

city, on the branch line, is Wakefield, the headquarters of the "English Colony."

At Abilene we see the town whose name was once a synonym for Texas cattle, and as widely known as a great cattle market as any other one in the United States; in fact, no place of its size has ever, perhaps, been so thoroughly advertised or acquired such widespread fame as a shipping point for the long-horned Texans.

In 1867 thirty-five thousand head arrived there from Texas; in 1868, seventy-five thousand; in 1869, fully one hundred and fifty thousand; but the surrounding country became gradually settled and farmed, and too valuable for grazing, and the cattle are now shipped from Ellsworth, sixty miles farther West, and which is now the great receiving point for the "Texans."

The next stop is Solomon, situated at the confluence of the Solomon and Smoky Hill rivers, and was laid out in 1865, the Kansas Pacific Railway being completed to this point in 1867.

Salt springs exist here in abundance, and large salt works have been erected and are seen from the train as we pass. Solomon also boasts a fine flouring mill situated just below the falls of the river, of which I have a sketch on page 13. It is the depot for the vast and grandly fertile valley of the Solomon, which is well settled for 100 miles north, and an immense amount of shipping is done via Solomon, and also via Clay Center, on the Junction City Branch Road.

The polite conductor now informs me that we are