

one at Denver, the other at Pueblo, each holding annual meetings for the discussion of interesting subjects.

An alarming feature in the stock business is the acquisition of immense tracts of country, with springs and streams, by companies or individuals, as, for instance, the possession of many thousands of acres of rich bottom land and forty miles of water front on the Arkansas river by one man, J. W. Prowers. The Prairie Cattle company have over \$3,000,000 invested in cattle, and control many miles of river bank, and many hundred thousand acres of fenced pasture. The Colorado Cattle company, composed of eastern capitalists, secured 81,000 acres near Pueblo from the government. In the south Bent, Las Animas, and Elbert counties are, like Pueblo, largely absorbed by large holders. In northern Colorado, Weld and Arapahoe counties are in a similar position. Spanish grants were in early days so extensive as well as numerous, as to seriously obstruct its settlement. Ex-governor Gilpin obtained the possession of a tract in Sagnache county, a part of which he sold, and Vigil and St Vrain claimed all the region south of the Arkansas river and east of the mountains, except the Nolan grant, a tract fifteen miles by forty. The United States recognized the concession, but reduced the larger one to eleven square leagues each. A judicious taxation should be added to the rising prices for land, to promote the subdivision of grants, and this will doubtless come with the growth of settlements.

In Nuevo Mexico, which formerly included the present territory of Arizona, agriculture had been considerably developed by certain tribes of the aboriginal inhabitants long before the arrival of the Spaniards. The physical character of the country, the inferior quality of by far the greater portion of the soil, and its niggardly contributions to the support of