

State Hist. Society

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WESTERN KANSAS.

The Lyons Republican speaking of Kansas says: "But it is of the western part of the state—the desert proper, not its suburbs—of which we would more particularly speak. It is this that invites the almost penniless home seeker, and gives him a fine farm for a few years of well directed energy. Here is many a stretch of fine fertile prairie which can be bought for from three to five dollars per acre on such terms that the payments can be made from the crops grown. It is rather paradoxical, we know, to say that desert lands can pay for themselves with one or two crops they bring; but facts are facts nevertheless. Energy and enterprise, thrift and economy are needed, but there are large returns sure to be received. Hundreds of thousands of acres here will bring from fifty to seventy bushels of corn per acre in return for a judicious outlay of time and strength. As some one else has said "a poor man may live richer, and a rich man easier and better in the Kansas desert than almost anywhere else on earth." Many a farmer coming here with but little money, through Uncle Sam's generosity has secured a home-land and a tree claim, 320 acres in all, has purchased a few head of cattle, and in a few years has found himself in independent circumstances, if not absolutely wealthy. In the past much of this rich region of western Kansas has been unknown because of the absence of railroads. But this cannot much longer be said. More miles of railroad was built in Kansas last year than in any other state or territory, and last year's building is but the prelude of what is to be done in that line this year."

"There are many looking for homes who ask for something more than fertile farms and railroad facilities. They ask for a morality and a degree of intelligence in their neighbors and an opportunity to secure these things for their families."

Kansas ranks as one of the highest in educational matters of the western states. There is not an organized county in the state which does not have schools and churches.

In fact these things are the first which Kansas looks after, and we have many, both of schools and churches which, both as to buildings and the teachers and preachers employed in them, are equal to any found elsewhere. At the same time it is necessarily true that in the frontier places where the coyote and buffalo have been the only inhabitants until within the last year or so, church and school advantages are not as plenty nor good as they will be in a few years. The standard of morals is high. There is a class of people to whom the name of Kansas seems to bring up visions of cow-boys, out-laws and Indians—only this and nothing more—except the two or three individual friends whom they have in that state.

But ask them what kind of people have gone to Kansas from their vicinity and they, remembering their friends, will answer "our best."

So "the best" have gone from other localities until Kansas is made up of many "bests," which makes it a pretty good place to live in. Another reason—it is a prohibition state, and "prohibition prohibits," though it does not absolutely prevent. Saloons and doggeries being minus quantities, the low, vile rabble which both breed and are bred by them are conspicuous by their absence. They are not attracted to such a state, and the state is better off without them. We have among us those who drink, those who commit deeds of violence, those who scoff at virtue and scorn the right; but they are less numerous than in states not blessed with a prohibitory law and a public sentiment which sustains and upholds it.

COTTON IN KANSAS.

The Garden City Sentinel says: There is not a particle of doubt about our ability to raise cotton in Kansas, but there is doubt whether it will pay better than other crops that we are more accustomed to. That can be found out by trial. All our southern counties will grow it first rate, and if the right kind of seed is planted a good crop may be had as surely as a corn crop. There are as many varieties of cotton as of corn, some small and early, others large and late. They raise good corn in New Hampshire, Vermont, Wisconsin and Minnesota, but it is the small, yellow variety, growing not more than six or eight feet high while here in Kansas we grow the large Dent corn, which is frequently seen growing from fifteen to eighteen feet high.

Just so with cotton, the "Green Seed" variety grown by the early settlers in Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, may be planted as late as the first of June, and it will ripen before frost and yield handsomely. It is too soon to look for it in August, but in September and October good picking may be had, and if experienced hands can be had it may pay well. No harm in trying it on a small scale at any rate. Children can pick it as well as grown persons and in that way turn their labor into money.

As we have said before, the cotton grown by the writer in Douglas county in 1883 brought \$1.50 per pound, which was within ten cents of the highest price paid at the time. All the early settlers in southern Illinois and Indiana raised cotton, ginned, spun and wove it on their own premises, and in that way made it pay.

Emporia News: A city's standing can be pretty accurately estimated by the patronage bestowed on its newspapers.

PROHIBITION EFFECTS.

TOPEKA, Kas., May 19.—Over one hundred letters have been received at the executive office lately from points in Texas asking questions concerning the enforcement of the prohibitory law in Kansas, and the general effect. Governor Martin has answered these making an argument in favor of the amendment, presenting facts to sustain the point, also mailing a copy of his last message to each one. In several of these letters the writers have referred to the fact that they have already carefully pursued the governor's amendment made some six years ago and now they would like to hear the other side of the question discussed by him.

At Topeka the new Murray law is working to perfection, it being absolutely impossible for a man to get a drop of beer, whisky or any intoxicating liquor without going through the legal formula and there are very few men who will go into a drug store in this city and solemnly swear to a lie for the purpose of obtaining a drink. There are no dives around secluded places. Still families who never had beer and wine in the house now have it on their table every day. A prominent citizen said that before the Murray law went into effect he kept a case of beer at home and it would last all the way from two months to fourteen weeks, but now a case scarcely lasts him and his family over three days, and this is true of hundreds of families.

At Wichita it is understood that liquor of all kinds is easily obtained. The attorney general will in all probability be called to this point in the near future to close the joints.

At Arkansas City and Winfield a very poor quality of beer is sold openly in billiard halls under the name of "malt" at thirty cents per bottle. It is miserable stuff. In Kiowa, a cattle town in Barber county, saloons and gambling rooms are run wide open. The town is the successor of Dodge City, and it is useless to attempt to enforce the law.

In Leavenworth liquor of all kinds is obtained at club rooms and at several of the hotels, but it is not sold openly.

There are other towns in Kansas where liquor is more or less easily obtained, but there are few of them where everything is as tight in this particular as is Topeka.

THE USE OF NUMBERS.

The statistical editor of the Farmers' Review is kindly critical toward our quotations from exchanges always. Recently the expression, "millions of acres have been planted in trees" has called out the following:

"Now, a million acres is just 1,560 square miles, equal to 43 townships of six miles square. Taking the expression 'millions' to mean not less than three millions, it would equal a solid body of 129 townships each six miles square, or 4,336 square miles, or a body of land 67 miles square. We don't believe any such amount of planting has been done. Yet we find the above statement of 'millions of acres planted' copied in the Industrialist, published at the Kansas State Agricultural College, at Manhattan, without any comment on the extravagance of the statements."

Evidently our friendly critic has never graduated out of arithmetic into rhetoric and cannot comprehend the use of "millions" to indicate an indefinite, uncounted quantity. Perhaps he does not know that the average human intellect has little comprehension of actual figures above one hundred, and that few people know how many or how few "a thousand" represents. To the mass of readers, then, the expression "millions" means simply a vast multitude, more nearly in accordance with actual facts, in the impression made, than any exact calculation which should result in the figures 234,586.

When Bayard Taylor was in Arabia, he found it necessary, in order to convey the truth, to use the Arabic exaggeration in describing his own country. So, in some degree, the editor who will reach the people with his facts must talk in the common terms that represent the common thought. In fact, numbers, like other terms, are used both scientifically and rhetorically; in mathematics they are symbols of exact quantity often far beyond comprehension, to be sure, but still as accurate as calculation can make them. In the rhetoric of common speech, large numbers present simply multitudes, uncounted and unaccountable to the one who uses them.

Moreover, the fact is patent that more than the "67 miles square" of the Review has felt the effects of tree-planting in protection and adornment, which add so materially to value. Even statistics could not accurately present in measured terms the advantage to these prairies and the youth who inhabit them of a single Arbor Day. The whole truth is not confined to the statistical use of figures.—Manhattan Industrialist.

GRIT.

A daughter of Major Hudson, proprietor of the Topeka Capital, was out driving last Sunday when her horse ran away, throwing her out. She sustained injuries which necessitated a painful surgical operation. Her physician prescribed a dose of whiskey to keep up her strength but she positively refused to take a drop, saying that she would rather bare the pain than touch the whiskey. Who says the American girl is degenerating? The grit exhibited by Miss Anna Hudson in preferring to endure physical pain rather than sacrifice her temperance principles is worthy of the days of old when women went to the stake rather than give up the truth.—Hutchinson News.

KEEP YOUR BOYS OFF THE STREETS AT NIGHT.

Every evening we see a crowd of from 15 to 50 boys of all sizes, from the babies just big enough to waddle, to the great big sap-head of 15 years loafing on the streets or in the back end of some grocery or drug store, or running and howling like a pack of dogs through the streets, and frequently they find their way into the billiard hall. Parents, the devil waits in the streets for your boys. It is there that he teaches them to steal, to smoke, to chew, to lie, to swear. 'Tis there he leads them to become enraged and cherish thoughts of murder. 'Tis there they learn obscenity, vulgarity and rudeness. Here it is that crimes are started and sooner or later brings the gray hairs of too indulgent parents with sorrow to the grave. Here it is that legions of accidents happen that sweep some mother's darling boy, or some fond father's pride and joy, from time to eternity. Only last week a 13 year old lad, who had been in the habit of spending his evenings and sometimes his nights almost, upon the streets, left his home at Fort Scott after supper, and started for the streets as usual. This time, however, happening along the R. R. track as a train was moving along, undertook to climb on to a freight car, slipped and was thrown under the wheels and was so badly crushed and mangled that he died before they could get him home again. This is only one out of the hundreds of instances that fill daily papers.

It has always seemed strange to us that parents who appear to love their boys, should allow them to wander into such dangerous habits. To boy has any business on the streets after dark. All the errands can be done before dark, then make your home as attractive as you possibly can mothers, and keep your boys there after dark.—Clark County Clipper.

THE SUN FLOWER STATE.

Kansas enjoys the pleasing pseudonym of the "Sunflower State." The beautiful flower of that part of the genus Helianthus, turns on the stem to catch the first rays of the morning sun, and with its broad disc and yellow rays follows the great orb of day. So Kansas turns to catch the first rays of every advancing thought, or civilized agency, and with her broad prairies and golden fields welcomes and follows the light.—Garden City Herald.

The Immigration to Kansas is as active as ever this spring, and the trains coming into the state are crowded and packed full. The man who comes to Kansas instead of the northwest is sensible and lucky. He has ten months of the year to work in, and any farmer knows what an advantage there is in that. His stock has ten months of mild weather and natural food. His crops can be anything he chooses to plant. He does not have to look for five months of deep snow and starving cattle. He does not have to depend on wheat alone when wheat is too cheap to pay for the time spent in preparing the soil. The Kansas farmer is always in possession of a paying market. Not only is the soil of Kansas fertile and level, but the institutions which man has planted are excellent. Pride in her schools and churches has not only been a source of satisfaction but it has made men and the best of men have responded. The strongest, the most energetic and most intelligent part of the general tide of immigration has settled within the borders of Kansas, the most progressive state in the Union. The magic development of the state, the rapid increase in population, and the enterprise of her citizens have caused Kansas to be known as the greatest phenomena of the age.

DON'T EXPERIMENT.

You cannot afford to waste time in experimenting when your lungs are in danger. Consumption always starts at first, only a cold. Do not permit your dealer to impose upon you a cheap imitation of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, but be sure you get the genuine. Because he can make more profit he may tell you he has something just as good, or just the same. Don't be deceived, but insist upon getting Dr. King's New Discovery, which is guaranteed to give relief in all Throat, Lung and Chest affections. Trial bottles free at City Drug Store.

SAVED HIS LIFE.

Mr. D. I. Wilcoxson, of Horse Cave, Ky., says he was, for many years, badly afflicted with Fatigue, and Diabetes; the pains were almost unendurable and would sometimes almost throw him into convulsions. He tried Electric Bitters and got relief from the first bottle and after taking six bottles, was entirely cured, and had gained in flesh eighteen pounds. Says he positively believes he would have died, had it not been for the relief afforded by Electric Bitters. Sold at fifty cents a bottle by City Drug Store.

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Fifty cents is a small doctor bill, but that is all it will cost you to cure any ordinary case of rheumatism if you take our advice and use Chamberlain's Pain Balm. Everybody that tries it once, continues to use it whenever they are in need of a remedy for sprains, painful swellings, lame back, or sore throat. It is highly recommended by all who have tried it. Sold by City Drug Store.

While Mr. T. J. Richey, of Altona, Mo., was traveling in Kansas, he was taken violently ill with cholera morbus, he called at a drug store to get some medicine and the druggist recommended Chamberlain's Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy so highly he concluded to try it, the result was immediate relief, and a few doses cured him completely. It is made for bowel complaint and nothing else. It never fails. Sold by City Drug Store.

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