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Written for the "Nebraska Advertiser,"
KANSAS AND NEBRASKA.

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General Superintendent of the Nebraska
Settlement Company.

The heart of every American citizen may well glow with an honest pride when he thinks of his Country. With a loftier feeling than that which inspired the ancients to exclaim "I am a Roman" may he say "I am an American." In common with my fellow citizens I love my country, and am proud to think the object is worthy my affections. I love her thrilling and soulstirring history, her extensive seaboard washed by many thousand miles of ocean waters; her vast rivers; numerous bays, seas and harbors, teeming with commercial life; her mighty lakes spreading out into inland seas; her hills, mountains, and plains, abounding in every variety of climate, production, and soil. Most of all does my heart glow with gratitude to the Great Author of all our mercies when I look out on the great and glorious West. How rapid has been the growth of our country; how glorious the onward march of her progress.—A few years since our government conceived the policy of removing the few scattered fragments of the remaining Indian tribes to the far West, away beyond the bounds of civilization, where the poor Indian might remain in undisturbed repose in the unknown solitudes of the western wilds, so far away that the white man would never be disturbed by the savage yell of his war cry nor the clash of his arms.

Little did the nation dream that they were placing these conquered foes in the very garden of the country—a garden more highly cultivated and far more productive under the hand of the Great Spirit alone than the most highly cultivated portions of the East. Nor did they think they were placing these rude sons of the forest in the very centre of the United States. Kansas and southern Nebraska, whether we measure from the Atlantic to the Pacific or from our northern to our southern boundaries, are the centre of our country, the key stone to the glorious national confederacy.

Kansas and Nebraska as now constituted embrace all that extent of country lying between the 37th and 51st parallel of north latitude, and between the Missouri river on the east and the summit of the Rocky mountains on the west. A territory sufficient to make 12 or 14 first class States, and capable in all probability of sustaining a more dense population than the most thickly populated portion of the East. For the sake of distinctness we will be a little more minute and particular in regard to some of the localities of this vast country.

The northern portion of Nebraska is vast plain of table land, rich and productive and abounding in excellent pine forests. The main and perhaps the only defects in this portion of the West are the severity of the winters and the scarcity of water. To any other people except Americans it might have been a problem, whether these vast plains would yield to the hand of cultivation or remain in their original solitude; but the spirit of American enterprise is already opening up farms on these plains and dotting them over with cities, towns, and villages, and it will soon send thrifty forests down the Missouri to beautify and adorn its shores.

Southern Nebraska embracing the valley of the Platte, or Nebraska river and extending as far South as the northern boundary of Kansas is also a vast plain nearly level and resembling when its rich grass is moved by the wind, the ocean when under the

action of a gentle breeze. To the eastern or northern men this is the garden of the West. The sky is clear and remarkably brilliant for eight or nine months in the year. The rains fall sparingly, yet in sufficient quantities, aided by the heavy dews, to bring vegetation to perfection. The soil is surpassing rich and productive. The face of the country is sufficiently undulating to allow the water which falls on the surface to form into springs, brooks, and rivers, and the air is so pure that fresh meat will dry in the sun without injury. It is highly charged with electricity which gives a kind of inspiration to the whole system and makes old people feel young again.—The summers are mild and pleasant, and the winters just long and cold enough to give energy to the body and vigor to the mind. The whole country for two hundred miles might be made into one vast corn field yielding, under the hand of ordinary cultivation, not less than 100 bushels to the acre; or, one vast wheat field yielding 40 bushels to the acre; and it is so free from swamps and marsh lands that corn and wheat would grow on every acre except in the beds of streams. In beauty of scenery, fertility of soil, richness and variety of production, and healthiness of climate we question whether its equal can be found on the face of the globe. Here is a country equal in extent to the whole State of Pennsylvania and capable of sustaining four times the number of inhabitants; it is now about two years since its virgin soil was first thrown open to settlement. Since that time emigrants have been flocking into it by thousands and vying with each other in their glowing descriptions of the beauty of its scenery, richness and fertility of its soil and healthiness of its climate.

Kansas valley is the next section on the South which demands particular attention. Here you find the Delaware, Sawen, and Wyandot reserves, of which so much has been said, written and printed in the past few months; beautiful spots in a most beautiful and lovely country. Kansas valley proper embraces all that region drained by the Kaw river and its tributaries, a territory about 65 miles wide and 200 long.—The length is greater but it is only to this extent that the same qualities and varieties of soil prevail. Too much cannot be said of the richness and beauty of this far famed valley. As you wonder over these vast meadows interspersed with occasional woodlands you will not be surprised at the fierce conflict which has been going on between the settlers from the North and South for the past two years for the occupancy of this valley; it is an object worth contending for; long and severe will be the conflict before either of the contending parties will yield.

Arkansas valley is another beautiful and charming spot, vying with its northern neighbor in everything which attracts the settler and gives pleasure to life. Unlike the other portions we have noticed this valley increases in richness and beauty as you go West, revealing a scene of surpassing excellence and beauty near the base of the Rocky Mountains.

Between these two valleys, at about equal distance from the Kansas on the North and the Arkansas on the South is some of the most grand and enchanting scenery we every behold. In May, 1857, it was one vast ocean of moving grass, extending in every direction, as far as the eye could reach, till this ocean of beauty was lost in the clear blue sky. This is the track of Fremont's route for the Pacific railroad.—He says, it is so level that a railroad can be made for 700 miles on an air line without crossing a stream. It is not probable, however, that a railroad

will ever be built on this route, for the iron horse could not find water enough to quench his thirst, or enable him to draw his burden. This section has been filled up with unprecedented rapidity. The whole country for 100 miles from the Missouri river is now taken up and occupied by pre-emptors who are being subject to all the varieties of "Squatter life." Generally in cabins 14 feet square; some built of rough boards, some of poles and some of sod, some with windows and doors, some with doors and not windows, some with windows and not doors, and some with neither windows nor doors, some with roofs and floors, some with floors and no roofs and some with neither roofs nor floors. Yet in these are living highminded and honorable men, some of them graduates from our eastern colleges and universities; and refined amiable, and beautiful women, from the best families in the older States, sustained in their present privations by hopes of future good. May their hopes be speedily realized.

That portion of Kansas and Nebraska lying near the Missouri river and extending back from 150 to 200 miles is by far the most desirable.—It is an important part of the Missouri valley; slightly undulating, interspersed with abundant wood lands, broad rivers and streams and provided with a good supply of excellent waters.—Being enriched by the annual washings of the best properties of the soil from the western high lands, which extend back to the summit of the Rocky Mountains a distance of nearly a thousand miles, they are probably the richest lands in the world.

Their proximity, on the one hand the Missouri river which will always furnish an outlet to their surplus produce, and on the other to the vast western plains which must for many years make a heavy demand on them for bread stuff, stamps them with immense value to the emigrant who seeks a home in the West. As you go West from the Missouri river the climate and soil become more dry and the rains less frequent, till at a distance of 3 or 4 hundred miles the rains fall as seldom as they do in Egypt; and the soil, though very rich, will probably fail to yield a crop under the hand of ordinary cultivation except of those grains and vegetables which mature very early in the season. It is covered with a rich grass which springs up as soon as the snow leaves and has furnished excellent pasture for the vast herds of buffalo, on which they have fed and fattened from time immemorial. These have, however, caught the spirit of the age and like the rest of the world are moving West.

The climate varies with both the latitude and longitude and in general description will apply to the whole.—The North is bleak and cold—the West is exceedingly variable—the centre is dry; eastern Kansas and southern Nebraska are blessed with the most desirable climate. They have the latitude of Maryland and Virginia, but they have a much more mild, even and healthy climate. The heat of summer and the cold of winter being a number of degrees less. The bleak and almost constant winds render the winters unpleasant, but they add as much to the pleasure of summer as they diminish from that of winter. There is a bracing and invigorating element in the atmosphere not surpassed, we think, in any part of the United States, making this region a desirable resort for persons of reduced constitution and feeble health.

In regard to mineral wealth much of interest might be said. Partial geological surveys have been made in eastern Kansas and southern Nebraska, by private individuals and explor-

ing parties, all of whom report coal in great abundance and excellent quality. Coal has been discovered in many localities and under such circumstances as to reveal a coal field of vast extent. As to its depth and thickness no very reliable information has been obtained. In the absence of this we will venture an opinion founded on such observations as we were able to make, it is this: the average depth of the coal from the surface is about 170 feet, and the average thickness of the principle vane is about 100 feet. We also think this vane extends all over eastern Kansas and southern Nebraska. A few years will develop the correctness or incorrectness of this opinion.—Nothing equal to it has yet been discovered in the world. Here our great and beneficent creator has done everything on the most grand and magnificent scale. The rich meadows spread over thousands of miles—the noble rivers sweep through them in overpowering grandeur—and the mountains throw their proud summits far above the clouds. Why should not the interior of such a country correspond to its magnificent exterior. That such is the fact we were led to believe by our own observations and discoveries. These immense coal fields will soon furnish a profitable investment for capitalists, labor for thousands of our people, and fuel for the millions who are fast filling up the great valley of the West.

Pure rock salt has been discovered in the valley of the Arkansas, also salt springs, and a salt creek whose waters are so strong and abundant as to make the Arkansas river brackish for a considerable distance after they mingle with it. In Saline county, in southern Nebraska, there are large salt washings caused by immense salt springs. During the summer salt is formed on these marshes by the action of the sun, turning them into vast fields as white as our snow in the winter. It is safe to presume that there is more salt in southern Nebraska than in all the United States east of the Missouri river. This will soon become the Salina of the West and furnish the entire Mississippi and Missouri valleys with salt.

Iron ore and lime stone in great abundance and of excellent quality are also found here.

The commercial prospects of this section are not less inviting than its virgin soil and its invaluable mines.—Such soil, richer than Egypt ever was in the most palmy days of its prosperity, and spreading over an extent of country almost equal to the conquests of Alexander and capable of sustaining a population more dense than that of China, with its eastern shores swept for more than a thousand miles by the largest river in the world, furnishing all the facilities of steamboat navigation, must soon be covered with highly cultivated fields, dotted over with cities, towns and villages, and teeming with an active and enterprising population. The eastern division of this great country will yield a rich reward to the hand of industry in the most prolific growth of indian corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley, hemp, and potatoes; in short, every production common to the temperate zones. The mineral wealth is already calling the attention of capitalists and will soon demand active operations and large outlays to develop it.—These scenes of wealth and incentives to enterprise must produce considerable trade with other parts of the Union and demand railroads and all the modern facilities for travel and transportation. Hence the locomotive with his train of cars will soon dash across the Missouri river and run far out into the interior of these great plains; thus opening the way for an outlet to pro-

ducts of the soil and the mines. Six railroads are now in contemplation, four of them actually commenced and pushing forward with all possible speed, contending for the patronage of Kansas and Nebraska and the honor of being the great Pacific railroad. There is a fair prospect that all these roads will be completed. But the Hannibal and St. Joseph road, connecting with eastern roads on the Mississippi river and extending to St. Joseph on the Missouri is likely to take the palm.—This is nearly finished and advertised to be in operation during the present season. This will connect with southern Nebraska by a few miles of steamboat navigation to the mouth of the Great Nemaha. At this place commences the first link of the great trunk of the Pacific railroad West of the Missouri river and extends as far West as Grand Island, a distance of 160 miles from the river. When this road is completed southern Nebraska has as extensive commercial connections as any portion of our country, and will be able to compete with any in the production of its soil and mines.

It may now be regarded as the settled policy of this nation to build a railroad to the Pacific coast. But "large bodies move slow." Congress will be too tardy, and either quarrel or sleep over this question till private enterprise will step forth at the call of the people and build the road, and private individuals own it as their own private fortune. Not less than four States equal in extent to New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia are in embryo along the contemplated track of this road and will, in all probability, be added to one glorious sisterhood in less than five years. These will increase greatly the demand for the road and furnish material for its construction. When we take into consideration the immense emigration westward, the inexhaustible resources of the country through which this road will pass the, mighty empire growing up on the Pacific coast, and that this road is already completed, or under contract more than half the distance across the continent, only about 1,200 miles remaining to be provided for, is it visionary to suppose it may be completed in ten years? When this great work is done, the ocean seems to be the principle channel of commerce between the nations of the earth and the land takes its place; London, Paris, and Constantinople, which have for ages been the centres of commerce, are high and dry like a fishers net on a rock. The whole eastern trade is turned from the dangers of the ocean to our over land route, and the Missouri valley becomes the centre of commerce—the centre of empire—the centre of the World.

TO THE PUBLIC.

On the 26th of January last, I conditionally contracted to sell to Robert Hawk and J. G. Keivin a part of the land known as New's Point; said contract has been forfeited by the failure of said Hawk and Keivin to comply with the conditions on their part. I therefore, take this method of warning the public not to purchase stock in said land or in a town called Alamo, which I understand is also to be laid out on said tract, from any person.—I am the sole owner of said land, and will make no titles upon sales by either of the above named gentlemen. I further state that although I have the right to retain the amount they paid me as a forfeiture, I am not disposed to do so, and now notify all persons concerned that I am ready and willing to refund to Messrs Hawk and Keivin the amount they paid me on said conditional purchase.
August 16th, 1857. LOUIS NEAL.

W. H. WILLIAMS,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN
STOVES & TINWARE
Oregon, Mo.,

TAKES pleasure in announcing the citizens of Oregon and the public in general, that he has on hand the most extensive stock of Stoves and Tinware, ever offered in this market. My stock of Tinware is of my own manufacture, and is for sale at Wholesale and Retail at St. Louis prices.

I would call particular attention to my stock of COOKING STOVES, comprising the most improved patterns both Air-Tight and Premium. Among them may be found Filly's Charter Oak, the best stove now in use, the Asiatic Air-Tight, Pioneer and prize Premium. Also

Parlor & Box Stoves

Of various Sizes and Patterns, which I will SELL LOWER THAN ANY HOUSE IN TOWN.

Particular attention paid to making and putting up Tin Gutters, in the town and country. Also, repairing done on short notice and on reasonable terms.

Old copper, Brass and Pewter taken in exchange for work or ware.

W. H. WILLIAMS,
Oregon, Mo., July 5, 1856.