

No one wonders that so well a developed agricultural state as ours should have an agricultural college; but a great many persons are surprised that anyone should attend such a college. Kansas people are always surprising the rest of the world; they are always doing what no ~~one~~ would ever think or care or dare to do.

None but the people of our State would expect a man, with no possessions but the clothes on his back, and in debt for them, to move on to an unimproved farm and before his life is ended become a rich man. None but our people would expect a state, comparatively so young, to be one of the leaders in National affairs, or to be looked to as a standard in morality and industry; to be the center of political agitation, or produce men who are the bosses of our political parties, and authority on anything concerning our Union. No, none but Kansas people would even dare produce such politicians as she has during the past few years.

But Kansas has things of which she is proud. She is proud of her name; a name that can never be forgotten, won by staunch stem men who worked for liberty and right; first on the battle field, and first to forgive and forget when the war was over. She is proud of as great men as were ever heard in the halls of Congress, of their fidelity, and truth, and manliness that made them fight for the cause they knew was right till they won. She is proud of her wealth, her soil, an oasis that has risen in the midst of a desert and proven itself worthy of a worthy people.

The schools of our state are what we are most proud of. They have been made so numerous and free that if any one has a will he need not despair of getting an education. In them science and practice are so blended that no student is familiar with one without the other. Enough science is taught to make a foothold for practice, and together they form a firm foundation for a noble life work.

In such schools as this one the

orator or politician is an individual that
 is seldom bound. But that is no sign we
 are not interested in the politics of our
 State. The inhabitants of our State are in-
 telligent enough to know which is of more
 benefit to us, the orator, who can reach our
 both hands and draw in crowds
 to hear him tell in eloquent speeches what
 we have done and what we should do,
 or the man who reaches our both hands
 and does what we have done and what
 we should do. Our students form cit-
 izens that are worthy of the name, ones
 that recognize in Kansas a National helper,
 and in her soil qualities that are unsur-
 passed; Citizens who will help, in line
 and help raise still higher the Kansas
 banner by raising the standards of
 the American citizen in Kansas.

The orator, politician, and states-
 man each has his place in history, but
 the progress our politicians and statesmen
 have made of late is not a desirable one.
 Today they are on the same level as every
 other politician in the Union; party first
 and Country second. When our political lead-

us follow the example of Washington,
 and appoint to the place of highest trust
 and honor the man who most deserves
 it, though he be a Thomas Jefferson, then
 will our political have made one step in
 advance, and no longer will it be said
 "to the victor belongs the spoil," as though
 when a man is elected he has conquered
 some great army, instead of having an
 honor tendered him by the people, with his
 oath to perform the duties to the best of
 his ability. The eyes of the continent are
 today upon us to see what turn we
 will make in politics. If Kansas would
 have her immortal name go down on the
 pages of history as capable of solving the
 knotty problems of politics now is her
 time to do it.

But while our politicians are at
 work the rest of the state need not be
 idle. We also need practically educated
 men. The realities of life or the resources
 of a state are not developed by the
 eloquence of orators or by the everlasting
 howl of politicians, but by the practical
 scientist, trained physically, mentally

and intellectually in the every day work of life; and skilled in the undertakings that lie at the foundation of life.

By the practical application of Kansas science, the products of Kansas fertile soils are wrested from its grasp in such quantity as to supply the mines of the west, who dig for his wealth; the manufacturers of the east who toil in the smoke and dust for his bread; and the managers of the railroads that gird the globe. Kansas sweeps in in return the money that improves her state and fills her coffers, while all that she ships out is consumed in a single year.

Until recent years not a home was found in the western half of our State. It was supposed to be an arid desert, fit only for the Indian and coyote, on which nothing would grow except buffalo-grass and cactus, and it was supposed that if it did not rain soon they would have to seek a situation elsewhere. But all it needed was men who had energy enough to go there and farm it, when it was found to be as truly Kansas soil as the eastern part.

of the State. The eastern farmer has now become jealous of his western brother, who with the true spirit of Kansans, declares if the divine hand is stayed that it cannot supply the needed moisture, he will make his own rain. He will bombard the heavens and send his cry of distress to the sky, till the clouds will burst forth and shed tears of pity, in showers that will gladden his heart; and it can be said of the whole State, that the desert in the midst of our Union, has been wiped away and the garden of Eden has taken its place. Then will be fulfilled the saying that the house of the Indian, the fur-trader, the Ute, the cowboy, the coyote, the buffalo, the Texas steers, the grasshopper, the chinch bug, the buffalo-grass, the dugout, the drought, and hard times has given way to Christian homes and enlightened people.

You ask: Why has Kansas made so much greater advancement than her states? Why does she have such an exalted position? or why is her name so prominent? It is caused by two things, her people and her soil.

Kansas began the war six years before the Nation fired a shot, and when the call was made for arms, Kansas was found to be already in the field, to battle for right, and suppress an evil that was a curse to humanity. Is it any wonder that such a people, a people that will win the victory before the command is given to charge, should be a nucleus about which the rest of the world should gather and look to for the promotion of the principles that should be supported.

The development of a state that puts her dependence in mines, or manufactures, or oil wells is necessarily slow and uncertain, for a mine may become exhausted, or a fire may destroy a whole factory in a single night, or a whole oil system may cease to flow. But Kansas puts her confidence in the soil, a vast territory of fertile land that may be increased in productivity each year it is cultivated. Kansas does not own an exhausted field or a worn-out acre. Her land is today more fertile than it ever was before and with the earnestness of Kansas people it will ever remain so.

Kansas is an agricultural State, though she has some highly valued manufactures and paying factories, yet when compared with the products of her soil they seem as nothing. Her products for a single year exceed the gold and silver mines of the world, they would form a train from New York to San Francisco, from San Francisco to to Hong Kong, from there to Liverpool, thence to New York, completing the round encircling the globe, and still she would have enough left to supply her own people.

But Kansas has not yet reached her zenith. Only one-fourth of her 52,000,000 acres which may be successfully cultivated has yet felt the refining influence of the plow. Multiply the development of to-day by four, add to this a like increase for her factories, mines, and other industries and you will have some idea of what is expected of our State by the rising generation. We will have within our grasp more wealth than is controlled by some nations, and yet it is all ours.

From the grand promises for her increase in wealth Kansas has bright

prospects for the future, but her brightest prospects and her noblest hopes are from the fact that she does not place this as first importance. Her people care nothing for the wealth if they cannot become educated, intelligent and refined citizens, citizens that will be an honor to their State and Nation. With such a people, who have a character, that cannot be shaken, and who have the advantages of modern Kansas science to apply to modern Kansas soil. who will dare deny that we are and of right ought to be the happiest people that inhabit the globe.

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