

fancied drawbacks, when in reality they were very productive.

While there are many hilly districts where the county is too rugged and rocky for profitable grain farming, there is only an occasional tract that will not produce abundantly of the various fruits and grasses. Where fruits grow as they do all over the Ozarks an industrious man can always depend on a comfortable living. Where blue grass and clover grow as they do here, stock raising is always profitable, and if there was nothing

us," and we court investigation. Neither will I take the time now to go into particulars as to the many openings for manufacturing and business purposes, but they are here just the same.

What I do want to impress on the readers of this article is that the Ozark region to-day offers the best opportunities for people of small means of any section in the United States, and I make this statement after an investigation of more than two-thirds of the states and territories. When I make



ƒ Cantaloupe Farm in the Ozarks.

but fruit and grass to be grown, it would be a fine place to locate to build a home.

I wish to pass briefly over the opportunities for men with sufficient means to buy improved farms in the prairie districts, though these opportunities are abundant, and there is no place where a few thousand dollars will buy so good and productive a farm and as satisfactory a home, as in South Missouri. I will say but little about the hundreds of opportunities for profitable investment, but can assure the readers that we are Missourians, and are always ready to "show" as we always want others to "show

this statement it is with a view to considering all conditions. On such a question we must consider climate, fuel, water, health conditions, location as to markets and means of reaching markets. We must consider educational advantages, religious advantages and social advantages. We must consider location as to other sections of country and means of getting back and forth in visiting back and forth with old friends. All these things must be considered.

As to markets, the Ozark region is peculiarly well situated, for it has the metropolitan city of St. Louis at the northeast corner;

Kansas City at the northwest corner; Memphis at the southeast and the great mineral belt at the southwest. This region is located midway between the extremes of the south and the north, and can thus supply the markets of both at different seasons. It is located conveniently for reaching the markets of the world by the Great Lake gateway at Chicago, by Galveston in the southwest, or New Orleans in the south. It will be seen that this region is almost ideally situated for marketing its products.

The price of land is something to be considered by all who want a change of location.

the difference in investment would more than make that up.

This rocky hill land of the Ozarks is a sure producer of wheat, seldom failing to yield well, but where there is much rock, it is sometimes difficult to use machinery in harvesting. In such cases the old fashioned grain cradle can be used economically and to advantage. This land generally produces a good yield of corn, there being thousands of fields this year that will yield from 50 to 70 bushels per acre. It is not as pleasant cultivating corn on rocky hill sides as on level prairies, but results are secured.



Feeding Time.

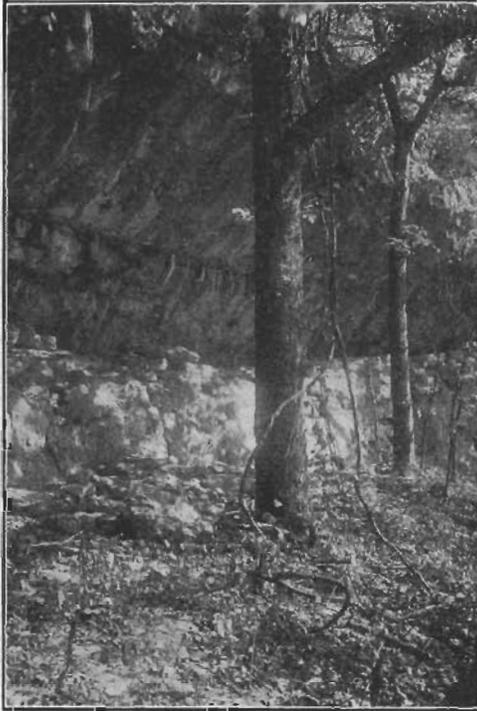
In general it may be stated that land values have a wide range in the Ozark region, varying from a few dollars an acre for the unimproved hilly land, to as high as \$75 to \$100 per acre for highly improved farms in the choicest locations. There are hundreds of thousands of acres of this hill land that can be bought in small tracts at from \$5 to \$10 per acre, much of it being near good towns and railroads. While this land is more or less strewn with surface rock, the soil is generally quite productive. A man may not be able to cultivate as much of this land as he could of the smooth prairie land, but

Except where there is an occasional ledge, this hill land grows blue grass naturally and clover and timothy both do remarkably well. Potatoes and other vegetables do well and can always be depended on for a crop, if put out in season and given intelligent care and cultivation.

In some sections of the Ozark region melon raising is followed extensively and profitably. Our canteloupes are of fine flavor and in this respect at least a close second to those of Colorado. Watermelons grow to a good size, are fine flavored and of fine color. In this article I have mentioned a few of the crops that are best known.

Many others could be enumerated, but suffice it to say that all the crops of the temperate zone are successfully produced in this region and each individual must judge for himself as to what products will suit him and his land best.

As the Ozark region is best known as a fruit country, I will say something as to that. Our apples have met and conquered the markets of the world, and in this age of cold storage and refrigerator cars and ships, no one need fear a surplus of first class commercial apples. It takes from seven to fifteen years to grow an apple orchard, but while it is growing the land can be judiciously cropped so there will be no lost time. An apple orchard in full bearing, in a good fruit year, is worth to its owner from \$50 to \$150 per acre, and this orchard may have been planted on the same land that can now be purchased for \$10 per acre or less. A good apple crop cannot be hoped for every year, but enough good crops can be depended on to make apple raising in Ozarks both profitable



Devil's Kitchen, Ha-Ha-Tonka Park.

and pleasant. Peaches come into bearing much sooner than apples, and a fair crop may be expected the fourth or fifth year. By care in selecting varieties suitable to the locality, there will be more heavy crops than failures, and peaches will be found a profitable crop. I have known of instances where Ozark peaches yielded more than \$200 per acre in value. Cherries are even more profitable than either apples or peaches. They come into bearing as soon as peaches, and a cherry failure in the Ozarks is very rare. I might

go on and tell of the hundreds of carloads of strawberries that are annually shipped from here, and cite instances of immense profits, but this would take too much time for a general article like this.

As a stock country you will find this region hard to beat. If horses and mules are wanted you need go no farther, for our products are the most hardy you can find. Cattle raising and dairying is profitable in our hilliest districts. Sheep are not subject to the diseases that are so common to this tender animal in most States. Hogs are in their element and our droves are seldom reduced by that dread disease, hog cholera.

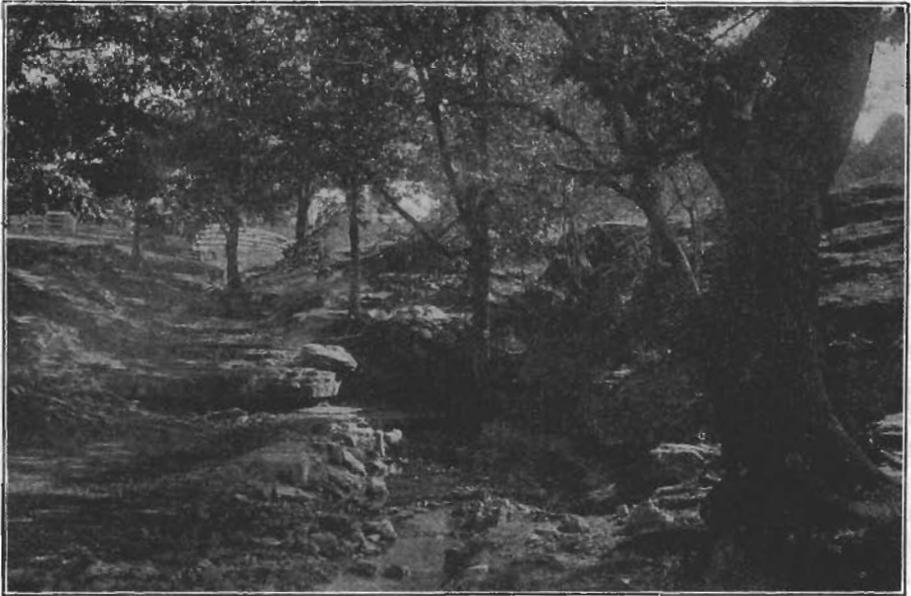
Poultry is something that must not be left out in our calculations, for the hen is the best friend of the poor family. There is no part of the United States where poultry is subject to so few diseases, and so uniformly profitable as in this Ozark region. The household expenses are kept up on many of the farms from the poultry yard, and this without especial care, and here is a line of industry that

any person of intelligence can take up with little experience and little capital.

Let us do a little figuring. Suppose you have saved up a few hundred dollars, as the net result of years of hard labor. You conclude to make a change, and come out to one of the smaller Frisco towns in the Ozark region. You find a 40 acre timber tract within reasonable distance that you can buy for \$10 per acre. You buy it and make a cash payment of \$100 and take time on the balance. You first cut the timber off the land and sell it for wood and

lumber. By care you may realize enough from your timber to pay for the land, as is done in hundreds of cases. **After clearing a spot you can build a log or box house and barn and then be at home. You will buy at least one cow, a pair of mares, a few hogs and some chickens. The cow and chickens will keep you from starving from the start, and perhaps pay your store bill. The hogs will increase rapidly and the first thing you know you will have a big bunch. The mares will each have a colt, and the colts will soon grow up into money. The first spring after clearing has been done**

How does that kind of a life compare with the jostle and bustle of the city, with no reasonable hope of ever getting beyond the daily grind? There are hundreds of clerks, shopmen, mechanics, etc., who would be only too glad to surrender the slavery of the present for the independence of the man with the small farm in the Ozarks. Reader, are you one of them? If so, would not now be a favorable time to cut loose? Take a vacation and come out into the Ozarks and investigate for yourself. Perhaps you can make a better deal than the example used above. Perhaps you can find a place



Cupid Springs at Steelville, Mo.

you will plant out an assortment of fruit. The second spring you can plant out 10 acres of apples, a few acres of peaches and **such other fruits as you want, and you will hardly realize the flight of time until you have a farm that will not only yield you a comfortable living, but that is constantly growing in value, besides making enough surplus each year to pay a part of the debt. In the meantime you will be near enough school to educate your children, near enough church to attend regularly and near enough market to sell your surplus produce.**

already improved that will come within your means. Perhaps a five or ten acre tract adjoining some good town where you **could make a specialty of poultry or intense cultivation of some kind, would strike you favorably.**

I have already written more than I intended, and the story is not half told, but I want the reader to bear in mind that no, where else can he be **better supplied with pure air, pure water, healthful climate, equable temperature and all those conditions that tend to make life worth living-** than in the Ozark region of Missouri.

## PLANT FOOD ELEMENT.

Dr. C. G. Hopkins of the Illinois University has added another interesting and valuable chapter to the results of investigation of soil fertility as to the effect of nitrogen bacteria and legumes, with special reference to red clover, cowpeas, soy beans, alfalfa and sweet clover, says Farmers' Advocate. Dr. Hopkins has been engaged in these investigations for many years, and this last addition to his explanation of this important subject is particularly interesting. Dr. Hopkins points out, that the purchase of nitrogen cannot be considered practicable in general farming, but that it can be obtained from the air through certain leguminous crops at practically no cost whatever to the farmer. Nitrogen is removed from the soil not only in the crops grown, but also in drainage of water and washing of surface soils, but considering that it is possible to obtain unlimited quantities of nitrogen from the air at a very small cost, the conclusion is that the atmosphere is the store house upon which we must draw to maintain a sufficient amount of this element in the soil for the most profitable crop yields.

Dr. Hopkins says it is not strictly true that leguminous plants, such as clover, have power to obtain free nitrogen from the air. It is true, however, that the microscopic organisms which commonly live in tubercles upon the roots of the clover plant do have the power to take free nitrogen from the air and cause it to unite with other elements that are suitable for plant food. The clover then draws upon this combined nitrogen in the root tubercles and makes use of it in its own growth, both in the tops and the roots of the plant.

These nitrogen gathering bacteria live in tubercles upon the roots of red clover, alfalfa, sweet clover, cowpeas, soy beans, vetch, garden peas and other leguminous plants. They vary in size from a pin head to a pea, varying with the different kinds of plants. They are very small from clover and large from cowpeas and soy beans. While the tubercles are easily seen with

the eye, they are the only home of the bacteria, as the ball upon the willow twig is the home of the insects within. The bacteria themselves can be seen by means of the most powerful microscope only, and several millions may inhabit a single tubercle. It is not necessary to see these bacteria, however, because the presence of tubercles upon the roots is evidence that bacteria are present.

It is a fact that there are different species of nitrogen gathering bacteria for markedly different species of leguminous plants; one kind for red clover, another kind for soy beans, another for cowpeas, and still another for alfalfa.

"Bear in mind," says Dr. Hopkins, "that the home of these bacteria is the tubercle upon the clover root. It is quite evident that they will continue to live upon the decaying tubercles or roots for three or four years after the clover plant has been killed. On the other hand, we have some notable evidence that the bacteria do not continue to live in a soil after five or six years' continuous cropping with absolutely no clover growing on the land during those years. It is a simple matter to determine whether the bacteria are present or not, for the tubercles which are formed if the bacteria are present are plainly seen attached to small roots. They look somewhat like miniature potatoes, varying in size from pin-heads on clover to peas on soy beans or cowpeas. It is important to remember that the bacteria live in the soil and not in the seed.

"The cowpea bacteria are already quite widely distributed in Southern Illinois, especially where this crop has been grown for several years, but they are not common in the soils of other parts of the state. It is doubtful, however, if it is necessary or even worth while to take the trouble to inoculate soil for cowpeas. Some few tubercles almost invariably develop on cowpea roots the first year they are seeded, even where they have never been grown before and if