

about fuel, for trees grow vigorously and rapidly wherever I have seen them planted; and as railroads are multiplied, as they will be, and other deposits of coal discovered—of which there are indications in many places—that difficulty will be overcome.

Lumber for building is procured both here and at Chicago and St. Louis, and sometimes at Cincinnati, and sells at this place at about the following prices:

	Per m.
Pine—clear stuff, planed, No. 1, . . . . .	\$110
“ “ “ “ “ 2, . . . . .	\$95 @ 105
“ Common “ . . . . .	70 @ 85
Pine flooring, worked, . . . . .	\$70, 80, 90
Siding, (weatherboarding) . . . . .	45 @ 60
Shingles, pine—per m. . . . .	10 @ 11
“Dimension stuff,” (scantling,) Pine, . . . . .	70
Cottonwood boards, . . . . .	45 @ 50
Cottonwood shingles, . . . . .	4.50 @ 6

From these figures the cost of building up here can be proximately estimated. Rents are high. The “Goddard House,” a tolerably large, but flimsy and roughly finished building, almost entirely built of cottonwood, rents for \$1500 a year. A smaller but somewhat better finished house, where I am staying, brings, I am told, \$1800 a year. Flour is selling at \$22 a barrel, and potatoes \$2.75. The soil yields enormously as a general thing, and farming is a remunerative business. Cattle, I am informed, only require of from four to six weeks feeding in the winter, and hay, cut *ad libitum* on the prairies, is the cheapest thing in this country.

I have thus endeavored to give you a fair report, leaving the reader to ponder the *pros* and *cons*.

The report now is that the river began to fall this morning. We expect to get off this afternoon.

---

#### LETTER IV.—*The Flood—The Question of Routes.*

SALINA, KANSAS, June 12, 1867.—Afternoon.

THE “Smoky” still continues to swell, contrary to the report this morning that it was falling. It has overspread the flats for miles in places. This town now stands on a large island. No trains can get out to-day, so I must be content to abide one day more. The report now is that the Senatorial party will be at Junction City this evening, and will probably be here for dinner to-morrow. If a train should go