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RAILROAD LANDS.  
Report of Moses Stocking, Esq.

Mr. Cyrus Woodman, Managing Director Burlington and Missouri River Railroad in Nebraska:

Sir:—The district of country included within the scope of my instructions includes parts of the counties of Lancaster, Seward, York, Saline, Fillmore, Clay, Hamilton, Adams and Kearney, and is a portion of that immense line of table lands that form the southern coast line of the great Platte river, and which seem to have their eastern terminus in Saunders county, and in the point of land between the Platte bottoms and the valley of the Wahoo.

The features of this table are peculiar. It is very level, containing numerous small depressions or basins, usually distinguishable from one to another, and finally to the verge of the plateau, by very shallow drains, of one foot or so in depth. It is destitute of trees, but everywhere clothed with rich grasses. It is the source of numerous small streams, that in connection with its numerous basins, afford stock water on nearly every section. It is nowhere entirely cut through by its numerous water courses, but on the contrary offers, it is believed, the largest level upland route for a wagon road on this continent. It also presents one of the finest surfaces for the construction of railroads to be found in the known world.

The surface having an incline to the southeast, nearly all the water issuing from this immense line are discharged in that direction, including all the northern tributaries of the Republican, the northern heads of Little Blue, West Blue, Beaver and Lincoln Creeks, and North Blue; and, farther east, Willow, Plumb, Middle, Oak, Wahoo and Otse Creeks. Again, many of the above-named streams reach outward and upward to the very verge and summit of the Platte river coast, and thus furnish the easiest grades and the finest lines of communication between the latter and the country to the east, south and west. The waters of this region flow with a brisk current and are sweet and pure. Mill sites are plentiful, but as yet only a small number are improved. At Milford and Camden, on the North Blue, are good mills; a fine mill is also in process of erection at Pleasant Hill, on Turkey Creek. Mr. David Reed, at Ullyses, and Mr. West, on West Blue, also have saw mills; more saw mills and at least one good flouring mill on West Blue would pay the enterprising builder largely who shall undertake it. The want is daily becoming a necessity. Who is to be the lucky man?

The climate of this region is one of great salubrity, and offers strong inducements to the rheumatic and consumptive of the eastern States to settle upon these fertile and beautiful prairies, and breathe the pure, invigorating air of Nebraska.

Timber, consisting of Oak, Walnut, Maple, Ash, Elm, Cottonwood and Willow, was found upon all the streams visited, and generally in quantities sufficient to supply pretty compact settlements, until such time as a full supply can be grown by cultivation. Cottonwood, of a size to answer for stove wood, has been and can be grown in three years. Plant close with seedling trees, cultivate as for corn, and thus out the third year. It is believed that the whole region examined belongs to the great marl deposits of Nebraska, varying in color and composition from the yellow marl of the bluff formation along the Missouri river, to that of the white and chalky marls of the middle and western part of the State, and that in the counties bordering upon the Platte river the strata of marl are of great depth, gradually thinning toward the south and east. In Saunders county the marl seems to have a range of from six to twenty-one feet in depth, under which is a thick bed of sand; and, in one instance, a soft, yellow sand rock was pierced to a depth of thirty feet. These marls, whether yellow, white or red, contain everywhere nodules of lime, and in considerable quantities, and offer to the agriculturist as desirable a soil for the growth of clover, root crops and the cereals, as the world affords. In short, they bear a close resemblance to but are not excelled by the famous wild soil of the Sacramento river, of California. On the dryer portions of this plateau hegs and sheep should constitute a large percentage of the farmers' stock. Deep plowing should be the farmer's motto, and his practice as well. Deep plowing will enable the surplus water of a rainy season to readily sink out of his way, thus establishing a reservoir below for the use of his growing plants in seasons of drought. Again, tree planting, both of fruit and forest trees, for ornament and for profit, should engage his early attention.

Although west of range one west there is scarcely an acre of ground that has been broken more than two crops, yet produced more than two crops, yet the settlers have this year grown from twenty to thirty bushels of excellent wheat to the acre, fifty to seventy-five of oats, fifty of barley and twenty-five of corn; and, further east, on ground forty or five years in cultivation, seventy to seventy-five bushels are reported. Potatoes and other roots of the very finest quality and large yield have been obtained. Thirty miles below Kearney and on the Platte bottom, peaches are grown upon trees four years from the seed. A section of the Platte bluffs known as the Sand Hills, and averaging perhaps one mile in breadth, say from range two to range eighteen west, is believed to be admirably adapted to peach growing. In the valley of

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Rock Creek, and in the counties of Saunders and Lancaster, are several outcrops of new red sandstone, belonging to the Dakota group of Doctor Hayden. This rock is very well adapted to building purposes, and is within a short distance of the line of the railroad from Ashland to Lincoln.

In the same valley, and near the residence of M. Riddle, is a small salt basin. The northwestern portion of Lancaster and eastern portion of Seward counties are quite rolling and abundantly supplied with small streams. The soil indicates more clay than is usual in Nebraska soils.

The grazing is somewhat inferior, in consequence of the large proportion of the fetid wire grass that abounds. The other grasses of this section are rich in nutritious qualities, as are the grasses usually found throughout the State.

Mr. Wm. Inly, an old settler of Nebraska, formerly of Cass, but now of Seward county, and who has been for three terms one of her County Commissioners, says that Seward is a better county than Cass for wheat and oats; but perhaps not quite so good for corn; thinks the soil more compact and clayey; has examined the country west of Seward and southwest to the Republican. "Thinks the country on the Blues the best he has seen, and admirably adapted to the production of grain. Mr. Wm. R. Davis and Mr. Ellsworth, of Seward, corroborate the statement of Mr. Inly.

Crossing the North Blue at Seward, our route lay down the west bank some four or five miles. After crossing Crooked Creek, a small tributary, with timber, turned southwest across the prairie to Walnut Creek, a branch of West Blue, and also showing timber; thence west on wagon road to Beaver crossing. The whole aspect of the country since crossing North Blue, has changed for the better. More timber, smoother surface, soil more friable and much less of the fetid wire grass.

Mr. Roland Reed lives at the junction of Beaver and Blue; owns 1,000 acres, has farmed four years, had good crops, no trouble from drought, thinks the soil unsurpassed. Mr. Foust has farmed five years in the fork of Blue and Beaver; has good crops—this year has seventy bushels of corn to the acre—has grown wheat, oats and rye. All do well. He has no trouble from drought and thinks the soil exceedingly fertile. The Beaver and West Blue make a fine show of timber from this point. Continued up the road to section 22, town 9 north, range 1 west; crossed the table land in a southwest direction to the West Blue, section 7, town 9 north, range 1 west.

rich, warm, light, sandy soil, and covered with rich grasses—the redstem predominating, mixed with bluestem, bunch, buffalo, and a little of the worthless wire-grass. The bottoms have a beautiful slope to the river, and are high and dry and very fertile. Timber sufficient for a compact settlement. The high land drops down at an easy slope. Every settler talked with reports good crops and no trouble from drought; and the appearance of the deep, rich soil, fully corroborates their statements. Crossed the table land again, to Captain Wymann's place, section 9, town 10 north, range 2 west; surface very level; passed a wet basin of some forty acres in area. It is believed that these basins could easily be converted into permanent watering places for stock—a desideratum where the table is wide or running water too distant—and thus not only add a permanent value, but increase the beauty of this already beautiful plain. At Wymann's saw some fine samples of wheat, oats and corn of his growing. Followed up the Beaver to David Baker's—a new settler, who has lived in Iowa, Missouri and West Virginia—section 10, town 10 north, range 2.

The valley of Beaver offers fine sites for farms, except that it is deficient in timber; much of its original stock having been cut off by the overland travel; still there is sufficient for several additional settlers. Mr. Baker has a splendid location, is evidently a man of energy and some capital, and will soon make a notable mark here; claims are now taken on this stream some sixteen miles above Baker's. Several parties are stopping their families here, while preparing their homes. From this point, continued up the stream three miles; passed a village of prairie dogs; turned south to West Blue; hit the stream at the mouth of School Creek, section 26, town 9 north, range 4 west. Beautiful place, fine land and plenty of timber.

Table land was very level. Badger holes show a creamy colored marl underlying the surface, and containing nodules of a chalky lime in considerable quantities. In the middle of the table land found a second village of the prairie dogs; crossed to the south side of the Blue, and went up stream to Fairbanks' section 28, town 6, range 4 west, who settled here July 1866; did some breaking, too late; did not rot well. Soil rots quickly if broken at the right season of the year. He believes in deep plowing, thinks the ground resists the drought remarkably well. He has had good crops and thinks the upland full as good as the bottom for a crop. His neighbor on the opposite side of the river, and where the table terminates abruptly in high bluffs, has good crops and no damage from drought.

Fairbanks showed some fine wheat, corn, oats and potatoes; has cottonwood trees two years old that are fifteen feet high and three inches in diameter. Up the stream and just above the Henderson farm, and nearly opposite a north branch of the Blue, which shows consid-

erable timber, found corners of sections 19, 20, 29 and 30 of town 9 of range 4 west. The Blue shows plenty of timber.

At Waddles—section 26, town 9 of range 5 west—obtained samples of wheat and barley; yield of wheat twenty-six, and of barley fifty bushels to the acre. Thinks barley one of the surest and best crops to raise, just the soil for it. Has good corn, potatoes and other roots; believes in deep plowing, says the turf rots quickly if broken at the proper season; thinks the upland will produce crops equal to the bottoms; says that stock will thrive all winter on the range; that a pair of horses belonging to a neighbor ran out last winter without grain and but very little hay, and in the spring were in good condition for work.

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and several smaller ponds, from one of which issues a branch of Little Blue. Followed down this one hour and came to pool of clear good water. Nearly six feet deep, and about fifteen feet wide, and light colored marl, with the clay nodules of lime resting horizontally on two feet of dark brown soil, and containing coarse grit resembling grains of new red sandstone. Followed this branch till dark—but little water—surface rough near the stream, but smooth a half mile distant. Timber begins to appear and also considerable water, a fork comes in from the south west—camped here. In the morning ascended a knob some fifty feet high, and took a survey of the country; rough and full of gullies near the stream, and quite sandy; grass coarse and but few trees; smooth in the distance. Rode northeast half a mile to the marl plain; turned east and rode over a beautiful level tract, well covered with grass, to a second creek, studded with cottonwood trees, an old camping place; plenty of water in long lagoons, steep cliff, banks of white marl, offering good shelter for stock; on again over the level and well grassed plain; crossed two old wagon trails pointing north and south. At 11 o'clock, a. m. came to a third creek, at six large elm trees—water in holes—timber below far as seen, banks low, grass abundant, and mainly redstem; one mile farther east came to the St. Joseph road; one-fourth of a mile farther east came to a fourth creek with cottonwood timber; continued east over beautiful and well grassed prairie until an old Indian trail was reached; here found a quarter corner. Turned north half a mile, and found corner of sections 20, 21, 17, 16, of town 7 north, range 10 west; the center of Adams county; north three miles to township line; found all the section corners. Turned east again two miles crossing a fifth branch of Little Blue, to the corners of sections 2 and 3 of town 7 north, and sections 34 and 35 of town 8 north, range 10 west; north again one mile to a fork of West Blue; down stream two miles and camped on good grass near water; here the hollow turns south. All of this stretch of prairie is most beautiful, rich, and covered with grass, mainly bluestem.

Nov. 5. Traveled north a short distance, swung around east and south to the high land on south side of creek—east and north again to the first timber—dozen cottonwood trees—at the fork and near the quarter post of sections 34 and 35, town 8, of range 9 west; just below the cotton are thirteen elm trees. Here found fresh chopping and the track of a wagon drawn by three mules. North again, some two or three miles, twining line cast, found corners of sections 12, 11, 13, 14, of town 8 north, of range 9 west, in eastern part of Adams county. Turning still more to east and southeast, came upon the trail of railroad surveyors at stake 5618, in northwest corner of Clay county; followed line east to stake 5530; turned south to river for water, and named near some elm trees. All the country passed this morning is very beautiful and well covered with bluestem grass; soil of the best quality; badger holes show the cream colored marl. Passed to the south side, and out upon the table land; turned east and kept near enough to the river to get views of the timber. In range eight the timber is thin, about enough for one family to the quarter. Range seven has more timber, enough for a compact settlement. In the west part of range 6, the timber is thin again, but is quite abundant at the east side and around Chaffee's—section 34, town 9, range 6 west. In south part of Hamilton county. All of this prairie is beautiful as the "Garden of Eden," and the rich, warm soil, deep enough to produce all the "fruits of the earth" in abundance forever.

Nov. 6. From Chaffee's rode southeast, across the table land. Crossed the railroad surveyer at stake 2734. About half a mile further came to corner of sections 17, 18, 19, 20, town 8 north, of range 5 west, in the north east township of Clay county—the first corner stake yet found standing in place. Struck School creek at corner of sections 34 and 35, town 8, range 5, and sections 2 and 3 town 4, range 5, and a little below the head of the river below Geo Martin's is quite an extensive deposit of bones of a large Mammalia. Between Martin's and Kearney the surface near the Sand Hills is undulating and in places some sandy; shows signs of denudation; grass thin, water scarce; farther south is found the smooth surface of the gray marl.

At Kearney City examined some very fair vegetables and seed corn grown by Mr. Meschell, among the sand hills of the Platte bluffs, on new breaking; also vegetables and grain grown in the Platte bottom by Messrs. Talbot and M. H. Sydenham, all of which were fair as usually found in the eastern counties of the State grown upon new ground.—These gentlemen express great confidence in the productiveness of Kearney county.

Nov. 3. From Kearney, in Kearney county, travelled south, crossed the sand hills, and out upon the plain, to corner of sections 22, 23, 26, 27, of town 7, range 15 west, near center of Kearney county. These sand hills are one mile in breadth and will some day be crowded with peach orchards; next about one mile of undulating marl of a creamy color, compact, looks dry and hard, covered with short buffalo grass. In a cliff, twelve feet high and six feet from the top, was the dark line of an old soil and usual red dirt.

On the table land again. To the east, south and west, the eye cannot reach to the limit of the plain. Buffalo grass comprises four-fifths of the herbage, and this has been grazed close; and the "chip" sign shows which species of the "Bos" has been here. Turning east, passed one large

bluff and near south branch having timber. This plateau differs somewhat from any of the preceding; it evidently contains more clay and a closer, firmer soil; the result no doubt, of the red, granitic marly clay subsoil above described. The basins, also, differ in that they contain water and slough grass; also there is larger proportion of the bluestem grass. In the earth raised by the Badger was darker, more clayey, and the lime pebbles reddish in color; the surface more pugh, indicating standing water after a rain. Turkey creek at this point, near the center of Fillmore county—section 7, town 7, range 2 west, is a mere rivulet, but shows evidence of being a river at times. Drift wood was noticed lodged in the branches of trees fifteen feet above the bed of the stream. The bench or terrace bottom is wide, level, rich, well covered with grass and elevated fifteen or twenty feet above the bed of the creek. The upland to the south has a very easy rise and is of the best quality. Kept on the south side, to the entrance of a considerable fork, having a good show of timber coming in from the southwest—section 3, town 6, range 1 west. Passed one chain in this distance, on which was a house and about five acres of sod corn. Timber mainly white-ash, and small—crossed to the north side, and rode one and a half miles over a beautiful bottom; came to ten acres of breaking and an empty house. Camped here.

Nov. 4. Morning dark and foggy; badger holes were eighty rods. Rode down stream to section 24, town 7 of range 1 west—east line of Fillmore county. Here found out crop of the red clay in a cliff, and gray marl above. Above the cliff the clay was so near the surface as to be reached by the plow; with the clay at its base was mixed a notable quantity of coarse red sand, resembling the debris of the new red sandstone.

On section 20, town 7, range 1, found Mrs. Irlean, from Ohio, who has been here three years; raised two crops—both good for new ground. Wheat this year, twenty-five bushels to the acre, and some small corn; soil sound; planted one and a half bushels of potatoes and harvested fifty bushels.

At noon reached Mr. John Manley's, section 4, town 7, of range 1 east in north-west part of Saline county; has been here since June 1866. Mr. Manley is from New York, has raised two crops, last year had eighteen bushels of wheat and twenty-five of corn to the acre. Says the upland suffers more here than the bottoms; thinks it due to the underlying clay, which he says is found within one foot of the surface.

Timber on Turkey Creek has become scarce and more abundant in quantity and variety. Walnut and burr oak are now seen.

Mr. Manley reports one hundred bushels of potatoes to the fourth of an acre as his yield this year. Six miles further down found a Mr. Gilbert, from Ohio—section 4, town 7, range 2 east—has been on Turkey Creek four years; plows deep and has good crops, twenty-five to thirty bushels of wheat, fifty to sixty of corn to the acre; last year crops were injured by the drought and the hot winds that prevailed five days; this year has suffered from floods; thinks the country far better than Ohio.

Reports out-crop of limestone on Spring Creek and near Pleasant Hill, says that it is found on both banks of the stream, a distance of one and a half miles; is full of shells and makes excellent lime; says that Swan Creek, a south branch of Turkey, is quite heavily timbered, and that Saline is the best timbered county in the State.

Nov. 10. Show this morning. Went down stream three miles and crossed. The valley of Turkey is a good farming country, well supplied with timber. Left the creek and took the road for Camden, which is located near the north-east corner of Saline county; table land high and level, with basins, soil grayish brown, rich and deep; elevation of table above river about one hundred feet. Three miles from Camden forded the Blue; maple timber on the banks; good bottoms; fine stream and valley. At Camden forded the North Blue, and came at range 5, and a little below the head of the river upon the rolling prairie that stretches away to the Missouri River.

From all that I have now seen, and all that has been gleaned from settlers, I am decidedly of the opinion that the country west of the Big Blue, and north of township 6, will, in the production of fruits, roots, wool and cereals, excel the country to the east of that river, and fully equal it in the production of corn and live stock, beef, pork and mutton; that Kearney and Adams counties are by no means the barren wastes that has been represented, but on the contrary, draw the elements of fertility from the same inexhaustible fountain of marl as Hamilton and Clay, Fillmore and York, having less timber and less water; they are not as inviting to the settler, but for the production of fruit, (especially peaches) and wool, I should place them at the head of the list. The great waste of these counties, as indeed of the whole region, is a Railroad, on which the pioneer settler can transport his family, his goods, and the lumber out of which his house must be constructed. Every train will bring in civilization and comfort, and feeling that he is not out of humanity's reach he will be content; and contentment favors industry, and industry on these rich prairies, will soon supply an abundance of the good things of life.

Nov. 8. Southeast from Whitaker's found corners of sections 10, 11, 14, 15, town 8, range 3. On the summit of the table found the usual basins. Crossed the railroad survey at stake marked 1662; reached Turkey creek at noon, about three miles below the head of timber, at a high

bluff and near south branch having timber. This plateau differs somewhat from any of the preceding; it evidently contains more clay and a closer, firmer soil; the result no doubt, of the red, granitic marly clay subsoil above described. The basins, also, differ in that they contain water and slough grass; also there is larger proportion of the bluestem grass. In the earth raised by the Badger was darker, more clayey, and the lime pebbles reddish in color; the surface more pugh, indicating standing water after a rain. Turkey creek at this point, near the center of Fillmore county—section 7, town 7, range 2 west, is a mere rivulet, but shows evidence of being a river at times. Drift wood was noticed lodged in the branches of trees fifteen feet above the bed of the stream. The bench or terrace bottom is wide, level, rich, well covered with grass and elevated fifteen or twenty feet above the bed of the creek. The upland to the south has a very easy rise and is of the best quality. Kept on the south side, to the entrance of a considerable fork, having a good show of timber coming in from the southwest—section 3, town 6, range 1 west. Passed one chain in this distance, on which was a house and about five acres of sod corn. Timber mainly white-ash, and small—crossed to the north side, and rode one and a half miles over a beautiful bottom; came to ten acres of breaking and an empty house. Camped here.

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acres of waving grain. Here the farmer will put down his plow without fear of turning up the bottom.

These views are the result of fifty years spent in agricultural pursuits, sixteen of which have been spent on this frontier, either in actual cultivation of the soil or the handling of stock. I have worked cattle hard, the entire year through, and on no other feed than the grass of the prairie; have seen fine crops of grain and vegetables grown on new ground that very wise people condemned as worthless.—But sixteen years back the first Indian Treaty, that extinguished their title to the lands of Nebraska, was concluded; and what is Nebraska to-day? A State and a "loyal State" of this Union—a State unsurpassed in the salubrity of its climate, the beauties of its prairies, the depth of its fertile soil, the abundance and purity of its waters, the richness of its grasses, or in the proposed facilities of intercommunication by its people.

Respectfully,  
MOSES STOCKING.  
Plattsouth, Nov. 23, 1869.

REPORT OF L. R. WARNER.

McFADEN P. O., York Co., Neb.  
Mr. Cyrus Woodman, Managing Director Burlington and Missouri River Railroad in Nebraska:

DEAR SIR:—I left my residence (section 10, town 8, range 3 west.) Wednesday morning, November 17th, 1869, to investigate the character of the land in Adams and Kearney counties; its fitness for farming purposes, etc., as you requested in your letter of the 30th ultimo. From my place I passed up the West Blue river, through a part of York, Hamilton and Clay counties. Entering Adams county on section 36, town 8, range 9, then west northwest to or near section 16, town 8, range 11, then southeast to the corner of towns 5 and 6, and range 14 and 15, then east northeast to section 1, town 6, range 9, then south west to Thirty-two mile creek, where I passed to the mouth of Morehouse creek, where I found sixty lodges of Quaha Indians encamped. Here let me say, to the credit of the Quaha's, I was received like a brother and treated with the greatest kindness. Being short of provisions, they supplied all my wants free of charge, giving me corn, bread, venison, sugar, coffee and flour.—They were courteous and gentlemanly in their bearing, and very solicitous for my welfare, offering to furnish an escort to accompany me as far as I wished.

From Morehouse I took a westerly course, to town 5, range 10, west; then south to the Republican river, then northeast, crossing Elk creek, Little Blue, Big Sandy, to my place. Above I frequently diverge to the right or left, from one to the three miles, occasionally digging through the soil, which I invariably found to be a rich, black vegetable mould, from eighteen inches to three and a half feet deep, slightly impregnated with lime, and sand enough to keep it friable, but entirely free from stones or gravel. Like the land in the eastern part of the State, it seems to have the singular property of resisting unusual wet, or continued drought. The subsoil is a yellowish clay, not impervious to water. The soil between the surface mould and the clay base seems to be strongly calcareous, which must be of great value in the production of cereal crops. The points of some of the short divides, between the small streams, I found to be filled with gravel. Towns 5, 6, 7 and 8, ranges 9, 10, 11 and 12 are rolling, well watered and wooded.—I believe these towns to be the very best adapted to fruit growing, especially grapes and peaches, of any locality in the State. The water, in both Adams and Kearney; I found to be clear, beautiful and delicious. The reports about its being so strongly impregnated with alkali, as to be injurious to the health of man and animals, I positively declare to be false. *Lase fabrications.* The timber is cottonwood, white ash, red and white elm, hackberry, oak and willow. The annual fires, which have swept over these prairies for ages past, have kept the timber from spreading and attaining its full growth. If these fires could be kept out of Adams county for five years it would doubtless become one entire forest.—Along the creeks, plums, grapes, gooseberries, raspberries and a superior quality of hops grow in abundance.

In Webster county I fell in with Mr. Charles Coon and Jacob Haines, who with six associates have been employed by the State as frontier guards, at Kiowa, and for the past season have been farming on section 15, town 3 range 4 west. Their corn crop this year surpassed anything I ever saw in Iowa or Illinois, where I have been engaged in farming, for the past twelve years.—These men inform me that they have an average yield of seventy-five bushels of corn per acre, and this in soil far inferior to the poorest I saw in Adams and Kearney counties. Messrs. Coon and Haines have taken claims in town 5, range 7 west. I see by town plats, which they showed me, that nearly all the land is taken along the Little Blue, as far west as the east line of Adams county.—There is no doubt but nearly all the Government claims in Fillmore, Clay, Adams and Kearney counties will be taken long before the railroad is completed. On my way out I saw Mr. N. Bray and Mr. James Waddie who reside in town 9, range 4 west, also Mr. Robert L. Mont and Mr. J. Chaffee, who reside on section 24, town 9, range 6 west—(post office Farmer's Valley, Hamilton county.) All these men have been in Adams and Kearney county, and express a firm belief that these counties are as

valuable for farming purposes, and will sell at good prices, when the railroad is completed, as lands in any county west of range 5 east. It is the fixed belief and expressed wish in the minds of every man with whom I have conversed on the subject, (and they are not a few,) that the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad Company in Nebraska could not possibly do better for themselves than to build their road from Lincoln to Camden, then south southwest along the Little Blue north of north fork of Turkey Creek, though near the centers of Fillmore, Clay, Adams and Kearney counties, which I respectfully submit for your consideration. In regard to Kearney county in particular, I can only say it is one broad expanse of beauty, rolling away in richest verdure, as far as the eye can reach, from any standpoint. As I ascended each successive well, in that rich field of floral beauty, bounded only by ethereal blue, I could not refrain from adoring the Great Creator, in obedience to whose command, all this wealth, this beauty, this sublime scenery was formed.

Oh! how the soul expands, what reverential awe overpreads the mind as the eye surveys this vast expanse of beauty and grandeur. The eye can see it, the soul can feel it, but the pen cannot describe it to another. God has placed here untold wealth, and rich fortunes, and so near the surface that the farmer can easily turn them out with the plow share. In Webster county, there is an extensive bed of good coal, lime and sand stone, chalk and slate, and I think rich soap-stone. These will be quarried and shipped as soon as a road is ready to transport them.

I saw and talked with Mr. James Whitaker who resides on the north east quarter of section 4, town 8, range 3 west. He has seen as much of Adams and Kearney counties, as any man on the frontier. He thinks these counties as good, in every respect, as York, Seward, Hamilton or Fillmore. His remarks are: Adams and Kearney have as good soil; the land lays as well; they have better water, as good timber and far better surroundings, than any county west of range 5 east. And in my opinion, he said, there will be an extensive local business, and a ready sale of lands in these counties, as any county east of them, if the railroad should be constructed through them. Mr. Whitaker also said he had seen coal, lime stone, slate, soap-stone and good plaster in Webster county. He thinks a branch road to the Republican river, through towns in range 10 or 11 would pay enormous profits. I believe as he does in regards to a branch road. In closing, I would say, that if there is any difference in the quality of the soil in Adams and Kearney counties, or defect in the lay of the land, from any other county in the State I have failed to see it. I see no possible reason why there should not be as extensive local business, as ready sale, at good prices for railroad lands, in these counties, as any counties in the State. The soil is as good, the water, timber, lay of the land and surroundings are most assuredly as good as any other two counties in the State. The constant dread of Indians, in the minds of new comers, is the only thing that has prevented these counties from being settled. We know how to deal with the Sioux and other hostile tribes, but the murderous Pawnees are what we dread. Let these villains be kept upon their reservations, or let the government give us full permit to kill them at sight and I will warrant Adams and Kearney to settle.

Yours Respectfully,  
LYMAN R. WARNER.

It is to certify, that I accompanied Mr. Warner through Adams, Kearney, and Webster counties, and I believe his report to be correct, truthful and not overrated.

O. N. WEBSTER.  
Dayton, Ohio, has 40,000 inhabitants. A Rhode Island preacher says that any man who uses tobacco cannot be saved.

The telegraph operators engaged in the present strike number about 2,000. Massachusetts contains twenty-five co-operative manufacturing associations. It having been asserted that "Laird's Bloom of Youth," a popular cosmetic, is rank poison, a lady retorts that she has used it for months with no injurious effects; a doubtful compliment to her skin.

A religious paper has an article in its columns, "May Christians Dance?" "The editor of the Washington News says they may, if they are not crippled, and can pay for the piper.

Brick Pomeroy frequently boasts in his oral tirades that he once worked at the case by the side of a "nigger" printer, and feels proud of it. We would like to hear from the negro and learn how he feels about it.

Andrew Jackson Cunningham, of Cincinnati, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, is a "Reformer." He voted for himself for Speaker. He is a modest model.

After the first sermon of Father Montabre, the Ultramontane successor of Pere Hincinthe, in the cathedral of Notre Dame, one of the factious ladies of Paris said:—"How terrible to be compelled to listen to the chirping of a blue-bird after having hearkened for years to the melodious song of a nightingale!" Bishop Simpson estimates that it will take three thousand tons to convert the world, at the present rate of progress.—The Bishop does not intend to stay and see the job completed.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.  
One square (space ten lines one insertion), \$1.50  
Each subsequent insertion, .75  
Professional cards not exceeding six lines, \$2.00  
One-quarter column or less, per annum, \$25.00  
Three months, 8.00  
One month, 3.00  
One-half column twelve months, 25.00  
Three months, 8.00  
One month, 3.00  
One column twelve months, 50.00  
Three months, 15.00  
One month, 5.00  
All transient advertisements must be paid for in advance.