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# FRISCO SYSTEM MAGAZINE.

**VOLUME III.**

**SEPTEMBER, 1904.**

**NUMBER 8.**

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KOSHKONONG, MISSOURI.
Over the main entrance to the palatial structure dedicated to the State of Missouri, at the St. Louis World's Fair, is the following inscription embossed in letters of gilt:

"Embracing within her confines all the elements of an empire, devoted to all the arts and sciences that advance civilization, Missouri, the central State of the Louisiana Purchase, greets her sister States and welcomes the world."

What more appropriate words could be written as an introductory to this article, the object of which is to present to the merchant, farmer and mechanic, and principally the homeseeker and settler, the great natural sources to be developed, and the vast opportunities offered them for bettering their conditions in life in this rich and fertile state of the Southwest. To the homeseeker who is industrious and thrifty, Missouri offers a field for his labors which can be surpassed by few, if any, sections of the country.

The State covers an area of 68,755 square miles, or 43,990,400 acres, of which there are about 275,000 acres of public lands subject to homestead entry. These lands, of course, are by no means choice, the better sections having been picked out years ago and developed into fertile and profitable farms. There are, however, still remaining hundreds of thousands of acres of raw and partly improved private lands which may be had on the easiest of terms at from $5.00 to $15.00 per acre.

There are no desert lands in Missouri. The wide plains in the central and southern portions are rich in alluvial deposits, while the undulating ground in the south and west is the ideal field of the horticulturist. Fruit farms in the Ozark region are the best paying investments of any in the country, and it is confidently asserted that at no distant day this entire section will be converted into one vast orchard and vineyard.

The favorable geographical position of Missouri, its climatic conditions and the adaptability of its soil for such a great variety of crops, the comparatively low prices of land, the proximity of large commercial, manufactory and industrial centers, coupled with most excellent transportation facilities, all tend to make it one of the most inviting States in the country in which to seek a home and lay the foundations for future wealth and prosperity, for it must be remembered and may be noted with pride that there is no farmer in Missouri who industriously cultivates his land who does not in the end reap
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.

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 males, fourth in horses and third in hogs.

In the value of her poultry she stood third and was fourth in producing eggs, 83,200, dozens 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 would produce if not kept down by the railroads.

In the gross value of products she ranked in the manufacturing of cotton

babbitt metal and she was the first State in the manufacture of corn and meat packing.

In 1900 and 1901 the Wisconsin and Minnesota State agricultural reports showed Missouri in the greatest agricultural output of nine of the fifteen staple products. Missouri is a great agricultural State.

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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

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 uneclualed
by any in the world; while coal is mined
in the greatest abundance. In 1902, the
output of zinc ore was 232,058 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
$6,346,822.
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 magnifi-
cent 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
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 later 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

Weather Bureau was not established to
conceal or distort facts. When it was con-
cluded to hold the great World's Fair at
St. Louis, up went a howl from the dis-
gruntled 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 of ten years observation at Springfield, Mo.

Now take the figures as given by the United States Weather Bureau as the result of a ten year period to these normals to be as follows at St. Louis:

May 66.3, June 73.4, July 79.4, August 77.6, September 78.2, October 78.7, and November 64.3. 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 86.4, October 82.2 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 15; above 100 degrees, one. The temperature has been below zero, taking a ten year period, nine times.
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 observed 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-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 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, 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. The rolling lands in the southeastern 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 Springfield as a central point, it reaches St. Louis, Kansas City, Montic, 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 Sharon, 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. Not-withstanding 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 lumberman, to this direction. For the great Southern farmer to pursue, is early in first and second place the branch lands, and both of these come within reach of more readily and the natural with an abundant and inexpensively serviceable System and its

Branch of Rivers near Trenton.
The farmer to be successful must have a good crop, and he must get it to market early in first class condition so as to get the best prices. In the Frisco territory, both of these conditions prevail. The crops are usually from two to eight weeks in advance of more northern and western sections, and the natural richness of the soil, coupled with an abundance of pure water, almost invariably assure a good crop. The Frisco System and its connections can always be abundantly obtained, it follows necessarily that there will be found in that section an attractive and profitable field for the manufacture of food stuffs and staple products of the land. With a plentiful supply of cheap fuel at hand, the factory can always be operated at a minimum expense.

With villages rapidly growing into towns and towns into incorporated municipalities, there is a growing demand not only for the laborer, artisan and mechanic, but also for the storekeeper, merchant and manufacturer, the professional man, the capitalist and inventor. They are all needed for the successful and scientific development of the country along the lines of modern progress. And here in this fertile and, as yet, partly developed section of Missouri, there is room for thousands of industrious citizens. Lumber, flour and cotton mills, canning, wagon, cabinet and furniture factories, iron, steel and brass foundries, boot, shoe and shirt factories, vinegar, pickle and preserve works, all have been established to a greater or less extent, but there is an urgent demand for more, and those who first avail themselves of the opportunities offered will reap the larger share of profits which necessarily must follow.
Agriculture, of course predominates over the other industries in Missouri, and appears to hold out superior inducements to those who wish to engage in it. Yet there are still in this state hundreds of thousands of acres of good land that have never been cultivated. There are also many farms which have not been worked to their full measure of productiveness.

In Missouri, as in the world over, there is always to be found the disgruntled farmer who is ever complaining and has a score of hard little stories to tell, and is willing to sell out if he can get his price. These are the drones that infest every community. The fault lies not in the rich and neglected lands they own, but in themselves. Yet, in the face of this, Missouri has increased in population from the hundreds of thousands to more than 3,000,000, and statistics show that nearly half the adults of the State who have grown rich must attribute that wealth directly to the products of the soil.

The cheap lands of the far West have always borne a peculiar fascination for the immigrant. We have passed over thousands of acres of fertile land in Missouri and been induced by grasping agents to make a home on a bare prairie, timberless and waterless, or left to seek a meager existence on rock-ridden soil at the base of mountains. A man with moderate means can locate in Missouri, buy a good farm or other piece of productive property, and enjoy all the advantages of a modern social community, on payment of less comparatively than anywhere else in the United States. The soil and climate of Missouri make it the natural home of nutritious grasses. Blue grass, which made certain sections of Kentucky famous, has been found to be particularly adapted to Missouri. It grows spontaneously wherever it is left free from the plow, and is invaluable for early winter grazing. In addition to this, however, Missouri grows practically all other varieties for pasturage and hay. Orchard grass, timothy, red top, milo, alfalfa and clover all thrive and are grown extensively for hay. In 1903, Missouri produced more hay than any other state in the Union.

It is generally conceded that Southern Missouri can now lay claim to being the garden spot of the middle west. In the growth and production of apples, pears, peaches and the smaller fruits and berries, such as plums, strawberries and the like, Missouri has no peer. The soil is perfectly adapted to all varieties. Her peaches in color and flavor are acknowledged to be superior to the best brands of the East, while her apples have taken so many first prices as to entitle them to be ranked as the best in the world.
best in the world. Fruit culture in Missouri has long passed the experimental stage. It has been shown conclusively that apples, peaches and pears of the higher marketable value are shipped annually from these farms. The peculiar adaptability of the soil, abundance of pure water and general climatic conditions, are all conducive to the production of the highest grades of fruits and vegetables. The Ozark region is the greatest fruit growing section of the globe. At present there are thousands of acres of fruit

grown to fruit or berries will support a family; 50 acres will insure a handsome profit for life. In 1902 one apple orchard of 80 acres in the vicinity of Springfield brought $13,500 for the fruit sold on the trees; another tract of 80 acres brought $12,000. These orchards included both old and young trees.

Truck farming is also very remunerative. Tomatoes will yield from 50 to 75 bushels per acre, while many garden crops give a much larger profit. There are about 40 tomato canneries in Southwest Missouri, Payne's Orchard, Everton, Mo.
trees and berries in this section, whose products are shipped to all the leading markets of the country. Yet the fruit industry is only partly developed in Southern Missouri. The growers in this section of the State and in Northern Arkansas have formed a co-operative association for mutual protection in branding products, shipping and distributing in such a manner as to obtain the highest market prices. The most satisfactory results are expected by this organization.

Low priced lands have been transformed recently into productive farms and orchards. Those which brought from $3.00 to $25.00 per acre are now sold at from $75.00 to $150 per acre. Ten acres of this land properly

and numerous others for canning fruits, pickles and vegetables generally. A large part of the reclaimed lands of Southeast Missouri have recently been devoted to the culture of fruits, berries, melons and all kinds of vegetables.

Cattle raising in the far West and Northwest is a hazardous business. A summer of droughts or winter of blizzards will blast all hopes. Undulating lands with mild temperature supply ideal conditions for cattle raising. Missouri's rugged hills, fertile valleys and prairie lands, studded with groves furnish these conditions. The cost of raising and fattening cattle here and transporting them to the markets of the East and West is
necessarily less than in States not possessing these advantages.

Dairying is steadily on the increase, and shipments of milk, cream, butter and cheese are growing to large proportions from all points on the Frisco System to the profitable markets at St. Louis, Kansas City and Memphis. There are thousands of acres of lands yet to be devoted to this industry.

The raising of hogs is also attaining large proportions in this State, which now ranks third, with Iowa first and Illinois second. The number of hogs in Missouri the past year was not less than 3,000,000, and their estimated value was about $10,000,000. It is said that ten bushels of corn will make 100 pounds of pork during the fattening process, and a hog that can be raised for from $5.00 to $7.00 will sell for from $10.00 to $14.00.

A hog can be marketed at an age of from six to nine months, while cattle should be two years old and over. The profits are quicker and in many instances make a better showing.

Wool growing is rapidly developing into one of the leading industries of Southern Missouri. The hilly and undulating land, abundance of pasturage and pure water, with moderate temperatures prevailing the year round, are particularly favorable for raising sheep. Where proper care and attention have been given, the results have been not only satisfactory, but exceedingly profitable. The ranges are covered with grass for nine months of the year, and artificial shelter and protection is obtainable from timber on the same land. As a matter of fact, during the average winter sheep may roam at large during the day, requiring shelter only during stormy periods and at night. Wool from this section of the country brings a considerably higher price than that from the large ranges in the far west, as it is much free from sand and dirt.

No industry, perhaps, has proven more profitable in Southern Missouri than poultry raising. Some of the chicken farms in the southwest are marvels in their line of productivity and their owners correspondingly prosperous. The Missouri hen may be said to vie with the Missouri mule for supremacy. No farm in the state is complete without its flock of fowl, be they chickens, turkeys, geese or ducks. They all thrive, are all productive and remunerative proportional to the care and attention given them. Scientific poultry raising has attained a high degree of perfection in Missouri, and the enormous shipments of live and dressed birds, eggs and feathers have brought millions of dollars annually to the farmers. The well, climate and unsurpassed transportation facilities produce this result.

The commonwealth of Missouri represents a type of the most advanced class of modern civilization. It stands forth for all that is inspiring in higher education and noble and elevating in political freedom and religious liberty. The State is distinctively American, and the majority of her people are noted for those strenuous habits and progressive characteristics which are essential to the success and prosperity of every community.

The educational and eleemosynary institutions have been increased of late years, and many of them enlarged and modernized to meet growing demands. The public school system is not surpassed by that of any in the world. The hills and vales of every hamlet and village in the state are adorned with school houses, while the larger cities have structures which are admired by the country. Five post roads pass on every side. In the world where is an elementary school in Missouri?

The State of N. has for sale any property, the United Boonville, Springfield, 227,158 acres of prime land is at a reduced and moderate price. The rules of the state apply to entry seekers everywhere.

A man must be at least 18 years of age, or married, or the head of a family, or a person, but 160 acres, must be applied for by the same person on only 20 acres.

Final proof of the circumstances of the owner of the land, which will be required as evidence of the fact that the entry has been made, must be furnished to the examiner. These rules apply equally to all, and are designed to prevent fraud and make the process honorable to all alike.
larger cities, have reared educational structures which are pointed to with pride and admiration by the leading institutions of the country. Free public libraries are rising up on every side. In short, there is no place in the world where a child can obtain a better elementary or liberal education than in Missouri.

The State of Missouri neither owns nor has for sale any public lands. On June 30, 1903, the United States Land Offices at Boonville, Springfield, and Ironton reported 227,158 acres of public land open for homestead entry or for sale outright at $1.25 per acre. The rules of the Interior Department relative to entry of public lands by homesteaders embrace the following conditions:

- War is deducted from the five years required by homestead laws, but the land must be cultivated for at least one year after improvements are made before title can be perfected.
- Lands may be purchased for $1.25 per acre, the title thereto being vested upon payment.
- Land office fees payable when application is made are: on 160 acres, $4.00; 120 acres, $3.00; 80 acres, $2.00; 40 acres, $1.00.
- Fees for reducing testimony to writing in making final proof are 15 cents for each 100 words. This in each case will amount to from $1.00 to $1.50.

It is impossible to set a fixed price for certain qualities of land in certain sections. Prices must vary according to improvement, degrees of cultivation and surrounding conditions. Aside from government lands which are $1.25 per acre, raw lands owned by private parties will sell for from $1.00 to $15.00 per acre; partly improved from $15.00 to $30.00 per acre; good farms from $25.00 to $50.00 per acre and choice farm lands from $50.00 to $100.00 per acre.

Lands near the large cities and industrial centers and those more directly favored
FRISCO SYSTEM MAGAZINE.

with transportation facilities will command higher prices than those less favorably situated, even though their productiveness be relatively the same.

It may be asserted, however, that every homeseeker of moderate means will find upon investigation that he can purchase a farm somewhere along the lines of the Frisco System which will give him and his family a living, and amply reward him for the money and labor expended in developing it.

For the purpose of visiting and investigating the lands public and private along its lines and adjacent thereto, the Frisco System offers to homeseekers, colonists and settlers greatly reduced rates at all seasons of the year. Homeseekers' excursions are given usually on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, allowing stop-over privileges on the ticked at any point within the homeseekers district, for 15 days from date of sale, with a final return limit of 21 days in all. The return trip must be continuous, no stop-overs being allowed after the first 15 days of the going trip. Reduced rates for colonists and settlers are made on one-way tickets only. Circulars giving dates of sale and all necessary information may be obtained from any agent of the Frisco System.

WILLY AND THE LADY.

Leave the lady, Willy; let the racket rip; She is going to fool you; you have lost your grip;
Your head is in a muddle, your heart is in a whirl;
Come along with me, Willy; never mind the girl.
Come and have a Man Talk.
Light your pipe and listen, and the boys will pull you through.
Love is only chatter, Friends are all that matter,
Come and talk the Man Talk; that's the cure for you.

Leave the lady, Willy; let the letter wait; You'll forget your trouble when you get it straight;
The world is full of women and the women full of wile;
Come along with me, Willy; we can make you smile.
Come and have a Man Talk, A rousing black-and-tan talk,
There are plenty there to teach you and a lot for you to do.
Your head must stop its whirling Before you go a-girling;
Come and talk the Man Talk; that's the cure for you.

Leave the lady, Willy; the night is good and long; There's time for beer and 'baczy; time to have a song;
While the smoke is swirling, sorrow if you can;
Come along with me, Willy; come and be a man.
Come and have a Man Talk, Come and hear the clan talk;
We've all been through the mill, and we've been broken, too.
We'll advise you confidentially, And break it to you gently;
Come and talk the Man Talk; that's the cure for you.

Leave the lady, Willy; you are rather young; When the tales are over, when the songs are sung;
When the men have made you, try the girl again;
Come along with me, Willy; you'll be better then.
Come and have a Man Talk, Forget your girl-divan talk;
You've got to get acquainted with a higher point of view.
Girls are bound to fool you, We're the ones to school you;
Come and talk the Man Talk; that's the cure for you. -- Gelett Burges, in the Criterion.
FRISCO SYSTEM MAGAZINE.

With transportation facilities will command higher prices than those less favorably situated, even though their productiveness be relatively the same.

It may be asserted, however, that every homeseeker of moderate means will find upon investigation that he can purchase a farm somewhere along the lines of the Frisco System which will give him and his family a living, and amply reward him for the money and labor expended in developing it.

For the purpose of visiting and investigating the lands public and private along its lines and adjacent thereto, the Frisco System offers to homesteaders, colonists and settlers greatly reduced rates at all seasons of the year. Homesteaders excursions are given usually on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, allowing stop-over privileges on the ticket at any point within the homesteaders district, for 15 days from date of sale, with a final return limit of 21 days in all. The return trip must be continuous, no stop-overs being allowed after the first 15 days of the going trip. Reduced rates for colonists and settlers are made on one-way tickets only. Circulars giving dates of sale and all necessary information may be obtained from any agent of the Frisco System.

WILLY AND THE LADY.

Leave the lady, Willy; let the racket rip;
Your head is in a muddle, your heart is in a whirl;
Come along with me, Willy; never mind the girl.
Come and have a Man Talk;
Light your pipe and listen, and the boys will pull you through.
Love is only chatter, Friends we all that matter, Come and talk the Man Talk; that's the cure for you.

Leave the lady, Willy; let the letter wait;
You'll forget your trouble when you get it straight;
The world is full of women and the women full of wile;
Come along with me, Willy; we can make you smile.
Come and have a Man Talk, A rousing black-and-tan talk,
There are plenty there to teach you and a lot for you to do.
Your head must stop its whirling Before you go a-girling;
Come and talk the Man Talk; that's the cure for you.

Leave the lady, Willy; the night is good and long;
There's time for beer and 'bacco, time to have a song;
While the smoke is swirling, sorrow if you can;
Come along with me, Willy; come and be a man.
Come and have a Man Talk, Come and hear the clan talk;
We've all been through the mill, and we've been broken, too;
We'll advise you confidently, And break it to you gently;
Come and talk the Man Talk; that's the cure for you.

Leaves the lady, Willy; you are rather young;
When the tales are over, when the songs are sung;
When the men have made you, try the girl again;
Come along with me, Willy; you'll be better then.
Come and have a Man Talk, Forget your girl-divan talk;
You've got to get acquainted with a higher point of view.
Girls are bound to fool you;
We're the ones to school you;
Come and talk the Man Talk; that's the cure for you.

—Robert Burges, in the Criterion.
SOUTHWEST MISSOURI AS A WOMAN SEES IT.

BY S. F. T.

The Frisco System through the southwest is surely the homeseeker's ideal route. There seems scarcely a mile of the road that traverses Southern Missouri but offers the most inviting inducements to settlers. When one looks out on the miles and miles of green, timbered slopes, divided here and there by clear streams, gleaming in the verdure like silver ribbons; the billowy hills stretching away on either side from the nearer; cultivated orchards; the wonder is that every westward bound homeseeker is not arrested by the prospect instead of traveling blindly on to the desert lands that may not be brought to "blossom like the rose" save at great expense. The only excuse one could give for such short sightedness, is that the traveler must pass through this country by night.

What more can a man with little, or no capital (for he may buy the land on time in many places) want, than the bounties which nature offers? Here is wood, water, soil, sunshine and a hospitable climate. Here is a section so cheap that one is amazed at the stupidity of the settlers who pass it by. There are, in the Springfield district alone, more than 300,000 acres of land subject to homestead entry, or to be bought from the government. Missouri is the only state in the Union where you may buy land at $1.25 an acre, or homestead 160 acres for $14. Much of this land is rough and hilly, but not an acre but will grow fruit to tempt the gods. The grapes from the sunny east and south slopes rival the vineyards of France. This is not in the main, an agricultural country, but the fruit crops are so much more profitable, and the valleys and level lands raise such an extra quality of grain, that the Ozark farmer does not envy any man.

But, lest this article begin to read like a land agent's advertisement, I hasten to say that the writer has no land to sell, is employed by no land agent, but is merely an enthusiast on the subject and possibilities of the Ozark country.

Last year two women went down into this section near White river, in search of a new sensation in the way of a summer outing. They were so much interested in what they saw, that, together with two other women, they pooled their summer allowance and bought 100 acres of government land, and an adjoining 40 with a cabin of two rooms on it, about 12 acres cleared and fenced, and two good springs. This summer they are down exploring, anticipating and planning what they will do with their possession. None of them can remain on the place except during the summer, but they are talking of Angora goats. They have already had their money's worth in novel experiences house-keeping in the wilderness. All of them are brown as gypsies. Sporting and wading in the quiet nooks of White river paints as fashionable a shade of tan as the seashore, and at less expense and with lots more fun. Looking for pearls in the river that has furnished so many valuable pearls during the past few years, has all the exhilaration of gambling, without the demoralizing consequences. Taney County, Mo., has two or three noted writers who summer in the lonesome hills every year. Two of the editors of "Life," the prominent New York magazine, have a lodge seven miles from Forsyth.

COULDN'T STAND FOR ONE.

"Here!" shouted the suddenly rich man from the west to a waiter in the highest-priced hotel on the beach, "bring me another knife."

"Yes, sah."

"Understand, after this, that I never eat mashed potatoes and boiled cabbage with the same knife."—Detroit Free Press
No description of Missouri would be anywhere near complete without a special article on the Ozark region; it would be too much like a pie with the fruit left out. The Ozark region is not the whole thing, but it is a good part of it.

It is to the Ozark region that Missouri owes her fame as a fruit country, for this section is the real home of the "Big Red Apple," the sun-kissed peach and the delicious strawberry.

It is to the Ozark region that Missouri owes her fame as a mining country, for the greatest lead and zinc deposits in the world are located in this section, and in addition there are many other valuable metals and minerals.

It is to the Ozark region that Missouri owes her fame as a lumber producer, for the Ozark hills and valleys are the ones that produce the pine, oak, cedar and walnut of commerce.

It is to the Ozark region that Missouri owes her fame as a winter wheat producer, for in this section this crop never fails, and generally yields prolifically.

It is to the Ozark region that Missouri owes her renown as a close rival to Kentucky in the production of blue grass, while clover and timothy are not far behind.

It is to the Ozark region that Missouri owes her fame for perfect climatic conditions, and it is here that the seasons are so near the ideal for both health and pleasure.

It is to the Ozark region that Missouri owes the distinction of having so many noble streams and beautiful springs with a perennial flow of pure and sparkling water.
out especial attention being called to the scenic district; the forest belt; the mining region; the sportman’s paradise; the magnificent Ozark region.

As this article may be seen by many who are not acquainted with the geography of Missouri, it will be proper to tell where the Ozark region is located, and to tell something about its main characteristics and conditions, and this I will try to do plainly, though briefly.

Take a map of Missouri and note that it is divided into two nearly equal parts by the Missouri river, which swings into the State from the Western boundary at Kansas City, crosses the State in a Southeasterly direction to a point near St. Louis, and there emptied into the Mississippi. South of the Missouri river, with the exception of a few counties in the Northwest and a few in the Southeast, this south half of the State is usually classed as the Ozark region, or Ozark mountain region. It is not correct to call it a mountain region, for it is in reality an elevated plateau skirted by hills, not unlike the foot hills of the Rocky mountains. At no point does the elevation exceed 2,000 feet, and there are large areas of fine table land on the summit or backbone, and many towns and cities are thus located, including Springfield, one of the prettiest and best cities of the State.”

Like all hilly regions, railroad building has been slow in the Ozarks, as the work is so much heavier than on the level plains; hence fewer railroads have been built. From the first inception of the various roads and branches that now compose the great Frisco System, the managers and promoters have seemed to know more of the resources of this wonderful region, and labored more with a view to their ultimate development. The result is that to-day the Frisco System controls the situation here to a large extent, and is doing a great work in development.

Two trunk lines of the Frisco cross on the top of the Ozarks at Springfield, one from St. Louis and the East to Texas and the great Southwest, and the other from Kansas City and the Northwest to the States of the Southeast Atlantic and Gulf Coast. In this region the Frisco has many branch and side lines so that most portions are easily reached by it.

While the greater portion of the Ozark region is timbered, there is also much prairie land, some large areas being level and easily cultivated, while the timber land is somewhat more difficult to bring under cultivation. The natural result of this condition has been that the prairie sections and more level timber districts were settled and improved first, leaving the hilly districts for later economic. This does not indicate, however, that all the best lands were occupied by the early settlers, for such is far from being true. The fact is that almost whole counties have been passed over because of

In an Ozark Vineyard.
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 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", 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 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, & 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.

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 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 carkads 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 special 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 cutting it from your land door in hand you can earn and then at least one cow and some chicks will keep you and perhaps your hogs will increase your capital. The marcs will polla will soon yield you capital to buy your next input. In the mountainous region you will not have to worry about the crops growing in your surplus each year. In the mountainous region all you need is a school for your children and a church to attend. The produce is at hand.
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 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. 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 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.
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 storehouse 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 seeded the second year the plants are usually with root tubercles.

"Soy bean bacteria are quite likely to be carried by the cowpea bacteria; the cowpea plant grows more roots and the crop is quite with a selffinder with from dirt. The soy bean bacteria are commonly cracked for the soy bean bacteria as compared from experiments as a rule soy beans should be then grown the same land. If soy grown upon this land for four years, the soil will be well infected with the "To general agricultural grain farming or continue the growing of legumes of any economic system contain the fertility of the
seeded the second year on the same land the plants are usually abundantly provided with root tubercles.

"Soy bean bacteria are evidently much less likely to be carried with the seed than are the cowpea bacteria. The soy bean plant grows more erectly than the cowpea and the crop is quite commonly harvested with a selfbinder which keeps it quite free from dirt. The soy bean seed is nearly round and smooth, and the seed coat is not commonly cracked. These facts may explain why the soy bean seed carry so few bacteria as compared with cowpeas.

"From experiments it is concluded that as a rule soy beans should be inoculated when they are first seeded, and that they should be then grown a second year upon the same land. If soy beans are afterward grown upon this land once in every three or four years, the soil will doubtless remain well infected with the soy bean bacteria.

"In general agriculture whether it be grain farming or ordinary live stock farming, the growing of legumes is essential as a part of any economic system which shall maintain the fertility of the soil, and for the successful growing of legumes the presence and assistance of the proper species of nitrogen-gathering bacteria are also absolutely essential.

"While some soils are becoming deficient in phosphorus and in lime, and while phosphorus and ground limestone can be applied to such soils with marked benefit and profit, especially for the growing of legumes, there is abundant evidence that one of the dominant causes for the failure of unsatisfactory growth of some of most valuable legumes, and on some soils the sole cause of failure, is the absence of the proper nitrogen-gathering bacteria.

"There is reason to believe that any of the different species of nitrogen-gathering bacteria will live in the soil for more than a few years in the entire absence of any legume upon which they naturally live, and the accumulating evidence strongly indicates that the bacteria which are present in places in our soils, such as the red clover bacteria, and the alfalfa or sweet clover bacteria, that all these have been, and are being, gradually introduced and extended almost entirely by mere chance."

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**ENOUGH FOR ME.**

**BY JENNIE BETTS HARTSWICK.**

Enough for me, a fine-hit spot,
The world shut out, grim care forgot; And near me in the rosy glow, A sweet girl rocking to and fro I' faith! Mine is a happy lot! An earthen kettle, steaming hot, A pipe, a book of tender plot, A glance, a smile, a kiss or so— Enough for me. To-day a palace, not a cot, Ten clubs, an auto and a yacht Are mine. A smile? a kiss? ah, no! That dull content was years ago; Now all my minted wealth is not Enough for me! —Smart Set.
South Central Missouri embraces about one-sixth of the great State of Missouri, which has an area of about 60,000 square miles. This part of the State is mostly located on the gradual swell of the great Ozark Range, which is not so much a mountain range as a vast ridge of gradual acclivity, so gentle in its slopes that a traveler from St. Louis southwestward rises 1,000 feet in altitude without an idea that he has been steadily climbing upward for 100 miles or more.

Its varied and diversified surface embraces nearly all classes of land, from the prairie, which is its most extensive feature, through the rolling lands and hillsides, until far to the south the abrupt slopes of the steep river hills bound the district.

Its principle rivers are, the Meramec in the central portion with the Gasconade to the northwest, the current southwardly and the Black River to the east, with a host of branches of all sizes each pouring a living tide of pure, clear water toward the principal stream. No part of the state is more plentifully supplied with water by brooks, creeks, and rivers fed by ever flowing springs than South Central Missouri.

No land anywhere offers to the emigrant a greater variety of soil and surface, with an exuberance of forest and nature's herbage, overlying a wealth of minerals. The incomer with or without means, finds not only a warm welcome from people renowned for their cordial hospitality, but from the broad lands which offer him every advantage in the history of agriculture, horticulture and stock raising.

Should he wish to establish a ranch for the raising of herds of cattle, horses, mules, or sheep, he will find wide ranges of unbroken fields and forests open to his use free of cost. If he desires to engage in farming in the culture of wheat, corn and other grains, he finds the soil and the climate suited to his desires. If the truck farming and the growth of small fruit seems to allure him he will find here the finest and largest vegetable, and the richest products of the various small fruits.

But especially does he find in the records of every exposition and world's fair from that of Chicago in 1893, to the present immense exhibition at St. Louis, conclusive proof that this region excels in the production of large finely colored, richly flavored, shapely and excellent fruit of all sorts.

A steady increase in population made up of a high-class of industrious, law abiding and God fearing Americans for the chief part has made this region a land of schools and churches, as well as every species of industry and enterprise, but so great is its extent and so vast its capacity for maintaining a farming population that many thousands more can be readily accommodated.

He who purchases lands in this favored region is sure to share in the general rise of value, without special effort on his part.

The resident of this region finds the spring an early visitor, while autumn delays her approach, and pastures are unusually green and good until the first of December. The elevation of this district above the sea-level takes it out of the range of malaria, and pure air with mild winters and summers free from sumerstoke makes the Ozark Ridge a land of comfort, health and pleasure. Summer heats are not extreme, and few nights are warm enough to make the sleeper uncomfortable. In winter few days have a temperature as low as zero and the reign of winter is comparatively brief. Blizzards are unknown and the fierce norther is known only by hearsay.

Many sufferers from malarial complaints have found health in this pure atmosphere. Sufferers from asthma have experienced complete relief from that malady by the purity of the air. Many invalids from various affections have testified to the prompt and salutary effects of South Central Missouri's climate in restoring health.

The rainfall is greater than that of states to the northward and westward, and great
Snows are light and while rains are frequent in spring, summer and fall as well as in winter, the roads and fields quickly respond to the influence of sun and breeze, and there is little delay from this source.

Salem, situated near the center of Dent County, is one of the progressive towns of this country. It is conservative and constant in its growth and increase. It is not a creature of booms and excitement but every step forward is firm and securely planted, and every advance is permanent. Her population is only about 2,000 but in use; it is a point on the great Frisco System, 125 miles from St. Louis, which puts it in ready communication with the world of business. It has a city telephone line and several rural lines, spreading a commercial net work over Dent and other counties. It is said that the shipments from Salem exceed those of any town three or four times its size. Receipts of 1,000 to 3,000 bushels per day of wheat during the shipping season are not uncommon.

Wood is the staple fuel of this region, which is well wooded in most parts. Cord wood sells for from $2 to $3 per cord on the

Schools, churches, mercantile, and manufacturing interests Salem goes beyond many cities of greater population. It has two banks, 25 stores, five weekly newspapers, three hotels, a grain elevator, three livery stables, three wagon factories, five blacksmith shops, two lumber yards and planing mills, one roller mill and one feed mill, six manufacturing establishments, a system of graded schools, six churches—Baptist, Catholic, Christian, South and North Methodist and Presbyterian.

Salem is the county seat and has an elegant court house, and a jail that is seldom
large profit for the stock men. Everything else of the temperate productions—oats, rye, millet, alfalfa, tobacco, vegetables, all kinds of grass; even some cotton springs up under the frequent showers and warm sunshine of the favored region.

Probably no country is better supplied with flowing springs some of which are of National reputation. Wells are sunk to a depth of 20 to 45 feet and find unfailing veins of water, while drilled wells twice as deep seldom fail to supply an abundance of water.

As a sheep raising region this is well suited to reward the intelligent wool and mutton raisers efforts. Hogs do well on the "mast" of the forest, fattening without cost or care. Cattle on the wide range of unoccupied lands do well without attention or expense and are one of the chief sources of cash revenue to the residents.

The schools of this section are numerous and the best of educators are employed. Over 60 of these academies of the people are turning out well trained teachers every year in Dent County. The High School at Salem attracts pupils from the country adjacent and is justly a source of pride to the city.

Religion and morality keep well closed up in the march and every school district shows a prosperous church and Sunday school as a means of promoting the highest interests of the people.

**DEDUCTION.**

About 1 a.m. Mrs. Sherlock Omes heard a noise. She went downstairs. Her husband was sitting on the bottom step. His shoes adorned the hatrack and he was trying to light a cigar with a toothpick.

"Betcher do know where I've been," he murmured.

"You've been down town," responded Mrs. Sherlock Omes. "You met a man. You bought him four drinks; he bought you one drink. You played a game of pool for fun and won it. Then you played six games for money and lost them all. You met another man. You bought him eight drinks; he bought you one drink. You met seven men. You bought them seven drinks each and one of them gave you a cheap cigar. When midnight came the saloons closed. Then you came home."

Mr. Sherlock Omes was silent. He could not deny that she had given a fairly accurate description of the evening.

**PASSED.**

Mrs. L. A. Knutson, Box 78, R. F. D., Valders, Wis., contributes from an exchange a story of a brakeman on an Eastern railroad who had been granted a month's vacation for some special service rendered the road. He had never been West so he decided to take a trip to the Rocky Mountains, and was furnished with the required passes.

The man went to Denver and there met a number of his friends at work on one of the Western roads. They entertained him, and when he went away made him a present of a goat.

Our man was at a loss to know how to get the animal home with him as the express charges to New York were very heavy. After puzzling for some time, he made out a shipping tag and tied it to the horns of the goat. Then he presented the animal at the office of the stock-car line. The tag created a good deal of interest among the stock men, and they sent for the manager of the company. This was the inscription which he found upon the tag:

"Please pass the butter. James R. McKenna brakeman,--* R. R., New York."—Ex.

Queer things will happen, I do see; As through this life we bob— He who "seeks a position" at seventeeth, At forty "hunts a job."—Ex.
THE MISSOURI PEACH BELT

BY WILL H. ZORN.

Along the line of the Frisco System in the southern part of Missouri, is a section of country known by various titles, such as the "Land of the Big Red Apple," the "Home of the Elberta Peach," and the "Vineyard of the World." Over ninety per cent of the peaches shipped from the State are grown within twenty-five miles of West Plains and the Gem City of the Ozarks can truthfully be styled the center of the Missouri Peach Belt.

The past month has been a busy one in this favored land. The peach crop, which is not always a certainty, gave early prospects of being a record breaker and as the season advanced the bountiful fruit grew to maturity. Although the excessive rains that gave the country a bounteous crop proved detrimental to fruit, still the orchardist had no cause to complain of the yield of peaches in his orchard. Much of the sun-kissed fruit dropped from the over-laden branches, but this only increased the size of the peaches left hanging on the trees.

In this fruit belt there is only one peach that finds favor with the orchardists and which fills almost every necessary requirement, and this is the Elberta. Nurserymen claim that the Elberta peach originated in Georgia and is a cross between the Chinese Cling and the Crawford's Late. The Southern Missouri Elberta becomes ripe just after the Texas and Georgia crop is marketed and before the Michigan and Delaware orchards yield their fruit.

The Elberta attains a size and flavor in this section that is unequalled. Although the Family Favorite and Mountain Rose, earlier varieties, and Salway and Heath Cling, which comes later, are grown by some horticulturalists, everyone acknowledges that the peach to produce in order to get dividends upon an investment is the Elberta.

Taking into consideration the adaptability to soil, hardiness to withstand frost, the capability of holding out against drouth and the period of ripening, the Elberta is the peach for Southern Missouri. This year the peach picking season began at Koshkonong, the southern point of this great peach belt, the latter part of July, and ended at its northern terminus the latter part of August. The fruit ripened first at Koshkonong and here the army of pickers and packers first assembled and migrated northward as the golden fruit was stripped from the trees, packed in crates and rushed by the refrigerator car line to Eastern and Northern markets.

One mile south of Koshkonong is the

Four Crates of Luscious Elberta Peaches.
greatest peach orchard in Missouri. It is the St. Elmo Fruit Farm, the property of the United Orchard Company, a corporation headed by John G. McNair, of St. Louis, and capitalized at $1,500,000. This company owns orchards in seven States. The St. Elmo Fruit Farm covers 2,242 acres, having 103,000 bearing peach trees, 20,000 apple trees and 300 pear trees. It required at least 1,000 laborers to gather and market a full crop of peaches on this farm and the management of this army is no small task.

Located upon the St. Elmos are four large packing sheds, to which place the peaches are hauled from different points in the orchard. Here the packers, generally women and girls, are congregated, and pack the luscious fruit in boxes and baskets. The secret of peach marketing is in packing, not that the largest fruit should be placed in the top of the box, but it should be of uniform size, snugly fit together to prevent bruising in shipping and the "blush" of the peach always up, so that when the crate is opened it presents a tempting appearance.

The men who work out in the orchards gathering fruit usually have belts to wear. To this belt a hook is attached from which a half-bushel basket hangs. The picker can then pluck the fruit with both hands, gently dropping it in the basket. When a basket is filled it is placed upon a wagon to be hauled to the packing shed. Peach pickers usually earn 15 cents an hour, while packers get 20 cents a crate or 8 cents an hour. Foremen, inspectors and car loaders receive better pay than other laborers.

The largest grower is the Howell County series. He has 474 acres of peaches and strawberries. O. L. Meek, manager, 560 acres; Lake Rowland Fruit Farm, E. B. Balis, manager, 320 acres; Eglantine Fruit Farm, Ezra Craig, manager; Koshkonong Fruit Company, W. A. Dean, manager; Elberta Peach and Land Company, W. C. Paynter, manager; Crystal Fruit Farm, A. R. Ant, manager; Big Boulder Fruit Farm, J. D. Wilkerson, manager.

Eight miles north of Koshkonong is Brandsville, a little town where the large orchards and vineyards of the Brandsville Fruit Company are located. This town was founded in 1882 by Michael Brand, a Chicago millionaire, who bought 17,000 acres of land in the vicinity upon which to set out a large orchard and vineyard, and to engage in stock raising. A wine cellar was erected and the vineyard and orchard set out after the land had been cleared.

For twelve years the company experimented with grape growing. After a large expenditure of money they learned that for red wine Norton's Virginia excelled and for the manufacture of white wine the Cynthiana grape was best adapted for culture in this section. The company now has 65 acres in grapes, from which they expect to make 20,000 gallons of wine this year. The orchards of this company contain 16,000 peach, 18,000 apple and 2,000 plum and pear trees.

West Plains, the center of the Missouri Peach Belt, is a city of 4,000 population. It is a progressive city of wide-awake people, with schools, colleges, mills and factories. Here are located an ice and cold storage plant, zinc oxide works, flouring mills, machine shops, wooden mill, vineyard and cider factory, fruit evaporator, planing mills and a municipal water and electric light plant.

On the hillsides in the immediate vicinity of West Plains several fruit farms are found that time he grew apples on the Missouri river bottom where he still makes his home in the State.
The largest grower is G. L. Sessen, proprietor of the Howell County Fruit Farm and Nursery. He has 471 acres in peaches, apples, and strawberries. Other farms are the Lone Pine Fruit Farm, Joe Kneroel, superintendent, 360 acres; Waldtrue Fruit Farm, Forrest Cooper, manager, 173 acres; West Plains Fruit Company, 200 acres; Waveland Fruit Farm, 180 acres; Valley View Farm, 218 acres. Several smaller growers here have swelled the shipments from this place to the markets.

The pioneer fruit farm of Southern Missouri is the Olden Fruit Farm, located at Olden, on the crest of the Ozarks, eight miles north of West Plains. When Colonel J. C. Evans first made a trip through this country in 1860 searching for a favorable spot upon which to plant an orchard, he selected this plateau, naming it Olden in honor of Judge B. L. Olden, who afterwards became an attorney for the railroad which now traverses the country. In 1882 Colonel Evans set out the first Elberta peach trees in Southern Missouri. In his orchards he has also secured a number of other varieties, but none grew and yielded such fruit as the Elberta.

For twenty-two years Colonel Evans has engaged in fruit growing at Olden. Prior to that time he grew apples and berries in the Missouri river bottoms of Clay County, where he still makes his home. There is no man in the State better posted on fruit growing, as is attested by the fact that Colonel Evans was for thirty years President of the Missouri State Horticultural Society. Today he is an old man, but hale and hearty as ever, and whenever peach picking time comes he is constantly in the orchards, personally superintending the gathering and marketing of the fruit.

The Olden Fruit Company owns 2,228 acres of land, the greater part of which is in fruit trees. Besides engaging in fruit growing, the company conducts a large general store and operates a canning factory and distillery during the fruit season. At this distillery, peaches, apples and blackberry brandies are manufactured, which have attained a great reputation for excellence and purity.

Pomona is a station three miles northwest of Olden, from which much fruit is shipped. The Pomona Fruit Growers Association, composed of the growers of the surrounding country, directs the marketing and shipping of all the fruit from this point. The membership of this Association is over fifty, mostly small orchardists, but who are increasing their acreage of fruit trees each year.

The largest fruit farm in the vicinity of Pomona is the Missouri Fruit Farm, owned by D. C. Givens, of Evansville, Ind. This farm covers 820 acres and is located in a most favorable place for peach growing. Other fruit growers are Colonel H. D. McKay,
In the northern part of Howell county are Willow Springs, Burnham and Mountain View, which are coming forward with rapid strides as fruit shipping points. Willow Springs, where the Current River railroad branches from the Frisco to extend eastward into the timber country of Southern Missouri, is the market place for many berry growers. Blackberries are the principal fruit grown here, although quite a few are engaged in peach and apple culture.

At Mountain View some Cleveland, Ohio, capitalists have bought several thousand acres of land from which the timber has been cut and converted into lumber. Upon this land a great many peach and apple trees are now flourishing, some being in bearing. This is a great apple section, and the crop is larger at Mountain Valley this year than at any other point in this section.

Between Willow Springs and Mountain View several St. Louis capitalists headed by W. H. Moore, President of the National Good Roads Association, have bought 2,000 acres of wild land, which is being converted into a fruit farm and stock ranch. The fruit is not yet in bearing.

A Peach Orchard in the Missouri Peach Belt.

As a fruit growing section Southern Missouri affords a splendid field for investors. The land is low in price, labor is not high and is plentiful, orchards mature after two years planting and the peaches reach the markets when fruit from other sections do not compete with it. A peach crop once every four years will pay big dividends upon the money invested in an orchard in this section, and taking into consideration that the country has had four good crops in the last six years, the receipts from fruit farms have been large. Capitalists are becoming aware of this fact and many new companies are being formed and fruit farms started in the Missouri Peach Belt.

Leave the crowded city and get a farm in the southwest, at some point along the Frisco System.
That this is a period of unrest is manifest to all thoughtful people. This unrest is manifested in many ways, but the one symptom that is unfailing is the constant moving about from place to place. Conditions change and people change with conditions. People from the east go to the west, and many in the west long for the childhood home in the east. People from the farms flock to the towns and cities while those in the cities want to get back to the farms, and thus it goes.

One great element in creating this unrest is the uncertainty of making profits in so many localities. Another important element is that of health, and closely associated with it is that of climate. The long winters of the north are discouraging, and especially so to those who know of the milder climes farther to the south. Farmers who have been accustomed to working very hard for a few months to provide feed and fuel for the greater part of the year, are learning that both the comfort and the labor can be more evenly distributed through the year by going further south.

Never before has any section of our great country held the attention and interest of immigrants for so long a period as has the Great Southwest, and yet there is no cessation of interest nor in the movement in that direction. Those who go to the Southwest to investigate or locate are practically all missionaries to urge others to go and do likewise, and thus it is like an endless chain that keeps on and on as if there were no end.

This endless chain work as to the Southwest has been going on for years, and like the rolling snowball keeps increasing as it progresses. There is a reason for this condition, and the reason is not hard to find. The man of affairs knows that no section can continue to grow and prosper year after year unless there is a good reason why it should do so. He knows that merit, and merit only, will win during a series of years, with a section of country as with an individual or a business concern. He knows that time is the unerring test of a country, and this southwest has now had that test fully applied.

“What is the Southwest?” is a question that has often been asked and as often answered, but not always are the same boundaries given. Some would restrict it to the Ozark mountain region; others would broaden it to include Arkansas and Indian Territories, while still others would say Texas. Opinions differ in this as in other things, but I would include all that portion of the United States lying between the Mississippi river and the Rocky mountains, and South of the Northern line of Missouri and Kansas. Just take a map and look what a wealth of resources are to be found in this area.

Here is the great agricultural and mining state of Missouri; there is Kansas with her wheat fields, her ranches, her oil fields and her coal mines; Colorado is in the list also with her gold and silver mines and other resources without limit; New Mexico, a close second to Colorado, must not be overlooked; Oklahoma is in the list, and who is there who don't know something of the “Land of the Fair God?” We have also Indian Territory with her matchless agricultural and mineral resources; we also have Arkansas, a State that could easily support ten times its present population, and her neighbor, Louisiana, on the South, last but not least there is the Lone Star State, the great State of Texas, a State so large and with such varied resources that it could support and satisfy a nation. What a list this is, and why should not this area be prosperous?

Prosperity in the southwest is not a question of one year, for it is perpetual; it is not a question of one crop, for all crops are found here; it is not a question of locality, for the whole southwest is prosperous.
One crop may fail in a locality one year, but there is some other crop to take its place. If it is too dry for wheat and corn to thrive, alfalfa and cotton will fill the void. If it is too wet for the best results in cotton, the ground will be in such order that winter pasture of wheat will mean millions, and thus it is all over the southwest. All the conditions including the atmosphere, are optimistic and call constant attention to the bright side of life.

For many years there has been a constant flow of immigration into the southwest, while the outflow has been small. Wheat has not always been good in all localities; corn has at times been almost a failure; the weevil has at times cruelly devastated the cotton plantations and floods have come and drowned or washed out crops; but through all these things this section has steadily gone forward, meeting disaster with the cheerful optimism of well-balanced minds, knowing as these people did that the reverses were but temporary and the failures much fewer than the successes.

When the dark shadow of a financial panic hung over the nation and industries lagged and languished, the southwest was the only section to get capital to build more railroads and develop her resources. When other sections were enveloped in gloom because of impending disaster, the southwest was serene and hopeful because of the consciousness of its own invincible position and exhaustless resources.

Nature has indeed been lavish with the southwest. Here she has planted and nurtured her greatest forests. Here she has hidden her greatest wealth of coal, lead, zinc, gold, silver and other metals and minerals. Here she has deposited her greatest subterranean lakes of oil and deposits of gas. Here she has smitten the earth and caused the greatest springs to gush forth. Here she has marked the way for the greatest rivers to flow in their courses onward to the greatest waters of the earth. Here she has provided a climate that gives life, strength and comfort to man and beast. Here she has built up a soil that will produce luxuriantly the products of the earth. In fact nature has done more for the southwest than for any other portion of the known world.

For many years the southwest was neglected while the central and northern west was being exploited. Then came a new set of railroad men into the field, and they discovered that the southwest was teeming with undeveloped wealth, and they turned their energies into the development of it. The result has been that several magnificent railroad systems have been built up in the southwest, one of the greatest of which is the St. Louis and San Francisco, or, as it is familiarly known, "the Frisco System."

It has long been recognized that "if the Frisco is there, it is a good country" and the management have prided themselves on the choice of country through which the various arms of this system have been built. South Missouri, South Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Texas all owe much of their prosperity to this railroad system, and on the other hand the "Frisco System" would be impossible were it not for the magnificent resources of these states and territories, so that they are dependent on each other.

Yes, the southwest is prosperous; it has been prosperous many years; it will always be prosperous because it has the natural resources that would force prosperity under any circumstances; it will continue to be prosperous because it is peopled with a class that would not know failure if they met it on the highway; it will continue prosperous because it is graced with railroads which are using all the legitimate means in their control to make it and keep it prosperous.

With all these conditions, could the southwest be other than prosperous? With opportunities for investment and labor on all sides, is it any wonder that prosperity perches continuously on the banner of the southwest? With homes for the industrious poor, and a sure reward for labor, it is just natural that the eyes toward the southwest courts the most critical part of both capital and investment.

WHERE

This is a question of thousands of workers of every man is to layings, but when this is a hundred dollars saved it should be bringing the question is:

The few percent obtained legitimate interest earn inviting. The result in instances the savings are of some. The little should be a national concern by poor working classes. In cases, it is not the last but thoroughly at sea as to their savings so they will financial help.

To all people in a place which we wish to call attractive opportunities for small and land along the Frisco hundred dollars so there be absolutely safe, but an investor a home in a beautiful climate, a successful city life, a sure living for the fain and last but not least, he never enjoyed. Aside from there is no other field more and a small sum can be doubt increased in so short a time.
WHERE TO INVEST MY SAVINGS.

BY E. H.

This is a question which occurs daily to thousands of workers in the cities. The aim of every man is to lay by a part of his earnings, but when this is done and he has a few hundred dollars saved, he naturally feels that it should be bringing him in something and the question is: where to invest it? The few percent obtained by depositing at legitimate interest certainly does not look inviting. The result is that in a great many instances the savings are placed in the hands of some "Get-Rich-Quick" concern which promises several per cent. a week. Not a month passes in which one does not notice a leading article in the daily papers announcing the failure of one of the companies, frequently involving hundreds of thousands of dollars and affecting thousands of workers. In fact, the greater part of the money lost by these fraud concerns is contributed by the comparatively poor working classes. In the majority of cases, it is not the loser's fault, as he is thoroughly at sea as to how to invest his savings so they will bring him in any material help.

To all people in a quandary on this point, we wish to call attention to the grand opportunities for small investments in farm land along the Frisco System. A few hundred dollars so invested will not only be absolutely safe, but will inure to the investor a home in a beautiful country, an ideal climate, a success from the grind of city life, a sure living for himself and family, and last but not least, health such as he has never enjoyed. Aside from these features, there is no other field now open in which a small sum can be doubled and constantly increased in so short a time as in an investment of this character. With proper management, not only will a small farm in this region yield a good living to a family, but the land itself will each year materially increase in value. Many families are now enjoying peace, health and plenty in this beautiful country, who a few years ago were, by hard work and long hours, barely making a living in crowded city quarters.

For a small outlay, probably one of the most profitable enterprises in this line is poultry raising in the Ozarks. A ten acre farm devoted to poultry raising, when properly managed, will yield a good living to a family and enable them to lay by a neat sum each year or increase the acreage and improvements. Hundreds of people are now profitably engaged in this business along the Frisco System.

This is but one of the many lines of farming in which there is a fine opportunity. Among others may be mentioned the cultivation of all kinds of fruits and berries. In any of these but a small original investment is sufficient, and with proper care and attention, the results are invariably satisfactory.

"Mrs. Gander was very lucky to get such a fine man as a second husband."

"Yes. She goes on the principle that one good husband deserves another."

"After all, we are judged, in our journey through life,
By the gray matter under our heads, and the men that win out in the struggles write Are the men that deliver the goods."—Milwaukee Sentinel,
This, the Missouri Edition of our Magazine, would not be complete without a short article relative to the great Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis. The Exposition opened April 30th, and will close November 30th. More than one half of the allotted time has passed.

Since the opening day the Fair has been steadily improving, and while from the first day it has more than equalled the expectation of all who have seen it, the three last months, September, October and November, will unquestionably be the best and will show the largest attendance. One reason for this is that, notwithstanding the fact that the summer has been exceptionally cool and pleasant, Autumn is the ideal season in Missouri. Not only are the days and nights cooler, but the air is more bracing and seemingly lighter. Another reason is that the scenic effects are finer. Over 300 gardeners have been working on the grounds since the opening day, and in consequence the vegetation of all kinds; trees, grass, flowers and landscape gardening generally, have been brought up to the highest possible point of cultivation.

The central setting and jewel of the entire Exposition is without question Festival Hall and the Cascades. One evening spent on this part of the grounds is well worth a trip of hundreds of miles. The view from the Colonnade of States, which sweeps in graceful curves to the East and West of Festival Hall, is simply beyond words to describe—the snow white buildings in their setting of bright green; the statues and groups of statues; the clear water of the Grand Basin and Lagoons, mirroring the adjacent buildings, spanned by gracefully arched bridges; the picturesque gondolas; the profusion of gorgeous flowers burdening the air with their fragrance and enhancing the poetic quality of the entire scene—it is indeed the dream land of a poet.

Of almost equal beauty are the Sunken Gardens, with their wilderness of flowers, sparkling fountains and velvet terraces, surrounded as they are with exhibit palaces.

However, we have neither the space nor the ability to give a comprehensive idea of the charm of even the most palatial portion of the exhibition. The leading article in FRISCO SYSTEM MAGAZINE will give the reader the enjoyment of a trip of hundreds of miles, the view from the Colonnade of States, which sweeps in graceful curves to the East and West of Festival Hall, is simply beyond words to describe—the snow white buildings in their setting of bright green; the statues and groups of statues; the clear water of the Grand Basin and Lagoons, mirroring the adjacent buildings, spanned by gracefully arched bridges; the picturesque gondolas; the profusion of gorgeous flowers burdening the air with their fragrance and enhancing the poetic quality of the entire scene—it is indeed the dream land of a poet.
the air with their fragrance and softening and enhancing the peace and beauty of the entire scene—it is indeed the dream land of a poet.

Of almost equal beauty are the Sunken Gardens, with their wilderness of flowers, sparkling fountains and velvety terraces, surrounded as they are with exhibit palaces. However, we have neither the space nor the ability to give a comprehensive idea of the beauty and charm of even the main features. It would require pages of print and the language of a Tennyson or Bret Harte to do it justice.

The leading article in our April issue gave quite a comprehensive resume of the main exhibition palaces. In addition to these, and of possibly more interest to many types of all the people inhabiting our new possessions, from the educated, Spanish speaking Filipino to the savage untamed tribe, the Igorrots—the various entertainments and villages on the Pike, in which are to be seen types practically all people of the world, from the Esquimau to the Vagabonds of South Africa.

An exhibit in the Southern part of the grounds which is attracting well deserved attention is the Boer War. It occupies 14 acres, and in the performance employs 1000 men, English and Boer veterans of the South African War. The capture of the British guns at Colenso, the Battle of Paardeburg and surrender of General Cronje, and the escape of General De Wet, the
three most exciting engagements in the Boer war, are realistically executed, over 600 horses being used during the performance. Generals Cronje and Viljoen personally appear in the display; also a number of pure blooded Kafrs and Basutos.

In fact, one may see at the St. Louis Fair practically everything he has ever read or heard of, and this at a very reasonably expense. As an instance of the latter item we cite the Inside Inn, which is located in the southwest corner of the grounds. This is a mammoth structure, built for Fair visitors. It has 2257 rooms in all and the persons appear in the display; also a number of pure blooded Kafrs and Basutos.

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many places over hanging the river, and are covered with varicolored moss and lichens near the base. The woods along the bank are clean and inviting, and even on the warmest day it is pleasantly cool either on the wooded shores or in a boat in the shade of the bluffs.

The fishing is varied. As already stated, Blue Springs is stocked with brook trout, some of which have been caught there weighing in the neighborhood of four pounds. Next to the brook trout come small mouthed black bass and crappie in the Meramec, which generally strike best in and below the riffles, while the less ambitious angler may content himself with a string of channel cat and carp from the deeper pools of still water.

The altitude is some 600 feet above St. Louis, the air light and bracing, and the nights cool and pleasant.

AN ODE TO THE HEN.

Poets in all lands and ages
That the thought of man engages,
Since the early days of Homer and a thousand years before,
Have delighted oft in springing,
Odes on birds that do the singing,
Birds that sail the briny ocean or that roost along the shore.

I have read since early childhood
Of the birds that haunt the wildwood,
And I've heard their mellow voices when
the earth by spring is warmed;
But no music I can tackle
Is so pleasing as the cackle
Of the barnyard hen whose duty has been
patiently performed.

To become a great musician
Is no barnyard beauty's mission,
As with fortitude becoming to her daily task
she pegs;
Hers to cackle when she's able
And supply the Christian's table
With the tempting fries in autumn and the early scrambled eggs.

SOLITAIRE!

In truth, I ask nor diamonds
Nor rubies for mine own—
Your heart is hard enough, my dear,
To be my precious stone.
RAISING GINSENG IN THE OZARKS.

Perhaps one of the rarest farms in the world is a ginseng farm. Few people have ever seen one and half of the people never even heard of one. The largest ginseng farms in America are located in the Ozark regions along the Frisco System. The culture of ginseng is attracting much attention at present because of the snug fortunes that are being made in growing the plant for exportation to China.

Several big shipments of the dried product from ginseng gardens in the Ozark country recently mark an era in the experiment of ginseng gardening in the United States and demonstrates the practicability of raising it in this country with success and at great profit.

The crop all goes abroad, for people of civilized lands have found little use for it. And yet 400,000,000 Chinese have the highest opinion of its virtues. With them, it stands at the head of remedial agents, and has done so for centuries. Nothing save starvation, in the opinion of this oriental people, can overcome a nian stimulated with ginseng essence. In the legends and folklore of the Celestial Empire, strange reference in regard to ginseng is found. It was learned that many credulous Chinese cited the case of a man living at Shangtang during the reign of Wen Ti, Emperor of the Shi dynasty, who used to hear a voice at night calling to him from the field. For years, according to the legend, these mysterious salutations were repeated, but no explanation of their origin could be found until one day there was dug up 600 feet from the man's home, a huge ginseng plant that closely resembled a human being. After that the voice ceased, and all who drank of a tea brewed from the roots of that ginseng plant lived without pain to a patriarchal age.

Certain it is, that though the medical science of the east cannot utilize this plant, there is a market among the hordes of people in China for all that can be raised. The best roots bring as high as $15.00 per pound in America. The wild root of ginseng is now practically exterminated and there is big incentive for its culture.

An acre of ginseng roots five years old is said to be worth $50,000. The profits from a small patch are enormous. As it costs comparatively little to start a garden, quite a number are going into the business. It was first discovered that to attempt to grow the plant without shade invariably resulted in failure. As the Ozarks region was, before the settlement of the country, the natural home of the wild plant, where thousands of dollars had been made by the pioneers and Indians in gathering it, a number of ginseng gardens were established and carried on successfully where the woodland's ax had not felled the native trees. Experiments made by some of the gardeners proved that, while shade was necessary for the profitable growth of the plant, it need not necessarily be that of forest trees. It was demonstrated that with the proper cultivation roots could be produced with artificial shade with much more certainty than with that of the forest. Late spring, brush, other plants of a climbing character which made a quick and leafy growth were all utilized with good results. Among the largest and best known gardens of the Ozark region are those of the Ozark Ginseng Company, with headquarters at Joplin, Mo. Besides growing ginseng for the dried product the gardens of the Ozark country carry on a considerable trade in nursery stock and export seeds and roots for planting purposes to all parts of the country.

Oklahoma is rounding up another good crop year, but that thing is getting so common out there as to be hardly worthy of comment. The wheat crop was short, but corn, cotton, alfalfa and other crops more than make up the deficiency in wheat. Thus it goes. There is no let-up to the growth and prosperity of the "Land of the Fair God," as the name of Oklahoma signifies.

THE BILLY BOWEN.

Billy Bowen, the away all summer at

Naturally the Indian

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as Billy was formerly

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he had picked up it in

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"No like show," he

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The agent viewed

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FRISCO SYSTEM MAGAZINE.
FRISCO SYSTEM MAGAZINE.

THE INDIAN MEDICINE PONY.

BY W. R. D.

Billy Bowlegs, the half-breed, had been away all summer with a traveling show. Naturally the Indians of his tribe looked upon him with awe and admiration. Whereas Billy was formerly contented to sit in the shade of his lodge smoking cigarette stubs he had picked up in the agent's office, now his travels had imbued his savage soul with genuine ambition. He actually longed to become chief of his people, the Otoes. To be sure there are more exalted positions, but Billy's mind could not soar too high all in one jump. He agreed with the agent that it was better to take one step at a time.

It was late summer and as it is the custom on every Indian reservation of the southwest, the redskins had given full sway to dancing and feasting upon newly gathered crops. Billy had been counted a good dancer even before his sinewy legs had been trained by the ringmaster. His tall thin form, flesh as flexible as rubber and hard as bone, was declared by athletes to be a model of perfection; but he scorned their offers of future employment, for Billy was thoroughly disgusted with the manners of the pale-faces. He was an Indian to the core; he could not content himself among those not of his breed.

"No like show," he said to his friends. "Too much talk, no keep word with red man."

The agent viewed his candidacy with indifference, for it mattered little to him who presided over their medicine feasts and councils so long as he doled out their cash, keeping that which was needed for his own purse. Following after the ideas he had grasped in the show business, Billy longed for the spectacular, the coup d'état. He claimed to dislike the actor folk because they talked too much about themselves, and yet one could find Billy at most any time discussing his candidacy for the chieftainship. Wherein Bill learned that he had likewise picked up some ideas that were not a part of him before he left the Otoe country for a turn in the world. Then he decided to use some of this borrowed scheming to his own good.

"Me make good chief," he expostulated in a loud voice to his people, "because me know the white man. Me big man now. The white father know me; he see Billy Bowlegs dance and he say to me: 'Come to my tepee and eat with me.' Billy can do his people great favor in the lodge of his white brother."

Indians in speaking of themselves and their adventures are apt to lie; indeed, it becomes them strangely to tell the truth in such instances. Bowlegs spread out tales of wild adventure in which he had taken the leading role until the Otoes were fairly captivated by his prowess. Had the election been held then Billy should not have needed to use his strategy to such length. But the interest of the red man wanes in a campaign just the same as it does with his white brother, and the brass band must keep continually at it to stir their legs in going to the voting precinct.

Eagle Claws, present chief of the Otoes, leered at Bowlegs' wild tales. Mr. Claws was fat and rich and his face fairly beamed with good humor, except when Billy was around. And then every wrinkle became a scowl, every pleasantry a biting sarcasm.鹰爪是目前的奥托族酋长。他戴着Bowlegs的荒诞故事，他发胖而富有，他的脸上总是挂着微笑，除非Billy在场。当Billy在场时，他的脸上每一个皱纹都会变成一个皱眉，每一个嬉笑都会变成一个尖刻的讽刺。

Eagle Claws was quite as determined not to give up the chieftaincy as was the retired showman to win it. It promised a battle of wits, and the populace cried disapproval. For when two of the head men of a tribe battle against each other the common people are certain to benefit thereby.

The six medicine men of the Otoes called upon Billy and received a verbal notification that he wished to be considered in the race for chief. He accompanied the announcement with a number of pairs of crimson red tights and boxes of face paint which had been valuable to him; but nothing compared to the office he sought and which it was in their power to give.

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It was at the first dance of the season that Eagle Claws opened his powerful batteries upon his opponents. At the conclusion of an exciting medicine "two-step" Claws arose from the ground, pulled his blanket about him tightly, and turning his back upon Billy, stood, with his hands toward the six prophets who acknowledged the compliment in token of submission. "I am nothing but a common Indian, willing to use my talent for the good of the Otoes. I can only have my opinions."

"Let us have them," shouted the tribe with wild elicitation.

"The voice of the pony is that of the White Father who has chosen this way of telling you of Eagle Claws' deception. I only ask you to believe the medicine pony a true prophet."

The following day the medicine pony became an object of much importance. Before the medicine chiefs entered their sweat lodge for a final conference as to whom they should choose for chief of the Otoes they called the pony into the circle and proposed a few questions. Each answer came slowly, but giving favor to the ex-shoemaker. The medicine men questioned the animal about Billy, his past life, and learned that his actions had been satisfactory to his employers, that he had pleased the pale faces before whom he performed.

The Indians sat about the medicine men listening with breathless interest. They paid no heed to Billy himself seated on top of a wagonbed paying close attention to the questioning. The conference in the sweat lodge lasted but a few minutes when they came out shouting the name of their future ruler, Billy Bowlegs.

After Bill had duly accepted the high office, treated his people to a few square meals and issued some wonderful promises as to his future policy he retired to his lodge and dreamed that he was once a shoemaker, doing the stint with a talking horse. His ventriloquism had come in good office; his show life had proven worth while.
Over $1,000,000 is the annual product of the mines of Newton County, Missouri. The historic mining camp at Granby is the pioneer of the country in lead and zinc production, ore having been discovered there in 1864. Granby, a town of about 2,000 inhabitants, has been numbered among the best mining camps in the district since ore was first discovered. The land mined comprises nearly 700 acres and larger and better strikes are constantly being developed. At one time, before camps of more extensive scope were developed, the population of Granby was estimated at nearly 10,000 people.

Wentworth, in the eastern part of the county on the Frisco System, is a newer camp and fortunes have already been made from ore taken out at that point. The old mines of Saginaw a few miles north of Neosho have been worked for nearly a quarter century and much money has been made there by different parties engaged in mining. Among the mining camps near Neosho, mines have been worked for nearly a quarter century and much money has been made there during that time by different parties engaged in mining.

At a meeting of the rice growing capitalists of the Texas coast country recently plans have been materialized for the organization of a rice trust. It is the plan of the trust to better educate the country on the value of rice fields as investments, and to establish rice kitchens throughout the country.

Indian Territory wheat has commenced to attract attention from the famous millers of Minneapolis. J. J. Hill, the railroad magnate recently said: "It would surprise the public to know that the millers of Minneapolis have to go to the Indian Territory in order to get enough wheat to grind. The northern wheat is not sufficient for demands of Australia and China."

At Stinson land on Sarcoxie prairie, a few miles west of Wentworth, many experienced miners believe this will prove one of the richest camps in the whole district and it is being worked with much success at the present time.

Although Newton County is the father of the mining industry of Southwest Missouri, new and splendid mines are constantly being developed. These mineral lands are reached by the main line of the Frisco System, and the opportunities for the sudden realization of a dream of wealth are greater here than in many other sections.

Among other mining camps near Neosho, mines have been worked for nearly a quarter century and much money has been made there during that time by different parties engaged in mining.

Among the new and exceedingly rich camps in Newton County is that located on and near Stinson land on Sarcoxie prairie. Many experienced miners believe this will prove one of the richest camps in the whole district and it is being worked with much success at the present time.

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Fourteen experiment farmers are to be located in Texas, under the direction of Q. J. Spillman, of the Department of Agriculture. The department has set aside $20,000 for the object of diversifying Texas crops. There is no state in the Union where
better facilities are offered the farmer than in Texas to study scientific methods of farming as shown by these experiment stations.

"Climatic conditions of the coast country," is the title of an article on that country of ripe opportunity written by one of the agents of this Association, Mr. Bernard Ludemann, living at El Campo. This department is permitted to quote from Mr. Ludemann as follows: "From the rock-bound and surf beaten shores of old New England to the golden sands of California, and from the great lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, is there a climate that will compare with that of the great coast country of Texas. Where for years has the mercury had a range of only 62 degrees, winter and summer? Compare this with the more northern territory where the range is from 85 to 95 degrees and frequently a range of 60 to 70 degrees takes place in a few hours. Go the world around and see if you can surpass this condition, such as exists in the coast country. Here the climate is so mild that you may gather strawberries from the patch for your Christmas dinner and have flowers in abundance to decorate the home.

Reports from the famous Eagle Chief valley of Oklahoma, state that corn will make 80 bushels per acre, and that five ears of wheat are being shipped out of Carmen per day, during August. Carmen last summer established an excellent market for wheat, and farmers for 20 miles around are bringing their wheat to Carmen for shipment.

J. A. Corray, for some time an active immigration agent at Hoopstown, Ill., has been appointed Division Immigration Agent for the Association at Terre Haute, Indiana. Mr. Corray is one of the most active agents of the association and has met with great success.

Mr. J. T. Thompson, Division Immigration Agent for this Association at Chicago, reports that a heavy homeseeker's travel is expected in September from the eastern middle states. Farmers in that country are becoming disaffected with continued crop failures and high taxes, and are determined to better their conditions in the new and growing southwest.

J. H. Bell and C. H. Lamb, Agents of this Association, attended the land opening at Boonsteel, South Dakota, and secured a large number of homeseekers for Frisco System territory, who failed to draw free farms in the great land lottery.

Seven years ago the safety lines for loans on farm property did not cover that portion of the west including Kansas and Oklahoma, while to-day the farmers of those two sections are so prosperous that they seldom wish to borrow money on their property unless it is for the purpose of buying additional land holdings. One of the hardest pressed business lines in Kansas and Oklahoma is the loan man.

A special dispatch from Brownsville, Texas of recent date has this to say of the purchase of a townsite in that section by prominent capitalists of St. Louis: "B. F. Yoakum, Col. S. W. Fordyce, Thomas H. West, Edwards Whitaker and Robert S. Brookings of the St. Louis Union Trust Company, who are building the Lott Railroad to Brownsville, have bought a half interest in the Brownsville Land and Town Company, which owns 2,600 acres of land, including part of the townsite of Brownsville. The company is laying off two town sites, one to be called West Brownsville, joining this city, and the other four miles out on the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railroad. It is traversed by both the Lott road and the irrigating canal. Col. S. W. Fordyce and Edward C. Elliot, chief counsel for the St. Louis Union Trust Company, were elected members of the board of directors of the land and town company, to represent the St. Louis syndicate."
R. B. Hart, for a number of years a well known immigration agent at Springfield, Mo., has been appointed District Agent of the Frisco System Land and Immigration Association, with headquarters at Springfield, in charge of the Arkansas territory.

Southwest Missouri has already established a reputation for raising the finest apples grown in the country, and Newton County, of which Neosho is the county seat, stands at the head of the list of apple growing counties of the southwest. There are few counties of the southwest possessing as many advantages for both growing and marketing their crops of fruit as Newton County has to offer to those who are looking for a location in the very profitable business of growing apples for profit. The soil and climate are particularly adapted to this great industry. It would be well for you to correspond with the Commercial Club at Neosho if you are seeking a splendid return on the money invested in orchard lands in the great southwest.

Are the many thousands of northern and eastern people who are visiting the World's Fair, getting all that is coming to them for their investment? Of course the Fair is all that is claimed for it, and worth many times what it costs visitors to see it, but, that is not the point. The point is that when these northern and eastern people are so near the southwest, they miss a wonderful opportunity in not taking a few days longer, spending a few dollars more and journeying into this new wonderland. By doing this they will indeed get full value for their investment.

While the peach crop in the Ozark region is not up to the standard this year, it is far from a failure and goes still further towards showing that there is no better peach country. Last winter it was thought the peach crop would be a failure, but the predictions were not verified, and once more the painstaking peach growers have had a profitable year. In Southwest Missouri alone there are many thousands of acres of the finest kind of peach land that can be bought for a few dollars per acre, and with intelligent management there can be no better investment.

The uncertainly of a livelihood in the large cities as compared with the country has again been brought forcibly to the front by late strikes. In the country a man's home is his kingdom and his support, and, with reasonable care and industry he can all ways be assured of enough to keep want from the door. It is not so among the great army of toilers in the cities, for they may lose their jobs at any time and have a struggle to find another. The same eight hours work six days out of the week that is necessary for a living in the shops, if put in on a few acres of even hill land in the southwest would soon mean a home, health and plenty. Any agent of the Frisco System will tell you where you can get such a home with but small investment.

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If farming, state kind.

 Territory preferred

 Amount of money to invest

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