

The post was abandoned last year, and the beautiful tract of land embraced in the military reserve will doubtless ere long be thrown open for settlers.

We next stop at Ellsworth, which is now what Abilene was in the past, the largest cattle market west of the Missouri river. It is the county seat of Ellsworth County, and situated on the north bend of the Smoky Hill river, and is about the southernmost point of the line of the Kansas Pacific Railway.

The splendid cattle-yards belonging to the Kansas Pacific Railway Company have facilities for loading and forwarding over one hundred car loads of cattle per diem, and during this year (1874) there were shipped from this point and vicinity 48,320 head.

We now emerge from the high rocky bluffs of Ellsworth County into the gently undulating prairie of Russell County, and stop at Wilson. Here a very pretty view is had of the "boundless prairie." To the south are seen the blue bluffs on the Smoky Hill river, dotted with the dark green of the red cedar, while the intervening prairie is one vast green meadow carpeted with the velvety verdure of the succulent buffalo grass. Three years ago countless herds of buffalo roamed over these pastures. A gentleman on the train informed me that one moonlight night in 1871, he drove to within three hundred yards of a herd which must have contained many thousands, and which was feeding in the Smoky Hill valley about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles south-west of the station buildings in Wilson.

Now, most of the surrounding country has been