

prospecting Western Kansas during the past year, report that the valleys in and around the mines are apparently as rich in agricultural resources as any portion of the Territory. Col. Fremont, who explored the South Platte and its tributaries in 1843, says of the valley of the South Platte, it is a "good soil of a dark sandy mold, resting upon a stratum of large pebbles." Again he says, "between the Platte and Arkansas rivers, that part of this region which forms the basin drained by the waters of the Kansas river, with which our operations made us more particularly acquainted, is based upon a formation of calcareous rocks. The soil of all this country is excellent, admirably adapted to agricultural purposes, and would support a large agricultural and pastoral population." With regard to the necessity of irrigation, from his report it seems hardly probable that any such necessity exists. He explored this region in July, and a "thunder shower," or "heavy squall of rain," fell almost every evening. The "Great Plains are traversed by a great number of streams, branches and affluents of the Arkansas river, the Smoky Hill, Saline, Solomon's and Republican Forks, and though they are in a great measure destitute of timber, and a great portion of the soil is of a sandy nature, yet the millions of buffalo that thrive and fatten on the plains, prove conclusively that this region is not an arid desert, but one of the finest pastoral regions on the continent."

CLIMATE.

The climate of Kansas is mild and genial, neither too hot nor too cold. The thermometer in winter seldom

