

An Illinois Farm—How it is Worked, and the Profits—Jacksonville—Its Location and Business—Meeting of the Illinois Grand Lodge of Good Templars.

From Our Own Correspondent.

JACKSONVILLE, Ill., Friday, Sept. 17, 1869.

While at Jacksonville this week I made myself acquainted with some facts relating to one of our prairie farmers, who occupies a princely estate near that beautiful city, and also has a mammoth cattle farm of 26,500 acres in Champaign County. It cost him \$400,000, and is styled, with much appropriateness, "Broadlands." It is nearly seven miles from north to south, and six from east to west, and its cattle capacity for Summer pasturage, when fully grass-stocked, is estimated at 10,000 head. On the west side of the farm are two pastures one and a half miles by three miles, that contain nearly 3,000 acres each. To the east of these is a "patch" of corn half a mile wide and three miles long. On the farm there are 5,000 acres in corn, which, it is calculated, will yield, at a low estimate, 250,000 bushels. Of course such a farm as this is worked by the most approved machinery of all descriptions applicable to agricultural labor, much of which is made on the "place," as there is a blacksmith shop, as well as a harness and carpenter shop, in constant operation. The working stock consists of fifty yoke of oxen and fifty spans of horses and mules; and the working force of a superintendent, a general foreman, six assistant foremen, a book-keeper, a baker, a carpenter, a butcher, and about one hundred and fifty other operatives. The headquarters are in the centre of the farm, and there are six out-stations fully equipped. The average cost of boarding is thirty-five cents per day.

The farm is divided by two roads, two miles apart, north and south, and one through the centre east and west. These are lined with fifty-four miles of hedge, which was mostly set four years ago. Hedges have been, or are to be, set on every section line. Seventy-five miles were set in the Spring of 1868, and twenty-five last Spring. These hedges are to supersede the post and board fence, of which there are now eighty miles. This has required about 50,000 posts, 640,000 feet of lumber, and eighty kegs of nails.

Mr. ALEXANDER is the owner of this farm, and his operations are stated to be as nearly as practicable, every year, as follows: He first purchases 4,000 head of Texas steers, which cost him \$140,000; cost of handling, interest, &c., \$47,000; making an aggregate of \$187,000. His average sales are \$70 per head, or \$280,000, leaving him a profit of \$93,000. The profits upon the grain and other crops of the farm bring the whole up to nearly \$200,000, after paying all expenses, and including a rent or interest of \$4 per acre on the land.

It will thus be seen that large farming in Illinois pays. His neighbor, Mr. SULLIVAN, farms even more land, with like profitable results.

GOOD TEMPLARS IN THE WEST.

The Grand Lodge of Good Templars met in Jacksonville this week. The attendance was not large, a little over a hundred subordinate lodges being represented. The Order is greatly on the wane in the West, as the Secretary reported a loss of over two hundred and twenty Lodges during the year, and comparatively few new ones organized. It has lost over half of its membership in the State during the last two years. The report for 1867 claimed 40,000 members, and it now must be less than 20,000. Professor D. WATKINS, of Bloomington, was elected Grand Worthy Chief Templar for the year. The same falling off has occurred in most of the Western States during the past two years; Michigan has lost 20,000, Iowa has fallen from 18,000 to 9,000, and Wisconsin in nearly the same ratio.

JACKSONVILLE.

Jacksonville is one of the most beautiful places in the West. It is a city of 12,000 or 15,000 inhabitants, and contains a population which, for education and refinement, are not exceeded by any Western town. It is the seat of numerous educational institutions of a higher grade, and has an excellent public school system. Several of the State benevolent institutions are here located—the Blind Asylum, the Insane Asylum, and the Deaf and Dumb Institution. Morgan County, of which it is the shire town, is one of the best and richest agricultural counties of the State, and contains a vast amount of wealth. Jacksonville is considerable of a business place, the disbursements of the State adding much to the local trade. The St. Louis and Quincy, the Toledo and Wabash, and the western branch of the Chicago, Alton and St. Louis Railroads pass through it, and the Jacksonville, Pekin and Peoria terminates in the city.

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