The Bloomfield Cimes.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all person who are interested in matters properly belonsing to this de-partment.

THE GREAT LIMESTONE BELT OF KANSAS. The Attractive Region of the West.

BY MAJOR II. INMAN.

The "Great Central Plains," are a geographical feature of the State of Kansas. Covered with a remarkably nutritious vegetation, for centuries they were an immense pasturage for countless herds of buffalo, antelope and other ruminating animals whose habitat was the far stratching green available that to were an immense pasturage for countless herds of buffalo, antelope and other ruminating animals whose habitat was the far stretching green prairies that to-day form one of the most beautiful agricultural portions of the Mississippi Valley. Less than ten years ago this region was believed by the mass of the people in the East to be an unprofitable desert, but is now the acknowledged garden of the continent. This truly magnificent country can claim the most luxurant soil of all the "Great West," and a climate that approaches perfection at least. Dr. B. E. Fryer, one of the most eminent surgeons in the army, and who was stationed for years at Fort Harker, four miles from the town of Ellsworth, declared this to be "the most perfect climate in the world." The whole country is traversed by a series of constant streams, sweet and wholesome springs and spring-fed pools. Delicious water is also always obtained in wells, by digging, at easily accessible depths. It is already conceded that the United States is rapidly becoming the granary of the world, particularly in the production of wheat. Kansas, an empire in itself, is taking the lead in the culture of this cereal, and in a short time will be acknowledged queen of all the States in the production of this great staple. The State, especially her peculiarly wonderful fertile central area, comprised in what is now known as the "limestone belt," under the test of only a few years, has proved to the world the immense average its soil is capable of. Each year increases the limit of the wheat belt, as the frontier is pushed towards the mountains, within which are found the greatest possibilities agriculturally.

It is a remarkable fact that nearly all the lands of the Kansas Pacific Peliway

culturally.

It is a remarkable fact that nearly all the lands of the Kansas Pacific Railway are included in the limestone region are included in the limestone region under consideration, and that south of this limit, in that direction, it ceases altogether, and the country presents another geological formation, the soil of which is very sandy, and which, though at present from follness of its very primitiveness is capable of producing good crops in seasons of abundant rainfall, lacks the inherent qualities of self-fertilization and must rapidly deteriorate. In this particular the Smoky Hill Valley is immensely superior to the arenacious lands of the region south which is drainlands of the region south which is drained by the Arkansas and tributary streams. It is well known by every farmer that lime in some of its combinations, constitutes the essential inof the constitutes the essential in-gredient in all the more valuable grains and grasses. Its presence in the soil is consequently to be considered as a con-dition of fertility. It also acts as a con-stitutional ameliorant of much power, and when mixed with, or, underlying tough or viscid clays it renders them tough or viscid clays it renders them friable and consequently more susceptible to the action of atmospheric forces. Soil in which there is a due admixture of calcareous matter is not so liable to be injured or rendered plastic by an excess of moisture while under crop. The quality of the wheat raised in this great "limestone belt" is conceded in all markets to be the finest grade known. It produces the familiar brands of so-called Southern flour for which St. Louis called Southern flour for which St. Louis is justly celebrated. This is easily necounted for from the fact that the soil in which the wheat is grown possesses a due admixture of calcareous matter, due admixture of calcareous matter, which has a tendency to make the hull of the grain much thinner, and the farina itself in much greater quantity, and in richer quality than in grain grown on the lands which exhibit a deficiency of this earth. All our millers will testify to the peculiar flour-making properties of our wheat in this essential surpassing that raised in other sections, and it is attributed entirely to the fact—which the analysis of the soil confirms—that this so-called "limestone belt" possesses all the requisities of the best wheat land in the world. Sand, it is well known, is injurious when it enters too largely into the composition of cultivated soils; in other words, it is useless beyond a certain proportion. That the "limestone belt," or "wonderful wheat region of Central Kansas," as it is sometimes called, has the amount of silex or silica—the basis of sand—fixed in the proper -the basis of sand-fixed in the proper —the basis of sand—fixed in the proper proportion, is evident from the fact that it requires peculiar conditions to "lodge" the grain in the field even after the most terrific showers. Considering the question of the relative fertility, particularly in its connection with wheat culture; present richness of soil and endurance must enter as essential elements of success, and the capacity of the self-fertilization of the land, an ingredient not to be overlooked. The latter quality a limestone region alone can possess, as not to be overlooked. The latter quality a limestone region alone can possess, as only a limited knowledge of agricultural chemistry clearly demonstrates. Viewing the subject of wheat culture, then, in all its aspects, so far as Kansas is concerned, an inspection of the Smoky Hill Valley, and the arenaceous region south, coupled with a fair lidea of what the culture of wheat requires, the conclusion can lead only in one direction—to the infinitely superior advantage of the "limestone belt."

Prospectively from purely physical causes, this great inland region must reach the position of one of the richest agricultural portions of the United States. Only a very few years ago—not a decade—husbandry here was purely tenative. From absolutely nodew, eight years ago, this region is as favored in that porticular asany that can be named. From lying outside of the "rain belt," so termed, their region has had to be a limestone region alone can possess,

"taken in." The quantity of water in the streams has augmented, springs have burst forth where none existed before—in short, just the converse of that meteorological phenomenon has been evolved here, under the march of civilization, which takes in a heavily timdered country under the same social conditions.

tions.

The following statistics of the rainfall clearly prove the accuracy of the forgoing statements:

The fall of Rain and Melted Snow, In inches, at Forts, Hays, Larned and Dodge, for the last five years, as shown by the Daily Meteorological Records kept by the United States Government

YEAR. 5 873 874 870 877	Fort Haps, 21.52 37.06 32.08 36.90 35.40	Ft. Larned. 19.23 27.73 17.80 18.49 31.89	Ft. Dodge, 19.06 23.05 16.36 21.55 31.48
Total	102.93	115.14	111.44

02.59 23.09 These are some of the facts in relation to the agricultural possibilities of this region, and these, coupled with the story of the past harvest, are sufficiently con-

of the past harvest, are sufficiently confirmatory of the inducements this portion of the Great Plains offer.

Under the liberal policy of the government, and the Kansas Pacific Railway Company, immigrants are invited to this really superb region with the assurance that its beauty and inducements cannot be exaggerated by any pen picture. For further information about Kansas, and especially the region described, address Land Commissioner, Salina, Kansas. Salina, Kansas.

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