



EASTERN MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS.

Want of reliable information regarding the vast country contiguous to the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway is the only reason why a large percentage of the immigration that is flowing to the drouthy and enervating regions of the extreme South and Southwest, and to the States lying west of Missouri, have not long since peopled and cultivated the fertile lands of eastern Missouri and Arkansas. If these sections were as well known and understood as the lands in Texas or Kansas, they would have long ago been fully occupied and the inhabitants become the most prosperous and independent upon the continent. Geographically, the States to which we refer are all that could be desired, and in addition to the great water route through the imperial valley of the country, are lines of railway which afford quick and ample facilities for transportation to the most available markets in the West and East. Another important consideration is that the immigrant finds himself and family in the midst of a thriving and intelligent civilization, accessible to schools and churches and the comforts of markets, for which upon the barren and unwatered plains of the frontier he must wait a generation. These facts alone are sufficient to attract the serious consideration of the immigrant, especially if he is thoughtful for the future welfare of himself and family. But when we come to consider the subject in relation to the soil, the quantity, value and variety of productions; the wealth of woodland and prairie, and the untold and unmeasured treasures of the mine, the scanty and hard earned subsistence in many other sections where thousands are now toiling to assuage want, seems an avoidable hardship when the knowledge of the facts connected with the advantage of

EASTERN MISSOURI
would have led to comfort and competence. This section of the State is properly embraced within 36 degrees and 30 minutes of north, and 38 degrees and 15 minutes of south latitude, and west of the 12th degree of longitude, naturally having a climate equally free from the extremes of heat and cold. In Missouri, thirteen of these counties are traversed by the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway, and nine of the county seats are upon the line of that road. To describe them separately would require more than the full space of a newspaper, and we can, therefore, only refer to them as a whole with incidental exceptions. The surface of the country presents a great diversity of hills and valleys, mountains and plains, all of which is excellent watered with rivers and creeks and sparkling springs. Within the hills and mountains are buried great mineral riches. There are immense quantities of lead, zinc, nickel, cobalt, antimony, bismuth. The finest red and gray granites, pure white sandstones and excellent limestone are abundant for building purposes. The Pilot Knob, Shepard Magnetic Mountain, and Iron Mountain are masses of iron ore, which are known throughout the world. Besides, iron ore occurs in great abundance in various hematites and as bog ore in many places. The lead ores of that whole region of country are of great value, and their softness and purity and their ready market for the manufacture of white lead.

We can not, of course, name the numerous mines that are being worked, and the many that are being opened, so we will only add that the disseminated lead ore is found in a mine of St. Francois County, which is worked in a stratum, like coal, twenty-five feet thick. In Missouri and Arkansas timber is in great variety and in immense quantities, in different sections, especially oak, ash, hickory, cypress, cottonwood, pine, walnut, and sweet gum. The value of this timber is greater than the price asked for the land, and the immigrant has not to wait for a crop to grow in order to realize a revenue, because he can convert the timber to various uses from the first day of good market, and with convenient and ample transportation facilities, he can easily convert it into ready money. Waggon-making materials are remarkably cheap along the line of this railway, for the reason that stove-makers are cutting immense quantities of the finest white

oak, of which they use only a few feet in cuts, permitting the remainder to lie upon the ground and rot. The destruction is almost criminal, and nowhere can a wagon-maker do better than in this region. The soils from which these giant trees are taken are the richest and most productive in the world, and in many instances being from seven to ten feet deep, will bear cultivation for a century without fertilizing. All through that section of country there are plenty of water privileges and numerous lumber mills. The soil is rich in iron, and the productions are in great variety. Sandy and black loam are the prevailing qualities in the alluvial deposits along the streams, and are of great producing strength. The principal crops are wheat, corn, oats, rye, cotton, tobacco, all kinds of vegetables, fruits in great abundance, and large quantities of grapes. It is proper to observe that the wheat produced here is the best in the world. The quality of the tobacco crop is very choice, and the adaptability of the soil for that product gives it a preference in the market. Upon the lighter soil of the uplands and the granite products are among the finest in any country. The vineyards in this section of the State rival those of France and Germany both in quantity of production and fine flavor. The elements of the soil and the climate combine to produce these results, and already the still and sparkling wines pressed from the Southern grape are widely known and used throughout the country. Southeast Missouri is the best in the world. The latitude is the same as that of the

BLUE GRASS
regions of Kentucky, and especially along the valleys the grasses are always fresh, sweet and nutritious. The mesquite and Bermuda grasses are found in Arkansas. Hence, it has splendid advantages as stock-raising country. The seasons are long and have a healthy, uniform temperature, and stock of all kinds thrive and fatten upon the grasses. To obtain the region of country is near to the great market of St. Louis, and the cost of transportation does not consume the value of the stock, as it does from more distant States. The hay crop is abundant, and the winters are short and mild. The stock requires but a moderate portion of it for support, while a large surplus is left for marketing. There is always most for hogs, and they can be so easily and cheaply raised that the farmer may regard the larger portion of his hog crop as a profit. Owing to the clear-water streams and creeks which abound in this section, and which leap from the sides of the hills and mountains in sparkling jets, and to the sweet, fine quality of the grasses, are offered superior advantages for

DAIRY FARMING.
Nowhere else in the whole scope of the great Southwest are there such admirable opportunities to profit by this industry as in large sections of Eastern Missouri and Central Arkansas. Here, close to good markets, and with the cheapest water, Texas or Kansas, and offer greater profit in business. Still waters and coarse grasses will never produce a choice quality of butter or cheese. Not only is the grade superior, but the cow thrives upon fine grasses and finds water at the bubbling fountain, but these products are in larger increased quantities and command an advanced price. Again, butter can not be properly made without clear water, and in all these respects the water of this region is splendidly adapted. The difficulty in making a success of the dairy upon the bottom lands of Southern Illinois and in many other sections, is because of the well water; especially in coal districts is the well water delicious because of a sulphurous ingredient, and the surface water is always objectionable. Only in sections where limestone, sandstone and granite formations predominate the water free from the impurities that not simply militate against the making of cheese and butter, but is absolutely destructive to the flavor and quality of these products. The dairy supplies of this city, St. Louis, with its 500,000 population, should come from its own neighborhood and surrounding country instead of the North and East, and it affords a never-failing market and good prices. The Northern and Eastern farmers are fully aware of these advantages. And from the Eastern States St. Louis received in 1875, 3,302,220 pounds of butter and 1,380,200 pounds of cheese. The price of butter averaged twenty cents, and that of cheese will average twenty cents. Sheep-raising is also a very profitable industry.

From Poplar Bluff eastward to the Mississippi River, a distance of seventy miles, are the alluvial bottom lands, which are of great value and fertility. These, like the lands to the southward, have a surface as undulating as the Illinois prairies, and bear a wealth of timber and the drouth of that region, and only new countries, drink from the fountain of life. The actual value of the timber is perhaps three times as much as the price of the lands; and as clearings are made the surface water finds a channel and flows to the river, leaving the soil dry and easily cultivated. These lands produce enormous crops, and for agricultural purposes are the richest in the country,

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