

# The Kansas Spirit

A JOURNAL OF HOME

AND HUSBANDRY.

"PLOUGH DEEP WHILE SLUGGARDS SLEEP."—Franklin.

VOLUME 1.

LAWRENCE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 10, 1872.

NUMBER 2.

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## Contributed Articles.

### LAND GRANTS TO RAILROADS.

BY JOHN T. SCOTT.

FOR THE KANSAS SPIRIT.

It has become very much the fashion, of late, to denounce the policy of granting land subsidies to aid in the construction of railroads, as detrimental to the interests of the laboring classes, and threatening danger, at some future time, to the peace and prosperity of the country. We are told, on the one hand, that all the unoccupied portion of the public domain should be reserved as homes for the landless poor who crowd the older and more densely peopled districts of our country; and on the other hand, that the railroad companies will eventually become great landed monopolies, farming out vast estates to a poor and dependent tenantry, with all the evils which the experience of other times and countries has shown to be inseparable from such a system.

It is not proposed to discuss the first of these propositions, further than to suggest that much might be said on the other side—many wise and good men holding that the advantages offered by the construction of these great modern civilizers more than counterbalances the enhanced cost of the land, even to the poorest purchaser. In regard to the other, it may be safely said, that the danger is purely imaginary.

The apprehension of a great landed aristocracy founded upon these grants, is utterly groundless, for the very good reason, if for no other, that it would be impossible for any corporation, especially a foreign one, as most of these railroad corporations are, to hold the land in large bodies—pay the enormous taxes imposed upon them, and so manage them as to make it a paying investment. It could not be done, and no company has ever shown a disposition to try the experiment. On the contrary, their uniform policy has been to sell the land rapidly, and to the greatest possible number of purchasers.

There is probably no railroad in Kansas that is paying to-day, or ever has paid, interest on the cost of its construction; and the sole reason is found in the sparsely settled and undeveloped condition of the country.

It is the local trade and travel that furnishes to railroads their most profitable business. It is estimated that each inhabitant of the country tributary to any given line, pays to the road, directly and indirectly, ten dollars per annum.

In almost every portion of Kansas now penetrated by railroads, the population is so thinly scattered, and the area in cultivation comparatively so small, that the local business has never yet reached a paying amount.

All this is well known to the corporations which control these roads, and which have never been accused of lacking sagacity, however destitute they may be of souls. They fully recognize that they have much more to gain, pecuniarily, by the sale of the land and the consequent settlement and development of the country, than they could hope for in any other way. Hence, so far from desiring to hold their lands with the view of creating great baronial estates, they spare no pains or expense, by the employment of local agencies, and the most liberal system of advertising, to bring them to the notice of those seeking homes in the State, to whom they offer extraordinary inducements in the way of time, terms of payment and facilities for the transportation of themselves and their chattels.

A fair illustration of the foregoing statements may be found in the liberal policy adopted by our Leavenworth, Lawrence & Galveston Railroad, one of the half dozen land grant roads in the State.

This company has a congressional grant, technically covering ten sections to the mile from Lawrence to the south line of the State; and also a grant from the State of 125,000 acres. Under the first of these the company was entitled to receive about 865,000 acres, or an aggregate, including both grants, of nearly one million acres; practically, however, it receives just about half this amount. The original grant took effect May 3, 1863. Prior to this all of Douglas county, nearly all of Franklin, a large proportion of Anderson, and considerable bodies in Allen county, had been entered up or otherwise disposed of, and of course diminished the

railroad grant by the amount so taken out of its area.

Owing to the war and other causes of delay, the construction of the road was not begun for several years subsequent to the date of the grant, and has been only recently completed; and as the title of the land was contingent upon the building of the road, the company has but lately been in a position to put it in the market. A few months ago a general office was established at Tioga, and local agencies at all the principal points within the practical limits of the grant, and the lands, having been previously classified and appraised, were offered for sale on terms that could not fail to secure ready purchasers. Up to this time nearly 50,000 acres and in quantities rarely exceeding one quarter section to each.

As before stated, these lands have been reserved from sale since 1863. Selected at this early date, they include much of the choicest prairie land in Anderson, Allen, and the counties south; while, in the meantime, the adjacent government lands have all been occupied and improved. It thus happens that the immigrant locating upon these lands enjoys a double advantage—he secures choice land at a reasonable price, and at the same time finds himself contiguous to thriving towns, and surrounded by churches, schools, and all the appliances of moral and intellectual culture, the absence of which is generally the greatest privation of pioneer life.

That the company is not only willing to sell the land, but anxious to sell to those who will occupy and improve it, is sufficiently shown by the line of policy adopted in regard to its disposal. It is sold on credit, at low rates of interest as interest goes in the West, and the earlier payments are so inconsiderable that the poorest need not hesitate to purchase, while the purchaser who is able to command means may use it in such a way as to pay his installments all the way through, and in the end leave his capital intact. Where considerable bodies are taken for actual settlement, as in the case of colonies, not only are special terms given on the land, but in the way of transportation every facility is afforded which the most exacting could demand. To advertise its land, and the State as well, this company spends money without stint, both in printing at home and in the employment of traveling agents who penetrate every corner of the country with their circulars, and placard with their posters the walls of every railroad depot from Maine to Georgia.

What has been said of the Leavenworth, Lawrence & Galveston, may be said with equal truth of all the other land grant roads in the State. They are all equally desirous to secure the sale and settlement of their lands, thereby promoting the growth and prosperity of the State. For this purpose, and to advertise the resources of Kansas, they have spent more money, ten times over, than the State itself has ever expended for a like purpose. In the light of these facts it must be apparent that the great land monopolies, dangerous to the liberties of the people and detrimental to the interests of the State, is a false and abusive as it is unjust. Whatever may be thought of the land grant policy itself, there can be no question that the railroads built in Kansas by means of it, have done more than all other agencies combined to settle and develop the State. Kansas is indebted for her growth and prosperity—unprecedented in the history of new States—to her magnificent system of railroads; a system which, without these land subsidies, could not have reached its present proportions within the lifetime of this generation.

### THE STATE FOR HORSES.

The cattle men must look to their laurels. Andy Wilson will be eclipsed if he does not look out. His short horns are hard to beat. But Sprague is here with a hundred thoroughbreds. Ogden is here with some of his choice Kentucky blood. Reynolds has one little scrubby colt that he wants five thousand dollars for, besides plenty more of the same sort down in Howard County. We all know what Challis, and Akers and Tough and Jennison, and others have been doing heretofore. But with these new comers the horses threaten to lead.

### BEANS.

BY JAMES HANWAY.

FOR THE KANSAS SPIRIT.

I hope no person in casting his eyes on the above caption will be so inconsiderate as to suppose for a moment that I am so profane as to speak of beans as an article which has entered into the "commercial politics" of Kansas. Not at all. Although I have not forgotten the funeral oration which was delivered by a gentleman from Leavenworth in the city of Topeka on a certain occasion, when he said, "Now let the body be lowered in the grave, and cover it all over with beans, and there let it rest." I am glad to hear, Mr. Editor, that you have exchanged political for agricultural editorship, and that therefore the gentleman who has heretofore received some hard usage from your hands as a politician, must henceforth be treated with the respect due him as farmer.

But my object is to call the attention of the reader to the fact that that great man of antiquity, Pythagoras, advised his fellow-mortals to "abstain from beans." This was a maxim of Pythagoras, and was given to the people for their guidance. At first this maxim seems somewhat obscure, but when we examine Plutarch and other writers who have given us so many interesting facts concerning our ancient progenitors, the Greeks and Romans, we find that this maxim was well understood in the days it was spoken. For while the Athenians cast their votes by depositing a shell, other nations made use of beans, which were black and white, and thus the maxim, "Abstain from beans," evidently was to be understood as a warning against frequenting popular assemblies. Whether the beans in question were horse beans, kidney beans, cranberry beans, navy beans or Lima beans, history does not inform us, and perhaps it matters but little, so that they were of two colors—black and white.

Last spring I planted a small bag of beans in my garden. They were direct from the Agricultural Department, imported from Europe, and what was equally interesting they had a name designating their genera; which I have forgotten. I attended to them with extra care. As they blossomed I thought to myself I had years ago observed a flower very similar, but yet I was in doubt. At last they matured, and to my horror and disgust I found them to be the old horse bean, which is cultivated in Europe for horses and hogs. I sat upon the ground and smiled, and before I arose the maxim of my old friend Pythagoras involuntarily presented itself to my mind—"Abstain from beans."

Proverbs, it is well known, were frequently spoken in a figurative sense, as for example, "In the tempest, adore the echo," which doubtless was intended to mean, during civil broils and popular commotions, retire from the cities and places of popular resort to the country, where alone "the echo" would be heard. Again, "Stir not the fire with the sword," meaning do not irritate minds already inflamed—and excellent proverb which if attended to on every occasion would free us from many a useless lawsuit and much bitter feeling. A philosopher of Tarsus advised the Emperor Augustus to always repeat the twenty-four letters of the Greek alphabet before he gave way to the impulse of passion. It may be doubted if the Emperor always adhered to this wholesome advice. Three of the maxims of Chilo, a Spartan philosopher and one of the seven wise men of Greece, were inscribed in letters of gold in the temple of Delphi. They were, "know thyself," "desire nothing too much," and "misery is the sure companion of debt and strife." These maxims contain the purest principles of morality, and are as worthy of remembrance now, as the day they were first spoken.

There is no art, nor cunning, nor device, nor strength, nor wit, nor wisdom, by which a man can keep the heat of summer or the cold of winter from sifting into the cracks of his house; and a woman's influence in the household, if she be not stormy and violent, if she be gentle, and especially if she be artful, sifts itself into a man's life as summer air or wintry frost into a house. There is nothing to resist it. One cannot fight the circumambient atmosphere; and yet a man might as well attempt to put it from him, as to attempt to put from him that influence which is at his bosom; which is at his board; which is in his bed; which is in his morning; which is in his noon; which is in his night; which comes at all unwatched moments, and at all times of weakness; which has a pressure that is almost atmospheric.

Miscellaneous Correspondence.

APICULTURE.

EDITOR SPIRIT: You have kindly offered me a column or less in THE SPIRIT through which to make known to its readers the importance of bee-keeping as a branch of husbandry.

The history of bee-keeping is not very full. In the Bible mention is made many times of honey, as though it was one of the foremost products of the time.

There are many yet who believe in the superstitious notion that there is luck in bee-keeping. But under intelligent practice results are just as certain as in any other pursuit.

A POLITE HINT.

MR. EDITOR: Your "Gossip from the Farm" has tempted me to give a hint of what I think should be at Hillhome as an addition to its many conveniences.

A PLEA FOR THE GIRLS.

EDITOR SPIRIT: Why should not old young ladies keep their age to themselves? Their youth is their market value.

Every good pomologist knows that all apples do not ripen at the same age. A Romanite six months old is younger than an Early Harvest one week old from the tree.

A VINEGAR STORY.

EDITOR SPIRIT: Miles away from even so necessary an attendant of civilization as a grocery-store, lived in early times in the Sucker State an industrious pioneer farmer.

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On and after January 1st, 1872, trains will run from Lawrence and Kansas City as follows:

Table with columns: Leave, Express, Accommodation, Night Exp. Rows include Lawrence, Baldwin, Kansas City, Ottawa, Garnett, Iola, Humboldt, Tioga, Thayer, Cherryvale, Independence, Coffeyville, Parker.

Table with columns: Leave, Express, Accommodation, Night Exp. Rows include Parker, Independence, Coffeyville, Cherryvale, Thayer, Tioga, Humboldt, Iola, Garnett, Ottawa, Kansas City, Baldwin, Lawrence.

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true? I knew that his cleverness and his conscience would fill up the blank. And to-day I have heard it is true; and my poor children write to me through their aunt in ecstasies about their new uncle. Mrs. Forrester, which of us is the one most to be pitied?

I was in deep household distress myself, but when I looked at the gray, haggard look which had crept like a cloud over her brilliant beauty during the narration, I could not conscientiously lay claim to competing with her in misery. I still had Edgar to turn to.

"What will you do now?" I asked. "Seek for a situation," she said, curtly; "do anything—keep a shop if I can." A bright thought struck me. I said to her: "Why should you not turn your bonnet-making talent to account? Take one room in town for a show-room until your bonnets remunerate you, and stay with us till you can afford a house of your own."

"You won't turn me out—you'll trust me yet a little longer?" she said, with tears in her eyes. "Indeed we will."

"Then I have an additional incentive to be up and doing," she said, rising up and throwing up her arms as if she was throwing off a weight of care; "if you had turned against me it would have crushed me, I believe; but, as it is, I will work so well, and I will work at once—what will your husband say?"

"Being a man, he won't say that he always told me so," I said, laughing; "but he did think that a man would have gone to work in a more business-like way than I did."

"And if you had gone to work in a business-like way, as you call it, I should have been disentangled from my web of deception all the sooner," she said, thoughtfully; "it's too late now to tell you that honesty is the best policy; but, for your future guidance, Flo, let me tell you that it was the touch of pretentiousness in your manner which misled me. I should n't have put you to such expenses, had n't I fancied that expense was no object to you?"

My tale is told now. "Miss Cleveland" was put on her metal to redeem herself in our eyes, and as she had no fancy to be regarded as an adventuress, she did it nobly. Her millinery establishment is the first in town now, and people who are not in our secret wonder how it is that she always takes care that unimportant have the prettiest and newest of her bonnets and mantles. Her children are under her own wing now, and she looks back with a shudder to the time when, "for their good," as she thought, she was ready to sacrifice herself and their father's memory to the heartless man who led her into a false position.

As for ourselves, we have never answered any more advertisements; and as the children are growing up, I am able to decrease my establishment, and work harder at my art. I have sold off the Persian rugs, and reinstated the Venuses and plants, and my drawing-room is again the delight of my eyes and the pride of my heart—the head-center, so to say, of all manner of unconventional incongruities. Whatever my difficulties with my bills are now, I refrain from mentioning them, for fear of Edgar counselling me, with a laugh, to take a short cut to fortune by looking out for a young lady who wants a home.

FUN AND FROLIC.

Nebraska courtships average three hours and a half in length. Alexis is said to draw well, paint tolerably, and to be a clever musician, a good shot, and a capital swordsman. It was an Irishman who wanted to find a place where there was no death, that he might go and end his days there.

"My dear sir, I will pay you in time, and since time is money the longer you wait the surer you will be of your pay."

"Al!" mused Smith, as he contemplated his extensive collection of New-Year's bills, "how true it is that in the midst of life we are in debt!"

A saloon in Watertown, N. Y., has conspicuously posted: "Vitals cooked here." That is the business of saloons generally. Some shops we know of have got their "vitals" pretty well cooked.

FARMERS' DRESS.

A farmer while laboring is brought into pretty close intimacy with dirt, and his clothes should correspond with his labor. To wear fine cloth and clean linen while at work in the field, would be highly inappropriate; but when he rides into town with his family, or to market his produce, it would elevate his calling in the estimation of the world, if he were a little more careful of his appearance.

THE OLD "NUMBER FOUR" PLOW.

Last time I returned to my father's plantation The elm-shaded landscape was visibly green, The breezes were filled with the sweet exhalation Of flowers, and song, and the sky was serene. My spirit rejoiced in the beauty of summer, And the fancy took flights unattempted before, But suddenly sank when I saw a new comer Had taken the place of old Number Four.

My joy was dispelled by the shadows of sorrow As all the reverses arose to my view Since guiding that plow, with its share like an arrow, Its iron-bound beam and its handles of blue, How oft in the field, when the crimson of morning Made golden the mist on night's shadowy shore, As wood robins welcomed the daylight's returning I turned the brown furrows with old Number Four.

And all the day blessed with the thrilling reflection That soon as the eventide slowly drew near, By chance I would meet with the blushing perfection Of golden-haired Annie, the tenderly dear; And wander with her, in the beauty a sharer, 'Neath roseate skies round earth's flowery floor, Till earth seemed to fade, and the heavens come nearer The fields that were furrowed by old Number Four.

Perhaps, after all, 't is this rose of our spirits, Plucked out from life's wormwood, yet gathered in vain, That gives the old plow such a halo of merits, Being mingled with joys that return not again. Yet thought fondly turns from life's wearisome changes, And beats for the beauty that blessed it of yore: Yea, love's to contemplate, wherever it ranges, The rapture connected with old Number Four.

THE HOUSE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.

"More than building showy mansion, More than dress or fine array, More than domes or lofty steeples, More than station, power and sway, Make your home both neat and tasteful, Bright and pleasant, always fair, Where each heart shall rest, contented, Grateful for each beauty there."

"Show me the house he lives in and I will tell you the character of the man," is a saying embodying much truth but which too few, especially among our American farmers, appear to comprehend. A mean house as surely exerts a debasing influence upon the minds of its inmates, and a pleasant, attractive house an ennobling influence, as a frown depresses or a smile lightens the spirit of childhood. In the planning and construction of a house, while becoming reference should be had to outward attractiveness and for the exercise of hospitality—from which we derive many of our choicest pleasures—the chief aim should be to make a home for the family, and not to gratify a false pride or the public eye. It is not the sum invested in a dwelling, but the neatness, taste and conveniences which it embodies, and its adaptation to the circumstances and wants of its owner that constitute its true harmony and beauty.

The surroundings of the house should be characterized with like neatness and taste. Trees, shrubs, hedges, vines and flowers, abounding with strips of refreshing green—all these are essential. They make any home more attractive and lovely, and cause the sentiments of love and beauty to sprout in the heart, like the very leaves and buds themselves. How few realize that

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever," or stop to consider what a powerful association lies hidden in every simple but familiar object, like a bush, a tree, a rustic seat or vase, a bit of grass or a border of flowers. They are objects which hold us almost as steadily and strongly to home as wife and children, to whom they are closely allied.

In a home such as we here plead for there is wealth of beauty, comfort and happiness. The children in their daily life exemplify the beautiful thought that "Heaven lies about us in our infancy," and all the members of the household realize "There's no such place as home," while it attracts proper associates for the children and entertaining guests for the older ones. A home the reverse of this lies under a cloud of adverse influences certain to produce unhappy results. Parental neglect to beautify and embellish home has driven thousands of sons and daughters far away from "the old homestead," to which, otherwise, their natural affections and interests would have securely bound them.

"Scenes must be beautiful which daily view'd Please daily, and whose novelty survives Long knowledge and the scrutiny of years."

FISH CULTURE.

Mr. Hammond of Cook county, Illinois, has made extensive preparations for the propagation of fish on his farm about three miles from Elgin. The Prairie Farmer has an interesting article on the subject of fish raising, giving full particulars of Mr. Hammond's experiments. He has fifteen thousand trout, growing like little pigs. He has also a thousand and salmon eggs and fifty thousand trout eggs in process of hatching. Next year he intends to begin the raising of black bass. He has so far succeeded better than his Eastern neighbors engaged in the same business.

BUCOLIC BREVITIES.

Horse radish is a fiery steed. The queen of spades is a gardener's wife. A horse is lightest when he is a ray, sir—(racer.) The best way to keep potatoes from freezing, is to bake them for breakfast. A Connecticut farmer says the Swedes, young men and women, make the best farm help he can find. The Chestnut, we see it asserted, has proved a failure in Kansas. We do not believe it. Who can tell us?—Moore's Rural New Yorker. We can tell you. It has not.

Buckwheat cakes are a favorite article for the winter breakfast-table. Properly cooked, they are wholesome for most persons. They abound in heat-giving elements, are nutritious, and keep away hunger longer than almost any other kind of food. A Mr. Bidwell of South Haven, Mich., so the papers say, has made a most successful experiment in the culture of figs. He has three hundred trees in a fine, healthy condition, and has raised two crops, yielding a handsome profit. Figs flourish remarkably in our sister State of Arkansas; and why may they not do so in Kansas? Certainly the soil is better than that of Arkansas, and the climate more favorable than that of Michigan.

"GOULD CLAY" AND "LEOPOLD." These CELEBRATED STALLIONS will be managed the coming season by Mr. W. S. WELLS, and their service can be secured as follows, by the season: "GOULD CLAY," - - - \$25.00 "LEOPOLD," - - - \$15.00 "GOULD CLAY'S" PEDIGREE. He was sired by "Cassius M. Clay, Jr.," dam by "Ethan Allen," granddam by "Imported Glencoe."

"LEOPOLD'S" PEDIGREE. Sire, the "Ives Colt," a famous Wisconsin horse by "Old Bell-fondler," dam by "Imported Glencoe." He has a record inside of 2:40 on the Milwaukee track. He is a large and sure foal-getter. These horses are the property of the Editor of THE KANSAS SPIRIT. Communications respecting them may be addressed to him or to W. S. WELLS.

100 BERKSHIRE & ESSEX PIGS. I have the choicest stock of pigs of these bloods to be found in this region. In addition to the splendid stock on hand previously, I have purchased the entire lot formerly owned by E. A. Smith, and selected by him with the greatest care and expense. I will furnish unrelated pairs, boxed free, and WARRANTED PURE, FOR \$25.00 THE PAIR. None of the boars from which they spring have cost less than one hundred dollars each, and some much more. Also, a few Suffolk. Address the Editor of THE KANSAS SPIRIT.

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