

GAGE COUNTY IN THE SAGE CROWD OF THE WEST. It Ranks Third in the State in Population and Products. LABOR'S SURE AND BOUNTIFUL REWARD.

Gage belongs to the southern tier of counties of the state, hence it lies in a desirable belt, where the climate is mild in winter, and there is no excessive heat in summer; that fertile and prolific region, where the hard wheat of the north and the sugar cane and sweet potato of the south grow and thrive in fields side by side.

These favorable conditions admit of diversified farming, which have been improved by the sturdy tillers of the soil, with the result that Gage county can never know what it is to have a failure of a crop on which it is nearly or altogether dependent. Its soil is deep and of absolutely inexhaustible fertility, producing enormous yields of grain of all kinds, while root crops and fruits of every variety known in this climate are of large size and abundance.

The surface for the most part is conveniently arable. The hills are not abrupt, and the low lands, though level in large broadness, have very few marshy tracts. In fact, what low lands there are are one of the characteristics of the region, among the best in the country for producing hay. There is no land within the borders of Gage county which cannot be converted into cultivable and highly productive fields.

The county is finely watered. The Blue river flows through it from the northwestern corner to the southeastern boundary. It has fine tributaries besides other streams in the northwestern portion. There is scarcely a quarter section of land in the county which is not blessed with "living water."

years ago to the present time, note the interviews which follow in this article. The people are mostly of American nationality, although some have been largely settled with a class of sturdy industrial German Americans, who with their descendants are a credit to any community where they live.

Beatrice, the capital of Gage county and the most populous city in this portion of Nebraska, is situated on the banks of the Blue river, in the center of the county. It is the third city of the state, as shown by the census of 1890, having a population of 13,896 and has gained 40 per cent. since 1880.

There are no large manufacturing concerns in this county, the principal industry being agriculture. The advantages which Beatrice possesses as a manufacturing and distributing point are well known, but may be briefly summarized as follows: Railroads leading out in nine different directions—the Burlington north, south and west; the Union Pacific north and south; the Rock Island south and west and north; and the Kansas City and Omaha south.

There is a large number of small manufacturing concerns in Beatrice, employing nearly 100 hands winter and summer and just now engaged in running at night and day all orders; the Beatrice Starch company, running full blast; the Beatrice Paper company, employing about 100 hands; the Beatrice Elevator company, with a capacity of 100 barrels daily, running day and night; the Beatrice Flouring mill, temporarily disabled by the high water which carried away a part of the dam; the Beatrice Canning company, with a capacity of 1,000 cases of sweet corn for this year and a large number of acres of tomatoes, which will be canned at least 200 cases this year.

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consist of a twenty-stall roundhouse, machine shops and general stock and supply houses; between 300 and 500 men are employed weekly, although many are some towns have largely settled with a class of sturdy industrial German Americans, who with their descendants are a credit to any community where they live.

Wymore has handsome, wide streets with commodious store buildings, brick school buildings, a new city hall, a good fire department with two hose companies, and one hook and ladder company, a water works plant costing \$10,000, an electric light plant with over thirty arc lights in use by it and its sister town, Blue Springs; a horse and carriage hire office, a saloon, a lot of Blue Springs, six church buildings, three good weekly newspapers, two banks (the Bank of Wymore, capital stock \$25,000, and First National, capital stock \$10,000) and a population of 2,433, which it is safe to say has increased by fully 1,000 since that time, for he it known that the rate of increase in population faster, in proportion to its size, than any town of Gage county.

Blue Springs. This pretty town is only a couple of miles from Wymore, with which it is connected by a fine road. It has a population of about 1,000, a bank, a newspaper, Spencer's window mill, Calver Bros. & Co.'s factory for the manufacture of millinery, and other small industries of various kinds. The Union Pacific and Burlington roads both pass through Blue Springs. The streets are pretty and a general air of comfort pervades the place.

Other towns. Filley has a population of about 500, has a good hotel, the Burlington railway, a roller flouring mill, grain elevator, newspaper, bank and good stock buildings. It is the home of Hon. Elijah H. Hildreth, a well-known stock raiser of the west. These churches look after the morals of the community and altogether Filley is a good place to live in.

Richard Dibble may be recognized by two peculiarities. First, his spectacles, which he always wears, and second, he doesn't look like a man of any particular consequence. He is, however, one of Gage county's best and most intelligent farmers. When approached on the subject he said: "Well, I came here about five or six years ago, and my first wife, who was a very good woman, died about a year ago. I have two children, a boy and a girl, and I am now engaged in raising stock."

"This spring I sheared a sheep that gave twenty-six pounds of wool, and its carcass after shearing weighed 100 pounds. Several other sheep averaged from twenty to twenty-five, and one little over six months old sheared a yearling and one-half pounds. Another, a seven-year-old, twenty-two months old, sheared a yearling and one-half pounds, and one ram, Young Jumbo, sired by Old Jumbo, one of the famous Morano rams of the west, sheared thirty-two pounds. His father averaged a dozen or more."

Asked as to the present value of his land, Mr. Dibble was reluctant to set a price, but did say he had secured \$8 an acre by a man who wished to buy part of his land. Neither would he say how much he was worth, not wishing, as he put it, to "blow about himself." "I have a few acres of land on the north side of the river, and I have in my home farm, but I wouldn't sell."

Asked concerning other supplies on hand and Mr. Dibble said: "I've got 1,500 bushels of wheat in the granary, some corn and (with a twinkle of the eye) enough other goods to last me a year or so. I have a horse and a cow, and I have in my home farm, but I wouldn't sell."

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A GOOD THING Is always recognized and the "gooder," the "recognized" it is. Ever since the Hellman's Administrator's Closing Sale has been started great crowds have been in daily attendance. Those who have bought once come again, because they recognize a good thing when they see it. The \$3.75 SUITS are really \$6, \$8 and \$10 suits put into this lot to sell them out quick. We sold out all we had in this lot last week and now we have put in a whole lot more to go at the same price, \$3.75 a suit.

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