

# CHAPTER 5 SECTION 3

Farming, Mining, and Ranching.



# Not a Farmer's Paradise.

- ❖ Unpredictable rainfall and not enough.
- ❖ Hot summers over 100 degrees.
- ❖ Blizzards and bone-chilling cold winters.
- ❖ Droughts and hot winds led to dust storms and prairie fires.
- ❖ Grasshoppers and locusts ravaged crops.



# Dry Farming

- Planting crops that don't need much water and keep the fields free of weeds. ( Because of dry climates )



# Change

- ❑ In the late 1800's machines helped save them time and effort. ( plowing, spreading grain, and husking corn )



# Agricultural Knowledge

- ▣ New farming techniques such as crop rotation, hybridization, (Crossing of different plants to produce new varieties ) preservation of water and top soil.



# Bonanza Farms

- ❑ Farms controlled by large businesses that specialize in single cash crops which they mass produce. (and sell at enormous profits for investors)



# Problems

This sometimes led to supply rising faster than demand.

- ❑ Extra supply leads to prices falling.

This led to farmers going into debt if they couldn't pay off their machines. ( Designed for specific crops )

- ❑ Many had bought more land than they could manage.



# Gold

- Gold and the lure of quick wealth drove people to California and Pikes Peak, Colorado.

**FOR CALIFORNIA!**  
**DIRECT**  
**EXTRAORDINARY INDUCEMENTS!!**  
**THIRTY-FIVE DAYS TO GOLD REGIONS!**  
The "California Steam Navigation Co."  
**STEAM SHIP!**  
**NICARAGUA**  
ON FRIDAY, MARCH 23d, 1849.  
**200 JACK ANSEN!**  
The Quickest, Safest and Cheapest!!  
Price of Passage Through Ninety Dollars!

The photograph shows a man in a wide-brimmed hat and heavy clothing, crouching on the ground and examining a small object, likely a piece of gold or a rock, in a natural setting. Below the photograph is a map showing a route from the Atlantic coast to California, with labels for 'NICARAGUA', 'SAN FRANCISCO', and 'CALIFORNIA'.



# Miners

- All different kinds of people ( Black, White, Former RR workers, even some women ) headed West in search of gold.



# Mining Towns

- ❑ Developed a reputation for gambling and drunkenness. (In actuality most mining towns settled quickly)



# Ghost Towns

- ▣ Many gold prospectors packed up quickly and left mining towns.

All of the easily gathered precious metals were quickly found ( The rest were buried deep in mines )



# Large Corporations

The only ones who could afford the machinery, tunnels, and mine shafts required to reach these riches.

EVERYTHING turned to “Big Business”



# Big Business

- ❑ Large companies that began taking over.
- ❑ More cost effective and had resources that individuals did not.



# Cowboys

- ❑ Settlers in Texas learned cattle ranching and how to be “Cowboys” from the Mexicans.  
( Including dress, ranching, and equipment )



# Open Range

- Land was opened for grazing cattle by the removal of the Indians and the destruction of the buffalo.



# Profitable Business

- ❑ Ranchers made good money because the high demand for beef in Eastern cities. ( \$3 to \$5 per head to raise, but sold for \$30 to \$50 per head in the cities)





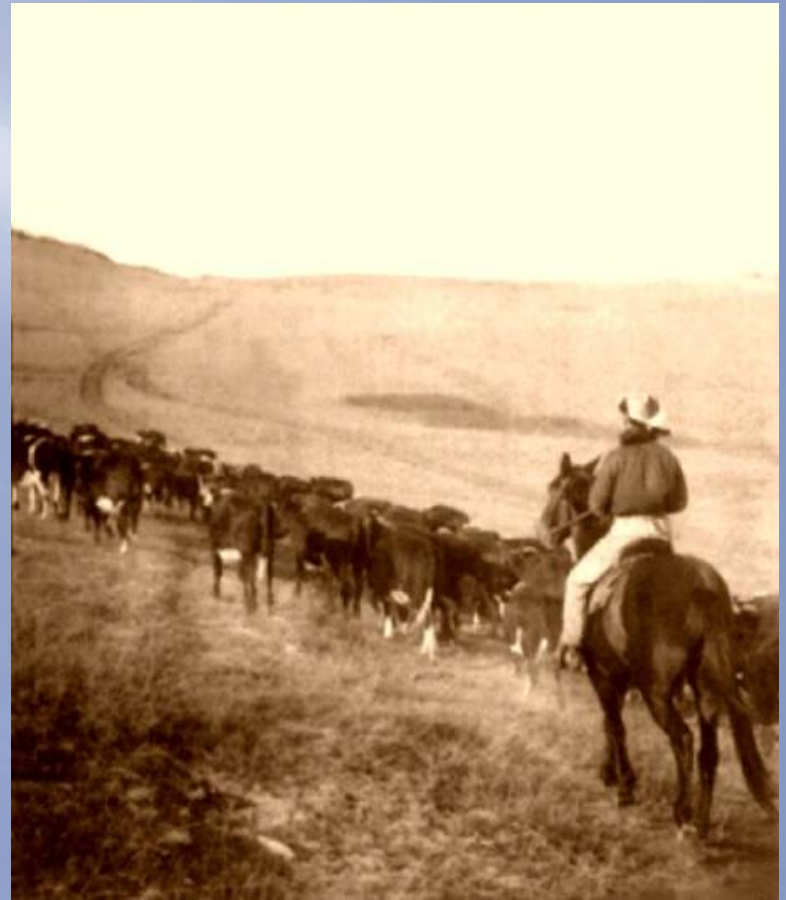
# Cow Towns

- ❑ Towns specifically built for receiving cattle until they were shipped out by railroad. (had cow pens to hold cattle)
- ❑ Abilene and Dodge City, KS.
- ❑ Cheyenne, WY.



# The “Long Drive”

- Transporting of cattle from the ranges to the cow towns by cowboys.



# Difficult Cowboy Life

- Rough, muddy trails
- Pounding thunderstorms
- Stampedes
- Attacks by cattle thieves
- 18 hour days (in the saddle on constant alert)



# The End of the Cowboy

- ❑ Invention of barbed wire.
- ❑ Market overstocked with cattle.
- ❑ Overgrazing. ( Damaging the prairie grasses )
- ❑ Harsh winters killed cattle. ( 85% froze or starved between 1885 - 1887 )

