

BOUNTIFUL BUFFALO

Where Corn and Currants Thrive Equally
Well with Wheat and Flax.

A COUNTY THAT NEVER KNEW A FAILURE

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few
Years Ago for Four.

INDUSTRIES ABREAST OF AGRICULTURE

Cotton Manufacture on the Very Steps of
King Corn's Throne.

MERCHANT, FARMER, MECHANIC PROSPER

What an Average Nebraska County Can
Show—Farms that Yield Never Less
than Two Thousand a Year Clear

Profit to the Attentive Tiller.

Of the many counties in Nebraska which have made rapid and substantial progress in the past ten years probably no county has advanced more rapidly or been improved more substantially than Buffalo. It is bounded on the north by Custer and Sherman counties, east by Hall county, on the south by the Platte river and on the west by Dawson county. The soil is a rich, black loam, with a heavy clay subsoil, which permits it to withstand an abundance of rainfall or a long continued drought without serious results, at the history of the past demonstrates, a failure of crops having never been experienced in this country. The dry season of two years ago was the severest test ever experienced, yet Buffalo county contributed several hundred bushels of grain to her needy neighbors, besides providing for the more unfortunate within her own borders. The county is thirty-seven miles wide, east and west, and twenty-four miles wide, north and south, containing a little over 550,000 acres. It is peculiarly favored with streams, the Loup running through the northern tier of townships, Wood river running through the center of the county, and the Platte forming the southern boundary. These are fed by numerous streams and brooks so that there are but few sections which are not supplied with running water. With the exception of a small tract in the northeastern corner, almost every acre of ground can be successfully cultivated. The Wood river valley is especially fertile, out as two surface of the county rolls gradually from this valley into the valleys of the Loup and Platte it is difficult to decide which is the most desirable.

County Organization and Early Days.
The county began to be settled first near what is now the village of St. Germain in 1855, and in 1856 Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Walsh, now assistant adjutant general at the Soldiers Home in Grand Island, were among the early pioneers coming here in 1855 and '60. Buffalo county was organized in 1860, and the first sheriff was appointed the following officers: Treasurer, Henry Dugdale; clerk, Martin Stattev; probate judge, Patrick Walsh; commissioners, Thomas K. Wood, Ed Oliver and Samuel Ryd. Their commissioners appointed John Oliver as their recorder.

The first election was held in October, 1860. Mr. Walsh was elected probate judge and appointed county superintendent by the commissioners. The clerks and treasurer failed to qualify and each of the officers appointed in their stead. These vacancies were appointed Mr. Walsh as his successor. As the work was not very heavy, Mr. Walsh performed the duties of treasurer, clerk, probate judge and superintendent of schools at the same time and so far as we can learn gave satisfaction in each position. Whether he drew four salaries or not we cannot say.

The first land patent was issued to Joseph Boyd in 1866 and was granted for military service. It conveyed 160 acres of land half a mile west of the village of St. Germain. The first tax list was made out in 1870, and contains thirty-eight names. The highest assessment is returned by the Boyd brothers and amounts to \$151.50. The Union Pacific Railroad company was assessed \$13,762.19, and the total tax bill amounted to \$14,507.96. The tax list for 1880 shows the value of real estate to be \$2,012,880; personal property, \$754,050; railroad and telegraph, \$754,705. There are 107 9-10 miles of railroad now in the county, divided between the various lines returning to the state auditor as follows: Union Pacific main line, 29 miles; Omaha & Republican Valley, 19-10; Grand Island & Wyoming Central, 15-69-10; B. & M., 6-16-10; Kearney & Black Hills, 2-10-0.

Property, Real and Personal.
There are eleven towns and several shipping stations located along these roads, and four postoffices scattered through the county away from railroads.

The county's assessed value of real and personal property, including the railroads, is supposed to be about \$10,000,000, the actual value. This would give a real value of \$19,374,810. There are eight national and nine state banks in the county, with a capital of over \$1,000,000, and per capita deposit of little over \$800. The population of the county is being about 35,000. There are 120 school districts in Buffalo county, with 121 schoolhouses and 150 teachers. Mr. N. P. McDonald looks after the county's educational interests, and is a very efficient officer. Farm rents are worth from \$10 to \$50 per acre, but the crop rents are being rapidly taken, and there is more breaking being done in the county this year than has been done in five or six years.

As was naturally to be expected, the first settlers located in the eastern part of the county, but as soon as the B. & M. came to a junction with the Union Pacific at Kearney, the town of Kearney Junction began to grow rapidly, and in a short time was a noted shipping point. The county seat was first located in the town of Kearney, but after a bitter fight, it was voted to remove the same to Kearney. The railroads offered to donate a block of ground and erect a building if the county commissioners would locate the county offices on the south side of the tracks. The offer was accepted, and the site has been used for county purposes ever since. In 1887 the work of the county had grown so that it could not be satisfactorily conducted in the old building, and the board of supervisors voted to build a new courthouse. The contract for the present large and commodious building was awarded to W. T. Scott of Kearney. The building completed and furnished cost \$10,000, is an ornament to the city, and the prosperity of the property existing in one of the best counties in the state.

State Industrial School.
In the winter of 1879 the state legislature appropriated \$10,000 for the purpose of building a reform school. The citizens of Kearney bought a quarter-section of land lying northwest of town and offered it to the state for the purpose. The offer was accepted, and a large building was erected on the brow of a hill commanding a fine view of the Platte river, and also looking down upon the old town. The school is now in full operation.

In 1888 a company was organized and a cannery and pickling factory was built. The building is 70x100 feet on the ground, three stories high, with sheds and storerooms. The year 1889 was a hard year for a young industry of this nature, but last year the company did a good and profitable business. Daniels Brothers handled the entire product of the plant. From present indications the output this year will be double what it was last. The officers of the company are F. L. Boston, president and general manager, and John H. Fenton, secretary.

Kearney's Canning Company.

In 1888 a company was organized and a cannery and pickling factory was built. The building is 70x100 feet on the ground, three stories high, with sheds and storerooms. The year 1889 was a hard year for a young industry of this nature, but last year the company did a good and profitable business. Daniels Brothers handled the entire product of the plant. From present indications the output this year will be double what it was last. The officers of the company are F. L. Boston, president and general manager, and John H. Fenton, secretary.

In the east part of town and close to the railroad track is a large red building upon which is painted "Our Old Model Company." An ornamental company was organized and the building commenced about two years ago, but the stockholders were mostly, if not all, farmers without any experience in such an enterprise. It was a failure. The late officers voted to build a new building, and the contract for the present large and commodious building was awarded to W. T. Scott of Kearney. The building completed and furnished cost \$10,000, is an ornament to the city, and the prosperity of the property existing in one of the best counties in the state.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.

Refusing Fifty for Land Bought a Few Years Ago for Four.