried away at the same time and never heard from again.

"The Real Issue," by William Allen White, is a volume of fifteen short stories, and although they do not mention Kansas directly they are all written with a general background of Kansas material. "The Story of Aqua Pura" and "The Story of the Highlands" are both about the hard times in western Kansas. They give the reader an idea of the Kansas droughts and the suffering of the settlers in that part of Kansas. "The Real Issue" and "The Regeneration of Colonel Hucks" are both stories that are concerned with politics. All of the stories in this volume are very interesting and make delightful reading.

"Stratagems and Spoils," also by Mr. White, is a group of five stories of love and politics. The author in his preface says that the love note may not be dominant enough for some, but that he set them in the field of politics because all the passions of man may be found in that field.

The following short stories, up to and including "The Rise and Fall of Barber," were published from time to time in the *Kansas Magazine* during the different periods of its publication. They are all interesting, as most of them treat of the early life in the state. They give the reader a very good perspective of the life in different sections of the state at different periods in its development. They are all about incidents that happened following the Civil War.

"On the Trail from Dobe Wall," by Wilson Howard, is a story of the early-day lawlessness near Dodge City. As a cowboy was driving a herd of mules into Dodge City he was attacked by a band of robbers who attempted to drive off the mules. The cowboy finally escaped with his life.

"Uncle Tom's Indian Raid," by L. G. Turner, is a humorous story of an Indian scare in western Kansas in the year 1884.

"Ezekiel Nubbins of Podunk," by Claud Alfred Clay, tells of the visit of an old farmer to the University of Kansas, what he thought of the students, and of the things he saw while there.

"When the Flood Came," by Laura Alton Payne, is a story of the flood in North Topeka, when the Kaw river overflowed its banks in May, 1903.

"Out in the Flood," by Clerin Zumwalt, is another story of the flood in North Topeka in May, 1903. The author tells of the great destruction of property and the loss of life resulting from the flood.

"Naugedy Squaw," by Elizabeth Robert, is a story of the trouble that the Indians caused the early settlers. A woman was at home alone and ill when an Indian came to the house and wanted her to cook a meal for him. A neighbor woman and her husband arrived just in time to save her, although it is doubtful whether or not the Indian would have harmed her, as he was only hungry.

"Redeemed," by Augustus Cæsar Buell, is a story growing out of an incident that happened in Kentucky during the first year of the Civil War. The author tells of the vengeance taken by John Coffin against the Home Guards, who killed his father, burned his home, and outraged his wife. Eight men were implicated in this affair. John Coffin killed seven of them in Kentucky and followed the eighth man to Kansas. Here, in a saloon, he met this eighth man, Jack Morton, and shot it out with him, but was badly wounded. His bride of 1861 found him later, after the shooting, and had him carried to her lodgings, where he stayed until he recovered. His wife had become a woman of the streets, but she and John Coffin decided to take a new start in life. They homesteaded in the Solomon Valley. The story ends by telling about their baby.

"Kawsmouth Sketches," by Sydney Quarles, is a story of the unscrupulous greed of the speculators who lived in the new town of Kawsmouth. Kawsmouth is probably Kansas City.

"E. M." is a romance of the prairie. The main characters lived near Dodge City in the early days.

The setting of the story, "The Prince," by R. Jay Kay, is at a temporary army post near Wichita. It is about a German officer who enlisted in the United States cavalry in order to obtain information for his own government.

"A Kansas Serenade," by Grace Galloway, tells of the merrymaking of a group of young people of central Kansas who serenaded a newly married couple of their neighborhood.

"Constitution to the Rescue," by A. B. Reeves, describes the fun a group of men have at the expense of a man, who thinks that he has been admitted to the bar. The man felt sure that because he had been admitted to the bar he knew how to practice law. The setting of the story is at Dodge City in the early days.

"Stealing a White Squaw," by J. W. Lawton, is an account of the depredations of the Indians in the early days in Kansas. The author tells of a raid made by the Indians when they stole two white women from farms in the Solomon Valley, and of General Custer's powwow with the Indian chiefs, which

resulted in the return of the women. The story is not very accurate in regard to historical facts.

In "The Rise and Fall of Barber" Ralph Tennal describes the hard times in western Kansas. It is mostly a story of Kansas politics and particularly of the Populist movement.

These stories give the reader a very good idea of the quality of fiction published in the *Kansas Magazine* during its different periods of publication. The stories found in the first series are probably better than those which appeared in the two later series.

"At Kawsmouth Station," by Henry King, is about an incident that happened in the railroad station at Kawsmouth. A young man who lived fifteen miles out in the country was waiting at the station for his sweetheart, who was coming to Kansas to marry him. The young man was uneasy and somewhat perplexed because his lady did not arrive on the first train from St. Louis. He told his worries to a little old lady in black alpaca. While the young man conversed with the little old lady a bombastic real-estate man was telling the narrator all about Kansas and how far the state outshone ancient Greece. Finally the train arrived from St. Louis with the bride-to-be and the young people set off into the country to be married, while the narrator boarded the train that was to carry him into the wonderful country that the real-estate man has been telling him about.

"Retribution," by S. W. Brewster, is a story of an old man who called himself "Old Tip" and who had assumed the responsibility of keeping law and order in his community according to his own ideas. He failed to follow his own code once and in his anger killed Chetopa, an Indian chief. Old Tip regretted his rash deed, but was unable to make amends. Minoma, the wife of Chetopa, mourned his loss and sat daily upon his grave. This angered Old Tip, but he could do nothing about it. One day, about three years after Old Tip had killed Chetopa, he was returning home in the evening. As he approached a hillside he heard the twang of an arrow. A second later he fell mortally wounded. Minoma had avenged her chief. As Old Tip died he whispered, "Retribution."

"Wild Oats," by John Thomas Vanderlip, is a group of sketches of the author's experiences. They are all very frankly written and tell of the author's wanderings from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast and as far north as the Dakotas. Many of them are about Kansas during the years from 1860 to about 1900. The author mentions Carbondale, Kan., and the "jerkwater" railroad that ran from there to Lawrence. A very good idea is given of eastern Kansas, particularly that part around Carbondale and Lawrence. He thus dedicates his book: "To my Future Wife or Affinity, This Sheaf of Wild Oats is Cheerfully Dedicated."

"The Year of the Exodus in Kansas," by Henry King, pictures vividly the trials and hardships of the Negroes who came to Kansas from the South in the spring of 1878. They arrived with nothing and had to be cared for. They were, however, willing to work, and many of them, with a little assistance, took up land and became solid citizens. They came here into a different climate, to a new country, and to different farming conditions. They were not able to begin work until they were furnished horses and implements and

shown how to use them. The Negro women who went to work in northern homes also had to learn new ways of service.

In the preface to her story, "The 'Passin'-On Party," Effie Graham says: "This is a story of a people, one-time slaves and bondsmen, now free-tongued freeholders in a western land: the old new type, adopted and adapted. They combine all the 'heat-tellin's' and simple faith of slave days, with the oratorical habit and view-holding propensities of their invironment. It is to be expected, therefore, that these Kansas 'Jayhawkers'—full-pinioned, though of a duskier hue—should dispraise fearlessly many of their own race frailties, as well as those of 'dem white folks dey circles wif.'"

The author draws a true picture of the old southern Negro and his desire to have the things that the white folks have. Aunt June's party is touchingly described. The wisdom that these old Negroes have gathered through the passing years is very sound. The setting of the story is laid in Topeka. The story is very interesting and well worth reading for the glimpse of the life of the old-time Negro that it gives.

"Aunt Liza's 'Praisin' Gate," by the same author, is a story of the suffrage campaign of 1912 and the trouble that it caused in a colored family. They were an old Negro couple who had been slaves in Tennessee and who had come to Kansas after receiving their freedom. The old couple became estranged over the suffrage question, but were finally reunited. Although the story is very humorous, there is much truth in the speculations of the old Negro couple. The setting of this story is also in Topeka.

"Westward," by Mrs. J. McNair Wright, tells the intimate details of the life of two, who were dissatisfied with their life in Ohio and who built a houseboat and drifted down the Ohio river. Then they worked their way up the Missouri river, and finally entered the Kansas river. They journeyed up the Kansas river to a little distance east of Topeka, where they bought a claim. They dragged the houseboat up on shore and lived in it for a time. They soon tired of the life here and left for a mining district in the far West. The religious element is dominant in the story.

"Tenderfoot Tales" (No. 2), by Lulu R. Fuhr, is a volume of stories describing the Indian scares, the cyclones, and the ever-present drought of western Kansas. The suffering, especially that of the women and children on the lonely barren prairie, is vividly brought out. The last few stories really show the progress that the western part of the state has made and the foresight of the settlers, who remained on their claims in spite of the hardships and suffering of the early years.

In "Letters from a Prairie Garden," by Edna Worthly Underwood, the author of the letters begins writing them to an unknown artist living in the same hotel in which she lives, in the East. At the end of the story she is writing from the plains of Kansas to the artist, now across the sea. She mentions the hot winds, the hard, dry prairies, the sharp-featured immigrants, the Indians, and the waving fields of wheat, although she seems to have very little interest in any of them. To her they are only some more of the people and things she has met in her travels over the earth. They tell their own story and have an influence of their own upon all persons with whom they come in contact.

Margaret Hill McCarter has written seven stories that give the reader an idea of the pioneer life in Kansas following the Civil War. "The Price of the Prairie" describes the difficulties that the Kansas settlers had with the Indians in the years immediately following the Civil War. The author does not seem to be of the opinion that the Indians were mistreated, but believes they received more than they deserved at the hands of a trusting government. The Indians were cruel and practiced every kind of deceit. They accepted rations during the winter when it was impossible for them to get a living from the barren prairie, but during the spring and summer, they became "bad Indians" and ravaged the homes and outraged the wives and daughters of the homesteaders, after murdering the men and boys and torturing the children before the eyes of their mothers. The women were then carried off into slavery.

The early settlers suffered terribly for the homes they were trying to establish in the prairie country. Many of these early settlers were soldiers from the Union armies of the Civil War. The author gives a fairly full account of Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, and of the march of the Nineteenth Kansas Cavalry to the Washita river, in the southwest, in an attempt to rid Kansas of the Indians.

"The Reclaimers" is a story of the reclamation of twelve hundred acres of Kansas land from drifting sand that was ruining the soil, as it blew across the fields. The land belonged to a girl from Philadelphia, who thought it was a fine ranch until she saw it. She could have returned to Philadelphia and lived in luxury and ease, if she would only marry the man her aunt had picked out for her. Instead, she chose to remain and earn her own living in preference to marrying one whom she considered a mollycoddle. She fell in love with and married the man who reclaimed her twelve hundred acres from the drifting sand. The story gives the reader a very good idea of the difficulties that confronted the early settlers in Kansas.

"Winning the Wilderness" shows the development of the state from barren prairie, that is scorched by hot winds and hardened by long periods of drought, to the prosperous farming country that it is to-day. The settlers lived through years of drought and hard times, but in the end they were rewarded for their faith in the future of the state. These settlers were men who fought with both of the armies, during the Civil War, but who later became neighbors on the Kansas prairies. The author shows the false promotion schemes that many of the grafters in those early days tried to force upon the settlers. Sometimes they did get the attention of the homesteaders, but their schemes never succeeded any further than to swindle the settlers of their hard-earned money.

"The Peace of the Solomon Valley" is a story of the prosperous farming conditions that are found in the Solomon valley. This part of the state is pictured as being very fruitful.

The setting of "The Cottonwood's Story" is probably somewhere between Lawrence and Topeka. This story shows the development of the state. It pictures the life of a family who came to Kansas with only a horse, a mule, and a cow. They were rather shiftless and decided many times to return to the East, but did not have ambition enough to start. One boy of the family managed, through his own efforts, to acquire an education and became a prosperous business man. He made a confidant of a cottonwood tree on his father's claim. This tree kept him in the path of righteousness throughout his

life. The story gives a rather vivid picture of the immigration into Kansas in the early days and the shiftlessness of many of the early settlers.

In "Cuddy and Other Stories," the story "Cuddy" tells of the struggles of a pioneer woman to keep the claim that she and her husband had taken in Kansas. The husband, while trying to save their stock in a flood, was drowned. When they came to Kansas they had two children, but both of them died of pneumonia, and the mother was left with the one child that had been born since they came to Kansas. She labored through the long years to make the payments on the farm, finally succeeding in paying for it. In addition to paying for the farm she managed to save enough money to send her son to the university. The boy returned to the farm and by careful management accumulated one thousand acres of land. Then he built a fine home for his mother, overlooking the valley that his mother was so fond of viewing. The story is called "Cuddy" because the little boy called his mother "Cuddy" on the night that the father was lost in the flood.

"The Corner Stone" is another of Mrs. McCarter's gift books. It gives the reader a good picture of the last of the great wheat ranches near Pawnee Rock. It is a story of the twentieth century, giving a very clear picture of the passing generation that was fond of the open plains, and also of the generation that is now making the life of the state.

"The Soddy," by Sarah Comstock, presents a well-drawn picture of the homesteader in western Kansas. The author tells of the years of drought and the suffering of the settlers. They had to resort to all sorts of expedients to make a living while they waited for a crop. Many times the crops failed on account of hot winds or drought, but the settlers did not give up. There was a possibility of irrigating the land in this particular community, but the settlers did not have enough money to put up the plant. When it was almost finished it was blown up by a land speculator because it would interfere with a development of his own. The heroine of the story was reared upon the prairie and she refused to give up her faith in it. Finally she is justified for having stayed on her claim. She is especially happy, since her first child is born upon the plains where she has struggled for so many years.

"Lois Morton's Investment," by Eva Morley Murphy, is essentially a temperance novel. It was written for the purpose of showing the curse liquor is to anyone who has acquired the habit. The family in this novel came to Kansas to get away from the open saloon, but here they found the illegal "joint," which was much worse. The family remained about nine years in Kansas. During this time they had to contend with the same trials and difficulties that faced the average settler in those times, but, in addition, the family suffered on account of the father's drunkenness.

"When Kansas was Young," by T. A. McNeal, gives the reader a very good picture of Kansas from the early days down through the years and into the twentieth century. The book is made up of a series of light but very interesting sketches. They have that personal touch that can only be given by one who has lived through the times about which he writes. The author mentions the names of many prominent Kansas men and women. Here one may meet the politician, the early-day gambler, the gunman, the English dude who came

to Kansas to settle at Victoria and Runnymede, and the Russian immigrants who followed them and are still found to-day at Victoria and many of the little inland towns in that part of Kansas. Here one may read of the dance halls, the gambling dens, the saloons of the early days, the fraudulently organized counties, and the schemes by which many of them were robbed. The author tells of the early-day law violators and of the many crooks, gamblers and politicians who got away with thousands of dollars from honest Kansans. Here, too, may be seen the early-day cattle towns to which were driven large herds of the long-horned cattle from Texas. In these lawless towns saloons, gambling dives and dance halls ran wide open. S. C. Pomeroy's fall from favor is told; also the corrupt practices of some of the early-day politicians are described. Those were the days of the county-seat troubles, which were accompanied by fighting and often by bloodshed. The author tells of the grasshopper year of 1874, the bad cattle year of 1886, and the bumper corn crop that was harvested in 1889, for which the farmers received ten cents a bushel. Something is also told of the early-day school teacher and editor. Carrie Nation is mentioned in one sketch and ex-governor Allen in another. The book gives a great deal of the real history of Kansas in the days when the state was being settled, following the Civil War.

"The Story of a Country Town," by Edgar Watson Howe, gives the reader a picture of a typical western town in the early days. As one reads the book he can see the town grow from its small beginnings to the usual size of country towns of to-day. The author has not only drawn a true picture of the town, but of the inhabitants and the settlers of the surrounding territory as well. It is a simple story well told and true to the conditions that one may find in any country town in Kansas, or in any part of the Middle West. Mr. Howe is one of the better Kansas authors, and this particular novel gave him a national reputation.

William Allen White has written two books about the years immediately following the Civil War. Both give the reader a very definite idea of the development of the state.

"A Certain Rich Man" tells of the coming of the early settlers and the hardships that many of them had to contend with. The men are called to fight for their country during the war. The love of country is so strong among some of the young boys that they steal away to war. Quite a little is told of the corrupt politicians of the time, and how they are able to get anything that they may want if they have plenty of money.

"In the Heart of a Fool" is of the years following the Civil War and tells of the arrival of the settlers. Many of them have been soldiers in the Union army and now have come to Kansas to take up homesteads in the state. A very good picture is given of the development of the town of Harvey. The citizens were peaceful and happy until coal was found in the neighborhood. Then the division of the people into social classes creeps upon the city. The author tells of the labor troubles and the difficulties that arise between labor and capital. The town of Harvey would have been much happier if coal had never been discovered in its vicinity.

In these two books Mr. White is not primarily concerned with the state

of Kansas. He is writing for a larger purpose. Where a minor author would spend much time on state affairs Mr. White is concerned with life not only in Kansas but also with life as it is found in any community of the type which he describes in his book. He pictures the weakness of the man who wants only money and cares nothing for his fellow men, the strength of the man who has the love of God in his heart and who is ever mindful of the welfare of his brothers.

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY IN KANSAS.

The development of the cattle industry in Kansas was a picturesque one. In the early days, even before many cattle were raised in the state, herds were driven up from Texas, loaded at Kansas towns, and shipped to eastern markets. Drivers from Texas discovered that their cattle thrived better on the Kansas grass than they did on any that was found along the trail from Texas to Kansas. As a result, the more enterprising among them began to winter herds in the state, putting them on the market in the fall after they had became well fattened. It was not long, then, until ranches were established and many thousands of cattle were raised within the borders of the state.

Emerson Hough, in "The Story of a Cowboy," gives a very good idea of the sweep of the cattle industry across the country from the plains of Texas to the far Northwest. For a time Kansas towns were shipping points for the great herds driven up from Texas. But as the railroads extended into the Southwest the drives from Texas became fewer and fewer, for the railroads were seeking the cattle trade and going to meet it. For a time, too, the western part of the state had its own great ranches, but after a while the settlers moved in and the ranchmen were pushed on into the Northwest, as the land was homesteaded and broken up into farms. The following quotations from "The Story of a Cowboy" gives a very good idea of the coming of the cattle trade to Kansas and its subsequent development:

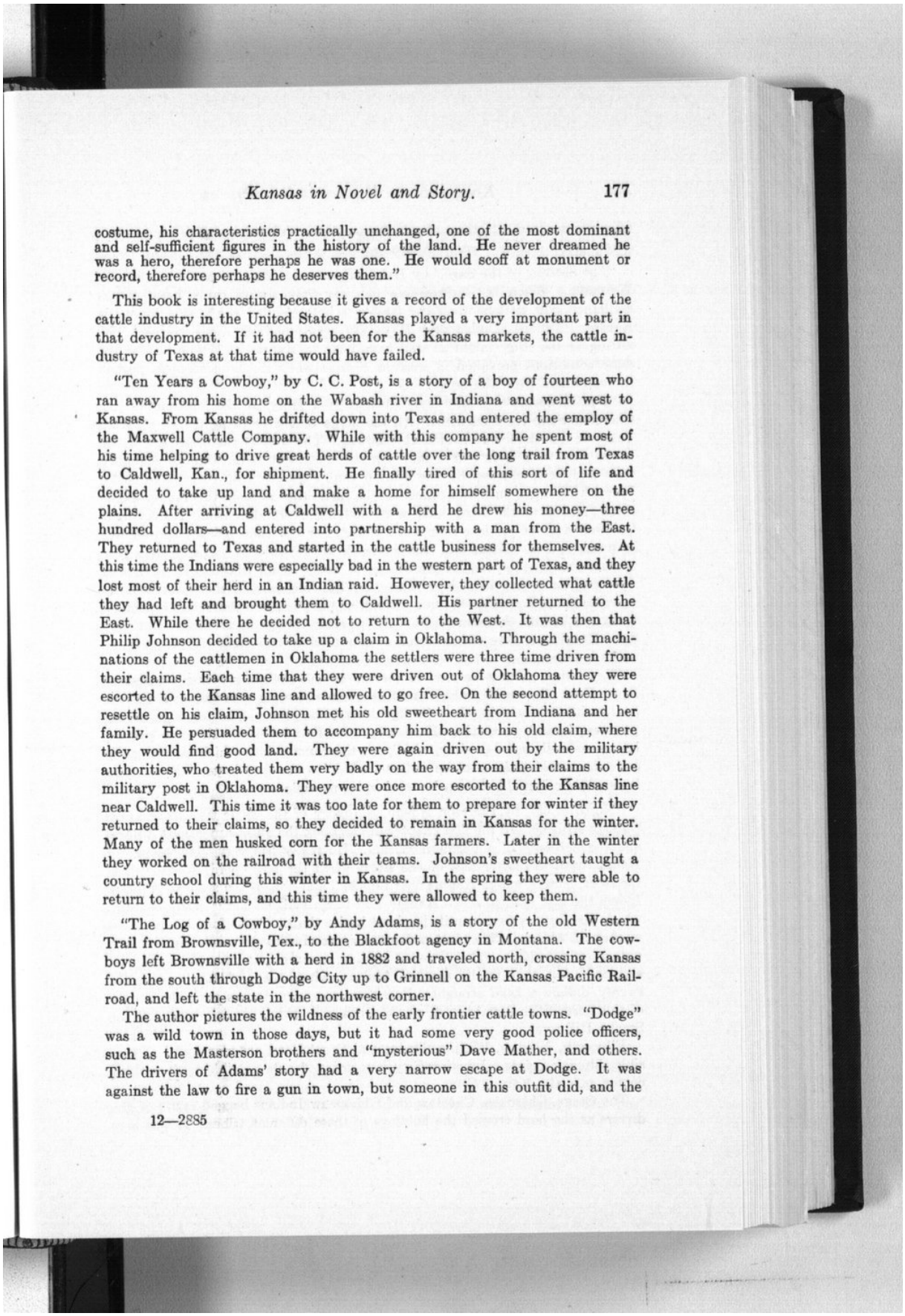
"As early as 1857 Texas cattle were driven to Illinois. In 1861 an attempt was made to take a herd across the Indian Nations to California, but plains Indians prevented it. In 1864 several herds were driven to Nevada. But these were all side trails of the main cattle road. The Civil War stopped the cattle trade of the West. . . .

"In 1866 a quarter of a million cattle crossed the Red river and came up to the railroads. In 1871, only five years later, six hundred thousand cattle crossed the Red river for the northern markets. Abilene, Newton, Wichita, Ellsworth, Great Bend, 'Dodge,' flared out into a swift and sometimes evil blossoming. . . .

"The American cowboy and the American cattle industry have been and are one and inseparable. The story of one is the story of the other. . . .

"The young man from Iowa, or New York, or Virginia, who went on the range to learn the business, taught the hardy men who were his predecessors there very little of the ways of Iowa, or New York, or Virginia. It was he who experienced change. It was as though the model of the cowboy had been cast in bronze in a heroic mold to which all aspirants were compelled to conform in line and detail. The cowboy had been born. America had gained another citizen, history another character. It was not for the type to change, but for others to conform to it.

"The story of the West is a story of the time of heroes. Of all those who appear large upon the fading page of that day none may claim greater stature than the chief figure of the cattle range. Cowboy, cattleman, cow-puncher—it matters not what name others have given him—he has remained himself. From the half-tropic to the half-arctic country he has ridden, his type, his



costume, his characteristics practically unchanged, one of the most dominant and self-sufficient figures in the history of the land. He never dreamed he was a hero, therefore perhaps he was one. He would scoff at monument or record, therefore perhaps he deserves them."

This book is interesting because it gives a record of the development of the cattle industry in the United States. Kansas played a very important part in that development. If it had not been for the Kansas markets, the cattle industry of Texas at that time would have failed.

"Ten Years a Cowboy," by C. C. Post, is a story of a boy of fourteen who ran away from his home on the Wabash river in Indiana and went west to Kansas. From Kansas he drifted down into Texas and entered the employ of the Maxwell Cattle Company. While with this company he spent most of his time helping to drive great herds of cattle over the long trail from Texas to Caldwell, Kan., for shipment. He finally tired of this sort of life and decided to take up land and make a home for himself somewhere on the plains. After arriving at Caldwell with a herd he drew his money—three hundred dollars—and entered into partnership with a man from the East. They returned to Texas and started in the cattle business for themselves. At this time the Indians were especially bad in the western part of Texas, and they lost most of their herd in an Indian raid. However, they collected what cattle they had left and brought them to Caldwell. His partner returned to the East. While there he decided not to return to the West. It was then that Philip Johnson decided to take up a claim in Oklahoma. Through the machinations of the cattlemen in Oklahoma the settlers were three time driven from their claims. Each time that they were driven out of Oklahoma they were escorted to the Kansas line and allowed to go free. On the second attempt to resettle on his claim, Johnson met his old sweetheart from Indiana and her family. He persuaded them to accompany him back to his old claim, where they would find good land. They were again driven out by the military authorities, who treated them very badly on the way from their claims to the military post in Oklahoma. They were once more escorted to the Kansas line near Caldwell. This time it was too late for them to prepare for winter if they returned to their claims, so they decided to remain in Kansas for the winter. Many of the men husked corn for the Kansas farmers. Later in the winter they worked on the railroad with their teams. Johnson's sweetheart taught a country school during this winter in Kansas. In the spring they were able to return to their claims, and this time they were allowed to keep them.

"The Log of a Cowboy," by Andy Adams, is a story of the old Western Trail from Brownsville, Tex., to the Blackfoot agency in Montana. The cowboys left Brownsville with a herd in 1882 and traveled north, crossing Kansas from the south through Dodge City up to Grinnell on the Kansas Pacific Railroad, and left the state in the northwest corner.

The author pictures the wildness of the early frontier cattle towns. "Dodge" was a wild town in those days, but it had some very good police officers, such as the Masterson brothers and "mysterious" Dave Mather, and others. The drivers of Adams' story had a very narrow escape at Dodge. It was against the law to fire a gun in town, but someone in this outfit did, and the

officers sent lead whistling about them as they left town. The story gives a very good idea of western Kansas at this time.

"The Settling of the Sage," by Hal G. Evarts, is a story of cattle ranching in Wyoming. When he is discussing the war that always came between the cattlemen and settlers when the land was homesteaded the author mentions Kansas. Abilene, Dodge and Hays are mentioned as cattle towns. The setting of the story might as well have been in Kansas as Wyoming, for the same conditions prevailed in western Kansas when the homesteaders pushed the cattlemen from the range.

"Tumbleweeds," by the same author, is a story of the opening of the Cherokee Strip for settlement. All the herds that were being driven up from Texas at this time were loaded at Caldwell. The owners pastured their cattle in the strip for a time before they shipped them, but at the time of the story they had been ordered by the United States government to remove them. The cattle owners united to collect all the cattle that were on this range. These cattle, added to the herds that were arriving every day from Texas, made Caldwell a great cattle center for a time. For the time being Caldwell was as rough and as wild as any frontier cattle town could be. Land values rose to unknown heights, and money was spent freely by all who had it. Fortunes were made and lost in a day. The old wild, free days of the West and the open range were soon to become a thing of the past. Cowboys and ranchmen could not believe that conditions could possibly change so suddenly; but they did. Ranchmen were either forced to move on to new ranges or to quit the cattle business.

The author gives a very vivid picture of the gathering along the Kansas line. Here all sorts of vehicles and all sorts of people were gathered for the final rush into the strip when the signal would be given. The whole scene was picturesque and uncertain. Here might be found those who were seeking homes, as well as the cowboy, who knew the country into which he was going and who would stake a claim only to sell it to the first buyer. For a time lawlessness reigned, but soon law and order prevailed.

"North of 36," by Emerson Hough, is a story of the cattle trail from Texas through Abilene. In the first chapter of the book the author mentions Abilene and the necessity of a northern market. He really has very little to say of Kansas until the latter half of the story, when the large herd, around which the story centers, enters Kansas near Caldwell and crosses the state to Abilene. It was the first herd to reach Kansas, and it revived the Texas cattle country, which was impoverished until this herd broke the trail and found a northern market at Abilene. The drivers had to contend with carpet-bag politicians, outlaws and Indians. They crossed swollen streams, and had stampede after stampede, but they finally reached Abilene, where they sold their cattle for twenty dollars a head straight. Ranching began in Kansas with the arrival of this herd. The female stock was cut out and sold to stock a ranch on the Smoky Hill river.

Ellsworth, Newton, Wichita, Dodge and Great Bend are mentioned as possible shipping points. Junction City is mentioned as a possible meat-packing center, as is also Kansas City.

The Osage, Cherokee, Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians begged cattle of the drivers as the herd crossed the holdings of these different tribes. It was here

that the drivers met Jesse Chisholm, half-breed trail maker of the Southwest, who furnished the government with much of the meat for army rations and for the Indian reservations.

Joe McCoyne, erstwhile mayor of Abilene, who is going to have a church, a jail, a graveyard and a bank for the other drivers who may later come up over the trail from Texas, met the herd with a brass band, which caused the last stampede of the trip. McCoyne is a typical Kansas braggart in his efforts to show everyone what Kansas has and what it will have. Here the cowboys also met "Wild Bill" Hickok, the famous marshal of Hays and Abilene.

The author says that the commerce between Texas and Kansas will do more to break down the strife between the North and South than all the politicians in both states. The story concerns the period just after the Civil War.

As the cowboys crossed Kansas with their herd, they saw buffaloes, antelopes, deer, wild elk, horses, prairie chickens and wild turkeys. They also met some of the men who were slaughtering buffaloes for their hides. This practice soon depleted the buffalo population of the state, which the author very much regretted.

George S. Ogden has written two stories of the cattle trade in Kansas. The setting of "The Trail Rider" is at Cottonwood, Kan. The story is mostly about the difficulties that Kansas cattlemen had in attempting to keep the herds of Texas cattle within definite limits, as they were driven through the state to the different shipping points. The Kansas cattlemen did this to keep down the danger of spreading the fever among their own herds. The Texas fever was not fatal to the Texas cattle, but it was fatal to the cattle raised in Kansas.

"The Cow Jerry" is a story of the last cattle-loading town in western Kansas for the herds driven up from Texas. The town sprang into being on account of the cattle trade, and everything that it had came as a direct result of this cattle trade. Finally the railroad built a division point there and the town became a railroad center. In his preface the author thus sums up his story:

"Perhaps the most remarkable battle ever fought on Kansas soil was that between the railroad and the range at the town of McPacken. It was the short gun of the hip pocket against the long gun of the holster, like the Roman sword against the long blade of the barbarian. A ton or so of ammunition was discharged, with results so astonishing they still marvel over it in western Kansas to this day. It all came out over Tom Laylander, a Texas cowman, who had brought his starving herd to pasture on Kansas grass. Treachery and crookedness reduced him from his high estate to a job on the railroad section, where he came to be famed far and near among hogheads, shacks and clinker pullers as the "cow jerry," the only cowboy section hand ever known. But when the crucial day came the railroaders lined up with the cow jerry, their bulldog pistols in their hands, to help him regain his lost rights. There was a lady in the adventure, also, who did some shooting, but that was shooting of a different kind."

From the above quotation, one may get a very fair idea of the quality of the story.

"The Blind Goddess at Dodge," by Albert Reeves, is a story of the early cattle days at Dodge. A few crooked cattlemen make an attempt to fasten the theft of a calf on a simple, good-hearted boy, who had been reared on the plains. The penalty for such a crime in those days was hanging. The boy

was finally cleared of the charge, but in the trial that followed the author shows the attitude of some of the grafting lawyers of that day.

In "Over Sunday at New Sharon," Henry King describes Dodge City of the early days. The town was less than a year old and was a shipping point for the herds of Texas cattle that were driven up over the Chisholm Trail. The author describes the scattered town, with its dance halls, saloons, and the free and easy comradeship of the cowboys, who "take the town" as soon as they are free from duty with the herd they have driven up from Texas. There are a few women in the town. The buildings are only board shacks with board walks in front. At night the jangling music of the dance halls and the click of dice can be heard everywhere. The town boasts of a minister, who holds church services regularly. The author seems to be of the opinion that, with all his wildness, the cowboy is not wholly bad. The story gives a true picture of the early frontier town of the cattle-trade days.

STORIES WITH A GENERAL BACKGROUND OF KANSAS LIFE.

The fiction discussed in this chapter has all been written since 1878, and covers no particular period in the development of the state. The authors have discussed many different topics relating to life in Kansas. Nearly everything, from politics to theology, has been given consideration. Some of the books do not directly mention Kansas or events that have taken place in Kansas, but have simply been written against a general background of Kansas material. Many of the authors are Kansans, or have lived for a time in the state. In writing their stories they have colored them with the spirit of the West as they saw it in Kansas.

"Concerning a Certain Prodigal," by Henry King, is a story of the western tramp printer and is admirably told. King pictures well the restless tramp printer and his waywardness. The story is really very touching, and is told as only Henry King could tell it.

"Picturesque Features of Kansas Farming," by the same author, is an essay of the corn farmer of eastern Kansas, the wheat farmer of the middle eastern portion of the state, and the homesteader of the western part of Kansas. The author mentions the Mennonite immigrants, who at first lived in villages and went out to their farms each day. They soon abandoned this practice. He tells, also, of the large ranchmen of the extreme western part of the state. He gives the conditions under which these men and women lived and the progress that they have made as the years have passed.

"The Man With a Hobby," also by Henry King, is a story of a man with a hobby during the days when the Grange was influencing politics so strongly in Kansas. He had hobbies—economic policies—about the corn crib, the ash barrel and the store. The real interest of the story is the love of an old maid, Miss Abigail Munger, for the hobby-rider, "Joshua Craybill."* She was unable to make him see that she was perfectly willing to marry him, even after he had failed to be elected county coroner.

The setting of the story, "The Free Soil Prophet of the Verdigris," by R. E. Heller, is in the Verdigris valley in Montgomery county, Kansas. It is mostly

* In his "Annals of Kansas," D. W. Wilder says: "It is the late John Grable, of Doniphan county, that King rescues from oblivion and gives forever to Kansas literature."

a discussion of taxes and the division of the results of labor done on the land. The main character is an old seer who attempts to have a book on these subjects published. He cannot get any of the regular publishers to accept it, so he attempts to get the assistance of a wealthy farmer, Mr. Worth, in order to have his book published privately. Mr. Worth decided to look over the manuscript, but his son suggests that the old seer read the book to the assembled company, which consists of Mr. Worth, his son, and Professor Field of the University of Kansas. They discuss the old man's theories as the reading progresses.

The first few chapters of the story, "The Belle of Wyandotte," by James B. Goode, are of the early days in Kansas, then the story jumps to England, but in the closing chapters it returns again to Kansas. There is very little Kansas material in the story, aside from the mention of the sunny plains of Kansas and the Indians. It is a story of love and adventure. The hero was born in Kansas, but went to England, where he worked in the interest of women's rights and better living conditions for the working classes. He was elected to a seat in Parliament on account of his efforts, but was kidnaped by wealthy coal barons and placed in a deep dungeon. He was finally rescued and turned out to be the grandson of an English lord.

"The Dead Line," by Gideon Lane, D. D., is a story of the People's party movement in Kansas during the nineties. The story is strongly tinged with socialism and the sense of injustice of the police and the capitalists. The money lenders of the East come in for their share of censure in regard to the methods that they use in Kansas. They are guided in this by the Republican party, which is endeavoring to down the People's party by not renewing loans for any of the men favoring it. The different castes of society are duly flayed and held up to ridicule. The author feels that money is the god of the people, and that when a person has no money or loses what he did have, he is then not fit to be noticed by those with worldly goods, and is accordingly "cut." The author severely criticizes this condition, which he feels exists in Kansas.

"The Kansas Farmer in Politics," by Nick T. Hunt, is a story of an old Kansas farmer, who got a political bee in his bonnet and decided to run for county treasurer. His son attempted to dissuade him, but, having made up his mind that he wants the office, he would not listen to his son's arguments. He sought out some of the local politicians, only to discover that he must buy the office by contributing to the party fund in one way or another. Farmer Doolittle has always been a Republican, but the Republican leaders of the county do not seem to remember him, although he has lived in the county for forty years. Then he turned to the new People's party, but with no better success. Finally, he received the nomination from Republican party leaders by consenting to put up the money. He was elected to the office, but as the time went on the salary that he received was eaten up by contributions for the good of the party in the county. At the close of his second term he left the office a poorer but a wiser man. On the advice of the banker of the town he made some investments that turned out badly, and he lost all but the farm that he gave his wife when he became county treasurer.

"The New Wizard of Oz," by L. Frank Baum, is a modernized fairy tale that begins and ends in western Kansas. The little girl, who is the heroine of

the tale, is carried away in a cyclone, and returns to Kansas with the help of the silver shoes of a bad witch that she unintentionally helped to kill. In his preface to the story the author says: "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" was written solely to please children of to-day. It aspires to being a modernized fairy tale, in which the wonderment and joy are retained, and the heartaches and the nightmares are left out.

"The Miracle of the Smoky, and Other Stories," by Eva Morley Murphy, is a volume of short stories. "The Miracle of the Smoky" is a romance of the prairies and gives some idea of homesteading in western Kansas. The other stories are written simply with a background of Kansas material.

The setting of the story, "A Master's Degree," by Mrs. Margaret Hill McCarter, is at Lagonda Ledge, Kansas, which is the home of Sunrise College. The institution was started by Dean Lloyd Fenneben, who had come out from Harvard to start a college in the western country. He began the college under difficulties, but after seeming failure it was finally established. The money to endow the school was furnished by Joshua Wream, professor of ancient languages at Harvard. Fenneben did not know where the money came from, but found out later that it was not Joshua's to give.

The author mentions the Kickapoo Indians, telling an Indian legend about the Kickapoo corral near the college. The legend is about the whirlpool in the bend of the Walnut river, which forms an "S." In the bend is a treacherous whirlpool, which sucks under everything that gets into it. Chief Lagonda laid a curse on the place when the white men forced him to sign a treaty giving up the land to them. Every year the whirlpool took a life. It was the scene of a battle between the Kickapoo Indians and another tribe over a Kickapoo maid, who was coveted by one of the braves from the other tribe.

The story tells of the early struggles of Victor Burleigh to obtain an education in spite of difficulties, and his efforts to cast off the idea that brute strength could get him everything that he wanted. Vincent Burgess, a young professor from Harvard, also has quite a trying time attempting to keep caste and at the same time not mingle with common people. Both have battles to fight within themselves, but both win out. In the end they have their respective square corners nicely polished off. Something is told of the early plains struggles. Burleigh has a claim out on the plains. Old Trench has a girl out on the Cimmaron to whom he is true in spite of the charms of the college girls.

"Widening Waters," also by Mrs. McCarter, is a story of New Mexico; but the author takes her hero, John Baronet, from Kansas to build a dam in New Mexico. He succeeds where many have failed. The story covers a great deal of the United States and part of England. It can hardly be called a Kansas novel, but does have a Kansas character in the hero, and includes some notice of the Kansas prairies.

"Paying Mother" and "The Candle in the Window" are two of Mrs. McCarter's gift books. Both stories give the reader a view of the social and religious life of small communities in Kansas.

The setting of the story, "The Cresap Pension," by Emma Upton Vaughn, is on the Missouri border and in Europe. The man, who finally married the heroine, was a judge of the supreme court of Kansas, operated a ranch in western Kansas, and owned land near Pittsburg, Kan. The book contains very

little direct Kansas material. Senator Curtis is mentioned as being the only Indian who ever amounted to anything.

The setting of "Banished for Reformation, or August's 'Coming Back,'" by J. Timothy Carrington, is at Lansing and Leavenworth. It is a temperance novel, the story of a young man who was banished by his sweetheart on account of his liking for drink. She banished him for one year, at the end of which time he could come back cured and she would marry him, or he could stay away forever and she would give him no further consideration. He not only reformed, but became one of the most wonderful church workers ever known. He had been a student at the University of Kansas, playing on the baseball team there. After his marriage he became a successful farmer near Lansing. The story pictures the sordidness of a drunkard's life and the misery that it brings to his family. Something is hinted of the legislators getting a "rake-off" for letting liquor into the state, and of the crooked politicians who connived at the practice.

"Her Change of Heart," by Anna Morgan Allen (Mrs. F. S. Baldwin), is a story of the life of a girl while she is a student at the Kansas State Agricultural College. She found happiness there where she least expected it. Miss Allen was at one time connected with the college.

The setting of the story, "Tommy of the Voices," by Clifford Reynolds Knight, is at Baxter Springs, Kan. From this place the main character goes to every distant part of the country, but finally returns to Baxter Springs. The story tells of the unrest of the hero, Tommy Wardell, and of his final finding of the voice of authority.

"The Court of Boyville," by William Allen White, while it does not contain any direct Kansas material, is nevertheless written against a general background of Kansas life and experiences. It is a very delightful story about boy life.

"God's Puppets," also by Mr. White, is a volume of sketches and short stories. The first four are about boom periods and hard times in Kansas in the early days. None of them tell about times later than 1910. The author has a deep insight into human nature, and takes the attitude that a belief in God is necessary for success. The man without faith is an empty shell. The last selection in the book contains the musings of one who is looking back on his boyhood days and comparing them with life and interests of the present-day boy with his ready made play and modern interests. The author calls them "canned" boys.

"Between Two Fires," by Ella Littler Vale, is just another of the poorer sort of love stories. It is full of coincidence and impossibilities. The setting of the story is in Iowa and Kansas. Mention is made of the sunny skies of Kansas, Pawnee Rock, and the old Santa Fe Trail.

"Kansas" by Irvin S. Cobb, is a humorous story in which the author pokes fun at Kansas for some of her institutions and practices. At the same time he compliments her citizens on their intelligence and sound common sense. He *really* gives Kansas credit for being one of the most progressive states in the Union.

"The Prosy Romance," by T. F. Sproul, is a discussion of love, logic, religion and sociology, through the exchange of opinions between a lady school teacher and a rich young bachelor. They carry on the discussion at first hand for a time, but later the lady takes up her residence in Topeka. This discussion is all brought out because the bachelor has asked the school teacher to marry him. She says that she must know the man that she marries from A to Z, and so the exchange of opinion follows.

While Dorothy Canfield's novel, "The Bent Twig," cannot be definitely classified as a Kansas story, it has been written from a general background of Kansas material. The story is mainly of university life in some western school. Miss Canfield, now Mrs. Fisher, was born at Lawrence, Kan., where she passed through the grades, graduated from the Lawrence high school, and began her university work. Therefore, it is not at all improbable that she had this experience in mind when she wrote her story.

"Home Fires in France," by the same author, contains one essay about a Kansas girl who went to France during the war and put into relief work some of the business efficiency that she learned in her home town in Kansas. She was a "nobody" at home until she decided to do her bit in the war.

In Edna Osborne Whitcomb's "Five Little Jayhawkers on the Farm,"* we have a type of work which seems rather rare in the prose fiction of Kansas—that written about young people for young readers.

It has, of course, been impossible in this study to take account of works as yet entirely in manuscript form. One such work is the master's thesis at the University of Kansas (1925) of Miss Esther Freese. Miss Freese gives a picture of girlhood on a Douglas county farm, and of student life at the State University in very recent years. Her narrative is realistic, of autobiographical quality. There is, perhaps, nothing in print about life in Kansas in our own day which closely resembles this work.

Practically all the fiction about Kansas has been written since the Civil War, and the bulk of it about strictly Kansas subjects was produced in the seventies and eighties. Although nearly everything that has happened in the state or that has affected the state in any way has been used in novels and short stories, there are three topics that stand out prominently, around which many novels and short stories have been written: the Santa Fe Trail, the border warfare, and the cattle trade from Texas. These subjects are unique in that they affected no other state as they affected Kansas, largely, no doubt, because of the geographical position of the state.

A few authors have used the romance of the long trip across the plains of Kansas in their treatment of the Santa Fe Trail. These stories are all of the very early years, and seldom consider incidents that have happened within the state following the Civil War.

Probably more novels have been written about the border warfare than about any other episode connected with the state of Kansas. This is probably due to the fact that the struggle in Kansas affected not only the state, but also the whole nation as well. The novelists who write about the border war-

* This title covers a collection of short stories, about two-thirds of which have already been printed in magazines. The collection has not yet appeared in book form.

fare all emphasize the struggle between the proslavery and free-state elements, and the heroic rôle played by John Brown in his championship of the freedom of the Negroes. Every novel about this period merely repeats these things in a slightly different setting. So much historical material can be found about this period that most of these novels deteriorate into a mere recital of historical facts.

A few novelists have used the cattle towns and the Texas-cattle trade in their stories. This type of fiction, however, is rather sensational and is usually of very poor quality. It smacks too much of the "wild" days of the West. Often it is merely a narrative of events that the author has been able to piece together from the experiences of men who were closely associated with the cattle industry during this period in the history of the state.

Not much of the literature that has been written about Kansas has any enduring worth. It is true that Kansas has produced authors who have been accorded a place in the literary annals of the nation; but, as a rule, these men and women have done their best work with subjects other than those that deal directly with Kansas material.

The best short stories written about Kansas were those written by Henry King. Some of these were published in the old *Kansas Magazine*, although many of them appeared in other magazines. King never published a collection of these stories, so the average reader knows nothing about them. They are stories of real worth and should be preserved, for they show the ability of Henry King as a writer. King's name should be included among those of the western writers in American literature who wrote during the seventies and eighties.

Kansas literature, or literature about the state of Kansas, sprang suddenly into prominence during the years immediately following the Civil War. For the next twenty-five years a great deal was written about the state. However, since that period very little has been written that is directly about Kansas, although many writers have used Kansas material more or less indirectly.

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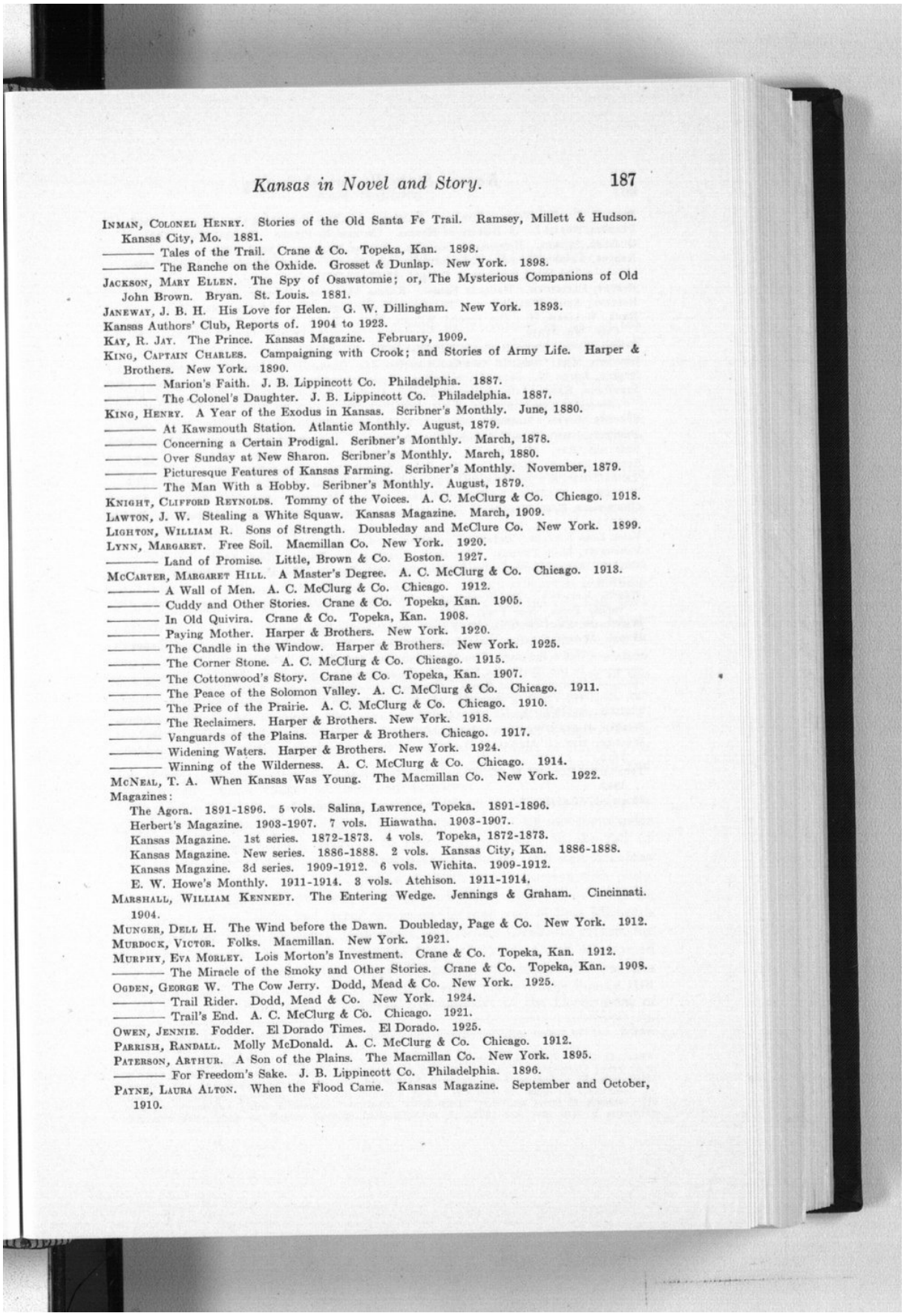

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