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M77

GEOGRAPHY OF KANSAS.

by James Monteith

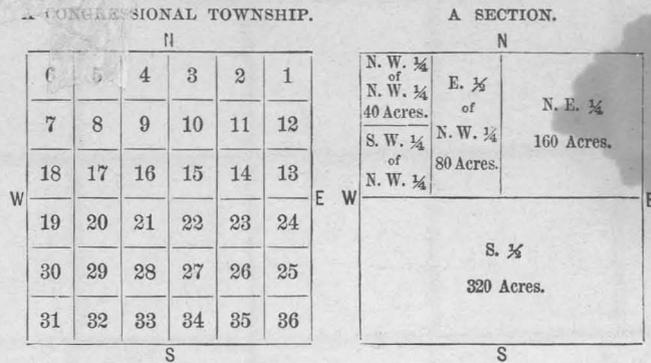
A PRELIMINARY CHAPTER.

A State is a political division, having an organized government of its own, and having jurisdiction over a definitely prescribed territory or tract of country. The name of the State is also applied to the country possessed by it.

A County is a subdivision of a State for purposes of local government.

A Township is a subdivision of a county for purposes of local government.

A Congressional Township is a tract of country six miles square, according to the present survey. It is divided into 36 sections, these being numbered according to a definite system shown in the diagram. A **Section** is a square mile.

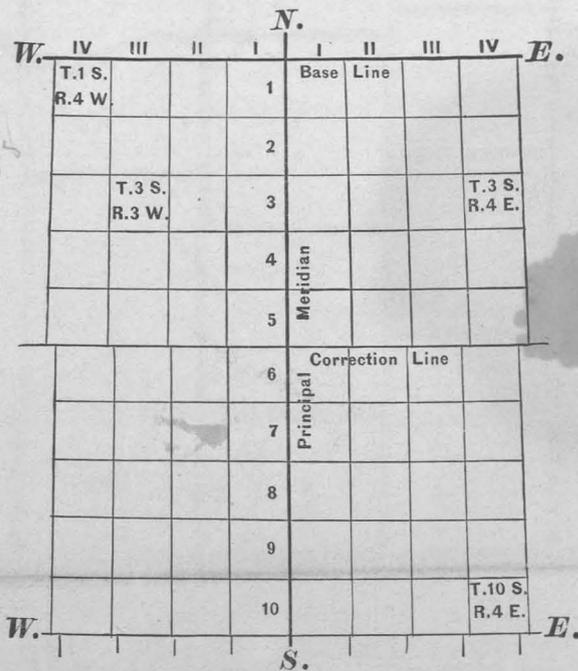


A Township may comprise as its territory a congressional township. It may comprise more or less than a congressional township.

A Range is a row of townships extending north and south. The ranges are distinguished by numbering them both ways—east and west—from a given line, known as a Principal Meridian of the United States land survey.

The townships in each range are numbered north and south from a given east and west line, known as a base-line.

Kansas is surveyed upon the 6th Principal Meridian of the United States survey, with the north line of the State (Parallel 40° N.) as the base-line.



T signifies Township; R, Range.

The 6th Principal Meridian is a line surveyed due south from the north line of the State. It passes near Clyde, Saline, and Wellington.

As the ranges are bounded by meridian lines, and as all meridians con-

verge toward the poles, it follows that the northern boundary of each township will be slightly less than its southern line, and townships north of the base-line will have a less breadth from east to west than those next the base-line; and those south, a greater breadth.

Correction Lines are therefore established at distances of 24 to 60 miles from each other.

A **correction line** is an east and west line, or parallel, along which the ranges are readjusted in breadth.

PHYSICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE GEOGRAPHY.

POSITION AND SIZE.—Kansas occupies the most central position of all the States, being equally distant from the Atlantic and the Pacific, and from the Gulf of Mexico and the Lake of the Woods.

It is situated between the parallels of 37° and 40° north latitude, and extends from 94° 38' to 102° west longitude (from Greenwich).

In shape, it is rectangular; its greatest length being almost 400 miles, and its width, about 200 miles. Its area is a little over 81,000 square miles. It is the sixth State in size, and is larger than New York and Indiana combined.

It is bounded on the north by Nebraska; on the northeast, by the Missouri River, which there separates it from Missouri; on the east, by Missouri; on the south, by the Indian Territory; and on the West, by Colorado.

The increase of population from 1860 to 1870 was greater than that of any other State.

Reservations of about 100,000 acres belong to certain Indian tribes.

SURFACE.—Kansas is an undulating plain, rising gradually from its eastern to its western boundary. The elevation of the surface along its western boundary above the level of the sea is 3,500 feet, being about 3,000 feet more than that along its eastern boundary.

Its rolling prairies, green meadows, fertile valleys, and rivers fringed with forest trees, have made Kansas celebrated for the beauty of its landscapes.

Kansas is justly proud of its many broad and extended valleys, the productions of which have given the State its reputation for richness of soil. Among those especially worthy of mention are the valleys of the Neosho, Blue, Republican, Saline, Kansas, Verdigris, Wakarusa, and Fall rivers.

Along the Solomon and Smoky rivers are single fields of wheat containing thousands of acres; while for size, fertility, fine water and climate, the Great Arkansas Valley fairly challenges the world.

RIVERS.—Kansas is well supplied with rivers.

The Missouri forms the northeastern boundary, and is navigable almost all the year.

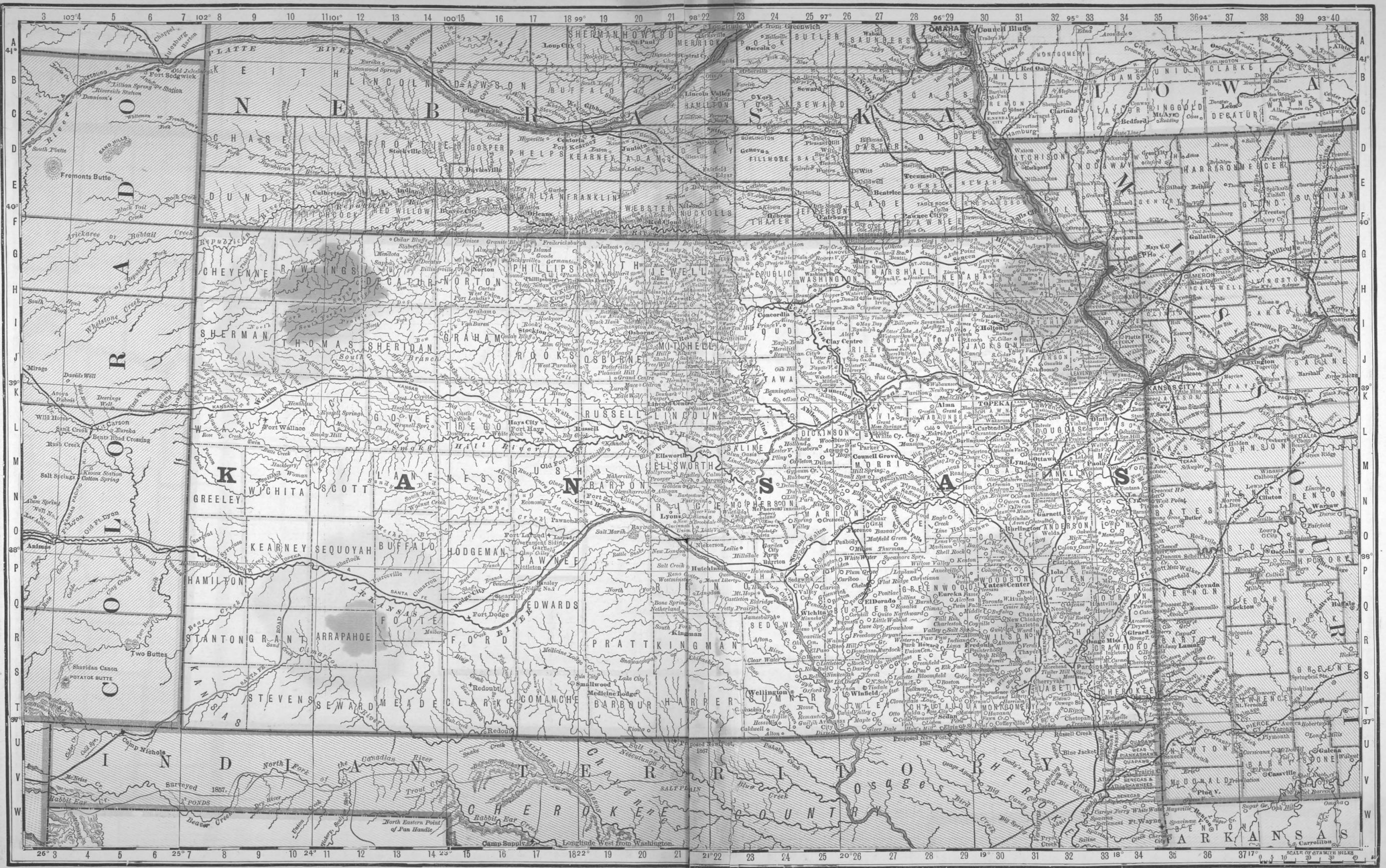
The Arkansas and Kansas are the most important rivers which traverse the State.

The Arkansas enters the State from Colorado, and receives the waters of the Pawnee, Walnut Creek, Little Arkansas, Walnut River, and other streams in Kansas. The Cimarron passes through the southwestern part of the State, and the Neosho and Verdigris through the southeastern part.

The Kansas, or Kaw River, is formed by the Republican and Smoky Hill rivers, which have their headwaters in Colorado, and form a junction in Davis county. It receives also the waters of the Big Blue, Wakarusa, and Grasshopper. The principal tribu-

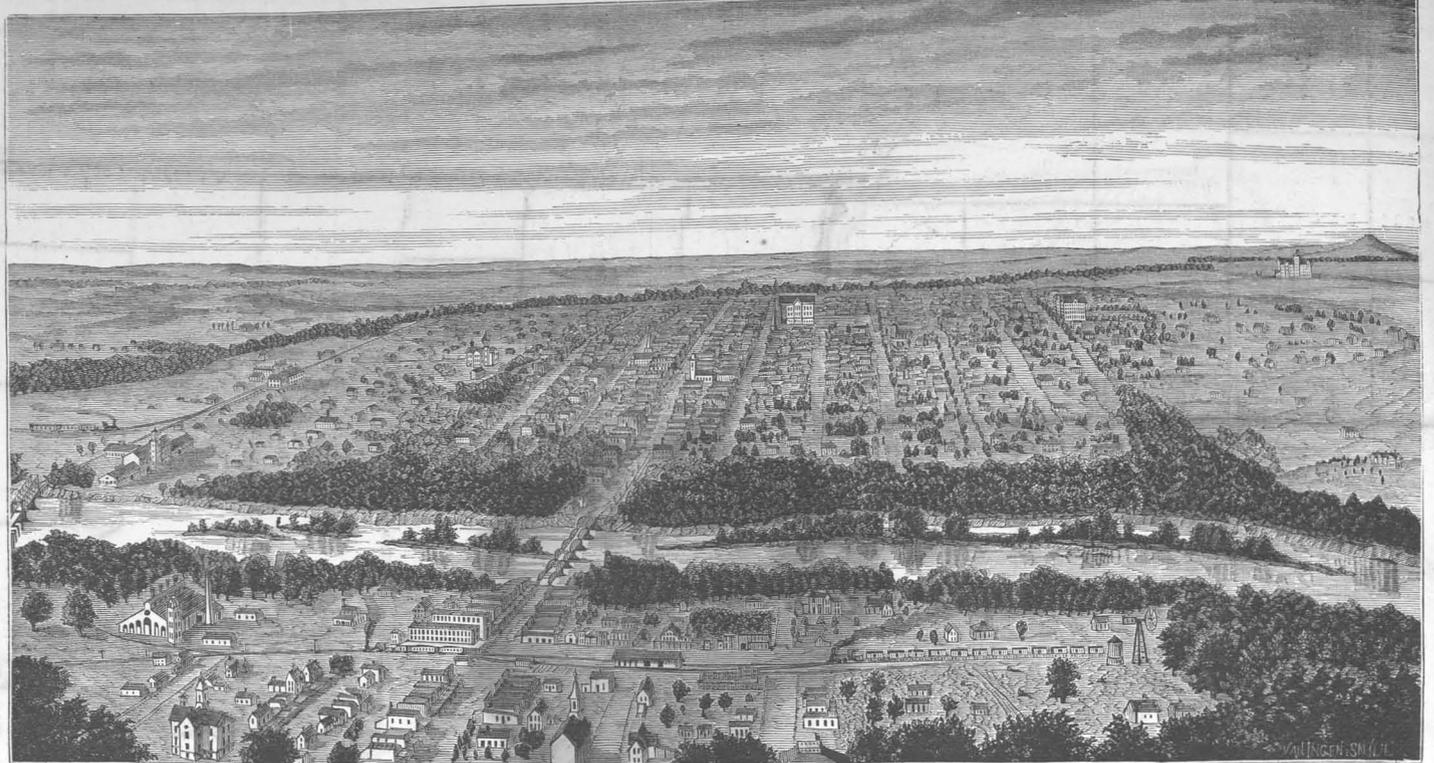


New York
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SCALE OF STATUTE MILES
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View of Topeka, the Capital of Kansas.

taries of the Smoky Hill River are the Solomon and Saline rivers, which enter it from the north.

CLIMATE.—The climate is exceedingly healthful and pleasant; the winters are milder than in the same latitude further east, but high winds are more prevalent.

The summers are dry and refreshing. In the clearness and salubrity of atmosphere, Kansas and Nebraska excel all other States.

The mean annual temperature for five years was 53° Fahr., with an average annual rainfall in the eastern and central parts of 30 inches, and in the extreme western, it was nearly 20 inches. A distinguishing feature of the rainfall is that but little falls in the winter; the average, during the growing season, being equal to that of more eastern States.

THE SOIL is very productive, especially in the eastern half of the State. It consists of a rich, black loam, resting upon a lighter-colored subsoil of loam, clay, and gravel.

The country is well drained, and there are no swamps in Kansas.

Agriculture and **stock-raising** are the chief industries of the people.

The value of **farm products**, in 1876, was over \$45,500,000.

The **leading products** are corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, barley, and sorghum.

The **fruits** of Kansas, which are very fine, include the apple, peach, pear; all the small fruits grow in great abundance. The soil is especially adapted to the culture of grapes.

The annual products of the Brenner vineyards, near Doniphan, is about 36,000 gallons of wine.

FOREST TREES.—The eastern half of the State is moderately well timbered, generally along the streams. The oak, walnut, ash, elm, hickory, willow, sycamore, cottonwood, cedar, locust, and pecan, are the most important trees.

In the western sections trees are scarce.

The **wild animals** comprise the badger, beaver, otter, deer, antelope, coyot or prairie wolf, and prairie dog, besides rabbits and

squirrel. The grouse, prairie hen, wild turkey, and numerous small birds abound; and, at certain seasons in the year, portions of the State are visited by countless wild ducks, geese, swans, pelicans, and cranes.

The larger animals of Kansas are fast disappearing, and buffalo hunting on its plains is a thing of the past. A few years ago, they were so plentiful, that settlers sometimes shot them from the doors and windows of their cabins. The flesh of these animals was a staple article of food, and their hides found a ready sale.

So great was the slaughter of buffaloes on the Central and Western prairies, that the ground was dotted all over with their bones; these have recently been gathered up and sent east by railroad, to be used, when pulverized, in the refining of sugar or as a fertilizer, and the horns sold to be manufactured into combs.

MINERALS.—The eastern portion of the State contains large deposits of coal, extending over an area of 17,000 square miles; a much larger area than the coal region of Pennsylvania. Iron, lead, alum, limestone, gypsum, petroleum, brick and other clays, also abound. Salt is found in the central counties, in springs and salt marshes.

Kansas has fine **lime** and **sandstone** for building purposes. The **magnesium limestone**, found in the Republican Valley, is peculiarly excellent; when taken out of the quarry, it is so soft that it may be easily sawn into blocks and carved without the use of chisel or hammer. The State-House at Topeka is built of this stone taken from quarries near Junction City.

Lead has been recently discovered on Short Creek, in Cherokee county; and on account of it, chiefly, the rival towns of Empire and Galena, containing several thousands of inhabitants, have sprung up almost as if by magic.

Of the many **mineral wells** which have been opened in boring for coal, the most noted is at Iola. "Iola Water" is celebrated for its curative qualities.

Some of these wells emit large quantities of burning gas; from that at Wyandotte, a sufficient supply may be obtained to light both Wyandotte and Kansas City.

Kansas is of great geological interest, because of the numerous and rare fossils.



Bridge over the Missouri River, at Atchison, Kansas.

MANUFACTURES.—The facilities for extensive manufacturing are unlimited.

The leading manufactures are flour, lumber, iron, furniture, oil, cheese, and gypsum.

The culture of the **silk-worm** and the manufacture of silk receive attention.

RAILROADS.—Kansas has increased more rapidly in the number and extent of its railroads than any other State. In 1865, there were but forty miles of railroad; in 1878, more than 2000 miles.

These railroads form connections with the entire railway system of the continent. The principal lines are the Kansas Pacific; Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé; Missouri River, Fort Scott, and Gulf; Missouri, Kansas, and Texas; Leavenworth, Lawrence, and Galveston; Central Branch Union Pacific; St. Joseph and Denver; and the Kansas Central.

The **highways** are considered among the best in the world; because of the fine drainage of the soil they are easily kept in order.

GOVERNMENT.—The **Legislature** consists of forty senators, who are elected for four years, and one hundred and twenty-five representatives elected for two years.

Regular sessions are held every two years, beginning on the second Tuesday in January.

The **executive power** is vested in a governor, lieutenant-governor, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, attorney-general, and superintendent of public instruction, all chosen by the people for two years.

The **Supreme Court** is the highest court, and comprises a chief-justice and two judges elected by the people for six years. There are fifteen district courts, and each county has a probate court.

The right to vote is given to all males over twenty-one years of age, who are citizens of the United States, or have declared their intention to become such, and have resided in the State six months, and in the township or ward thirty days previous to the election. In Congress, Kansas is allowed two Senators and three Representatives; and in the Electoral College, five votes.

Cities may organize under an act of the Legislature as follows: those having 15,000 inhabitants and upwards, as cities of the first class; others having 2,000 or more, cities of the second class; and those having a less number than 2,000, cities of the third class.

Town is not a legal designation in Kansas.

EDUCATION.—The **constitution** requires the legislature to encourage the promotion of intellectual, moral and scientific improvement, by establishing a uniform system of schools in the normal, preparatory, and collegiate departments.

The **school officers** consist of State and County superintendents, city boards of education, and district boards.

In the State there are about 4,000 school-houses, 6,000 teachers, and 233,000 pupils, with an attendance of about 165,000.

The **educational institutions** of the State are: State University, Lawrence; State Agricultural College, Manhattan; St. Benedict College, Atchison; Washburn College, Topeka; Highland College, Highland; Baker University, Baldwin City; Ottawa University, Ottawa; College of the Sisters of Bethany, Topeka; and a Normal School at Emporia.

The **Kansas school fund** is entitled to the 16th and 36th sections of public lands by a Constitutional provision, which applied to all lands except Indian lands.

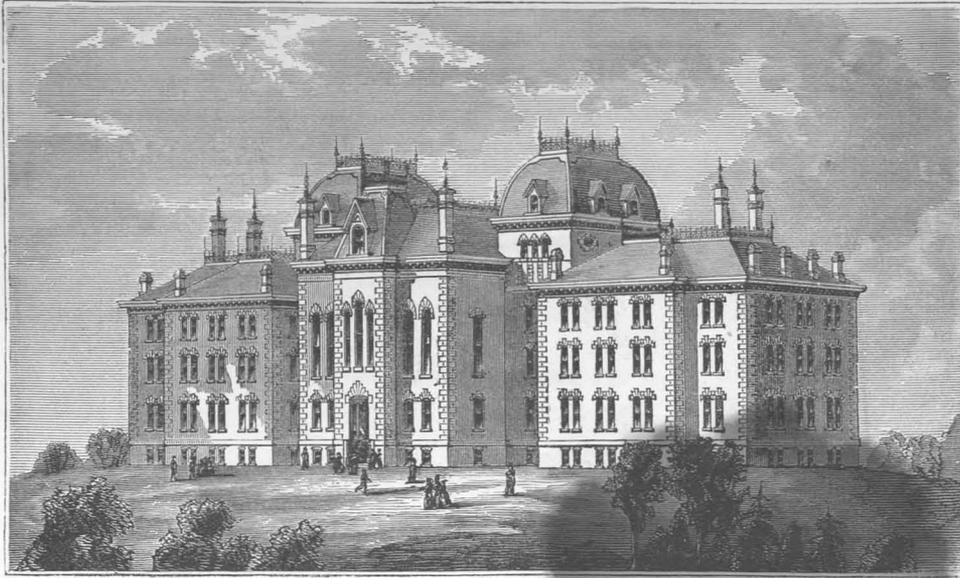
Through the efforts of the **Executive of the State**, in 1877, a decision was rendered establishing the rights of the **school fund** to the 16th and 36th sections lying within the Indian Reservations; thus adding to that fund about 270,000 acres, known as Indemnity Lands.

CITIES AND TOWNS.—**Leavenworth** [L, 33], (pop., 17,873), the largest city in the State, is on the right bank of the Missouri River. It is built on rolling ground, encircled by bluffs, which form an amphitheatre. The city is well laid out, with handsome houses, churches, schools, and other public buildings. The Cathedral and Court-House are among the finest structures in the West. The Missouri at this place is crossed by an iron bridge. Fort Leavenworth, two miles above the city, is headquarters for the Department of the Missouri. The Government reservation has a frontage of six miles, and contains barracks, store-houses, a hospital, a military prison, a national cemetery, shady drives, and a fine parade-ground. The State Penitentiary is also located here. Leavenworth is actively engaged in manufacturing. Its foundry, furniture, and wagon factories are said to be the largest west of the Missouri River. It has flouring mills, breweries, machine-shops, carpet, cigar, and bag factories, a pork-packing house, and an elevator. A vein of coal underlies the city, and large quantities are mined for home consumption and export. Leavenworth is an important railroad center.

Topeka [K, 31], (pop., 7,272),* the State capital, has a beautiful situation on both sides of the Kansas River, which is crossed by two bridges. The city is handsomely built, with wide regular streets. It contains several fine buildings, the State-House being the handsomest.

It contains two colleges, a theological seminary, and a high-school. One wing of the State-House is completed, and is a handsome structure of magnesian limestone, which abounds in the region west of Topeka.

The letters and figures in brackets correspond with those on the borders of the map and indicate the situation of the place. Those numbers with asterisks (*) show the population in 1878; those without them, in 1870.



Lawrence University, Lawrence.

Topeka is a railroad center, and has a large and increasing trade. The principal manufactures are flour products, brooms, carriages, wagons, saddlery and harness. There are also breweries, rolling mills, a foundry, and a machine-shop.

Atchison [H, 32], (pop., 10,927),* is built at the extreme point of the "Great Western Bend" of the Missouri River, which is spanned by a fine bridge. It is an important railroad center, and contains flour and planing mills, breweries, machine-shops, and an elevator. It also manufactures furniture, wagons, carriages, agricultural implements, bricks, brass and ironware. Its wholesale trade is large, and constantly increasing.

Lawrence [K, 32], (pop., 8,320), on both sides of the Kansas River, is built on sloping ground, with wide, well-shaded streets, and numerous handsome buildings. Two fine bridges cross the river. The State University has a beautiful situation on a high bluff. Lawrence is a railroad center. A large dam across the river furnishes ample water-power. The principal manufactures are wagons, carriages, agricultural implements, soap, woolen goods, furniture, mineral water, and pottery. There are planing and grist mills, elevators, packing-houses, breweries, machine-shops, and a tannery.

Wichita [Q, 25], (pop., 4,000),* the present terminus of the Wichita branch of the A. T. and S. F. R. R., is largely interested in the shipment of grain. It is the most important city in Kansas, in the great valley of the Arkansas.

Fort Scott [P, 34], (pop., 4,174), was originally a military post. It is built on the west bank of the Marmiton River, and is a railroad intersection. The chief manufactures are flour, furniture, carriages, wagons, cement, cement-pipe, barrels, and castor oil. It contains foundries and machine shops.

Wyandotte [J, 34], (pop., 4,093),* on the right bank of the Missouri River, opposite Kansas City, contains steam flour mills, tin, copper and sheet-iron works, and cigar manufactories. The State Asylum for the Blind is located here.

Emporia [N, 29], (pop., 4,000),* the county-seat and chief commercial town of Lyon county, 56 miles S. W. from Topeka, is beautifully located on an elevated site sloping gently to the south. It lies between the Neosho and Cottonwood rivers, three-fourths of a mile distant from each. Its railroads are A. T. and S. Fe and the M. K. and T., which intersect at this point, and the Kansas City, Emporia and Southern R. R., now in process of construction. In Emporia is a State Normal School building, erected and owned by the State. This school has a large endowment of "Saline Lands."

Independence [T, 31], (pop., 3,000),* on the west bank of the Verdigris River, has a large grain trade.

Ottawa [M, 32], (pop., 3,000),* is a railroad, commercial, and manufacturing town. From this point eggs and cocoons of the silk-worm are exported to Europe, and in its vicinity the manufacture of silk is carried on to some extent.

Parsons [S, 32], (pop., 2,625),* is in the center of a fine wheat-growing section, and at the junction of M. K. and T. railway and its

Neosho Valley branch. The extensive machine-shops of this company are located here. A narrow-gauge railway, leading westward from this point, is now (1878) under contract. The first sale of lots in Parsons was made in March, 1871, of what was then prairie, and its rapid growth is a fine illustration of western progress and development.

Paola [M, 33], (pop., 2,500),* is noted for the fine fruit which is raised in its vicinity. The State Asylum for the Insane is located at Osawatomie, near Paola.

Salina [L, 24], (pop., 2,400),* is the county-seat of Saline county, and transacts a very large grain trade. It contains four elevators and extensive flour mills. It is also the shipping-point for immense quantities of broom-corn. Grain and dairy products are largely exported to Colorado.

Olathe [L, 34], (pop., 2,000),* the county-seat of Johnson county, is the location of the State Deaf and Dumb Asylum. Its railroads are the Mo. R., Ft. Scott and Gulf R. R., the L. L. and G. R. R., and a branch of the A. T. and S. Fe R. R.

Oswego [T, 33], (pop., 2,000),* the county-seat of Labette county, is situated on the Neosho River, on the main line of the M. K. and T. R. R., at the western terminus of the M. and W. R. R. The Neosho River affords excellent water-power, and its shipping facilities make Oswego a superior grain market.

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Junction City [K, 26], (pop., 1,782), is situated near the junction of the Smoky Hill and Republican rivers. Fort Riley, an important military post, is five miles from the city. The Kansas Pacific Railroad passes through it, and it is the terminus of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad.

Winfield [T, 26], (pop., 1,611),* the county-seat of Cowley county, is situated on the right bank of Walnut River, in the midst of a fine agricultural country. It is a thriving commercial town. Its water-power is excellent.

Newton [P, 25] and **Hutchinson** [P, 23] have each a population of 1,500.* Both are beautiful and growing cities, and are centers of a large and increasing trade. Newton has a railroad junction, and is the end of a "division." Hutchinson has a valuable water-power.

Kansas City, Kansas [J, 34] (pop., 1,500),* lies between Kansas City, Missouri, and the Kansas River. It contains immense stock-yards, whence are shipped great herds from Texas. There are also extensive beef and pork packing-houses. The city is closely identified in all branches of business with Kansas City, Missouri.

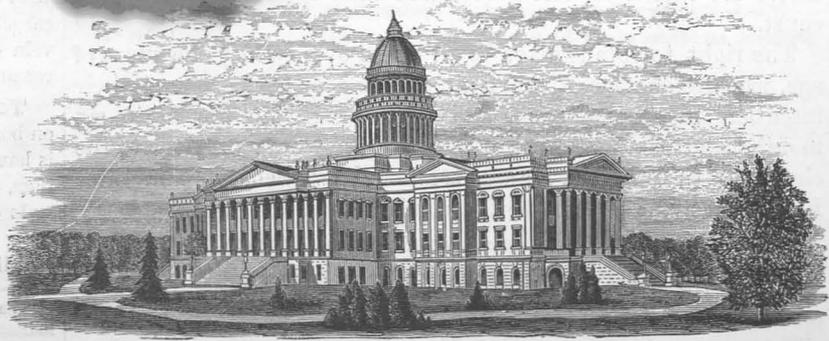
Manhattan [J, 27], (pop., 1,381),* situated at the junction of the Big Blue and Kansas rivers, is a well-built town. Near it is the State Agricultural College.

Humboldt [Q, 32] (pop., 1,200), has competing railroad routes, and is an important commercial town.

Abilene [L, 25], (pop., 1,150),* the county-seat of Dickinson county, is in the midst of a fine wheat-growing district; Ellsworth [L, 21], Russell [K, 19], Hays City [K, 17], are thriving towns. At Ellis [K, 16] and Dodge [Q, 15] cities, immense herds of Texas cattle are shipped eastward.

Wellington [S, 24] and **Arkansas City** [T, 26] are good business points.

Cottonwood Falls [N, 27] and **Florence** [O, 26] are noted for fine building and flagging stone.



State Capitol, Topeka.



Normal School at Emporia, Kansas.

Marion Center [N, 26], **Peabody** [O, 26], and **El Dorado** [Q, 26] are important towns.

Great Bend [N, 29], **Halstead** [P, 25], **Larned** [O, 18], **Sterling** [O, 22], and **Kinsley** [P, 27], in the broad and fertile valley of the Arkansas, are rapidly growing in population and business.

Osage City [M, 30] and **Burlingame** [L, 30] are important towns. Osage City is in the midst of rich coal mines.

Clay Center [I, 25] and **Concordia** [H, 24] in the Republican Valley, and **Beloit** [I, 22] in the Solomon Valley, are surrounded by fine farming sections, and are centers of considerable trade.

Seneca [G, 29], **Hiawatha** [G, 31], **Troy** [G, 33], **Sabetha** [G, 30], **Waterville** [H, 27], **Washington** [H, 25], **Marysville** [G, 27], and **Belleville** [G, 24], are substantial towns located along the northern border of the State.

Blue Rapids [H, 27], in Marshall county, manufactures flour, woolen goods, and plaster. It is supplied with splendid water-power from Blue River.

Chanute [Q, 32], a rapidly growing town, is a railroad center and grain market. It has a large flouring mill and two elevators.

Iola [P, 32], **Garnett** [N, 32], **Burlington** [O, 30], **Fredonia** [R, 30], and **Eureka** [Q, 29], all county-seats, are situated in the midst of a fine grazing and fruit section.

Coffeerville, **Chetopah**, and **Baxter Springs** are important towns on the borders of Indian Territory.

Columbus, **Cherokee**, **Girard**, **Osage Mission**, **Pleasanton**, and **La Cygne**, in the eastern part of the southern half of the State, are important shipping and distributing points.

HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY.

KANSAS formed a part of the possessions of Louis XIV.

It is said to have been explored by Spaniards in 1541 and 1542, and by M. Dutisne, an officer of the French government, in 1719.

It was included in the general cession of all the French territory to Spain in 1762, but was returned to France in 1800.

In 1803, the United States purchased the **Louisiana district**, of which Kansas was a part. **Louisiana** became a State, and the Territory of Missouri, which included Kansas, was organized.

The southwestern part of Kansas, containing nearly 8,000 square miles, was acquired from Mexico.

The first wagon-train passed through Kansas from Missouri to Santa Fé in 1823; and the wagon-road, called the "Santa Fé trail," was established in 1825.

Fort Leavenworth was established in 1827.

The first printing-press was brought to Kansas by Baptist missionaries, in 1834.

Fremont's first expedition passed through Kansas in 1842.

Until 1854, the country was inhabited mainly by native Indians, and Indians from more eastern States, who were settled on reservations; there were also a few missionaries, soldiers, and fur traders. In that year, Kansas and Nebraska were made Territories. Kansas comprised a large tract, extending as far west as the eastern boundaries of New Mexico and Utah.

Congress gave the new Territory the right to decide whether it should be a free or a slave State. This decision plunged the Territory into civil warfare, which continued from 1854 until 1860.

The Legislature has met successively at Pawnee, Davis county; Shawnee Mission, Johnson county; Lecompton, Lawrence, and Topeka.

A convention at Wyandotte adopted a constitution prohibiting slavery, which was ratified by the people October 4, 1859.

Kansas was admitted into the Union in 1861, as the thirty-fourth State.

The increase of immigration since 1866, the growth of cities and the extension of railroads, have been greater than in any other State.

At the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, in 1876, Kansas was distinguished for her display of fruits, flowers, grains, leaves, grasses, and silk cocoons. The State received awards for grains, grasses, apples, geological and ornithological collections, and for her educational exhibit. Several of her citizens received awards for their manufactures.

The Legislature of 1877 appointed a fish commissioner, and the larger rivers in Kansas are now being stocked with shad.

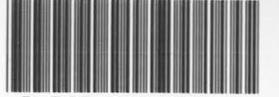
GOVERNORS OF KANSAS.

TERRITORIAL.—Andrew A. Reeder, Wilson Shannon, John W. Geary, Robert J. Walker, James W. Denver, Samuel Medary. STATE.—Charles Robinson, Thomas Carney, Samuel J. Crawford, James M. Harvey, Thomas A. Osborn, George T. Anthony.



STATE SEAL OF KANSAS.

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