

Kansas as it is. a complete review of the resources, advantages and drawbacks of the great central state

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

This book was written to meet the popular demand for reliable information about Kansas. It contains statistics on population, lands in cultivation, crops, schools, churches and other information. It was intended mainly as a guide to the people who were seeking lands and homes in the new West.

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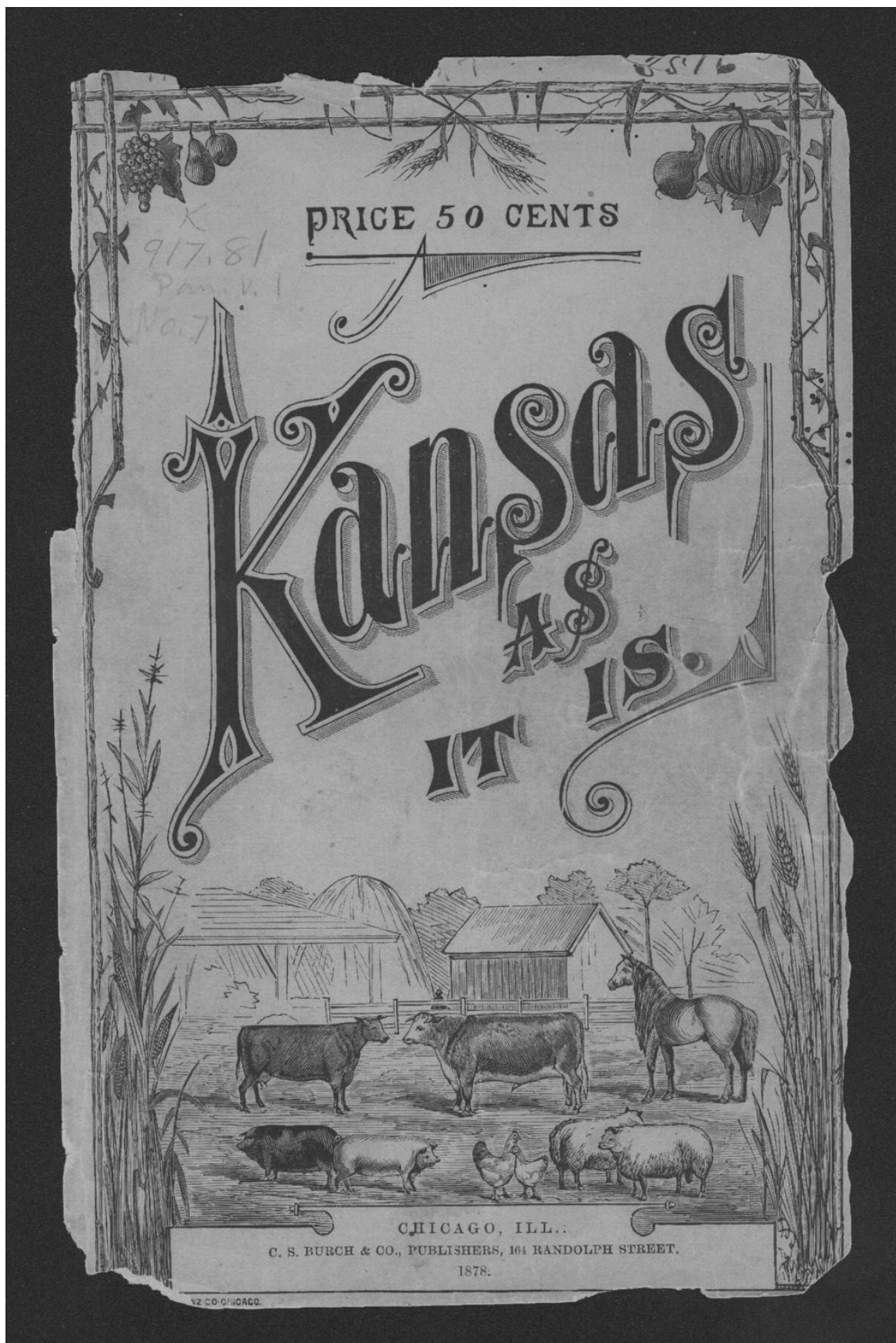
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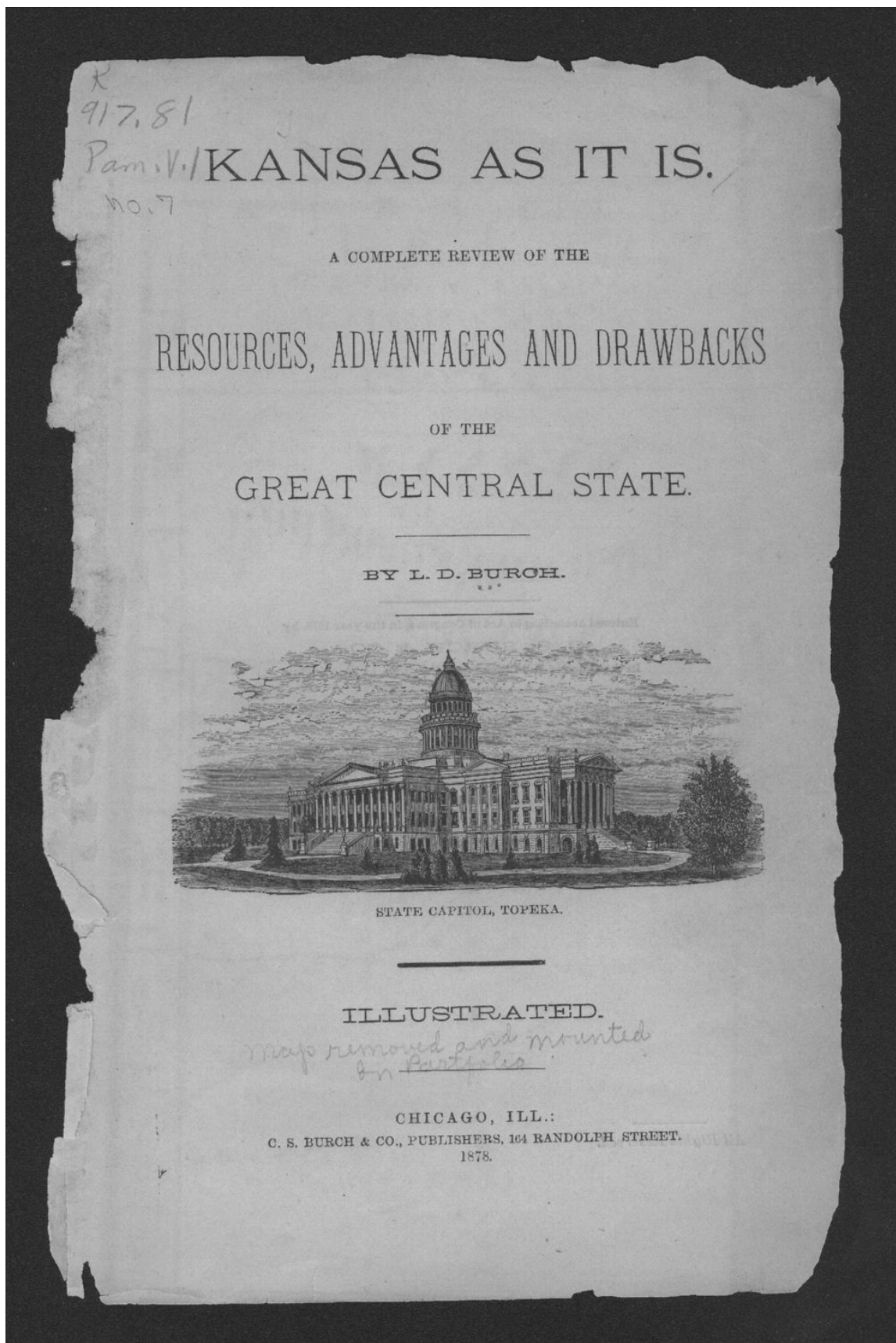
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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

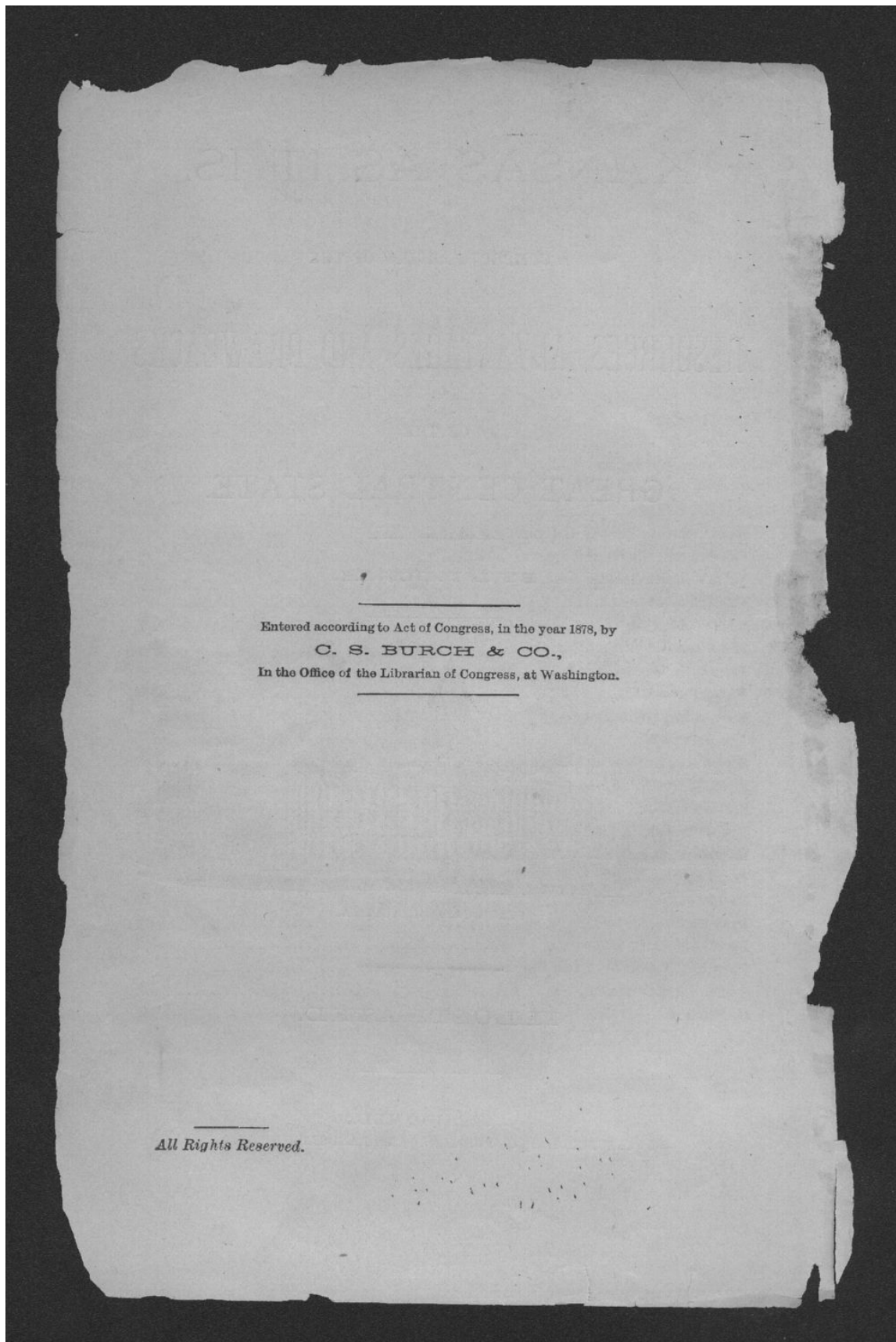
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INTRODUCTORY.

This book is for information, not criticism. It has been hurriedly prepared to meet the popular demand for reliable information about *Kansas as it is*. In making up statistics of population, lands in cultivation, crops, schools, churches, etc., I have drawn largely upon the admirable annual and monthly reports of Hon. Alfred Gray, Secretary to the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. The tables will be found of great value to the reader in making up an estimate of the real and comparative merits of Kansas. The book, in general, is the result of ten months careful, deliberate travel and observation in all portions of the State and is intended mainly as a guide to the thousands who are seeking lands and homes in the New West. It is written without thought of fear or favor. The writer is too poor to have any material Kansas interests of his own to conserve, and quite too independent to go out of the way to advance any other interest, personal or corporate. Both its statements and conclusions could, with propriety and safety, have been made much stronger.

Kansas has never been over-colored, even by the most sanguine correspondents and book writers. It is a country, remarkable alike, for its topographical charms, climate and material resources, and has a great destiny. With the fullest confidence that the estimate of the country and people herein given, will be well sustained by any fair practical test, "Kansas As It Is" is respectfully submitted

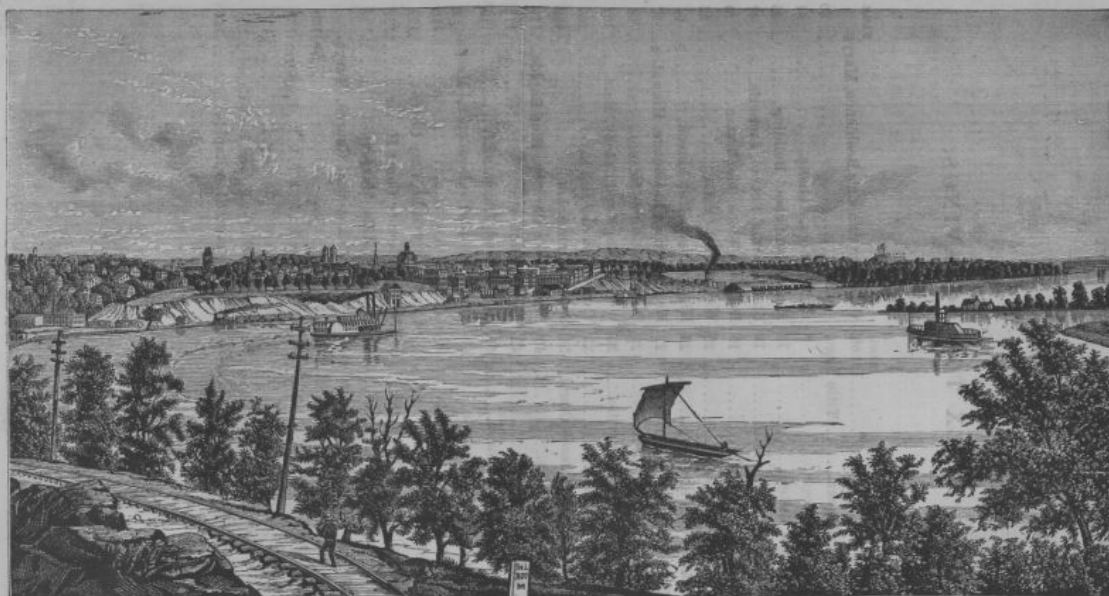
BY THE AUTHOR

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VII
VIEW ON MISSOURI RIVER, NEAR LEAVENWORTH.

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HISTORICAL.

EXPLORATIONS—EARLY SETTLEMENT—TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION—THE FIGHT FOR
FREEDOM—ADMISSION INTO THE UNION—GROWTH OF POPULATION.

The story of Kansas is more exciting than a romance. Begotten in the sin of a political conspiracy to plant human slavery in her soil; born out of the throes of the most barbarous civil war that has blackened the history of modern civilization; rocked in the cradle of material desolation, and nurtured through years of unpromising childhood, she is fairer, more hopeful and stronger to-day than any of all the sisterhood of the younger American States. For years she lay an unknown waif upon the bosom of old Mr. Morse's "Great American Desert" with a race of merciless savages before her, and behind, the wall of the bondman under the lash of the imperious task-master. Then came other years of doubt, tears and trial, but not to crush and wither; for with them came the fullness born of heroic endurance and a noble nature. I see her

IN THE BRIGHT DAWN

of her prosperous day. Only yesterday she was asking alms for her suffering children. Last evening she clothed herself in robes of purple and green and gold, and stood in the gas-light at the assembly of nations at Philadelphia. Ceres and Pomona kept her company. Child of misfortune, whom the world had learned to pity, they come to admire her now, for she is fairer than Narcissus. Princes and nobles walk in her court of beauty and wonder at her material splendor. Her own children reared the charming temple where she holds court, and decked its halls with the fairest offerings of field and forest, of garden and orchard. No wonder she is admired, for she represents alike the beauty of

strength and youth. She is young in years but rich in experience and wisdom. She has wept herself, like Niobe, almost to hardness for the loss of her best and bravest children, but she is self-helpful and strong and fair to-day. They bandied rude epithets to express their contempt for her in the years of doubt and trial, and now, in the dawn of her prosperous day, fortune brings favor and friends. "Nothing is so successful as success." Kansas stands in the foreground and is recognized and honored by virtue of what she has wrought under discouragement. She is in her glory now; the shadows have passed, the sun shines and prosperity and fullness flow with steady, increasing tide. No country is more prosperous to-day than Kansas. They have more wealth at the East but it is locked up in depressed realty and fitful stocks. Trade, production, values—everything has touched the maximum and is in the shrinking process. Here,

THE TENDENCY IS UPWARD.

The country is young and growing. Trade is steadily expanding. Production is constantly increasing. Wealth is not only rapidly but healthfully accumulating with the development of local resource.

KANSAS OFFERS MORE

to the emigrant, to-day, than any land between the two oceans. The climate is charming. The soil is, for the most part, unexcelled. The variety and possibilities of the soil are wonderful. The schools are among the best; society is good and growing better. The country is healthful and more beautiful than I

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can describe. There is wood, coal, stone, timber, water and fruits, all of good quality and abundant. What more could be desired?

Up to 1541 no white man had ever trodden the soil of Kansas. During the winter of that year, Coronado led an expedition from Mexico to this country, and the same year Alarcon came northward, by the Gulf with a party of explorers, which he led overland across Kansas to the Pacific. Simultaneously with these came the brave De Soto with another Spanish expedition from Florida overland to a point near to the northeast corner of Kansas. In 1673 came Marquette, an adventurous French missionary from the Upper Mississippi, by canoe, into this beautiful Southwest. Ten years later, the daring and chivalrous La Salle floated down the Father of Waters and took possession of the country in behalf of the French King, naming it Louisiana. Dustine received a commission to look over Kansas and came up from New Orleans in 1719, ascending the Osage and Marais des Cygnes to their sources, thence across to the mouth of the Republican and so westward up the Smoky Hill. In 1762, France ceded the Province of Louisiana—then comprising the whole Southwest—to Spain. In 1800 it was returned to France by treaty and in 1803 sold by the latter power to the United States. The following year Kansas was formally incorporated into the District of Louisiana and Lewis and Clark started upon their memorable expedition up the Missouri river, making a flattering report of the Kansas side as they journeyed northward. Wm. Henry Harrison, then Governor of the Indian territory, and later, president of the United States, placed Kansas under his civil jurisdiction the same year. The following year the Territory of Louisiana was organized by Congress and embraced Missouri and Kansas. In 1812 the Territory of Missouri was organized including Kansas. In 1820 Missouri entered the Union of States. Three years later the old Santa Fe Trail was opened by the passage of the first wagon train across Kansas.

From this time on to 1854, the Government established reservations in Eastern Kansas for the remnants of Indian tribes in the older states. After the last named year these tribes were gradually removed to make way for white settlers. Hon. D. W. Wilder, in his valuable historic sketch of Kansas, asserts that up to 1854 not more than 150 whites were living within the present bounds of Kansas, and these were mainly connected with the Missions or trading posts or were Frenchmen who had married into the Indian tribes and taken up their rude methods of living. Mons Chateau established the "Trading Post" at the rapids of the Marais des Cygnes—in what is now Linn county—as early as 1844, fully ten years before the plow was introduced into that part of Kansas, and his old stockade and trading house are still standing. Fort Leavenworth was founded in 1827 and the Shawnee Mission, near the mouth of the Kansas river, in 1831, by the Baptists. One year later, the Methodist Mission was started at Shawnee and the following year the Quakers (Friends) founded their Mission there also. In 1835 the Presbyterians founded their Iowa Indian Mission at Highland, now in Doniphan county. In 1832 Washington Irving journeyed along the eastern border of Kansas as far south as the Arkansas river and wrote beautiful, bewildering notes of "A tour on the Prairies." Old Mr. Morse was then telling the world of the "Great American Desert" west of the Missouri river. Ten years later Col. Tom Benton supplemented Mr. Morse's story with a speech in the American Senate, in which he stated that the whole region from a line twenty-five miles west of the Missouri river, westward to the mountains, was "a barren waste, incapable of agricultural production and uninhabitable." Years before, Pike had explored this great region to the base of the Snowy Range in search of the sources of the Red river. Col. Bent had built a fort and opened trade with the Utes at the base of the mountains where Canon City now stands. A little later, he built



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Bent's Fort at the junction of the Arkansas and Las Animas—*Lost Souls*—in Eastern Colorado, married a Cheyenne squaw, grew opulent in trade, raised a family on the plains and forgot to tell the world that Col. Benton's speech and the story of the old geographer were myths. A little later Kit Carson and Boggs (the latter a son of Gov. Boggs of Missouri) found their way up the Arkansas to Bent's Fort, took each a Mexican woman for a wife and contented themselves with raising families, herding cattle and sheep and exploring the mountains. The wild life they led had its charms and they too, forgot to tell the world of

THE BEAUTIFUL LAND

that lay between their Las Animas cabins and civilization. Col. Fremont led his brave band across these magnificent savannas, in 1842, and

BROKE THE SPELL

of the mythical desert with a revelation of far-reaching valleys and mountain-girt parks, richer than the African Nile and fairer than the fabled Eden.

Forty years bring wonderful change. The Senator's speech and the geographers' story are a vanishing vision. In their stead is

A REVELATION

of matchless, material beauty and human progress. The desert is transformed into a garden. Its valleys reach from the Missouri to the mountains and grow corn to fill the granaries of the world. Its plateaux and tables are grazing the cattle to feed the million. More than a half million souls are here solving the problem of life by honest labor for subsistence. They have built towns by the hundred, founded colleges, built school houses by thousands, planted orchards, and vineyards and forests till the land is embowered in bloom and fruition. Twenty-four hundred miles of railway traverse this new empire and unite it with the older lands on the east and the mountains of silver and placers of gold on the west. This empire of beauty and bounty is flanked on the south by the glowing landscapes of the Indian Nation and the magnificent

ranches of Texas, and on the north by the golden wheat fields of Nebraska. On the east is Missouri, and on the west the radiant plains of Colorado. And what

A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE

of life between! No pen or pencil can give adequate portraiture to these Kansas landscapes. They are the delight of the visitor from every land. The native grandeur they disclosed to the chivalrous and heroic explorers is supplemented now by pastoral and agricultural charms of almost incomparable interest. Overhead is the pale blue amethyst of this glorious Southwestern sky; under foot, the emerald sea of grasses, decked with floral gems of every hue. He does not exist who is stoical or prosaic enough to be unmoved by these grand views. The soul keeps pace with the wonderful range of vision and is touched by a sweet sense of the infinite. The rich expanse of prairie reaches to the golden sunset, the valley is lost in the far horizon, the blue mound pierces the clouds. Nothing is contracted or stinted. God beyond and above, the divine man below, to crown the work of nature with the embellishment of art. What a grand, grand country!

Human life, too, takes its best forms and conditions here, by virtue of its composite character and fair material surroundings. It is intensely practical, and yet close on the border of the ideal. An embodiment of the sternest realism and the most delicate poetic sense.

Don't tell me this is a florid sketch, dear reader. Come and see the land for yourself, look at these radiant valleys in the high noon of summer, with continuous corn fields that turn 50, 60 and 70 bushels to the acre, outlined with the river forest, through whose aisles and intervals one catches a gleam of the silver waters. They lie low down with their generous burdens of wheat and corn, all the fairer by contrast with flanking hills and forests. See them in the glow of summer or the fullness and bounty of autumn, and tell me of a nobler land if you can. Go out on the hills among the grasses and herds that are making wealth for this country and tell

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me if you think it has been over-colored or over-estimated. It is

NEARER THE TRUTH

to suppose you can't embellish such a picture. Examine the depth and texture of the soil, the nature of the grasses, the bounty of the crops, the charms of landscape and then take the first train for Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, New York or the sterile hills of Pennsylvania and New England and judge of their relative merits. That is

A PRACTICAL TEST.

There is no moonshine in it. It means something. This whole country is photographed in lines of grace and beauty upon the soul of the visitor. He can never dissipate the vision. It is in his dreams of night and in his day-dreams. The more he sees of the older lands, the lovelier grows the vision of the new.

From 1834, the

PROGRESS OF CIVILIZATION

was more rapid. The first printing press was established that year with the Baptist Mission at Ottawa. A few farms were opened and in 1847 Catholic Missions and schools were established at St. Mary's, among the Pottawatomie Indians and at Osage, among the Osage Indians of the Neosho Valley. In 1850 a military road was laid by the Government from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Kearney. Three years later, Fort Riley was established in the valley of the Kansas, near the mouth of the Republican river. The

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

of Kansas was consummated by act of Congress, May 30, 1854. The act of 1820, wherein Congress *forever* prohibited slavery in this beautiful domain, was nullified by the "Squatter Sovereignty" resolutions of Congress and then began the memorable fight between freedom and slavery, for the mastery of the most beautiful region of the continent.

THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM,

inaugurated here in 1854, involved not the freedom of Kansas alone, but of the whole American Union. If slavery was successfully planted in these magnificent prairies, it must spread without let or hindrance over Nebraska, Colorado, New

Mexico and so, easily westward to the Pacific. Only time was needed to carry it, with the aggressions of Empire, southward to the Isthmus. It was the old historic fight of the ages, involving the fate of universal liberty. The slave propagandists, with the powerful patronage of the Government, were the aggressors; the culture, conscience and determined will of the free North, with the Eternal God, were

THE DEFENDERS.

There could be no doubt about the final issue of a war between these forces any more than about its sanguinary character. Brave, self-sacrificing men, with their lives in their hands, came from every city, village and hamlet in the North, to this consecrated battle ground, and the fight was carried from '54, over eleven dark and bloody years to the close of "the great rebellion." With the war came *freedom for Kansas*. The story of these cruel years is an "oft told tale" and I have no wish to lift the curtain that charitably covers the ineffable "crime against Kansas" during this dark period.

THE FOUNDING OF CITIES

began with the war in 1854. Leavenworth, Atchison, Topeka and Lawrence, were all started in that year. Several towns were founded a little later.

TERRITORIAL LEGISLATION

began in July, 1850, at Pawnee, the first Legislature meeting in a low stone building which is still standing on the bank of the Kansas river, just below Ft. Riley. The second meeting of this body was at Shawnee Mission on the 16th of the same month. The following October, a Free State Convention met at Lawrence and framed a Constitution. In January, 1857, the second Territorial Legislature met at Leecompton. The third and fourth Legislatures met here also in 1858 and 1859 respectively.

KANSAS AS A STATE,

was admitted to the Union in 1861, with something over 100,000 population. From the organization of the territory in 1854, the settlement of the country had been rapid, though production was very light owing to the war which brought nearly

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VIEW OF THE KANSAS VALLEY LOOKING EAST FROM ST. GEORGE.

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every able bodied man into the service. The close of the war in 1865, found a population of one hundred and thirty-five thousand in the State.

THE GROWTH OF POPULATION

has been altogether remarkable and it would seem that even its early misfortunes had been a successful advertisement of the country. I copy from the late admirable report of the State Board of Agriculture the following statement of the progress of population:

In February, 1855.....	8,601
In June, 1860.....	107,306
In June, 1865.....	135,807
In June, 1870.....	364,339
In March, 1875.....	531,156

"The gain in the decade from 1860 to 1870, was 239.90 per cent.—a greater increase than any other State made. Minnesota gained, in that decade, 155.61 per cent.; Iowa, 76.91 per cent.; Oregon, 73.30 per cent.; Illinois, 43.36 per cent and Missouri, 45.62 per cent.

"In 1860, Kansas ranked 33, in 1870, 29 among the States, in population."

Reports made to the Board of Agriculture on the 1st of March, 1877, show a

population of 592,916, an increase of 64,567 over 1875, or more than 12 per cent. From the date of this last report, (which does not include the late settlements in the unorganized counties) there has been a heavy emigration into the State. During the late months of September, October and November, the daily inflow by rail and emigrant wagons, has fallen little, if any, short of 500 persons, and it is safe to estimate the present total population of Kansas at 640,000. In 1870, the States next below Kansas, in order of population were as follows:

State.	Population.	admitted in.
30th, Vermont,	330,551	1791
31st, New Hampshire,	318,300	1789
32nd, Rhode Island,	217,353	1789
33rd, Florida,	187,748	1845
34th, Delaware,	125,012	1789
35th, Nebraska,	122,933	1859
36th, Oregon,	90,923	1859
37th, Nevada,	42,491	1864

Arkansas, West Virginia and Minnesota, all ahead of Kansas in 1870 are now behind her in population.

THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS.

THEIR COMPOSITE CHARACTER—SOCIAL LIFE—LIBERAL TENDENCIES AND FORCE OF CHARACTER.

The people of Kansas are more thoroughly cosmopolitan in their make-up than those of any other country in the world. Nearly one hundred thousand of the present population were born in the Southern States. They came here for the better social, educational and religious advantages; for the rich soil and splendid native pasturage, cheaper lands and superior climate. They are generally earnest, ambitious and progressive men and are doing their full share towards the development of the country. They generally came here from choice, preferring the social, moral and material order here to the lingering shadows of the slave system. Europe has furnished fully sixty-five thousand of the present population; the German States leading,

with the British Islands next, followed by every Power and Principality on the Continent. The British American Provinces are admirably represented. Of the older American States, Illinois is much the most strongly represented in the Central and Southern portions of the State. In the newer Northern countries, Iowa leads all the rest by a large per cent. Taking the State at large, Illinois leads, followed by Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania and New England.

THE SOCIAL LIFE

of Kansas is thoroughly enjoyable. It is cosmopolitan enough to be liberal and unconstrained. The conventionalities of older society are lost in the scope and freedom of pioneer life on the boundless prairie. Nearly every expression

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of social life here is hearty, natural and rational. Society is more democratic than in the older States. They recognize the mutual dependencies, live on a common plane and make higher account of brain, energy and character than they do of gold. I am charmed with the social freedom of this great State. While it involves every sanction of law and morals, it is yet grand in its possibilities and exemption from the cheap and petty ways and rules of older society at the East. It is more natural and philosophical. I like the people for their spirit, their independence and

LIBERAL TENDENCIES.

They are emancipated from cant and dogmatism. They are neither creed-bound nor hide-bound. There is a growing liberality in the religious, political and social order. It is not the tendency to *license* but rather to *discipline* under larger personal freedom. It is the Western habit of bravery and self-command, as against the conventional restraints. The *individual* is stronger and more self-asserting. The *clique* weaker and less commanding. Personal freedom among rational men gives the strongest guaranty against license because it involves greater personal responsibility and accountability. The church, the clique or the party bear no part of the blame for independent, personal action. It rests alone with the man. He has none to defend or vindicate his wrong doing. He has only himself to lean upon and is put on his honor and good behavior. A constant appeal is made to his manhood, and so he grows stronger in deed and consciousness. The Kansas man is vastly braver, more liberal and self-helpful than his eastern friend, and this both justifies and accounts for the inclination to greater personal freedom. No man can long retain his provincial cast here. It drops off unconsciously in these surroundings. The country is too broad, too grand to admit of it. Every clime, every nation, every shade of thought and belief is represented here. The social, mental and religious friction

among these diverse elements wears into prejudice and the man could not remain narrow and proscriptive if he would. Life here is too grand in its opportunities to even admit the culture of littleness or exclusiveness. Every new wave of thought, every new movement tends to liberate and enlarge. Tokens of human progress are everywhere. It is a grand life they live here and the more I see of the land and the people, the better I am pleased with them. An

ENTERPRISING AND PROGRESSIVE

temper pervades all departments of life. No country has fewer dull, stupid, sluggish men and women. It is not in the nature of things to produce or tolerate them. The country is new, the speculative feeling strong, and the opportunities for making property, influence and position large. The people of Kansas are of the positive, aggressive type, and, for the most part, represent the best material, moral and intellectual character of the lands from which they came. A stupid, lazy man rarely gets as far west as the Missouri river. He is wanting in the courage and ambition to impel a movement so far from home. Kansas is full of the best and bravest young men of the East—men who have sublime faith in the future, in the West and themselves, and want room for grand action and great possibilities. Half the people of the Eastern states believe the West is peopled with a very ordinary sort of men, who live in the wilds in semi-barbaric rudeness. A summer's journey "beyond the Mississippi" readily dissipates the illusion. There is just as much culture here as in the East, only it is so well distributed through all the relations of life that it does not always appear to the hurrying traveler. It is less organized and centralized. In the sod cabin of many a pioneer, the altar-fires of generous culture are brightly burning and a delicate sense of the beautiful and ideal goes hand in hand with the stern realism of pioneering. I like the breadth and freedom of the life they live here. Conventional words have been passed from their vocabulary and conventional

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deeds from their lives. They are sociable, natural and democratic. They "don't care a tow string" where a man hails from nor ask after his antecedents. They measure him by what he can do. A superficial man finds his level here quite as easy and much sooner than at the East. Here they admire *action*. At the East they worship wealth and place. It is a grand life they lead in this atmosphere where nothing is sickly or stunted and every one does the best that is in him. The best of what is in a man gets upon the outside before he has been here long, and is finely brought out on this broad theatre of opportunity. A man who can sit down and fold his hands in idleness, or waste his years in dreaming and repining, is not fit to live on the border. He gets jostled out of position and loses his bearings. He might do well enough for a missionary to the South Sea islanders and find his wants met in bread fruit, bananas and

"The music of the sad sea waves,"

but he could never fight the red devils of the plains, pilot a steamboat to the "Great Falls," run a Missouri river ferry, drive a six mule team or make a good congressman. The average Kansan can do any or or all of these. His nature is elastic and so is his life. He wouldn't be much in a tread mill, for he would fly off on a tangent, with his eye on Denver, San Juan or sundown. He don't take much stock in a "high private in the rear ranks" who can just as well be a Major General. I came to Kansas in the golden, dreamy September days expecting to see a forbidding wilderness and my heart set on finding the lovely raven-haired, dark-eyed, traditional maiden of the Pottawatomies, and they told me she was a *myth*. Instead of these, I found a fair, commanding land, made doubly inviting by the hands of a cordial, hospitable, cultured and prosperous people.

THE SOCIAL ELEMENTS

are not in any sense inferior to the best of the older States. Here are people from the pulpit, bar, college and the best walks of social

life in the older lands. Stimulated by reverses, some of them come here to make a new start on the frontier and better their fortune. Others come for the health denied them at home and it is quite remarkable to see the number of these who have recovered from consumption and kindred diseases. Still others come for the bright, radiant climate—for the glory of the summers, the subdued splendor of the autumns and the charms of a mild, dry, open winter. And then there are hundreds of brave, ambitious young men who find here an ample open field rich in opportunity. The herdsman comes to tend his flocks upon the hills and grow rich out of these superb native grasses. And so they come together, a mixed multitude, to scatter out along these lovely valleys, build homes and found society. Of course they are enlarging upon eastern life for they are less provincial. They grow up into liberal ways and could not do otherwise in so grand a country as this. This breadth of territory, boundless opportunity, brightness of the climate, richness of the soil and possibilities of production have a tendency to develop strong, self-reliant, ambitious men.

THE LOCATION OF KANSAS

is fortunate beyond that of any of her sister States. Situated in the very heart of the Continent, the central position of this young State gives her great strategetic importance. She "commands the situation," as much by virtue of position, as by the splendid aggregation of interior forces. She is bound to the commercial, political and material life of the country by the strongest ties and will become a powerful conservator of the national weal. She lies in the path of Empire and every throb of the national heart will quicken her energies and give tone and strength to her industries. With characteristic forecast, Charles Sumner, in his speech from the American Senate, in 1856, gave eloquent expression to the significance of the situation in the following memorable words:

"Take down your map, sir, and you



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will find that the territory of Kansas, more than any other region, occupies the middle spot of North America, equally distant from the Atlantic on the East and the Pacific on the West; from the frozen water of Hudson's Bay on the North, and the tepid Gulf Stream on the South, constituting the precise territorial centre of the whole vast Continent. To such advantage of situation, on the very highway between two oceans, are added a soil of unsurpassed richness, and a fascinating, undulating beauty of surface, with a health-giving climate, calculated to nurture a powerful and generous people, worthy to be a central pivot of American institutions.

"A few short months only have passed since this spacious mediterranean country was open only to the savage, who ran wild in its woods and prairies; and now it has already drawn to its bosom a population of freemen larger than Athens crowded within her historic gates, when her sons, under Miltiades, won liberty for mankind on the field of Marathon; more than Sparta contained when she ruled Greece, and sent forth her devoted children, quickened by a mother's benediction, to return with their shields or on them; more than Rome gathered on her seven hills, when, under her kings she commenced that sovereign sway which afterwards embraced the whole earth; more than London held, when, on the fields of Crecy and Agincourt, the English banner was carried victoriously over the chivalrous hosts of France."

In

TERRITORIAL EXTENT,

Kansas ranks among the foremost States in the Union, having an area of *eighty-one thousand three hundred and eighteen square miles, or fifty-two millions forty-three thousand five hundred and twenty acres.* Of this vast domain, only little more than 6,000,000

acres, (less than one-eighth of the whole State) are in cultivation, leaving about 42,000,000 acres still in the natural State. A late correspondent of the New York *Herald* asserts that there is

"NOT AN ACRE OF WASTE LAND

in all this great domain." In a general sense, this statement is correct. The rivers, creeks and lakes cover a very respectable per cent. of the country, but they are invaluable aids to settlement, agriculture, stock growing and climate, lending to the country intrinsic value, five times greater than the market value of lands equaling the area they cover. A small per cent. of the State is covered with out-cropping rocks (principally magnesian limestone) and it is questionable if it were wisdom to have these tracts substituted even by the richest soil, for they are of incalculable value to the new settler. Barring these two items there is really no waste land in Kansas. The whole country is covered with rich wild grasses from the lowest to the highest hill. This beautiful State is 400 miles long from east to west and 200 miles wide from north to south. Some conception of its real extent may be had from the following statement, which we copy from the report of the State Board of Agriculture:

"Only five States have a larger area than Kansas. Kansas has more square miles than Ohio, Indiana, Delaware and Connecticut combined. England and Scotland together contain only 8,282 square miles more than Kansas. Kansas is an empire; a giant in its cradle."

FACE OF THE COUNTRY.

UNPARALLELED TOPOGRAPHICAL CHARMS—EMINENT TESTIMONY AS TO THE BEAUTY OF ITS LANDSCAPES.

No country in the world can excel Kansas in varied charms of pastoral scenery. It is a beautiful, bewildering picture from end to end. The summer visitor is under a spell from the moment he treads the soil of Kansas. Seward, Edward Everett Hale, Washington

Irving, Agassiz, Major Winthrop, Greeley, Richardson, and thousands of others whose finer sense has been touched with real visions of this lovely land, have paid glowing tributes to its unrivaled native splendors. There is no sign of monotony here, as on the dead flat

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plains or low lands of some of the older States, but everywhere the freshness of infinite variety. Even the valleys and bottoms dip easily and gracefully down to the rapid water courses. The streams are fringed with groves of oak, linden, cottonwood, elm, ash and walnut, and may be traced for scores of miles by the green groves that outline them. Sharp, bold headlines, bluffs and promontories often mark one side of the meandering streams, while upon the opposite shore are broad, peaceful bottoms and charming plateaux, with the graceful, rolling prairie reaching away to the horizon like the dead swells of a heavy sea.

There is no tameness, no bleakness, no loneliness in these ever-changing landscapes. The grassy, swelling upland, the unspeakable peace and calm of the valleys, the rugged, picturesque bluff ranges, deep, wierd, shadowy canyons and the grateful shade of the native

southern atmosphere, seems a beautiful fairy realm by itself, apart from the sordid, sinful, lower world of men. Standing upon the outer rim of these grand elevations, the vision takes wonderful range and the soul is moved with an unspeakable sense of the infinite. The herdsman will tell you that they are only fit for "sheep range." The grain grower deprecates their presence as a blemish upon a fertile and fruitful land. To the lover of the beautiful, they stand out against the sky a perpetual inspiration. Below them along the valleys, life may be never so prosaic in home-building and bread-getting, but these blue mounds are the monuments that mark the way of the soul into the higher ideal land. They

CALL A HALT

in the march of avarice and give new impulse to every noble and refined sense. If they have no commercial value, they are yet priceless in esthetic worth and may be numbered among the endless possessions of the soul. The mounds extend from the Missouri river westward to the Snowy Range, northward to Nebraska and southward to the Plains of Concho. They are nearly always in sight and one never wearies of them. Kansas, Southern Nebraska, the Indian Territory and Northern Texas, unquestionably, lead the world in attractive landscapes. A writer in the *North American Review*, gives the following admirable description of the matchless topography of Kansas:

"The most perfect display of the prairies is found in the Eastern parts of Kansas and Nebraska. It is no exaggeration to pronounce this region, as left by the hand of Nature, the most beautiful country in its landscape upon the face of the earth. Here the forest is restricted to narrow fringes along the rivers and streams, the courses of which are thus defined as far as the eye can reach, whilst all between is a broad expanse of meadow lands, carpeted with the richest verdure and wearing the appearance of artistically-graded lawns. They are familiarly called the rolling prairies, because the land rises and falls in gentle swells, which attain an elevation of thirty feet, more or less, and descend again to the original level, within the distance of one or more miles.



OPERA HOUSE, SALINA, SALINE COUNTY.

groves; the ancient water-lines, traced by succeeding terraces along the river bluffs, the elevated plain or mesa make up a picture of rural loveliness that can never have adequate portraiture.

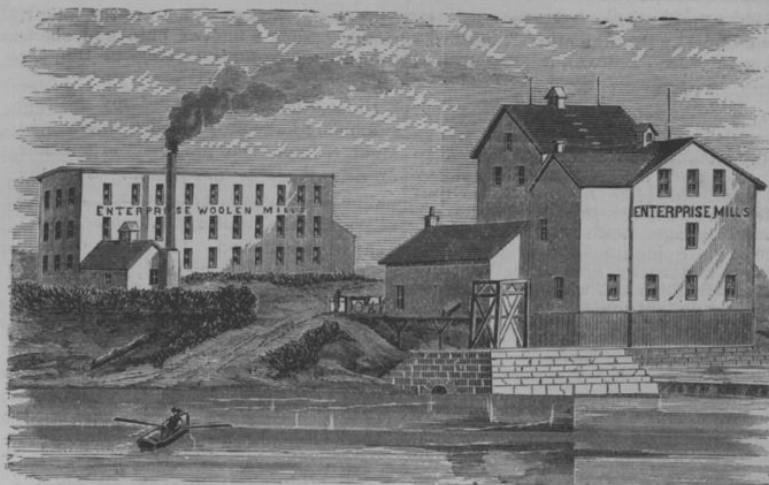
THE TABLE MOUND

or mesa is the crowning glory of these landscapes and standing out against the blue horizon, in the mellow haze of this

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ENTERPRISE MILLS, ENTERPRISE, DICKINSON COUNTY, C. HOFFMAN & SON, PROPRIETORS.

The crest-lines of these motionless waves of land intersect each other at every conceivable angle, the effect of which is to bring into view the most extended landscape, and to show the dark green foliage of the forest trees skirting the streams in pleasing contrast with the light green of the prairie grasses. In their spring covering of vegetation these prairies wear the semblance of an old and once highly cultivated country, from the soil of which every inequality of surface, every stone and every bush has been carefully removed, and the surface rolled down into absolute uniformity. The marvel is suggested how Nature could have kept these verdant fields in such luxuriance after man had apparently abandoned them to waste."

Edward Everett Hale, in his book on Kansas, says:

"The general appearance of the country is that of vast rolling fields enclosed with colossal hedges. Every letter and memoir written regarding this remarkable valley (the Kansas valley) confirms the account of its surpassing loveliness and fertility."

Mr. Seward, in his Lawrence speech, entitled, "Kansas, the Savior of Freedom," said:

I seem not to have journeyed hither, but to have floated across the sea—the prairie sea—under bright autumnal skies, wafted by gentle breezes into the havens where I wished to be."

Washington Irving, who visited Kan-

sas in 1832, gave this glowing sketch of its wilderness charms:

"Over these fertile and verdant wastes still roam the elk, the buffalo and the wild horse in all their native freedom."

* * * "After resuming our march, we came in sight of the Arkansas. It presented a broad and rapid stream bordered by a beach of fine sand, overgrown with willows and cottonwood trees. Beyond the river the eye wandered over a beautiful campaign country of flowery plains and sloping uplands, diversified by groves and clumps of trees and long screens of woodland; the whole wearing the aspect of complete, and even of ornamental cultivation, instead of native wilderness." * * *

"We were overshadowed by lofty trees, with straight, smooth trunks like stately columns; and as the glancing rays of the sun shone through the transparent leaves tinted with the many colored hues of autumn, I was reminded of the effect of sunshine among the stained windows and clustering columns of a Gothic cathedral. Indeed, there is a grandeur in our spacious forests of the West that awaken in me the same feeling I have experienced in those vast and venerable piles and the sound of the wind sweeping through, supplies occasionally, the deep breathings of the organ." * * *

"It was a bright, sunny morning with a pure, transparent atmosphere that seemed to bathe the very heart with gladness. Our march continued parallel with the Arkansas through a rich and

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varied country; sometimes we had to break our way through alluvial bottoms matted with redundant vegetation, where the gigantic trees were entangled with grape vines hanging like cordage from their branches; sometimes we coasted along sluggish brooks, whose feebly trickling current just served to link together a succession of glassy pools imbedded like mirrors in the quiet bosom of the forest, reflecting its autumnal foliage and patches of clear blue sky. Sometimes we scrambled up broken and rocky hills from the summit of which we had wide views, on one side over distant prairies, diversified by

groves and forests, and on the other, ranging along a line of blue and shadowy hills, beyond the waters of the Arkansas."

During eight months of my Kansas rambles, I have never grown weary with sight-seeing. One never feels a sense of dreariness or desolation. Even the plains of the western border have a charm for the visitor that comes very near to infatuation. The smile of God rests upon this lovely land, an everlasting benediction.

SOIL AND CLIMATE.

DEPTH, CHARACTER AND POSSIBILITIES OF THE FORMER—MILDNESS, EQUABILITY AND HEALTHFULNESS OF THE LATTER.

The reader will be interested to know something of the soil that has given to this new State a world-wide celebrity for the beauty of its grain fields. The splendid crops of the last three years are, in themselves, a sufficient attest to the oft-repeated declarations of visitors concerning its richness. In nearly every portion of the State the soil is a dark alluvium, varying in depth from one to six feet. In many of the river bottoms of Eastern and Middle Kansas, the *drift* of the river bottoms is from eight to fifteen feet deep and almost coal black. Ascending the rivers, one to two hundred miles, it is less colored but always rich and from four to ten feet in depth. The same is true of the valleys and bottoms along the smaller streams in all parts of the State. This dark valley soil is the deposit, or drift, of ages, and practically inexhaustible. It will grow 50, 60, 70 and 90 bushels of corn (or other crops of corresponding magnitude) per acre for a hundred successive years with no sign of weakness or diminution. On the second bottoms, or plateaus, it takes a perceptibly lighter hue, but is rich, deep and scarcely less valuable than lower down. On the high prairies, it is a dark, rich vegetable mould, from

one to three feet deep and very productive. In portions of the State, it rests upon a limestone basis, and in other parts a rich clay sub-soil intervenes between the black mould and the bed-rock. On the mounds and bluffs it is sometimes light and thin, with out-cropping rocks, and cannot be cultivated. Its depth and porous nature facilitate the absorption of moisture and it will admit of more rain without damage to crops than any soil I have ever known. For the same reason too, it retains moisture with wonderful tenacity, giving it slowly back to the atmosphere and vegetation by capillary attraction in seasons of drouth. Fifteen per cent of the whole State is covered with bottoms and valleys, rich as the famous Mohawk, Genesee or Connecticut valleys, and in this more genial climate, vastly more productive. Seventy-five per cent of the uplands are rolling prairies, have a rich, enduring soil and are smooth enough for successful cultivation, leaving, say, 15 per cent of rough, broken and rocky land for perpetual pasturage. Probably no country in the world possesses a richer or more bountiful soil than Kansas. In Mr. Hale's book on Kansas, from which I have before quoted, is the following testimony to the bounty of the

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Kansas valley and it may be taken as a fair characterization of three fourths of the state.

"For nearly 200 miles west of the Missouri, a rich vegetable soil, sufficiently wooded, is found through the whole of this valley. It is the region of which the Eastern part has been principally occupied by the Shawnees, Delawares and Pottawatomies, whose indolent farming even, produces the most remarkable results. The soil produces wheat, corn or hemp in great abundance and is apparently inexhaustible."

In the same book, Mr. Hale gives the following quotation from a writer on Kansas:

"It is unrivaled for the fertility of its soil, the value of its forest trees, the amenity and beauty of its broad prairies, the number of its crystal streams and the salubrity of its climate."

Prof. Agassiz, the eminent naturalist, said he had never before seen so rich a soil as in Kansas and Missouri. Speaking of this distinguished gentleman's scientific visit to Kansas, the *Springfield Republican* says:

"Prof. Agassiz is fairly seething with enthusiasm over his visit to Kansas. All Brazil was nothing to what he had seen of natural beauty and scientific revelations."

CLIMATE.

The climate of Kansas is its chief attraction. It lies south of the 40th parallel, with New England, New York, nearly all of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the north half of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, all of Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska lying to the north of it. South of it are the Indian Territory, Arkansas, Tennessee and the Gulf States. It is in the latitude of Kentucky, Missouri, Virginia, Delaware and Maryland, on the east, and of Southern Colorado, Southern Utah, Southern Nevada and Central California on the west. It is south of the cold and bleak influences of northern temperature, and north of the depressing heat and humidity of the lower States. Both for location and climatic influence, it is the happy, equable mean between the two extremes. It has exemption from the damp, foggy, murky atmospheric conditions of the Eastern States and the extreme aridity of the far southwestern

plains. The heat of summer is *always* neutralized by a cool, stimulating prairie breeze from the west. On many a summer day, with the mercury at 100° in the shade and thousands of people dying of sunstroke in the Eastern cities, I have driven over the prairies of Kansas with such sense of physical and mental pleasure, from the inspiring breezes, that I have longed to stay there forever. The rare, pure air gives such wide range to the vision, that the eye lids sometimes droop with a sense of weariness. But there is

NO SENSE OF WEARINESS

to brain, and very little to body, where respiration has the ease and freedom to make life a lasting joy. One good lung here is worth a pair in the damp heavy air of the older States. Western Kansas is pre-eminently

THE PARADISE OF THE LUNGS.

Ordinary physical effort brings no sense of exhaustion. Even violent action gives little weariness to man or beast. There is the same sense of amplitude and freedom in the play of the lungs in this dry, clear, rarified atmosphere that there is to the range of vision. Sleep brings perfect rest. Rest gives health. The weak and debilitated grow strong. The climate is a cure for consumption, asthma, bronchitis and kindred ills, where Florida and the South Pacific Slope have failed to give relief. Air, water, organic matter, everything is charged with electricity, and life—whether of man or animal—is toned up to healthful tension. Earnest, ambitious action characterizes every department of life. One feels like business in this rare, radiant atmosphere. Nothing drags here. Everybody feels fresh, and youthful, and self-commanding. Nothing denotes age but the rocks and hills, and there is no sign of decadence where the inspiring breeze from the mountains touches the very germs of life and gives strength and buoyancy to all its forms. There is

A WONDERFUL RENEWAL OF VITAL FORCE to debilitated men and women, for which they may well exchange the cheap pleasures of high living in older

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PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, COFFEYVILLE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

lands. Only health can give gladness and completeness to our human life. It finds its best expression out here on the broad inspiring prairies, where the bright sun-shine flows through 340 days of the year, where never a breath of malaria taints the air, and where divine youth is stamped upon every living thing. These men and women who

LIVE IN THE SADDLE

a day in each week and grow sun-browned and strong and happy-hearted; who sleep soundly in the cool, delightful summer nights and eat with the relish of a buffalo hunter, what a glorious life is theirs! No aches or pains, no lassitude or languor, and (happy thought) no need of doctors or physic! I would

WARRANT A CURE

to 85 per cent of all the consumptives who will come to Middle or Western Kansas and try the pony and the sad-

dle, eat antelope and prairie chicken, brown bread and milk and open their lungs to the play of the west wind that comes from the blue sierras with healing in its wings. It is

THE HEALTHIEST COUNTRY

I know between the mountains and the sea. People may live here in perfect health the full measure of human life. The confirmed consumptive may prolong life here. The climate is an absolute cure for incipient consumption, affections of the throat and most derangements of the kidneys and liver. If one goes to the mountains with weak lungs, one must stay there or die from reaction on returning. In Florida the air is wanting in crispness and tone, and the climate gives only the luxury and ease of the opiate, relieving from pain but wanting in the positive tone to restore and build up. Here every source



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and spring of life is touched with the revivifying influence of the mountain air, tempered to blandness by a days journey across the open plains. The 1,000,000 consumptives of the United States might find in Kansas, Nature's great hospital, and most of them, permanent relief in twelve months. While other lands are advertising the curative properties of their climate and the healing that is in their waters, Kansas is giving new life and perfect health to thousands that have come within her borders.

THE BEST IMMIGRATION DOCUMENT

Kansas could send east would be the testimonial of perfect cure from 10,000 consumptives who came here to save life. Not a day passes but I meet some of them in the full vigor of active, healthful life. Everywhere on these open prairies the atmospheric influence is delightful. It is

THE MEDIUM ALTITUDE

ranging from 700 to 3,000 feet above the sea, the elevation increasing gradually from the lower to the higher figures above given, as one goes from the Missouri river to the Colorado line. From an elevation of 900 feet, say, 100 miles west of the Missouri, on to Colorado, the atmosphere is perfectly pure. It neither absorbs nor gives out malaria, for there is nothing in the country to breed it. No "sloughs" or marshes, no "cat-holes," or swamps, no lagoons or bayous. Exempt from the depressing humidity of the low lands and the unendurable atmospheric rarity of the mountains, the air is dry without severity and gives no sense of oppression. It is a pleasure to breathe where respiration takes the easy unconsciousness of healthful sleep. The heart pulsates in a glow of warmth and rapture, every sense is rendered delicate and ones brain sometimes seems bathing in a sea of light. How well I remember the gladness and transport of my first week in western Kansas. Men grown old with years and women weary with nervousness and heart-ache seem to take on the freshness and restfulness of happy youth. Breathing this pure, bracing air

and drinking of these clear, wholesome waters has given

NEW LIFE TO INVALIDS

from dyspepsia, incipient consumption and kindred disease; kidney affections and general debility, whole thousands of them attesting the happy change by word and look. It is refreshing for an American to see hundreds of his countrywomen with full rounded form, sun-browned faces, elastic step and cheerful ringing voice, living the full measure of a glad and healthful life on these radiant, far-reaching savannas. Back in the older states it is so different. I write in this wise of middle and western Kansas, because the climate is wonderful for brightness and tone, giving inspiration and stimulus to every form of life. In eastern or lower Kansas, there is less atmospheric tone, because it is slightly damp and humid, but even here it is vastly healthier than in the old States, and whatever of malaria remains in the dense timber and vegetable growth of the lower river bottoms is rapidly passing, with other primary conditions, as development advances.

THE KANSAS SUMMER

is long and genial, generally lasting from late March till late in October. November and the first half of December are usually the Indian summer season here forming the pleasantest period of the year. The winters are short, dry and mild with open sunny weather and bare ground predominating. The occasional cold storms are sometimes severe and bring some snow-fall but the snow never lies long. Most of the winter season is mild enough to admit of out-door work, and the best commentary upon a Kansas winter is the almost universal habit of leaving live stock to such natural protection as the ravines and native forests afford.

THE ONLY DISAGREEABLE FEATURE

of the climate is found in the north winds, which in the winter months are sometimes bleak. But the people get accustomed to them easily and they are manifestly conservators of animal health and vigor. In the south half of the State there is really nothing deserv-

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ing the name of winter. The northern Kansas winter is a very tame affair as compared with the Wisconsin, Michigan, New York or New England winter. The eastern people are accustomed to think and speak of this country as a land of

DROUTH

and "drouthy Kansas" long since became the unpleasant characterization for a most beautiful and fertile region. The State was undoubtedly subject to long seasons of drouth with the occasional "hot winds" from the southwestern plains, but that day is gone by. The breaking up of large tracts of prairie gives quick and perfect absorption of



BANKING HOUSE OF W. B. CLARKE, JUNCTION CITY.

the rains which used to fall upon the dry, hard native turf and run off quickly in torrents through the numerous streams. Only short buffalo and mesquite grasses grew in the country then and the turf was well nigh impervious to ordinary rainfall. Long, dry, hot seasons were of almost yearly occurrence but the cultivation of lands, the growth of crops, the extension of the native forests, (since the prairie fires were checked) the growth of domestic forests, orchards and hedges, the building of railways and telegraph lines, of farm buildings and towns, with other agencies of atmospheric disturbance have brought about a manifest

CHANGE OF CLIMATE,

and since 1860, there have been but two seasons of failure on account of drouth. Any one of the old States has suffered

more from drouth than Kansas within that period. 1860 and 1874 were conspicuous for the extent and severity of drouth, but they were the more noticeable in Kansas because it was a new and but partially tried country. Even 1874 wherein the corn crop failed, gave to Kansas more than enough wheat to bread the State. The three last years have been so abundant in cereal, vegetable and fruit crops as to direct general attention to the State, particularly with reference to the climatic changes going on.

THE RAINFALL

of Kansas is coming to be quite heavy and even more equable than in most of the older States. Up to 1874, observations taken through several years show the annual rainfall to have been thirty-seven inches in the eastern division, twenty inches in the middle division and nineteen inches in the western division of the State. The subjoined table of the rainfall for the months of July, August, September and October of 1876 and 1877, is from reliable data furnished the State Board of Agriculture and will be of interest to the reader:

Record of rainfall for July, August, September and October, 1877, and comparisons with same months in 1876.

Locality.	July, 1877.....	August, 1877.....	September, 1877.....	October, 1877.....	Aggregate rain-fall for four months.....
Eastern Belt.....	5.41	2.92	1.98	6.51	16.72
Middle Belt.....	3.22	3.37	1.59	3.62	11.80
Western Belt.....	0.55	2.08	1.44	1.53	.60
State mean or average for four mos. in 1877.	3.06	2.79	1.64	3.89	11.37

COMPARATIVE.

Location.	July, 1876.....	August, 1876.....	September, 1876.....	October, 1876.....	Aggregate rain-fall for four months.....
Eastern Belt.....	4.00	3.83	2.71	1.95	12.61
Middle Belt.....	3.01	3.78	3.10	0.99	10.88
Western Belt.....	1.60	1.96	2.57	0.72	6.85
State mean or average for corresponding four months in 1876.	2.87	2.83	2.79	1.22	10.11

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WATER SUPPLY, TIMBER AND BUILDING STONE.

THEIR EXTENT, CHARACTER AND DISTRIBUTION.

THE WATER SUPPLY

of this State was more a surprise to me than any other feature. It was so easy to associate a limited water supply with a land of suppositious habitual drouth. Everywhere, save on a few elevated tables in the far west, the supply of pure water is abundant. The traveler is never out of sight of streams and rarely beyond the reach of flowing springs of clear water. The eastern half of Kansas is the best watered country I have ever visited. For 200 miles west of the Missouri river, the country is a beautiful net-work of rivers, creeks, brooks and rivulets most admirably distributed over each county, running into every township, and, with little exception, touching every section of land. They are not dull, muddy, sluggish streams to breed miasma, but clear, rapid, spring waters, pure and cold, hard and soft, generally flowing over a rocky bed. They do not widen out into marshes or lagoons, but have worn their channels deep down to the bed rock and seldom overflow their banks. Except in the extreme west portion, these streams flow down through overshadowing groves. The entire north half of the state is drained by the Kansas and its noble tributaries, the Republican, Smoky Hill, Solomon, Saline, Big Blue and Delaware rivers, the first four extending across the State into Colorado, making the most splendid river and valley system west of the Mississippi. The southwest quarter of the state is drained by the Arkansas and Cimaron and numerous small tributaries, the former holding its grand volume up to the base of the Rocky Mountains. The southeast quarter is finely watered by the Marais des Cygnes, Neosho, Verdigris, Fall and Cottonwood rivers with hundreds of small streams. Indeed, the creeks and spring brooks throughout the State might be named by thousands,

2*

many single counties having a full hundred of them. Clear, cold rock springs are more numerous than in any similar extent of country I have yet seen. Three fourths of the springs flow from the magnesian limestone formation and are hard water, cold and bright and held in high esteem by both man and animals. The free-stone districts are abundant in pure, soft water springs and brooks. The Arkansas, Kansas, Republican, Smoky Hill, and Solomon rivers will rank with the Kennebec, Connecticut, Susquehanna, Allegheny, and Genesee rivers, both for volume and purity of their waters. The volume of these rivers, as also the smaller streams of Kansas is increasing, rather than diminishing, from year to year. The rainfall is held longer in the cultivated lands and thereby gives steadier impulse to the streams than formerly, when the heavy rains quickly ran off over the smooth, hard, unbroken turf. Good well water is easily and cheaply obtained by boring, drilling or digging, at 12 to 50 feet. Limestone and free, or sandstone, are always at hand in just the right shape to stone up the wells that are excavated.

BUILDING STONE

is one of the grandest resources of Kansas. It is almost as universal as the grasses and running waters. Lime stone (generally magnesian) is found in profusion, all the way from the Missouri river to the Colorado line. The magnesian limestone formation crops out in every county and there are few neighborhoods even, where it is not easily quarried from the clean, well defined stratification and turned to the best uses. It is soft enough to be easily sawed with a common saw or dressed and cut into any desired form of walls, sills, caps, arches, cornices, capitals quoins and water tables. It goes into mills, churches, school houses, court

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houses, bridges, hotels, banks, stores, shops, dwellings, fences, corrals and everything in the building line. It is almost white, polishes like marble and is the most elegant building material I have seen west of the great freestone deposits of Ohio. At Wamego, Manhattan, Junction City, Abilene, Ellsworth, Bosland, Bunker Hill, Russell, Hays City, Ellis and Trego, on the Kansas Pacific road; at Beloit, Cawker City, Stockton and other towns on the Solomon river; at Clay Centre, Concordia, Superior, Norton Centre and all other points along the Republican; at Marysville, Blue, Rapids, Waterville, Frankfort and Irving on the Big Blue; in Jewell, Republic, Smith and Washington counties along the north line of the State; all along the Marais des Cygnes, Neosho, Cottonwood, Verdigris, Fall, Walnut, Arkansas and Cimaron Rivers, this beautiful material, like the matchless native grasses, is the heritage of the rich and poor alike and the humblest pioneer may build of it, with his own hands, a pretty cottage, almost as cheap as from the native sod under his feet. In Miami, Linn, Bourbon, Cherokee, Crawford, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho, Allen, Woodson, Wilson, Greenwood, Franklin and other southeastern counties, there are some very valuable freestone deposits. Frequent outcroppings of freestone are found in this quarter of the State, with clean, well defined stratification, from the thin beautiful flagging of two inches thickness up to splendid dimension stone of almost any desired thickness or length. In all these counties also, are numerous deposits of gray, blue, red and light lime stone, cropping out along the creeks, ravines, and "draws." The centre and Eastern part of the State is also well supplied with gray and blue lime stone with occasional outcroppings of red, gray and yellow sand stone. At Florence, on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, at Manhattan on the Kansas Pacific railway and at Fort Scott, the magnesian lime stone quarries are largely work-

ed on dimension stone for commerce with other States, and the return of general prosperity to the country will bring indefinite expansion to this industry. It is probable that no State in the Union has so large and fine a supply or such equable distribution of building stone as Kansas. All of it yields easily to the hammer and chisel and the softest specimens harden on exposure to light and air.

THE TIMBER SUPPLY

of Kansas seems of less interest to Kansas people than to those out-side who know little of the extent and character of the native forests of the State. In the old states the popular theory is that Kansas is very poorly supplied with native wood. This theory, like many another about that State, is "wide of the mark." Three-fourths of the state is amply supplied with forest. The eastern division has more timber than is needed for fuel and a fair supply for fencing and building purposes. The middle division has enough for fuel and shelter for live stock. The western division has much less, but still enough in most of the counties for present needs. The mildness of the climate requires less fuel than in the eastern and north-western States. The western counties use little or no wood for fencing because they have a herd law, do not need fences and build none. All the streams of Kansas have borders, or belts of timber, ranging from forty rods to a mile in width, with the exception of a few which run out into the plains and high tables of the border western counties. These streams are so well distributed over the State that the distribution of timber could hardly be better equalized. The counties having the poorest timber supply have, in good measure, compensation for the want of it in the finest and most available building stone in the western country. In the east division, the market has a full supply of cord wood at \$2 to \$4 per cord. In the middle division there is a good supply at \$3 to \$5 per cord, and in the settled portions of the western division at \$3 to

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COURT HOUSE, GREAT BEND.

\$6 per cord, the price depending on the quality and distance to haul.

THE NATIVE VARIETIES

are cottonwood, white, black, red, swamp and burr oak; red, white and water elm; white, blue and black ash; linden, sycamore, willow, sugar and soft maple, black walnut, hackberry, box-elder, pecan, hickory and some of the smaller varieties like iron-wood, box-wood etc. The valleys of the Marais des Cygnes, Neosho, Verdigris, Fall, Walnut, Cottonwood, lower Kansas, Blue and Delaware are rich in walnut, oak, ash and other valuable commercial woods. The per cent of native forest in sixty-six counties runs from sixteen down to one, the average being 5.27 per cent. for the entire territory embraced in said counties. Since the annual prairie fires were checked by the cultivation of lands, the opening of highways and other causes, the timber belts have widened at a rapid rate, and to-day there is fully ten per cent more native wood in Kansas than when it was organized as a territory, notwithstanding

the constant consumption. Instead of decreasing in value, woodland has suffered a depreciation in value of at least 20 per cent in the last dozen years.

TREE PLANTING

has become a great interest of later years. In many of the older counties there are thousands of acres in domestic forest. These groves have attained a height of fifteen to sixty feet, the trees having a diameter of three to fifteen inches. The annual growth is from one to two inches diameter and a four or five year old forest will thereafter furnish a good supply of fuel for the family. In the homestead counties where the Government has stimulated artificial forestry by the "Timber Act," giving any man, or head of family, 160 acres of land on the condition of his or her planting 40 acres of the same in timber and caring for it seven years, beautiful groves of cottonwood, ash, boxelder, maple and walnut, dot the country in every direction and lend a charm to the prairie landscape quite beyond my power of description. These charming groves

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will be as numerous and noteworthy, in the near future of Kansas, as the orchards of Michigan and western New York. Columns of forest trees out-line the farms and highways for miles and miles, in many districts, and it is no unusual thing for a farmer to plant 10,000 young trees in a single year. With the pretty valley timber belts and artificial groves grown into stateliness, ten

years from to-day Kansas will be one grand continuous park and the most beautiful country under the sun. Beyond the question of abundant and cheap fuel, building and fencing timber and embellishment of landscape which are involved in extended tree planting, these groves will superinduce rainfall, temper the February and March winds and give increased equability to the climate.

FENCING AND THE HERD LAW.

FENCING

is an important item in all countries, and especially in a new region where the settlers are mostly men of limited means. The total capital invested in fencing in the United States would twice pay the National debt. The outlay in cash and labor on fences in this new country is astonishing. The following table shows the aggregate in miles and cost of fencing, together with the various kinds of fence in use and the number of miles of each kind in Kansas up to the close of 1875, the date of the last general report of the State Board of Agriculture:

	No miles	Cost.
Stone fence.....	2,204.17	\$1,748,776.97
Rail fence.....	26,723.02	11,453,938.00
Board fence.....	8,846.23	3,335,738.49
Wire fence.....	3,779.37	848,338.50
Hedge fence.....	18,131.27	2,992,124.28
Total.....	59,684.06	\$20,978,916.24

It will be seen from the above table that the total cost of fencing in the State up to the close of '75, foots up *twenty million nine hundred and seventy-eight thousand, nine hundred and sixteen dollars*; and yet Kansas, as a State, was only fourteen years old at the date of this reckoning. In the last two years, at least 12,000 miles of fencing have been added to the above, making a grand total of 71,684 miles.

Figuring the cost of the additional fencing at 80 cents per rod, gives an additional expense of \$3,073,000, or a grand total in cost of \$24,051,916. And this in a State only sixteen years old. The following table shows the estimated cost per rod of the various kinds of fence, as

returned to the State Board by the local assessors. They are 10 to 15 per cent higher than the facts warrant on all kinds of fencing, save hedging, and on that at least 25 per cent higher than the present cost of perfecting a good hedge:

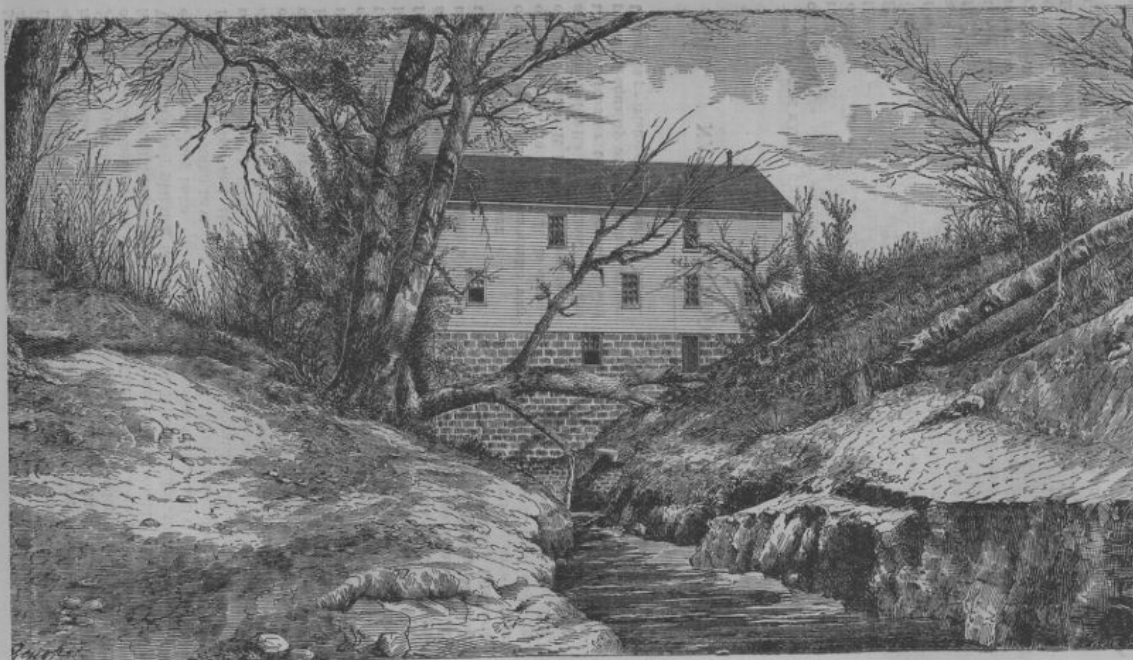
	Cost per rod.
Stone fence.....	\$2 47
Rail fence.....	1 33
Board fence.....	1 38
Wire fence.....	70
Hedge fence.....	51

The large extent of rail and board fencing shows clearly enough that there is no serious scarcity of timber, as the entire rail fencing and five-sixths of the board fencing is made of native wood. The liberal measure of stone fence, too, nearly all of which is made of thin flagging or block stone, shows how universal and grand is this resource. But the chief concern of the Kansas farmer about fencing centers in

HEDGING.

The 18,131 miles already grown, is of the famous *Bois d'Arc* (Osage orange) the most beautiful and perfect material that ever went into the construction of a fence. It is almost indigenous to the country, growing wild in all parts of the neighboring Indian Territory. In the form of a hedge it comes the nearest to perfection in central and southern Kansas of any country I know, and is so easily and cheaply grown that no farmer who must fence at all, is excusable for being without it. One bushel of Osage orange seed costing \$4 will give 750,000 plants, or sufficient to fence half a dozen farms. It will turn domes-

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GRIST MILL AT SOLOMON, DICKINSON COUNTY.

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tic animals the third year after planting and, with care, in four years will turn a herd of buffalo. One hundred dollars judiciously expended will plant and grow a mile of perfect hedge. In summer, it is the most beautiful fence in the world. While they are busy planting hedges in eastern Kansas, they have

THE HERD LAW

in western Kansas and the herdsman must take care of his flocks. No farmer is compelled to fence his estate or crops, and a great country of wheat and corn fields, orchards, vineyards and lawns with not a vestige of fencing, is a novel and refreshing sight. Half the earnings of the eastern farmer are wasted in protecting his crops. The herd law of Kansas gives ample protection, for it is intrenched in popular sentiment and rigidly enforced. This system of mutual protection is the best self-protection and is

A STEP IN ADVANCE

of the old, exclusive, undemocratic way of farming in the East. It is democratic because it is *humane, equitable, and universal* in its application. It lifts the poor pioneer to a theoretical and practical equality with his rich neighbor. Under its provisions the wealthy herds-

man is restrained from over-running a township and making permanent agriculture an impossibility. It stimulates settlement and development. Most of the farmers came here poor and could not fence if they would. The herd law makes it possible for them to start in the race for a home and competence. In many of the older counties finely suited to stock raising, the herd law is not in force, and, as a result, they are not half so densely settled as a full score of the newer counties where there is no fencing and the traveler may ride all day in the midst of young orchards, groves, gardens and bountiful grain fields with no semblance of a fence, save only in the long columns of young forest trees that mark the division lines between farms and the limits of highways. Many of these like Republic, Clay, Cloud, Jewell, Smith, Mitchell, Phillips, Lincoln, Osborne, Ellsworth and Russell counties have from 5,000 to 12,000 population and yet they have only been settled five, seven and eight years. Other things being equal, the herd law is the best impulse to settlement in a prairie country. It is in force now in nearly every one of the newly organized counties.

NATURAL AND DOMESTIC GRASSES.

THEIR EXTENT, QUALITY AND VALUE.

THE NATIVE GRASSES

of Kansas are at present its grandest resource. No country in America produces finer native grasses or a more luxuriant growth of them than does this State. The botanist will tell you that there are *upwards of one hundred varieties* and the practical stock grower will assure you that all of them are valuable for grazing or hay. Thirty years ago, the whole State was covered with the short, sweet, nutritious buffalo, mesquite and gama grasses, which are essentially the product of a dry climate. In later years, with steadily increasing rainfall, these shorter varieties have

gradually disappeared from the eastern division of the State, giving place to the coarser "blue stem" which is now the dominant grass for a distance of 100 miles west from the Missouri river. It has a strong growth and, in the bottoms is often tall and swarthy enough to hide a herd of Texas steers. It is excellent for grazing and yields from one to three tons of hay per acre. The middle division of the State has about equal portions of this variety, or family, and the original buffalo and mesquite, but the entire extinction of the latter is only a question of time, for they are essentially wild in their nature and will neither bear

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civilization or protracted moisture. In the western division of the State these short grasses still predominate and furnish the richest pasturage known to the grazing world. In western Texas, New Mexico and Arizona they are worth their weight in the best grains, either for growing or fattening all the grazing animals. They spring up in March and April, grow for sixty or seventy days, when the July and August sun dries them to crispness, leaving them good through the fall and winter. They are the only grasses in medium or northern latitudes that represent

PERPETUAL PASTURAGE.

The whole of western Kansas, with the other southwestern districts named, subsist cattle, sheep, horses, mules, deer and antelope through all the year. This region represents the fairest portion of the old buffalo range and is today the finest grazing and herding ground known to civilized men. Western Kansas has the most luxuriant growth of the buffalo and mesquite family of grasses and is therefore the best grazing country west of the Mississippi Valley. The grasses are no richer, but they are more abundant than in the other districts and not so much range is required by the herdsman. *Forty-five million acres* of this magnificent State, is covered with a waving sea of wild grasses and at least thirty-five million acres are open to the herdsman. The grasses of this grand area are

A SOURCE OF WEALTH

beside which the most bountiful wheat fields of the continent sink into insignificance. They are little affected by excessive rains or prolonged drouth and the men of the herds may always look out upon this broad sea of wild grasses with confidence, for it bears upon its green swelling bosom richer argosies than were ever borne over Indian seas. This realm of the grasses is better than the mountains of silver and the golden placers, for its treasures are always "in sight." These natural pasture fields will subsist 8,000,000 cattle and 10,000,000 sheep with an annual revenue there-

from of \$50,000,000 or an average of \$78.12 for each of the 640,000 persons in the State. This magnificent resource is now going to feed the annual prairie fires. Nature has made this wonderful provision and it is clearly the part of wisdom to follow her leading.

DOMESTIC GRASSES

are a decided success in all portions of the State where they have been tested. The older eastern counties are already finely stocked with blue grass. It is steadily fighting its way into the wild prairie, the forests and along the highways and there are a dozen counties where it is found in extensive pasture fields. Johnson, Miami, Doniphan, Brown, Atchison, Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties are all more or less stocked with it. Alexander McDonald of Thayer, Neosho County, has a splendid 100 acre blue grass pasture sown in the wild prairie. Dr. Turner of Yates Centre, Woodson County, has successfully conquered the wild grasses with it. It is driving out the native grasses all along the old Santa Fe Trail and I could name a hundred men in different parts of the State who have fields of blue grass varying from two to twenty acres that will equal anything in Ohio or Kentucky. Timothy is a great success wherever introduced. Capt. Perry Hutchinson of Marysville, Marshall County, has a splendid 100 acre timothy pasture; Mr. Sidney Walter, of the same place, has a half dozen fields of timothy blue grass and clover; Hon. J. Thockmorton and Hon. S. J. Carter of Burlington, Coffey County, have made a great success of timothy. Hon. J. P. Davis, of Hlawatha, Brown County, and scores of his neighbors have fine timothy meadows; Johnson, Miami, Linn, Allen, Doniphan, Franklin and many other eastern counties are well stocked with timothy, white and red clover and orchard grass. These domestic grasses make pasturage in eastern Kansas almost perennial. Western Kansas too, is abundant in small patches of all domestic grasses and it is merely a question of time when the whole State will be as famous for its