## ABOUT ADAMS COUNTY

Where the Eoil's Fertility is Proverbial and Prosperity Has an Abiding Place.

HASTINGS, "QUEEN CITY OF THE PLAINS"

A P. pulous and Progressive Community Upgrown in Twenty Years.

MORE PRAISE DUE TO PLUCK THAN TO LUCK

Breat Possibilities of Ochre and Salt Mining Near the County Seat.

TILLERS TESTIFY TO ADAMS' ADVANTAGES

Land Increased in Value Four Hundred Per Cent in Fourteen Years-Fine Fruit Farming Country-No One Yearning to Sell.

Adams county is one of the second tier of counties in Nebraska north of the Kansas line and about 120 miles west of the Missouri river. Its congressional description is townships 5, 6, 7, 8, in ranges 9, 10, 11, 12, west of the sixth principal meridian. It is almost midway between 40 and 41 degrees north lattude, and 97 and 98 degrees west longitude, Its area is 576 square miles or 368,640 acres. while its mean elevation above the sea level is 1,800 feet. The population in 1870 was 19, in 1880, 10,239, and in 1890, 24,303. Adams county presents some remarkable contrasts. In 1872 there was not a building where the city of Hastings with its 14,000 citizens now stands; five years before that the land was inhabited only by Indians, and its prairies dotted with buffaloes. Twenty years ago a man with a welt was envied by his neighbors for miles around; now every farmer must have his windmill with pipes running over all the farmyard, and the city of Hustings possesses one of the best water systems west of the Mississippi river. Then mule teams were eagerly sought for; now the farmer comes to town with his wife and children behind a team which is properly an object of jealousy on the part of the more unfortunate city mortals. The country is noteworthy in many respects. It is more densely populated than any county in the state outside of Douglas and Lancaster, its average per mile being forty-three persons. Outside of these two, it is also the wealthiest in the state. Within its boundaries are fully 150 farmers who each are worth \$5,000 above all incumbrance. The soil is most peculiar. The roads are as hard as pavement, while plowed land is as mellow as an ash heap. After a heavy rain, and within a time surprisingly short to an east-erner, the ground will apparently be as dry as before. The water is absorbed, and does not remain upon the surface to form the mud which is so familiar in other sections. In itself, the soil is a rich black leam. The draininge is excellent. Through the southern part of the county runs the Little Blue river, with its branches, Sand, Thirty-two Mile, Cottonwood and Pawnee creeks; through the northwest corner of the county runs the south channel of the Platte.

Mineral Possibilities.

Aside from the natural fertility of the soil, there are other advantages which have as yet remained undeveloped. Some little time ago a prospecting well, a thousand feet deen, was drilled by the citizens of Hastings. Be-gioning at a depth of 230 feet and extending to the 250 foot level, there was discovered to be a bed of the finest quantity of yellow ochre. At 942 feet a flow of sait water was struck, which seemed to be inexhaustible. Neither the other nor the salt beds have ever been worked, but it is only a question of time until Nebraska paints and salt will be furnished from the Hastings beds.

Adams county was organized in 1867, but as at that time the country was practically uninhabited the act was permitted to become uninhabited the act was permitted to become a dead letter. In November, 1871, a proclamnation was made by Acting Governor James organizing the county for executive and judicial purposes, and fixing the date for the election of county officers on December 12 following. This election was held and the Chosen officers duly qualified. Juniata was made county seat, but in 1879, after the usual county seat war. Hastings was made the

capital of Adams county.
Indian troubles were unknown in the early history of the county, as before there were many whites to moiest the redskins had all been removed to reservations. And yet there were doubtless many exciting scenes, lost now almost to tradition. The old California trail, the object of many a memory, leads i a northwesterly direction through the cour ty, and over it must have passed Kit Carson Fremont, and the earlier explorers, Male and Robitshite. In Washington Irving's "Asteria" mention is made of an encamp ment which must have been near Juniata, i the central part of the county and Fenimors Cooper's "Hawkeye" must have been famil

in with this region.

The assessment books of last year show that the value of the personal property in Adams county was \$4,500,000; of the farm real estate, \$0,500,000; of town lots, \$4,200,000; of railroads, \$4,500,000. This valuation would make the average wealth of each per son in the county to be \$950. Last year, no cording to the records of mortgages filed and released with the register of deeds, the farmers of Adams paid off \$100,000 more mortgages than were filed. Of this, a com-paratively small amount was settled for by foreclosures. In the month of Jane of this year \$30,046 of mortgages were filed and \$65,295 released, an excess of satisfaction amounting to \$35,252. During the same time there were no sheriff's deeds made and of the mortgage fllings fully 25 per cent was for part payment of purchase money.

As Fertile as Old Egypt.

The fertility of Adams county farm lands is proverbial. Of the 370,000 acres of land in the county a very small fraction is unfit for In the northwestern portion, border ing the Platte, and in the extreme west are num rous sandbills, while in certain parts of the course of the Little Blue the land is inclined to be somewhat rough. But strange as it may seem, some very excellent crops are being raised on these sandhills by thorough cultivation, while the bottom lands of the Blue furnish the best of pasturage. In main, the bulk of the land is as fertile as the valley of the Nile, without the attendant dis advantages of floods and crocodiles.

Of course, corn is the staple product, al-though of late years wheat and outs have risen in popular favor. Last year, from 100,-2003 acres planted, Adams county raised enough corn to give twenty-one pounds of shelled corn to every family of five persons in the United States. In the same year there were 30,870 acres of wheat and 38,460 of oats. The proximity to the Oxnard beet sugar works has caused many farmers to try the experiment of raising a few acres of the works has caused many farmers to try the experiment of raising a few acres of sugar beets. Fiax and buckwheat are cultivated to a certain extent, while there were 2,370 acres of rye and 16,578 of bariey grown ac-cording to the assessors' books for 1891.

It is a mistaken idea that leads many peo-ple to speak of "treeless Nebraska," for there are more shade and fruit trees on farms and city property in Adams county than in many of the states farther east which were originally covered with forests.

Adams county apples are shipped to Pennsylvania, orders having been placed in the bast during the late trip of the Nebraska advertising train. Hastings, although only twenty years old, is one of the shadiest of western cities. Cottonwoods, as a quick growing tree, were the first choice, but later these are giving way to elms, manies and her these are giving way to eims, maples and box siders. Referring again to the assessors' books, it is found that there were last year 8,356,460 trees in the county, a large increase over the retorns of the year previous. On the lawn of Postmaster J. B. Heartwell of Hastings are planted sixty varieties of fruit

and shade trees.

Hastings' origin dates back to 1872, when the townsite was surveyed under orders of Walter M. Micklin and Thomas E. Farrell. At that time the B. & M. was in operation,

St. Joseph & Denver) had been extended to meet its lines at Hastings. Probably two of the most important factors in the growth of the new city were the removal of the county seat from Juniata to Hastings, and the great fire of 1879. The great fire of September, 1879, destroyed thirty-three buildings in the central business portion of town, causing \$100,000 of damage. The ruins had hardly ceased to smoulder when the work of replac-

tiai bricks was begun. In March, 1886, an ordinance authorizing the city to porrow \$85,000 for the construction of a system of waterworks was passed and this action confirmed by a vote of the people. The systm consists of eight bore people. The systm consists of eight bore wells 140 feet deep, which pump the water into a large receiving basin. Two large force pumps take the water from the reservoir and pump it into the standpipe, 125 feet high and twenty feet in diameter. There are nearly twenty miles of mains, and fire hydrants are scattered at intervals through the city. The works are self-supporting, and each very may wore that the interest on the each year pay more than the interest on the investment, besides giving the city the ad-vantage of free hydant service for fires, The water is as pure as that of a mountain spring, and the supply is inexhaustible.

Some Features of Hastings. The state asylum for the incurable insane was located at Hastings in 1889, an appropriation of \$75,000 being made by the legisla-ture. In addition the citizens of Hastings

gave 160 acres of land two miles from the city as a building site. At the last session of the legislature an additional appropriation of \$75,000 was made for the purpose of adding two wings and other needed buildings. The main building is 112x176, with wings in the rear 156 feet long. The new wings at the ends of the central part are each 140 feet and three stories high with a basement. The farm is cultivated in part by the inmates themselves, a number of acres being given to sugar beets.

The new courthouse, which was completed in 1891 at a cost of \$72,000, is said to be the finest edifice of its kind in the state outside of Douglas and Lancaster counties. It is built of pressed brick, with red sandstone trimmings and foundation, and with a state roof. A central tower 128 feet high is surmounted with a statue of Justice twelve feet in height. The various offices are most comfortably and commodiously arranged, the casings and office furniture being in main

casings and office furniture being in main of natural oak.

While Hastings has never been loudly proclaimed as a manufacturing city, the fact remains that the "Queen City of the Plains" has more factories than even her own citizens give her credit for. The largest cold storage plant in Nebraska is located there, conditing agree and processed there, and the control of the control sending eggs as far east as Boston. A wholesale harness factory gives work to lifty hands; a soap factory to a number; The Queen city steam laundry operates from Omaha to Cheyenne: the Hastings specialty mill sends corn meal to Tennessee, and a fence factory has lately been established. The Hastings foundry is owned by William Moritz and employs a number of hands the year around. The Hastings roller mills are favorably known over the state, one of its owners, Mr. G. H. Edgerton, being one of the directors of the State Manufacturers association. In addition there are a number of brickyards, cigar factories and cornice

works which employ hundreds of men.
Last year the city council submitted a proposition to the voters to bond the city to put in a system of sewerage. The proposi-tion was once defeated, but upon again being put before the electors it was carried almost without opposition. A sewer farm was purchased and a fine system of sewers put in according to plans made by the present city engineer of Omaha, Mr. Andrew Rosewater. The system has given entire satisfaction, and now all of the business nouses and many of the private residences are connected with it.

In the latter part of July, 1891, the question of paving the central portion of the city was agitated by some of the citizens. The council ordered paving district No. 1 to be paved and called an election for the purpose of issuing \$5,000 of intersection bonds. Once the work had begun, the property owners saw the advantages to be derived from paving, and petitioned the council to create paving districts 2 and 3. At the special election called for July 5 last to consider the issuance of \$25,000 intersection bonds, fully 90 per cent of the vote cast was in favor of the proposition. The new districts embrace nearly all of the business portion of the city, about

Press, Puipit and Pedagogy.

Hastings has no need of a militia company. if it be true that the pen is mightier than the sword. The city boasts of no less than three lany and five weekly newspapers. daily and weekly Nebraskan are the oldest papers in the city, Messrs. J. A. and T. J. Creeth being the publishers and editors. The daily Republican is the only morning daily between Lincoln and Denver: C. L. and F. A. Watkins are the owners. They also pub-lish a weekly edition. The daily Times is a penny daily published by the Times Publish Republican are republican papers. The Adams County Democrat, published by R. B. and C. B. Wahlquist, dispenses democratic destricts of the County Democratic despresses democratic destricts of the County Democratic despresses democratic destricts of the county D gratic doctrine to its readers every Friday Our Own Opinion is an independent weekly The Independent Tribune is a stalwart re publican weekly, conducted by the veteran journalist, A. H. Brown. Hastings is pre-eminently a city of churches. The finest church edifice in the

city is owned by the Presbyterian society and is situated at the corner of Lincoln avenue and Seventh street. It was erected at a cost of \$35,000, and is built of brick with red Colorado sandstone trimmings. It contains a pipe organ valued at \$3,500. Rev. Harry Omar Scott is the pastor. St. Ce-cilia's (Catholic) dates back to the establishment of Hastings. The parish is presided over by Father J. E. English. The first ser vices of the Congregational denomination were held in the covered vergons in which the ploneers traveled over this region. The first regular organization was made in 1871 at Hastings. The society at the present

at Hastings. The society at the present time owns a neat and commodious place of worship and has fley. Mr. Powell as pastor. The Methodist Episcopal church was organ-ized in a depot in 1872, and their present church is a great contrast to their former humble quarters. Rev. Adams is their min-ister. The Baptist church was founded in 1874; Rev. J. E. R. Folsom is the present pastor. St. Mark's Episcopal parish owns a very neat and comfortable place of worship with Rev. William Licas as rector. The Christian church is presided over by Rev. Mr. Kirschstein. The Swedish and German citizens have each religious organizations, the Swedes having one and the Germans

Hastings has an enviable reputation as an educational center. The public schools are under charge of Superintendent Brown, with a corps of twenty-six teachers. The city owns five fine brick buildings, each sur-rounded by a large playground. The school census gives 2,201 persons of school age in the city, and the attendance at all times is unusually good. "The pride of Hastings" is a name often given to Hastings college. This institution is largely a product of Hastings push, although under the control of the Presbyterian denomination. McCormick hall, the building used for recitation pur-poses, was erected in 1883-4. It is named after the late Cyrus McCormick of Chicago, who was one of the best friends the institu-tion ever had. Ladies hall is larger than the first building, and was built in 1884. are on an average 150 students in attendance at each term. Rev. W. F. Ringland, D. D., is president, with a faculty of eight instruc-tors. The academy of the Sisters of the Visitation was established in the spring of 1889. The academy building is 60x134 feet, three stories high with a basement. The school was opened January 6, 1890.

The secret fraternities are well represented in Hastings, there being four principal halls for meeting. The Masonic temple was built in the fail of 1886 on Second street, between Deuver and Hasting avenues. The building has a frontage of 60 feet, with a depth of 110 feet. The entire outlding is ar-ranged with especial reference to the needs of several Masonic organizations. The Odd Fellows have a ball of their own on Lincoln avenue, and the Knights of Pythias a Castle hall on Second street in the central block The Grand Army of the Republic owns the postoffice block, which has the lodge rooms

in the second story.

Financial and Commercial Institutions. The Nebraska Loan and Trust company has its headquarters at Hastings; in fact Hastings was its birthplace. It was organ-ized in 1882, with a capital of \$100,000; the present capital is \$500,000.

present capital is \$500,000.

There are in Hastings four banks. The capital of the First National is \$100,000, and the capital and undivided profits with the surplus \$200,000. It has nearly \$500,000 on deposit, of which fully 35 per cent is money deposited by farmers. The German National was founded in 1887. Its capital stock is \$50,000, and of the \$150,000 on deposit a con-

The Adams County bank was founded in 1886. Its captal, undivided profits and surplus is \$90,000, and of the \$150,000 on deposit \$50,000 is farmers' money. The Exchange National bas \$100,000 capital, \$20,000 surplus and \$150,000 on deposit, nearly all farmers'

Hastings as a wholesale point can hardly be excelled. With the main line of the B. & M. route and its branches to Aurora, Kearney, Oberlin and the Republican valley, and to Cheyenne, with the St. Joe & Grand Island giving direct communication with the Union Pacific at Grand Island, and leading to the southeast, with the Fremont, Eikhorn & Missouri Valley to the northeast, and the Missouri Pacific toward the southern part of the state and into northern Kansas, it will be seen that Hastings is amply supplied with railroads, and is an excellent point for wholesale houses to an excellent point for wholesale houses to locate. There are now located in the city hardware, grocery, lumber, furniture, liquor, cigar, commission and produce wholesale dis-tributing houses, and more are constantly

being added. Six miles west of Hastings on the lines of the B. & M. and Missouri Pacific is situated Juniata, with 600 inhabitants, the oldest set-tlement in the county and a good lively country village. The town of Juniata was surveyed in November, 1871. The village was incorporated in 1880 and is now under was incorporated in 1880 and is now under the trustee system. The Methodist and Baptist denominations have church buildings and supplies are regularly made for other denominations. The Grand Army of the Republic has a large ball and the Odd Fel-lows have lately built a ball for their own

A large grist mill furnishes employment for a number of men besides a number of elevators which are of much convenience to grain producers. The Juniata bank is con-ducted under the firm name of C.R. Jones &Co. The Juniata Herald is a newsy weekly, re-publican in politics, with Isaac H. Rickell as

Kenesaw, westof Juniata, was a prosper-ous settlement in 1873. Its present popula-tion is about 400. Catholic, Methodist, Pres-byterian, Baptist and Evangencal denominations are all represented, with several houses of worship. Years ago, as it was on the government trail, Kenesaw was a favorite stopping place for prairie schooners, and al-though the village has lost this former im-portance the growth of the country surrounding has made it a good active little town. The Kenesaw Citizen is a republican paper published there, and two banks, Exchange bank and Bank of Kenesaw, do a thrifty business with the merchants and farmers

South of Hastings ten miles is the village of Ayr, whose history dates back to 1878. Ayr is pleasantly situated on the Republican branch of the B. & M. near the Lattle Biue river. The omnipresent red elevator is here, and the trade of the south part of the county is mainly given to Ayr. The Methodists and Presbyterians have churches. Marvin N. Kress, better known to old timers as "Wild Bill," is now the postmaster, Hansen is a little burg nine miles borth of

Hastings, whose claims for recognition de-pend upon the trade given it by the surrounding country. Prosser is the terminus of the Nebraska branch of the Missouri Pacific and a grain

collecting center.
On the lines of the Kansas City & Omiha, in the west central part of the county, are Holstein and Roseland, two villages estab-lished comparatively recently. On the same road twelve miles south of Hastings is Le Roy, and a couple of miles farther on Pau-line. This latter village claims the distinctinction of being a junction point, the Missouri Pacific and Kansas City & Omaha crossing here. From Fifteen to Sixty-Five.

Generally the prosperity of a county depends more upon the thrift and energy of its inhabitants than upon any superior natural advantages it may possess. If Adams county occupies an enviable place among the sister-hood of Nebraska, it is because pluck more than luck has placed her there. A few instances out of the many are cited to support the claim that Adams is one of the best counties in the state.

Charles B. Bigelow, the present county clerk, came to Nebraska in 1872, along with a party of "tourists." He first went down into the Republican valley, but not liking the country he retraced his steps as far as Juniata. Near this city he was obliged to stop, "on account of a lack of finances," as he puts it. In fact, he was unable to pay the pre-emption fee required by the govern-ment for homesteaders, and was obliged to "squat" until he could raise the requisite \$2. In addition to his original eighty which he obtained from the government for \$14, he has now an eighty-acre tract and adjoining, for which he paid \$5 an acre. His eighties cost him practically nothing, and when it was suggested to Mr. Bigelow that perhaps when he had been elected county clerk he had disposed of his property, he answered: "Sell it? What do I to sell it for! It didn't cost me much of anything, and it brings me in a good income. No, I rented it, getting one-third of the produce." Near Mr. Bigelow are his father and bis brother, whose experiences are very similar to those of C. B. Mr. Bige-low states that when he first came to Nebraska he had to go two miles to get water. A neighbor of his had to go to the same well, a distance of four miles, afoot, and carry the water in a couple of pails. This same man thought he was in great luck when Mr. Bigelow dug a well upon his own place, and the distance he had to travel was reduced to two miles.
F. Rinker of West Blue township came to

the state in 1877. He was fairly well off when he began, as he had a capital of about \$2,000; \$1,040 of this was invested in 160 acres of Union Pacific land, for which an offer of \$8,000 would now be refused. Besides this he owns city property in Hastings. Mr. Rinker's specialty is fine horses, of which he keeps on an average twenty on the place at all times. Last year his forty acres of corn averaged forty-five bushels an acre, and the same area of onts forty bushels. Half of his farm he still keeps in meadow and the rest is highly improved.

The writer recently made a trip into the northeastern portion of the county into West Blue precinct. Calls were made at nearly every farmhouse, with the object of deter-mining whether his views of Adams county's prosperity were shared by the older settlers It must be understood that the trip did not extend over the whole township, but that the route was chosen entirely at random, so he absence of any of the older class must not e taken as intentional.

Daniel Dillenbach was the first called upon He came to Nebraska in 1878 and purchased 160 acres of land a short distance north of the city at about \$15 an acre. Mr. Dillen-bach has improved his farm by setting out on it numerous fruit and shade trees, until it is known pretty well all over the county as a fine fruit farm. He has planted, and is now receiving the returns from, four acres of apples, a five-acre peach orchard, cherry, plum and nutbearing trees and grapevines, which are planted in great numbers on his place. Small fruit he has in profusion and place. Small fruit he has in profusion and still he has room to cultivate the usual farm products. His land has increased from \$15 to \$65 in value in fourteen years.

Testimony of Practical Tillers. G. G. Halstead lives three miles north of

G. G. Halstead lives three miles north of Hastings, where he has a 147-acre farm. He obtained his land cieven years ago, peying for it \$3,500. It is not in the market now, but its value is fully \$12,000. Last year he raised 1,600 bushels of oats from sixty-five acres, 3,000 of corn and 125 tons of tame hay. His corn averaged forty bushels an acre. When Mr. W. J. Fisher took up his present farm in '87 fully half of it had never been broken, although the price paid was \$22 an acre. Now it isn't in the market. He has put out a quantity of fruit, besides a peach orchard, which is in a promising condition. Last year his principal crops were dition. Last year his principal crops corn, flax and oats, all of which yielded a good crop.

Six miles from the city THE BEE representative met Mr. M. Mueller. Mr. Mueller has lived in the state for seven years and on his present place for the six last past. His quarter section is planted in corn, wheat, oats and flax. Mr. Mueller had a somewhat novel idea to advance. He suggested that instead of excursions being made into the instead of excursions being made into the state by railroads that a more lasting impression could be made upon the minds of easterners by sending Nebraskans back among fheir old neighbors. The average tourist came to the west with the expectation of finding a country given over to bison and Indians, and when they have such an activated of the state of th entirely different experience they have such an entirely different experience they are be-wildered and do not exactly know what to think concerning the land. Nebraskans sent to the east, on the other hand, would be able to intelligently present the advantages of the state, thus securing a more tasting impres-

William Huxtable has occupied his present place for nine years, it originally being school land. To secure it cost him \$3,720, but its value now with improvements, is \$5,600, an

increase of nearty \$6,000 to nine years. Corn is the principal crop, although Mr. Huxtable has a weakness for fine cats.

William Munroe has a \$40-acre farm about six miles north of the city limits. He has seen many changes since he came to Nebraska twenty years ago. For six weeks he lived in a covered ward, and immediately upon his arrival he eatered a quarter-section of government land. Six years after he burchased eighty acres of railroad land at \$40 acre. The entheo.240 acres is now valued at \$40 an acre.

Latayette Dominy moved to Adams county in 1876, and homesteaded 160 acres. A couple of years later he added another quarter-sec-

of years later he added another quarter sec-tion of railroad land, for which he paid \$8 an acre. Now he wouldn't take \$30 an acre for acre. Now he wouldn't take \$30 an acre for it, as "it isn't for sale." He raises corn, rye, timothy and clover. Shorthorn cattle are also carried to a large extent, while be usually has about twenty-five head of horses on hand at a time.

James Yates has a quarter-section of land

a few miles from Hastings. He has a 70-acre pasture, and carries corn and oats as well as the usual other farm products.

E. F. Spicer farms 140 acres. In addition to this a portion is rented by him, so that he was able to cultivate 100 acres of corn last year, fifty of oats and ten of rye.

A West Point Story. Harper's Young People: Two plain ordinary citizens visited West Point for the first time and were deeply interested in the blithesome cadet. With the assurance that they were on government ground, and that they were finite parts of the same government, they went where they pleased and were not inter-rupted. As the day waned, however, they drew nigh forbidden ground-a plot sacred to the embryo generals. As they stepped across a line, ignorant of the awful trespass, a mild youth with spotless uniform and heavy musket ran

"No citizens allowed here," said the

The citizens turned sadly away.
"I feel like the sunset gun," remarked

The sentry stopped to listen. "Why?" inquired the other citizen. "Because I've just been fired off," was the answer; and to the citizen's delight the sentry smiled.

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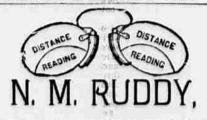
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Boys' All Wool Cashmere Short Pant Suits, In 4 Shades, Suits, Nice Line of Them.

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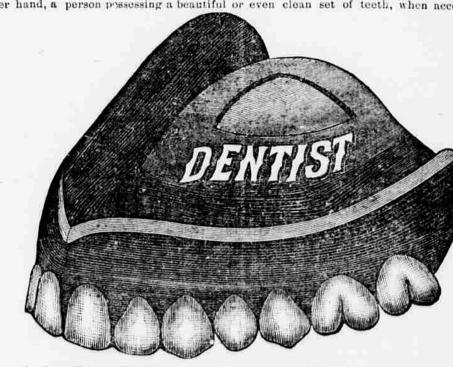
all without pain.

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