

California. The one will render Utah and Nevada accessible, and probably be the means of rooting out the social abominations existing in the former territory; the other will bring the beautiful plains and valleys, and the innumerable mines of gold, silver and copper of the more southern range of States and territories within easy reach of the great body of the American people. And whatever may be the amount and value of the through trade of the latter, whether more or less, its way business cannot fail to be enormous. Although but little more than halfway through Kansas, it is already profitable, as I have heretofore shown, both to the Government and the Company; and I now intend to show that there is not likely to be a section of a hundred miles on the entire route but will contribute handsomely in some shape to its revenue and support. I now propose to speak more particularly of

THE ROUTE BEYOND KANSAS.

Pond Creek, the point to which a number of the gentlemen of our party extended their excursion, is two hundred miles west of Fort Harker, up the valley of the Smoky Hill, and four hundred and twenty-five miles west of the Missouri river at Kansas City. It is one hundred and eighty-seven miles southeast of Denver, and four hundred and two miles northeast of Santa Fé. It is to this point that the Government subsidy of bonds to this road, granted by Act of Congress, extends. It is within some six or eight miles of the eastern line of Colorado, and a little nearer to the southern line of Kansas than the place of beginning.

Of the country through which the road passes in the State of Kansas, I have already spoken so fully that I need not advert to it here. At Pond Creek, or somewhere in that vicinity, the southwestern line leaves the line to Denver—now being located (*and which is by no means abandoned*)—and passes over a rolling buffalo-grass prairie “divide” to Fort Lyon, on the Arkansas, a distance of about sixty-five miles. An extensive district of very good agricultural land lies around Fort Lyon. Leaving Fort Lyon, the line follows the valley of the Purgatoire* river, in a southwest direction, over one hundred and twenty miles—still through a buffalo-grass region—to the eastern base of the Raton mountain, which is covered with a heavy growth of valuable timber, and abounds in coal of superior quality, some of the veins being from eleven to thirteen feet in thickness.†

* This name is generally, but incorrectly, written *Purgatory* on our maps. Out on the plains some of our fellows have corrupted it into “*Picket-wire*.”

† Since my return home I received a letter from a gentleman in St. Louis, stating that Mr. Sanderson, proprietor of the Santa Fé stages, had brought to that city some