GREAT IS SAUNDERS

Concrete Facts Attest Her Right to Rank Among the Finest.

ENERGY AND RESOURCES

A Treeless Plain Transformed Into a Blooming, Embowered Garden.

MARKED GROWTH EVIDENCED BY FIGURES

The County Dotted with Homes of Thrift in Urban Groups and Singly.

SHORT SKETCHES OF TOWNS AND CITIES

The Golden Cadence of Rewarded Toll Heard from the Lips of Saunders' Favored Sons-Biography of Get-There Grit,

Nebrasua has at least a dozen "best counties in the state," and Saurders stands at the head of the list. Nature has bestowed favors lavishly on that commonwealth, and man has accepted her proffered favors with thanks. Only a few years ago Saunders county was a treciess plain, except where a few stunted bushes lined the numerous watercourses. Though nature had done so much, the hand of man alone could add the features common to home and civili zation. The sketch which follows will only dimly reflect the partially erected superstructure, reared on the foundation laid in the beginning.

The present boundaries of Saunders county were defined October 8, 1867. It embraces 756 square miles of territory, or 483,-840 acres. The Platte river bounds the county on the north and east. Cass and Lancaster counties on the south and Butler on the west. It is the best watered county in the state, being traversed by many streams well distributed over the county, with the great Platte forming the boundary on two sides, as stated above. Waboo river is the most important stream. It rises in the northwest part of the county, flowing in a general southeastern direction clear across the county, diagonally, emptying into the Platte near Ashland, in the southeast corner. It forms a natural convergence for all the lesser streams of the county. Sand creek rises in the extreme northwest corner, flows south and east, emptying into the Wanoo near the center of the county at Wahoo. Silver creek rises in the northern part, flowing southeast, emptying into the Wahoo at Memphis, in the southeastern part of the county. Oak creek heads near the center, north and south, a few miles west of the Platte, flows in a southerly direction, watering the southwestern portion of the county. Rock creek is another important stream in the south western portion of the county. Oton creek heads in the northern part of the county, runs south, disappearing in places and again coming to the surface, finally emptying into the Wahoo near Ashland. The Cottonwood rises in the north west, flows southeast and joins the waters of Wahoo creek near Wahoo. Dunlap creek is one of the branches of the Cottonwood. Upper and Lower Clear creeks also flow into the Wahoe. These streams nearly all head in Saunders county and have their origin in springs. The surface of the entire county is a succession of streams, rolling prairie, bottom lands and level plains, as indicated by the above description of the many streams.

Evidence of Prosperity. The natural advantages of this favored portion of the public domain soon drew population enough to claim every foot of governent land after the first few pioneers blazed the path. In 1860 there were not twenty white people in the county, and progress i wealth and population was slow up to 1869. The vote policed in 1868 was only 383, at a time when nearly the entire population were adult males. The total assessed valuation of property in 1868 was only \$180,412. In June population had increased to 4,594, and the assessed valuation to \$958,913, every acro of government land had been taken. The population in 1880 was 15.810 and in 1890 was 21,577, an increase in a decade of 5.767. The assessed valuation for 1880 was \$1,251,488, and for 1891, \$3,444,453, an increase of wealth for taxation in eleven years of \$2,192,965. The present estimated actual valuation is \$27,555,690. There is a fraction over 113 miles of railroad in the county, divided between three great com-peting lines, the Union Pacific having 41 84-100 miles, the B. & M. 43 miles, and the Fremont, Eikhorn & Missouri Vailey 285 niles. Those lines traverse every portion o the county, so that there is scarcely a farm that is not convenient to a depot.

The Union Pacific entors the
county near Valley in the eastern
part of the county, running in a general southwest direction diagonally across it. The B. & M. enters the county at Ashland in the southeast corner, runs diagonally across to the northeast corner of the county. Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley enters the county from Fremont, near the center of the north line, running almost due branch of the latter enters the county at the same point, runs west along the northern boundary, leaving it at the northwest corner. The shipping facilities and traveling convenlences are as nearly perfect as they can be

Cities and Towns.

Wahoo is a beautiful little city of 2,500 population, located near the center of the city on the Wahoo river. It has been the county seat since 1873. It is fifty miles from Omaha, has three railroads and has three passenger trains a day cuch way to Omaha or Lincoln. Wahoo has four newspapers: The Wahoo Wasp, published every Thursday, edited by J. E. Wright, republican Wahoo Democrat, published every Thursday by John Sherman; the New Era, every Thursday, edited by P. R. Longfellow, and ance; Pritel Lidn, a Bohemian ailiance paper, published every Thursday by J. A. Rospodosky. One large roller mill, three with an aggregate capacity
bushels, though they
bushels one-tenth the

grain they did a few years ago as most that is raised is fed to stock on the farms. There are four banks with a combined capital of \$255,000, and deposits of over half a million, a large proportion of it belonging to farmers. has ten churches representing as many different denominations, a Swedish Lutheren college, an elegant high school building and other ward schools. In manu factures there is a machine shop, a creamery that cost \$5,500, and runs the year around, a brewery of large capacity, and an extensiv will be in operation in a very few An electric light plant and a spiendid system of water works. At present the court house is a frame building that does not do credit to a rich county like Saunders, but the question of voting \$125,000 in bonds for building a firepreof county building will be submitted to the voters very soon. The pro-numinary steps have already been taken and the sentiment in favor of the proposition is almost a unit. The new city hall is perhaps the finest in the state in any town the size of wahoe. A number of leading citizens slubbed together and built an elegant operatouse costing \$23,000. Paving comes next and soon the business streets will have passed the mad era. Ashland, in the south-mast part of the county, has a population of 1,500, was incorporated in 1870, and is now ine of the handsomest towns in the state, with aplendid brick blocks, electric light works, two banks, two railroads, two large foller mills, two elevators, six churches, arge High school building, water works and ther modern improvements common to enpaper the Ashiand Gazette, edited by Hon.

F. J. Pickett, published every Priday, re-publican in politics.

Valparaiso is in the southwest corner of the ounty, on the Lincoln and Osceola branch of the Omaha & Republican Vailey division of the Union Pacific, on Kock Creek, t is in the center of a great graz-ag and agricultural district, with spien-

did shipping facilities and has numerous fine | timber, is as rich and productive as it can brick blocks of business houses. The population is about 1930. It has one bank, one roller mill, two elevators, three churches, a good High school building and one weekly newspaper, independent in politics, edited by

R E. Doran.

Valparaiso also has a fine brick opera house, the upper story of which formishes one of the finest lodge rooms in the country, occupied jointly by the Masons, Old Fellows, Modern Woodmen, Knights of Pythiss and Grand Army of the Republic. Four teachers are employed in the schools which are well up to the Nebrassa standard. There is also a move on foot to establish another bank. All ginds of business is lively and Valparaise has a splendid future before her. The site was homesteaded in the fall of 1895 by R. K. Johnson who is still a leading citizen. ng citizen.

Mead is one of the best little towns in the

ounty with a population of 500, one bank, we elevators, four churches, good school buildings, and weekly republican paper edited by W. F. Primley.

Codar Biuffs near center of north line of the county has a population of 400, two ele-vators, two churches, fine High school build-ing, and one bank, the deposits of last year

amounting to \$100,000, which may be taken as an indication of the wealth of the commu-nity. The Cedar Bluffs Opinion is edited by nity. The Cedar Bluffs Opinion is edited by S. C. Yenny, published weekly and is nou-tral in politics. Coresco, near the center of the south line of the county, has a population of 530, one bank, two elevators, three churches and ex-

cellent schools.

Westen has 500 population, one bank, two elevators, three churches, good High school building, and is a great grain shipping station. It has its newspaper, the Western Scythe, neutral in politics, weekly, edited by Joe Camp.

Prague, near northwest corner, has a population of 500, one roller mill, one bank, good schools and a live trade.

hoos and a live trade, Yutan, in the eastern part, has 300 popu ation, two elevators, two churches, good chools and a bank. Ithaca has 300 people, large roller mill, two

elevators, churches and schools.

Memphis is a little village of 150, two elevators, churches, schools, etc.

Colon has 200 people, two elevators, a hurch, schools, and is a good business point. All these are railroad towns and the amount of business they do in a year would surprise a tenderfoot fresh from one of the sleepy old

New England villages.

A small portion of the eastern part of the county has low, wet spots, which are now being drained by ditching, under the super-vision of the county commissioners. This is not bottom land, neither is it uniformly boggy, but is good agricultural land that could not be bought for \$40 an acre. Here is the testimony of a few of the men who made their money holding the plow in Saunders county:

One of the oldest and best known farmers and stock raisers of Saunders county is J. D.

Cook, residing on his farm three and one hair miles south of Wahoo. Mr. Cook is a

very pleasant nospitable gentleman, and the

visit of The Bee man to his elegant home is one of pleasant memories. A drive over the

country in his carriage behind a spirited bay

team, a walk through his orchard and groa tour of his barns and among his blooded cattle, supplemented by a farm dinner over which Mrs. Cook presided, was the reception accorded your correspondent. Mr. Cook is one of the first settlers in the county, beginning at the bottom and enduring all the baroships, privations and incessant labor common to the pioneers of this western country, and he is also an example of what may oo accomplished by perseverance supplemented by intelligence and inspired by that intuitive desire for an independent home so common to the people of this country. He came to Omaha in 1868 and in 1869 settled in Sauuters county, on a homestead of 89 acres and a pre-emption claim of 160 acres. Having no money, he held his land and worked at his trade, that of a carpenter, contractor and bridge builder, to carn the money to pay out on his land, and make some improvements the traded his kind of work for team work. It cost him \$4.50 an acre to get his first 25 acres broke and he paid for it by building a house for the man who owned the team. He is now the owner of 700 acres of as fine farm land as there is in America. The home place contains 520 acres and the buildings on it have cost a little fortune. The orchard is one of the best in the county, the trees all per-fectly healthy, no sun scald, borers, corculio or anything of the kind. Last year Mr.Cook made four barrels of civer, sold \$60 worth of apples and still has plenty in his cellar. He shelters his orchard with a grove on the south, but leaves it open to the north, which s just the opposite to the common way. Sevral barrels of home made grape wine also in the cellar. Mr. Cook has a model cat tie barn, 44x66, with stall room for sixty head, water in the barn, self-feeding appara-tus and room for 130 tons of hay. His horse barn is 44x72, has three floors, self-feeding His mows are now partially filled with the sweetest kind of timethy and clover hay. There are 400 acres of tame grass meadow on the place. He has crib room for 5,000 bushels of corn and a hog house that accommodates 130 head. He is feeding three cars of polled Angus cattle, some of them his own raising that are beauties. There are now on the place 160 head. Three loads were marketed a short time ago, and to how what good breeding and feeding wil do I might add that they topped the market \$1.35 the day they sold. Mr. Cook has a 160-acre farm a short distance from the home place which he rents on the balves to L. P. Larson, a Swede. It is a highly improved farm and Mr. Larson is a model farmer, so of course there is money in it. Mr. Larson puts his labor against Mr. Cook's farm, owns half of the stock and gets half of the ceeds and is getting rich, while Mr. Cook has for the last two years made 11 per cent each year on his investment. Last year they each made 100 gallons of grape wine on the farm and sold \$38 worth of grapes. Mr. Laron also marketed 500 quarts of blackberries his old home in Pennsylvania, and he de clares that in his opinion the farmers of this country are 50 per cent better off than in the The same old buildings still stand on eastern farms that were there years ago, while here farmers are constantly putting up and botter buildings. re making more here two to one in the old states farther east Mr. Cook is a stockholder and one of the frectors of the First National

Saunders county, and is justly proud of his

Wahoe, and also owns stock in the Bank of

t farming and raising stock right here in

ledar Bluffs. He has made every dollar

Everybody in Saunders county knows Oliver Watson. He is one of the landmarks, and has made a record as a rustler. He struck Nebraska at Plattsmouth thirty-six years ago, when he was a kid, as he buts it He came to Saunders county twenty-four years ago, secured a homestead of eighty acres, built a little board shanty, lived in it two years, then built a little frame with lightning rod on it and more recently built a The celiar alone cost \$150 in money besides his own work, and a cistern cost \$75. He has 760 acres of land, and his farm is one that would make an eastern eyes water. farm. Wahoo creek with its sheltering groves of timber running through it, giving several miles of creek bank, all fenced into pastures. in speaking of the thick growth of timber, Mr. Watson said: "There was no timber on the west side of the creek when I came here. Do you see that big cottonwood down there? Well there was not a sprout there when I came here. In fact, there was not even white people here to speak of at that time. There was no Wahoo, nor no Lincoln. I filed my nomestead in Nebraska City. I rode a mustang from Columbus and rode it hard too, for I had no money to buy a dinner with on the read. I needed it, every cent, to pay for the filing. But my land is worth now, taking the whole tract together, at least \$40 per acre, but I would not sell it for \$50, because it pays more than 10 per cent on a valuation of \$50 an acre. I tell my boys that they are better off with the farm than they would be with the money at twice what it would bring on the market. What price did I pay for land! Well, when I got to where I could add to the homestead, I bought some ratiroad contract land as low as \$10 an acre, but generally about \$15 per acre. But I could pay \$3,000 for an eighty now easier than I could pay \$10 an acre then. I have over 100 head of cattle and am feeding thirty new. Have marked a good many this year. Oh, I suppose I am worth probably \$75,000, but I tell you now I worked for it winter and summer and if it was necessary

ould go three days without eating." Mr. Watson is a typical rough-and-ready western farmer, genial and generous to a fault, proud of his success, but not a bit "stuck up." There is not a better feeding ground in the state than Mr. Watson's and

be. He has fifteen acres of winter wheat that theroughly covers the ground and 200 acres of tame grass. Of course he has made if all on the farm.

W. J. Lehr came to Saunders county thirteen years ago with \$1,500 and nothing else. He laid his money away and worked for a year at \$10 a month. At the end of the year he bought a quarter section for \$2,500, paid \$1,000 and spent the balance of his cash for a team and tools to farm with and went at it \$1,000 in debt. Five years later he bought another quarter at \$35 an acre. It all lays ten miles east of Wahoo, four miles southeast of Mead. He owns it allyet, has it well improved, and he is out of debt and made it every cent on the farm. When asked If he made it out of stock, Mr. Lehr replied: "I never fatted a steer in my life. I have fed some hogs, but usually sell my grain. At present I keep one hand and farm a portion of the land, but am forced to rent most of it. I am serving my second term as county com-Sells His Grain. I am serving my second term as county com-missioner and only get a share of what is raised, while I could get it all If I could be at home. But I make good money off of the farm as it is. The crops have never failed. I have fast year's corn crop on hand, 4,000 bushels. Yes, any man who will work can make money farming. I know men in my neighborhood who, a few years ago, had literally nothing, lived in dugouts and went off on the railroads to work by the

proved. There are plenty such and those examples speak for themselves. There is no lack of proof that farming pays in Nebraska, if that is what you want."

Mr. Lehr did not seek a second term of office and says it has been a big loss as well

day for something to eat, who are now owners of big farms of 600 or 700 acres, well im-

as phisance to him. Lived in a Dugout, D. K. Wilson, in speaking of his experi-ence in Nebrasia, said: 'I came to Saun-ders county in the fall of 1870 with a team and wagon, but entirely innocent of money. I homesteaded 160 acres eighteen miles north of Wahoo and own it yet. I increved it, fouced it, put buildings on it and spent con-siderable of money on it. I first built a dugout and lived in it three years, then built the house that now stands there. My barn is the largest in the precinct, has stable room for 100 head of cattle and seventy-five tons of hay. I have a good orchard and plenty of small fruit, which grows and bears profusely without much attention. Four years ago I was elected sheriff and moved to Wanco, where I bought a nice little house and where I now live. A year ago I bought 160 acres in Boone county and am engaged now in feeding cattle there. In fact, I have always ted some cattle. Had ninety acres of corn on the Boone county farm last year that averaged sixty bushels per acre. I rented the Saunders county farm for \$2.50 per acre cash rent. What money I have made I have dug right out of Nebraska soil, and I have no kick coming. I began poor as anybody and in earlier days had not much show to make money. I have raised wheat and hauled it to Fremost to sell at 30 to 35 cents a bushel, and have paid as high us \$1.50 for crossing the Platte river. The Omaha markets are a great thing for Nebraska. It gives us a market where we can sell our stock in any quantity and get the cash for it—no peddling it out. I am feeding 113 head on the Boone county farm.

A Contented Farmer. One of the happiest and best contented farmers in Nebraska is W. J. Nichols, who came to Saunders county in 1872 and home-steaded 160 acres three miles southwest of Wahoo. "I had a little money." said Mr. Nichols, "about \$1,000, enough to build a little frame house, 14x22, buy some tools to work with and live on until I could raise something. I have made money every year, not very fast, of course, on my small farm and with some limited means, but enough to improve my place nicely and give us most of the comforts and even some of the luxuries of life. You ask me what I did for a starter. Well, I raised wheat as long as it paid and then went to raising corn, hors and cattle. I now have good farm buildings, house, para, now have good farm buildings, house, barn, cattle sheds, orchard and any amount of small fruits which grow almost spontaneously in this county. I have 100 acres of tame grass and it does well, especially if mixed with clover. I had fifty acres of corn last year that made forty bushels to the acre. I had thirty-two acres of oats, which is a part of the 100 acres now in crass. is a part of the 100 acres now in grass. pastured half of it and cut sixteen acres which made forty-five bushels per acre. have as good teams as anybody for farm or road, buggies and all conveniences a farmer needs. I have made it all right here on this little tarm except the small amount I brought with me. The only thing necessary to make with me. The only thing necessary to make a success of farming in this part of Nebraska is to attend to business and not si around town cursing the government and trying to save the dear people. I owe no and could scare up a little money if i

Combined Business and Pleasure. One of the funniest incidents connected with pioneer efforts in Saunders county is re-lated by W. H. Dickinson, now proprietor of the State bank of Wahoo and owner of 1,000 with English sporting proclivities born in nim, and came over here when he was but 17 years old, with a rich father to draw on for spending money. He tramped over the country hunting and fishing until he at-tained his majority and then with \$1,500 at his command he selected an eighty of land in the exact geographical center of Saunders county and secured it as a homestead. says: "I was totally innocent of the first principles of farming and had no neighbors to inform me, but I started out to improve my homestead. I paid \$500 for a team, wagon and harness and \$300 for two yoke of oxen, got a breaking plow and went to work. The oxen had never been broke to work and I didn't know haw from gee, I man aged to break eleven acres in seven weeks and then wished it was back in its primeva state again. I did not know enough to have ny plow lay beat out or sharpened and it run six to eight mehes deep. Occasionally I toucked up the heel with a file, but you can imagine in what condition the plow share was. The oxen could not run off for I had them auchored all right and they would never move a foot until they had caten all the grass in reach. I kept a gun strapped on the plow beam and often left the breaking team stand while I went to shoot ducks or unte ione. Finally after I had wasted my \$1.5 % and worked myself almost to death, I made up my mind that I was not made for a farmer. The grasshoppers eat up my corn and I hired all my neighbors with wagons to help me haul my poor, thin, stock hogs to Fremont, where I peedled them out for what I could get, and I got just enough to pay the nen for hauling them. It cost \$5 a load for

auling. That ended my farming."
Mr. Dickinson tells his farming experience in a humorous way and laughs heartily over it yet, although it happened in 1869, and since that time he has become one of the leading men not only of Wahoo but of the state. He is an energetic rustler that does not know the meaning o the word fail since he parted with that breaking team. Most of the substantial imbreaking team. Most of the substantial im-provements of Wahoo bear his imprint and many of them would still be in the future but for his foresight and energy. He served as mayor of the city for years and not only inaugurated but in the face of opposition and injunction suits completed most of the public improvements, away ahead of what most people thought was necessary or ex-pedient. He made the first map of Saunders

Charles Perky is another example of suc cessful business under difficulties. He home-steaded in Saunders county in 1868 and farmed until 1877. He had no money to start with but never allowed difficulties to cause him to falter. He now owns 400 acres of valuable land well improved and stocked, is esident of the First National bank of Wahoo, owns a large block of stock and is director of the bank at Cedar Biuffs, was ounty treasurer four years and deputy for nuch of the substantial progress of Waho and is a liberal contributor to charitable and church causes

Farms by Proxy.

Henry Johnson of the firm of Johnson & Perry, Wanoo, is one of the best known stockmen and farmers in Sauniers known stockmen and farmers in Saunders county. When asked for his experience in Nebraska farming he rephed: "Well, I farm on quite a large scale, but I do it all by proxy. The firm of which I am a member has done a livery and live stock business for years, and we own considerable of land, which we manage through hired help. I came to Saunders county in 1870 with \$3,000 in money and in 1876 bought eighty acres four miles west of Ashand for \$1,000 and sold it in 1880 for \$2,000. In 1877 was elected sheriff and served four years I kept my land and had it tarmed and after my kept my land and had it farmed and after my term of office expired formed a co-partner ship with A. Perry. The firm bought 200 acres of ratiroad and two miles north of Waboo. We then bought 160 acres in 1883 and the following year 240 acres adjoining.

Soon after we boucht 240 acres ten miles north of Wahoo for \$7,400 and sold it two years later for \$3,400. The same land is now worth \$40 an acres. We have since bought 240 acres joiling the town of Weston for which we pair \$5,500 and still own it. We hire most of sur farming done and feed the grain to cattle med hogs, and we make it pay. We fed 300 cattle during the year and have on hand 350 head now. I think the big packers infigure the markets to some extent, but do not think they control it, as some stockmen claim. For instance there were \$6,000 cattle on the Chicago market Monday, April 25, and they hammered prices down from 20 to on the Chicago market Monday, APril 25, and they hammered prices down from 20 to 40 cents a huggred. The next day there were only 5,000 and the market steady. Receipts continued light for a few days and the market became strong and prices went up. Furning and stock raising pay us very well and we are not complaining. We bought 120 acres of land one mile north of Wahoo this spring. This is a great county, no better in spring. This is a grand county, no botter in the state and the price of land is low consid-

ering advantages," M. Eriekson-M. Erickson.

M. Erickson ras won for himself a home and fortune by tilling Saunders county soil. In reply to questions he said, "I came here twenty-three years ago, took a homestend and lived in a sed house two years. I own 340 here and as 3 three miles away. I have improved pretty well, have good buildings, an orenard, small fruit and 100 acres in tame grava. I fed two cars of cattle this season and have 50 head on hand. I had good health and good will to start with. All I have I made right hers farming. Some make a success of it are some do not as in all other businesses, but a man who fails to succeed farming here would be very likely to fail anywhere."

Better Than lows. C. O. Johnson says: "I sold my farm of eighty acres in Iowa and came here with \$2,000 ten years ago and bought 120 acres here three miles south of Wango for \$3 an acre. Last fail I bought another forty at \$25,000 ten years and the page and the same and 830.60 per sere. I have built a barn and fences, the improvements I have put on costing about \$1,500. I like this better than lows as a farming country. Times have been a little bit hard, but farmers who work can make a living and lay up a little money besides. A great deal depends upon the man. As for fruit, I have sixty apple trees and plenty of graves, blackberries, strawberries and other small fruits."

Had Nothing Whatever. Nels Bengston has been an owner of Ne braska soil twenty-three years, and in that time, with nothing whatever to start with, he has made a splendidly improved farm of 320 acres, six and a half miles south of Wahoo. He made it all on the farm and is still at it. Came Here in Debt.

P. P. Church is one of the neatest and most successful small farmers in Saunders county. He lives about three miles couth of Wahoo, owns 160 acres of land which he homestended and pre-empted twenty-one years ngo. When asked how he got his start he replied: "I made it by hard work. When I came here I owed \$200 back east, over and above what I brought with me. When I took my claim I built a shanty 12x12 lived in it two years, then enlarged a little and lived in it between three and four years, then built my present residence which is quite respectable. My bara you see there is a good one and cost about \$1,200. You see I have a nice little orchard, groves, sheds, scales, water works and other improvements which have cost me about \$3,000. The land is all fences, all broke, and twenty-five acres of it seeded lover. seeded down to tame grass. I owe a little but have cattle ready for market that will more than pay all I owe. I raise all the grain I can and buy some every year to feed to cattle. I never saw a better farming country than this. I know renters here who raise grain for sale and make plenty of money at it. I am confident I could never have done as well back oast as here, though I have not done as well as many others." Mr. Church's farm looks as neat as a well kept lawn. He has a row of bexelder trees the entire length of his farm, next_to the road and a row of cherry trees along the north line, and every-thing about the pince presents a picture of contented, prosperous, rurai life. N. D. Thorp.

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You want my experience as a farmer? Well, it does not amount to much, as I am one of the little fellows, but I have done very well for the chance I have had. I came to this county in 1850 with a team, wagon and less than \$100 in money. I homesteaded 160 acres thirteen miles southwest of Wahoo in Rock Creek precinct. I own it yet and have forty acres of railroad land to it. I have also bought fifteen acres just outside the corporate limits of Wahoo, which I oc-cupy as a home, and it is a nice one. There are four acres of orchard on it. I first built : in it five years, and then built a frame house 22x22, four rooms, a barn 24x32, corn crib 16x 32, and other sheds and buildings. I had a nice orchard on the homestead just perinning to bear in 1874, when the grasshoppers, as-sisted by drought, killed it. I rent most of myland, but still farm. I think this is the best farming country I have ever seen. I ike farming; it is easy in this country, and I cannot see why any man with ordinary judgment and industrious habits cannot make money at it, even if he is not able to own the land. I have never missed a crop I have had no experience with beet raising out think it would be a paying business. My

farm would sell for \$30 per sere."

A Bank President. H. Kuapp, president of the Cedar Bluffs bank, has 1,200 acres of land and is worth at least \$70,000. He came to Saunder ounty in 1898 without any money. His land ies in different tracts, most of it near Codar iluffs. He has a 400-acre farm four mile east of Wahoo, which is highly improved and as good soil as ever was made. Mr. Knapp rents his land for grain rent and makes a big interest, not only on his original investment but on the capital represented by the pre-ent worth of his farms. He was county treasurer four years and is prominent in all that pertains to advancement of public intorest, though a few years ago he was a poor nesteader on the treeless prairies of Snun ders county.

He Sticks to the Farm George Putney came to Saunders county in an early day, poor but full of energy, which he expended in the right direction. He has as pandsome and well improved a farm as there is in the county, and he still sticks to it and farms it. There are 400 acres in it. He has recently built a new farm house which cost \$3,500 and his grounds about the house would compare favorably with city lawns kept by i professional gardener. Mr. Putney has the name of being one of the best how raisers in the country and he always keeps the best steek of all kinds. The water works for supplying his stock with water his cost a ing sum. The family have every adventage that an independent living affords. of his sons is a professor in the Burlington Ia., coffege, where he formerly was a pupil.

A Fruit Farm. C. C. Turney owns and liyes on a 500 acre farm one mile from Ceresco, in Rock Creek precinct. A few years ago be was a poor blacksmith, working at his trade for 50 to cents a day. He sayed his money and isid the foundation for a home by acquiring land a little at a time. The is known as the mos Mr. Turney has a ferty-acre apple orchard hat makes him a, Batle fortune every year, besides all the small fruits. He makes wine and cider, gets big prices for apples when other orchards fail. But outside of his fruit he has a time farm, an ciozait house, big baras dod ornamental grounds. He made his mones on the farm, but left it ong enough to serve one term as county

treasurer. Came Farly and Made It. J. D. Lemkuhl is one of the old timers, having been here twenty years. Like nearly all that settled here at that time, he had no means to speak of homesteaded and pre-empted, and lived like all the planeers. He now has 1,000 acres of land well improved lives in town and gents his land. He is con idered worth \$75,000 Bans Hansen.

Hans Hansen has bought a handsome home in Wahoo, and rents his 400 acres of land. He came here in 1870, and had to work a long time to get money enough to send for his family, and then they lived in a sod house. He now has a tip top farm which he rents to one of his sons for \$800 year, and rents another place for enough t br ne his rents up to over \$1,000 a year. He



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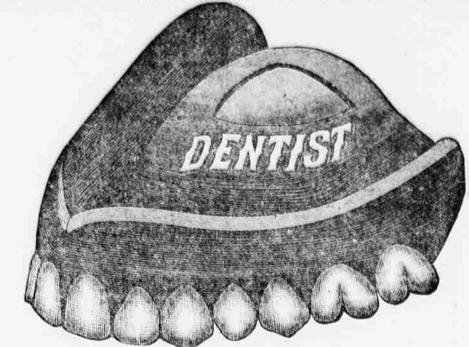
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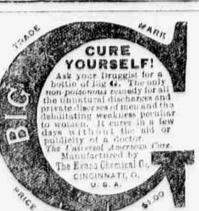


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