

# BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

*State Hist Society*

VOLUME III.

GREAT BEND, KANSAS, THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1887.

NUMBER 1.

The people are anxiously inquiring what the city authorities are going to do about the water works. This we cannot say, but presume the work will begin shortly.

COMING years will demonstrate that Great Bend must be the great town of Central Kansas. We have no fight to make on our sister towns. Nature has decreed that here shall be a great business center, and it is growing rapidly into that proportion. The fields are now open; the citizens are anxious to welcome those who come here to share their prosperity.

ALL that Great Bend asks of strangers is to come and see. Here is a city that nothing can prevent growing into a great metropolis; indeed, it now has over four thousand inhabitants and is growing at a marvelous rate. We are surrounded by a country of unsurpassed fertility, the city is already the railroad center of this portion of Kansas. But now is the time for strangers and everybody to come and invest.

We clip the following complimentary notice from the Hutchinson News. That Great Bend is to-day attracting more attention than any town in Central Kansas, is beyond dispute. The reasons are easily found. First, it is surrounded by as fine farming land as can be found in Kansas. Second, the natural location of the city is unsurpassed.

Great Bend carries on a great wholesale trade, many of her stores carrying as high as \$60,000 in stock, transacting an annual business of \$150,000 to \$200,000.

GREAT BEND investments are netting more clear profits to the investors than any town in Central Kansas. Real estate has always been cheap here, and notwithstanding the advance of the last few weeks, lots are cheaper here to-day than in any town of four thousand inhabitants in Central or Western Kansas. Lots are selling, not on the basis of what the town will be, but on what it is. The purchaser therefore has all the advantage of the future development of the town, which can not be truthfully said of many towns.

THE newspapers of Kansas are to-day doing more to advertise the state and bring in emigrants here than all the other agencies combined. Think of it. There are fifty-five dailies that ring the praises of our soil, our climate and our towns, six days every week. Besides these, there are weeklies almost without number, circulating, not only here, but in every state in the Union. The people of Kansas can afford to be generous to the newspapers; they are doing a work for the state that could not be valued in dollars and cents.

THE Topeka Capitol says that the great cities of Kansas will stand in the following order: Topeka, Hutchinson, Wichita, Garden City, Salina, Fort Scott and Atchison. Of course Major Hudson means by this to make out a list of cities that shall nearly equal each other in size and importance, but the one great metropolis of Kansas will be near the center of the state, and—well, Great Bend will modestly take first place and let the others strive to fix the order in which they shall stand.

NOTHING more readily indicates the condition of a city than its real estate market. When real estate is active, all lines of business are active and, vice versa, when real estate is dull, everything else is dormant. Last week was an exceptional one in some respects with Great Bend. The large sales in the early part of the week started a rustle that nothing could stop. The character of the sales, too, had much to do with pushing prices steadily upward. The sale of suburban property to the Santa Fe indicates that they want a firm footing here. And then the sale of one hundred acres adjoining the city to eastern capitalists says plainer than words that the outside world have begun to realize that Great Bend is the coming town of this part of the state. But real estate is comparatively cheap here and the great advance is to come.

## GRANDLY!

### Grasping Greatness.

**DURING THE WEEK CLOSING WITH TO-DAY, THE FAIR CITY OF GREAT BEND ADDS ANOTHER WREATH TO HER CHAPLET.**

**Her Citizens are Proud of Her and all Her Friends Rejoice.**

It is written somewhere in the book of fate that on the banks of the Arkansas somewhere near the center of the great state of Kansas there should be a mighty city. Many prophets have arisen and attempted to make the people believe that it would be here or there, but so far, all their prophecies have proved worthless. We do not pretend to make any prediction, but simply record events as they transpire and draw therefrom logical conclusions. We ask the stranger to take a map of Kansas and trace the Arkansas river through the state. Let him remember that the garden spot of Kansas is along this river. That here is a soil of unequalled fertility, that water is easily obtained and the climate salubrious. Now then let him mark the great bend in the river and bear well in mind that all the cities along the river are on the north bank; and when we tell him that Great Bend is situated farther north than any city on the river he can readily see the advantage of this situation, for it gives to the city a tributary territory both north and south of the river.

This then is why the railroads have fixed on Great Bend as the center of this part of Kansas. Each day is bringing something to light that will benefit our city. This week the Santa Fe railroad has secured eighty acres of suburban property and beyond a doubt will locate a round house and machine shops here. This will be clear to any one, and even if he never saw Great Bend, when we inform him that at this point the Denver division of that road leaves the main line and strikes north-west. During the week that closes with to-day we have had the greatest activity ever known in real estate here. Strangers have been buying every day, men of means have been glad to secure property. The prospects now are that next week will witness even greater activity than the one just closed.

To those coming in the state in quest of homes or business property, Great Bend asks only that they shall come and see her wonderful advantages.

BRO. CHAPMAN brought out the Register last week as an all home-print. He does not say whether the improvement will be permanent or not, but we presume it will be. We rejoice to see the prosperity of our neighbor and hope the readers of his paper may respond to the increased usefulness of the paper by liberally increasing his subscription and advertising.

Recently a DEMOCRAT man spent a weary hour of congealed misery waiting for a late train, in the depot at Sterling. The north door of the waiting room was open half the time, and no amount of insinuation, supplication or persuasion on the part of a freezing public could induce the depot officials to build a fire. Such lack of hospitality will not leave a very favorable impression on the minds of strangers.

We are glad to learn that two of our enterprising townsmen have started a bottling works in Great Bend. The originators and movers in the matter are G. E. Thompson and H. E. Dean. They have now on hand 1,500, and they propose to push the business until it is a complete success. They deserve to be encouraged by all our citizens in this worthy undertaking.

## THE NEW PROHIBITORY LAW.

A wide diversity of opinion prevails throughout the state in regard to when the Murray law takes or took effect. Some believe that druggists are not permitted to sell under the old permits after April 1st. Pertinent to this subject we quote the following from the Hutchinson News: "The Murray Temperance Law goes into full effect on May 1st. Some of our exchanges seem to be laboring under the belief that no druggist is permitted to sell under the old permits after April 1st, but this is an error. No permits can now be issued under the old law, but the new law provides that 'no permit now existing shall be of any validity after the 1st of May, 1887,' and it is fair to infer that it was the intention of our lawmakers that the old permits should remain in force until the 1st day of May."

## Retrospective Notes.

"The first of April now is past. Who's the biggest fool at last?" The man who hasn't bought real estate in Great Bend.

John Tilton has been doing a considerable rustling on the real estate market, but Dick Ewalt says John can't always remember the day of the month.

Bros. Townsley, of the Tribune, was in such a hurry to get a shampoo (?) that he was not on the lookout for any other sort of a sham, and even forgot to change the date of his paper to April 1.

Mr. S. S. Shields, the gentlemanly postmaster at Maherville, made us a pleasant call to-day. Mr. Shields informs us that the Missouri Pacific depot near there, called Boyd, was burned last Monday night. How the fire originated is not known, but the circumstances seem to indicate that it was the work of an incendiary. The railroad had no agent at that point and no one had been about the building the day. It was discovered to be burning about midnight or a little after, but it was too late to stop the flames. There is a good deal of mystery about the whole thing.

Judge Maynard, formerly second comptroller of the treasury, was yesterday appointed secretary of the treasury by President Cleveland, vice-Secretary Manning resigned. The appointment was somewhat of a surprise as most people had come to the conclusion that a western man would succeed Secretary Manning. Judge Maynard has a splendid record and men of all parties unite in saying that the treasury will have an able man at its head.

We are requested to say that the maps, or at least a portion of them, ordered by the committee on advertising the town are now printed, and it is in order for those who subscribed money to the enterprise to call round and pay it to the treasurer.

## Zoeller & Woods,

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JOSEPH WILDGEN.

## Choice Selections

FROM BRILLIANT AUTHORS

QUEENSWARE!

"O wad some pow'r the giftie gie us To see ourselves as others see us! It wad frae many a blunder free us And foolish notion; What airs in dress an' gait wad lea' us And ev'n devotion."

There were four crows sat on the ground— Carrot colored, brindle, white and brown; Said one old crow unto his mate: "Keeney is getting away with the baggage of late!"

Said the old white crow, with solemn mien, In the most solemn manner ever was seen: "Something must be done, or sure as you're born We'll have to eat shucks, instead of corn!"

The wise old crow then crooked his jaw And slowly scratching his beak with his claw, Said, "Surely, something has got to be done— For Keeney he is a son of a gun!" Then they all looked as wise as wise could be And the wisest old crow looked the wisest of three.

As he said in a voice so solemn and low, "We'll go out and comfit people to buy, you know—" Then they all joined in A loud refrain— For they had, (in their minds,) Downed Keeney again.

"There was a man in our town, And he was wondrous wise; He jumped into a bramble bush And scratched out both his eyes."

MORAL.—Don't be a bramble bush.

"Seest thou a man diligent in business, he shall stand before kings, he shall not stand before mean men."

"But, mouse, thou art no thy lane, In proving, foresight may be vain: The best laid schemes o' mice an' men Gang aft agley, An' lea's us taught but grief an' pain For promis'd joy."

"He who by the plow would thrive Himself must either hold or drive."

GROCERIES!

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