Che Bloomfield Cimes.

Tuesday, February 27, 1872.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

COMMUNICATED. Something About Kansas. Garnett, Anderson co., Kansa

February 12, 1872.

Mr. Editor-Let Kansas be what she may, in point of soil, timber, water and all things else, she is now the land of attraction, and to-day she can boast of a larger emigration than any other State in the Union; but the question is, does her good qualities entitle her to such an influx ?-We answer, her soil is unsurpassed, her timber is as plentiful and good in quality as can be found in any of the Prairie States. Water is plenty, and generally good, the climate is altogether better than any of the Northern or Eastern States, so that the State is deserving of all she receives, but with all her natural facilities, a man is very much mistaken, if he thinks he can come to Kansas and live on wind, (though they have plenty of it). He must work here, as well as elsewhere, to make a living. But a man can succeed in Kausas with much less labor than he could in a heavily wooded country. It is a very rare occurrence to find a person dissatisfied with the country, who has come here with the intention of doing his part. Occasionally we meet with a man who sighs for the flesh-pots of the East, though he is always of that class whom indolence has compelled to eat poor meat all his life. As the East is densely populated, so that the people must scatter out somewhere, and the location of our State is such as to attract a large share of emigrants. We have this much to say, however, that now is the time to secure a good and cheap home, it can't be done a few

years hence. We will now speak of the CLIMATE, SOIL, &C.

The seasons are usually mild and free from great extremes either of heat or cold, the weather changing almost imperceptibly as one season follows another. The winters are very short, frost appearing about the middle of October, there is seldom hard feezing before the middle or latter part of December which continues only till the middle or latter part of February. The lowest temperature ever known here, being ten degrees below zero. Spring, which is attended with copious rains, is long and gradually merges into summer, which is deprived of its oppressive heat by perpetual breezes, the sultry nights of the East being unknown here.

The general appearance of this country is unsurpassed for beauty, presenting to view high rolling Prairies separated by broad, sloping valleys, which are watered by numerous timber skirted streams. The soil consists of from one to six feet of loam, supported by a stratum of surface clay several feet in thickness. These surface clays being composed of silicious marl, can be made as useful for purposes of agri culture, as the surface soil or loam.

The productiveness of the soil is indicated by the rank growth of the rosin this part of Kansas, embrace all those of the Northern States, and some peculiar to the Southern latitudes, such as Apricots, Sweet Potatoes, &c. Many farmers who have resided in the Southern States raise considerable quantities of cotton for domestic use, although it is not made an article of commerce. Wheat, Oats and other small grains succeed well. Corn is grown in abundance, with little cultivation, while the various tame grasses grow luxuriantly. Peaches are never known to fail. Apples, Pears, Plums, and with proper care, Cherries do well. Grapes so far as tried have proved a success, with the exception of one or two varieties. Many believe that grapes and wine will soon become important among the products of this region.

Stock raising, to which the country and climate are peculiarly adapted, is an important branch of industry, and destined to become a great source of wealth. The Prairies do-and will for years to comefurnish grazing in summer, and hay for winter feeding for vast herds of cattle .-The expenses of stock raising is very small, inasmuch as the feeding season is so short, and feed so readily procured.

Wool growing, which is attracting the attention of farmers, promises well; those conditions which render cattle raising so profitable, being equally favorable to the raising of Sheep. Persons who have kept Sheep here, believe that they are less liable to diseases than in most other places.

This part of Kansas is pretty liberally supplied with timber, such as Cottonwood, Sycamore, hard and soft Maple, Eim, Box Alder, Wild Cherry, Buckeye, Locust, different varieties of Oak, Hickory, Cedar, Walnut, Coffee Bean, Hackberry, Linn, Ash, &c.

Coal of good quality, exists here and ih almost inexhaustible quantities, and is easily obtained, being found in beds varying in thickness from ten inches to four feet. It burns freely with a clear flame, leaves but Sittle cinder, and contains but a small po-

portion of sulphur, which renders many kinds of coal so unpleasant.

Much care has been taken in Kansas to perfect the system of common schools. From my door I can see four school houses all within three miles. I came here in September, 1870, "homesteaded" eighty acres of land. There is quite a settlement here, all homestenders like myself, and all very enterprising men. Much attention is given to raising fruit and setting out groves of forest trees. Some of us have from six to fourteen hundred apple trees, and as many peach trees set out. Last season peaches sold at from 25 cents to \$1.00 per bushel.

I left Perry county, Pa., three years ago for Missouri, but finding that it was not the place for me to find a good cheap home, instead of going back to Pennsylvania, as many do, I came on to Kansas, and consider myself very fortunate in so doing. I would gladly welcome some of my friends and acquaintances from Perry, but have not felt any desire to get back to Perry to stay among the rocks and hills.

Yours, &c., B. F. REIBER.

1872

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