

rivers, to Marysville; or to Fort Riley, thence via Republican Fork, to Fort Kearney.

A central route will be opened the coming season. A portion, and about one-half, is now opened, but as it turns south beyond Salina, into the Santa Fe road, or north at Fort Riley, into the Fort Kearny road, it cannot, at present, be called a separate route, but is a portion common to both the other routes.

The Legislature passed a law recently, providing for the location and construction of a new route, as far west as Salina, starting near the mouth of the Kansas river. This road, if continued up the Smoky Hill Fork, would be the shortest practicable route, and would exceed the air-line distance but a very few miles. The great commerce to be carried on between the Missouri river and the mines, will seek the shortest, most direct and best route. That route lies directly along the 39th parallel, up the Smoky Hill Fork. Miners report it only fifty miles from the head waters of the Smoky Hill Fork to Cherry Creek. From the general topography of the country, the distance cannot be much greater than that. This route is entirely feasible, beyond a question, and will possess the advantage of ample supplies of timber, water and grass, almost the entire distance. In directness, it is *the* route, beyond a cavil, as it will be 150 miles shorter than either of the present routes, and so centrally located, that all prominent points in Kansas are about equally accessible to it. The correspondent of the Lawrence *Republican* writes an interesting description of this route, portions of which we copy. "From

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