HAND-BOOK
OF
CONCORDIA
AND
CLOUD COUNTY, KANSAS.

CHICAGO:
C. S. BURCH PUBLISHING COMPANY.
1888.
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INTRODUCTION.

Grave doubts have long existed among writers as to the advisability and utility of a preface or introduction. It is needless to say the same question has agitated the breasts of the progenitors of this work, and the less conservative have steadily set their faces against such a proceeding. To all their protestation and discouraging inuendoes has come the reply, "It is customary." Hence this trouble—this introductory.

As will be seen by the reader who does me the honor to read my poor screed, this book is not a pretentious history or a philosophical dissertation. I have been careful neither to admit to type any semblance of metaphysics, nor shall I goad a man with science until reason totters on its throne and he shrinks away abashed. Still, there is quite a deal of information in the book. I regret this much; but ically it could not be helped, as information appears to stew out of me naturally. Sometimes it has seemed to me that I would give worlds if I could retain my facts; but it cannot be. The more I calk up the sources, and the lighter I get, the more I leak wisdom. But, badinage aside, this book has a mission to perform; a long felt want to fill; a theme to herald. Are you in doubt? Then I shall dispel it. My theme shall be Kansas.

Who is there to-day in all this broad land who has not heard of the wonderful Sunflower State, her glorious climate and her matchless soil? Who among the older heads does not recall the stirring times of '00 and '01—literally, "the times that tried men's souls"—when the only name vouchsafed our State was "Bleeding Kansas?" But the infant born amid the throes of civil war, and so truly rocked in the cradle of adversity, has developed into a beautiful daughter, and we have named her Sunny Smiling Kansas.

In looking back a few decades it would seem as if some magician of old had touched with his wand our prosperous State, as I find the first enumeration of our inhabitants was taken in the year 1855, by census takers appointed by its first governor, Andrew H. Reeder, and showed for the Territory a population of 8,601. At the date of the eighth decennial census of the United States (1860), Kansas was still a Territory, and the census of that year gave it a population of 107,206. In 1861 Kansas was admitted into the sisterhood of States, and had little, if any, in excess of the population shown by the census of the previous year. In the meantime the "Great Conflict" had burst forth in all its fury, and our young fledgling of a State, but illy prepared for the horrors of a civil war, responded nobly to the call, and during the succeeding three years she furnished to the Union army about 20,000 soldiers, or a number equal to three-fourths of her male population between the ages of 18 and 45.

Thus it will be seen that the first citizens of our State had the courage of their convictions; that slavery was doomed, and that freedom must reign.

The end justified their expectations. The war had closed. The armies had been disbanded, and large numbers of those who had taken part in the conflict were casting about for a location in which to settle down to the peaceful pursuits of a farmer's life. They were familiar with the early history of Kansas, and, proud of the determined stand taken by the pioneers of the State, cast their lot with them in favor of universal freedom and good government. These sturdy patriots desired to know more of the great State on whose soil the first battle of the great conflict, so happily terminated, was fought, and, becoming enamored of her beautiful valleys, erected the unpretentious "sod house." From the efforts of this loyal band was evolved the Kansas of to-day.

To the writer it would seem that a man loyal to his government and State cannot by any mode of reasoning be declared an inferior or worthless citizen, and as to the character of the early settlers of Kansas no encomiums are offered, none are needed. Having conquered the armed enemy in the field, and receiving the plaudits of a grateful country, they cast aside the trappings of war, and donned the robes of peace. Go into many of our homes to-day, and you will find suspended on the wall the trusty "Springfield" or sword that had done duty with Grant at Vicksburg, or flashed in the sun with Sheridan when he rode at the head of his legions.

The old veterans are fast disappearing, and the remaining few, with bowed heads and halting steps, which tell only too forcibly the effects of the weary march and the impetuous charge, can now be seen sitting in retired sunny nooks with grandchildren on their knees, and as they recount to the little ones the story of the great uprising, it reminds one of Goldsmith's old warrior:

"The broken soldier, kindly bade to stay,
Sat by his fire and talked the night away;
Wept o'er his wounds or tales of sorrow done,
Shouldered his crutch and showed how fields were won."
It will be seen that as a State Kansas is twenty-seven years old, and that to-day it has over a million of inhabitants, with taxable property valued at $1,065,000,000. Its broad plains were formerly regarded as an expanse of dreary waste, too barren to produce the most hardy crops, and were known in our boyhood days as the "Great American Desert," fit only for the haunts of the prairie dog, the coyote and his twin brother, the treacherous Indian.

That this feeling would in time be removed goes without saying; but it was the year of 1870—the Centennial year—that opened the eyes of the entire world, when by one great leap Kansas bounded to the front. The Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia gave to the State an opportunity to display her wonderful products, and to properly represent her recuperative powers. The grand exhibit was a success, which attracted the attention and excited the admiration of all visitors. The display, made in competition with the best agricultural States of the nation, may truly be said to have eclipsed them all, and Kansas at once assumed her present proud position as one of the foremost States of the Union.

Having thus far, in an imperfect way, given a hasty sketch of our splendid State, with the reader's permission I will escort him through that portion of it known as

CLOUD COUNTY.

This County was organized in 1860; has an area of 720 square miles, and ranks as the twenty-third county in population.

Its surface is gently rolling, there being but very little rough land, and in the water distribution nature has been extremely lavish, as it is traversed not only by the Republican and Solomon Rivers, but also by eighteen creeks whose water supplies are never failing.

There are extensive salt springs and marshes in the northwestern portion of the county, south of the Republican River, that will no doubt in the near future prove very profitable to the fortunate owners.

An excellent vein of lignite coal underlies the entire county, and the hardy prospector does not seem to make a mistake, strike where he will.

There is an abundance of a good quality of magnesia lime stone in all parts of the county, away from the immediate neighborhood of streams, and our farming community, as well as the denizens of our cities, are not slow to avail themselves of the value of this rich find by utilizing the same in the erection of comfortable farm buildings and costly cottages.

Fire clay abounds in large quantities, as well as an excellent deposit of potter's clay, in nearly every township, but as yet they remain almost undisturbed by the hand of the cunning workman.

Cloud County is blessed with a soil of rare fertility, and its surface is so free from inequalities as to render almost every acre tillable, and, as has been shown, is well watered by many never failing streams. It is largely traversed by different lines of railroads in almost every direction—an important item to the farmer or businessman. In the matter of soil, Cloud County stands almost pre-eminent and alone. It varies in depth from six to fifteen feet, and is extremely rich in organic and vegetable moulds. On the river and creek bottoms the alluvial deposits of ages have formed a deep, dark loam of unparalleled productiveness. The soil of this county possesses to a remarkable degree the power of absorbing and retaining moisture, owing to a porous sub-soil of marl clay, which serves as a reservoir to store away water for an after use. This storage is a happy provision of nature, which enables the land to withstand the injurious effects of a long drought. But it would seem enough has already been said to give a very fair idea of the resources and productiveness of Cloud County, and the additional fact, that although we have such a county as has been described, there are still thousands of acres of rich, fertile land as yet unoccupied.

In passing, it may not be out of place to remark, that in politics this county inclines largely to the Republican faith.
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deem this information proper, and coming within the scope of an article such as this, and should not be judged from the narrow and prejudiced standpoint of the partisan. Besides it is a well-known fact that a person's political faith cuts not a small figure in the selection of his future home.

But notwithstanding our wonderful soil, and almost boundless resources; setting aside the fact that the Kansan knows no such word as fail, the propagation of "Mugwumps" has been a total failure. While they may be a perfect success in other less favored localities, and perhaps bring forth fruit after their kind, the truth might as well be told, with us they are "flat, stale and unprofitable."

In our grand young commonwealth no restrictions are permitted upon a man's religious and political tenets, but he should have an idea—he must be positive.

A stranger coming among us is not questioned as to his connection with the Bender episode, neither is he suspected as to his participation in that brutal and uncalled for attack upon the life of that eminent citizen, the late Mr. William Patterson. As one of our local versifiers has enshrined in song the chief characteristics of our people, and as it so happily represents us, with his kind permission I will here reproduce it.

"The lady bug has wings of blue,
    The June bug wings of flame,
The Kansan has no wings at all,
    But he gets there just the same."

This brief stanza so happily represents our people, that any attempt to improve on it would simply be a waste of time; one might as well attempt to "gild refined gold, or paint the lily."

Before closing this brief sketch of our State and County, a short history of one of the most beautiful cities of the Republican valley will not be out of place.

CONCORDIA.

the metropolis of Cloud County, is situated on the south bank of the Republican River, and is a thriving city of 5,000 inhabitants. Settled in 1870, its growth has been gradual and permanent. It is handsomely laid out with broad roomy streets; in this particular not surpassed by any other city in the State.

In the matter of costly and imposing buildings, both public and private, our city has no cause to blush. At this writing there is being finished one of the most complete and splendidly equipped court-houses to be found in this part of the State. Pleasing and graceful in its design, commodious and lofty in all its departments, it stands as an enduring monument to its designer, and fittingly attests the liberality of our citizens.

The school facilities of our city—a matter in which our citizens take a pardonable pride—deserve more than a passing notice, and a short article in this book will be devoted to a consideration of that subject.

In this connection it may be well to mention the fact that our city finds favor in the eyes of our Catholic citizens, from the fact that it has been selected as the official residence of a bishop, one of the three in the State. This means more than would appear on the surface, as of course an imposing Cathedral, well furnished schools, and the bishop's palace will necessarily follow. Already an excellent site has been secured for the above buildings, and workmen are engaged in excavating and hauling rock for the same. So it can truthfully be said, that as an educational center Concordia is destined at no distant day to leave all competitors far behind.

Our city is well and pleasantly lighted by electricity, combining an arc and incandescent plant, so that the belated traveler need have no fears in his efforts to reach his home.

Concordia can lay claim to one of the finest systems of water-works in the State, just completed at a cost of $50,000.
Water mains traverse the streets in every direction, furnishing our citizens with an abundant supply of pure and wholesome water.

Concordia is emphatically a city of homes. It seems as if nature had combined with man in his efforts to produce beautiful effects. Skirting the river for a considerable distance are to be found some of the most delightful sites and eminences, which have been seized upon and converted into choice building sites, and beautiful homes erected thereon. Fronting these are shaded and well-kept lawns, interspersed here and there with choice flowers, which, owing to our fine water-works, suffer from no lack of that very essential commodity—pure water. For the dweller in the distant East, as he scans these pages, and looks at the beautiful engravings scattered so profusely through this work, some allowance should be made if he remains a doubting Thomas. I am well aware that it requires a wide stretch of the imagination to believe that the very site of this bustling city was once the camping ground of the famous Indian Chief Spotted Tail and his band. Yet it is strictly true, but in their stead have come a band of peaceful warriors whose only weapons are the saw, the hammer and the plow, and whose motto is peace and good will.

In conclusion, I would say, that the engravings herein depicted are no fancy lot gotten up for the occasion, but are in every instance faithful representations of the originals, taken from actual photographs. As the various lines of railroads, centering in our city, have determined to give extremely low rates the present summer, we have taken it on ourselves to prepare this little work setting forth the advantages of our city and county.

We take especial pride in calling your attention to our county during your promised vacation this summer. We extend to you and yours a hearty invitation to visit us and see for yourselves the great American desert changed to a blooming garden, and the once arid waste transformed into a fruitful field. The uninvited has become inhabited, and the vast plains held recently in common by Indians and wild beasts have become the happy abodes of prosperous and contented citizens.

AGRICULTURE.

Cloud County has no superior as an agricultural district. The Republican Valley at its narrowest point in the county is not less than five miles wide, and spreads away in places to nearly double that width. The Solomon, crossing the southwest corner of the county has a magnificent valley, but somewhat narrower. Between them lies a long divide of gently rolling upland intersected by numerous small streams. Nowhere in all our beautiful State does corn grow more luxuriously than on the Republican bottoms; nowhere have finer crops of wheat been grown than in the valley of the Solomon. The upland divide produces crops of both, second only to the valleys, and for many purposes are not inferior even to them. Corn is king in Cloud County as well as elsewhere, and nowhere is his rule more thoroughly respected. No county in the State, of the same area, has ever shown a larger yield. But while the remarkable fertility of the Republican Valley and contiguous uplands is shown in the production of corn, it is also displayed in other crops equally profitable, but not of such extensive use. Wheat, oats, rye, millet, sorghum, broom corn, castor beans, sweet and Irish potatoes are extensively grown. Grasses of all kinds flourish, and as the prairie grasses become less abundant, clover, timothy, blue grass and the annuals like millet and Hungarian increase. Twice only in twenty years has there been a failure of an abundant corn crop. Each of these partial failures was caused by a dry spell in July and August. Other crops were abundant, and while the loss was considerable it had but little effect on the prosperity of the country. What other country has done better?

Many kinds of fruit are produced in perfection. Until you have seen the blush of the sun-kissed Kansas apple or the bloom of her grapes, you have not seen perfection, and the taste of their juices, perfected by long days of cloudless summer skies, lingers on the palate and in the memory like that of those you ate long ago, while a bare-foot boy. Cherries and strawberries...
grow abundantly. What do you think of melons weighing from fifty to eighty pounds? Not pithy, tasteless, sapless things, but so juicy and sweet that it robs the stealing of them of all immorality. Just such melons grow every year in our rich, warm soil, and acres of them! Peaches, apricots, plums, pears and berries of all kinds are grown, but with less success. Some years show abundant crops, to be followed again by failures. But with apples, grapes, cherries and strawberries every year, interspersed at frequent intervals with the less certain kinds of fruit, the average Kansan is content.

The next important considerations are the markets and facilities for transportation. The railroads have brought the markets of the world to our doors. Six great systems of railways intersect the county, affording easy facility for transportation, and actively competing in rates. Our products are carried to every hogs to any of the dozen railway stations in the county, or drive the lightest carriage with speed and safety.

And better than all else, the capital which the farmer needs to invest is small as compared to Eastern States, for, notwithstanding our advantages, land is comparatively cheap. So vast is the area of agricultural lands in the West, that the price has not been at all commensurate with its value. But if advantage is to be taken of this fact, it must be done speedily. The homestead lands of value are all gone. Each year advances the price of farm lands, and he who lingers is left.

**STOCK RAISING.**

I wish in a few words to suggest some reasons why the State of Kansas, and more especially Cloud County, is peculiarly fitted for the successful production of the various kinds of
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extending from Denver to the ocean, designed, apparently, as the future workshop of the United States. On our south is the cotton and sugar raising belt, which will always depend upon some outside territory for its meat and dairy products. In addition to all this, throughout the West, towns are springing up, and gradually but surely these towns become the centers of manufacturing communities, and to the same extent centers of consumption. In confirmation of the above we will find, by a study of the past market reports of meat products, that not many years ago Cincinnati was the great pork center of the world. Now Kansas City does more business in that line than Cincinnati ever did, and moreover the market price for such product is almost as high in the Missouri River towns as in the markets of the Eastern cities, and the very small margin of difference still existing is every year growing less.

Turning now from the subject of markets to that of the pro-

duction of the article marketed, and I say that the Republican Valley of Cloud County is as good a corn and grass producing region, acre for acre, as there is in the United States; no better possibly, but as good. There are fields in this valley which have produced an average of forty-five bushels of corn per acre for sixteen successive years, and this too with very ordinary cultivation and without fertilizers of any kind. Our winters are dry, with prevailing bright, sunny days and sharp frosty nights. We are, however, not exempt from winter’s storms, and the talk indulged in occasionally about stock caring for itself through the winter belongs to pioneer days. In this particular we are situated here similarly to farmers in the East in the same latitude, only that we here are almost entirely exempt from winter mud and from impassable wagon roads. Speaking generally, then, our advantages in these particulars referred to above are at least as great and probably greater than in sections of the best farming land farther east of us. Why then, do you ask,

should the stock raiser come to Kansas? And I answer the question successfully, I think, when I say, that land of the quality above, if located in Illinois, is worth perhaps $50 per acre; if in Pennsylvania or Ohio, from $75 to $100 per acre. Here the land can be bought at from $15 to $25 per acre. It comes down then to a simple question of computing interest on the original cost of the land. A farm of at least 100 acres is necessary to successfully raise stock. Such a farm in the Scioto Valley in Ohio would cost at the least, $11,000; in the best parts of Illinois, perhaps $8,000; in the fertile valley of the Republican River in Kansas, equally as good land in every particular can be bought for $3,000. Count interest on the investment at six per cent. Six per cent. on $11,000 is $660 per year; on $3,000, it is but $180—a profit of $780 per year on that rarely ever thought of item of interest on the original cost.

To the intelligent farmer and stock raiser, with but small cash capital, the fertile and cheap farms of this valley offer unsurpassed advantages. A $3,000 Cloud County dairy and stock farm, managed with intelligence and energy, whereon every growing herb and plant is utilized, will prove a most satisfactory investment.

OUR SCHOOLS.

One of the especial recommendations, worthy of the early recognition of the visitor to this city, is our schools. We do not write of the public schools alone, because in this land of liberal-minded, free acting, ever energetic people, there are many kinds of schools. Here in Concordia our public schools consist of a chief or High School building, situated upon an eminence commanding a view of the entire city, and two ward schools, a part of the same grade, each one of which is located with special reference to health and aesthetics.
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Dr. Kirk, a profound scholar and experienced teacher, has located here permanently a select school, in which is taught all that can be acquired in any college in the United States. His school is in a thriving condition. There is also a very excellent Catholic school, unexcelled, probably, in America.

It will now be the business of the writer of this article to take up these schools and describe them more fully. It may, however, not be out of place to make an attempt, by way of preface, to free the minds of many Eastern readers from a kind of incubus which infects the good people of the older states generally. I allude to the ever present impression that “we live right under the center of the universe, and the nearer you approach to the edges, the closer you are to the falling off place,” a delusion which will be lulled to sweet and quick slumber by a little reflection. This preface will consist of a tiny leaf torn from the life experience of the writer, comprising some of the reminiscences of his youth, for the purpose of illustrating this theme.

In the year 1850, in company with others, he made an overland trip to California from one of the older States. Of course it could hardly be expected that in a territory towards which so many were rushing, “and all for gold,” that we should find either education or the fine arts. Each night on “the plains,” when the dew-drop signaled the stealthy approach of quiet rest, and no storm of snow or sand greeted us, might be seen at one tent two or three patient youths sawing on old fiddles, preparing to make music for the hungry Californians, who must be without that article in the far West. The old gents would sit around the fire and smoke, and nod approvingly as they said the boys before. The would-be masters of the drama gazed in silent amazement to behold the towns and cities crowded with earth’s best stage talent; there were Booth, Macready, Keen, Thorne, Barry, the Mestayers, the Vincents, besides thousands of lesser lights. The writer, who was there to engage quietly in a profession, was glad, though astonished, to find things thus. He was a youth then, but has since thoroughly learned both East and West; and a gray head bows over the lines he is writing. It is no longer the East, but the West, which raises in his mind thoughts of energy and completion.

The leading men of Concordia know the East; its advantages and disadvantages. Many of our old citizens have been teachers in the East—some in graded schools, some in colleges, and many in select schools. The continual rush for our excellent climate, our productive soil and land of excitement, brings,
among other things, the most energetic, stirring teachers. We are thus enabled to choose the best. This is no place for those teachers to come who are failures in the East.

Go with me, kind reader, from the center of our city, and visit our public schools. As we move through the overhanging shade trees of maple, elder, elm and catalpa, which bend their graceful branches overhead, and smile to each other across the streets, you may pause to remark on this beautiful May morning, "I thought there were no trees in Kansas." But, come on. As we go along, notice the varying tints of the rich flowers (native of the prairies) as they nod and smile under fountains by the way. Now, you begin to see that large octagonal, brick building upon the hill, through the depths of the surrounding forest of lovely shade trees. Let me tell you as we go. It is 103 feet in the clear; has eight well paid teachers, and from four to five hundred pupils are in daily attendance. The most newly improved methods of teaching are used here. There are no instruments of modern invention, useful in teaching, neglected. Excellent order and discipline prevail. Your aspiring son or daughter may study, surrounded by scientific luxuries and competent teachers, until prepared for college. Then he may repair to any of the many efficient institutions of learning in this State, or he may have much the same style of tuition at Dr. Kirk's select school.

This building, which we are visiting, aside from its educational facilities, is provided with ample dressing rooms, wide and spacious stairways, excellent steam heaters of the direct method, and the purest and healthiest of water. There are in regular attendance about four hundred students. Passing down to the First Ward, a few blocks north and west from the High School, is the school-house of this ward (a part of the same system), called the "Garfield School-house." This is 60 ft. by 25 ft., all that is needed in the First Ward at present. Like the other, it is situated in a grove of shade trees, in whose branches merry little twittering birds sweeten the hours of labor, spring and summer.

The Third Ward school-house comes next in order. This is a fine brick building, two stories, 40 ft. by 60 ft., and well supplied with all the necessary appliances for modern school work. The total expenditures upon these buildings and their furniture is between $50,000 and $80,000.

Every one who looks through our public school buildings expresses high appreciation of their superiority.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS.

We pass now to our Catholic school. This is under the charge of the Very Rev. J. Perrier, Rector. It was finally established in 1881. The building, itself, is 110 ft. by 75 ft., three stories high, to which we may add the juvenile department—26 ft. by 40 ft. This school, too, is furnished with the very best of teachers, and all the modern languages are taught by teachers thoroughly competent not only to speak them, but to command their finest literature. Here young ladies are taught the fine arts, such as music, painting and needlework, together with all such studies as are taught in the very best schools. All of the school buildings included are provided with excellent bells, in whose musical chimes the Concordians justly take great pride. An advantage of no mean kind possessed by the inhabitants of Concordia is, that while studying any desirable modern language, the pupil may daily mingle with those who speak that language—an advantage appreciated most by those who have earnestly applied themselves to the study of modern languages.

But this article is not written more in the interest of Concordia than in the interest of truth. With this thought as the motive power, the writer feels bound to admit the fact, that the average country schools around and about us are far in advance of the same class of schools in the East. Let us call your attention to some striking differences.

Our Western teachers are, as a rule, cosmopolitan. If one engage in a Western school, he takes up the lines (presumably) with more or less knowledge of Western life; he is familiar...
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THE IRON BLOCK OF THE CONCORDIA INVESTMENT CO.
with Western arts and Western advances. In short, he is invested with a degree of intelligence on all such topics. So far let us keep the comparison up, lest we neglect it. Our Eastern teacher is necessarily ignorant of all these things. As a rule, he is brought up in some adjoining neighborhood, and is intellectually cramped. This difference is all on the side of our Western teacher; his pupils seem to absorb this expansion of thought from him philosophically, and are improved. The modern teacher is expected to teach more than is found in the text-book. But what kind of teaching shall we expect from him, if his knowledge be confined to one locality? Our Western teacher is seldom born in the locality where he teaches.

Our green expansive prairies are everywhere dotted with little white schoolhouses, which we think are fully up to the average country school anywhere. All new excitements, new drill methods and school journals are appreciated more highly and quickly West than East; probably because this is the land of new things. Few come here who are not free to catch the inspiration of novelty and experiment. But this is not all. Here, where competition is rife, teachers find that they must fit themselves to teach, or they will be unsuccessful.

Still there is room for educational advancement in the direction of more advanced institutions. Here in our city the initial work for a university should be commenced. The more learned professions would not be in demand at once, but as each demand is supplied new ones will arise. A chartered college would pay some enterprising body of the scholastic faculty well. There is, in short, more space to fill in the upper walks of education than in the lower. The healthy tone which our schools are taking on is truly flattering. Our past advances point with prophetic pride to a future when the great West will be the educational center of the country.

MINES AND MINERALS.

The mineral resources of the county, so far as discovered, are of no small importance, and give promise of still greater riches to be hereafter developed. Coal, building stone, lime, potter's clay, and clay for building and fire brick, are the principal minerals now in use, while the extensive salt marshes on our borders indicate with almost absolute certainty beds of rock salt at no great depth.

The coal is of the lignite variety, and is extensively mined for local consumption, but owing to the remoteness of the mines now opened from lines of railway its production is yet in its infancy. It is unsurpassed for use in the cook stove and grate; for while it produces considerable ash, it burns with a steady heat and but little smoke or soot. Its value is best shown by the fact that it is the principal fuel used in the county. This lignite coal will also have great value in the newly developed sugar industry. Professor Swenson recommends its use as the best method of carbonization of the sorghum cane juice.

The principal building stone is the beautiful and far famed magnesian limestone, that cuts like chalk when quarried, but hardens on exposure. It is used in all classes of buildings, from the court-house down to the cow-shed. Our bridge piers are constructed of it, and many smaller bridges are entirely built of it. It is made into fences and sidewalks, besides serving innumerable uses of minor importance. A good quality of lime is easily produced from it and generally used. There is also abundance of brown, red and gray sandstones in various parts of the county, but they are little used in comparison with the limestone.
Potter's clay of good quality has been discovered in several localities, and the Clyde Potteries have for several years been manufacturing it into first-class ware, and largely supplying the trade of Northern Kansas and Southern Nebraska. It is abundant in the vicinity of Concordia, and will doubtless be the foundation of a large manufacturing industry here at an early day. Building brick are made here in large quantities and of good quality, not only for home use but for export as well.
The experiment of making pressed brick is being tried with every promise of success, as the material seems to possess every desirable quality.

Thus far we know. But there are strong probabilities that even greater mineral wealth is waiting but very little exertion for development. The salt field of Kansas is already developed to such an extent that there can be no doubt that it extends from the salt marshes on the north borders of our county southwest to similar marshes in the valley of the Cimarron. Along this line the drill has penetrated at various points beds of rock salt from seventy to one hundred and fifty feet thick, at depths of seven to nine hundred feet.

The coal now mined in the county lies very near the surface. Thicker beds of better quality probably lie below at accessible depths. Preparations are now being made for a series of borings for the purpose of proving the correctness of these beliefs, and to ascertain with certainty the amount and character of these deposits. It is not unlikely that these borings will develop rock gas as in other portions of the State. Whatever the result of future explorations may be, enough has already been discovered and tried to demonstrate the great and varied utility of our mineral resources.

MORALITY AND RELIGION.

The considerations which govern the selection of a home are not a few. It is not enough that the climate is healthful; it is not enough that the prospect for wealth is promising. The one is important, the other, no doubt, desirable, and yet one may have both and still find ample cause for discontent.

In choosing a home, a prudent man will not only note the position of a given locality on the map, count its railroads, enumerate its population, ascertain the productiveness of its soil, measure its annual rainfall, and guess at its probable growth, but he will go below the surface of bare materialism, and seek to know the character of the sovereign under whose rule he is to place himself. It matters not so much what laws are on the statute book, as what principles are in the hearts of the people. If a law is not ratified by the popular judgment, it is powerless; while the will of the people, if not expressed by present law, will quickly mould itself into legal enactments. We are ruled by the public conscience. From the school district to the nation the same power holds sway, and its decree is absolute. It is well, then, to inquire, What of the people? What of their intelligence? Their morals? Their religion? When these
questions are truly answered, the portrayal of the composite character will be complete, and their answer is not difficult. The public does not wear a mask; the people en masse do not prevaricate. The school buildings bear testimony to the search after knowledge; the records of the police court tell in sententious Saxon the story of crime, and the church spires silently testify to faith in the Infinite Goodness.

That Kansas, morally, is the peer of any State in the Union will scarcely be questioned. She was born at a time when the atmosphere of the nation was heavy with strife over a moral question of stupendous magnitude. She refused the honor of statehood until that dignity could be hers, unsullied by the groans of men held in bondage. It was “Bleeding Kansas” that fired the Northern heart to resist the demands of the slaveholding aristocracy, and by her was hastened the “irrepressible conflict” that freed a race. When the storm broke upon the nation she, in greater proportionate numbers than any of her sister States, sent her sons to blot out in blood the national disgrace. When the task was done, they came home to find the State poorer and less populous than when they left it; to find much of their property gone, and themselves paupers except for the wealth of courage, grit and experience of which death only could rob them. They focus at which centered, in the days of the pioneers, the religious, political and intellectual life of the community.

Years passed and the Sunflower State waxed strong. Then came another great moral question and claimed the attention of her people, and again she pronounced judgment in favor of humanity. The saloon was banished from within her borders. It was a step that won the admiration of the world, and placed her in the front rank of Christian civilization. In the success of this movement Kansas is pre-eminent.

But to bring the question to the “snubbing post”: Concordia is fully abreast, and perhaps ahead, of the average sentiment of the State. We think we live in “no mean city,” and are con-
IDENT that few Western towns can boast of superior attractions. Drunkenness is practically a thing of the past. The leading protestant denominations have vigorous organizations, and the Catholic Church has made this city the seat of a bishopric. The church has acquired extensive and valuable property, and has begun the erection of costly buildings that will add much to the beauty of the city. They have also a convent and school which has already acquired a reputation that brings many pupils from various portions of the State. The Baptist church occupies a handsome edifice almost in the heart of the business portion of the city. The Methodist Episcopal church has outgrown its present home, and is preparing to build with an eye to its pre-
sent prosperity and future greatness. A fine stone church on a slight eminence is often taxed to afford room for those of Presbyterian preference. Then we have the United Brethren with a new house, and the Swedish Baptist with an old one, and the Episcopalians who hope for one sometime, and the Young Men's Christian Association, which has valuable lots upon which it hopes, before many years, to place a costly building; and the Young Woman's Christian Association, whose aim at present is for spiritual blessings only.

Thus have we grown and prospered in things spiritual.

The Masons, Odd Fellows, United Workmen and Knights of Pythias, each have strong and prosperous lodges, which do an amount of charitable work of which the outside world knows little.

We live in the rush and whirl of the Occident. Our lives are full of action, and hand and brain find little rest. A great and rich wilderness is blossoming into civilization about us, and we are busy picking the flowers of opportunity. But, with all this, we remember the words spoken 3,000 years ago, and we know they are true: "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

RAILROADS AND COMMERCE.

In this age of marvelous growth and progress, in this land of active competition in every branch of trade, no section can expect marked success and rapid development that does not gain the facilities of rapid and direct communication with the great market, manufacturing and export cities of the country. That our citizens have been quick to realize this fact, and improve every opportunity that offers a betterment of their transport facilities, is best attested by the fact that Concordia now has in active operation the four largest railroad systems west of the Missouri River, connecting direct with all their great outlets.

The Union Pacific, running to the Southeast, via Topeka, gives a direct route to Kansas City and the East, while the line running west to Denver gives easy access to Colorado, and gains the highest market for poultry, eggs and dairy products.

The Missouri Pacific Railroad, running straight east to Atchison, and thence to Kansas City and St. Louis, opens their great pork and cattle markets to our stock raisers. West of Concordia this system has two lines of road, one extending directly west to the Colorado line, while the other reaches northwest into Nebraska.

The Burlington route reaches this point from Chicago, via Omaha and Southeastern Nebraska, and runs through cars for both passengers and freight direct from Chicago to this point.

The Santa Fe Railroad was built to this point on the first of January last, and with its customary energy is already pushing out into Nebraska on the North. This road not only gives access to all Southern Kansas and its lines to Mexico and South-
CONCORDIA AND CLOUD COUNTY, KANSAS.

era California, but also affords a direct route to Galveston, Texas, whence the Santa Fe's line of fast ocean steamers run direct to Liverpool and the old world. That this last connection must be of almost incalculable value to a grain producing region like this, is a foregone conclusion. Liverpool prices for grain govern the markets of the world. That wheat and corn can be shipped from Galveston to that port at practically the same cost as from New York, has been demonstrated. So that the saving in freight between the cost of transportation to New York, with an extra transfer at Chicago, as has heretofore been the only method, and the freight to Galveston, must in itself make a handsome profit to every producer.

These roads are all in active operation, and do not in the slightest sense exist on paper only. The subject cannot, however, be fairly dismissed until the attention of the reader is called to what is still actually in store for Concordia in the way of additional railway connections. Bonds have been voted in acceptance of a proposition from the Missouri Pacific Company to build a direct north and south road through the State from this point, which, besides rendering Southern Kansas easier of access, will also give a better connection with the line of the same road through Texas to the South. The line of the same road running to the West from Concordia, as has been stated, is now nearly to the Colorado line. That this road will be pushed through to Denver at no distant day is beyond all question. It will then become one of the through trunk lines west from the Missouri River, and when in this connection is noted the fact that Concordia is the only town of importance between the river and Denver, on the whole line of road, the possibilities of this young city are almost startling, as in so vast a stretch of country which is being so rapidly occupied, some large manufacturing, jobbing and distributing center is sure to be built up. That Concordia, situated as she is in the heart of so fine an agricultural territory, with her water power, her magnificent railroad connections and present superiority, will be this center, seems beyond all doubt.

The field for many enterprises of the character suggested already exists; for the establishment and growth of the many new towns springing up all over Northwest Kansas and Southern Nebraska demand a nearer point of supply than they now have, and enterprises to fill this want are already being successfully undertaken here. But more are needed, and the attention of capitalists desiring an active employment for their funds is invited to a consideration of the facts, for it is believed that surer and safer returns can nowhere be found. Perhaps the most pressing need just at this time is for a packing house,
CONCORDIA AND CLOUD COUNTY, KANSAS.

which can be more than supplied, situated, as it would be, in the very heart of the finest corn, cattle and hog producing regions of the State. Its products, prepared for immediate consumption, could be transported to the mining regions of the West, and to the markets of the East far more cheaply than by the present method of shipping the live stock to Kansas City and St. Louis, there to be prepared for consumption, and a handsome margin be left for both producer and packer.

Nor can a better field be conceived for the profitable establishment and operation of a canning factory than is to be found here, and handsome inducements have already been offered to any one who will undertake the enterprise. The land is here, the gardeners are here, the market is here.

The examples of opportunities could be multiplied, but enough has been said to show in some measure the growing opportunities of this ever widening field for enterprise. The citizens of Concordia are keenly alive to the advantages of their situation, and stand ever ready to generously forward every move to advance the business and commercial progress of their city and State.

MANUFACTURES.

It is in the natural order of things that the northern part of the great State of Kansas should have at least one manufacturing industries.

THE CONCORDIA ROLLER MILLS.

The mill, a four story stone building, equipped with all the latest improved machinery for manufacturing the finest grades of flour by the full-roller process, is situated upon the right bank, and derives its power from the waters of the beautiful and historic Republican River, across which is thrown a semicircular mill-dam of artistic and ingenious design, presenting to the eye a most pleasing and picturesque scene. Indeed, this is one of the finest water powers in the State, and the mill, among the best and largest, having a capacity of 150 barrels of flour per
day, and storage room for fifteen thousand bushels of grain, with an elevator of fifty thousand bushels capacity in process of erection.

The Concordia Milling Co. is financially the strongest milling concern in the State, and, in addition to its regular mill business, operates a magnificent electric light plant, consisting of three dynamos, seven and one-half miles of wire in two distinct and complete circuits, seventy arc lights of two thousand candle-power each, and ninety incandescent lights; making Concordia the best lighted city in the West.
The entire mill and electric light plant has cost the company over one hundred thousand dollars, and is alike creditable to its owners, as well as to the City of Concordia.

The Concordia Foundry.

This is a two-story stone building, 44 ft. by 100 ft., divided into moulding room, machine shop, wood workers and pattern-makers' rooms, finishing room, engine room, office, etc., fully equipped with the latest and most improved machinery—all run by steam power—for the manufacture of all kinds of iron work, columns, sills, plates, stairs, railings, cresting, machinery castings, turned iron work, etc. This foundry has only been in operation a little over one year, and yet their work has gone all
over Northern Kansas and Southern Nebraska, showing that they can successfully compete with the foundries located farther east.

The iron work for the Citizens National Bank building and the Bankers Loan and Trust Company's building (see cuts in this book), was all done at the Concordia Foundry, in a manner and style eminently satisfactory, and to that work the Foundry Company can point with pride, for it cannot be excelled East or West.

THE 1 X 1 PLOW WORKS have been in successful operation for a number of years, and have sent out some of the finest and best made plows to be found anywhere. They make a specialty of sod-breaking plows, and find ready sale for all they can manufacture, not only in Kansas but in Colorado and Nebraska, and it is a fact that they have sold a few plows even in Missouri and Illinois. They have recently incorporated under the laws of the State into a joint stock company, thereby greatly increasing their capital and the facilities for their work. They have added a fine steam engine to run their machinery, and as at present organized they are destined, at no distant day, to become the leading agricultural implement manufactory in the State. They have the experience, the energy and the money—three very essential factors of success.

THE GALVANIZED IRON CORNICE COMPANY, Chartered by the State of Kansas, has only been organized a little over three months, and yet they have manufactured and shipped cornices to many towns North and West. They have made the entire cornice for some of the finest buildings in Northern Kansas. (See cut of Bankers Loan and Trust Co. in this book, as a sample of what they can do.) They can make anything in the cornice line. Their orders are coming in faster than they can be filled, and the company will have to increase their capacity and add to their working force long before the expiration of their first year, in order to be able to supply the demand for their goods.

BUTLER BROS. WIND-MILL FACTORY. This institution is extensively engaged in the manufacture of a wind engine of new design and superior merit—the invention of Mr. F. L. Butler himself. This mill finds a ready sale, and its manufacture gives employment to a large number of men, who are busy taking the raw material and fashioning and shaping it into as good a wind-mill as ever "stood out" against a Kansas zephyr. Each mill is artistically painted in the conventional wind-mill colors of "Red, White
and Blue," bearing the trade mark: "Butler Bros., Concordia, Kansas." Thus each wind-mill as it goes out upon its errand of mercy, pumping water for thousands of thirsty and famishing men and beasts, will prove a silent, though giant monument, to the skill and genius of its inventor, to the energy and industry of its manufacturers, and to the manufacturing facilities of
The Sash and Door Factory of Southworth & Smith occupies a large frame building, 44 ft. x 110 ft., fitted up with the latest and most approved style of wood-working machinery, for the manufacture of sash, doors, blinds, stairs, furniture and all kinds of turned and carved woodwork. They have built some of the finest stairs in the city. They are making a specialty of the manufacture of "Southworth's Patent Kitchen Safe," a Concordia invention, and one which is fast finding favor in all the towns and cities where it has been introduced. They employ a large force of the most skillful mechanics, and run their entire machinery by steam power.

The Screen Door Factory of W. T. Short is a mammoth concern of its kind, run by steam; completely fitted up with all the machinery necessary for the manufacture of screen doors, sash, blinds, doors, counters, office furniture, etc.; in fact anything that is made of wood.
working wood into all kinds of necessary articles, brackets, newel posts, stair rails, ballusters, doors, sash and all kinds of furniture.

BRICK YARDS.

Concordia has two brick yards where the common red brick are made in sufficient quantities, not only to supply the enormous home demand, but for shipment by the car-load to the adjacent towns for 50 to 75 miles either way along the various lines of railroad.

Mr. J. A. Rigby has just added a full set of machinery, and otherwise fitted up his yard for the extensive manufacture of Terra Cotta or Pressed Brick, and the cities of the Northwest will no longer have to send to Kansas City for their pressed brick—an article which is entering more and more every year into the construction of our finest buildings.

CIGAR FACTORY.

Mr. Chas. Voss has a factory, fully equipped with all the facilities for producing the finest cigars in the market. He makes it a specialty to supply, first, the home trade; but still he keeps one man on the road, and finds no trouble in selling all the goods he can make. His cigars have become very popular among the smokers of this part of the State. He uses nothing but the best of stock. Being a practical cigar maker himself he gives his personal attention to the management of his factory, and has thus, by strict attention to business and to the wants of the trade, built up in the last two years an industry that is both profitable to himself and creditable to Concordia.

POP FACTORY.

Mr. E. J. Messall has a complete and well arranged factory for the manufacture of soda pop and other temperance drinks, and has worked up a large trade for his goods, both at home and abroad.

A soap factory has just been started under the proprietorship of J. J. Frishie, Concordia's pioneer butcher, and it is sure to succeed, as the material is here in abundance, and the demand is sufficient to consume all that can be made.

FACTORIES NEEDED.

Concordia needs, and must have, and will aid liberally, the following industries:

A Pork Packing House. Cloud County is the center of the seven largest hog producing counties in the State, and Concordia's railroads bring her into direct communication with as many more. In fact, no other city in the State is so favorably situated with reference to the pork growing area. Two-thirds of all the hogs raised in the State are within a radius of 75 miles from Concordia.

A Woolen Mill. The fine water-power of Concordia, together with the fact that Northern Kansas is the sheep's natural paradise, enables us to truthfully make the assertion that no other city in the West possesses the natural or acquired advantages that Concordia does for a first-class woolen factory.

A Canning Factory. Concordia must have. Vegetables and small fruits, corn, tomatoes, cauliflower, beans, peas, cucumbers, pumpkins, squash, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, cherries, plums, peaches, etc., etc., grow better in no country on the face of the globe than in the great Republican Valley. One of Concordia's most enterprising citizens, Judge D. L. Brown, has offered 40 acres of his fine bottom farming land to the first company who shall build and operate a first-class canning factory at Concordia.

Mr. E. J. Messall, County Treasurer, offers 12 acres of as fine land as is found in the valley, and adjoining the City of Concordia, for the same purpose.

A Glucose and Starch Factory. With an abundant supply of pure fresh water, and with "Corn as King," it is only a matter of a very short time until Concordia has a starch factory, and an oatmeal and hominy mill.

A Pottery. The finest and purest potter's clay to be found anywhere is to be had in great abundance near Concordia, and
the freight on earthenware and drain tiling from Illinois, where it now comes from, will make a handsome profit to the company who shall engage in the manufacture of pottery at Concordia.

And last that we shall here mention, but by no means least, is a carriage and wagon factory.

The raw material can be shipped at a very much less rate of freight than the manufactured articles can be; therefore buggies and wagons can be manufactured and sold at Concordia for a price that will yield the manufacturer a good profit, and yet cost the consumer much less than he now has to pay for them shipped from the Eastern factories. The Concordia factory would soon command the entire trade, driving all foreign goods out of the market. It could not be otherwise, because the difference between the freight rates on the raw material and manufactured buggies and wagons is enough to make a nice profit to the
manufacturer, and a good saving to the consumer. Another reason why this is the place for the location of a first class wagon and carriage factory is, that the location is central—right

enormous amount of buggies and wagons that are shipped into this country and sold. In fact the Eastern manufacturers look upon Kansas as their main market. Not only is Concordia

in the heart of the great New West—a country that is being peopled faster than any other country was ever known to be before, and in less than ten years there will be one million people within one hundred miles of Concordia. There is more than half that number here now. These people have to be supplied with wagons and carriages. It is a surprise to anyone to see the centrally located in this vast scope of new country which is being so rapidly populated, but she has the railroads, like so many spokes diverging from the hub of a wagon wheel, whereby she can reach all parts of this territory. She is within 150 miles of Kansas City, the Mecca of the West, and connected with it by four trunk lines of railroad.
And finally, to all parties seeking a location for manufactures we say, "Come and see Concordia; study her advantages; behold her possibilities; become acquainted with her people who are wide awake, industrious, and will extend you a cordial welcome, and lend a helping hand. Are you crowded up in some large Eastern city where taxes are high, where rents are exorbitant, where competition is so close that it leaves you no margin, where strikes are the order of the day? Then come West. Come to Concordia where you can have plenty of room, where it does not cost so much for expenses, where your employees can live
better and cheaper, and breathe freely the pure healthy Kansas air—thus being happy and satisfied they have no occasion for strikes. Come to Concordia and manufacture your wares right where they will be consumed, right among your customers. Put yourself in sympathy with them, and win their hearty cooperation by making your interests identical with theirs. Make their country your country, their home your home, and you need have no fears but what the people of Kansas will see to it that you are sustained. Indeed they will always give, and always have given, their preference to home institutions. The Western people are a liberal people. They buy largely of everything that is useful; they are enterprising, and always avail themselves of the latest inventions for their comfort and welfare; they are broad minded, open-hearted, and ever on the alert to improve their condition, to beautify their homes, enhance the value of their property, and develop their country. No other locality in the Union offers greater inducements to manufacturers, will give them a more enthusiastic welcome, or a heartier support.
WHAT OTHERS SAY OF US.

The following extract is from a letter written by a special correspondent to the Kansas City Times, July 13, 1888:

Concordia, Kan., July 13.—It was very early in the spring, half a score of years ago, that I looked for the first time upon the bleak prairies of Northern Kansas. I came from among New England hills, where I had from earliest childhood gazed on mountains clothed in unfading green, and been surrounded by forests whose primal glory had suffered but little from the hand of man. Therefore to me the change from mountains to plains, and from encircling woods to treeless wastes, was attended by novel sensations not wholly complimentary to the scene before me. If not exactly a desert, the country looked to be a wilderness in whose vastness only a hermit could sigh for an habitation. There was nothing to inspire enthusiasm. A chilly piercing wind rattled at the windows, the sky was a sombre gray, and mile after mile the prairie presented the same
The scene within was no less provocative of melancholy. The car was not luxurious nor quite comfortable. The road bed was not smooth, and the rate of speed was quite exasperating. Yet the situation could have been worse, for the roughness of the road helped my digestion and provoked an appetite that was a surprise to me and a grief, no doubt, to those next interested. It is a fact, too, that even at the rate of 20 miles an hour a considerable distance will be covered in the course of a day's ride. And thus it was that shortly after nightfall I reached a town bearing a euphonious name suggestive of brotherly love and peaceable neighbors, and boasting a hostelry renowned along the line for the gratifying manner in which it filled the long felt want of the hungry traveler.

I tarried at Concordia.

It was a wretched little burg. The streets were slippery with mud of a most abominable nastiness, and the buildings, I will venture to say, were as small and unattractive as those of any town of its size in this very remarkable State. To inspect the city, as its proud inhabitants termed it, was a task which would have consumed but little time, had my friend who volunteered to show me the town confined himself to the then present reality; but he did not. It was not the little dirty frontier town that he wished me to see, but rather the beautiful city, the "Queen of the Valley," and the North Star of the State. In short, he set out to show me the "future great"—and he did it. I was shown that portion which was to be the site of great wholesale houses. The unfenced prairie showed no sign of impending change. The streets were pointed out which would at no distant day be lined with the retail palaces of Concordia's Stewarts and Macys. The present squalor was before me. The picture of future grandeur faded and left no sign. Then I was taken upon one of the seven hills which lay to the west and south of the village, and was assured that on these would be built the costly houses of a prosperous and happy people. I looked. At a little distance a prairie dog sat at its castle gate, and his neighbor, the bird of ill omen, ruffled her feathers and uttered a solemn hoot of derision; while from another eminence came the dismal protest of a coyote. The ground was pre-empted by actual settlers and I doubted if their titles would soon be questioned.

I remained in the vicinity a number of weeks and saw considerable of the adjacent country. I found but little to delight the eye or awaken enthusiasm. The roads were trails, the buildings were rude and primitive. It was too early in the season for the cultivated fields to give promise of a coming harvest, and the remarkable depth and richness of the soil was not sufficient to repress a feeling of distrust for its agricultural utility. Then, too, the atmospheric phenomenon which was developed during the month of March was most disagreeably impressive. If in February the region possessed the requisite characteristics of a wilderness in the succeeding month it became a howling wilderness. The full meaning of this phrase must remain a matter of conjecture save to those who have been pushed, and hauled and cuffed, and twirled by the breezes which then blew during the bolsterous month when winter fled before the impetuous charge of summer.

Before departing I became convinced that Concordia had two or three things in her favor. There was the possibility that the Republican Valley would develop into an agricultural district, having few equals. There was unquestionably an abundant supply of coal, for a good quality of surface coal was then being mined only a short distance from the town. Within three miles there was building stone of superior quality sufficient to construct a large city, and as fuel and building material are vital factors in the development of the great plains and by no means abounding in all sections, I felt some confidence that the little town might in time attain to some importance.

This was ten years ago.

To-day I am again in the same latitude and longitude, and in a city bearing the name of Concordia. One or two old buildings and very few names and faces have a familiar look, but all else is as changed as if it belonged to a different age and civilization. The metamorphosis of a repulsive worm into a beautiful insect presents scarcely a greater contrast than the change wrought in this brief period in the aspect of the town and country about me. A few evenings back I stepped into a Pullman at Kansas City and out at Concordia in the morning in time for breakfast. In place of the dirty hamlet I find a city of 5,000 people, possessing both natural and artificial attractions rarely found in western towns. There are numerous buildings, public and private, that would be creditable to a city ten times larger than this, and I note with pleasure the fulfillment of the prophecy concerning the seven hills. They are traversed by well graded streets lined with shade trees, through which are seen many pleasant homes and velvety lawns. I see electric lights, a very perfect system of waterworks and four of the great railway systems of the West. The Missouri Pacific, the Union Pacific, the Burlington & Missouri, and the Santa Fe compete for the carrying trade of the city, and other roads are casting covetous glances hitherward. Several manufacturing enterprises are in successful operation and others are projected.

But not the least surprising feature of the situation is the fact that, wonderful as has been the growth of the city, it has not outstripped the country. My astonishment is not abated as I drive through the valleys and over the hills, for on every side are the constantly recurring evidences of enterprise and material prosperity. Substantial buildings, good fences and numerous shade and fruit trees abound in a profusion that is simply marvelous. I often stop upon the crest of some of the higher hills and let my eyes roam over the many miles of valley and upland dotted with the homes of prosperous farmers and beautiful with growing grain and miniature forests, and my heart swells with pride in the consciousness that the American people have so rich a heritage and are not lacking the wisdom and enterprise requisite for its highest and most speedy development.

The star of empire in its westward flight has reached the mid-continent and hangs suspended over that vast alluvial plain between the great river and the greater mountains. In a brief space of time—so brief that but few additional silver threads on the head of the writer can certify its flight—a desert has become a garden; the valley of the Republican one of its pleasantest nooks; and the City of Concordia a sun-kissed flower of rare beauty and brilliant promise.
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Correspondence solicited.

Address, CONCORDIA, KANS.

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY.

CITY OF CONCORDIA.

Mayor, J. Green.
Clerk, Wm. M. Peck.
Treasurer, W. W. Bowman.
Engineer, Geo. Gregg.
Police Judge, O. P. Ramsay.
Chief of Police, C. Archer.
Attorney, Park B. Pulssifer.
Street Commissioner, W. A. Dennis.

COUNCILMEN.
1st Ward, F. L. Holcomb.
2nd Ward, E. E. Swearngin.
3rd Ward, F. A. Larocque.
4th Ward, Jos. Lesage.

CLOUD COUNTY.

Treasurer, D. M. Stackhouse.
Clerk, Chas. Proctor.
Clerk of District Court, C. F. Hostettler.
Register of Deeds, W. C. Whipp.
Surveyor, Samuel Doran.
Attorney, J. W. Sheafor.
Sup't Public Instruction, T. W. Roach.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

FRANK WILSON, Wm. Bramwell.
Baker County.