

Kansas people are not much given to exaggeration, either way, for good or bad. The state is not what most people imagine, a field of honey or a bleak desert. It is just now in a very prosperous condition, but money does not grow on trees

and 25-bushel-per-acre wheat is not taken off the rich black land without some work. But if a man will settle in Kansas with a determination to win, he will win. Others are doing so right along.

## THE GOVERNMENT FISHERIES AT NEOSHO, MISSOURI.

One of the most unique industries of Missouri—and there are many—is the fish hatcheries at Neosho, reached by the Frisco System, in Newton county, where millions of fish are hatched and shipped to other portions of the United States. The fish hatchery at Newton has been pronounced one of the best located and finest in the United States, due to the pure spring water in which the fish are kept. The industry is one about which little is known outside of the state and perhaps few residents of Missouri would be able to converse intelligently upon this subject.

The Newton county station of the United States Bureau of Fisheries hatches, raises and distributes fish of all kinds. The higher grades of fish, however, are made a specialty. The station itself comprises fifteen acres, with an average flow of 350 gallons of water per minute. Nineteen ponds and eight pools make up the entire hatchery, and the output of the station has averaged for the fourteen years of its existence, about 100,000 fish per annum.

Principal among the fish hatched and raised are rainbow trout, black bass, croppie, rock bass and strawberry bass, with some salmon and steel heads. The following table of the fish in the station on September 1, 1903, furnished by H. D. Dean, superintendent in charge, shows the magnitude of the station's work: rainbow trout, 50,000; wild rainbow trout, 5,300; black bass, 2,500; strawberry bass, 1,800; quinnott salmon, 8,250; steel heads, 10,400; graylings, 1,000; lanlocked salmon, 1,000.

It is estimated by Mr. Dean that since 1899 2,225,000 trout eggs alone have been shipped from this station to private hatch-

eries and stations located elsewhere in the United States. These shipments are made to all parts of the United States, from Washington Territory to the Florida coast. Streams of the southwest have from time to time received fish from these hatcheries, while the streams in the Ozark Mountains are regularly supplied with the trout and salmon, known as game fish. Those who have fished for these in the Ozark region know of the fine catches that have been made.

A visit to these hatcheries, which are located some distance from the town, is one of the interesting features of a visit to the pretty little town of Neosho, located itself amid a number of spring streams and at the foot hills of the Ozark range on the Frisco System. The water supply of this town comes from springs and through the streets of the town and the residence portion flow several very picturesque streams that add much to the pleasure of a trip to Neosho. In making a visit to the Indian or Oklahoma Territories via the Frisco System one would not regret a stop over at this interesting spot in Missouri.

Friend—You have made your bed, and you will have to lie in it.

The Defendant—Not if I can lie out of it.

Dolly—There wasn't a single young man at the place I went to.

Madge—That was just awful I don't see how you squeezed through the summer.

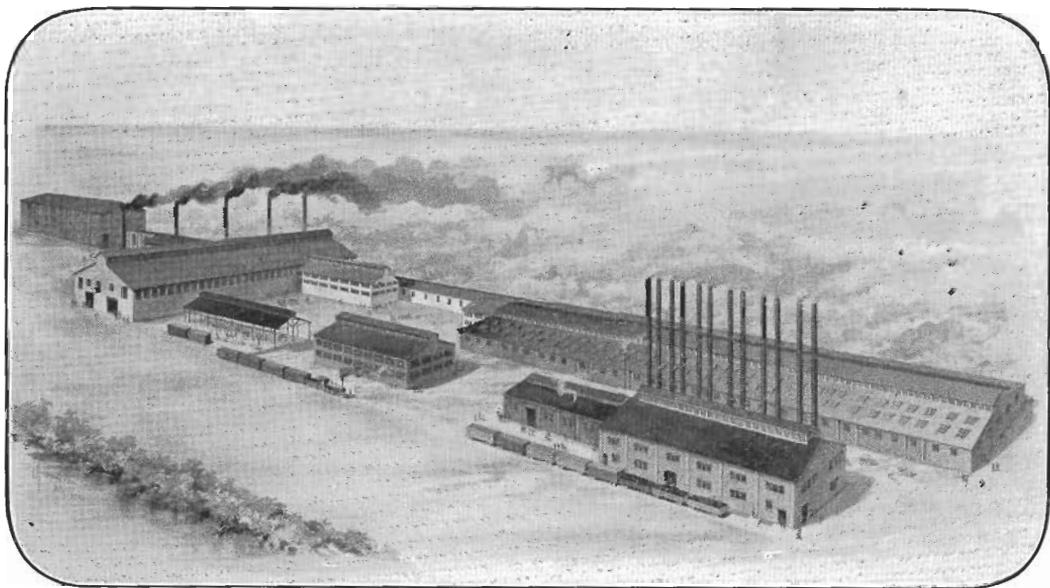
Dolly—I didn't.

## VALLEY PARK.

BY A. K. W.

In the narrow valley of the Meramec, twenty miles from St. Louis, where the rails of the Frisco System begin to wind sinuously along the banks of that scenic river, has for many a year reposed the quiet village of Valley Park, with its several hundred residents. It has principally been known as the objective point of devotees of the rod and gun, who made it their starting point for their favorite pas-time, where rewards for the true sports-

of modern residences and neat cottages set on either side of broad avenues, where but recently was a dense forest, mark the new era in the town's history, eloquently verifying the truism that "towns do not grow; they are built." But all this is but the beginning of a mammoth undertaking, which, when finished, will be a monument to the brains and energy that have directed the capital wherewith to accomplish it. The vigor and completeness with which



Plant of the St. Louis Plate Glass Company.

man are unfailling, both for game and fish. Passengers on the "Meteor" and fast express trains only get a glimpse of the depot and the few houses that set further back from the tracks on the north, for it was only a way station up to a year ago.

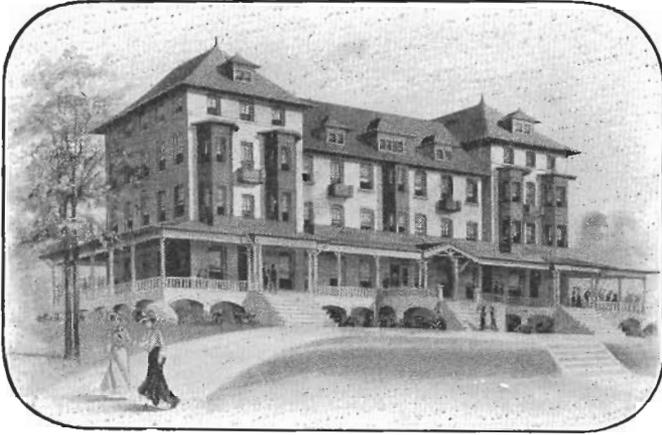
But within a twelve-month a wonderful transformation has taken place. Instead of a sleepy village, there is a busy, bustling town of several thousand population, the buzz and whirr of ponderous machinery resounds through the beautiful valley, shut in by the cragged hills on one side and the winding river on the other. Scores

the work is being pushed is proof of the faith its promoters have in the results.

The projectors and promoters of this wonderful transformation of Valley Park are a syndicate of capitalists, from Pittsburg, Pa., under the corporate name of the Valley Park Land Company. The resident agent and efficient director of the Company is Mr. R. M. Darley, a young man who has shown his ability to handle big enterprises. The Company purchased an entire section of land running from the crest of the magnificent hills that overlook the town for a mile up the valley. By reason of the bends in the river, the

new Valley Park will have one and a half miles of water front, and surrounded on all sides by the most beautiful natural scenery to be seen in the Southwest.

not have been half enough shelter even for one-third of the glass-makers. And so it was decided to build a town of houses, residential and for business pur-



Valley Park Hotel.

The object of the Company was not only to build a town, but also to erect the largest plate-glass plant in the United States. The latter object has been accomplished. The plant covers twenty acres, and already employs six hundred skilled workmen. The location for such a plant was ideal, because the material for the production of glass was in easy reach. Then, with such a tremendous factory, there must be houses for the employes and their families. There were none to be had; and, in fact, if all the residents of Valley Park had vacated, there would

poses, not only for their employes, but for all who desired a home in the charming suburb, only fifty minutes' ride from St. Louis.

The new town has been laid off with symmetrical precision. As you alight from the train, you look up St. Louis Avenue, eighty feet wide, substantially paved and with flagstone sidewalks, fifteen feet wide, for half a mile. On the first block is the handsome brick and stone structure of the Valley Park Land, Saving and Trust Company and on the opposite side of the avenue are a number of brick



Valley Trust Company.

business houses; in fact, all the structures of the Company are of brick and stone, for the best of building stone is quarried from the surrounding hills. Further on up this magnificent thoroughfare are residences, ranging from ten to six rooms, modern in architecture, and with every domestic convenience. They are not jammed together like tenement houses, but each occupies a distinct and roomy lot. The same rule is observed on all of the avenues. Sitting well up on the hill, north of the Frisco System tracks, is as pretty and commodious hotel of fifty rooms as architectural skill can devise. The Company has its own electric light and power-house, with capacity not only to light the town, but to furnish power to its own and other factories. It has also constructed a com-

plete sewerage system as well as water-works. In fact, homeseekers in Valley Park will find a newly-made town, complete with all the public utilities. The Company has eighty houses finished for occupancy and by January will have as many more.

Several large mercantile houses are under construction, and a number of lots have been sold whereon others are to be built. The Company either leases or sells its houses, but where a purchaser builds his own house, it must conform to the substantial plan on which the Company constructs its own.

In addition to being the seat of the largest plate-glass plant in the country, Valley Park is a delightful place to live in.

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## ARDEN.

CHARLOTTE BECKER.

There is a wood wherein the thrushes fling  
 Their very hearts away in melody;  
 Where dryads have a home in every tree  
 And wood-gods haunt the shadow, mur-  
 muring  
 Fantastic lures; where tawny lilies swing  
 Their fragrant bells, and bees hum  
 drowsily;  
 And breezes woo the pale anemone  
 With tenderness that breathes the soul of  
 Spring.

Here Summer may not pass, nor Autumn  
 rest  
 His blighting hand, nor harsh winds  
 wend their way;  
 Beneath these boughs the wonder of  
 the May  
 Shall never fade, nor Love deny his guest  
 Of happiness, nor beauty lose its truth;  
 For Arden's forest is immortal youth!  
 —Ainslie.

## OKLAHOMA.

BY J. C. McMANIMA.

The name of Oklahoma has been before the public so much for the past dozen or more years that the news reading public is more or less familiar with it. Not all that has been said and written is true and it is well that such is the case. The misinformation is almost as common as the facts. The so-called funny papers have had much to say about the picturesque features of the Oklahoma of the Indian and cowboy days, and have left a widespread impression that the old conditions

lahoma has been blessed with good crops and prosperity. In no part of our great and diversified country has prosperity been more universal, and in no other section has so large a percentage of the population acquired a competence and been placed in a position of independence. Such is the Territory that is now under consideration.

"The Land of the Fair God" is the meaning of the word Oklahoma, and it is therefore well named, for Oklahoma is a



View near Mountain Park, Oklahoma.

still prevail. Like Kansas, its neighbor on the north, Oklahoma has been jeered at as the home of the tornado, the drought and all evils known or imagined to exist on the plains of the West and, like Kansas, has moved steadily forward in the things required to make a great commonwealth. Like Kansas, Oklahoma is peopled by a class who know not what failure means, and a temporary reverse is taken for a breathing spell for renewed effort.

In the early days of settlement, before the prairie sod was fully decayed, there were short crops and settlers experienced hardships as is always the case in a new country, but for nearly a decade now Ok-

land of fair skies, sunshine and refreshing breezes. It is a land of peace and plenty. It is a land where the hand of friendship is extended to the worthy of all states and nations. It is a land of industry, and the drone has no place in its system of economics, where honest industry is well rewarded. It is a land without classes except as men make them by superior industry or ability. It is a land where there are no great gaps between her people, and abject poverty and unwieldy wealth are alike unknown. It is a land of diversified industries, the cotton fields of the South overlapping the corn fields of the North, and challenging the world for a superior