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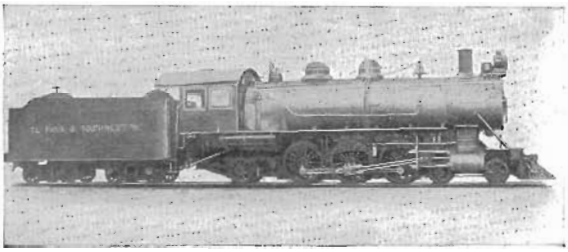

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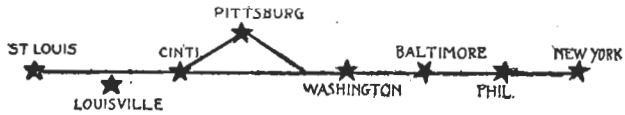

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wisdom in the selection of the site which they appropriately named Tahlequah, a word, according to Cherokee translation, that signifies, "The Haven of Refuge." It has been their mecca ever since.

Tahlequah lies in a charming little vale, surrounded on all sides by wooded hills from which gush numerous large springs of the purest freestone water. Viewed from any point it is a most delightful spot and one in search of pleasing landscapes will find them in abundance. It is just the location to appeal to a wearied and tired wanderer; its shady arbors and rippling brooks beckon to him who needs rest and recreation, and in consideration of its history no other place, perhaps, was more appropriately named.

The educational institutions of Tahlequah are ample and sufficient for a town five times as great in population. In the northern part of the town is the Female Seminary, an elegant school building, supplied with all modern appliances, costing more than $100,000; south of the town is the Male Seminary, a similar institution, costing about the same; on the west are the Cherokee Academy (Baptist Mission), and Tahlequah Institute (Presbyterian Mission). In addition to these, are the colored high school and quite a number of primary schools. While in session, the attendance is, at the Male Academy, 180; Female Seminary, 200; Tahlequah Institute, 200; Cherokee Academy, 150; at the public schools, 225; and in the colored schools, 150 pupils; in all, 1,105. The Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist Episcopal, Episcopalian and Moravian churches all have large congregations and commodious church buildings. The school fund held by the United States for the benefit of the Cherokee children amounts to $902,252, and yields an annual interest of $45,555; the Insane and Blind Asylum fund is $64,147, and yields annually $3,207 interest. The school fund also gets $2,000 a year from railroad right of way rentals.

Tahlequah is the home of many rich and refined people, and the Cherokee women are noted for their beauty and accomplishments, many of them having been educated in the best colleges in this country and European capitals.

DIXON'S TOMATO INDUSTRY.

It has been satisfactorily demonstrated that the rocky hillsides of the Ozark region will grow anything—tomatoes being no exception. If one should stop off at Dixon, Mo., this assertion would again be verified, for it is here that the hillsides are fairly covered with tomato vines. They are so extensive in size, however, as to no longer deserve the mere appellation, patches, but would more properly be called fields.

Dixon is one of the highest points between St. Louis and Springfield on the Frisco System. One can stand on the rear porch of the Frisco Hotel and view the picturesque mountain scenery for fifty miles or more; the air is so pure it fairlyas well. makes the invalid swell with renewed vigor, and it is here that some day will be built a fine summer resort for St. Louisans.

But back to the tomato cannery. Surrounding the little town of Dixon are some 160 acres of tomatoes from which the good farmers are fast becoming rich. The Dixon Canning Company has just put in a cannery with a capacity of 20,000 cans daily. This factory employs fifty-four girls and about fifteen men to handle the business that comes to it. They pay the farmers 35 cents per 100 pounds for the tomatoes and one man, H. P. Sherwin, gathered $100 worth of these vegetables from a small garden this year. Others are doing quite

MEMPHIS, THE QUEEN CITY OF THE SOUTH.

BY A. K. W.

Located at the head of one of the most fertile valleys in the United States, and possessing all of the advantages that nature can give her, Memphis, the Queen City of the South, is indeed a metropolis to be counted in the final reckoning of the large cities of this country.

Far ahead of the cities in whose class she was counted a few years ago, the Tennessee metropolis forged on at a rate that

Cities of one-third and half her size in this rich territory, who started out to compete with Memphis are now numbered among its patrons. In the matter of shipping facilities, Memphis holds a point of vantage that cannot be taken from her. Her eleven trunk lines furnish competitions greater than most cities can boast of.

If these eleven trunk lines were to combine, the city still has the Mississippi river,

Suburban Home, Memphis, Tenn.

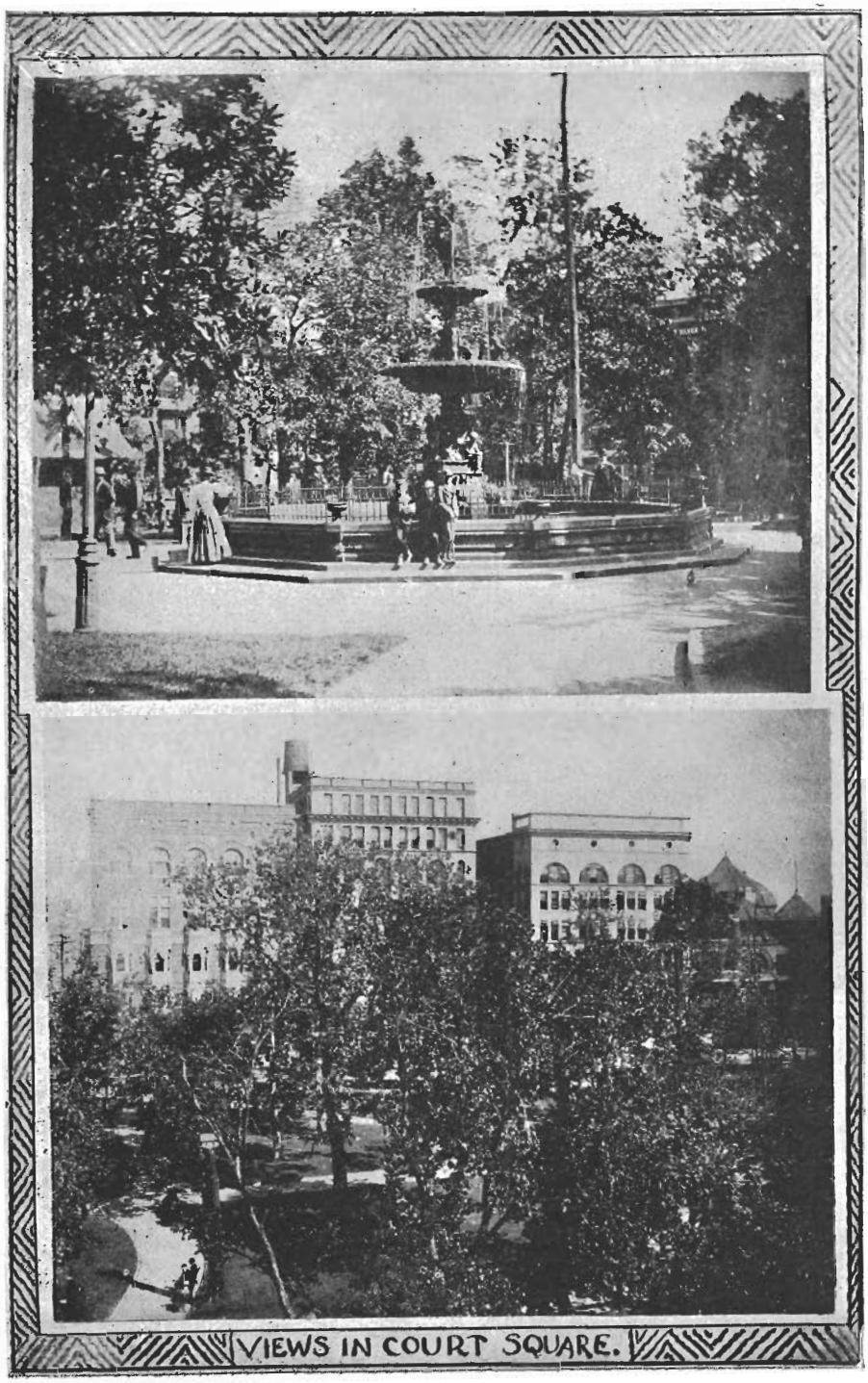
proves startling to the people of other sections. So great a momentum has the city acquired that conservative men say she will grow greater and greater for years to come.

With wideawake and intelligent money men pushing her, they see no stopping point. Memphis has and can have no competitor in many lines of trade. Half way between St. Louis and New Orleans she has a great territory, which neither can hope to take away from her. Taking in nearly half of three states and reaching on into the fourth, she is the center of trade for hundreds of thousands of people.

in addition to its wonderful railroad facilities. The great stream forms an insurmountable barrier to all congestion of traffic. Cotton and lumber have done more to make Memphis great than any other two things that have contributed to her growth. The city is the largest inland cotton market in the world and the market is steadily growing. Mississippi, Arkansas and West Tennessee have for many years sent their cotton to Memphis. Now Texas, Indian Territory and Oklahoma find they can do well here and are coming in to join the forces.

The city is also the center of the cotton-

seed industry. It is the largest producer of cotton-seed products of any city in the world. This fact was emphasized time and again in the past few years. As a hard-wood lumber market the city is constantly increasing in importance. With hundreds of thousands of acres of wooded land lying all around and 500 square miles of wooded



VIEWS IN COURT SQUARE.

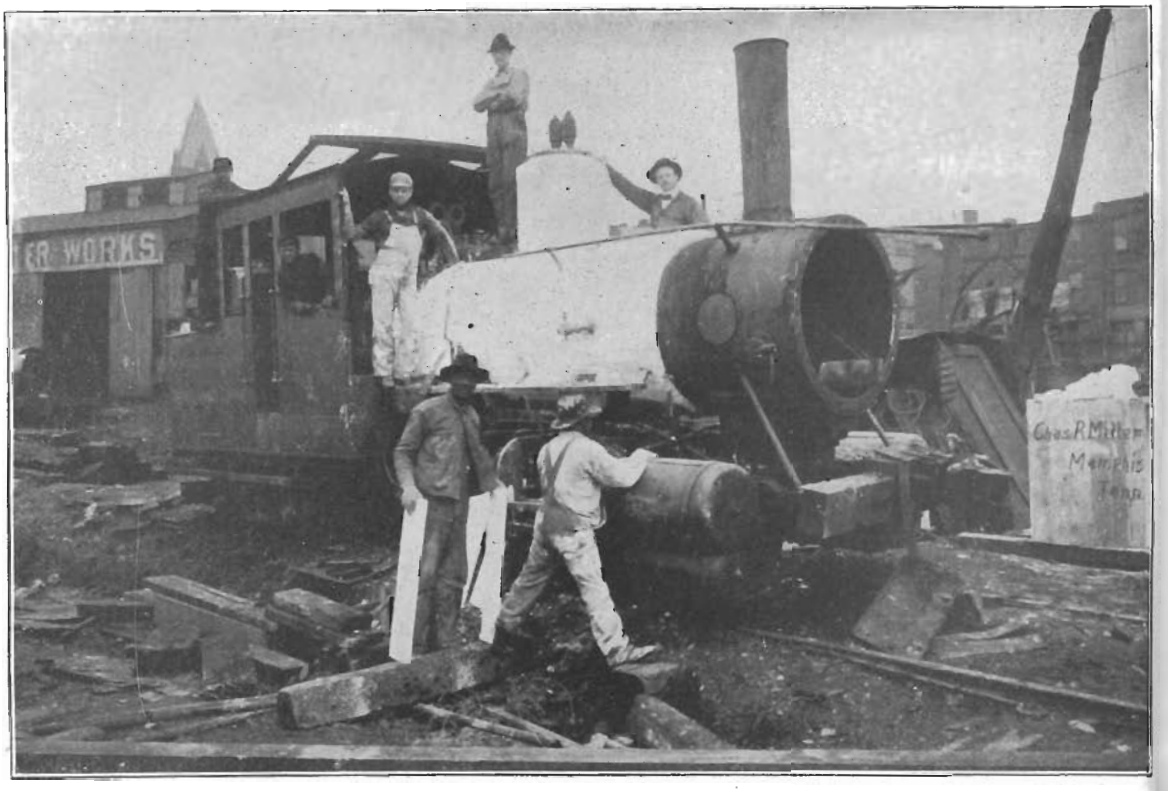
land within a radius of 100 miles, it is easily the largest hardwood market in the world.

The industrial development in the last two years has been greater than ever before. In twice the same length of time this town has forged ahead of its southern neighbors. Factories of all sorts have been flocking to the city. Northern manufacturers have come to realize that they can get their raw material close at hand, and ship the finished product North much cheaper than by continuing at their old locations. Labor is cheaper, rates are right and a mild climate makes better results possible.

Memphis is a lively city of the Southland. It is this view that always impresses the stranger. This is the feeling that imbues all and they carry it away and talk to their friends about it. The remark is frequently heard that Memphis resembles many northern cities. This is always meant as a compliment to our southern city.

The business activity, the hustling quality, the rush and roar of life pervade Memphis from one boundary line to another, as is the case in no other southern city.

In the uptown district the streets and stores teem with moving people from daylight to dark, bank tellers are kept busy and the clerks are engaged, while in the streets the drays and trucks lumber past, and there is general activity all around. In the outlying districts of the city, the whirr of straps and wheels, the roar of machinery and the belching chimneys confirm the earlier impressions. There is everywhere plenty of work and everywhere one is working.



Building Logging Engine.

Memphis has:

The largest inland cotton market in the world.

The largest hardwood lumber market in the world.

The largest producer of cotton-seed oil and products.

The largest snuff market in the world.

The second largest lumber market in the world.

The seventh in wholesale of boots and shoes, St. Louis ranking first.

Memphis is:

The second largest wholesale grocery center in the South.

Largest drug market in the South, and third largest in the United States.

Typical residence, Memphis, Tenn.

The twenty-seventh city in population.

The twenty-sixth in volume of business.

The second in health.

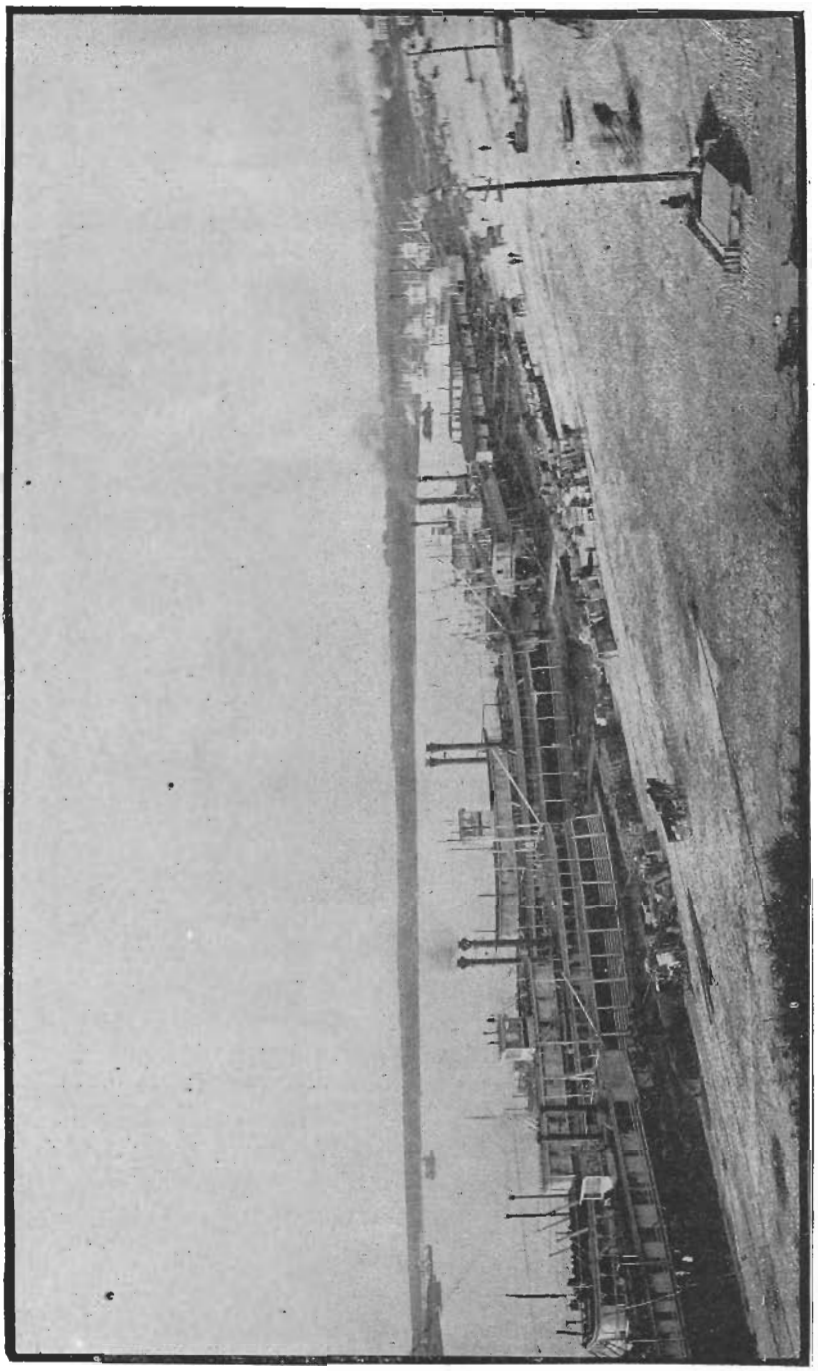
The volume of business for 1902 reached $287,000,000 and for the present year will exceed, it is believed, $300,000,000. This is an exceptionally fine showing.

For the past few years Memphis has grown so rapidly in the eyes of the transportation world that it is now classed as one of the great railroad centers of the United States and one of the most important in the entire South. With twelve distinct lines of railroad radiating from this city, three others practically assured within the next eighteen months, and still others projected in this direction, Memphis promises in a comparatively short time to rival all competitive cities in the Southeast and Southwest as a transportation center.

As a gateway between the East and West, Memphis is coming right to the front with a development that is exceeding any of its rivals in that respect. Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis and New Orleans are the four great gateways of the Mississippi river valley territory through which pours the bulk of the traffic, both passenger and freight, between all sections of the East and West.

Memphis' railroad development has been especially noticeable since the opening of the great Memphis bridge over the Mississippi river, the only one south of St. Louis, though one is now under construction at Thebes, Ill. The bridge has brought Memphis to the front as a passenger gateway by eliminating many of

the difficulties of past years in crossing the river by ferry. This has been responsible for much of the attraction of traffic from both St. Louis and New Orleans.



Scene on the Mississippi River, Memphis.

It has been but one of the several means of Memphis' development as a transportation center.

Within the past twelve months the growth of Memphis in a railroad way has been noticeable even to the casual observer. The increase in passenger traffic has been brought about largely by the increase in and improvement of passenger train service and equipment. Not only

with one but with all the roads have improvements been made.

As an example of the increased use of Memphis as a passenger gateway in the amount of baggage handled through the Memphis depots, for the first three months of this year, January, February and March, the number of pieces of checked baggage passing through the Union Depot (used only by part of the Memphis lines) was increased 5000 over the corresponding period of 1902. That represented perhaps 25,000 additional passengers over the three months of the preceding year.

The population in 1880 was 33,892; 1890, 64,495; 1900, 102,320; 1903, 159,325.

The most important statistics pertaining to any city are those emanating from the banks and clearing house. Memphis has 16 banks and three trust companies, the combined capital and surplus of these financial institutions being $5,800,000. One has but to examine the clearing house reports for the past five years to get a very good idea of the progress of the city.

Following are the figures for the past five years:

1899	$102,573,081.43
1900	130,697,138.27
1901	160,135,025 36
1902	157,945,449.84
1903	201,847,570.60

These figures represent the figures from September to September.

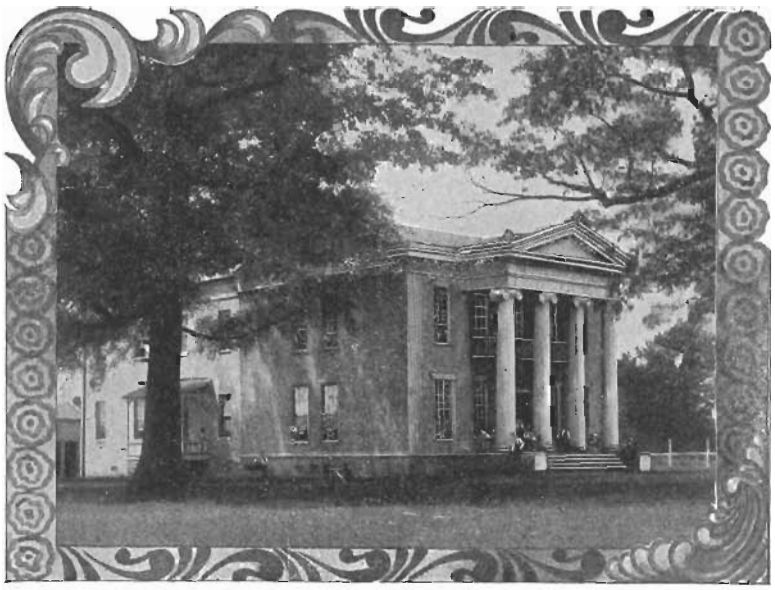
The annual cotton statement for the year ending Sept. 1 is given below, having been issued by Secretary Hotter of the Cotton Exchange.

The most remarkable feature of the report is the very large receipts, which broke all previous records by more than 100,000 bales. The gain in total returns as compared with last year exceeded $9,000,000.

The total receipts were 892,511 bales. This is a gain of 212,575 bales over last year. The money returns for the cotton handled here were $24,698,482.62, against $15,544,384.44 for the previous year.

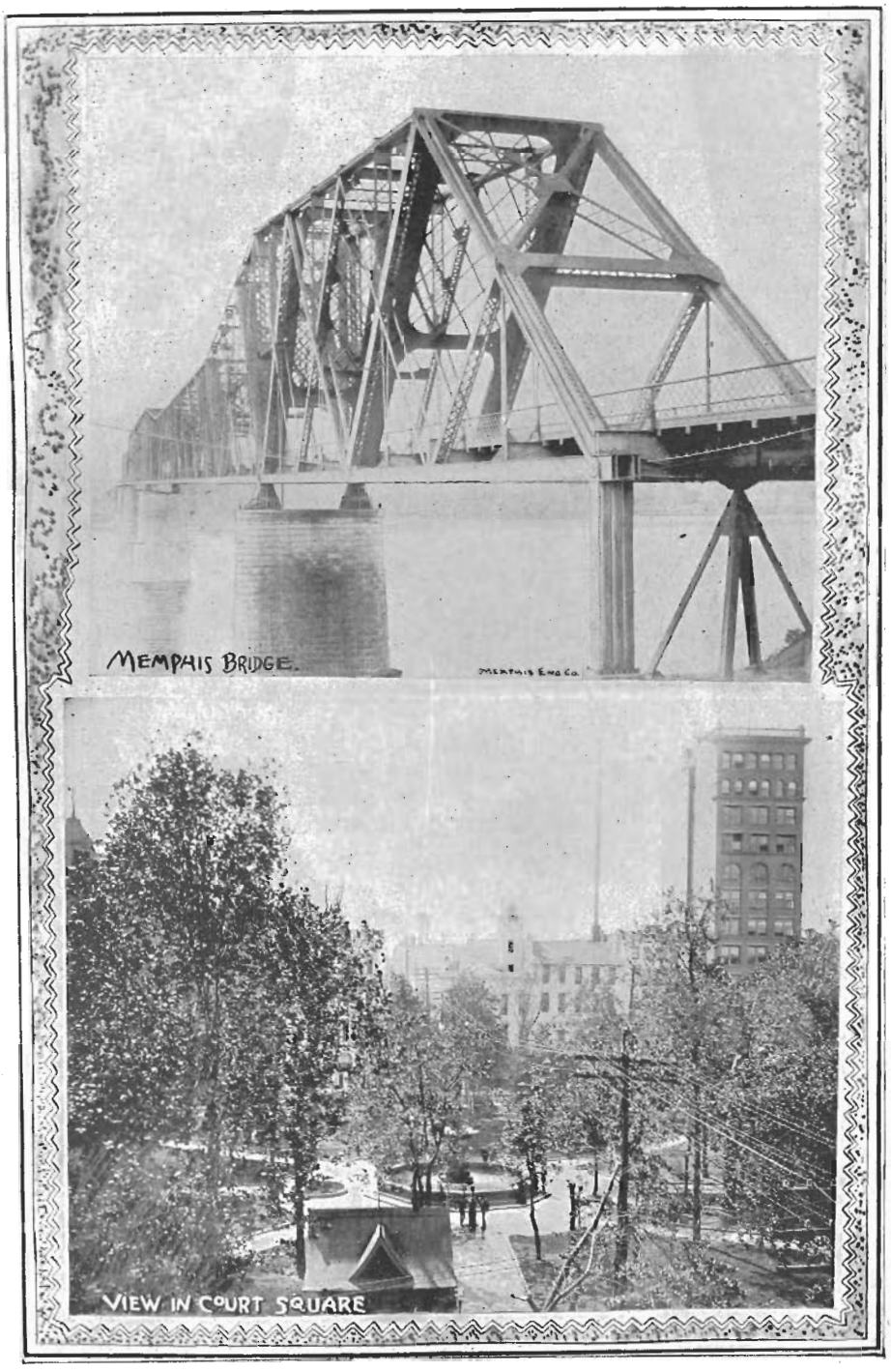
Thus it will be seen that Memphis holds her position as the largest inland cotton market in the world.

Until recent years people have looked upon Memphis as being solely a cotton town, and have attributed her wealth and



Old Homestead Sanatorium, Memphis.

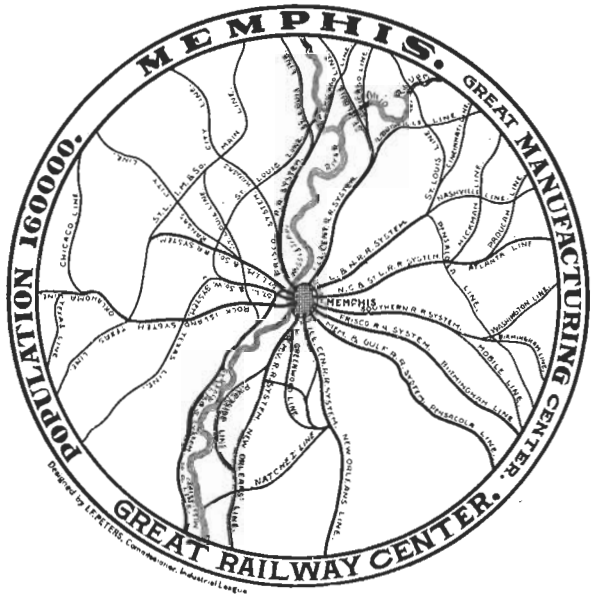
prosperity to the fleecy staple. However, later developments show that the lumber industry has played a very prominent part in placing Memphis as one of the foremost cities of the entire South. Memphis is today the largest hardwood producing market in the world. The export lumber business is of recent origin. As late as 1890 the wholesale lumber business numbered only about three or four firms. After 1892 people awakened to the fact that Memphis would lead all other markets in the manu-



facture of hardwood and today there are more than forty firms engaged in this lucrative business. There are many firms with offices in the city who have their mills and yards in the contiguous territory. With the facilities afforded them by rail and water, it is easy for them to supply any and all orders. It is estimated that about 7000 men are given employment in the city of Memphis in the manufacturing and handling of lumber, which is necessarily of great benefit to the city. Statistics show that it takes 35,000 cars annually to handle the logs and lumber shipped to the city.

Lumber dealers are in touch with all foreign countries, some shipments being made to Japan.

It is a well-known and at the same time a well-established fact that Memphis real estate offers more attractive features to the conservative investor than that of almost any other city in the country. The fact that Memphis has grown to be the prosperous city she now is, is largely due to the fact that real estate values in and around the city have reached the present high stage by steady increase and not by spasmodic fluctuations, as has been the case in so many cities where a "boom"



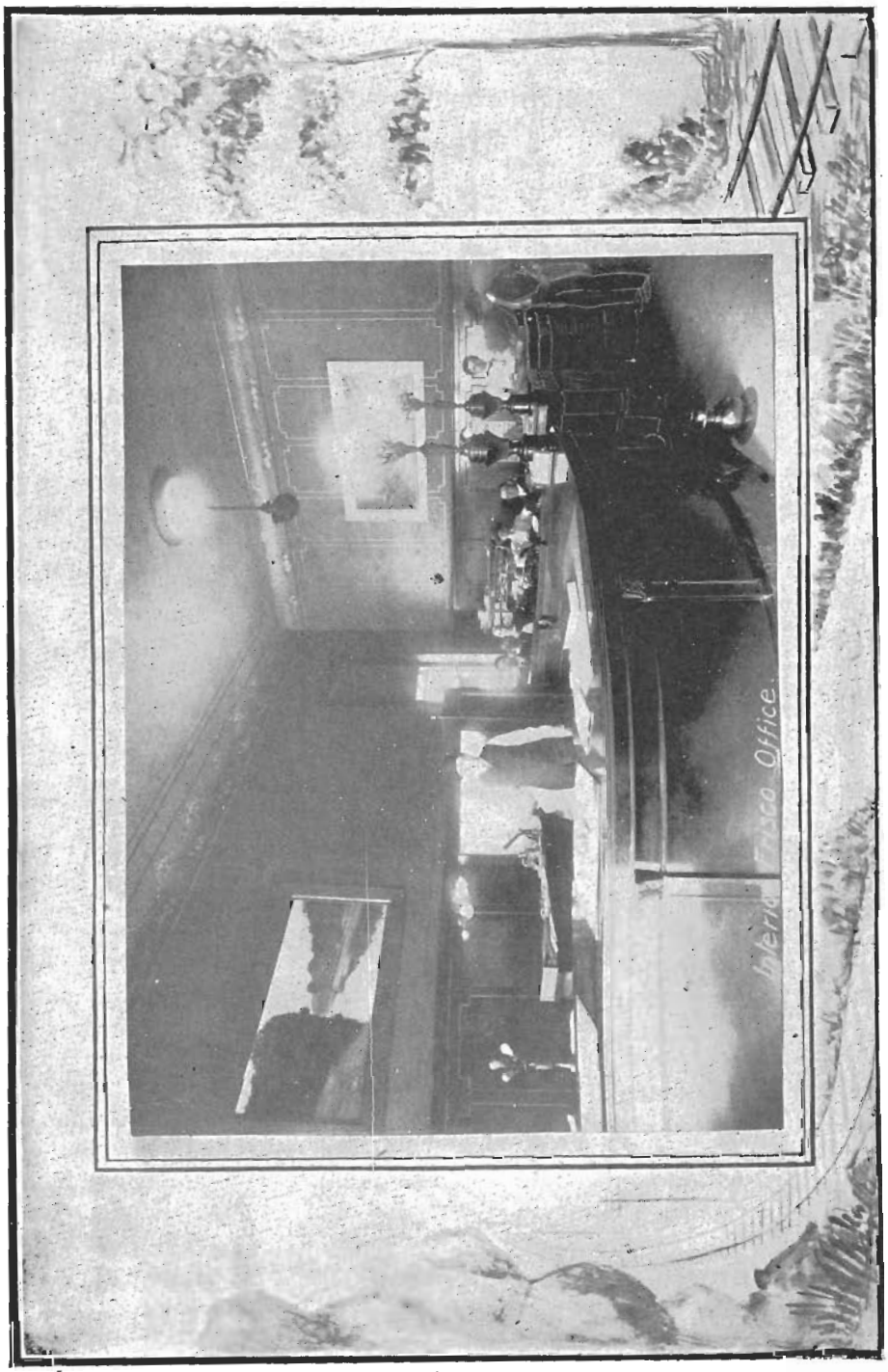
Just now there is invested in the lumber business in Memphis something like $4,000,000. These are startling figures and they show to some extent what the lumber trade means to Memphis. The manufacturers and shippers deal largely in oak, poplar, gum, ash, cottonwood and hickory. Memphis is especially noted for the quality of quarter-sawed oak she produces, ranking higher than any in the world. All European, Northern and Eastern markets have representatives in the city, who attend to the many and large orders placed in their hands. Memphis had been inaugurated in order to force up real estate values.

"The greatest mule market in the world."

Such is the verdict of the United States government and of the government of Great Britain. The opinions were verified during the past few years, when both governments, each having a little war on hand, made their heaviest purchases of mules in Memphis. It is impossible to even estimate the number of mules purchased by the two nations during the several months each was buying the frisky

but hard-working animals, but the enormous sums of money spent in this city in payment of the mules were the one thing needed to firmly establish Memphis at the very top of the business the world over.

Missouri, Kentucky, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana furnish practically all the mules used in the world. Ten years ago the mule was considered essentially a mule for the states in the far South. His fame



was as nothing when the United States government began using him in the West as a beast of burden. His ability to withstand heat, to undergo extremely hard and continued labor, and his great strength, made him popular with the war department, and soon his presence began to be noted in the North and East, although as yet he is not common there. The war with Spain brought the mule into world-wide prominence, especially as several army wagons, drawn by government mules, of the stubborn Mississippi variety, captured a whole regiment of Spanish soldiers merely by trying to run away from

Memphis Shoe Factory.

a battlefield. The noise and clatter of the mules scared the Spaniards, who ran into the American camp and surrendered.

This record was so firmly established by the mule that when the British finally decided to crush the Boer rebellion in South Africa they decided the trouble could not be abated without the assistance of the American mule. Thousands and thousands of these animals were purchased in Memphis by agents of the British government, and were shipped to New Orleans and Galveston for export to South Africa. The British wanted the very best grade of mules that could be found, they wanted them in large numbers and they wanted them at once. As a result, the trade of 1902 reached stupendous proportions, far greater than the trade of any previous year. And prices reached the topnotch, creating a new record.

The present year, however, has already broken the record made during the Boer war, and local dealers are eminently satisfied with the manner in which the trade is growing. While there have been times when for several weeks at a stretch business would die out, as a whole there has never been such a prosperous year in the business, and never have prices been so high. Formerly mules of the freight grade could be purchased for $135 or $140. Now these same mules cannot be had except at from $175 to $225. It is a common saying among users of the mule that a good mule cannot be bought for less than $200. Cotton mules, which could have been bought for $40 several years ago, are now sold every day for $135. Some days sales have been made of this grade at prices even higher.

Mules do not occupy all the attention of the local dealers in live stock, however. Memphis is really one of the largest markets for horses, and in this line of trade her business has been constantly growing for many years past.

During the past few years this trade has been particularly active in horses for family use. The riding and driving horse, the trotter, the pacer, the saddle horse, the buggy horse, all have been in great demand, and for a very good reason. The people of Memphis, and the residents of all this vast section of the country, have been prosperous the past few years and have reached that point where they can afford the one-time luxury of a horse.

Memphis ships large quantities of horses all over the country, and the trade is rapidly increasing. Prices are higher than heretofore, but not higher than warranted by the demand. The stock is of the best, as a rule, and the horses themselves attract trade this way. It was estimated a few days ago that the trade in mules amounts to upwards of $3,000,000

each year, while that in horses is nearly as much more.

A glance at the following figures compiled from the Post Office shows plainly that the business of Memphis has more than doubled in the last nine years:

	Receipts.	Expenses.	Ratio.
1895	$152,030.57	$59,255.04	.3900
1896	165,106.45	63,656.51	.3900
1897	179,052.03	63,967.56	.3570
1898	192,403.88	72,278.46	.3750
1899	207,209.92	74,674.31	.3600
1900	229,906.82	76,815.45	.3340
1901	247,292.94	84,277.16	.3480
1902	273,291.49	92,224.79	.3367
1903	319,263.24	102,502.63	.3210

There is more building going on in Memphis today than at any previous time during her history. Real estate values have now gone slightly beyond the original 100 per cent and are increasing slowly and steadily with a continued demand, and a brighter prospect for the future of the city. As a rule people living at a distance have a much better opinion of Memphis as a business center than our home people. This is evidenced by the numerous inquiries daily received from moneyed men from all over the country, nor do these inquiries come exclusively from points in the United States, but from Paris, Berlin and London as well. A great many people in Memphis have yet to know that their city is one of the best advertised and best known centers of commerce in the United States. Her steady rise in real estate values and the enterprise and progressiveness of her business men have reached out beyond the confines of our own country. Inquiries are continually being made by capitalists who are looking for investments in Memphis real estate.

The exact geographical location of Memphis is north latitude 35 degrees 9 minutes, and west longitude 90 degrees 3 minutes. The elevation above the sea, 272 feet.

The annual precipitation is 50.82, and it is distributed as follows: January, 5.45; February, 4.88; March, 5.67; April, 5.02; May, 4.26; June, 4.55; July, 3.28; August, 3.41; September, 3.08; October, 2.65; November, 4.54; December, 4.03.

The mean annual temperature is 62 degrees, and by months: January, 41; February, 44; March, 52; April, 62; May, 71; June, 78; July, 81; August, 80; September, 73; October, 63; November, 51; December, 44.

The highest daily normal temperature, 83 degrees; lowest daily normal temperature, 38 degrees. Sub-zero temperatures are very rare.

Memphis is a healthy town, one of the most fortunate in this respect in the world. According to recent statistics she has the second lowest death rate of any city in the United States. This phase of the city life is clearly and forcibly shown in a statement prepared recently by Dr. Heber Jones, president of the board of health.

The 1902 death rate is as follows:

Whites, per thousand	13.10
Whites, per thousand, (citizens only).	9.03
Colored, per thousand	20.26
Colored, per thousand (citizens only).	16.72
Total, per thousand (citizens only).	12.75

The death rate has been steadily decreasing for the past five years. In 1898, it was 22.17 per thousand. In 1902, 16.32 per thousand. This compares favorably with any city in the world, and such a low rate cannot exist except under very favorable conditions. Favorable conditions are:

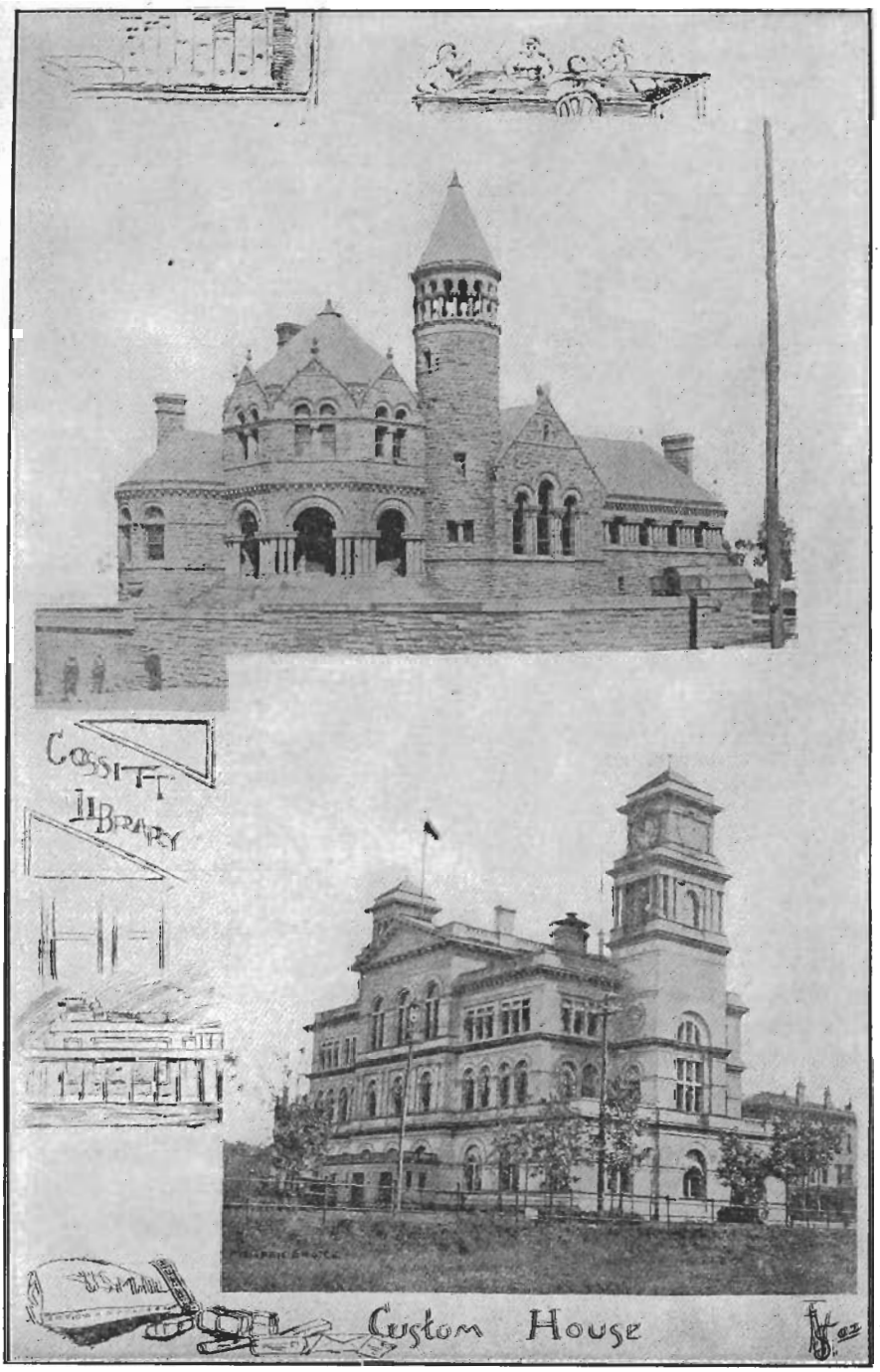
First—Pure artesian water—as pure water as that supplied to any city in the world.

Second—The "separate" sewer system, a large portion of which has been built during the last four years, and is, unquestionably, as sanitary as can be found in the world.

In the one matter of sporting Memphis unquestionably takes the lead over all other cities of the South, with the possible exception of New Orleans. Even the exception of this one great city is a question

of doubtful proportions, notwithstanding the fact that the Crescent City gives support to racing during a hundred and ten days' meeting.

Memphis lays claim to the greatest, fastest and prettiest trotting race track in all the country; and to this one mile of soil is credited more world's records for horses of the trotting and pacing classes than any one other track in America, Europe or the rest of the world. This track, owned by the Memphis Trotting Association, is the



pride of the local race followers. And right well may it be, too, for it has all that one may want to attract except many years of age.

Memphis also boasts of a track for thoroughbreds. This track, situated at Montgomery Park, is one of the best in the country for racing at the time of the spring when dates may be obtained by any association in this part of the West. It also has qualities which make it ideal for the passing of winters and the beginning of the spring season of training. In this respect it outclasses all tracks in the West, East or on the Pacific coast, and is being more and more recognized as the proper place for wintering by horsemen of prudence and sharpened judgment.

Thus supporting two fine race tracks, one race meet for thoroughbreds and another for trotters and pacers, Memphis has much to think of in the sporting line. Yet the interest of Memphians is not altogether centered in racing of horses. The residents give much of their time to baseball, boating, golf, shooting and other sporting attractions. Among the gun enthusiasts of the city are some of the most prominent shooters in the entire South and the shoots pulled off here are interesting in the extreme, being patronized by the best marksmen of the United States.

The track of the Memphis Trotting Association was built through the efforts of C. K. G. Billings, one of the most enthusiastic followers of the trotters and pacers in this country and a millionaire with considerable holdings in Memphis. The track was built by Seth Griffin, the most expert trotting track builder in all the world.

When the stranger asks a Memphian what kind of water is used here for the general city supply, he is told artesian. This much every citizen of Memphis is aware and nearly every stranger that comes within the gates of the city, but the full meaning of the word is rarely appreciated by any. In other words, there are few save those who have looked the matter up that know it to be a fact that Memphis has one of the finest waterworks systems in the United States, that the purity of the supply is beyond question and the life of the same is practically limitless.

Since 1887, when Memphis switched from the Wolf river supply to that of the pure product of artesian wells, the health of the city has been improved in a way that is hardly credible. With the advent of an abundance of pure water came more sewers and the old sewers were made twice as effective. By degrees the old wells and cisterns that were formerly used by the Memphis resident in preference to the doubtful and muddy product of the Wolf river plant of 1870, were done away with till there are few of them in the city today. Every one has come to realize the value and purity of artesian water and the fact that it is a boon. At present the city is supplied from sixty 8 and 10-inch steel tube deep wells, averaging 350 feet in depth and the pumping plant consists of three high duty compound condensing Worthington pumping engines, one of which is kept constantly in reserve. The capacity of these pumps is 10,000,000 gallons daily. Besides this there is an auxiliary plant located in the extreme southern end of the city that was installed last year at a cost of $20,000, and in Ft. Pickering there is a water tower that acts as a safety valve for the mains and balances the water pressure.

Madge—Why does she at last own up that they are in love?

Majorie—She had to. They sat on the sand yesterday, and never noticed the tide coming in until they were drenched.

Stella—There goes Totty Footlights in the automobile Charlie gave her. She acts as if she had been used to one all her life.

Belle—I guess it's heredity. Her father used to run a steam roller.

"Wonder why she lifts her skirts so high while passing over the crossing?" "Oh, it's no wonder! I can see two good reasons."

SILK CULTURE IN TEXAS.

There appears to be no end to the resourcefulness of Texas, and this fact is becoming accentuated by the results of the policy of diversification of crops and to a general experimenting, proceeding from that policy. The Agricultural Department at Washington has for many years been endeavoring to encourage silk culture in this country. Though enormous quantities of silk are consumed in America, not a strand of it is raised here, and hence the money expended for it goes to France, Italy, China and Japan. From the fact that silk has been known to Europe since the days when the Caesars ruled, having been brought there from China and India, and from a knowledge of its value, it would be supposed that its culture was impossible in this country, or it would long ago have been engaged in. But it has been shown that it can be produced in certain parts of the United States as cheaply and with as little labor as in any part of the world. More than this, expert examination into the industry shows that silk can be produced in some of the Southern States, and notably in Texas, with less embarrassments, perhaps, than in almost any part of the world. The food of the worm is the white mulberry tree, and the cultivation of this tree is a prerequisite to the culture. In a more northern climate than that of Texas, the leaves of the tree come forth later and die earlier than in Texas. Hence the season of the worm is longer in this State than in latitudes farther north, and it is supposed that a silk colony can produce more silk here on account of the length of the working season. But whether or not this is true, the advantage this State and a few other Southern States possess in this industry, is the presence of the bois d'arc, or osage orange tree. The worms thrive on its foliage. The tree puts forth its leaves early in the spring, it is hardy and is never affected by climatic changes as are the less hardy mulberry trees. The failure of the American people to engage in this industry is due to the fact that it has been found to be profitable only when it is conducted on a small scale. In those European countries where the business is actively engaged in, the girls and housewives depend on it almost wholly for their small money. In some districts there are silk reeling establishments to which the families carry their cocoons, which they raise in their homes. Here and there large areas are devoted to the mulberry tree and silk culture, but as a rule it is engaged in by only the females of the family. Being what may be termed a small business, it has never obtained footing in this country, for the American desires to do all sorts of business on a large scale or not do it at all. As has been stated, the Agricultural Department has been endeavoring for a long time to excite an interest in this industry. It has issued pamphlets containing instructions as to hatching and care of the worms and as to everything pertaining to the production of silk. It has sent free of cost the eggs of the worms to all persons who desire them, and lately has offered to market all the cocoons or raw silk produced by those who have entered into the industry through pleasure or for profit. And the result is that it is receiving several hundred pounds of cocoons every month, which it sells without charge for the person producing it. The reports of this department show that from twenty to thirty pounds of cocoons can be easily produced by a small colony of worms in two months, which will yield from $25 to $30, an amount which would come pleasantly to any farmer's wife or daughter. The care is not so great, and the labor small. With the bois d'arc tree in nearly every nook and corner of the State, this industry ought to grow till in time Texas should take her place as a great silk-producing State. It is presumed that the suggestion will be ridiculed. The suggestion of a policy of a diversity of crops was ridiculed.

But the crops are here and the people are better off in every way because of them. The man and woman who have been impressed with the benefits of diversification, will not stop at the point to which that policy has extended. And in the small thing of silk culture they will see another opportunity of improving their condition and making the State greater.—Dallas News.

RICH LANDS IN MISSOURI OPEN FOR FREE SETTLEMENT.

BY E. D. L.

Missouri, the richest and just now the most famous State in the Middle West, contains more than two hundred thousand acres of land that are open to free homestead entry. It is a fact that there exists more land subject to free entry in Missouri than in Oklahoma. The official record at the office of the Secretary of State shows a startling number of acres that may be had absolutely free of charge. Much of this land is fit for cultivation and will grow good crops. The entire amount of unsettled land that may be had free is just 235,193 acres. One can secure a title to this land immediately by the payment of $1.25 per acre or by living on it under the homestead law can obtain it free.

The principal reason that most of this land has not been settled upon is due to the fact that it was so far removed from the railroads. But year after year the railway systems of the State have begun to realize that there are millions of dollars in undeveloped resources, and they are penetrating all of these out-of-the-way places. Within the past three years over four hundred thousand acres have been settled upon by immigrants from the East. The land that may be settled upon is limited to one-fourth section, or 160 acres. Providing one wishes to buy the land outright you can purchase 320 acres. The State being divided into three land districts the reports of vacant land in the State are filed at three separate places—Springfield, Boonville and Ironton. The following table shows the vacant land in each county as compared with four years ago:

County.	1899.	1903.
IRONTON DISTRICT.		
Bollinger	1,600	1,520
Butler	790	793
Cape Girardeau	120	.....
Carter	640	600
Crawford	1,480	1,685
Dent	3,820	3,975
Dowell	4,520	3,828
Iron	10,740	7,161
Madison	7,520	5,732
Oregon	6,160	5,045
Perry	420	280
Phelps	11,790	10,608
Pulaski	4,340	3,938
Reynolds	8,180	5,815
Ripley	3,840	3,322
St. Francois	880	200
Ste. Genevieve	1,560	1,987
Shannon	5,590	4,392
Texas	13,360	12,809
Washington	2,540	1,510
Wayne	6,110	3,822
SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT.		
Barry	11,994	7,712
Christian	1,020	.....
Dallas	3,856	1,959
Douglas	8,926	5,206
Laclede	6,165	3,647
McDonald	11,322	4,373
Ozark	74,150	47,362
Pulaski	2,160	1,996
Stone	17,808	5,243
Taney	16,316	9,382
Texas	2,763	1,449
Webster	569	.....
Wright	3,764	.....
BOONVILLE DISTRICT.		
Benton	2,980	1,700
Callaway	160	.....
Camden	19,620	16,000
Cedar	40	.....
Crawford	440	400
Dallas	13,200	9,000
Franklin	40	.....
Hickory	4,160	3,600
Jefferson	55	.....
Laclede	9,820	9,400
Maries	2,080	2,000
Miller	4,200	2,800
Morgan	340	.....
Phelps	1,920	1,800
Pulaski	17,520	12,000
St. Clair	3,520	2,200

THE SOUTHWEST AFIELD.

BY WILLIAM R. DRAPER.

Exodus from the great cities of the East and the overcrowded farms of the older states has caused a wonderful transformation afield southwest. A new era in land tenure is being developed, cattle ranges occupied by farmers, arid and semi-arid sections redeemed by irrigation, public domain being claimed by settlers, and fields that have heretofore felt only the tramp of herds of cattle have come to know the touch of an iron hand.

A hundred million acres of domain, lying in this great southwestern empire, are being redeemed, so to speak. While but a small per cent of the territory embraced in Frisco Land—that part of the southwest traversed by the Frisco System—was ever arid, it has been and is yet thinly settled. There are thousands of acres to every family as yet and the process of putting five million settlers onto the 250,000,000 acres of land adjacent to the Frisco System has become of great magnitude in the last few years. Even now fields that a dozen years ago grew nothing but wild buffalo grass and cactus bushes, are waving with a luxuriant growth of alfalfa, wheat, corn and other products of the field.

Greatest indeed are the changes that have taken place in the fields of the southwest. Beginning a score or more of years ago, when the cowboy was in command, the settler went about his harvest in a small way. Harvesting machines were almost an unknown quantity on the frontier—indeed they cost a great deal of money and the pioneer of those days was doing very well if he possessed a log hut to live in. Most of them found a dugout all-sufficient. The cowpuncher was the knight of the plains, and if he chose to drive a herd of long horned steers over a field of growing wheat he did so. To avenge the wrong, the farmer must need fight and even then he was usually worsted, for he was in the minority.

But things have changed since then, the man with the hand reaper who needed to work with a six-shooter in his belt to keep away the Indians and who had to throw a line of guards around his fields in growing season to hold off the roving steers, has been blessed with success. Others of the same stuff as he came to his rescue and the combined efforts of the pioneer farmer have taken over the entire field for their very own. The cattle business has been relegated to the rear, in a measure, and the brightest days are even yet to come, despite the fact that southwestern farmers are fairly rolling in health and prosperity.

Ten years ago the Indian Territory and Oklahoma were principally populated by redskins. Today the Indian population forms less than one-fifteenth of these two territories, soon to become states in the Union. A few years ago the Indians were an idle and shiftless sort, living upon the annuities provided by the government and doing everything within their power to prevent the white man from coming into their domain.

But it has been said with truth that where the iron rails are laid, there you will also find the enterprising white man. From the time the railroads began to plow through the Indian Territory—the beautiful land—white settlers began to crowd nearer and nearer to the Indians. They leased the land from the cattlemen who had for years been on friendly terms with the powers that ruled in Indian Territory, and acre after acre the prairie sod was turned and made to bear rich returns.

Work is said to be contagious, as is energy. When the white man went to work developing the sod in Indian Territory, some of the more progressive redskins turned their eyes in envy upon the bursting graneries of wheat, the great piles of corn and the stacks of hay that resulted from a summer's labor The Indian is an avaricious fellow—he loves money despite all that has been said of his willingness to part with it for fire-water and kindred things. The Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes saw the richness that lay beneath their own lands and many of them com-

menced to turn over the sod and get at this wealth.

As a result the Indians are today work-a-day men and women. They are as busy in harvest time as the Kansas farmer with a ripened field of grain on hand and no helpers in sight. They pitch their tepees near the fields and with modern machinery begin the harvest of the cereal. The braves cast aside their blankets—few of them wear blankets anyway—and wade into the yellow fields. Some of the richest Indians in the Cherokee Nation are farmers and have acquired their fortune, not through tribal payments, but by digging it out of the ground in wheat and corn crops. The Cherokees are the hardest workers, I believe, because it is generally conceded that they stand next to the white man in color, in ambition, in every thing that tends toward civilization. The Choctaws and Chickasaws are also hard workers and many of them have large farms. Some of the richest farms in the southwest are found along the Frisco System adjoining such towns as Sapulpa, Hugo, Claremore, Chelsea, Vinita, and Tulsa. In the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nation many of the Indians own large cotton plantations, but as a rule they stick close to wheat and corn raising. Few of them are owners of large herds of cattle, as one would naturally suppose.

Farming on a hillside would indeed seem odd to the man who has never turned a plow over any other field than a level one. But in the Ozark region the farmer owning a quarter section has the privilege of farming both sides of it—up one hill and down another. Of course this does not apply to the entire Ozark Uplift by any means, for despite the fact that it is a hilly section in general about sixty per cent is level land.

In Southwest Missouri and Northern Arkansas, along the line of the Frisco System, one finds for miles and miles hillside farms, where it seems as if the haystacks, the shocks of wheat and corn, sitting at right angles, would surely topple over and roll down into the valley below. But such never happens for all hills are not so steep as they may seem and as a farming area they are much above expectations.

Hillside farming land is cheap in the Ozarks—much of it may be bought for $5.00 an acre. The soil is usually a lightish color with a dark red clay as a sub-soil. This holds water very well and it is a strange thing but true, that the hillside crops never suffer for want of rain half so much as do the crops in the valleys. While this region—large enough for a good sized state and containing 23,400,000 acres—is a distinct upheaval and mountainous in character, more than half of it is made up of elevated plateaus, easy, graceful slopes and beautiful low-lying valleys, river and creek bottoms. These smoother lands are all available for convenient and profitable cultivation and a good percentage of them are now devoted to general farming and fruit raising. Of the remaining 40 or 45 per cent of the country, one-half may be designated as hill country, the balance being rough country, too broken for profitable cultivation. Nothing can better illustrate the profit of farming in the Ozarks than to repeat verbatim the story as told by a prominent citizen of Springfield, the "Queen of the Ozarks."

"I recall a Gèrman who bought an eighty acre tract of the Frisco Company's lands. It was a stony piece, but the soil was strong. When he made the first payment of $24, he had less than $50 left, but with that sum, his team and plow, and a plucky wife, he started out to make a home in the hilly regions. He cleared out his land, bought a cow, paid for by work, a few pigs and chickens, and constructed a rude hut into which the family effects were placed. Little by little he has won his way. I passed his house the other day; it is a neat, two-story frame building of twelve rooms; his farm consists of 200 acres, all in the highest state of cultivation. He paid $3.00 per acre for the land and to day it is worth $75 an acre."

Land along the mountain sides that will grow eighteen to twenty bushels of wheat to the acre, fifty to seventy bushels of corn, and two crops of hay and three of alfalfa can now be bought for $15 an acre, within reasonable distance of the Frisco System.

Ranching in the southwest is something that has gone before—cattle ranching es-

pecially. The only ranches one finds in this, the richest of undeveloped America today, are wheat and alfalfa and corn ranches. Here they are found, even greater than on the broad prairies of the northwest. The famous wheat farms of the Dakotas and Minnesota that have for years been looked upon as the supply stations for milling companies, are no larger if as large as some of the big wheat fields found in Oklahoma and Kansas and Northern Texas. The Miller ranch, containing 37,000 acres of wheat fields, the Forsha ranch, containing 5,000 acres of alfalfa, and the immense farms of W. P. Waggoner in Northern Texas, all of which are along the Frisco System, are but a few of the famous fields that have attracted wide attention in the public prints.

The management of these properties requires business judgment quite as acute as in the affairs of any large manufacturing firm. Hundreds of men are employed at the "101" property in Kay County, Oklahoma, and the net profits amount to about $100,000 per annum. The fields are sown to grain at certain seasons and they are carefully cultivated and every inch of ground utilized not only once but twice and thrice each year. For instance: A field is sown to wheat in the late fall, this wheat grows rank before winter and is pastured by the owners, putting several dollars' worth of fat per acre upon the steers. In the early summer the grain is cut and the field immediately re-plowed and sown to Kaffir corn—a quickly maturing crop and one that produces a good yield before sowing time comes around again. Indeed the soil is kept in such fine condition by the tramping of the herds over it that a plowing is hardly needed in the fall, thus saving that expense to the owners.

It is a common sight indeed, in taking a trip along the Frisco System in summer time to meet every few hours a wheat ranch where there are five to fifteen binders at work in the field, or where a battery of two to five threshing machines are puffing away around one farmer's wheat field. In the East, where the farms are small, such a thing would be novel indeed.

The tendency of the Oklahoma farmer is to increase the size of his farm as quickly as possible. This same rule holds good in Kansas and Texas where men of enterprise make up the rural population. They know that the larger the farm, the cheaper the expense in harvesting and putting in the crops, and therefore the greater the profit. On the ranch covering 5,000 acres, it has been learned by actual figures, the profit is 25 per cent greater in proportion than with the small farm of about 200 acres.

One of the comparatively infant industries of the great southwest, especially in that country tributary to the Frisco System, is the cultivation of rice. Quite recently several hundred northern farmers, following the footsteps of friends who had gone before and grown rich in the rice industry, went to the southern portion of the Lone Star State and opened up big rice fields covering thousands of acres. The cultivation of rice adjacent to the Frisco System and in the coast counties of Texas, is certain to be one of the growing industries. This is apparent because of the fact that millions of acres of Texas soil can with but little expense be made suitable to rice culture. Rice could and perhaps will be grown in certain parts of Oklahoma as well.

Irrigation is absolutely necessary for the successful cultivation of rice and this is accomplished in two ways. The canal system and wells are used. Rice canals are constructed by building two parallel levees over the prairie and flooding this with water. At intervals are flood-gates which are opened at certain times when it is necessary to cover the growing stems with water. The only thing in Texas necessary for rice cultivation is plenty of water.

Rice is sown in April and May and after it has got several inches out of the ground the water is turned on and allowed to cover the entire field at a depth of several inches during the growing season—sixty to seventy days. The grain then ripens and the water is drained away and harvest begins as soon as the ground has dried. Rice is harvested by Mexican labor principally and after the same man-

ner as wheat or oats. The profits are large.

One man can easily handle a hundred acres of rice land. The cost per acre, including water rent, is about $10. If one rents the land add $7.00 for rental. The average price of rice is $3.00 per barrel. The average yield is twelve barrels per acre, or $36, a profit of $19 an acre. These figures are conservative, not exceptional cases.

It must be stated that no man can engage in the rice industry with little funds. Rice lands cannot as a rule be rented, for once the owners have ventured to build a canal or take a long lease on the water rights from a corporation, they desire to take all the profits themselves. There are a great many canal companies being organized in Frisco System territory for the purpose of tapping the Colorado river in Central Texas and turning the wheat and cotton fields into rice plantations. At present much of the rice land is found in the coast country where the water is plentiful. In fact all along the southern coast for a distance of several thousand miles, there is an abundance of fresh water, which makes rice culture cheap and profitable.

Until three years ago the rice industry was not considered in parts of Texas where it is today a leading and most profitable industry. There are four million acres of Texas land available for the rice industry and about 200,000 acres are now being used. Much of the best rice land in the state is to be found along the proposed extension of the Frisco System from San Antonio to Brownsville, Texas.

In recent years the prairie west has been turned from a barren waste into fields of rich productiveness, consequently its people have prospered beyond their wildest dreams of wealth. Less than ten years have passed since the present kingdom of wheat was a mere desert plain. The state of Kansas has been plastered with mortgages for time eternal, its people held up to ridicule and the crops attacked by various plague or pest. But now all is changed. Wheat is mainly responsible for the prosperity in Kansas.

Sod houses are seen no more, except as souvenirs of the black past, while a score of years ago they were the main places of abode. The gathering of the sheaves in Kansas these years is therefore an occupation of great pleasure. The income of the farmers of the Sunflower State for 1903 amounted to about two hundred million dollars, of which one-half was from the wheat fields. The wheat crop amounted to 100,000,000 bushels. The alfalfa crop sold for $156,000, whereas two years ago this item was not recorded in the official report of Kansas crop values.

Kansas is receiving its share of settlers and has for the last four or five years. Since the rain has commenced to fall with regularity and crops yield in abundance, the people have been assured of not only a living but they are getting rich fast in the Sunflower State. Dotting the plains here and there a dozen years ago were sod houses, whereas to day there may be seen fine two-story frame and brick farm homes, finely improved fields and the farmer comes to town in rubber-tired rigs. Almost every one has a bank account. Kansas has reached that point where its farmers are its aristocrats, so to speak.

But there is room for more in Kansas. Of unappropriated and unreserved public land in the state there are yet one million or more acres, which are even now available to actual homesteaders. Much of this land lies in the western section and is fit for grazing more than for wheat raising.

One of the newest of Kansas crops is alfalfa, that yields four or five cuttings to the acre each season and a net profit of from $20 to $35 an acre. There are a number of alfalfa ranches adjacent to the Frisco System in Sedgwick County and near Beaumont, Winfield and Arkansas City. The sugar beet industry now offers a very profitable field for the settler and since 1901 the industry has been encouraged not only in Western Kansas, but at Wichita, Arkansas City and all through the southern portion of the state. Sugar beets yield a profit of about $45 an acre around Wichita this year.

Kansas has been the best advertised state in the Union all through its hardships and through its good times. But

Kansas people are not much given to exaggeration, either way, for good or bad. The state is not what most people imagine, a field of honey or a bleak desert. It is just now in a very prosperous condition, but money does not grow on trees and 25-bushel-per-acre wheat is not taken off the rich black land without some work. But if a man will settle in Kansas with a determination to win, he will win. Others are doing so right along.

THE GOVERNMENT FISHERIES AT NEOSHO, MISSOURI.

One of the most unique industries of Missouri—and there are many—is the fish hatcheries at Neosho, reached by the Frisco System, in Newton county, where millions of fish are hatched and shipped to other portions of the United States. The fish hatchery at Newton has been pronounced one of the best located and finest in the United States, due to the pure spring water in which the fish are kept. The industry is one about which little is known outside of the state and perhaps few residents of Missouri would be able to converse intelligently upon this subject.

The Newton county station of the United States Bureau of Fisheries hatches, raises and distributes fish of all kinds. The higher grades of fish, however, are made a specialty. The station itself comprises fifteen acres, with an average flow of 350 gallons of water per minute. Nineteen ponds and eight pools make up the entire hatchery, and the output of the station has averaged for the fourteen years of its existence, about 100,000 fish per annum.

Principal among the fish hatched and raised are rainbow trout, black bass, croppie, rock bass and strawberry bass, with some salmon and steel heads. The following table of the fish in the station on September 1, 1903, furnished by H. D. Dean, superintendent in charge, shows the magnitude of the station's work: rainbow trout, 50,000; wild rainbow trout, 5,300; black bass, 2,500; strawberry bass, 1,800; quinott salmon, 8,250; steel heads, 10,400; graylings, 1,000; lanlocked salmon, 1,000.

It is estimated by Mr. Dean that since 1899 2,225,000 trout eggs alone have been shipped from this station to private hatcheries and stations located elsewhere in the United States. These shipments are made to all parts of the United States, from Washington Territory to the Florida coast. Streams of the southwest have from time to time received fish from these hatcheries, while the streams in the Ozark Mountains are regularly supplied with the trout and salmon, known as game fish. Those who have fished for these in the Ozark region know of the fine catches that have been made.

A visit to these hatcheries, which are located some distance from the town, is one of the interesting features of a visit to to the pretty little town of Neosho, located itself amid a number of spring streams and at the foot hills of the Ozark range on the Frisco System. The water supply of this town comes from springs and through the streets of the town and the residence portion flow several very picturesque streams that add much to the pleasure of a trip to Neosho. In making a visit to the Indian or Oklahoma Territories via the Frisco System one would not regret a stop over at this interesting spot in Missouri.

Friend—You have made your bed, and you will have to lie in it.

The Defendant—Not if I can lie out of it.

Dolly—There wasn't a single young man at the place I went to.

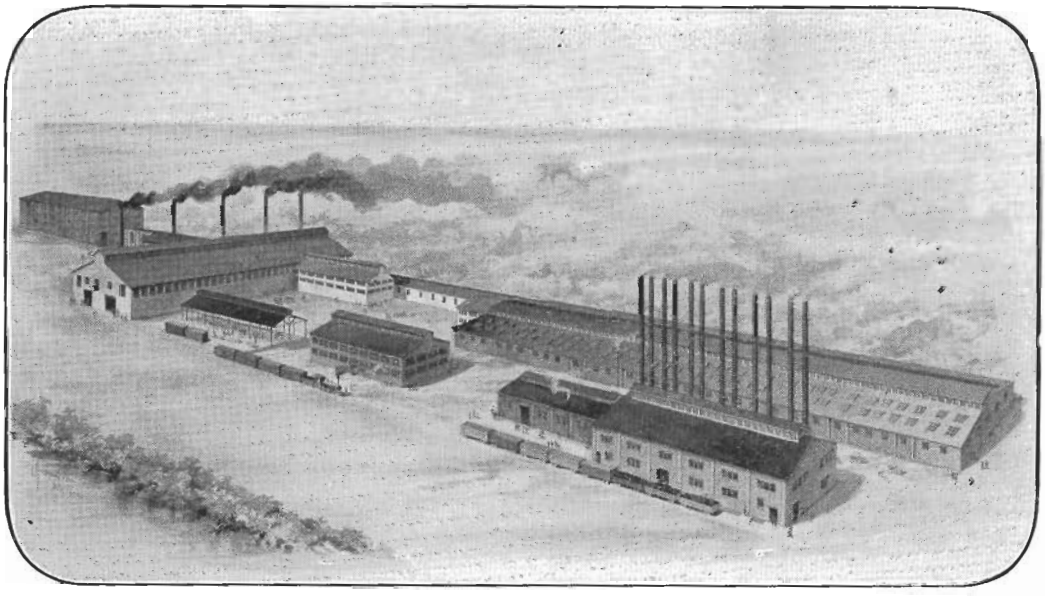
Madge—That was just awful I don't see how you squeezed through the summer.

Dolly—I didn't.

VALLEY PARK.

BY A. K. W.

In the narrow valley of the Meramec, twenty miles from St. Louis, where the rails of the Frisco System begin to wind sinuously along the banks of that scenic river, has for many a year reposed the quiet village of Valley Park, with its several hundred residents. It has principally been known as the objective point of devotees of the rod and gun, who made it their starting point for their favorite pastime, where rewards for the true sportsman are unfailing, both for game and fish. Passengers on the "Meteor" and fast express trains only get a glimpse of the depot and the few houses that set further back from the tracks on the north, for it was only a way station up to a year ago.



Plant of the St. Louis Plate Glass Company.

But within a twelve-month a wonderful transformation has taken place. Instead of a sleepy village, there is a busy, bustling town of several thousand population, the buzz and whirr of ponderous machinery resounds through the beautiful valley, shut in by the cragged hills on one side and the winding river on the other. Scores of modern residences and neat cottages set on either side of broad avenues, where but recently was a dense forest, mark the new era in the town's history, eloquently verifying the truism that "towns do not grow; they are built." But all this is but the beginning of a mammoth undertaking, which, when finished, will be a monument to the brains and energy that have directed the capital wherewith to accomplish it. The vigor and completeness with which the work is being pushed is proof of the faith its promoters have in the results.

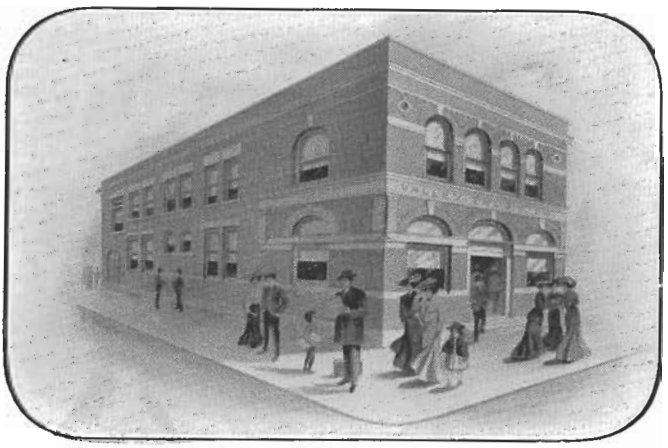
The projectors and promoters of this wonderful transformation of Valley Park are a syndicate of capitalists, from Pittsburg, Pa., under the corporate name of the Valley Park Land Company. The resident agent and efficient director of the Company is Mr. R. M. Darley, a young man who has shown his ability to handle big enterprises. The Company purchased an entire section of land running from the crest of the magnificent hills that overlook the town for a mile up the valley. By reason of the bends in the river, the

new Valley Park will have one and a half miles of water front, and surrounded on all sides by the most beautiful natural scenery to be seen in the Southwest.

Valley Park Hotel.

The object of the Company was not only to build a town, but also to erect the largest plate-glass plant in the United States. The latter object has been accomplished. The plant covers twenty acres, and already employs six hundred skilled workmen. The location for such a plant was ideal, because the material for the production of glass was in easy reach. Then, with such a tremendous factory, there must be houses for the employes and their families. There were none to be had; and, in fact, if all the residents of Valley Park had vacated, there would not have been half enough shelter even for one-third of the glass-makers. And so it was decided to build a town of houses, residential and for business purposes, not only for their employes, but for all who desired a home in the charming suburb, only fifty minutes' ride from St. Louis.

The new town has been laid off with symmetrical precision. As you alight from the train, you look up St. Louis Avenue, eighty feet wide, substantially paved and with flagstone sidewalks, fifteen feet wide, for half a mile. On the first block is the handsome brick and stone structure of the Valley Park Land, Saving and Trust Company and on the opposite side of the avenue are a number of brick



Valley Trust Company.

business houses; in fact, all the structures of the Company are of brick and stone, for the best of building stone is quarried from the surrounding hills. Further on up this magnificent thoroughfare are residences, ranging from ten to six rooms, modern in architecture, and with every domestic convenience. They are not jammed together like tenement houses, but each occupies a distinct and roomy lot. The same rule is observed on all of the avenues. Sitting well up on the hill, north of the Frisco System tracks, is as pretty and commodious hotel of fifty rooms as architectural skill can devise. The Company has its own electric light and power-house, with capacity not only to light the town, but to furnish power to its own and other factories. It has also constructed a complete sewerage system as well as waterworks. In fact, homeseekers in Valley Park will find a newly-made town, complete with all the public utilities. The Company has eighty houses finished for occupancy and by January will have as many more.

Several large mercantile houses are under construction, and a number of lots have been sold whereon others are to be built. The Company either leases or sells its houses, but where a purchaser builds his own house, it must conform to the substantial plan on which the Company constructs its own.

In addition to being the seat of the largest plate-glass plant in the country, Valley Park is a delightful place to live in.

ARDEN.

CHARLOTTE BECKER.

There is a wood wherein the thrushes fling
  Their very hearts away in melody;
  Where dryads have a home in every tree
And wood-gods haunt the shadow, murmuring
Fantastic lures; where tawny lilies swing
  Their fragrant bells, and bees hum drowsily;
  And breezes woo the pale anemone
With tenderness that breathes the soul of Spring.

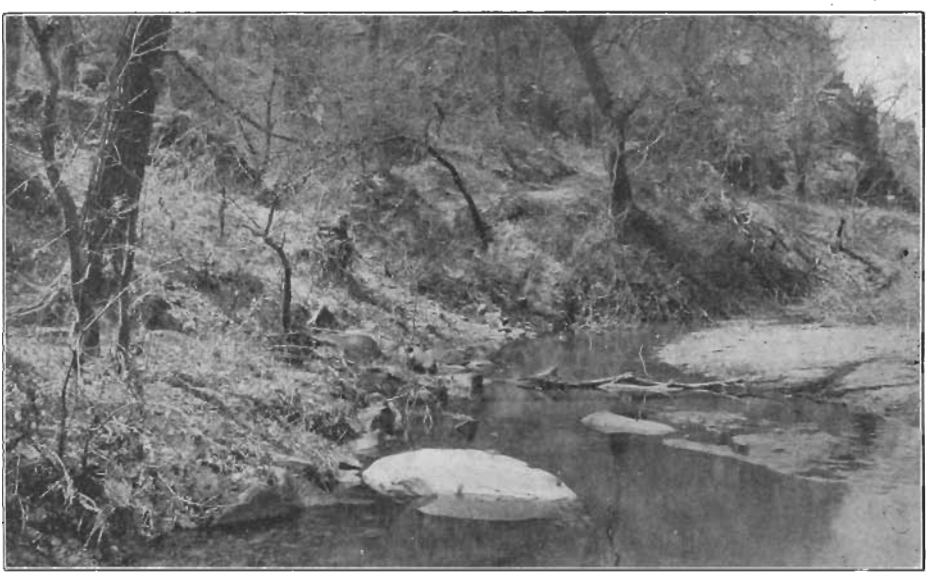
Here Summer may not pass, nor Autumn rest
  His blighting hand, nor harsh winds wend their way;
  Beneath these boughs the wonder of the May
Shall never fade, nor Love deny his guest
  Of happiness, nor beauty lose its truth;
  For Arden's forest is immortal youth!

—Ainslie.

OKLAHOMA.

BY J. C. McMANIMA.

The name of Oklahoma has been before the public so much for the past dozen or more years that the news reading public is more or less familiar with it. Not all that has been said and written is true and it is well that such is the case. The misinformation is almost as common as the facts. The so-called funny papers have had much to say about the picturesque features of the Oklahoma of the Indian and cowboy days, and have left a widespread impression that the old conditions still prevail. Like Kansas, its neighbor on the north, Oklahoma has been jeered at as the home of the tornado, the drought and all evils known or imagined to exist on the plains of the West and, like Kansas, has moved steadily forward in the things required to make a great commonwealth. Like Kansas, Oklahoma is peopled by a class who know not what failure means, and a temporary reverse is taken for a breathing spell for renewed effort.



View near Mountain Park, Oklahoma.

In the early days of settlement, before the prairie sod was fully decayed, there were short crops and settlers experienced hardships as is always the case in a new country, but for nearly a decade now Oklahoma has been blessed with good crops and prosperity. In no part of our great and diversified country has prosperity been more universal, and in no other section has so large a percentage of the population acquired a competence and been placed in a position of independence. Such is the Territory that is now under consideration.

"The Land of the Fair God" is the meaning of the word Oklahoma, and it is therefore well named, for Oklahoma is a land of fair skies, sunshine and refreshing breezes. It is a land of peace and plenty. It is a land where the hand of friendship is extended to the worthy of all states and nations. It is a land of industry, and the drone has no place in its system of economics, where honest industry is well rewarded. It is a land without classes except as men make them by superior industry or ability. It is a land where there are no great gaps between her people, and abject poverty and unwieldy wealth are alike unknown. It is a land of diversified industries, the cotton fields of the South overlapping the corn fields of the North, and challenging the world for a superior

in wheat production. In the early days the rich grass of the prairies fed countless thousands of buffaloes and antelopes where now alfalfa and other cultivated grasses feed and fatten their thousands of high grade domestic animals.

The history of Oklahoma since its settlement by whites, covers but little more than a dozen years, but for picturesqueness and positive results, it stands in a class by itself. Peopled in a day, as was Oklahoma at the original opening, the world looked on amazed, and expected nothing less than a revulsion that would send those thousands of land hunters back whence they came, and almost as quickly; but they did not know Oklahoma or the character of the people who were in line on the border waiting for the pistol shot that would tell them that the land was theirs for the taking, and who were willing to risk life in the mad race that followed. Following the original opening, other sections were released to the public and opened by races for possession, until the culmination in 1901, when 176,000 persons journeyed, some of them thousands of miles, to the El Reno and Lawton land offices to register for a chance in the great drawing whose prize was a quarter section of rich land in Southwestern Oklahoma. A history of these various openings would read like a romance, but it is yet fresh in the minds of the participants and those who were interested in watching, hence no attempt will now be made at a description.

Oklahoma is pre-eminently an agricultural State, for we may well call her a State even before a tardy Congress takes the action necessary to set the machinery of a full state government in operation. In few States has farming been as profitable as in Oklahoma during the past decade. Situated as she is in the central belt of the United States, there are few crops of the temperate zone that are not produced with profit in Oklahoma. Wheat is the great staple that has done so much for this Territory, while corn, oats, cotton and the leading grasses vie with each other for the second place. In some sections moderate fortunes are made annually in potato culture, and both the Irish and sweet varieties seem to do equally well. A brief glance at some of the products that have made Oklahoma famous are timely here.

Before the Railroads.

WHEAT.—While wheat culture is more general in the northern half of the Territory, there is not a county that does not produce it abundantly. The winter varieties are produced, and the wheat is usually pastured during the winter, and it

is not unusual for horses and cattle to be carried through the winter with little or no other feed and this without cutting down the yield of grain at harvest. The wheat yield in Oklahoma often reaches as high as 40 bushels per acre or even more, and an average of 22 to 25 is always expected, and the quality is of the best. The total yield for 1903 will not fall far short of 40,000,000 bushels. Many mills have been

Corn stalks in field near Chandler, Okla., man 6 ft. 2 in. tall, stalk 14 ft. 8 in. high.

erected throughout the Territory, and Oklahoma flour is known far and wide. It is sent into many states and even exported in large quantities, and recognized for its good quality.

CORN.—While wheat is probably the leading crop, corn is a close second in acreage, and much greater in number of bushels produced. The corn yield per acre is about the same in Kansas and Nebraska, and the quality is similar. The shipment of corn is quite large, but every year a larger percentage is fed to stock at home, thus realizing a double profit on it. It is now conceded that Oklahoma must eventually take her place among the great corn states of the Union.

COTTON.—This is another of the great staples for which Oklahoma is noted, as the southern half is well within the cotton belt, and is already recognized as a factor in the cotton production of the country. In the average season, cotton picking extends well into the winter, and the writer has seen Oklahoma cotton pickers at work in full force in February. The average yield is about half a bale to the acre, although a bale is by no means uncommon. Cotton raising is especially attractive to men of small means and large families, as the work of the children can be utilized in cultivating and gathering the crop. It may be noted here by way of information to those unacquainted with cotton culture, that cotton does not impoverish land like most cultivated crops.

OATS.—When it comes to oat production it is generally conceded that Oklahoma is a marvel, and phenomenal yields are common. It is not uncommon for oats to yield 75 or 80 bushels per acre, and even 100 or more is frequently reported, and the quality is excellent. The writer heard of one farmer in the Canadian valley getting 110 bushels per acre on 120 acres, and it was of excellent quality and heavy weight. In the southern counties there is a growing interest in the production of a variety of winter oats that is very successful and matures early.

POTATOES.—The cultivation of Irish potatoes has grown into a great industry in some sections of Oklahoma, and hundreds of carloads are annually shipped out. Two crops a year are raised, one to supply the early markets of the East and North, and the other for winter use for both home consumption and shipment. This industry is a profitable and growing one. In some localities the production of sweet potatoes is also an important and growing industry, and, as in the case

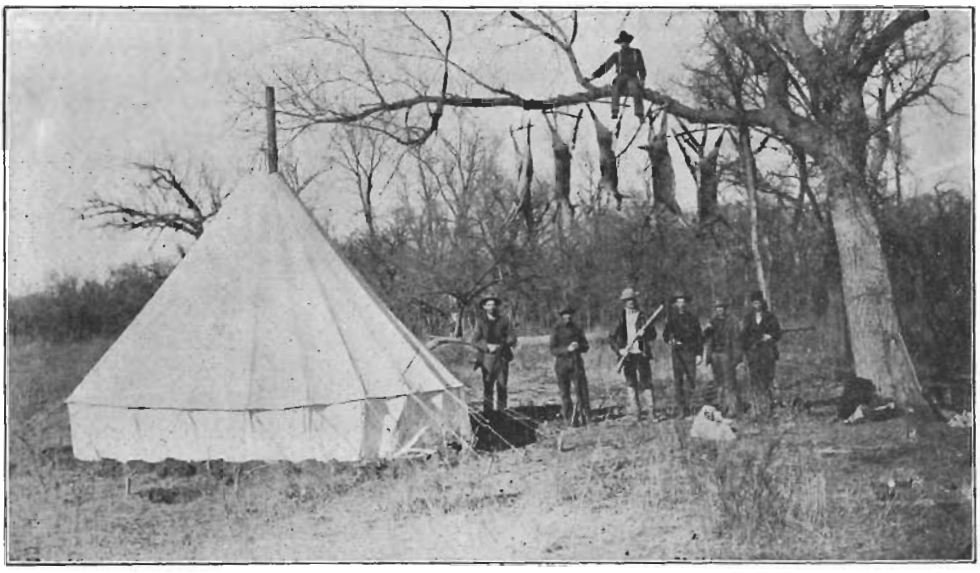
of Irish potatoes, the quality is unsurpassed, even by the Georgia product.

MELONS.—The melon industry may seem a small one, but it is neither small nor unimportant, and is destined to reach large proportions. The Oklahoma cantaloupe is said by experts to equal the Colorado Rocky Fords, and to be as easily and more cheaply produced, while the watermelon is seldom equaled.

FRUIT.—Apples, peaches, pears, cherries and all varieties of berries are raised profitably. Being in the same latitude as the celebrated fruit belt of South Missouri and North Arkansas it was a foregone conclusion that the same success would be attained here, and experience has now proven such to be the case. The apple crop the present season was good and the quality superior, and the same was true as to the peach crop. Strawberry culture is becoming an important industry in many localities and interest is annually increasing. In addition to the common and table varieties of grapes, an excellent quality of wine grape is grown, and wine-making will no doubt some time be added to the important industries of Oklahoma.

TOMATOES.—As is the case in South Missouri, the growing and canning of tomatoes has come to be looked upon as an important as well as a profitable industry. Both soil and climate are such as are needed for maturing the perfect tomato.

ALFALFA.—Even a brief description of Oklahoma would be incomplete without especial reference to this crop. Alfalfa is successfully grown in all sections and in most soils of Oklahoma, and there is no more profitable crop. For cattle, when judiciously pastured or used as hay, there is no better feed. For hogs it is the best pasture there is, and hogs are often wintered in good order with no other food than alfalfa hay. The crop yields enormously, from 3 to 5 crops being harvested a year, and from one to two and a half tons of hay per acre at a cutting. As the alfalfa roots go very deep, dry weather has no terrors for the alfalfa grower. In a recent excavation alfalfa roots were found to have penetrated to a depth of 128 feet.



Hunters' Camp in Wichita Mountains.

OTHER CROPS.—It would be impossible to make note of all the crops that are successfully grown in Oklahoma, but it is enough to say that there are few crops grown in our country that are not cultivated successfully there. Among the crops that have been thoroughly tested and found profitable may be mentioned Kaffir corn, castor beans, peanuts, sugar beets, sorghum, broom corn, timothy, clover

and millet, all of which are cultivated to a considerable extent.

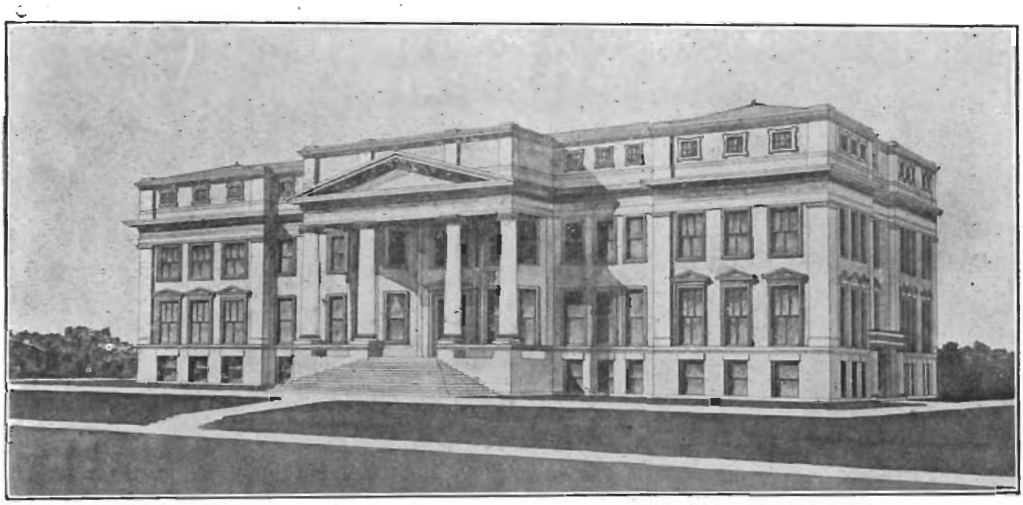
LIVE STOCK.—There is nothing in the shape of domestic live stock that cannot be successfully grown in Oklahoma. The native grasses are nutritious and those under cultivation equally so. The winters are mild and the close feeding season short. It is no trouble to raise forage crops for pasture and rough feed, while corn and the products of cotton seed put on the fat. The climate is as healthful for animals as for people, and there are, therefore, no climatic diseases to make life a burden for stock raisers. Every year witnesses a decided improvement in the grade or quality of Oklahoma live stock, and much pride is taken in good stock. What is here said of live stock applies equally well to poultry of all kinds, and a living income can easily be secured from a few acres devoted to poultry raising.

Excursion of Immigration Agents Frisco System, Hobart, Okla., Mar., 1903.

CLIMATE.—Oklahoma is located in that middle belt of our country which is free from the extremes of both North and South. While it is in the frost and snow belt, the cold is never severe or lasting. Snow seldom lies on the ground more than a few days at a time, and some winters pass with no ice in any portion thick enough for storing, and in most winters the feeding season for stock is short. There is always frost enough to kill the fever germs that are found in frostless regions, and therefore the fevers of the extreme South never reach here. The greater part of the Territory has generally had an abundant rainfall to mature crops, and even the extreme western portion is a good grass country and therefore good for stock. Since it has been demonstrated that alfalfa and Kaffir corn can be successfully grown in the dryest part of the Territory there is no such fear of drought as was formerly experienced. Some of the western counties, notably Custer and Washita, are noted for the almost uniformly good corn crops produced for a long period of years, and the opinion is becoming more and more prevalent that the dry belt is disappearing, and disastrous drought no longer to be feared. Whether Oklahoma ever has a serious drought or not, it is certain that one would not be as disastrous as in the early days of Kansas and Nebraska for farmers have learned how to farm and what crops to raise so as to guard against its effects. There is no dead line in Oklahoma, and no section in which the farmer has not been successful of late years, unless it be Beaver county, that narrow neck or strip of

land extending to the west of Oklahoma proper, and separating the Panhandle of Texas from Kansas and Colorado, and that is as yet mainly occupied as a grazing land, and but little farming has been attempted.

EDUCATION.—Few of the states have better educational facilities than Oklahoma, and her public school system is the pride of her people. This Territory was fortunate in drawing heavily for citizens from Kansas and other states where education had reached a high state of perfection, and thus started in with the experience of an old state, but without the ruts and set notions of older communities. If



Epworth University, Oklahoma City

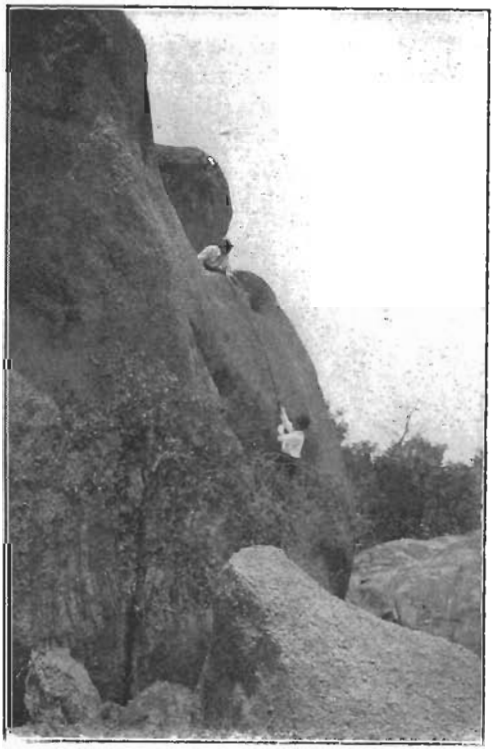
not the first building to be erected in a new Oklahoma community, the school house was among the first, and the church was near by. No town was laid out without ample provision being made for schools and churches, two great moral forces. The newspaper, another great moral and educational force, was universally read and liberally patronized from the start. The public school system of Oklahoma is not restricted to narrow limits, but is based on comprehensive plans. This system consists of graded schools for rural districts and towns, a county high school, a preparatory school, normal schools, an agricultural and mechanical college and a university. No child in Oklahoma, however poor, need go without a good education.

RAILWAYS.—Oklahoma is remarkably well supplied with railways for a new commonwealth, the most important and extensive of which is the Frisco System. It crosses the Territory diagonally from Northeast to Southwest, and from central East to the extreme Southwest, and is now rapidly pushing to completion an East and West line a little north of the center of the Territory. Nearly every county in the Territory now has one or more railroads, and building is by no means over. The very fact that so many miles of railroad have been built is conclusive evidence that it is a good country, for railroad managers make thorough investigation of a country before building through it.

FUEL.—The eastern part of the Territory is largely covered with a growth of timber that is valuable for lumber and fuel, while smaller bodies are found at various points throughout the Territory, though Oklahoma as a whole is a prairie country. Coal is known to exist in large quantities in the Osage Indian Nation in Eastern Oklahoma, and is believed to exist in other sections, and is found in exhaustless quantites in its twin sister on the East, Indian Territory. Oil and natural gas have been found in widely separated

localities in Oklahoma, and these may yet solve satisfactorily the fuel question as it has for southeastern Kansas.

TOWNS.—Oklahoma prides herself on her fine farms, her railroads, her schools, her intelligent people and her enterprise as a whole, but her towns come in for a full share. Her town building has always been the wonder of the whole country, and the growth of her towns has indeed been phenomenal. The sun has risen on a wild prairie or a cultivated field one morning and at her next rising shone on a city of



Climbing the great granite boulders of the Devil's Den, Chickasaw Nation, I. T.

thousands of people with all the rush and bustle of a metropolis. Not one only but several of her cities have sprung up in one short day. It has been said that though some may be better than others, all Oklahoma towns are good. To see a city of 30,000 population, modern in every particular, where a decade and a half ago not a white man had a right or a foothold, is something for the world to wonder at, but such is Oklahoma.

POPULATION.—The population of Oklahoma can only be guessed at. The returns of the assessors in 1902 showed a population of 541,480, and there can be no doubt that this has been increased to at least 600,000 at the present time. Some interesting figures may be given as to the population of the Territory. Only five and one half per cent of the citizens of Oklahoma are unable to read and write and the public schools are rapidly cutting down this percentage. Only four per cent are of foreign birth, 54 per cent are males and 46 per cent females. It will thus be seen that it is an American population and that the sexes are neary evenly divided.

PROPERTY AND TAXES.—In 1902 the assessors of Oklahoma returned $72,677,423 for taxation, showing an increase of 15 per cent over the preceding year. The tax levy for territorial purposes is about seven and one-half mills. As Oklahoma has a magnificent dower in her school lands, it is safe to assume that the future state of Oklahoma will never be burdened by a heavy taxation for school purposes. The state indebtedness is not large and is mainly for the construction of educational institutions.

MINERAL RESOURCES. — While usually classed as a strictly agricultural state, it must not be forgotten that Oklahoma has great mineral resources also, largely undeveloped as yet it is true, but known to exist. The eastern part of the Osage Nation has coal, gas, oil, lead and zinc. The Wichita Mountain district has lead, zinc, copper, oil, gas, gold and silver. The northwest portion has an abundance of salt. Asphalt deposits are found in the southeastern portion. Shale for vitrified brick and stone ware is found in various localities. Cement rock is found in endless quantities and in different parts of the Territory, and in fact Oklahoma abounds in mineral resources only waiting for capital and labor to develop them.

MANUFACTURING. — Manufacturing in Oklahoma is as yet in its infancy, but a fair start has been made, enough having been accomplished to demonstrate what may be done. Among the more feasible manufacturing propositions, where the raw material is at hand, are the manufacture of cotton products, wood products

and grain products. Flour mills are already numerous; cotton mills are under way; oil mills are in operation, and small factories of all kinds are springing up and in time the smoke stack will be in evidence on all hands, and profitable employment will be given to both capital and labor.

IMMIGRATION. — Immigration has been pouring into Oklahoma in a steady stream for more than a dozen years, and there is no indication of its ceasing or any good reason why it should cease for years to come. It comes from the North, the South, the East and the West, though more largely from the North and East. All people of industrious and frugal habits are welcomed, whether poor or rich, and all are given a chance. The man with capital is welcome, but no more so than the man with muscle and energy, as the opportunities for the use of both are to be found on every hand.

Hundreds of cases could be cited of individuals who went to Oklahoma but a few years since without money and without property, but who are now in comfortable circumstances and are living in contentment amid scenes of plenty. Other hundreds could be told of who had gone to the Territory with shattered health, but who are now strong and well. Thousands of renters of high priced land in the States could soon own farms of their own in Oklahoma, and have them paid for. Thousands that are now cramped up in cities could find homes where they could expand their lungs with the free air of heaven, and breathe the ozone of the plains, and for the first time realize what untrammeled life is. Thousands of young men who are wasting their lives away in the crowded East waiting for "something to turn up," could go to Oklahoma and soon turn something up that would redound to their profit and future happiness.

A VISION.

By HATTIE WHITNEY.

Out of the dusk of the yesterdays,
With the muffled dawn it came,
Winged with the fragrance of cool, dark ways,
Yet touched with a hidden flame;

Dear as the light of an afternoon
That dies in a golden hush;
Heart-breaking sweet as the half-heard tune
From the soul of a hermit thrush.

It came when the fog-white dawn was still
As the wing of a weary dove;
A broken chord with an echoed thrill—
The dream of an old time love!

—Munsey.

HOW I REFORMED CHARLIE FINCHER.

BY WILLIS LEONARD CLANAHAN.

"I'll tell you what I'll do with you, Charlie," I said, looking him earnestly in the face. "If you will not take another drink or rob another man between now and Christmas, I will take you home with me and you shall be the guest of honor in my house that day."

You see, I could talk thus familiarly to Charlie Fincher, because Charlie and I had gone to school together down in the Ozark country, and it really was not my fault that he and Eli Denton, who had likewise been raised in Springfield, had held up big Ben Clark one night—or, rather, had rolled him over, for Ben was speechless, being mightily drunk—and robbed him of a few dollars; neither was it my fault that a jury found them both guilty of highway robbery and sentenced them to a term at Jefferson City. Neither, I am convinced, was it my fault that Charlie felt like a vagabond when he was released from prison and immediately commenced to drink whiskey as fast as his stomach and his pocketbook would let him, as his father had been doing ever since the boy could remember. Neither can I hold myself accountable for the fact that Charlie had been compelled on two or three occasions to work out a fine on the city streets by reason of his inability to pay cash after an uproarious bout with corn. Neither was it my affair directly that Charlie Fincher was held up by Springfield mothers to their sons as a horrible example of depravity, although he was barely twenty-five years old. I refer to these painful facts only to show you that Charlie was in a bad way, socially and morally, at the time I made him my proposition concerning the Christmas dinner.

Now, a Christmas dinner is not much of a reward, per se, for one whole month of righteous living after ten years of drunkenness and evil associations—for Charlie had long been accounted a bad, bad boy, and his old school teacher, Miss Musgrave, blushed with shame every time she thought of him or met him on the street—but it had been many and many a day since Charlie Fincher had had a Christmas dinner of the right sort; and Charlie knew one thing—that of all the crowd who had been his friends in boyhood, I was the only one who had unfailingly recognized him. Others either avoided him or snubbed him outright. Some spoke to him, but patronizingly, and either told him what a shame it was that he had gone to the dogs as he had, or remarked how they pitied him. The Sunday school superintendents passed him by, and even the saloonkeepers took his money grudgingly—all but Ike Brennan. Ike was impartial. A thief's money looked like any other coin to Ike. So it came to pass that of all the town I alone stood by Charlie when he was at his worst. Never once did I mention the penitentiary to him; never once did I treat him other than as the Charlie of school days; never once did I speak to him commiseratingly.

"Don't pay any attention to these fellows, Charlie," I said. "You hold onto my coat-tails, and we will pull out of this mire yet."

Charlie heeded the word and held on, and for the first time in six months I saw him smile when I mentioned the Christmas dinner.

"What do you say?" I asked, seeing that he hesitated. Charlie said nothing, and I smoked away in silence for ten minutes.

"I would go you," he said at last, "if I had any clothes."

"Oh, darn the clothes!" I replied. "Who do you think I am entertaining these days, anyway—millionaires? Brush up the best you have, get a shine and come on."

"All right," he said, after a pause. "I will. Here goes for the last drink till

Christmas night!" And he drew from his hip pocket a small flask, which he half drained, not even offering it to me, then hurled the bottle through a window, bade me good-bye and departed.

I continued to see him every day after that, and if Charlie ever took a drink, he must have used some powerful disinfectant immediately afterward; and if he ever had designs on any man's person or property during that time he never betrayed the fact by word or look, although before that there had been several rumors closely connecting him with midnight robberies, to at least one of which Charlie had, to all intents and purposes, confided to me a guilty knowledge. But the Christmas dinner idea seemed to be a deadener to his career as a merciless marauder, and I felt considerably encouraged (and, perhaps, secretly, a little proud) when Charlie remarked sorrowfully one night as we passed a church where the choir was practicing Christmas anthems:

"I wish to God I had a seat in the Gospel wagon!"

"That beats the water-wagon?" I said, inquiringly.

"Yes," said Charlie, "yes!" And he almost hissed the word in my ear. "But for God's sake, don't mention that! It might tempt me to drink again, just by making me think of it."

And the poor fellow drew the thin collar of his only coat as far up around his neck as possible, and shivered in the wind, which was beginning to howl dismally. We walked along in silence another block, and passed a saloon wherein a noisy crowd had assembled, for the holidays were fast approaching, and men were beginning to take on the festal spirit. Charlie shuddered, and looked toward the street as he heard the half-drunken shouts that came from the inside, and we hurried onward, neither daring to speak.

"It's a bad night," I said as we reached the corner of the big brick house, where we had gone to school together, not so many years before. Wintry whirlwinds were tossing abandoned papers around the old school-yard, where we had played, and biting winds soughed through the leafless branches overhead and shook the coal-house in the rear. "It's a bad night. Don't you think we had better go home?"

"Yes, it is a bad night," answered Charlie, hoarsely; and I thought he said it between his clenched teeth. "It's a damned bad night, at that. We ought to turn in."

"Very well," I replied. "Shall I walk up your way?"

"Yes," he said, "you may go as far as the Hart corner. I'll make it the rest of the way."

And he did. I know he did, because I watched him. He went home and went to bed, and I knew that the poor fellow's struggle for one night was over.

Christmas Eve came at last. I knew it behooved me to keep an eye on Charlie, and I did. It may seem strange that I, a young man honorably employed in combatting the world, should spend so much time in the company of a jail-bird, who had been suspected of other crimes than the one for which he had been convicted, to say nothing of his drunken record, but everybody in Springfield knew that Charlie and I were friends, but not partners, and came to look upon our association as a matter of course. So on this night, of all others, I sought Charlie out, and kept him company. Up and down the streets we walked, watching the crowds, viewing the windows and decorations, smiling at the bantering of friends in merry mood—"my friends," I should specify, for Charlie had none—and even venturing to take a peep into one church where a Christmas tree was being divested of its sweet and glittering fruit, and where little children, when not engaged in cracking nuts or gorging themselves with candy, were singing Christmas carols, while their elders looked on with parental importance.

"Kids are all right," was Charlie's only comment as we walked away.

We sauntered around till midnight,

sometimes talking, sometimes silent, for the day of reckoning was near at hand; and the knowledge of that fact, perhaps unconsciously, oppressed us both.

"Well," I ventured at last, "this is Christmas morning. I wish you a merry Christmas, Charlie. Don't forget the dinner this afternoon. I shall expect you at 1:30 sharp."

He promised, and we parted. Entertaining ex-convicts is not much in my line, but I flatter myself that the King of England never sat down to a neater or more tempting spread than that which greeted the gaze of Charlie Fincher that Christmas afternoon at my cottage.

The neighbors were horrified, and the Methodist preacher, whose church I sometimes attended, seemed to be in doubt as to whether I was a criminal or only a fool, as I learned later. But that made no difference with me. I had my tow-line around a young man whom they had all declared was shooting down the rapids of sin to perdition, and I was determined to haul him ashore and set his feet upon the rock of respectability.

The dinner passed off pleasantly enough. Had I been entertaining the Governor of Missouri, I could not have enjoyed his society more than I did that of Charlie Fincher, reformed drunkard and highway robber. He got his full share of the white meat, and when he sniffed the brandy in the mince pie, he was virtuous enough to leave it untouched. As we parted, he grasped my hand fervently, and said:

"This is the best day of my life. I can't tell you how I feel. I am like a different man. Life is not the same that it used to be. I am going away from here, and begin all over again. I will keep my word or die."

And so he did. That night, as soon as he could absorb enough whiskey to give him the courage, Charlie went forth upon the highway, fell upon a stranger, beat him half to death, and robbed him of every cent he had. He had spoken truly. Life during that long month of decency and sobriety preceding Christmas had "not been the same that it used to be," and Charlie did exactly what he said he would do—he went away from my house, from my elegant Christmas dinner, from my friendly voice, from my brotherly smile, and commenced "all over again." He kept his word, as he said he would; and had not his pent-up deviltry had a chance to exert itself, no doubt he would have gone a step further and died—blown up—exploded. Yes, he kept his word with me, both before the dinner and after.

And that is how I reformed Charlie Fincher.

The Dog—Feeling pretty blue? The Turkey—You needn't talk. I'd rather be stuffed than a sausage, any day.

"Have you heard the latest? Brown's wife has run off with his chauffeur." "Mercy, what a pity! He was such a good chauffeur! Brown will never be able to replace him."

He—And at last they agreed to marry. She—Yes, and it was the last thing they agreed on.

Wife—What do you think of my picture? Husband—It will do. Evidently a snapshot, my dear. "Why?" "Your mouth is shut."

"The expedition endured the extremest hardship." "Yes; I understand they were locked in the ice during two lecture seasons."

A magnate—"Is he very rich?" "Rich? Why, he's so rich he daren't look twice at a girl for fear she'll bring a breach of promise suit."

Guest—Why do you believe in second sight, major? Major Darby (in an impressive whisper)—Because I fell in love at first sight.

"What's the matter with Fred?" asks one workman. "'E's got a splinter in his 'and," says another. "Why don't 'e pull it out?" "Wot! In his dinner hour! Not likely!"

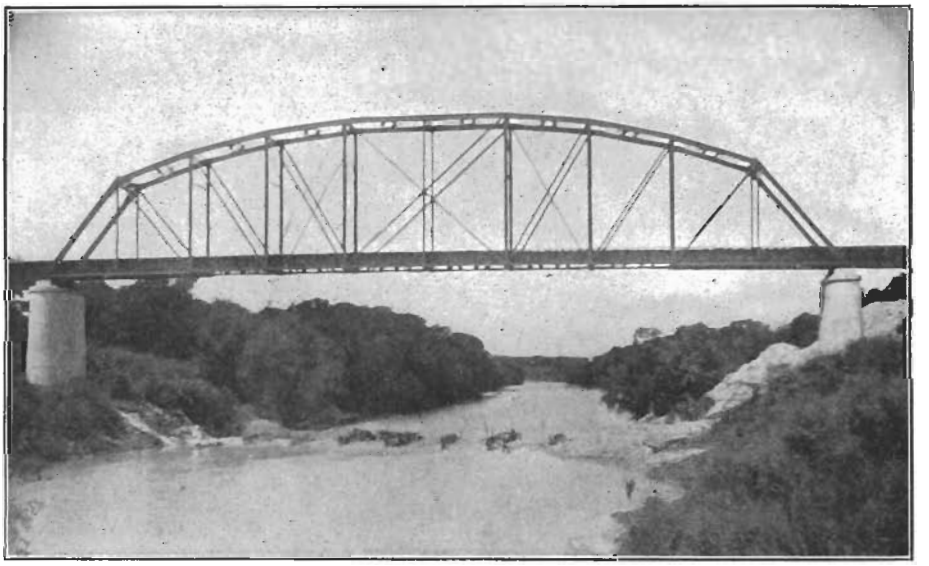
THE BROWNWOOD REGION.

Facts about a rich and fertile district of which but little is known.

BY W. H. C.

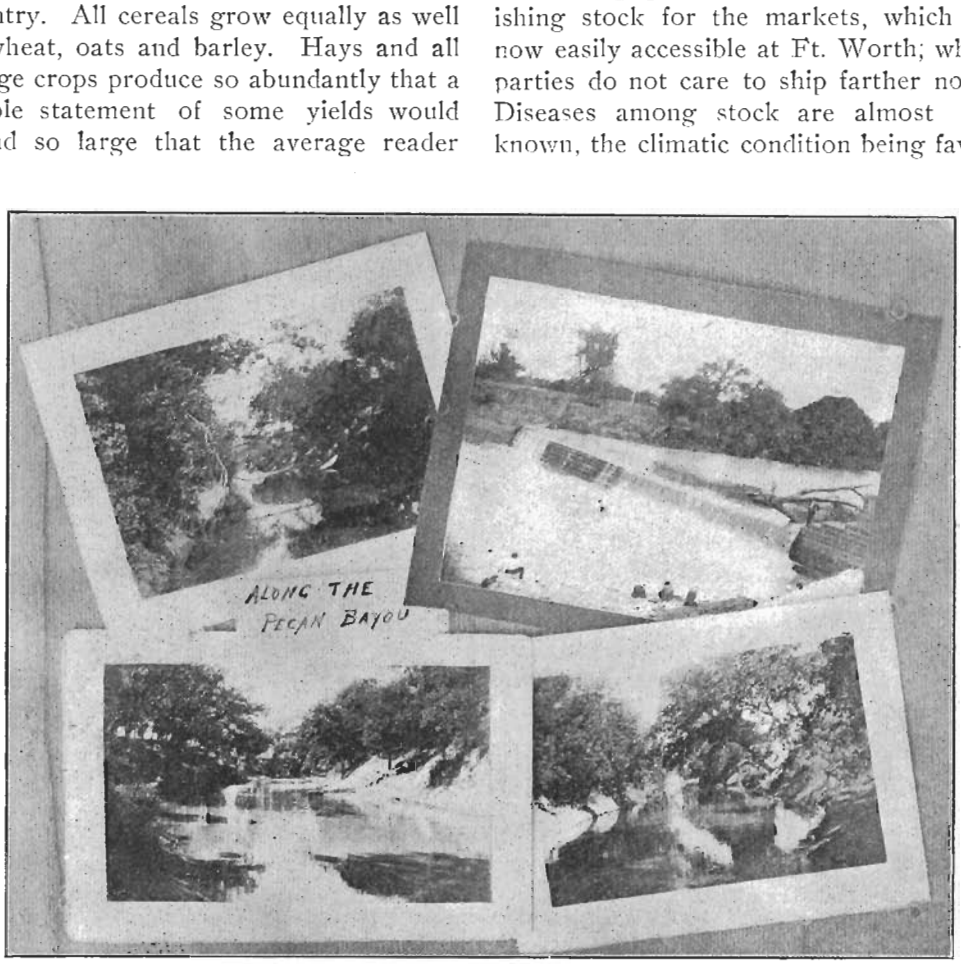
The Brownwood country, which includes all that territory for many miles around the city of Brownwood, in Brown county, has become almost as well known as Texas itself. There are many things that have contributed to make this particular section of Texas far-famed. In the first place, it seems that only the cleverest people from all the country, by a kind of common consent, have located in Brownwood. They are not only clever, but they are enterprising, and never let an opportunity pass to let strangers know the many advantages of their town and country. This spirit of keeping something doing all the time attracts much attention to Brownwood, and keeps the town steadily growing and the country round about developing. In this connection it should be stated that there has never been a boom of any kind in Brownwood; but its growth, year by year, has been steady and permanent. Even in times of the severest financial stress, Brownwood grows right along and values increase. Mention is often made of the natural advantages of a place, and while Brownwood seems to have nearly all of these that go to make a city, they do not, as in many places, stand in the way of the hard work necessary to the upbuilding of a country. In its location, Brownwood is particularly fortunate, it being at the intersection of the Fort Worth & Rio Grande division of the Frisco System with the western branch of the Santa Fe, about one hundred and forty miles southwest from Ft. Worth, and about the same distance from any other commercial center of importance. It is on the Pecan River, and the center of the famous Pecan Valley of Texas, the very heart of the pecan industry of the State, where grow the finest paper-shell pecans offered on the markets of the world. The stream not only furnishes an ample supply for the city, but is utilized quite exten-

sively for irrigation, and its banks are lined with large native pecan trees. Near the city is perhaps the largest cultivated pecan orchard in the world, there being over 11,000 trees in one grove. When it is known that as many as seventy-five cars of pecans have been shipped from Brownwood in a single season, that the cars average 30,000 pounds each, and sell at about six cents a pound, it will be seen what a nice revenue is brought in from this source alone. The business is growing, and a number of small orchards have been planted in the past few years. The water supply of the country is ample for all purposes, besides the Pecan river, which runs diagonally across the county, and the Colorado river, which forms the southern boundary, there being some fifteen or twenty smaller streams. Wells of good water are easily had anywhere from ten to one hundred feet below the surface. There is now a considerable acreage irrigated in the county, and this is being increased every year, the water being supplied from streams, wells and reservoirs. But farming is being done successfully, and has been for years, without irrigation, many dry land farmers contending that, in proportion to expense and labor involved, the unirrigated lands pay best. It is certain that land which, in Brown county, averages in cost perhaps $10.00 an acre now, will produce, one year with another, without any irrigation, as good crops, fruits and vegetables as any land in the State, regardless of value. This is saying a great deal, but the farmers produce figures to prove it. It is no unusual thing for land to net the owners, in a single year, double its appraised value. A few instances are cited to show the productiveness of the soil. A few years ago a well-known agricultural paper offered $100.00 as a premium for the largest proven yield on a ten-acre field of oats, and Brown County captured the premium over the United States, without irrigation or fertilization. This year a prominent farmer of the Bangs country, in Brown County, threshed 124 bushels of oats from a measured fifteen-sixteenths of an acre, and sent a sample of the oats, with a statement to that effect, to the Farmers' Congress. Forty-five dollars an acre was netted from barley this season after the field had been heavily pastured. Another substantial farmer is authority for the statement that his potato patch grew potatoes at the rate of 252 bushels to the acre. Wheat sent from this county to the agricultural department has been pronounced equal to



Colorado river bridge on the Brownwood-Brody line of the Frisco System.

the finest Genessee Valley wheat of New York, and, in favorable seasons, forty bushels have been grown to the acre. The past season a great many farmers grew twenty-five bushels and over. Two large flouring mills at Brownwood are kept busy day and night, an evidence of the large wheat interest of the Brownwood country. All cereals grow equally as well as wheat, oats and barley. Hays and all forage crops produce so abundantly that a simple statement of some yields would sound so large that the average reader might discredit it Corn this year will yield thirty or forty bushels to the acre, and Mexican June corn, which is extensively planted as a second, or catchcrop, after the cereals are harvested, produces about the same quantity. The sorghums, milo maize and Kaffir corn are also being extensively grown now, and produce enormous yields. A great deal of attention is being paid to alfalfa now, and as a consequence the interest in hogs is increasing. With such an ideal grain and feed country there is no surprise when a person is informed that the cattle interests and general stock interests of the country alone are enough to keep the people prosperous regardless of other things. The mild winters decrease the expense of caring for stock, making this one of the largest feeding grounds in the State for finishing stock for the markets, which are now easily accessible at Ft. Worth; where parties do not care to ship farther north. Diseases among stock are almost unknown, the climatic condition being favorable for both stock and people. The cotton conditions are most favorable every year. Brownwood has marketed over 30,000 bales of cotton, and this year will exceed over 20,000. The decrease is largely due to diversification idea which has taken such a hold on the people of the county. Perhaps the average crop will be a third of a bale, though individual cases are cited of over a bale to the acre. There is seldom too much rain for cotton, never enough to damage it materially, and



such things as boll weevil or boll worms are unknown. It is claimed, and with much good reason, too, that at this altitude, 1,500 feet, the boll weevil has never done any damage, and, consequently, his depredations are not feared. Fruits and vegetables do as well as anywhere. Brown County apples have taken the blue ribbon repeatedly in State Agricultural contests. The best horticultural authorities say that the fine plums mature on the trees more perfectly here than anywhere else in Texas, and one man near Bangs, in Brown County, is preparing to plant eighty acres this fall to plums alone, and one man southeast from Brownwood, about twelve miles, is preparing a three hundred acre farm to plant in fruit orchard. Peaches grow to just as great perfection as in East Texas, and all the berries do as well. One leading Texas horticulturist, who has made a careful examination of conditions here, says that the Brownwood country is bound to become famous as a fruit country in the next few years. Potatoes and other vegetables will be planted on a large scale next year, and will, in a short time, be in all the markets of the country. In healthfulness the country is all that could be desired, there being absolutely no local causes for diseases of any kind. The climate builds up most people who are run down in health, and many come here for that purpose. With such a productive surrounding country, with its advantageous location with reference to other large places, with its public-spirited citizenship, with the low prices on lands and city property, when compared with other sections, with the cordial welcome that is extended to new-comers and new enterprises, it requires no prophet to foretell that Brownwood, already the metropolis of a large section, will soon take its place in industrial enterprises and in population with cities now much more pretentious. Brownwood is already a city of some 6,000 people, has the usual enterprises of such places, is noted for its two fine colleges, its schools, its churches, its manufacturing industries, its large commercial interests and many other things that need not be enumerated in this article. There are exceptional opportunities in Brownwood for many manufacturing enterprises, and in the county for the farmer, stockman or horticulturist who wishes to better his condition.

CHICKEN MONEY IN DADE COUNTY.

A farmer who purchases forty acres of ground in Dade county, Mo., is sure to get the worth of his money, for he is delivered just twice the number of acres that he bargains for. This is due to the fact that Dade county runs from one hill into another and all farms have two sides to them, up one hill and down another.

This does not deter the farmers from making money, in fact the hills are the aiders and abettors of this feature of the Dade county man's existence. It is a very pleasant feature also. Dade county lies on the western slope of the Ozark range, in southwestern Missouri, but that side of the range has decided creases in it. The elevation of the county above sea level, at its lowest point, is 1,300 feet, while the highest parts sometimes get into the lower cloud line.

Dade county, despite its rough surface, is one of the richest counties in the state, and its people are supremely happy. I spent a day in Greenfield recently and here around the court house square met many folk who had never seen any other train than those of the Frisco System running through the county, and who had never been fifty miles from their birth place in their whole life. To them a two-ring circus was the greatest thing that ever happened and yet they were far more content than the people I have met in the lobbies of the high-class amusement places of the biggest metropolis.

Greenfield is the county seat of Dade

and the town is perched majestically upon a high hill, while in the valleys below are rich wheat and corn fields and upon the hillsides are numerous orchards, each covering several hundred acres. In places where the land is too rough the farms are turned into melon patches, poultry farms, etc. Dade county is also rich in mineral. An accurate idea of the wealth of Dade county is given in the official report of the government issued in 1900. The total number of farms in the county at that time was 2,732, of which all were improved with buildings except eighty-three. The total acreage of these farms was 294,434 acres, of which all but 86,847 acres were improved. The value of the land and improvements, excepting the buildings, was $4,676,280, the value of the buildings being $814,410; the live stock in Dade county is worth $1,181,211, while the value of the products not fed to live stock, for 1900, was $1,218,000.

The live stock industry of Dade county is not a small item. On June 1, 1900, there were 4,712 calves under one year, 2,717 steers under two years and 2,257 steers under three years. The number of dairy cows amounted to six thousand or over. At that time there were 29,000 hogs and 277 goats in the county. But now the goats are increasing and the hogs are increasing also. Fat hog shows are getting "faddish" with the farmers and they are even making up purses to send some of the best to the fat stock shows at Kansas City and St. Louis. From the goats in 1900 there was shorn 17,850 pounds of mohair and from the sheep as much wool.

But Dade county is primarily a county gone to chickens. With them it is not a side issue, but as Mr. Willis King, a well known newspaper correspondent who traveled through that region recently, wrote his paper, " they clothe the children with chickens." If Sal or Sue or brother Will wants a new pair of shoes, or a new hat or something of that sort, the parents take in a coop filled with fat pullets and bring back the desired articles. It is just like finding it, they say. The value of all poultry in the county on June 1, 1900, was $50,336, while the year previous $89,000 worth had been sold. In addition 746,000 dozen eggs were marketed from Greenfield and other smaller towns in the county.

The egg shipping business has received a great impetus of late, however, and this year one million dozen eggs were shipped from South Greenfield on the Frisco System, to Kansas City and St. Louis. Packers are establishing branches all over the county. Poultry raising is a great deal a matter of fashion anyhow, for anywhere in Missouri can poultry be raised with profit, but only in those counties where one neighbor tries to outdo the other does the business become of gigantic proportions. At Springfield, the "queen of the Ozarks," the chicken and egg shipping business is one of the most extensive industries of that town.

Greenfield is a model town, inasmuch as its people are moral, religious and happy. There are signs carved into the stone walks along the main streets advising the passersby to "get right with God," and there are no saloons in the county. Dade county has no town over 2,000 inhabitants and can therefore make liquor selling prohibitive by high license. The people are not in for a change, either, as they say drunkenness begets idleness and idleness is likewise prohibited in Dade county. I never witnessed such activity in a Missouri town so small as Greenfield. Even the old Missouri mules seemed in a hurry to get home. Speaking of mules, it seems that the buyers of mules for the Boer war forgot to come to Dade and that there is a surplus on hand. The hitching rack around the court house square on a Saturday afternoon is lined with teams, and five-sixths of the teams are mules. The implement stores prosper in Dade county because of the fact that the farm machinery is quickly worn out in the rocky soil. A hardware drummer told me that he did more business in Greenfield than any other town in the state twice the size. But a failure in the valleys is seldom known and the farmers are all getting rich. One is impressed at once upon reaching Greenfield by the substantial appearance of the homes and business houses. The stores are of fine white native stone and the houses are newly painted. The farm

homes are also very excellent. The opera house at Greenfield has a most peculiar sign carved in three stones set about five feet apart in a horizontal line across the top of the building. These are "Drama, Comedy, Tragedy," meaning, I suppose, that the show house contributes to every element of human emotion. The best days for Dade county are yet to come, so its residents believe. Certain it is that things are "picking up a bit," as the old settlers say.

THE HARVESTER IN ACTION.

The most vital work of the nation is that of gathering in the sheaves. And yet how little attention is attached to the great American harvest. Perhaps, because of the usual peaceful manner in which this event in the world of labor passes by each summer season, is why it is accorded less than usual prominence.

But new conditions are surrounding the farmer today, conditions against which he is going to and has already rebelled, and the future of the grain dealer is rather stormy. Strikes are liable to follow each other in quick succession throughout the wheat and corn harvest of the present season. Reports of combines of harvest workers are pouring into the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor from all portions of the United States, while equally as numerous are the reports of combines of farmers, who have organized to fight the trust, as they are pleased to term it.

But the harvester in action is a man worthy of his rank in the realm of laborers. There are masters of their craft in every division of the world's great work, and there are men who have the work of the field completely subservient to their hands. Be it known that grain gathering is a task. In the heated days of a long, dry summer it becomes a siege of endurance, which muscles cannot always withstand. But there are men who can wade through acres of golden grain, in the beating rays of a mid-summer sun and never feel the serious effects of heat. On every hand men are falling about them, but the real harvester is a giant in endurance, who works day after day in a temperature ranging from 80 to 110 degrees and never wavers.

Is the labor worthy of the price? Harvest hands in the richest wheat belt of the United States, the northwest, are paid from $2 to $3.50 per day. The actual profit, and it has been averaged by experts, upon $1.90 worth of labor, yields from $5 to $8 to the employer. The same condition of affairs exists in Kansas, Nebraska and elsewhere. There are in the United States six million daily wage earners, of which one million are found in the harvest field during the summer time. Last year $365,000,000 was paid out to the workers who gathered in the sheaves. This included the regularly employed farm hands and the men who were imported from the cities to cut the grain.

The harvest begins in May and lasts until latter August. It moves north from the Gulf coast at the rate of twenty miles per day until the Dakotas and Canada are reached. Meanwhile there are experts who have followed the harvest in its northward flight and who have spent the entire summer in the midst of the grain fields. These are the experts who earn from $3 to $5 per day. But as a rule, for the immense profit brought to the employer, the farm hand is the poorest paid worker on the labor calendar today.

THE HICKORY FLAT COUNTRY OF MISSISSIPPI.

BY H. E. BLAKESLEE.

"There's something to see along the Frisco" in Mississippi.

The highest and most picturesque portion of the state is traversed by the road as it winds its way through the Hickory Flat country in a southeasterly direction from Holly Springs to Tupelo. High hills and narrow valleys, covered with a growth of yellow pine, oak, poplar and black jack, largely high and dry, closely bordering on the mountainous. It is not an agricultural country, strictly speaking, the valleys and gentler slopes only being in cultivation. Lumber cutting has been carried on largely for years, and the timber available to the railway is fast disappearing and other pursuits are being adopted.

The little town of Hickory Flat in Ben-

Where there are dozens of mineral springs to the acre, possessing varied medicinal properties,

with the monotony frequently broken by precipitous bluffs and huge boulders. The traveler with a zest for the novel in natural scenic effect always finds something of interest at every turn, as the train dashes through the varied landscape.

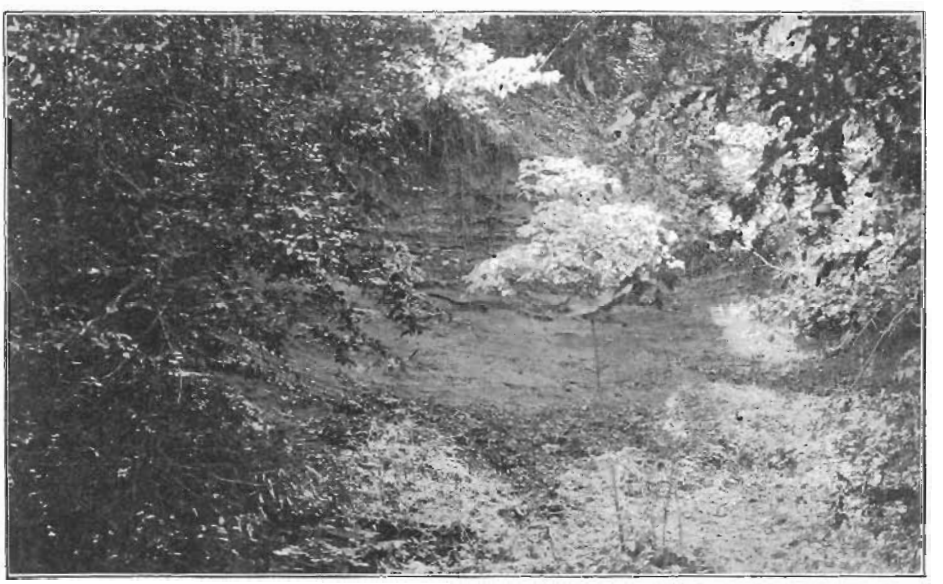
A wrong impression has gained a foothold in the minds of an uninformed public as to the topography of Mississippi, which brings disappointment if, when the border has been crossed, an unbroken line of swamp and morass is not in evidence. Such is not the case, however, along the Frisco System. The country traversed is

ton county, with its 400 people, is situated in the center of the yellow pine region and still does a considerable timber and lumber business, but not so much as formerly. It lies in the pretty and fertile valley of "Oak-li-me-tah" creek and only half a mile from the picturesque "Oak-Chili-Tubbe" bluffs. It is well supplied with schools and churches. The people are proverbially hospitable and take pride in making the stranger within their gates feel at home. The head of the municipal government, Mayor B. Ayers, is a Nebraskan, and has been very successful since casting his for-

Looking down through a rift in the foliage to Oak-li-me-tah Creek at the foot of Oak-Chili-Tubbe bluff.

tunes with the people of the Sunny South a few years since.

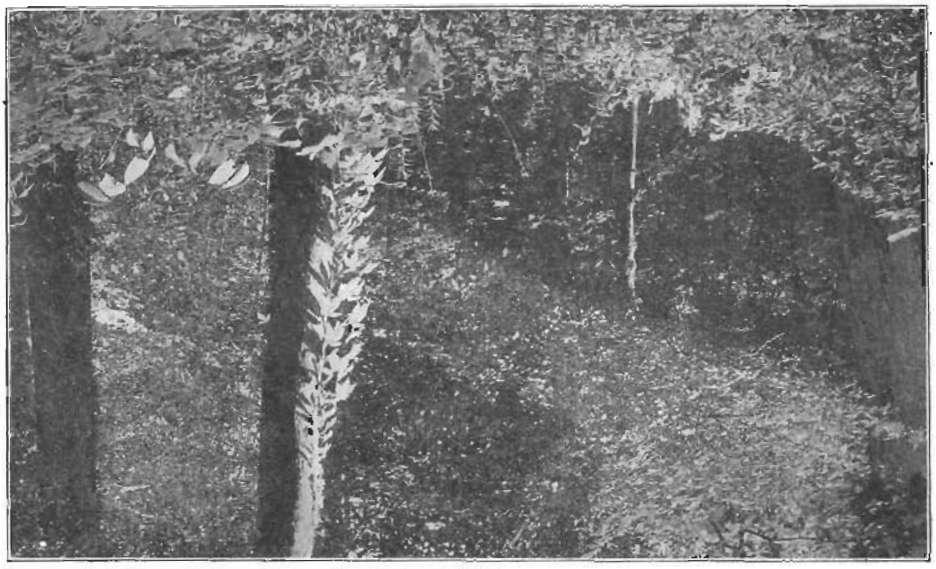
Lands surrounding the town are varied in adaptability. The bottoms are fertile and in a high state of cultivation. Corn and cotton are the principal crops. This land sells from $4 to $15 per acre, according to improvements. The hills, which constitute a larger portion of the country, are not in cultivation, generally being too precipitous for such uses, but readily grow Bermuda and other grasses where the underbrush has been cleared away. This land would make admirable stock farms if properly managed, especially for sheep and Angora goats. The extremely mild and short winters of this section require but little feed and scarcely any shelter to bring stock through in good condition. Native goats roam the hills and thrive without special feed or attention. Thousands of acres of this land can be bought at from



Exposed face of coal ledge 4 feet and 8 inches thick within a few miles of Hickory Flat.

75 cents to $1.25 per acre and only await the coming of people experienced in stock raising to make them more valuable than the lowlands to the owner. Peaches, pears and grapes grow finely and rarely ever miss a crop. Strawberries produce wonderfully and the close proximity to several large cities affords a ready market for them. There are fine openings for this kind of farming and the first to introduce it will reap handsome profits. The lands are cheap and would require very little labor to prepare for grasses, trees or berries. Some attention is being paid to these industries and in a few years they will in all probability grow to large proportions. Last year peaches grown in this section brought more on the St. Louis market than offerings from any place. Berries grown here command the highest price everywhere. With the energy and enterprise of good settlers to help in the development this section is destined to become a great stock and fruit country.

Should the state of Mississippi ever develop mineral deposits of any consequence this is bound to be the section from which it must come. In the hills to the north of Hickory Flat there are many indications of mineral wealth. Iron ore of surprising richness can be found scattered on the surface. An examination by experienced mineralogists would likely reveal the presence of ledges of great value. The detached specimens to be found in such profuse quantities certainly came from a parent source at some time. At a number of places there are outcroppings of coal which, while closely bordering on lignite, is hard enough to burn in a grate or for other light uses. These ledges face from three to five feet, some being of greater thickness. A mining expert recently declared that at some distance below the surface there might be found veins of greater hardness and with less sulphur. A move is on foot now to investigate this matter with the view of development should a strictly merchantable article be found. Then, too, the writer has in his possession specimens of galena that assays 75 per cent of lead and a trace of silver. These have been picked up from time to time in a section of country only a few miles north of Hickory Flat and near the town of "Oak-Chili-Tubbes,"

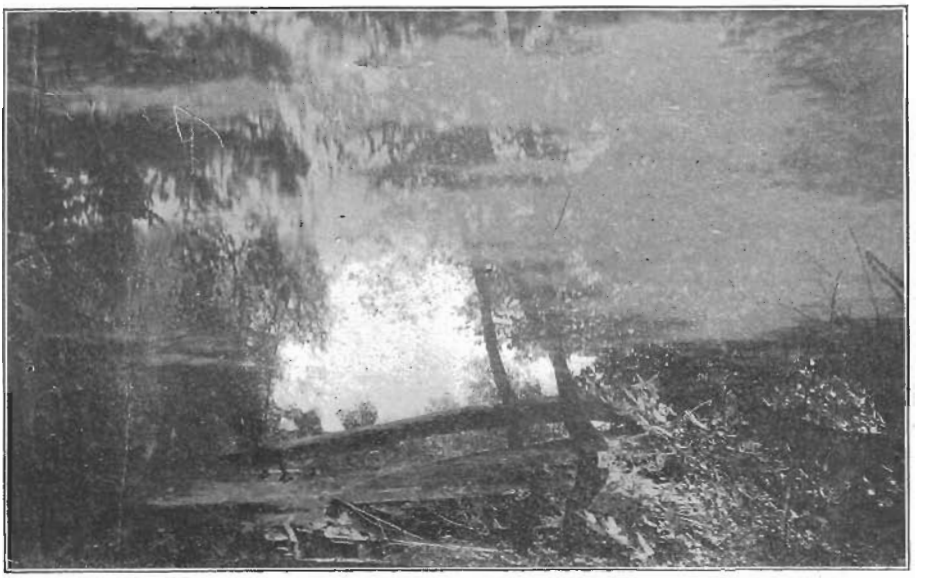


Luxuriant growth of ferns, vines and flowers in "Oak-li-me-tah" bottom, near Hickory Flat.

the old Indian chieftain who ruled the country hereabouts during the first half of the last century. His people were in possession of a never-ending source of supply of lead and also of silver with which to make trinkets for the adornment of their persons. Old settlers still living testify to this fact and, too, that less than a day's journey was required to go from their town and bring a fresh supply.

There are several beds of clay of exquisite fineness that might be used for the manufacture of semi-porcelain or other ware. One of these in particular is from three to four feet in thickness, and while it is of a yellowish color, easily washes to a snowy whiteness. Indications of other minerals appear in places, but their quality and quantity have not yet been tested.

There are within a few miles of Hickory Flat numerous mineral springs, which by recent analysis have proven to be the most valuable in the South. The "Oak-Chili-Tubbe" Water Co. has been organized for their development and placing the water on the market. These springs show large quantities of iron, magnesia, sodium, calcium, aluminum, sulphuric amyhide, silica and sulphur. The high dry pine hills and pure atmosphere make it a desirable location for an all-the-year-round resort. All that is needed is men with money, push and brains to make it one of the most popular health and pleasure resorts of the South. Its proximity to Memphis would make it very popular with the people of that city. The virtue of these waters has been known since the time of "Oak-Chili-Tubbe" and was sung in the beautiful legend of his only daughter, "Wah-ha-li-ta," who was drowned in the limped waters of "Oak-li-me-tah" creek with her lover in the vain attempt to reach their healing power when taken ill away from the father's wigwam. There are numbers of these springs with varied medicinal properties that can be purchased for nominal sums and furnish an inviting field for men with capital and tact in the management of health resorts.



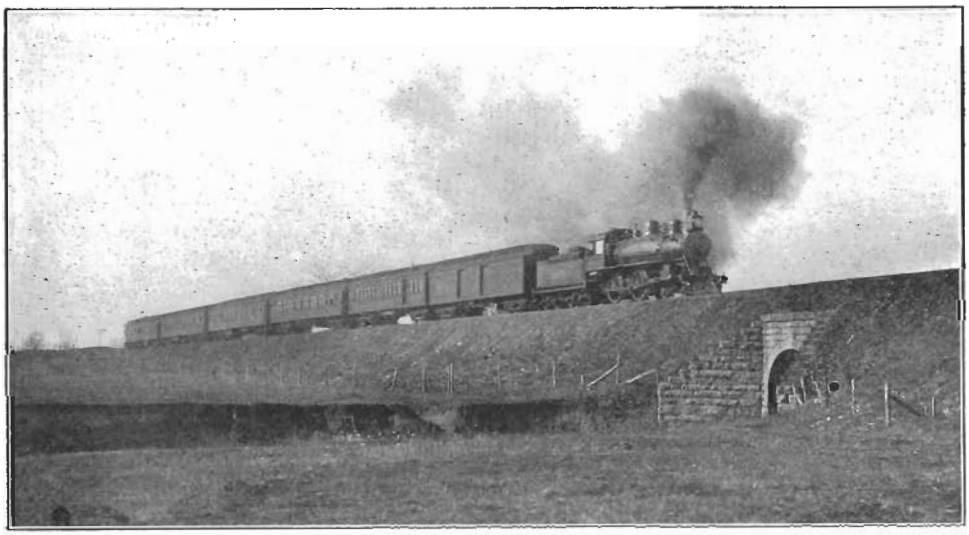
"Wah-ha-li-ta" mist hole in Oak-li-me-tah Creek, according to the legend of Oak-Chili-Tubbe's ill-fated daughter, who was drowned in the stream with her warrior lover.

"Advice to a newly married couple is so useless!" "Yes, all the harm is done then."

THE OZARK REGION.

BY J. C. McMANIMA.

No well defined description can be given of the boundaries of the so-called Ozark Mountains. The term so-called is used because the use of the name Mountain is a misnomer, plateau being a better word. In general, it may be said that the Ozarks are a low, wide range of hills extending from near St. Louis in a southwesterly direction through South Missouri and Northwest Arkansas and on into Kansas and Indian Territory, but gradually getting less defined until lost in the prairies and table lands. The Flint Hills of Kansas, the Circle Range of Indian Territory and the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma, all have some characteristics in common, and all trend in the same general direction, suggesting that it may be an arm of the Rocky Mountain system. The altitude of the Ozarks is at no place very great, the highest railroad point being 1,600 feet on the Frisco System, and there are no high peaks as is usual in mountain ranges. The summit of the range is in places a wide, comparatively level plateau or table land, while the slopes are more rugged, and in many places abrupt and precipitous. The table land of the Ozarks was first brought to a high state of cultivation, but gradually men found that fruit and grass would grow successfully on the roughest, and cultivation is gradually spreading, even to the least accessible portions. Two-thirds of that part of Missouri lying south of the Missouri river are in what may be classed as the Ozark region, the exceptions being the level lands of the southeast and the uplands of the northwest. The big fruit and mineral producing counties of Southwest Missouri and Northwest Arkansas are in the Ozark region and are very rich.



The "Meteor" speeding over the Ozarks.

The Ozark region is not without a history that is full of romance and bloodshed, but this is not the place to tell it. The Spaniards were the first explorers of whom we have any record, and it is known that they found and mined gold and silver, but the mines themselves have been lost, and neither metal is found in paying quantities, though it is believed to exist. During the Civil war, the Ozark region was the scene of many hard-fought battles and was considered common ground for the opposing armies. The early settlers of this region were largely from Kentucky and Tennessee and the hardiness and rugged honesty of these pioneers have left

their impress on the country and the people.

It is natural that the investigator should want to know why so much of the Ozark region is undeveloped and the population so scattered, and why it has been passed over by the pioneers of the farther west for so many years. It is natural that he should want to know why a country of such resources should be overlooked so long, but it is easy to understand when the conditions are studied. Let us look back for a moment, and consider. Half a hundred years ago gold was discovered in California and a little later in Colorado, and everybody wanted to get rich quick, and rushed across the plains. A little later the land-grant railroads rushed everybody to the western prairie states where farming was supposed to be all profit and little work. In the plains of the west railroads were easily and cheaply constructed, which was not true in regions like the Ozarks, and few companies had the money or courage to attempt it. Thus the logic of events kept settlement back for many years. In the meantime the early settlers were reinforced by others, and people gradually drifted into this region and settled down to a life of peace and plenty, and progress was steady even though slow. It was discovered that all who went to the far west did not succeed, and thousands drifted back.

In the meantime it was discovered that the Ozark region was full of mineral; it was found that many of our hills were largely composed of iron; that the greatest lead deposits of the world were in the Ozarks; that this region could supply the world with zinc, and the coal and natural gas to smelt our ores. It was found that copper, gold and silver were found in small quantities without extensive prospecting or deep mining, and that in fact the hills and uplands were full of mineral wealth. All the commercial clays, mineral paints, marble, onyx, tripoli and many other things were found in commercial quantities, but all this took time.

While these things were being discovered, other discoveries were also being made of even greater importance. It was found that even our rocky hills would produce wheat equal in quantity and quality to that of the famous northern wheat. It was discovered that big corn would grow on soil that was the rockiest. The blue grass of Kentucky grew everywhere; melons and sweet potatoes were of the best, and so of practically all of the grains, grasses and vegetables. It was also discovered that all kinds of domestic animals, from the common chicken to the thoroughbred horse, did as well as in any other country on earth. It was discovered that the winters were short, and the climate a happy mean between the extremes of the North and South. It was found that our laughing springs and sparkling brooks produced a life-giving drink to supplement the ozone of the Ozark atmosphere, that make one think that De Leon would not have searched in vain for the Fountain of Perpetual Youth, if he had penetrated the Ozark region. When these and other things finally forced themselves on the public mind there was a reaction and for some years development has been moving forward at a more rapid pace than formerly and it is now gaining headway more and more rapidly. Today several railroad systems penetrate this region, but the Frisco, the pioneer of the Ozarks, crosses and recrosses it and penetrates it in all directions, so that if you wish to see the Ozarks you can only do it by the Frisco System.

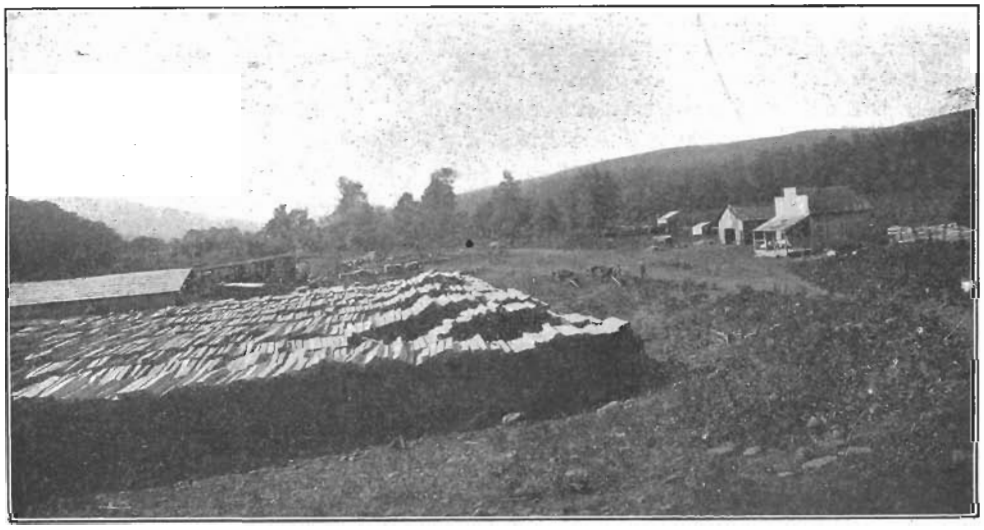
One of the first things to be considered by most people in a change of location is that of climate. Northern people are looking for a climate that is mild and has short winters, but do not want to get entirely beyond the frost belt. Southern people look for a climate with frost enough to kill the fever and malaria germs, but are fearful of the long winters of the North. Both classes can be suited in the Ozark range. These are some of the considerations that have made the Ozark region so popular as a place of residence. The growing season is long, but the temperature seldom reaches a height that makes the atmosphere oppressive and it is always pleasant at night or in deep shade. As far as healthfulness is concerned, it is believed to be one of the most healthful localities on the continent.

Next to climate, there are probably more who must be satisfied as to the quantity and quality of the water supply than on any other point, and in this respect the Ozark region has few equals and no superiors. Some of the springs of the Ozarks are looked upon as wonders of nature because of their immensity and grandeur. There are springs in this region that pour forth a volume of water sufficient to supply a large city for all purposes, not even excepting manufacturing purposes. The springs, abundant and fine as they are, are not all, for the Ozarks are traversed by many beautiful streams, so clear that a pebble may be seen at the bottom, and the best of water can usually be found at a moderate depth by digging. Springs of great medicinal properties are also abundant and health resorts are springing up in various localities. Another never-failing source of water supply is the rainfall, which never fails to do its part towards maturing crops for those who have the industry to till the ground intelligently. There is no bad water among the Ozarks.

Fuel is another important consideration and in this we are peculiarly fortunate, as the greater portion of the Ozark region is covered by a natural growth of timber. The north slope of the Ozarks is almost a solid coal mine for a hundred miles or more, while natural gas and petroleum are found in abundance to the south and west and no portion is far removed from fuel.

Wheat is a sure and profitable crop in the Ozarks and the quality is of the best. This is a winter wheat region, and in addition to a good yield of grain, is an excellent winter pasture for stock. Other small grains also do well.

Corn is raised extensively and is a safe crop, even on rocky land, and the yield is usually satisfactory, even if hardly equal in quantity to that of the best prairies of Iowa and Illinois. Broom corn, Kaffir corn and sorghum are also all raised profitably. Timothy is the favorite hay crop, followed closely by clover. In much of our soil alfalfa has proved very profitable and is growing in popularity. Blue grass grows naturally wherever it has an opportunity, and all the various cultivated grasses, such as millet and orchard grass, do well. Melons of the various kinds are cultivated extensively and our canteloupes are not far behind the Rocky Fords of Colorado. That tomatoes are profitable is evident to the person who sees the scores of canning factories. Both sweet and Irish potatoes are grown extensively, as are onions, turnips, peas, beans, and in fact all kinds of vegetables. Every family may have a garden.



Railroad tie mill near Chester, Ark.

The Ozark region is justly called the "Home of the Big Red Apple," for it is here that the apple reaches the highest state of perfection in size, color and flavor. Many thousands of acres of orchards can be seen from the cars on any of the lines of the Frisco traversing this region, and every year adds many thousand more acres, and the market for our apples is world-wide and an over supply is practically impossible. The peach is a close second to the apple in productiveness, and consequently in profit. This is particularly true of the South slope where there is less frost than on that of the north. Grapes are grown successfully and much interest is being developed in wine making. Cherries and plums seldom fail to yield profusely and their flavor is fine. Strawberries are produced in immense quantities and shipped to all parts of the country in carload lots. All the ordinary berries are grown extensively.

An article of this kind would not be complete without reference to live stock. The pure water, good grass and healthful climate are sufficient to insure successful stock growing, and this industry is one of our most important. The Missouri mule is known wherever there is civilization, because of his endurance, strength and beauty, if a mule may ever be said to have beauty, and the Ozark mule heads the list. This is a horse country, as all will admit who take the trouble to investigate. Heaves and some other diseases so common in many states are almost unknown here and horses are unusually hardy.

The abundance of pure water and mild winters assure a fine cattle and dairy country here, and in this connection it is well to state that thousands of families can find good homes and profitable employment, with small capital, by coming to the Ozark region and engaging in dairying and stock raising. The Angora goat has proved himself well suited to our hilly districts, and the goat industry is growing Sheep are at home in this region and can hardly fail to be profitable if given proper care. The diseases that are so disastrous to sheep in many states are nearly unknown here.

It will not do to forget the hog in this connection, for he is always with us. The "razor back" has about disappeared and in his place is found the sleek, round, short nosed hogs, like you see at the fairs. The hog is the standby of the average family, here or elsewhere. Poultry is another thing to speak about, for go where you will in the Ozarks you will see chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese and other fowls in evidence. You will see them everywhere, and everybody will tell you that a family can easily make a living on a very few acres by raising poultry.

Land is yet cheap, but is gradually going up. Well improved, level farms can be purchased at from $25 to $50 per acre within reasonable distance of towns. Farms with poorer improvements or farther from market can be bought for much less. Unimproved land can be purchased in small tracts at from $5 an acre up, and in many cases the standing timber will more than pay for the land. As in all hilly countries, there is a great difference in the land. There is much level upland that has little or no stone to interfere with cultivation; there is bottom land where the soil is loamy and deep; there is soil where the land is strewn with loose rock, but produces well and is lasting. With the exception of an occasional outcropping ledge of rock, there is but little of the land that will not produce good crops, and especially is this true of grass and fruit.

There are thousands of renters on the farms of the North and East and thousands of industrious families crowding each other out of jobs in the cities, that could secure homes in the Ozark region and in a short time be independent, healthy and happy. It might require some self-denial at first, and would require work, but both would be rewarded. The person who has been accustomed to farming land where a stone is seldom seen might find it hard to get accustomed to the rocks, but he would get accustomed to that after a time, and then he would enjoy the change. He would find that he could make a living here with less work than where he had been. He would find that he could get more comfort out of life than had ever before been his lot.

CHANCE FOR CITY MAN IN THE COUNTRY.

By CHAS. W. BECKER.

This paragraph, usually accompanied with a good deal of comment, has been going the rounds of the newspapers lately:

"Every farmer boy wants to be a school teacher, every school teacher hopes to be an editor, every editor would like to be a banker, every banker would like to be a trust magnate, and every trust magnate hopes some day to own a farm and have chickens, cows and pigs and horses to look after."

And this is not only true of the trust magnate but of thousands of people in every city in the land. Tired of the turmoil of the strenuous life which daily saps their strength and leaves them mental and physical wrecks in the end, there is a longing in their hearts for the country—for a place where they can rest their weary souls. They have a few hundred dollars on deposit in the bank but they do not know how to get a farm with it. Used to reading of what big farms produce, they have come to believe that a man must own many acres and a big stock of implements and many horses and mules before he can succeed. They do not realize that it takes only a few acres, if well cultivated, to support a family. If the doubter will take the time to investigate he will be astonished at the income of the truck gardener in the suburbs from only an acre or so, or, maybe, only half an acre.

A farmer boy may go to the city and make a fortune in business enterprises as he develops but when old age begins to creep upon him you will generally find him stowed away in some snug cottage on a few acres of land in the country. He has learned in the city what he never believed while he was a boy feeding stock and plowing—that the farm is the best place after all. Many farmer boys have gone to the city and acquired business habits and then returned to the country later on in life, and by applying business principles, transformed the old run down home farm and made a great success as farmers.

It is the city man with business training who is needed in the country. The great need of agriculture is the application of exact business principles on the farm. The man who has spent years in a city office knows the importance of accurate bookkeeping for success. If such a man goes to the country he will not guess at everything like the majority of the farmers do. He will farm according to business methods, knowing what each article costs him to produce. In this way he will soon learn to plant so as to economize on labor and get the most profit.

Success in agriculture as in any other business depends on the man. The farm offers lots of room for development. The day is passing when a farmer thought it was necessary to cultivate large tracts of land. He has learned that the more land he cultivates the more will be his expenses, without a proportionate increase in profits.

The country needs small farms and lots of them. Big farms, with tenants, can not be said to be profitable. What has been and is yet a great draw back to agricultural progress in Mexico is that all the good farming land is held by a few big landlords. The tenants on these big haciendas are reduced to serfdom. In England where the land is divided among titled estates, the evil effects of such an arrangement are most noticeable. For years the country population kept gravitating to the towns at such an alarming rate that the land owners became greatly alarmed. The matter was looked into and after the investigations the conclusion was evident that if the population was to be retained in the country, the big estates would have to be divided into small farms and sold to the tenants on reasonable terms. Many big land owners are doing that now.

There are in the United States, as every one knows, no estates similar to those in foreign empires. One often hears the city man say: "I would go to the country if I knew where to go. All the land is taken up."

True, most all the good farming land is

taken up but down in the southwest in Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas—there is splendid farming land for sale at every railway station you may stop at. Why is this good land for sale? One reason is that the typical backwoods farmer is a restless individual. He is always looking for a place a little better than the one he is on—looking for the good country where things will grow without much work.

Another reason is that a man can cultivate only so much ground. If he plants more than he can cultivate, he must hire help or lose what has been planted. The farms in the Southwest, as a rule, are large and many of the farmers are anxious to sell off the surplus land which they are unable to cultivate. This land can be bought in small tracts at from $10 to $40 per acre. Besides, one can find for sale plenty of small farms with buildings already up. The soil in the Southwest is very productive, adapted to the raising of fruit, grains and vegetables of all kinds.

With a team, a wagon, one turning plow, a double shovel plow and a few rakes and hoes a man could cultivate a small farm and handle successfully all the farm products with the exception of wheat, oats, rye and barley. Wheat raising on a small farm would not be profitable. Corn, broom corn, vegetables and fruit would give the best returns. Besides, on a small farm a man could raise enough poultry to provide all the household necessities and then have something left to the good.

A reason many city people, with a hankering for a small farm, advance for not hurrying off to the country is that they will fail because of the great amount of hard work necessary to cultivate land. My dear sir, that is a mistake.

There are few farmers in the country who put in as many hours as the office man. There are not more than 90 or 100 days in a year that the farmer really has to do what one would call work. That is in the summer time while his crops are growing. In the winter all he has to do is feed the stock and keep warm. Then, too, the farmer does not work when it rains or snows. It's different with the city man. He is bound to work winter and summer, whether it rains or the sun shines, to be able to keep on good terms with the groceryman and the butcher. When the farmer has gathered his crops he has the long winter months to devote to study. He is blessed with more opportunities to cultivate his mind than any other class of men, but alas! few take advantage of the opportunities. True, there are no theaters in the country and also few saloons. The women generally offer the strongest objections to going to the country to live permanently. Once there was a city man who had a friend who went to the country and started a poultry farm. The city man wanted to visit his country friend but the city man's wife vigorously opposed the trip.

"What! Go to the country for four months?" said she. "Oh, dear, how dreary and monotonous it will be. I don't see how I will ever live through it."

However she went out to the country, carrying novels enough for a good library foundation and a phonograph with all the latest and most popular airs of the day to dispel the ennui which she foresaw. In the country the birds delivered such a symphony of sweet sounds that "Josephine, My Joe," "Violets," "Whoa, Bill!" "Under the Bamboo Tree," "Turkey in the Straw," etc., were seldom heard. Then, too, there was a dear little garden near the house and she got so interested in the growth of the vegetables that she was busy there from early until late. Well, the summer slipped joyously by and when the city man's wife got back home this is actually what she wrote to the man in the country:

"I am homesick for the country and it is the very first time I ever was homesick. I have been thinking about our life out there and yearning for the country with each thought. Not a day passes that we don't say that we wish we were back with you. If we could buy that house from you, we'd be misers until we saved enough. I am thoroughly discontented with the city after our summer out there. And to think, we tried to persuade you to come to town with us! I'll never again wish you any such bad luck."

Say, get a small farm "and have chickens, cows and pigs and horses to look after" and be independent and free, get up in the morning when you want to and work when you feel like it. Be leaders in the improvement of the soil, for agriculture is the backbone of all business. When the farmer raises good crops there is prosperity abroad in the land. But let there be a crop failure and all lines of business suffer.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HUNTING PARKS IN OKLAHOMA.

Nothing is too good for the Oklahoman. In the past it has been that nothing was too difficult for him to conquer, no hardship too great for him to endure, and now when he has commenced to rise above it all, he is taking time to enjoy himself.

Scene near Roosevelt, Oklahoma.

As a result of this feeling, game preserves, summer resorts, pleasure parks, are being established all over the Territory, but at no one place has the hunting fever gained such a stronghold among the citizens as in the new country—that is the Kiowa and Comanche country. The number of hunting parks in all parts of Oklahoma has increased greatly, especially in the past two years. One of the finest parks in the Territory is the one at Mountain Park, Oklahoma, on the Frisco System's branch line running between Enid and Vernon. This hunting site, established through the enterprise of Charles Hunter, owner of the townsite and a town builder of more than local fame, is greatly patronized by all Oklahomans, as well as persons from the Indian Territory, Texas, Kansas, and elsewhere. In a few years more it is believed that this great hunting region, bordering as it does onto the famous Wichita Mountains, will be much visited by St. Louis and Kansas City sportsmen.

Hunting in the Wichita Mountains yields almost as many exciting and daring encounters with game as in the Rockies, although the wild game is not quite so numerous. In the game parks around Mountain Park, such game as wild cats,

panthers, and the cougar are not altogether unknown. But turkey, deer, and such game are found in abundance.

Charles Hunter, who is townsite agent for the Bes line, now a part of the Frisco System, has for some time had in view the establishment of this game preserve near his several towns and for the accommodation of his friends of the Territory in hunting and fishing season. There are many men high in the business and industrial life of that young Territory who are just beginning to find time to leave their places of business in the fall and take a month or more hunting and fishing. Many of them are too loyal to wish to leave the borders of their own Territory and do not in the first place deem it necessary. They therefore are only too happy to accept the game parks at home and therefore from the time the trees begin to yellow in autumn until after Christmas time, the Territorial sportsmen are busy shooting game and catching fish from the streams and in the woods of the parks.

Scene on Otter Creek, near Roosevelt, Oklahoma.

Besides the park at Mountain Park, there is also a park at Roosevelt, on the Bes line. In fact all along the Frisco in the new country, and adjacent to the Wichita Mountains, there are many such hunting preserves for the use of the new Oklahomans.

VICE VERSA.

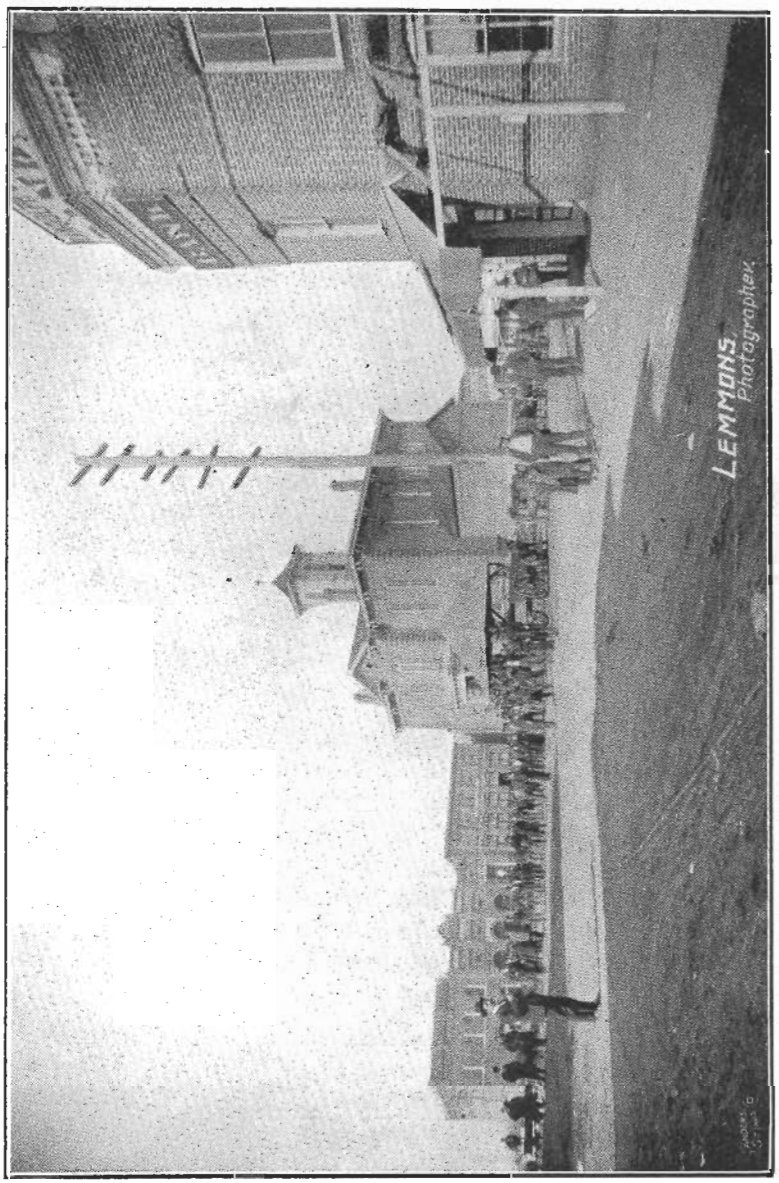
I never see my rector's eyes—
He hides their light divine;
For, when he prays, he shuts his own,
And, when he preaches, mine!

—Smart Set.

POCAHONTAS, ARK.

One of the most thriving towns in the Black river country, along the Frisco System, is Pocahontas, Ark. It is the county seat of Randolph county and has a population of 1500. It has eighteen substantial business houses, two fine public school buildings and churches of various denominations. It is a manufacturing town in wood supplies and the largest bending works in Eastern Arkansas are situated there. The story of the foundation of Pocahontas is one of the best tales of early day politics.

The county commissioners were authorized to select two places for the county seat and then leave it to the voters which they would have. The commissioners selected Pocahontas and another spot near a famous spring eight miles distant. A man by the name of Bettis owned the



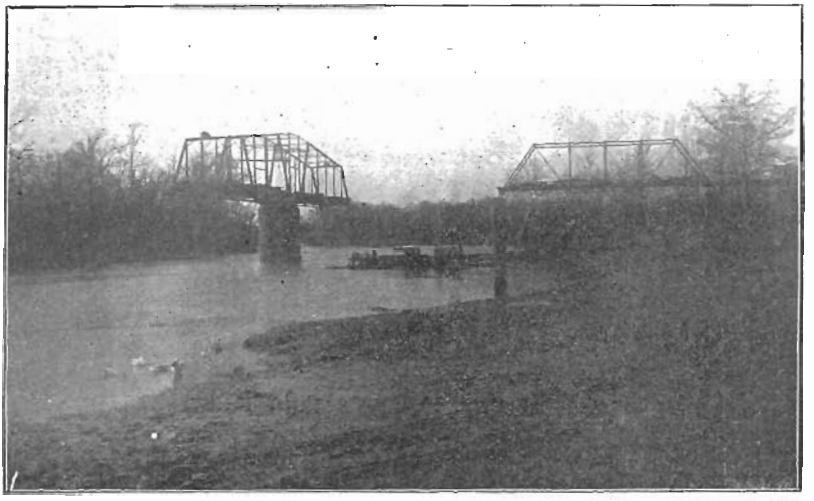
One side of square showing Court House, Pocahontas, Ark.

present location of Pocahontas. The election was held in the summer of 1836 and the contest between the partisans of the two sites was a lively one, but Bettis knew a thing or two. On the day appointed for the election he gave a free barbecue which he had advertised by runners throughout the county. Nearly every voter in the county went to Bettis' barbecue. And that settled it. Pocahontas won.

Pocahontas is surrounded by a fine territory, being a large cotton market, as well as lumber. Its schools are of the best. In addition to the public schools there is a large Catholic Convent, which is well filled with pupils throughout the year. Commercially it is as live a town for its size as could be found anywhere. All of the mercantile lines are well represented, and its financial institutions are strong and prosperous. The town also has one of the largest creameries of the state, and also a huge cold storage plant.

All of the churches are represented in this pretty little city. The Methodist and the Roman Catholic have fine edifices of worship.

It is also a heavy shipping point for fruit and berries in season. As an indication that the town is on the upgrade, its population has more than doubled in the last ten years.



Bridge over Black River, Pocahontas, Ark.

IN DOUBT.

ANNE VIRGINIA CULBERTSON.

When lashes drooping lie
On cheeks of softest rose,
Ah, how demure and sly
The wonted aspect grows,
When lashes drooping lie!
And yet, until he try,
No man of surety knows
When lashes drooping—lie!

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CHOCTAW NATION.

By W. R. D.

The Choctaw Indian Nation, one of the Five Civilized Tribes of the Indian Territory, will shortly be opened to white settlement; that is, a portion of the lands may be purchased from the Indians. Just now the Choctaw Indians are filing upon their homes at the rate of several hundred per day. Each Indian is entitled to 320 acres, of which he must keep 160 acres for a period of 21 years. The rest of the land he can sell, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. This land is rich and fertile—that which is not underlaid with coal and other minerals. The land of the Choctaw Nation is classified as follows: 3,755,606 acres of farming land, 254,080 acres of hilly land (this being good for grazing purposes), 1,436,052 acres of mountain pasture land, 512,097 acres of mountain land, 992,097 acres of pine timber land.

The Choctaw Nation is the largest of the Five Tribes, and its citizens are the richest. Many of the citizens are intermarried, and "squaw" men own considerable of the richest mining lands. The mineral lands come under a special clause, however. The "squaw" men have been largely instrumental in the upbuilding of the Nation. Most of its mineral resources are at present undeveloped, and but little of the timber land has been cut. This will open fortune-building opportunities to hundreds and thousands. The time to visit the Choctaw Nation for business purposes is now, while the tribal government is in process of dissolving and the Indians are selling and leasing their lands as rapidly as possible.

The coal mines of the Choctaw Nation reach from north of the Winding Stair Mountains, near Atoka, to the Arkansas line. There are rich coal mines at Poteau, on the Frisco System; Hartshorne, on the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf, and South McAlester.

Experienced miners say that the richest beds are those yet to be uncovered along the Frisco System south of the Boston Mountains. There are a number of rich asphalt mines at Moyer Spur, on the Frisco System. These mines are owned by the Busch family of St. Louis.

Timber lands in the Choctaw Nation lie along the main Texas line of the Frisco System, in the Boston Mountains, and also on the newly opened Arkansas & Choctaw road. Between Hugo, I. T., and Madill, in the Chickasaw Nation, is one vast tract of fine timber land. This timber land may be leased from the Indians at present. By the payment of a royalty of $1 per one thousand feet, the oak, walnut and pine timber may be hewn and marketed. The usual profit is about $15 per thousand feet.

Considerable lead, zinc and other ores have been found in the picturesque Boston Mountains along the Frisco System, but the Indians that own this land refuse to work the property until the government has awarded them a title in fee simple. Then there is no danger of losing the mines. Hundreds of car loads of rich prairie hay are shipped from the Choctaw Nation every year and sold by the white men who have leased the land at a small price. Five-year leases can be made, the price of rental ranging from 50 cents to $3 per annum per acre. These leases are all approved by the Indian agent and cannot be invalidated. Many white farmers are moving into the Choctaw Nation from North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and the South to take advantage of these offers. Unimproved land can often be rented free of charge for the first year to do slight improving and makes the property all the more valuable for the Indians.

One of the opportunities now offered to shrewd investors is the purchase of dead Indian claims. Every time a redskin dies

his head right reverts back to the tribe and is offered for sale by the United States at $1048. The purchase of this head right entitles the owner to select 320 acres of land in the Nation, any place that he may find an opening. Often a head right is found to be worth $10,000, depending entirely upon the luck one has in getting good or poor land.

A few years ago millions of cattle roamed over the Choctaw Nation. The land rented for seven cents an acre four years ago, while ten years ago range was free for the use of it. Now good pasture cannot be had at any price, for the land is all in process of allotment and no cattleman can find a large body in one tract. The herds are simply running here and there, and most of the large herds have been sold. The days of cattle ranching in any of the five Indian tribes are no more, though at one time the Indian Territory was considered the richest cattle country on earth. Some of the largest dealers in cattle were the Wilson Brothers, until recently owning 10,000 head and pasturing their herds in the eastern portion of the Choctaw Nation; J. J. McAlester, who owned 50,000 head and had pastures covering ten miles square; J. H. Miller, whose herds ran in the McGee Valley, and numbered from seven to fifteen thousand; T. W. Hunter of Boswell, who pastured his large herds in Jackson County; J. H. Featherstone, of a town of the same name, who owned 3000 head, and many others. Most of these cattlemen have disposed of their herds and have taken to the raising of fine blooded cattle. G. W. Scott of San Bois and C. O. Overstreet of Cache are well known because of their herds of fine blooded Herefords. In fact, about the only herds one sees in a trip over the country are blooded cattle. The long horns have all been shipped to far western Texas and New Mexico or sold to the packing houses.

The Choctaw Indians are a shrewd element of that country. There are but few full-bloods in this tribe today, and they are far from ignorant. Even the full-blood can drive a bargain to suit his own notion. I was at a town named Bochito, on the Frisco branch, between Hugo and Madill, recently, when a white man sought to obtain certain information from a full-blood Choctaw. I was riding with a sixteenth-blood Choctaw, who noticed the negotiations as they progressed.

"He can't get that Injun to do anything," remarked my friend, "unless he produces something to please the fancy of our full-blood friend."

And sure enough he did not. The white man came back and sat down in a car seat beside us. He was told that a drink of whisky might do some good.

"But it is against the law to give Indians liquor," the pale face said.

"It is not against the law when no one is looking," the sixteenth-part Indian assured.

The white man then went forward and told the full-blood that his grip contained a bottle of whisky, and that he would like to leave the grip on the rear of the train, and wanted him to guard it to the next station. The Indian did guard it, but he must have taken several sips, for he was good-natured after that and talked very satisfactorily.

Two thousand feet of brick frontage is now in course of construction at Oklahoma City. The Postal Telegraph company is stringing its wires into the city and wending its way across the territory from Texas to Kansas.

Kay County has been the banner wheat county for some time, but Greer County, it is claimed, will offer it a strong fight for that honor next year. Immigrants are going into Greer County very rapidly indeed and overturning the rich, loamy soil.

Oklahoma is making a strong endeavor to have its appropriation for taking a correct report of the crops increased from $1,800 to at least $6,000. It is a move in the right direction for the advancement of the territory.

THE FRUIT BELT OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS.

By W. R. DRAPER.

Two of the greatest fruit-producing counties in the United States are Benton and Washington, in northwest Arkansas. Both counties are penetrated by the Frisco System, and the shipping of fruit from these two counties usually occupies the entire attention of the people during the fall and winter. As a result of the bountiful fruit crops of these two counties, the citizens generally are wealthy, prosperous and contented. This portion of the state is truly the most wonderful fruit section of the Southwest. There are many larger fruit ranches in Missouri, but none more productive.

In Benton County there are 1,870,000 apple trees, and in Washington County 1,550,000. The orchards are owned by the citizens who run them, and as soon as a man has made sufficient money to retire he sells his orchards and moves to town, while his successor proceeds to grow rich in turn. There are no renters in these two counties, despite the fact that land is none too cheap. In the past twenty-five years the northwest Arkansas fruit belt has been increasing in popularity.

In 1901 there were shipped from Rogers 395 cars of apples. The same year forty-six cars of Elberta peaches and thirty-eight cars of strawberries were shipped from the same station. In 1901, from the county of Benton, 2000 cars of apples were shipped, bringing in to the apple-grower $1,000,000. On an average year it is said that the three thousand fruit-growers of the county realize a net profit of nearly $1000 per capita from their orchards. Some of the farmers make $10,000 every season, and never touch their orchards.

The apple shipments from various stations along the Frisco System, in 1901, were as follows: Rogers, 395; Hiawsee, 37; Bentonville, 160; Cennerton, 239; Decatur, 45; Siloam Springs, 203; Gentry, 207; Grobett, 90; Garfield, 30; Avoca, 91; Lowell, 95. Considerable of this fruit was dried and evaporated, which lessened the quantity, but increased the income of the growers. Last year the shipments from Rogers alone were as follows: Apples (green), 148 cars; apples (evaporated), 19; peaches, 89 cars; strawberries, 9.

There are five hundred barrels of apples in a car, worth about $1.50 per barrel, or fifty cents per bushel. The net profit of the fruit growers around Rogers amounts to $300,000 per annum. The fruit is shipped to all parts of the country, and over three hundred fruit firms are represented at Rogers in the buying season. Six to fifteen cars loads of fruit per day are shipped out via the Frisco System.

That there is a good profit in fruit growing is evidenced by the following: Fifty fruit trees grow on one acre of land. These trees are set from 24 to 30 feet apart. The average yield per acre is fifty barrels, while some trees will grow two or three barrels. However, from the average orchard ten years old, from $60 to $100 worth of apples are gathered every year. Such property can be purchased for $100 to $125 per acre, with a clear title.

There is plenty of property near the town of Rogers, unimproved, of course, that can be bought for $3 to $60 per acre. This land is first-class for the cultivation of fruit. Of a quarter section of this hilly land, lying alongside a mountain range, fully one hundred acres will produce good fruit. Before an orchard will bear good fruit and pay returns, it must be at least five years old. When a tree is six years old it will run from one to two bushels, but when it is ten years old it will produce from one to three barrels, or thrice as much as four years previous to attaining its full growth.

I was talking with R. L. Nance, mayor of Rogers, and a fruit buyer in that town for fifteen years or more, and he says that

in five years he expects to see the fruit business of Rogers more than doubled.

"Instead of shipping out five to fifteen cars of fruit per day in season, I expect to see a whole train load of apples, peaches and berries leave here every day," said Mr. Nance. "Elberta peaches and Ben Davis apples are the principal fruits grown in the counties of Benton and Washington. Benton County has earned the reputation of producing more apples than any other county in the United States. The peach crop in these two counties runs a full crop three years out of five."

Some of the largest fruit growers around Rogers are W. R. Cady, who owns a 190-acre orchard; W. C. Adair, who owns 100 acres; J. O. Wade owns 60 acres, M. Wheatly owns 80 acres and others own smaller farms that pay nearly as large returns as these places. The Wing estate owns 80 acres, which, it is said, money cannot buy, the profits are so large and certain.

One of the richest men in that section is Mr. W. A. Miller, who owns 180 acres, most of it being in fruit. Mr. Miller told me that he was one of the pioneers on Benton County, coming there prior to the railroad, and he has since remained steadfast to its wonderful possibilities. Mr. Miller, after working hard to get a small orchard started, added to it every year, until a few years ago he moved to town to spend the rest of his days in ease. He is worth several hundred thousand dollars, and is identified with all things that tend to build up Benton County and Rogers.

As to some of the instances of fortune-building off the fruit farm, I may relate the personal success of a few Benton County growers. When R. H. Patterson last year sold the fruit off his thirty-acre apple orchard for $3000, or $100 per acre, he did not consider the price any too high, and to prove good his assertion the dealers recently rendered a statement to him wherein they profited about $30 per acre. Major Mayberry of Lowell made a net profit of $3000 off ten acres two years ago, and sold tips off his grape vines for $400 additional. In the orchard were apples, grapes, berries, etc. J. S. Miller, living near Rogers, gathered 500 bushels, or 800 crates, off two acres of peach trees last year. He sold the peaches for $1 per crate. His net profit was 85 cents per crate. The orchard was less than five years old. The peach crop in Benton County is good three years out of five.

The fruit industry is one of the few good reasons why that section is rapidly filling up with settlers. Benton County is a good all-around farming region, aside from its orchards. It is a very healthy locality, being 1500 feet above sea level. The valleys are rich in growing grain fields, while the mountain sides are used for grapes and fruit-growing of all kinds.

As to climate, the northwest section of Arkansas cannot be excelled anywhere. The county was settled years before the war, and some of these old mansions are yet found in the heart of the woodland. Cotton plantations owned by men of the old South are here found, some of the fields yet being tended by the descendants of the negroes who refused their freedom, when it was tendered them.

I am told by an old-timer in Benton County that the days never grow warmer than ninety degrees, and the high elevation always affords a good breeze. Certain it is that no finer water can be found anywhere, and the trees that grow along the mountain sides can be hewn and sold at good prices. Some pine and white oak are found, and considerable red oak timber may be bought cheap. The timber land sells at $5 per acre, and yields timber worth as much, while after the land has once been cleared it is worth $15 an acre to the owner. The average rainfall is about forty inches, and there are no crop failures. The two fruit failures in the past quarter century were due entirely to the cold weather of late spring. But as a rule the evenness of temperature, both winter and summer, makes Benton County a delightful spot to call one's home. It is a fact that the climate here is that of the North and South combined, while the old

inhabitants have just enough of the southern hospitality to make one's visit there worth while and cause you to wish that you were remaining always. Owing to the mountain spurs running into the country there are springs of pure water everywhere. There is scarcely a farm that does not have a pure spring of water upon it. The water is noted for its many cures, principal among the cures effected being rheumatism, asthma, kidney trouble and liver complaint.

There are thousands of acres of government land in the counties of Benton and Washington. This land may be settled upon under the homestead act, and paid for at the end of five years. The bottom lands and the fruit lands may be had cheaply, while ranches for cattle and sheep are found in abundance.

As the fruit industry grows in Benton and Washington counties so do other enterprises. A fruit evaporator has just been placed in operation at Rogers, and handles 1200 bushels of apples per day. The cost of the plant was $4000. Fruit is taken to this place and run through several different machines, first the peeler, then the bleacher, then the slicer, and later tossed into a large drying room, where, by a dry heat process, the fruit is evaporated in sixteen hours. The industry of shipping dried apples is quite a gigantic one, and is carried on at Rogers and Springdale, after a wholesale fashion. Dried fruit is much more compact and brings a higher price. Apples at the evaporator sell at about twenty cents per bushel. There is an opening for plants of this kind at several points along the Frisco System, in Benton County. At Bentonville there is a peach brandy distillery, said to be the largest in the United States. The Elberta peach makes fine brandy, hence peaches and grapes are used in large quantities for brandy and wine-making throughout northwest Arkansas.

THE OSAGE INDIAN RESERVATION TO OPEN.

The Osage Indians, the richest redskins of the West, are soon to become citizens of Oklahoma and voters under the flag. Their lands will be thrown open to white settlement—that is, the residue lands—for the Indians have agreed that the reservation shall be allotted to them. The 1,500,000 acres of land in the reservation are rich in agricultural and mining resources, while the woods abound with game and the streams are filled with fish.

The greater portion of the Osage country is now leased to the cattlemen at low rates. The Indians secure about $40,000 per annum from 25 cattlemen who control the grazing leases. The Indians also have several million dollars on deposit at the treasury in Washington, and every man, woman and child of the tribe draws $50 interest money every three months.

The Osages are the least industrious and civilized of any of the Southwestern tribes. They work but little, although they are advancing slowly and assuming more and more the manner of their neighbors. For several years the government has been taking more and more of the power away from these Indians, as administered through their tribal council, and in this way placing them in contact with pale-face methods.

Bird McGuire, delegate to Congress from Oklahoma, has interested himself in the opening of the Osage reservation, as well as the government pasture reserve in southern Oklahoma, and he will petition Congress this winter to take action and open both reservations. Oklahoma has reached that stage in her development where these Indian lands must be thrown open to allow the farmers to have full power over the soil.

FARM DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHWEST.

BY W. R. D.

The southwest is today a nation of home builders. Those who have taken up their abode upon the broad plains of Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas and the Indian Territory, are not the restless boomers of a score of seasons ago who moved about constantly in their prairie schooners, and who had no permanent home. The constant stream of humanity that has poured there have bought homes and settled down for the remainder of their lives. In Kansas, where the people a score of years ago were bent on getting away, are found a well content class, especially among the agriculturists.

Despite the fact that the southwest is today far from being sparsely settled, government land experts claim that by

In Pioneer Days.

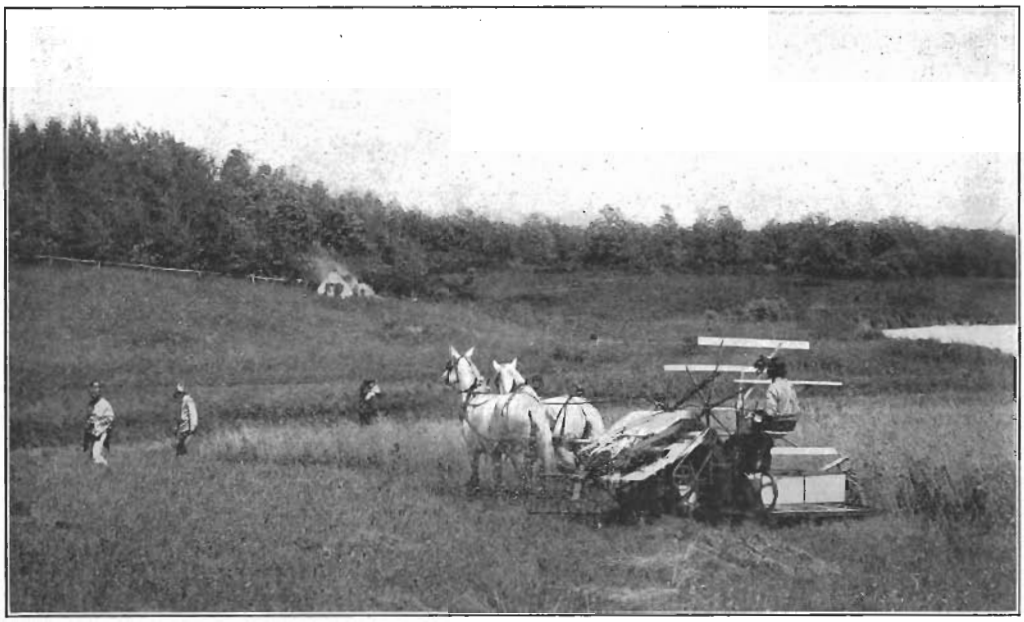
into the southwest in recent years has been a crowd of sturdy agriculturists and town builders, men who had come to stay.

What more convincing proof than the fact that out of 80,000 people who settled in one state in one year, 70,000 of them remained and voted at the first election. A gigantic increase for a community, was it not? But such was the case.

Oklahoma has shown remarkable growth in recent years and most of the thousands of homeseekers who have gone modernized systems of farming that are going into vogue, and the combination of the cattle ranching with crop growing, the southwest will support a population of twenty million additional people. These people are going into the southwest at the rate of from ten to twenty thousand a month. Since the railroads have organized cheap excursion rates from the middle west to the southwest the farmers from all parts of the United States have clamored for an opportunity not only to

gaze upon but to settle in the land of sunshine. Even in far away New England colonists are organizing into bands to emigrate to the southwest. The opportunities for the home builder are many. Cheap land is in plenty and fortunes are being accumulated every season on the farms and ranches of Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas and Indian Territory and Missouri.

Individuals have grown rich in farming in the southwest in recent years and the opportunities are even better now than ever before. The success of the Miller Brothers with their "101" ranch in northern Oklahoma has already been related in these pages. Their ranch comprises 50,000 acres of ranch and farm land which yields them from $75,000 to $100,000 profit annually. John T. Stewart, who owns several hundred farms in Kansas and forty or fifty in Oklahoma, and is many times a millionaire, made it all in wheat growing and the buying of land when it was cheap. He went to Kansas thirty years ago with only a few hundred dollars, and by implicit faith in the soil he made himself rich. M. M. Sherman, who owns 40,000 acres in Western Kansas, accumulated his fortune in the ranch business in that section. Mr. W. H. Spaulding, a wealthy cattleman, with ranches in the Creek Nation, became rich in the southwest. He is worth perhaps a million dollars. W. E. Halsell, of Vinita, I. T., owns 180,000 acres of grazing land in the Panhandle of Texas. He settled in the Indian Territory a poor man. Meyer Harff of San Antonio, Texas, is today worth two million dollars, having made it all in careful management of a cattle ranch in Crockett County, which he continues to manage in the new farm-ranch fashion. John Kennedy of Corpus Cristi, Texas, owns 400,000 acres in southwestern Texas. He started a score or more of years ago with nothing but admirable perseverance. Ed. C. Lasatar has a herd of 20,000 steers the year around, roaming over Duval, Star and Higald counties. He secured them all through faith and hard work in the section of domain where he is a man of great power and affluence today. W. C. Greene and a number of capitalists in the East have recently formed a corporation to buy seven million acres of land in Texas for farming purposes. David Rankin of Tarkio, Mo., started farming on a small scale thirty years ago; today he is a millionaire, having made his money by close application to the soil. Scores of others have

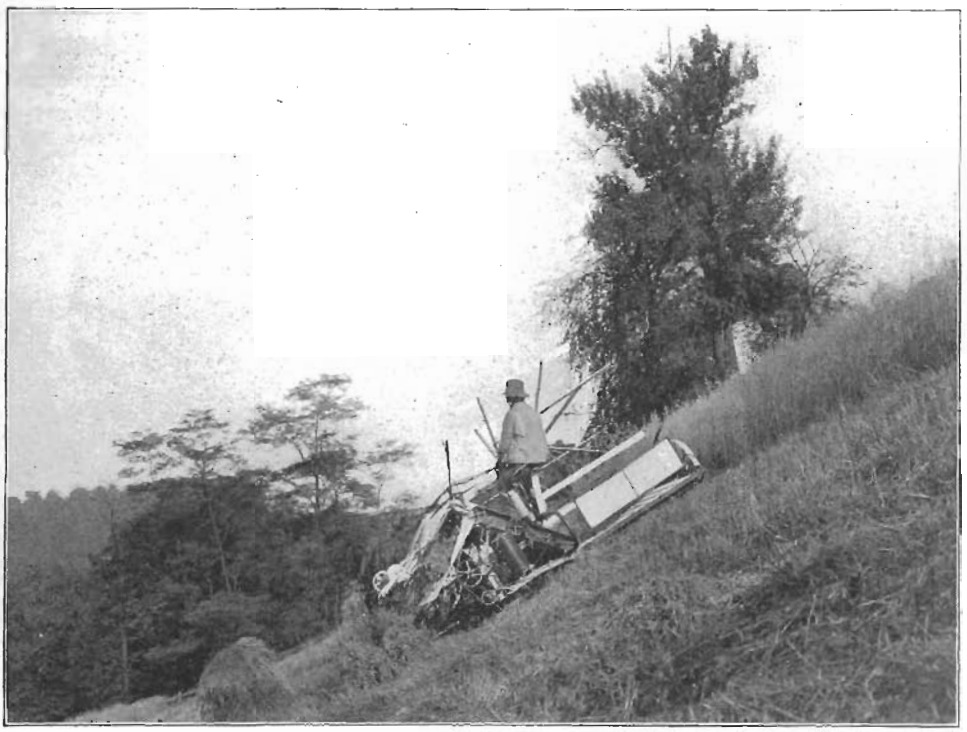


Indians at Work.

been equally successful in fortune building.

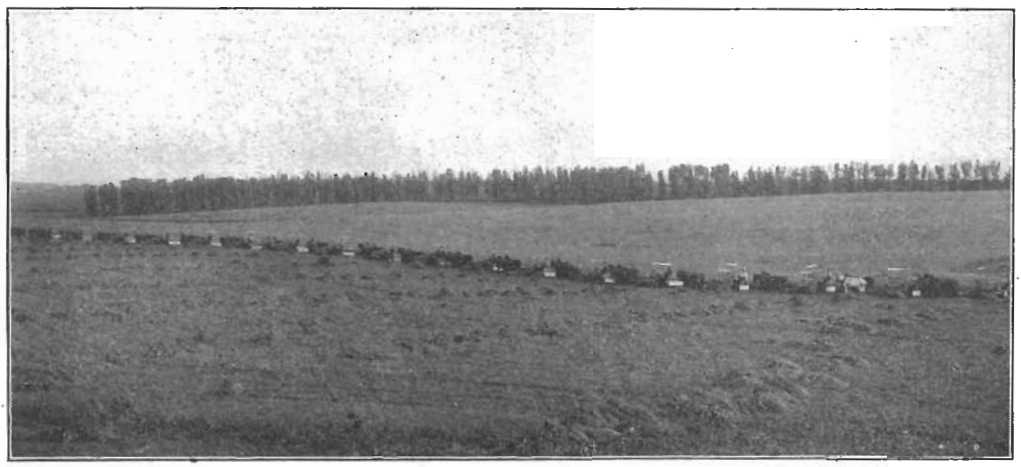
Since the rapid settlement of the southwest the cattle business has lost its once free reign of the soil. Ranchmen are compelled to control their pasture land and figure closely upon the sustenance necessary for the fattening of each steer. Fences are now erected at considerable cost, and when pastures run short of grass, the herds must be put on feed at heavy expense. Consequently the economics of modern cattle ranching need the strictest of business judgment if profits are to be realized. The business of cattle ranching, especially in the southwest, where land is more and more in demand, is no longer the mere turning loose of vast herds upon the plains, and allowing them to fatten and prosper of their own accord. From the time the small yearlings are placed in the barnyard of the modern cattle ranch of the southwest, until driven out of the stock car at the yards of the marketing place, their owners are under a constant strain. The onward march of civilization is due to congestion of the cattle business, its crowding into a small area as compared to former years. But the cattlemen are making money just the same, even in larger sums than they did when they were called kings and wore wide hats and clanking spurs. Better business methods are required and herein lies the story of their success.

A dozen years ago a Texas cattle man asserted that twenty-five acres of grass land was sufficient for the fattening of one steer. Today an equally successful rancher allows three acres. Better blood is being bred into the range cattle of today. So the cattle ranch of today is not a cattle ranch at all, but a farm run on a large scale. Take a 50,000 acre tract of land formerly used as a cattle ranch. Not less than 15,000 acres of this would now be in cultivation and 5,000 acres in alfalfa. The remainder in pasture land. Old rangers would have scouted sowing a portion of their pasture in cereals for feeding purposes, but here is where the farmer-ranchman today accumulates his wealth.



Farming in the Ozarks.

A visit to the cattle and farming country of the southwest of today is not without picturesque interest. The scenery is beyond ordinary description. The people are hospitable, the air fills one's lungs and clears the most clouded brain. Modern ideas have been adopted in everything, the rural southwest is indeed more modern than one would believe who has never paid a visit to it. The people are industrious, and there are few who sit in the shade of their sod huts on a hot summer's afternoon gazing at mirages on the plains and dreaming of good times that are to come. The sod huts are few and far between while the era of prosperity for which the pioneers waited and suffered, has already arrived. The virgin soil is yielding to their efforts.



On an Oklahoma Wheat Ranch

I boarded a train one clear morning in mid-summer bound for the cattle ranches of short-grass Kansas, a typical cattle country of the present day in the great southwest. There were crowds in the bare coaches—people in modern styles of dress. Women whose bearing bespoke cultured training boarded the coaches along the line, men who were said to be rich cattlemen appeared in the plain dress of common citizens, and cowboys wore none of the fancy trappings of frontier days. On the train that carried me out was a young man whose relatives owned an extensive ranch. He was a University student, and dressed in the latest mode. With him later I attended some of the frontier functions. They were conducted according to the rules of well organized society, and in the ranch houses, even the cowboys came to the table wearing coats, and using the best of manners. Nowadays the only really rough dressed people are tenderfeet who come out clad in buckskin suits with the purpose of living the life of the cowboy of other days. These fellows are "guyed" so unmercifully that they soon adopt the fashion of the natives. Despite the fact that the west is yet far from thickly settled they have an excellent system of social amusements, and life is far from dull or lonely. The people are living a happy life, accepting the problems of life after the fashion of a philosopher.

To the veteran tourist in the southwest, the recollection of train travel brings horrible fancies. Even the railroad men admitted the roughness of their tracks, the dirty coaches and ill-accommodations along the line. But they could not well afford any better, for travel in early frontier days was far from brisk, the only business of extensive revenue coming from the transportation of cattle to the markets. These mixed passenger trains had a schedule which few of them followed. They were apt to stop along the way and shoot prairie chickens if an opportunity was presented. Cattle trains nearly always took the right-of-way. But now what

a change has been wrought. The Frisco System, with its famous fast train, the "Meteor," ploughing through the southwest, and other railroads with their fliers, the man who wishes to go from one town to the next barely has time to become well arranged in his seat before he must get off again. The coaches are equipped in elegant fashion, the engines that draw these trains are of modern pattern and the work that the railroads in the southwest have to do is something marvelous.

The trainmen stick close to the motto of speed and schedule time. The addition of so many new towns along the lines of every railroad has caused this severity upon the part of the railroad men who were once so accommodating as to stop between stations and allow passengers to alight nearer their place of residence. Naturally both passenger and freight traffic have increased since the settlement of the country. Thousands of additional helpers are required, and stations that one year ago were cared for by one agent must needs have several to say nothing of one man to attend to the telegraphing, which likewise increased with the influx of settlers, who have their troubles and the business affairs that need quick transmission to other parts.

The subject of irrigation has assumed national importance. The arable portion of public domain has been exhausted. With the enormous influx of foreigners, seeking homes in our midst, our rapidly growing population has forced attention to the vast area of land practically valueless without water. The national government should provide streams for the arid regions and relieve the congested farming population of certain sections of the East.

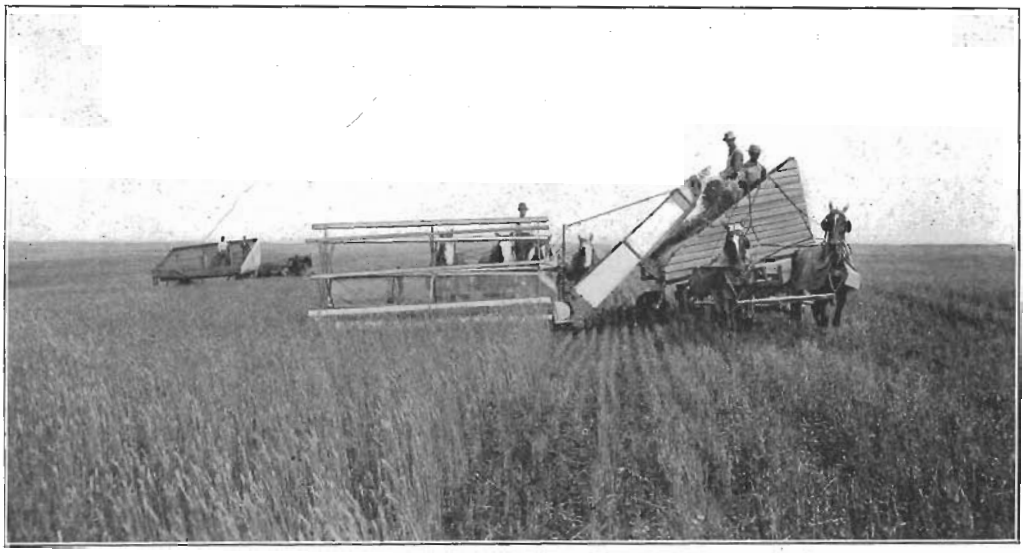
Rice harvest in Texas, near Houston.

President Roosevelt said recently that the government desired to settle the arid west, to dispose of this land to settlers who would build homes upon it, and to accomplish this water must be brought within their reach. So it seems that the government will do something after all. Congress passed an act in June, 1902, which provides that the receipts from the sale and disposal of public lands in sixteen of the states and territories shall apply to the construction of. irrigation works for the reclaimation of arid lands. A restriction is placed on the sale of irrigated lands and

that is no one person shall acquire more than 160 acres.

The southwest is not troubled so badly with arid lands although there are thousands of acres that would be made more fertile if water were provided. The rainfall in all of the states traversed by the Frisco System is regular throughout the summer. Kansas a few years ago was called a home of drouths but bumper crops have been produced there in recent seasons and it seems that the elements will smile once more upon the fields of the sunflower region. One thing is certain—forests are natural reservoirs, and since the growing of trees on the plains of Kansas and Oklahoma, these two sections have been visited with more rainfall than before the trees were there. High winds in Kansas have softened to gentle zephyrs, all because of large forests that have been allowed to grow in the pastures of the Kansas agriculturists. So instead of irrigating, the astute farmer of the plains commences to grow trees, which is cheaper and more lasting. Kansas, especially the short grass section, has been making a stern fight against Colorado for alleged theft of the waters of the Arkansas river, which was an irrigation ditch of beneficial degree in Kansas.

Irrigation is a factor that applies to the far southwest more than it does to Kansas, Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Texas, but there is no doubt but that irrigation would redeem and make more fertile many thousand acres even in this section of the West. Sixty million acres of vacant public land in the West can be reclaimed by irrigation if the government takes a hand in this proposition, which is likely. There are altogether 600 million acres of arid land in the great West, but of course not nearly half of this can ever be made suitable for farming. Congress has already taken some action in favor of the system of national irrigation, but some Eastern senators and congressmen are fighting the proposition because they believe the supply of farm products and beef cattle is already in excess of the demand. In other words they are fighting against the settlement of the West, knowing that it will take settlers from their own districts. But the charges they make are entirely without warrant. West of the Rockies and living on the Pacific slope are three million farmers who are called upon to furnish farm supplies to one thousand million people in the Orient. They are not doing it on their present area and could not do it even upon the entire semi-arid tract of land, were these fields put in fit condition for cultivation. The supply



Gathering the Kansas sheaves.

of farm products and beef sold abroad is increasing every day, but can never be filled from this country. To the southwest and the far west, the Orient is looking with intense interest for additional supplies to feed their hungry multitude. If the residue of public land in the West was supplied with water, it is estimated the ground would support a population equal to that of the whole United States. In many sections of the far west private capital has done much toward irrigating public land and thereby increasing its value and making fortunes for those who conducted such enterprises.

It is claimed that with the present ratio of increase in population farm lands will have increased in price to such an extent as to be worth from $300 to $500 per acre in fifty years from now. The arable lands will have been settled upon by that time and every foot of soil in the country will be subject to cultivation in farms perhaps far better than those in present use.

Farming and ranching cover a broad field today. There are 10,432,922 people engaged in agricultural pursuits, while all other industries engage but 18,845,000. One-third of the area of the United States is devoted to farming. There are today 5,738,657 farms valued at $16,674,690,247. Of this amount $3,560,198,191 represents the value of buildings and $13,114,492,056 the value of lands and improvements. The value of farm implements and machinery was $761,261,550, and of live stock $3,078,050,041, the total value of farm property being $20,514,001,638. The value of the crops for 1902 was five and one-third billion dollars while twenty years ago the average value of farm products was two billion dollars. Exports of animal products for this year are about sixty million dollars, of which forty million dollars was in beef. In the United States there are seventy million cattle, sixty-two million sheep and sixty-four million swine. The United States has 35 per cent of the world's cattle, fourteen per cent of its sheep, and 52 per cent of its swine. In the last twenty years the value of the farm animals has increased from two to four billion dollars. This increase has been almost entirely in the south and west. In 1900 there were four times as many farms as in 1850, while the value was five times as great. The principal increase in value is reported in the south and west. The west shows today the average values per farm to be higher than in the east, due of course to the fact that farms average 1,000 acres in the west while the general average is 146 acres, many eastern farms being even smaller. There were at the time the last farm census was taken 53,406 farms that reported no income, but none of these were located in the west. Southwest reported a higher average of income, compared to the value of the land, than any other section of the United States. Fully sixty per cent of the range cattle of the United States is held in the southwest while almost one-third of the wheat is grown in several of the southwestern states. The northwest, once the greatest wheat producing section of the United States, is fast being outclassed by Kansas and Oklahoma. Texas of course leads in the cattle industry. Clearly the southwest has the best of these two industries.

Combinations among other industries have been common in recent years and in a few years more we may see combinations among the farmers. The scheme is at least worthy of consideration. Corporations already own big farms, like the Dalrymples in North Dakota and the Millers in Oklahoma. These men have made their fortunes by conducting farms on a gigantic scale. As the southwest has in recent years been given over in certain sections to immense farms and ranches this portion of farming is not untimely for discussion. The corporation that owns several farms saves in the purchase of machinery, this being a big item of expense in farming. They can secure helpers to a better advantage, they can conduct a big harvest or crop planting on a much cheaper basis. The expense account would in a hundred different ways be decreased. Naturally to conduct such a business enterprise the farmer must be a shrewd and well educated man, who can handle a column of figures as well as he can a plow, who can buy machinery with an eye to saving as well as he can drive a bargain

with the man who would contract to thresh his grain. The whole future of agriculture depends upon the business ability of the farmer and not the soil. For the government is spending a million dollars annually in fertilizing the soil and sending experts throughout the farming region teaching men how to best sow their fields, how to handle the soil to get its best fruits. All the modern farmer needs is the ability to follow the guiding hand and he will be successful. Higher education applies to their work today as much as to the professional man. In the southwest the percentage of illiteracy is less than in the educated East, while more schools are being established in county than in town, so it is again little wonder why the farmer succeeds.

VACANT LANDS OF THE SOUTHWEST.

An unprecedented rush of immigrants to the South and West in the past few years naturally leads to the inquiry, "Where do all of these people settle?"

With a little investigation into the existing facts about land in that section of the country traversed by the Frisco System, it is very easy to see what becomes of the thousands of homeseekers who take advantage of the cheap rates and journey Southwest. Opportunities exist by the thousands but of the many opportunities none are greater than the free land proposition. In Texas alone the state yet controls several hundred million acres that may be acquired by living on the same three years. One is entitled, in Texas, to an entire section, while in other states and territories the free land is limited to one-quarter section.

In Arkansas and Missouri alone there are millions of acres of free land that may be settled upon by the payment of $14 for the filing fee and remaining on the land for fourteen months. This land is rich in mineral deposits and timber, besides it has been tested and found to be excellent for fruit growing. Recently the writer gathered from the government statistics as to vacant land in states and territories traversed by the Frisco System as follows:

Arkansas, 7,238 square miles; Missouri, 1,400 square miles; Oklahoma, 15,213 square miles; Kansas, 1,146 square miles; Texas, 200 million acres; Indian Territory, 31,000 square miles (reserved for Indians but now for sale to white settlers); Alabama, 1,258 square miles; Tennessee, none.

The smallest area of vacant public land in any Western state along the Frisco System, or any state in the West in fact, is Kansas, containing less than two per cent of the state area in public domain. This state, if consideration is had only of its public land area, is misjudged, for there are yet millions of acres of unoccupied land in the western portion, much of which is yet unclaimed. The rapid settlement of the government land and the fact leading to a transfer of title from federal to private ownership, was due to the numerous booms in the Sunflower State. As a consequence the first settlers went away after having partially farmed the land. The drouths in those pioneer days were the cause of the bursting of the bubble, but today the rainfall has increased all over the Southwest, at least fifteen or twenty per cent and vegetation is therefore much more rank and certain to grow to maturity.

In Oklahoma a large portion of the vacant land is "No Man's Land," in Beaver county, formerly a desert waste and a robbers' nest, but today being developed rapidly by a system of irrigation.

There is still vacant and open to settlement in the entire United States 630,000,000 acres of public lands, or one-third of the total extent of the United States. Much of this vacant land is not utilized, especially in the far Southwest, where the cattlemen and sheep men fight each other for the use of the grass privilege.

In addition to the ravage of the cattle and sheep owner upon the grasses still another class of persons are seeking to cheat the government of the public domain by stripping the forests of their richest trees. There are millions and millions of acres of rich forests, miles and miles from the railroads, that are unowned and vacant, so to speak. But at the same time settlers living in that vicinity are cutting down the trees and disposing of them, pocketing the proceeds. Much of this is being practiced in the Southwest, so common report avers.

But the richest opportunity for the homeseeker who desires to settle upon public land is to go into that portion where there is grazing land to be occupied free of charge—except for the filing fee. Of the many million acres of vacant land in the entire United States about six hundred million acres is a level, open and treeless country. Although there has not been in the past enough moisture to warrant the growth of trees, grasses and herbage of one kind or another are easily sustained by the slight rainfall, ever increasing since five years ago.

Of the 280,000,000 acres of land in Texas 260,000,000 acres are devoted to grazing; in Oklahoma there are 20,000,000 acres of pasture, rapidly, however, being converted to farming; in Kansas 15,000,000 acres, while in Missouri and Arkansas the vacant land is found in the timber and mineral section.

One of the great problems of settlement of Western public lands has been the water supply and source of the same. The irrigation proposition has been considered in Congress for years and $16,000,000 has recently been made available for the purpose of developing the semi-arid lands of the South and West. This does not imply the lands along the Frisco System, due to the fact that there are no lands but where wells may be dug deep enough to secure an abundant supply of water. One of the favorite methods of irrigation in Texas, along the territory adjacent to the Frisco System, is the use of canals. Land in Central Texas now worth $5 an acre is being watered by irrigation canals and made worth just three times the same amount. Canals forty to one hundred miles long and carrying as much water as an ordinary river, are being installed all over Central Texas. The Colorado river, with its steady flow of pure water, affords excellent basis for irrigation ditches.

The public lands of Texas never belonged to the National Government because of an arrangement made at the time Texas was admitted to the Union. Great portions of this state land have been given away to various public enterprises but millions and millions of acres yet remain and that which has been disposed of may now be bought at reasonable prices, because the cattle men who own it are selling out.

In a recent estimate made by a government land expert, it was said that the Southwest had been settled to a more thorough extent in the past five years than the original states were settled in one hundred years, following their first organization.

The settlement of these vacant lands is not urged by any land agents, the resources of the area are not exploited by any railroad company—due in the first place to the fact that few have ever visited them and studied the conditions and again that no land agent would be allowed to realize any large profit in locating settlers, therefore the magnitude of the vacant lands in the Southwest has never been dwelt upon with much vehemence.

THE COMMON FATE.

Dan Cupid limped into his office,
All battered and bruised was his head;
A bandage and splints graced his person—
"I umpired a love-match," he said.

—Smart Set.

COLONY OF VEGETARIANS.

Unique settlement in Northwest Arkansas fruit lands and its simple purposes in life.

Pathfinder Park, comprising eight thousand acres of land in Benton County, along the Frisco System, in northwest Arkansas, has been set aside for a most unique, but worthy, purpose. Edgar Wallace Conable has colonized this tract of rich fruit-farming land with a sect of people whose creed is simple and whose mission is to blaze the way to every successful condition in life by a principle of equity. The colony has grown very popular with north Arkansas people, and Mr. Conable, who has just moved his publishing plant from Roswell, Colo., to Key, Benton County, Ark., says that the success of his vegetarian colony is assured. They will develop the soil and make it their future home. The teachings of Prof. Conable are rather unique, and have been called advance thoughts by those not in favor with his ideas. That the plan is a success among certain people no one can doubt, for the teacher of this doctrine has surrounded himself and his advocates with all that is good in life, and they receive a great deal of attention from the public prints and thousands of followers.

In describing their creed, Mr. Conable says: "First of all, I propose to teach people how to live, the way to attain the highest state of mental and physical development. This embraces extended periods of fasting for purification of the body and the elimination of disease and diseased conditions. It contemplates the non-use of meats, alcoholic stimulants and tobacco. It teaches complete mastery of one's self, that no living thing may be deprived of life the Creator has given it. It teaches people to live in the fullness of God-given powers vested in all life. It teaches men and women the way out of the deadening effects of physical excesses, and establishes them on a plane of living that will not tolerate lust in any form. It contemplates and teaches a mode of living that will bring every human being who desires to unfold all the faculties into the path leading to the fullest physical, mental and spiritual development. It teaches people how to feed upon natural life-giving things Nature has provided, none of which are pre-masticated, pre-digested or pre-assimilated by artificial process. It demonstrates the devitalizing effects and deadening influences of the cook stove and the hash purveyor. It teaches people how to live on foods that carry the highest living vital properties, the living elements of which are not neutralized or extracted by the unnatural process of cooking. It teaches that fruits, nuts and uncooked cereals are the diets for man."

Aside from these teachings, which seem to take well with a large following, Prof. Conable proposes to establish at his colony technical schools in the mechanical and higher arts, where the youths of the colony may learn trades, professions and art. Occult science will be taught, as will physical and mental culture, in keeping with the ideas of the professor. Mills, factories and all branches of industry will follow the development of this land. Fasting and cold baths are unique fads among these people.

Prof. Conable does not believe in killing anything, even to snakes, and he will expel from the colony any man or woman who is caught in the act of destroying life. No animal food must be eaten. There are 2,000,000 followers of this creed in the United States. The 8000 acres of land will be worked as a business proposition by Prof. Conable, who inaugurated a colony on similar lines near Roswell, Colo., until he found that Arkansas was a much more favored spot.

It is proposed to lease a certain portion of the fruit-growing land to those who desire it—not more than ten acres to any one family. Any industrious family in this

section can make good money from ten acres of land. The whole concern is run as a stock company, and to lease ten acres one must buy a certain amount of stock in the company. The business of the colony will be to grow fruit and berries principally. I quote from the description of Prof. Conable the home located upon this property:

"The homestead is a giant in stature, built in style of most Southern homes prior to the war. The house is a two-story frame structure, containing ten rooms, each one of which is eighteen feet square, with ten-foot ceilings. There are halls nine feet wide running through the house each direction. As the house sits upon a slight rise in a beautiful valley, there is no time, even in the hottest part of the season, when there is not a cooling breeze. Trees from fifty to seventy feet high are found in the yard. There are several commodious buildings in connection with this home."

A great many persons are joining the colony, and the 8000 acres will undoubtedly soon be well occupied by these thrifty people.

OVER THE LINE OF THE ARKANSAS VALLEY AND WESTERN RAILWAY.

In building its lines here and there across the Southwest the Frisco System always chooses territory that is a trade-bringer. It opens news fields to the farmers and offers new opportunities for town builders. Commercialism is always considered and in this the Frisco System has been more than successful. The line of the Arkansas Valley & Western, a branch of the Frisco System, that is being built from Red Fork to Avard, Oklahoma, thence to Denver, Colo., is through a fertile section of Oklahoma. The district is not only fertile, but it is thickly settled, penetrating an old community and many towns of vast commercial importance. In Indian Territory the road goes through the Creek nation, thence into Payne County, Oklahoma, thence through Noble, Garfield and into Woods County to Avard, the present terminus. Some of the good towns along the line are Enid, Pawnee, Perry and Carmen. Towns that are building en route are Carrier, Goltra, Helena and several others. Mr. T. S. Chambers, townsite agent for the road, is building these towns.

From Red Fork to Avard is a distance of two hundred miles. About seventy miles of track have been laid, the road now reaching from Red Fork to Perry. As soon as the track is laid to Enid, which will be in September, it is expected that the construction company will turn that portion over to the Frisco System management and trains will commence running. The grade has been made all the way to Avard and the track is being laid at a rapid rate. The construction is being superintended from Enid.

The Arkansas Valley & Western crosses the Santa Fe at Perry and Pawnee, the Rock Island and Frisco at Enid, the Denver & Gulf at Fairmount, and the Orient and the Choctaw & Northern at Carmen. The road, leaving the Creek nation, crosses the Cimmarron river and follows the divide between the Salt Fork and the Cimmarron through the central portion of Oklahoma.

The soil is a black sandy loam and productive of cotton, wheat, corn and other cereals of the Southwest. Alfalfa is grown to an enormous extent along this line, which on that account has been dubbed the "Alfalfa Route," and is so known among Oklahomans. It is a rich acquisition to the Frisco System and offers to immigrants and those coming into the Territory a ripe field of business endeavor.

SOME BIG TREES IN NORTH ARKANSAS.

Fabulous wealth lies in the big trees of the north Arkansas forest. Some of the big trees of that section are worth hundreds of dollars. What would you think of taking up a piece of Government land, paying only $14.00 for the filing fee, and upon this land finding several trees that would run 1,000 feet each? In addition to the big trees the whole area is covered with timber suitable for making railroad ties. In fact by dint of labor this land that may be obtained practically free, can be made to pay several hundred dollars per acre from the timber resources, and in addition after the land has been cleared of the forest it is worth from $15 to $25 per acre. Patents for these wild lands are being much sought after.

I was talking with Mr. William Johnson of Springfield, Mo., a few weeks ago about North Arkansas timber. He is an enthusiast upon that subject. Mr. Johnson has a number of timber cruisers—men who hunt out the richest timber land—in his employ and he is well posted upon the natural wealth of the timber. He talks with interest upon north Arkansas timber and tells some wonderful stories of the rich opportunity for the homeseeker and the investor.

"The hardwoods are especially fine," said Mr. Johnson. "There are many thousands of acres from which can be cut from 2,000 to 4,000 feet of quartered oak, to say nothing of the lower grades of oak, other hardwoods and timber for ties. This white oak timber will average from 500 to 1,000 feet per tree. The best oak, however, will average 4,000 feet per acre, and where there are several large trees it runs the cut up to ten to fifteen thousand feet per acre.

"While investigating this timber I found numerous trees from five to six feet in diameter, and many even larger. The hickory is also very fine and of excellent growth, averaging eighteen to thirty-six inches in diameter. There is also a large quantity of black locust, which is valuable for posts. The linn timber is also very fine, averaging sixteen to thirty-six inches in diameter and upward. Linn trees are usually a thrifty growth and the quality of the timber is good. These trees grow quite tall before branching, thus making a long bodied tree. The demand for linn timber is on the increase, as it is largely used in the manufacture of vehicles and for other purposes.

"There is not a better grade of ash to be found than grows in North Arkansas. Most of the ash trees are of medium size. The best grade of red or pencil cedar abounds along the streams. Walnut and cherry are unsurpassed in size. One firm has shipped out more than 1,500,000 feet of walnut bought and shipped by other companies. A leading sewing machine company, which uses nine million feet of walnut every year, is getting a good portion of their supply this year from North Arkansas. And yet there is no danger of taking it all away for many years to come. I measured two walnut trees which scaled 15,000 feet and at the present prices these two trees alone would net on the market $1,875."

Mr. Johnson's statements are not in the least overdrawn, for he has made a careful study of this timber district for conservative investors and he is qualified to speak with authority. There are many other men living in Springfield, Harrison, Eureka and along the Frisco System, who corroborate the assertions made above.

Some of this land upon which these trees are found is government land and may be settled upon free, while most of it belongs to private parties who are selling it out at prices ranging from $3.00 to $5.00 per acre. The railroads are fast penetrating this section and lumber mills are found everywhere. Thousands of timber cutters are found in this region now, but there are still millions of acres of available timber land that can be had at very cheap prices.

MARSHFIELD.

A thriving Missouri town of today that has bravely risen from the demolition of a cyclone and is fast making itself a mart for a vast industrial field.

More than twenty-three years have passed since Marshfield, the county seat of Webster county, was swept away by a terrible cyclone in which eighty-five lives were lost and every house in the town was razed to the ground. Only the lots were left and upon these since then a new town

Business House, Marshfield.

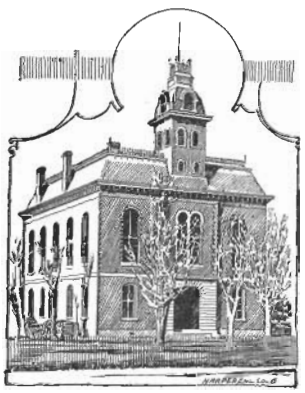
has been built. There is nothing wonderful in re-building a town in twenty-three years, lots of them in Oklahoma rise to such standing in a week. But imagine a plucky sort of people it must have required to come back and toss the bones of their dead out of the way to lay the foundation for a new home.

Marshfield, on the day of the terrific cyclone, had 900 inhabitants; it has the same number today. Eight hundred of these passed through the storm and when you see a man minus a leg or arm it is not always due to his brave war record, but the fact that the wind pounced upon him with sudden fury on the terrible afternoon of April 18, 1880.

The town is out of debt and so is the county, the people have plenty of good roads, a fine court house, public schools at every cross road, land sells as low as $7 an acre and as high as $100. Marshfield and the Webster county are in the big red apple belt of the Ozark region and there are any number of fine orchards around Marshfield.

Land suitable for orchards can be bought as low as $5 an acre, while $5 will pay for the clearing, five dollars for the stock and planting and in seven years or less you have a full bearing orchard bringing you in $100 to $300 per acre per season. The failure of fruit is unknown in Webster county. The apples are shipped to St. Louis and are said to be of the finest flavor of any fruit that reaches that market. Apple growing has not reached the popularity that it will in the next few years when northern farmers who are settling in there have commenced to harvest their fruit. The wheat fields of Webster county are increasing in acreage since the northern and eastern farmer has commenced to invade the domain of the cave dwellers, and mills and elevators are going up all along the Frisco line in this and other counties along the Uplift. In harvesting season thousands of bushels of wheat are hauled in and dumped into the elevators.

The town is on a boom and is offering inducements to eastern and northern people to settle there. The town would afford a mill and elevator, a canning factory,



Court House, Marshfield.

and a drying and evaporating plant. The goat industry could be followed with great profit in Webster, mainly for the clearing of the underbrush and raising the price of land, if for no other reason.

Devil's Den, twelve miles south of the

town, is one of the many unique formations of the earth in Webster county that has made it a center of geological research in years past. This den is located in a piece of ragged, flinty land, skirted by a strip of timber. The crater is 150 feet in diameter, and no bottom has ever been found. It is about fifty feet to water and from this underground lake often comes pieces of cedar timber, which has given rise to the belief that this is the outcropping of an underground river that flows through the entire Ozark range. The water is very cold and never changes in winter or summer. These unique caverns are found all through the mountains but Devil's Den is one of the strangest and attracts many visitors throughout the summer.

AT THE GATES.

MERIBAH PHILBRICK-REED.

There came to the gates that are high and wide
A man and a woman fair to see;
"Living and lost, or doomed and dead,"
(These were the words the woman said),
"Whither thou goest I follow thee."
And the man, as he bent to her lips' cool wine:
"We who are joined by the right divine,
Joined in heaven or hell shall be."

But he who guarded the portals wide
Laughed—for he knew that the man had lied.

Hand in hand to the threshold red,
Craven and culprit fair to see;
But one drew back. "For my soul's sake,"
(These were the words he faltering spake),
"Enter first, as thou lovest me."
She raised the latch, and her lips were aflame;
"Mine the scorching and mine the shame;
Sweet is the cup which I drain for thee."

The gates swung out with a mighty moan
As the woman, smiling, passed through—alone.

—Smart Set.

THE INDIAN TERRITORY GIRL.

BY MISS ORA V. EDDLEMAN,
Editor Twin Territories, Indian Magazine.

That the Indian Territory girl has been misrepresented and misunderstood is a fact well known to those acquainted with conditions in Indian Territory. Why it has been so is not so difficult to answer as why it should continue so. People naturally do not expect the daughter of the aborigines to have developed into the intelligent young lady she is—yet, why should she not become all that is expected of an intelligent American girl?

It is true that deplorable conditions exist among the numerous tribes of Indians in the Western states; it is true that the women of these tribes are often ungainly in appearance, are dirty as to "housekeeping," and are prone to disdain progressive ideas, clinging to the customs of their

Miss Leota Crabtree (Creek).

forefathers in many instances. But are there not whole settlements of white people in the United States who are non-pro-

Mrs. Agnes F. Colbert (Chickasaw).

gressive, who do not take advantage of the opportunities held out to them—who repulse advancement and cling to wornout customs of speech and manner, and where the women are uncouth and unattractive?

The Indian Territory girl is an entirely different being from the world's idea of her. She is not for a moment to be compared with the crude Indian opposed to advancement, for, be it known, the Indian Territory girl belongs to the Five Civilized Tribes. These tribes have ever stood for progress and civilization. Of old, so history records, the warriors were brave as the bravest, and true as steel to their honor. Today, the noble Cherokees, the brave Choctaws, the progressive Chickasaws, the stern Seminoles, and the wealthy Creeks—all have good homes and most of them rear their daughters in comfort, if not luxury. The girls of the Indian Territory have splendid educational advantages, for all the tribes support excellent schools. A writer in the Chicago Journal has the following to say concerning the schools of the Cherokees:

"The Cherokee Indian may well claim to be civilized. Here in Tahlequah are two schools which would do ample credit to Boston, Mass.—and these schools were founded by the tribe fourteen years before the Civil War broke out. The boys' seminary is in the building put up at that time, while that for the girls is a fine large brick building erected in 1887 to replace the original, which was destroyed by fire. In the male seminary are 180 boys ranging in age from 7 to 19, while in the girls'

Miss Erin Murray (Choctaw).

school are 208 girls of similar ages. All are members of the Cherokee tribe, and a brighter looking, trimmer, more intelli-

gent lot of young people will not be found in a 1,000-mile journey."

Miss Stedham (Seminole).

In view of this fact—that the Indians of the Indian Territory are really civilized in every way—why do people persist in their erroneous opinion of the Indian Territory girl?

Mrs. Mabel W. Anderson (Cherokee).

When I asked a certain attractive young Cherokee girl for her photo to be used in a magazine article, she said, "Oh, I would willingly let you have it, but every time my picture is published as that of an Indian girl I get such abominable letters from 'greeney' young fellows in the states, wanting to write to me or to marry me!" The scorn in her eyes would have properly "squelched" such "greeney young fellows" could they have seen her then.

The average girl of the territory compares very favorably indeed with her white cousin. Her figure is erect and graceful,

Miss Agnes Bisbee, a "white" girl of the Territory.

her eyes bright and intelligent. She is tasteful in the selection of her clothes, being sure that they are "the latest" as to mode and fabric. She excels in music, is an interesting conversationalist, and her whole appearance is that of the well-bred, educated, stylish American girl. Yet in her veins flows the blood of warrior forefathers, and she is proud to trace her ancestry to the aborigines of America. And

for this blood of a noble race she is misunderstood and misrepresented — is thought incapable of advancement and of the refinements of womanhood. Is it any wonder that the Indian Territory girl sometimes asks herself whether it is not the people of the states who lack education—lack knowledge of an important spot and an important people within the great United States?

LEBANON, A NATURAL HEALTH RESORT.

One hundred and eightly miles from St. Louis after one has been whirled along the Ozark Uplift, higher and higher with each mile farther from the World's Fair City, you come to Lebanon. This, once a far-famed health resort, sits out upon the plateau of the Ozark range and commands attention by the width and cleanliness of its streets and the surrounding beauty of the houses and homes. Lebanon has been for years notable as one of the cleanest and prettiest little towns in the state and such is the fact, one will admit after an hour's drive about the city.

Typical orchard near Lebanon, Mo.

Lebanon has for years remained in the even tenor of its own way, not seeking to progress until recently, new blood has been infused into the place and with the organization of a summer resort at HaHaTonka Park, a short distance away. Lebanon is certain to take advantage of the influx of settlers and progress everywhere observed along the Frisco System. For a number of years an immense sanitarium stood in the west portion of the town and was visited every year by hundreds of those afflicted with rheumatism, for which the waters round about the town are famous. This sanitarium burned to the ground a few years ago and has not since been re-built. The city acquired possession of the water and lighting plants last year, paying $23,000 for the plants. The bonds issued to pay for these two in-

dustries sold for $100 above par, so excellent is the credit of the town. The water that serves the town is pumped from a depth of 1,000 feet and is pure and cold. The town is 1,280 feet above sea level and very healthful. It is in the center of a great fruit shipping country and a number of big orchards round about the town attest to this fact. A great many hunters stop off at Lebanon on their way through the state for the purpose of hunting duck, of which there are millions on the lakes south of the town.

KANSAS.

"AD-ASTRA-PER-ASPERA."

BY GEO. W. BROWN.

"To the stars through difficulties" was the significant motto selected by Kansas in order to express the ordeal and difficulties the Territory encountered in taking her position as one of the states of the American Union. For twelve years the turmoil and bloody strife raged by and between what were then styled the "Kansas Jawhawker" and the "Missouri Border Ruffian." Twelve years of "blood letting" by these unofficial, unorganized bands of agitators, waged with relentless fury. "Slavery extension" was the bone of contention, pillage, carnage and bloodshed the result of those terrible days immediately preceding the great civil war. "Bleeding Kansas" became a household word from ocean to ocean, the significance of which, to this day, is frequently associated with and referred to in connection with the history of Kansas in her great struggle for admission into the Union.

In the midst of all these scenes of excitement, turmoil and strife Kansas was born and took her proud position in the sisterhood of states on the 29th day of January, 1861, as a free state, and chose as her motto the significant words, "Ad-Astra-Per-Aspera," signifying that she had taken her position upon the "field of blue" as one of the stars in the constellation of states "through great difficulties." Immediately after the admission of Kansas into the Union the portentous war clouds that hung like a pall of gloom over the nation broke in all their relentless fury; the tocsin of war was sounded, troops were rushed to the tented field, factories were started for the manufacture of war's grim paraphernalia; the North and the South were marshalling their hosts for the impending conflict of war's desolation. At the close of hostilities they began repairing and rebuilding homes, opening up farms, building towns and cities, railroads and manufactories, soon making "war's desert" to blossom as the rose.

Whatever costs the most seems to lie closest to the human heart; so the love of a peculiar people, who were impelled, perhaps, by different motives, came to Kansas, beautiful and picturesque Kansas, forgetting and forgiving all past differences, the feuds and strife through which they had passed, unitedly combining their energies to the development of the young state that had taken her position among "the stars" through great difficulties. Immigration poured into Kansas from the North and South, farms were taken and opened up, railroads built, mines opened, churches and school houses erected, towns and cities sprang up as if by magic, trade and commerce grew, the cattle grazed upon a "thousand hills," while peace and prosperity blessed the inhabitants of the valley. After the crimson clouds through which Kansas passed had rolled away, under clear skies she began her race for supremacy by a greater development of her vast agricultural, horticultural, mineral and natural resources that the lavish hand of the Creator had placed within their grasp. The inhabitants of this young state soon realized that in order to fully develop these vast resources of wealth, railroads were indispensable to bring them in touch with the

world's markets, and in the attainment of their highest ideals; hence Kansas became enthusiastic supporters of new lines of railways, believing them to be potent factors in the development of the state. Capital, ever on the alert for investment, grasped the opportunity, built railways permeating all parts of the state, thus placing all of her diversified industries in touch with the markets of the world.

Kansas is a fair land to look upon; its hills and dales are beautiful and picturesque, gently undulating in the eastern part, rising into larger swells or mounds as you approach the southwestern part of the state or the level plateaus, known as the great wheat belt. Kansas abounds with beautiful creeks and rivers fringed with timber and artificial groves; charming parks are to be found in all parts of the state, rich in picturesque beauty. Kansas soil is rich and productive. Bountiful harvests are annually gathered into garners—corn, wheat, oats, Kaffir corn and barley. Two hundred million bushels of corn are gathered each year from the corn fields of Kansas, while the yearly yield of wheat approximates 100,000,000 bushels. Oats are produced in great quantities and yield a splendid dividend to the producer. Kaffir corn and alfalfa thrive and do well, and are entensively raised and cultivated with splendid results to the husbandman. Apples, peaches, plums and apricots are extensively raised—large orchards are to be seen on every hand, yielding bountiful crops to the horticulturist with lucrative returns for his investment. Blackberries, strawberries, raspberries and grapes are extensively and successfully propagated in such quantities that the state is justly proud of this great industry. Employment for thousands of people at good wages is assured each year by the berry raisers of the state. Truthfully speaking, Kansas to the homeseeker is the veritable "land of promise," made so by the products of its fertile soil, genial climate and grand possibilities. Kansas is rich in its mineral productions. Bituminous coal is mined in many counties in the state, millions of tons yearly, furnishing constant employment at good wages for about 25,000 miners. Lead and zinc are mined in great quantities in Cherokee County, in the southeastern part of the state, Galena being its capital, and is the veritable city that "Jack built" with which the rugged hills of that section abound. Salt and gypsum are produced in large quantities and exist in never-failing amount in different parts of the state. Natural gas, that great blessing to mankind, is produced in unfailing quantities in the south central portion of the state. This industry is as yet in its infancy—new wells of great power and force of flow are being brought in daily. Large manufacturing institutions attracted to the "gas fields" by the cheap fuel offered from nature's storehouse, are now humming with industry—zinc factories abound—glass factories are numerous—foundries—machine shops—cement works and brick plants all over the "gas belt," employing thousands of men. Oil is found in different parts of the state in such large quantities that it has drawn capitalists from all the great oil fields of the United States, who are investing largely in oil lands, thus aiding the development of this new Kansas industry. Oil is being produced in such quantities as threaten to rival the justly celebrated oil fields of Pennsylvania. The Standard Oil Company is in the state establishing refineries, building tanks, laying pipe lines to the outlying fields, and are now piping the oil to their refineries to be prepared for the markets of the world. This company has recently completed a large oil refinery at Neodesha, a flourishing town in the center of the oil fields upon the Frisco System, and have laid pipe lines to the celebrated oil fields of Chanute on the north, Peru, Caney and Bartlesville on the south and are now carrying the entire output of the Kansas oil fields to their Neodesha refineries. Recently they have purchased a quarter section of land to be known as the "tank" quarter, upon which they propose to erect a "city of tanks" to hold the entire output of oil from the Kansas field. The great number of large tanks now in use are totally inadequate to hold the oil output, and the Standard Company are now building thirty-six additional tanks of immense proportions, three of them to be 150 feet in diameter and thirty feet high. Thir-

ty-three to be seventy-five feet in diameter and thirty feet high. The oil development in Kansas is yet scarcely one year old. Kansas, her educational institutions, charitable reformatories and penal institutions, compares most favorably with those of states twice her age. Her State University, State Normal, Colleges, Agricultural College, Training Schools, County High schools, with a public school system second to no state in the Union, are the Kansans' pride. These with the numerous theological schools and colleges of almost every religious denomination serve to dispel illiteracy and place her citizenship upon an intellectual plane of development second to no state in the Union, regardless of age. The charitable and penal institutions of the state are in harmony with her other institutions of rapid development, and are models in their respective lines of state institutions. The national government has been very liberal in the erection of Post Office and Custom House buildings in the larger cities of the state that materially assist in giving the public utilities as landmarks of progress along the highway of civilization. No state has better or more commodious houses of worship than Kansas, erected and maintained by as zealous and progressive a membership as can be found anywhere in the United States. All creeds and denominations of religions are represented with public houses of worship and an educated ministry turned out by our colleges and institutions of learning. Kansans in the building of their towns and cities deemed it to be as indispensable to have a church erected among its first buildings as a blacksmith shop or grocery store, so great is their love and veneration for the hand that has guided and guarded their footsteps thus far on life's rugged way. Many of the ministerial brethren of Kansas have attained such enviable reputations for eloquence and power that they have been called to and are now acceptably filling pulpits in the larger cities of the eastern states. No longer are we compelled to go East for teachers, theologians, scientists, statesmen, doctors, lawyers and "fakers," for, owing to our superior advantages, they are "turned out" in Kansas.

The magnificent prairies of Kansas are dotted over with beautiful homes of modern architecture, with fine barns and all convenient appurtenances. These homes are neatly and some of them elegantly furnished, making rural life upon a Kansas farm very pleasant and enjoyable. The farmers of Kansas, their sons and daughters, dress in neat and as fashionable attire as do the citizens of its towns and cities. Many people from other states somehow have imbibed the idea that Kansas and her people are on the verge of civilization, and do not enjoy any of the comforts and blessings of modern times. If this class of "doubting Thomases" would but bid farewell for one brief summer to the "worn-out" hills and "moss-grown" villas and visit Kansas, view its elegant towns and cities, the happy and contented population, these false ideas of Kansas would vanish and they could see us in our stage of progressive advancement. To all such we say come and see us; see us, as we are; take a ride upon our splendid railway systems; see our vast fields of golden grain waving in the sunlight; gaze upon our corn fields, yielding 200,000,000 bushels annually; behold the verdant fields of alfalfa, clover and Kaffir corn; glance at our extensive orchards laden with luscious fruit; pass through our "berry fields," pluck some tempting berries and satisfy that prejudiced appetite of yours that "good things" really do exist west of the Mississippi River; stop off and rest your wearied body, put up at one of our $100,000 hotels, gaze up and down the well-paved streets and behold blocks of brick and stone business houses carrying magnificent stocks of up-to-date goods; hear the hum of manufacturing industries; get on board of one of our modern electric street car lines and see a typical western city by "electric light." Resume your journey, behold the smoke from yonder factory; see the sons of toil, grim with smoke, making zinc; see the eyes of Inferno peeping out through the retorts; behold the sulphuric flame, feel the intense heat and imagine you are near Satan's Kingdom; pass out and cool your heated brow in one of those delightful Kansas breezes; see that derrick pointing heav-

enward; approach it and feel the invisible current rushing upward with terrific force from a six-inch tube, it is natural gas as it emerges from nature's storehouse in the bosom of mother earth, and realize what a blessing it is to mankind; see those other derricks with large tanks near by, the oil as it spouts up the aperture and flows for miles through a line of piping to a refinery, where it is prepared for the markets of the world; see yonder tipple, grim and black; get on the cage, go down into the bosom of the earth 100 feet; see the miners by the thousands digging and bringing to the surface millions of tons of "black diamonds;" visit our foundries and machine shops and brick yards; see our people in holiday attire; then return to your home "away down east" and tell your friends that things out West "verily do move."

The State Geologist gives the following official statistics of the mineral resources of the large operators of Kansas for the past year: Bituminous coal production, 5,230,433 tons, valued at $6,799,563; natural gas, value $800,000, this industry being at that time in its infancy, now amounts to about $2,500,000; oil, valued at $360,357. The oil industry when these statistics were made was less than one year old, the production now being much greater, amounting to fully $2,000,000. The output being constantly increased by many new wells "brought in" and new fields opened up. Salt production, 1,270,000 barrels, valued at $762,609; gypsum plaster production, 49,217 tons, valued at $209,172; building stone production, $529,157; brick production, $1,200,000; lead and zinc production, 40,000 tons, valued at $1,043,724. The value of these various mineral productions aggregate the total enormous sum of $20,223,132. With the output of smaller plants not included in this report, including the much greater development in the oil and gas fields, will easily increase the grand total to the $25,000,000 mark.

The following are the shipments of coal for the month of November from the towns reached in the great coal belt of Southeast Kansas by the Frisco System: Pittsburg, 1,750 cars; Weir City, 1,600 cars; Scammon, 1,475 cars; Cherokee, 900 cars. Smaller towns in Cherokee and Crawford Counties 1,500 cars, the total approximating 180,000 tons. These figures show that about one-half of the coal output of the State of Kansas is produced from the mines located in the Counties of Crawford and Cherokee, both of these counties ranking near the top in the list of agricultural counties, outranking all others in the production of coal, lead and zinc, the greatest wealth producers in the state, and furnishing employment to about 15,000 men.

Kansas has more miles of railroad than any state in the Union with one exception. With all of her extensive trunk lines of railways, at certain seasons of the year it is with difficulty that cars and motive power can be had to convey the vast products of the state to the markets of the world. Railroad development is the best indicator of a wealth-producing territory, for where wealth abounds there you will find railroads, the great arteries of trade and commerce, without which it would be impossible to develop the Southwest, which has, through the aid and assistance of these public carriers, become the wealth-producing portion of the United States.

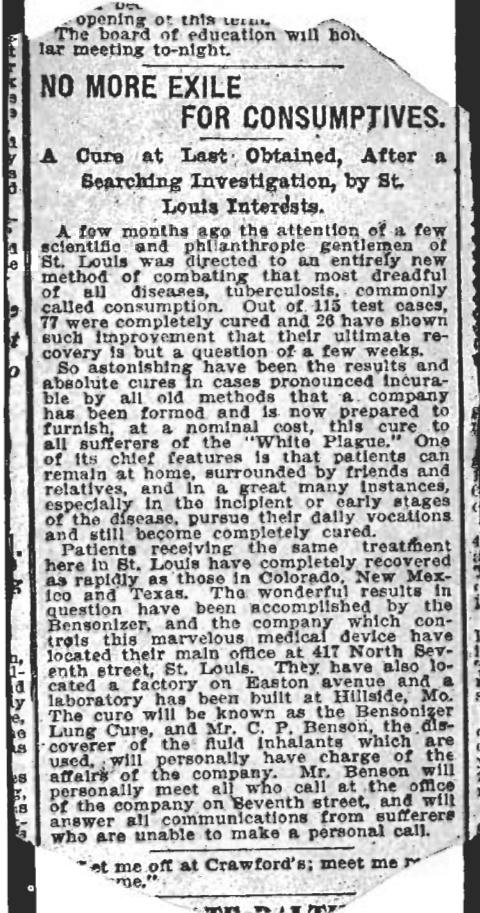
The Frisco System, through the wise foresight of its promoters, built its lines through the state in such directions as to include within its trackage the finest agricultural and wheat-producing portions of the state, with several lines running through the coal, lead, zinc, gas and oil fields of the south central portions of the state, giving it a carrying trade of freight and passenger traffic unprecedented by western railroad lines. One division of the System enters the state near that great western metropolis, Kansas City, running due south through the finest agricultural portions of the state, passing through Wyandotte, Johnson, Miami, Lynn, Bourbon, Crawford and Cherokee Counties, thence through the beautiful Indian Territory and on to the Gulf States. The St. Louis line of the System enters near the southeast corner of the state, passing in a northwesterly direction through the Counties of Cherokee, Crawford, Labette, Montgomery, Wilson, Elk, Greenwood, Butler,

Sedgwick, Harvey, Reno, Rice, Ellsworth, Cowley, etc. Along this line are situated the great lead and zinc mines of southeastern Kansas, its great coal fields of Cherokee and Crawford Counties, the great natural gas and oil fields of the state. Neodesha, where the Standard Oil Company's refinery is located, and to which all the oil from the Kansas field is piped, is located upon this line; thus this great System of railways brings all sections of the state, with their varied industries, in close connection with the two greatest markets of the West, St. Louis and Kansas City. Kansans cordially invite all homeseekers, capitalists, manufacturers and others seeking to better their condition to visit their state, see the vast agricultural and mineral realities and be convinced that Kansas has superior inducements to all seeking homes or investments of any other portion of the Southwest.

It was the writer's privilege to settle in Crawford County, Kansas, in the Spring of 1871. At that time the pouplation of the county was less than 2,000. Now it contains over 43,000 industrious, prosperous and happy people. Then the face of the country presented a beautiful prairie waste, unbroken by hedge, orchard or grove, its virgin soil untouched except in spots where the pioneer had built his hut or sod house; now the whole face of the country is in a high state of cultivation, dotted over with beautiful farm houses, barns, orchards and groves, with good roads leading to all the important towns and cities in the county. Five trunk lines of railroad run through all parts of the country. Less than 10 per cent of the land is waste land, not susceptible of cultivation. Crawford County has within its borders seventeen towns and cities, ranging from 350 to 15,000 population. Pittsburg, the chief city of the county, has a population of 15,000, well-paved streets, miles of brick blocks, electric street cars, with all modern improvements, and a $100,000 hotel. This city was founded twenty-five years ago, and is noted for its vim, energy, push and business.

BENSONIZER LUNG CURE

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, September 8th, 1903.



opening of this term.
The board of education will hol
lar meeting to-night.

NO MORE EXILE FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

A Cure at Last Obtained, After a Searching Investigation, by St. Louis Interests.

A few months ago the attention of a few scientific and philanthropic gentlemen of St. Louis was directed to an entirely new method of combating that most dreadful of all diseases, tuberculosis, commonly called consumption. Out of 115 test cases, 77 were completely cured and 26 have shown such improvement that their ultimate recovery is but a question of a few weeks.

So astonishing have been the results and absolute cures in cases pronounced incurable by all old methods that a company has been formed and is now prepared to furnish, at a nominal cost, this cure to all sufferers of the "White Plague." One of its chief features is that patients can remain at home, surrounded by friends and relatives, and in a great many instances, especially in the incipient or early stages of the disease, pursue their daily vocations and still become completely cured.

Patients receiving the same treatment here in St. Louis have completely recovered as rapidly as those in Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. The wonderful results in question have been accomplished by the Bensonizer, and the company which controls this marvelous medical device have located their main office at 417 North Seventh street, St. Louis. They have also located a factory on Easton avenue and a laboratory has been built at Hillside, Mo. The cure will be known as the Bensonizer Lung Cure, and Mr. C. P. Benson, the discoverer of the fluid inhalants which are used, will personally have charge of the affairs of the company. Mr. Benson will personally meet all who call at the office of the company on Seventh street, and will answer all communications from sufferers who are unable to make a personal call.

et me off at Crawford's; meet me
me."

Free booklet on request.
BENSONIZER COMPANY,
417-19 N. Seventh St., St. Louis.

FOR CONSUMPTION.

SCHRAPS' Restaurant

Strictly First-Class for Ladies and Gentlemen

Visitors to the city cordially invited to this modern and elegant establishment.

N. E. Cor. 7th and Locust Streets, **St. Louis.**

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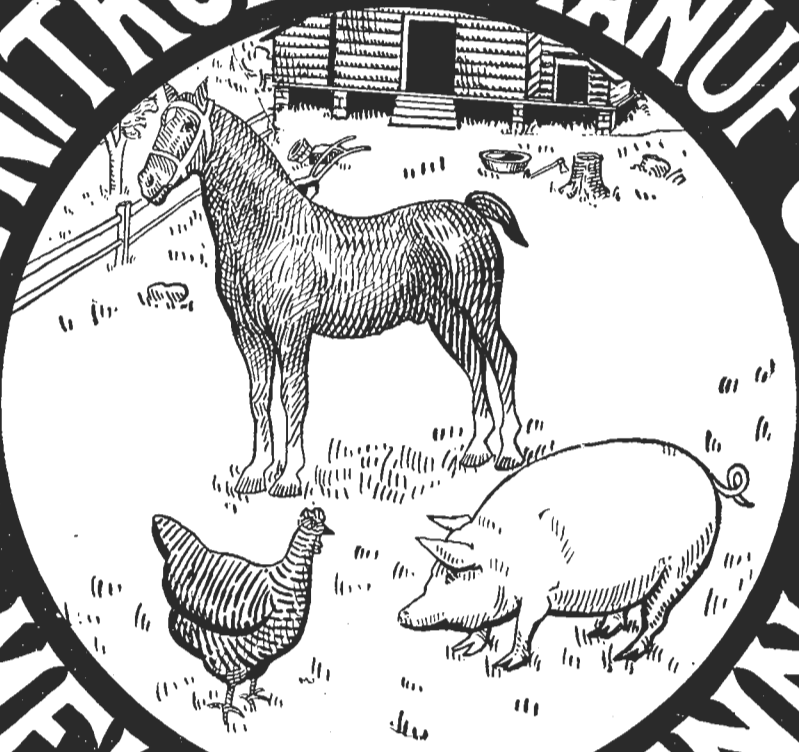

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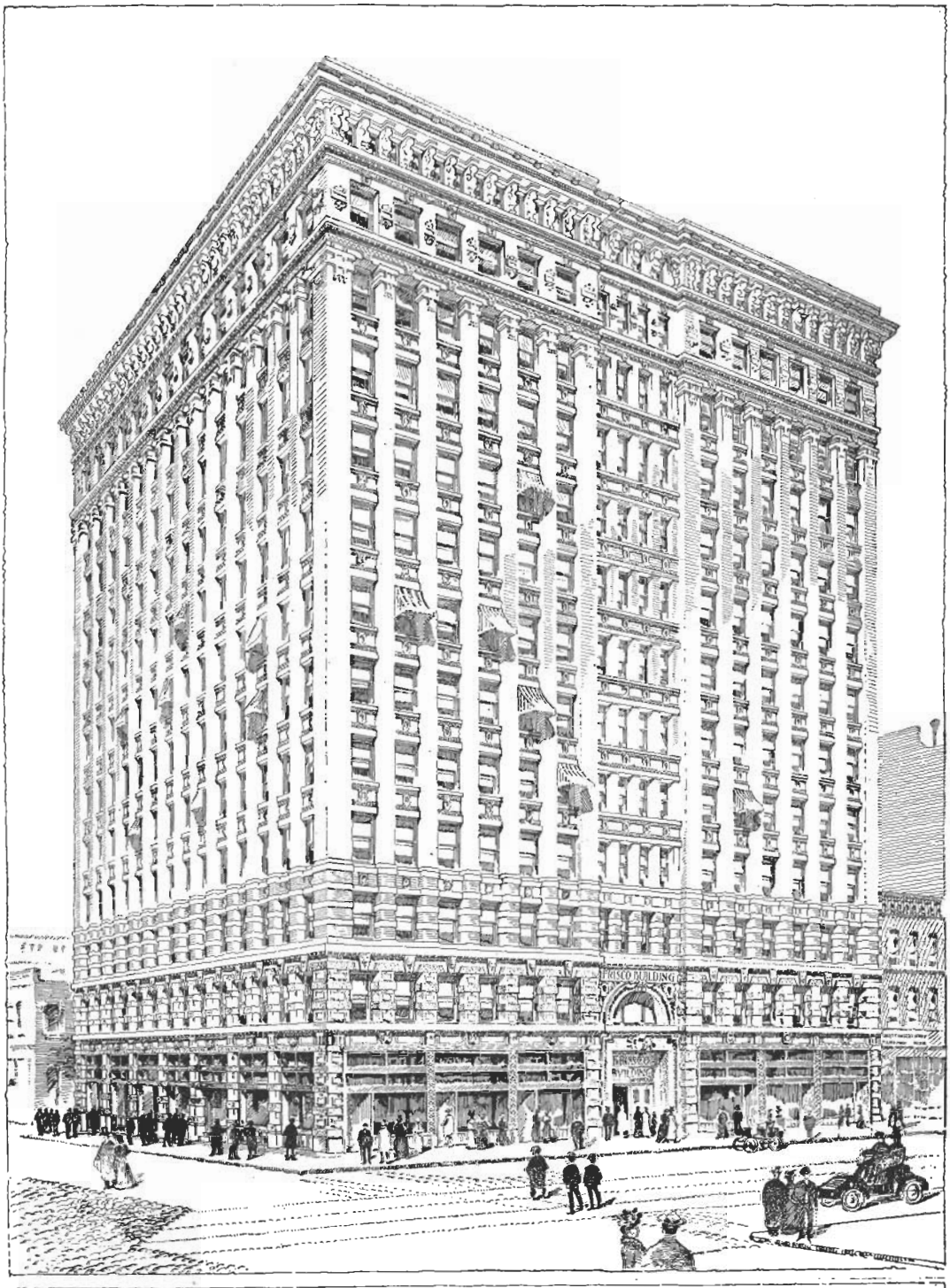

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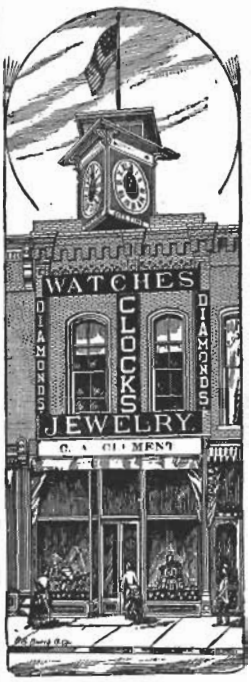

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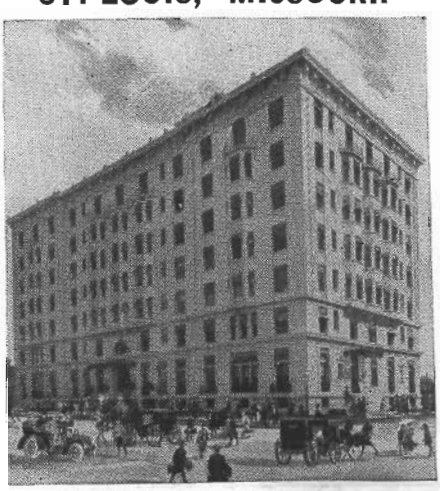

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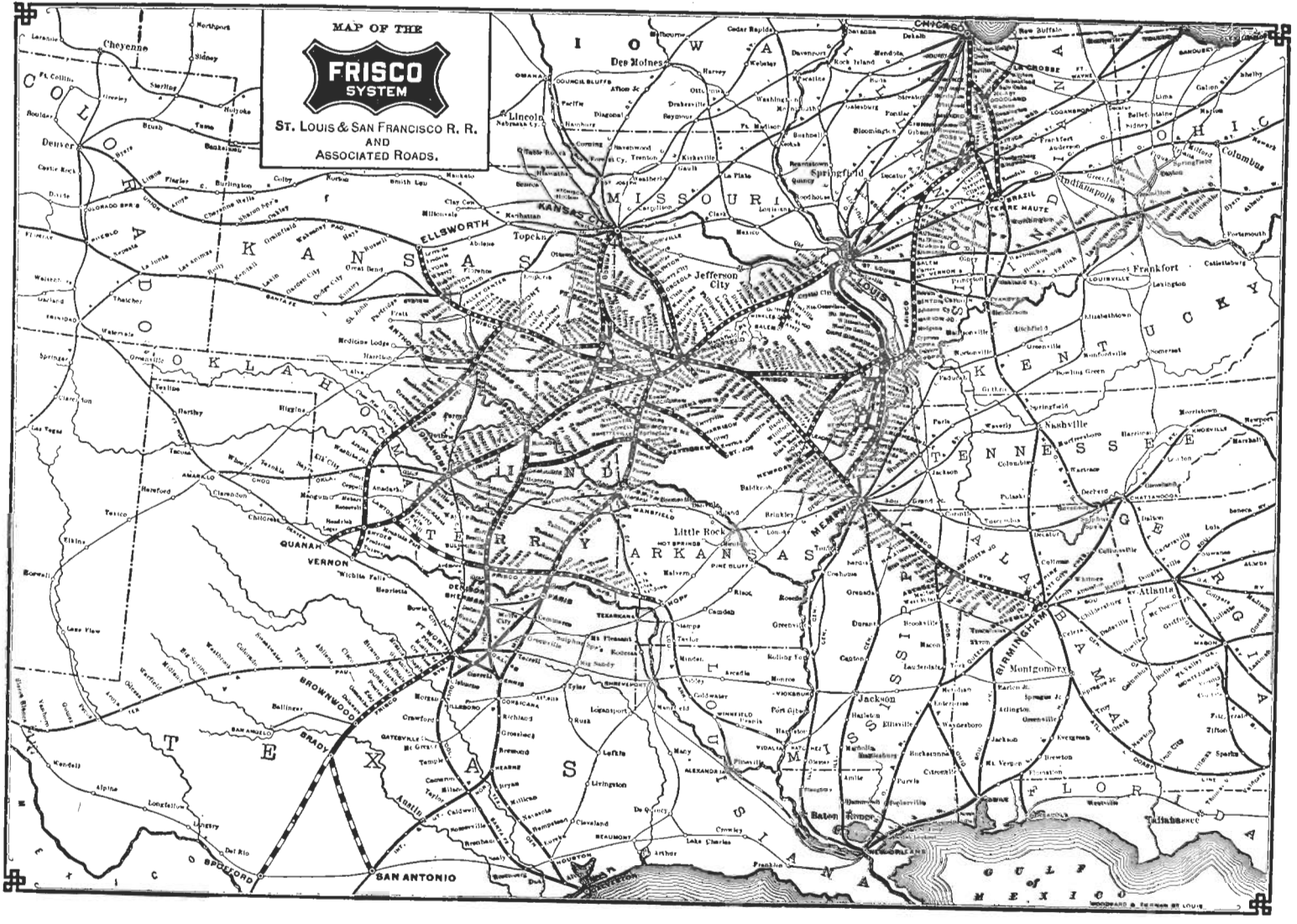
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References: { Bank of Neosho, Neosho Savings Bank, First National Bank of Neosho. } FRISCO SYSTEM Immigration Agent.

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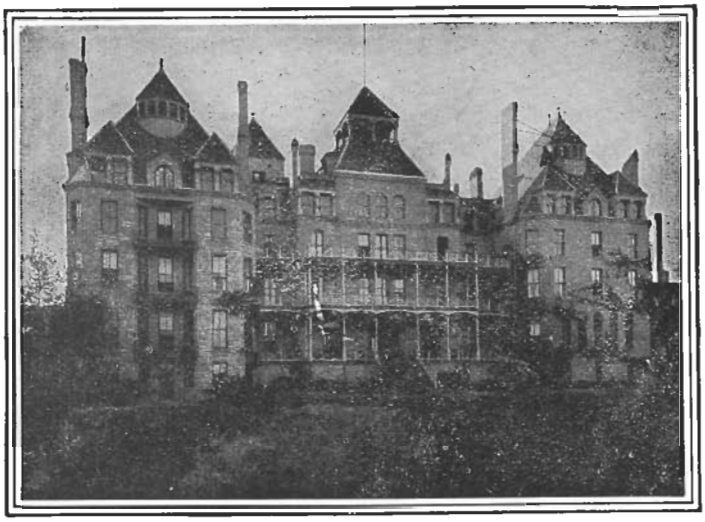

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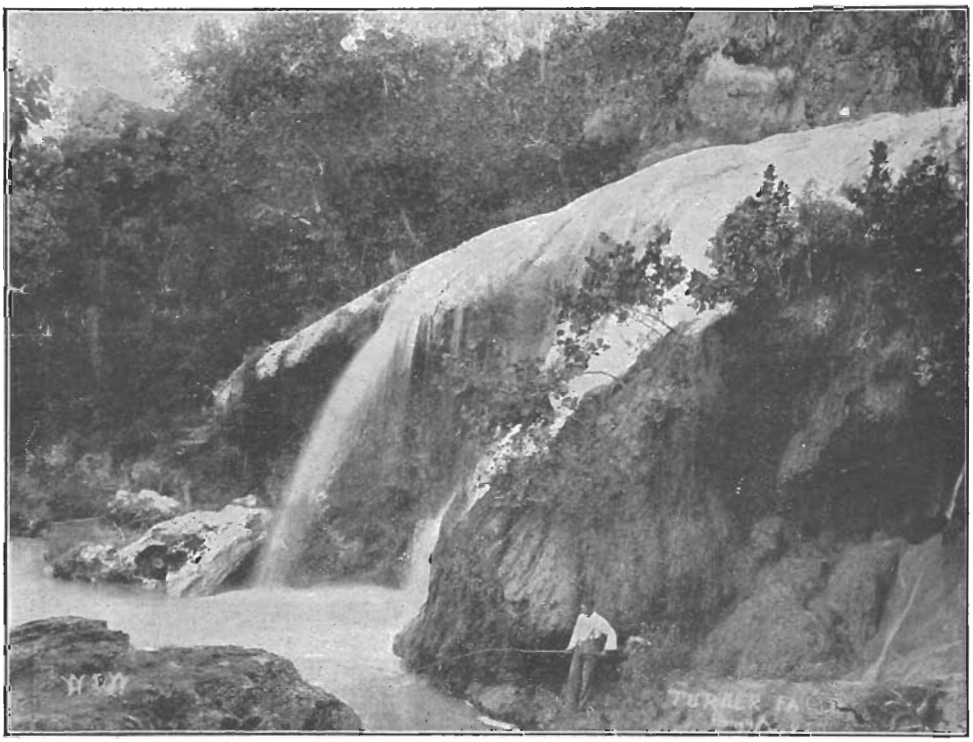

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