

rich rewards for his labor. There is no such thing as a total failure of crops in this State.

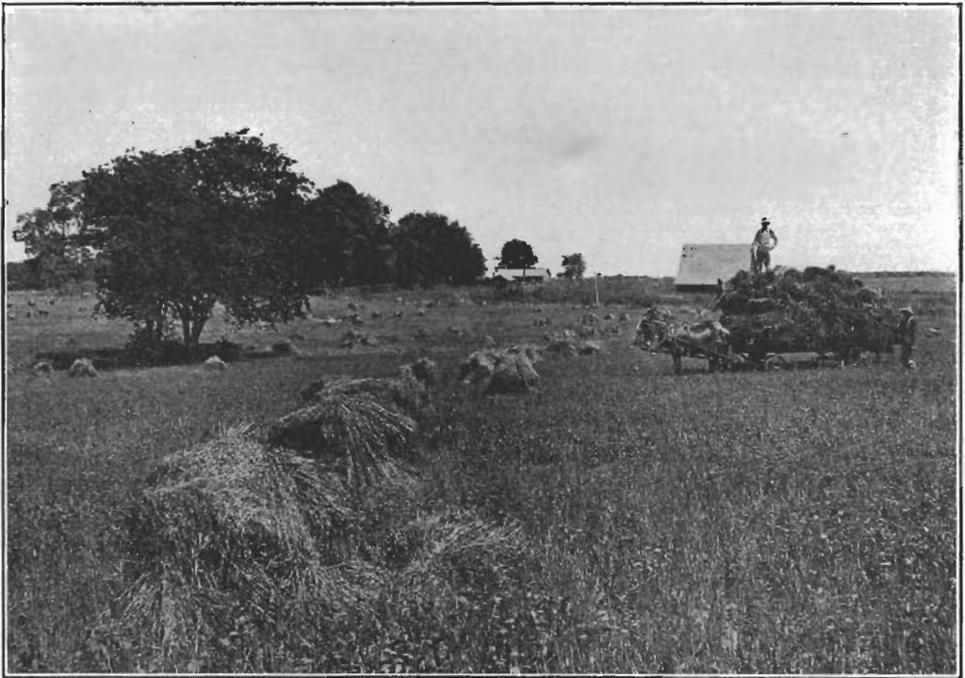
The agricultural resources of Missouri have never been over-estimated, and it is a plain statement of truth that they equal those of any like area, not only in America, but abroad. Special sections may surpass Missouri in special products, such as corn, wheat, tobacco, cotton and so on, but when the aggregate of all products, agricultural, horticultural and mineral are considered,

even though it were cut off from the rest of the world.

As a forcible illustration of this, see what the United States Government statistics show for the year 1903, when Missouri is compared with her sister States:

She had 238,043 farms, ranking third, and was fourth in the number of farms which were free from all encumbrances.

She had more apple trees than any other State, and as soon as all begin bearing, will produce the largest crop.



Oat Field, near Springfield, Mo.

no State can claim a greater variety of crops or more profitable returns for the cultivation of the land and development of industries naturally arising from and incident to the farmer's avocation. By reason of its cotton, corn, hemp and flax fields, the high grade of its cereals, its numerous varieties of fruits and vegetables, its large acreage of excellent timber lands and its almost exhaustless deposits of zinc, lead, coal and iron, Missouri is in a position to sustain double its present population in comfort and luxury,

As a live stock raising State, she ranked fifth; was second in the production of mules, fourth in horses and third in hogs.

In the value of her poultry she stood third and was fourth in producing eggs, 85,203,290, dozen being placed to her credit. In turkeys and geese she was second, and third in ducks.

She produced 4,492,178 pounds of honey, ranking third, and 75,670 pounds of bees wax, ranking second.

In 1902, Missouri held the record for the production of corn, and apple crops, the

latter of which she will probably surpass this year.

In the gross value of her manufactured products she ranked seventh, and was first in the manufacture of tobacco, second in



Picking Strawberries.

babbitt metal and third in clay products. She was the first State in the manufacture of street cars, fifth in general cars, fifth in manufacture of confectionery, slaughtering and meat packing and sixth in printing and publishing.

In boot and shoe manufacturing, flour and grist products, clothing and bread, distilled malt and vinous products, she ranked seventh and eighth.

Her zinc and lead mines are unequaled by any in the world; while coal is mined in the greatest abundance. In 1902, the output of zinc ore was 232,088 tons, which sold for \$6,975,322; lead ore 126,148 tons, which sold for \$5,308,076. The value of the coal output for the same year was \$6,546,822.

In connection with this excellent showing, it must be stated that all the farms in Missouri at present cover in round figures 34,000,000 acres, of which 23,000,000 acres are improved land. As already stated, the total acreage of the State in round figures is 44,000,000 acres. If then the soil and climatic conditions are such that he who tills and toils can produce such magnificent results, what a field for industry, thrift and enterprise is still open to the home-seeker and home maker in the millions of

acres of rich and undeveloped lands in this most prosperous of Southwestern States.

There is no intention here to institute too rigid comparisons in favor of Missouri as against her sister States less fortunately situated, but it is at least strange and beyond reason to explain why so many thousands of immigrants and prospective settlers will allow themselves to be borne through, or **around** the borders of this fertile State to lands barren and arid, hundreds of miles away to the far West and North. A few seasons amidst the hardships endured in those climes are sufficient to convince them that their toil and energy have been spent in vain. They find that thousands have encountered the same fate, and that sooner or latter it is necessary for them to move and begin anew in a land where conditions are more favorable.

Much has been said and written about the climate of Missouri and adverse critics have not hesitated to proclaim that it is as hot in summer and as cold in winter as in any other State on the map. Taking a day here and a day there during each of the seasons as a premise, these critics have proceeded to draw general conclusions. Now what do the actual figures show? Surely the United States Government



Pumpkin.

Weather Bureau was not established to conceal or distort facts. When it was concluded to hold the great World's Fair at St. Louis, up went a howl from the disgruntled that the heat was too excessive. To refute this the weather bureau was called

upon to furnish figures based upon daily observations for thirty-three years. These figures showed the normal temperature

Now take the figures as given by the United States Weather Bureau as the result of ten years observation at Springfield, Mo.



Southern Missouri Scene.

from the end of April to the first of December to have been as follows at St. Louis:

May °66.1, June °75.4, July °79.4, August °77.6, September °70.2, October °58.7, and November °44.3. To show how close these normals are to any one year, here are the figures for the same months during 1903: May °71.8, June °74.2, July °80.3, August °76.4, September °66.4, October °62.2 and November °54.3.

For the present year all who have visited the World's Fair can testify that during May, June, July and August the weather was delightfully cool and refreshing, and the normals even below those given above,

the radiating point of the Frisco System in the State, and the center of the famous Ozark region:

The average temperature for a ten year period was 55 degrees. The highest temperature during ten years was 102 degrees. The lowest temperature during a ten year period was 17 degrees below zero, and that for one day.

The average number of days, taking a ten year period, on which the temperature ranged above 90 degrees was 18; above 100 degrees, one. The temperature has been below zero, taking a ten year period, nine times.



Unimproved Fruit Land

The annual rainfall was 45.05 inches.

The average number of clear days, taking a ten year period, was 128; partly cloudy 141; absolutely cloudy, 96. The prevailing winds were from the Southwest, and calm has been absorbed only 126 times during a ten year period, two observations being taken daily. The average date of the last killing frost in the spring was April 8th, and the average date of the first killing frost in autumn, October 10th. The first snow fell about November 26th, and the last about March 26th. The average snow-

State where a drought is an unknown factor in farming.

The figures and statistics given in the foregoing paragraphs are conclusive evidence that the climate is ideal for agricultural pursuits, and may properly be followed with a few remarks on the bounteous supply of pure water. It is conservative to say that no part of the world is better watered than this State. In all parts and directions it is traversed by rivers and creeks, the majority of which flow over sand and gravel beds, the water being pure,



Sullivan Home, built in 1808, Sullivan, Mo.

fall has been but little above eight inches.

What better showing than this can be demanded by the farmer? The summers are seldom **attended by a prolonged period of excessive heat and the winters are** usually short and **mild, with just** enough severe cold weather to kill and destroy noxious germs, purify the air and render the soil ripe for cultivation in the spring. Droughts occur seldom, and must pervade the entire country before affecting this territory, and even then there are certain parts of the

clear and cool. In addition to the larger water supplies, should be mentioned the springs, as they are of almost equal importance. Probably these latter are more profuse in the Southern part of the State, where at least one is found on nearly every farm, and from a health and comfort standpoint alone a volume could be written regarding them, as they not only furnish a limitless supply of the purest drinking water, but in a great many cases serve the purpose of an ice house or refrigerator. It is in the spring house that the housewife keeps

the milk, butter and eggs cool and fresh; in fact, no one feature of the Missouri farm is of more importance to health and comfort than the spring.

From a geological standpoint, the physical features of Missouri give it a large variety of soils, naturally incident to the towering hills of the Ozarks, valleys, prairies and meadows, and the bottom lands along the shores of the many rivers which flow through the State. The Mississippi River on the East, the Missouri almost bisecting the State, with their numerous tributary streams, smaller rivers and creeks, furnish an abundant supply of water at all seasons. The rich soil of the prairie lands give large yield of corn and the smaller grains. The alluvial soil with lime and sand as a basis have been enriched by successive inundations and decayed vegetation to such an extent that the fertility is seemingly exhaustless.



Branch of Elberta Peach Tree.

The rolling lands in the southwestern part of the State, rich in coal and minerals, are likewise capable of the highest cultivation and produce large crops of wheat, corn, hay, oats, barley, potatoes and other vegetables, also affording excellent pasturage. Limestone, lime and iron are the basis of the soil which is always productive. In the elevated lands sandstone and magnesian limestone form the basis, and are ideal spots for orchards and vineyards.

The variety of crops grown on these lands is in keeping with the variety of the soil, and their abundance is limited only by the energy and industry of the farmer.

No railroad or system of railroads has done more towards the development of the natural resources of Missouri than the Frisco System. Branching out from Spring-

field as a central point, it reaches St. Louis, Kansas City, Monett, Pierce City, Carthage, Joplin, Neosho, Rolla, Lebanon, Aurora, Greenfield, Willow Springs, West Plains, Thayer, Harrisonville, Clinton, Salem, Cape Girardeau, Kennett and Caruthersville. The road crosses and recrosses 41 counties and runs adjacent to twice as many more. From St. Louis to the Southwestern portion of the State the Frisco System passes through the Counties of St. Louis, Franklin, Crawford, Phelps, Dent, Pulaski, Laclede, Webster, Green, Dade, Lawrence, Barry, Newton, Jasper and McDonald. From Kansas City to Springfield it passes through Jackson, Cass, Henry, St. Clair, Hickory, Polk and Green Counties, and from Springfield to Thayer through Greene, Christian, Webster, Wright, Texas, Howell and Oregon; from Willow Springs in Howell County East through Shannon, Carter and Wayne

and South through Butler. In the Southeastern section of the State it traverses Pemiscot, Dunklin, Stoddard, Mississippi, New Madrid, Scott, Cape Girardeau, Perry, St. Genevieve and Jefferson Counties.

A glance at the map then will show that the Frisco System has diagonal lines across the larger and more fertile sections of Missouri, with a number of diverging branch lines, which touch the more important industrial and agricultural centers. Notwithstanding that there has been a heavy influx of immigrant settlers and homeseekers to points along the Frisco System within the past three years, the superior advantages offered in the prices of thousands of acres of valuable improved and unimproved land has the effect of turning the eyes of the farmer and stockman, the fruit grower and lumber-