

A Letter from Ed A. Bourne.

WAUKOMIS, ORE., Jan. 22, 1900.

Editor Advertiser:—In pursuance of my promise to write an occasional communication for your paper, will drop you a line—figuratively. We are still living on our farm near Waukomis, in Garfield county, Oklahoma which, with the possible exception of Kay county, is the garden spot of the territory. This county is the home of the largest man in the world—a Mr. Wilkins by name, who is 8 feet 4 inches high and weighs 460 pounds, and has been exhibited in every country on earth. It is also the home of the largest hog, a 1200 pound sow that at present is happily engaged in rearing a flourishing family of 17 pigs. We also have the best and largest yields of wheat, corn, oats, barley and cotton, and can beat the world for big watermelons, yams, sweet potatoes, fruit and goober peas, and at the last general election gave the largest republican majority in the territory, Dennis Flynn receiving 100% majority over his fusion opponent, who was endorsed by every party from the popocratic party down to Dr. Mary Walker.

There is no county in the territory that is making such rapid and substantial improvements, nor is there one paying as large dividends to those who invest their money here in real estate or business. Three years ago Waukomis was a little village containing about a dozen families and a few stores. Today it boasts a two story brick school house with three departments, two fine church buildings, two newspapers, three large lumber yards, four grain elevators, a bank, and will have in operation in a few days a \$20,000 mill, besides every business common to towns four times its size is being profitably conducted, and the inhabitants will number 700 or 800. In the country the same growth and prosperity prevails—the dugout and shack have been generally replaced by good substantial frame dwellings, many of them beautiful and costly, and the sod stables and straw sheds are giving place to big red barns, and a thousand windmills pump water for "the cattle on a thousand hills." The hills here are all very flat and could hardly be discerned by a fellow from Nemaha county.

Time nor space will not admit of a description of Enid, our county seat, which is the largest and most important city on the Rock Island railway in the territory, but on some future occasion will do so.

Was pleased to hear from Rabe Elliott, Robt. Frost and George Fairbrother through the medium of The Advertiser, and glad that they are all well and prosperous. If Rabe and Robt. can get along over there among the hills, rocks and stumps we can certainly succeed here where such impediments are so few and far between. We have had no drought here since the summer of 1896, and have raised good crops of both corn and wheat ever since that date. We have, however, never failed in a prolific, not to say abnormal, crop of politicians. We raise every variety and in such quantities that no administration need suffer for help, consolation or advice. Our statesmen are the kind that hang on like an ingrowing toe nail—the kind that aspire to a place in the cabinet but will accept a fourth class postoffice. Nemaha county in her balmyest days couldn't produce half as many statesmen to the acre as we can, and cultivate the ground four times. Prior to March 4th, 1897, they kept Grover Cleveland, armed with a double-barreled shot gun and a fishing pole, at bay—Quantic Bay—three miles off shore, when he turned them all down by appointing a nest of carpet baggers from the south. Since that date William McKinley has tried to convince them that they could not all hold office, by appointing a man from Kansas. Real estate, both lands and town property, is growing in value and much of it changing hands, but it is not so high yet but what it is a good investment, as I firmly believe land values will increase 100 per cent within the next two or three years.

I am, as you know, too modest to say much about myself, but will admit

that I own a good farm, with good house, barn and outbuildings—but that isn't what I started to tell you about. Well, the truth is, it's a boy, just 8 weeks old. Call him Harry McKinley, and we think he outranks every other product yet reported in the territory. Joe says that his little brother is the "hot stuff." Joe is in his eighth year and large of his age. About a year ago I acquired a son-in-law—that was about the time my daughter Mabel was married to John Payne. Frankie and Jessie are at home and both enjoying good health. My wife and I are at home too. I have had a very pleasant time the past month, milking the cows, feeding the family sow and hunting quails—and holding the baby. Now, Mr. Editor, if you want to know any thing more definite about me, individually, come down.

We have had a seige of rainy weather and are "enjoying" the worst roads ever known here. It commenced to rain on the 11th of September and has been very wet ever since. Wheat is looking fine. I do not know why Robert Frost had to feed his stock so long. We do not have to feed here at any season of the year excepting a few days in winter during extreme stormy weather. Last winter was the coldest ever known here, and I did not feed my cattle or horses to exceed three weeks. A farmer in the wheat belt can raise both calves and colts without any expense whatever after he gets a pasture fenced and begins the cultivation of wheat. Have never bought any feed since I have been here except for work horses. We had an immense corn crop here last year. I harvested nearly 1000 bushels of corn from 1 1/2 acres of bottom ground—almost 60 bushels per acre, while the yield on upland ranged from 40 to 50 bushels per acre. Waukomis will ship more corn this season than Nemaha and ten times as much wheat. We had the best garden last year we ever had in any country—cabbage, tomatoes, potatoes, beans, peas, beets, mangoes, peppers, sweet potatoes, etc., grew in endless variety and gigantic proportions. Owing to a March blizzard our fruit crop was a partial failure. We had a few peaches, but the apricots were nearly all killed. Our apple trees are too young to bear yet, but have two varieties of blackberries and four of grapes that will bear this year. Intend to plant out strawberries, dewberries, raspberries and other small fruits this spring, and some more apple and pear trees.

Most close for this time. Kindest regards to old friends and neighbors. If this article occupies too much of your valuable space, set it in nonpareil and charge to Nemaha county.

Fraternally yours, E. A. BOURNE.

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