

A SENSIBLE "VIEW."

WHITE CITY, KANSAS, }
April 25, 1880. }

EDITOR WEST SHORE :

With scissors and paste I secure you the following article, which for the past three months has been largely circulated through "the patents" of Kansas and Nebraska papers :

FARMING IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

The Immigrant Aid Society of Washington Territory, after the fashion of organizations in other sections of the country, has published a small work on the advantages of the region that lies north of the line "where rolls the Oregon." It is full of information for immigrants in regard to the climate and soil, mineral, agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial resources of that distant territory. It presents all the good and none of the bad features of the region named for the father of his country. It shows that it enjoys a healthful and moderately warm climate; that drouths are virtually unknown; that timber, coal and stone for building purposes are plenty; that there are numerous sounds, bays, and rivers, well stocked with excellent fish, that the white inhabitants are of an excellent class, and that land may be procured on very easy terms.

Now these are advantages well worthy of consideration. But the disadvantages of this region should be taken into account by persons seeking a new home in the "untrod west." The journey to Washington Territory from any of the old-settled States is long and expensive. The money required to take a family there would buy new land suitable for a farm in almost any of the Western or Southern States. Persons going to this distant region virtually exile themselves from their old friends and associates. Unless they are more fortunate than farmers usually are, they will not be likely to revisit them. Washington Territory is very remote from any place where its products are required for consumption. Its wheat, which is the leading crop for export, is sent to Great Britain by way of "The Horn." Some of its lumber is marketed to San Francisco, but most of it must be shipped to South America, China or Japan. Good apples and pears are raised there, but the testimony of most persons who have visited the Territory, is that they have no market value.

The nights in Washington Territory are too cold and the air too well supplied with moisture to admit of raising corn, except in a very few localities. Only an exceedingly small portion of the land is capable of being cultivated. Almost all the land is covered with a gigantic growth of timber. A large

proportion of the trees are firs and cedars, whose stumps would remain undecayed for a generation. The forests abound in wild animals, that are destructive to sheep and other farm stock. Over a large extent of the country it is nearly impossible to construct a wagon road. Apparently, Washington Territory offers no greater advantages to settlers than the northern portions of Michigan, New York and Maine. Its climate is milder, but no more conducive to health. All the crops produced in the last-named localities bring much more than in the former one. The charms about most portions of the Pacific Slope consists of novelty. Before Eastern farmers make up their minds to remove to the Puget Sound paradise, they would do well to consider what they would lose by the operation.—*Chicago Times*.

No doubt the city editor of the *Chicago Times* intended this article to discourage immigration to Oregon and Washington Territory. I have never seen the pamphlet issued by the Immigrant Aid Society on the Resources of Washington Territory, and really am ignorant of the advantages described therein, but it seems to me the above article will not detract much from the intended usefulness of their work. If the emigrant will have no more difficulties to contend with than the *Times* enumerates, I am inclined to think Washington Territory has

SURPRISINGLY FEW DISADVANTAGES,

and such as every man of common sense will expect to meet in a new and heavily timbered country.

Apropos of the journey to Washington Territory, who would not endure its fatigues if a home can be secured there on as easy terms as in the inferior "Western or Southern States?"—A home such as may, if properly improved, equal any in New England. Expense is of minor importance when a comfortable home is wanted. Yet the expense is not so great. At the present time emigrant through-tickets, *via* San Francisco and Oregon Railway & Navigation Co.'s steamers, from the city of Boston to Portland, a trip of over 4,000 miles by land and water, costs only \$76; and children between the ages of five and twelve years, are carried at half price.

The *Times* tells the truth in the remark that "the money required to take a family there would buy new land suitable for a farm in almost any of the Western or Southern States." That is,

assuming the family to be an extremely large one. Suppose it consists of thirteen persons, who commence the journey from Boston. Their fare would amount in the aggregate to \$975. New land "suitable for a farm" can be bought for that sum in almost any of the said Western States, but it is rather doubtful whether the same would be suitable for a home, or even for profitable cultivation. The home is what most people want. I am personally acquainted with many people in the Western States who would think they had struck it rich if some one would give them \$975 for their farms. Often improved land can be bought for less than it cost to break up the sod.

As to the virtual "exile," what may we call any

SETTLERS OF NEW LAND,

if those in Washington Territory are such? When a man requires a home and seeks to secure it, after obtaining one, he does not, if he be a sensible person, expect to squander his hard earned money in visiting "old friends and associates." He will find ample enjoyment in spending it to improve and beautify his home. His family and new-made friends ought to supply the place of "old associates." The latter are not always good for most men, any way, and in some cases, the sooner "old associates" are forgotten the better.

Then, what does it matter to the farmer how "remote" he lives "from any place where his products are required for consumption," so long as he is certain to gather yearly a reasonably good crop and get for it a reasonably fair price? The trouble cannot be greater in hauling it to the rivers for shipment, in Washington Territory, than in "the northern portions of Michigan, New York and Maine." When the farmer pockets the money for his wheat he would be considered a qucer fish, indeed, if he cared whether it is "sent to Great Britain by way of the Horn" or *via* the North Pole!

There are many farmers in what are known as the Western States—and better farmers cannot be found than the majority of them are—who think it would be a blessed good thing to be able to "raise good fruit" for family use, even if it had no market value. If "good fruit can be raised" in Wash-