

information is dedicated to the ome-seeker, and published for the reliable and brief description of the natural resources of those parts of the great State of TEXAS through which the lines of the ST. LOUIS

SOUTHWESTERN RAILWAY (THE COTTON BELT ROUTE) run. Its statistical data has been furnished by gentlemen not personally interested in the sale of lands, and whose position in life excludes them from the slightest suspicion of giving "colored information," for the purpose only of eceiving people.

The Great Southwest.

And in the same the GREAT STATE of TEXAS, offers to-day greater inducements to home-seekers, mechanics and capitalists than any other State in this UNION. To every good citizen, of every nationality, political or religious beief, the SOUTHWEST extends a HEARTY WEL-COME, but the kind of immigrants desired are men who will add to the intrinsic value of the VAST DOMAINS, by cultivating and improving the same; men who will get up early in the morning, work six days in the week, and who will not consider it too much trouble to milk a cow, so as to have cream for their coffee

The SOUTHWEST wants immigrants who will not be content merely to scratch the ground and make a bare living, but men who will plough deep and cultivate the land to its full extent. These are the kind of men that are wanted in Texas-able-bodied, strong men, who can plough and dig, sow and reap; men who are willing to accept reasonable wages, and who are neither ashamed nor afraid to work on a farm, drive a team, work in a mill or on a

TEXAS wants men that either have money enough to buy a farm, or to rent one, and, by economical living will strive to save money enough to buy it later. These are the kind of men that will make a sure living in the Southwest, and that in immigrating to this State, will benefit their position in life, their neighbors, and the community at

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THE COTTON BELT ROUTE

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FINE CATTLE ON STOCK FARM OF J. F. HOVENCAMP, FT. WORTH, TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS.

The State of Texas

HIS State lies in the extreme southwestern portion of the United States, on the Meican border. It is by far the largest State in the Union, having an area of 262,290 square miles of land surface, and 3,409 square miles of water surface. It is six times as large as New York and four times as large as all New The climate is that of the warmer temperate zone. The winters are mild and delightful, and the excessive

heat of summer common to the Northern States is here

tempered by the cool and healthful Gulf breezes. The nights are always cool and refreshing. Extremes of climate are unknown. Records show that Texas is by far the most healthful of the States which border on the Gulf of Mexico. The coast, central and eastern sections of the State are well watered, and have an ample and well distributed rainfall. These regions rarely, if ever, suffer from prolonged drought, and the supply of surface water is ample for all farming purposes. There is a great diversity of soil in Texas. The principal ones are the famous black waxy, black sandy, black pebbly, hog wallow, red sandy, sandy alluvial loam, and last but by no means least, the celebrated gray sandy of the fruit regions. All of these soils are excessively fertile, well adapted to diversification of crops and capable of long periods of cultivation without need of enrichment. In fact, the commercial fertilizer is not

known in Texas. Owing to the great extent of the State,

of almost every known agricultural product.

it embraces soils and localities adapted to the growing

North and East that the State of Texas is poorly timbered. Nothing could be wider of the truth. There is good timber everywhere along the streams, and the eastern portion of the State, through which a portion o the Cotton Belt Route passes, is a heavily timbered region, with large and important lumber interests. Valuable pine, walnut, cypress, oak, ash, etc., cover this entire region. In the prairie counties to the west there is an ample supply of fine timber to be found along the creeks and small streams, sufficient to supply all needs for fencing, farm buildings and other agricultural purposes. The State of Texas is making especially rapid strides in the matter of truck and fruit farming. As fast as the timber on the uplands along the Cotton Belt Route is being cleared away, the fruit orchard and truck farm are replacing it. Enormous yields of peaches and tomatoes, as well as pears, berries and small garden truck, are secured. The quality of the fruit produced is second to none in America, the peaches especially not yielding even to the famous California product. Perhaps the most remarkable impetus to the develop ment of Texas has been the discovery of petroleum at Beaumont and Corsicana. The field is already producing more than the famous Russian fields at Batum It is believed that this discovery will revolutionize the fuel demand in the Southern and Atlantic seaboard States, adjacent to water transportation. The educational fund of Texas amounted to \$45,000,000 in 1901. It is, like the State, the largest in the Union

This fund is apportioned on a pro rata basis to each of the 246 counties of the State. The State also levies a

school tax of 18 cents, and gives to the schools one

fourth of the occupation taxes, and a one dollar poll tax. There are seven colleges and universities under the

direct control of the State, and the entire system of edu

cation is perhaps better organized and carried out than

in any other State in the Union.

There is a general and erroneous impression in the

ANGELINA COUNTY

HIS county lies between the Angelina and Neches Rivers, which form the boundaries of the county on the southeast and southwest, and unite at the extreme southern end of the county. The shape of the county is very irregular, the area being 878 square miles. The east and west portions of the county consist of river bottom, separated by a high ridge, which forms the divide. This ridge rises in a series of benches to a height of about 200 feet above the rivers, its top forming a long, narrow plateau. From this water-shed

many creeks and clear streams flow down to the main rivers, supplying the county abundantly with fine water. Springs and wells are numerous and good water is easily obtainable at a shallow depth. The soil at the bottom is the fertile black waxy and black sandy loam. Gray and red sandy loam, with a subsoil of red clay, predominates on the uplands. Angelina is a forest county, the whole area having been covered at one time with valuable pine forests. Fully two-thirds of the area is still covered with the valuable long and short leaf and oblolly pine, together with ash, black walnut, wild peach, hickory, and other valuable woods. Fully threefourths of the land of the county is susceptible of profitable cultivation, and is being farmed as fast as the time In the black loam and waxy soils of the bottoms, cotton will yield an average of three-fourths to one bale to

the acre, while corn averages from 35 to 60 bushels On the uplands one-half to three-fourths of a bale of cotton and 20 to 30 bushels of corn are average crops Oats, 38 bushels; rye or barley, 20 bushels; sugar, 1,00 pounds; molasses, 350 gallons, and Irish potatoes 200 bushels to the acre are also average crops. The shelves and top of central plateau are a continuation of the great fruit lands of Smith and Cherokee Counties. This portion of the county is being rapidly cleared off and put in vegetable and truck gardens. There are over one thousand acres in peaches, bearing in 1901, and hundreds of acres in truck gardens, pears, tomatoes and the like The gray sandy soil of this upland produces results in fruit and truck which are very remarkable. All kinds of fruits are a certain crop in this latitude, and vegetables can be produced for shipment to the northern markets as early here as they can be in Southern Georgia and Florida. Strawberries are a natural product. The fact that the products of this locality can reach northern markets so early, insures fancy prices for everything produced. Lands for fruit culture or truck farms can be bought cheaply, or can be rented on easy terms in any part of the county. Railroad rates for the shipment of fruits and vegetables are already very low, but an in creased output of these products would be encourage by the railroads with even lower rates. There are at the present time about 900 farms in cultivation in the county. The prices of unimproved land, of which there is a great quantity located close to the railroads, ranges from \$2.50 to \$15 per acre, while the improved land brings from \$8 to \$30 per acre, according to quality of soil and location. Angelina County is well provided with railroads. The Cotton Belt Route, which is the highway from this county to the North and East, forms junction with the Houston East & West Texas at Lufkin in this county. The total assessed value of the land in Angelina County in 1901 was \$3,543,000, of which \$1,844,000 repre-

sents land values. The tax rate is low, being only 45

feet in height, and again spreading out into broad, beau-

tiful valleys. The area is well watered, the three streams which unite to form the main body of the Trin-

ty River coming together near the center of the county

There is not a square foot of marsh land in the county, the rivers and streams all giving good drainage.

The climate of Dallas County is ideal. There are no

ents per hundred. The average taxable value of land is \$3.05 per acre. The school facilities of Angelina County are excellent. There are 61 school houses in the county, with 75 teachers and 3,314 pupils. The county received \$15,000 from he State apportionment fund in 1901. The organizaion of the various churches in the county are also in a flourishing condition Lufkin, the terminus of the Lufkin Branch of the Cotton Belt Route, is the county-seat. thriving little city has a population of 1,847, and is rapidly growing on account of the immigration of frui and truck growers into the county, and the consequent increase of business. It is well provided with schools, churches and hotels, has about 30 business establish ments, one cotton gin, and one weekly newpaper.

BOWIE COUNTY

HIS is the extreme northeastern county of the

State, the Red River being its northern boundary, while the State of Arkansas touches it on the

east. It is a woodland county, composed of a series of ridges or swells, rising from the bottoms of the Red and Sulphur Rivers, to the top of the divide between these two streams. Tributaries of the two rivers flow down he side of this slope, giving the country excellent drainage along the middle highland, and an ample supply of water. Dense forests of oak and yellow pine, equal to any in the South, originally covered nine-tenths of the area of the county. This is rapidly disappearing under the ax of the lumberman, and fine farms are taking the place of the wooded lands. The climate of Bowie County is all that could possibly be desired, the mean summer maximum temperature being 86 degrees, and the mean winter maximum 40 degrees. Public health is good. Fully 80 per cent of the land of Bowie County is susceptible of profitable cultivation, when denuded of timber. The remainder is excellent stock land, affording good pasturage during nine months of the year. The soil is red or black loam, that on the rivers being very

deep and heavy, while that on the uplands is light and friable and especially adapted to fruits. The ferruginous properties of much of the upland soil give the fruits grown here a fine, rich flavor. Peaches, pears, straw-berries, raspberries, figs, grapes, and on the lower shelves of the upland, apples find here congenial soi and climate. They mature in sufficient time to be placed on the market without competition from Georgia, and with proper care and attention are practically a certain crop. Bowie County strawberries are especially noted The cleared bottoms, with rich deep, heavy black loam, are being devoted to the cultivation of Irish potatoes the acreage being steadily on the increase every year These potatoes are larger and finer than the Arkansas potatoes, mature earlier, and are generally practically out of the way before the Oklahoma and Arkansas potatoes begin to reach the market. Two hundred bushels to the acre have been raised, while 130 to 140 is a fai average yield. The staples, corn, cotton and small grains, are raised with profit on the cleared lands, 8,000 to 10.000 bales of cotton, and 250.000 to 300.000 bushels of corn being the average yearly output of the county. There are 1,987 farms in the county. The number is increasing rapidly as the timber is felled.

The total assessed valuation of the property in Bowie

County in 1901 was \$5,567,000, of which only \$1,627,900

and up-to-date improvements. The citizens pride

themselves on having one of the best street car systems

n the country. It manufactures and distributes more saddles and harness than any other city in the South.

was land. The tax rate is 60 per cent, and the average taxable value of the land \$2.77 per acre. There is good unimproved land to be had, well located, for \$2.00 to \$3.00 per acre, while improved lands bring \$5.00 to \$20.00. The county possesses most excellent railroad acilities, being supplied with three trunk lines. The Cotton Belt Route, running along the top of the divide, penetrates the most desirable portion of the county. Bowie County has 116 school houses and 139 teachers exclusive of the splendid system of public free school in the county-seat. The county received \$19,000 from the State during 1901, as apportionment from the school fund. The various religious denominations maintain representative organizations, and there are many elegant places of worship. Boston is the county-seat. Texarkana, the chief commercial point of the county, is lo cated on the Arkansas and Texas State line. This is the famous dual city, portions being located in two States. The population of the combined cities is in the neighbor hood of 11,000 people, in 1902, and is about evenly d vided between the two towns. This city is the gateway to Texas, Louisiana and the great Southwest. It is the point of entry into Texas of the Cotton Belt Route, and has several trunk lines running into Louisiana. It is a well built city, with all modern conveniences. It has ine waterworks, electric lights, telephone lines, five miles of electric street railways, gas work, four daily and weekly newspapers, a large ice factory, a cotton compress, a large cotton oil mill, and other industries. There are two fire companies and a splendid fire alarm system. Each ward is supplied with a school, and there are numerous fine churches.

CAMP COUNTY

HIS is a small county immediately south of Titus County, the area being but 201 square miles. I was originally a woodland, and much valuable tim ber still remains, consisting principally of black walnut cypress, pine, oak, ash and hickory. The surface of th county is normally level, rising gradually toward th south. The soil along the Big Cypress Creek in the north is deep black alluvial loam. Toward the southern end of the county this becomes a light gray ferruginous sandy soil, admirably adapted to the raising of fruits and vegetables. The main tributaries of the Big Cypress Prairie, Richland, Walker and Lily Creeks furnish good drainage and abundant water supply for the county. Bold springs of freestone water are numerous, and never failing wells are obtainable at all points in the county a a depth of from 15 to 30 feet. Stock water being abundant, much attention is being levoted to stock raising, both for domestic and export purposes. It is only necessary to feed stock about two and a half months: ribbon cane. Japanese clover and native and Bermuda grasses furnishing fine pasturage during the rest of the year. The annual rainfall of about 40 inches is so distributed as to be of material assistance to pasturage and crops alike. The ferrnginous quality of the soil of the county ha also rendered it peculiarly susceptible to the cultivation of fruits and vegetables. The earliest tomatoes, berries peaches or other stone fruits and garden vegetables ad jacent to good northern markets are raised in the county. All American varieties of grapes do well. Handsome

profit has been made from such truck and fruit farms

as are now in existence in the county, and doubtless an

extension of this industry will be found to be very profitable. Nearly all the farms in the county are small and admirably suited to such purposes. There are in all only about 800 farms in the county, nearly all being occupied by the owners. The average yields of the staples compare favorably with those of the adjoining counties. Ribbon cane here produces 300 to 400 gallons to the acre, and sorghum cane 200 gallons; cotton, one-half to threefourths of a bale; oats, 30 to 40 bushels; corn, 35 to 50 bushels; sweet potatoes, 300 bushels, and other products in proportion. Some unimproved lands are to be had for \$1.50 to \$6.00 per acre, while the improved lands can be had for

\$4.00 to \$18.00 per acre. The average taxable value of the land is \$2.90 per acre, and the total assessed valuation of the property in the county was \$1,309,000, o which about \$400,000 represented land values in 1903 The State school fund allowed an apportionment of \$11. 803 to this county in 1900. There are 35 school houses in the county, employing 51 teachers. The Baptists Presbyterian and Methodist churches are represented in the county. The county-seat is Pittsburg, on the Cotton Belt Route. This prosperous little city, founded in 1855, has a population of nearly 2,000. There are 65 mercantile houses in the city, six churches, good schools with 200 pupils, a handsome and commodious court house, steam planing mills, saw mills, a bank, grist mills, cotton gins, a saddle factory, a tannery, bottling works, a fully equipped iron and brass foundry, an ice factory, and other industries.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

HIS county is located in Central Northeast Texas, between the Angelina and Neches, which form its boundaries. It had a population of 25,154 in 1900, this has considerably increased since that time, owing to the wonderful results obtained from truck and fruit farm ing. It has an area of 1.008 square miles. The surface s composed of a series of high plateaus, forming the di vide between the two rivers, and in the east and west which are narrow. The soil of these valleys is the stiff, black waxy, capable of producing abundant crops of cotton, corn and staple products. The soils of the plateaus are a red, chocolate or gray sandy, resting on a red clay substratum. These soils are especially adapted to fruits and vegetables, the gray sandy, which edominates, being perhaps the best fruit soll known.
he entire area of the county was at one time forest land. Cherokee County being in the line of continuation of the great forest region of Louisiana. About three-fourths of the area is still covered with valuable tim-ber, among which may be mentioned the pine, oak, red elm, black locust, black walnut, magnolia, holly, cherry persimmon, haw, ash, cypress and sassafras. Short leaf and loblolly pine are still sufficiently abundant to furnish merchantable lumber for many years to come, but the timber is being rapidly cleared off to make ground for The climate of Cherokee County is ideal. The forest

portions the valleys of the Neches and Angelina, both of

belt extending to the north and west of the county breaks the force of the dreaded northers, while the altitude above sea level, 700 feet, is sufficient to secure cool summers. There is little possibility of injury to fruit or vegetable crops from storms or cold, many vegetables making two crops a year as a usual thing. The average annual rainfall of 48 inches is well distributed throughout the year, and drouths are unknown. The water supply of the county is ample, excellent springs and creeks of pure water abounding everywhere in the county. The staples, cotton and corn, thrive well on the black waxy soil and black loam of the river valleys. The bottoms of the Neches and Angelina Rivers easily produce three-fourths of a bale of cotton and 40 to 50 bushels of corn to the acre. All kinds of small grains also thrive. It is, however, along the high dividing ridge between the streams that the bulk of the fruit and truck farming is done. The narrow highland on each side of the Cotton Belt Route, extending the entire length of the county, is the region which has brought Cherokee into prominence as the greatest fruit and truck county in the Southwest. During the last year, 1901, 177 cars of tomatoes and 197 cars of peaches, to



say nothing of the hundreds of less than car lots and express orders, were shipped from along this line. The especial intrinsic value of this crop, aside from its splenlid quality, is the fact of its early maturity. Fruit and truck mature here and are shipped and marketed before either Georgia, Florida or California get to market. This region also has the very great advantage of greater proximity to the markets of the great central west than any of its competitors. Shippers thus striking a bare and open market, are able to name their own prices for this early product. Peaches, pears, berries, tomatoes, melons, and all small truck find here the climatic environment, soil, and external advantages ideally adapted to their growth. There are 1,500 acres in tomatoes, and 10,000 in peaches. The latter average 125 trees to the acre, 60 per cent of the orchards being the famous Elberta peaches, which yield to none in flavor, size and quality. Mountain Rose, St. Johns and Mixon Clings are also raised with the same remarkable success. There are a number of fruit growing associations in the county, and the product is handled to the best advantage of the producer. The growers of truck and fruit do not have to look for a market, nor are they at the mercy of the middleman, so thoroughly has this important branch of industry been organized. The total assessed value of the property in the county in 1901 was \$3,879,000, of which \$1,843,000 represented land values. The average taxable value of the land was \$2.77 per acre, the rate being 50 cents per hundred. Improved land can be had for from \$2.50 to \$10 per acre. There is still much desirable land to be had in the highland along the Cotton Belt Route. The count paid \$9,000 in school taxes in 1901, and received \$30,000 from the State fund for schools. Every community has one or more church edifices, and all the prominent Christian denominations are represented. The county-seat is Rusk, on the Cotton Belt Route This city has a population of about 700, a fine court house, two newspapers, a national bank, a brick manufacturing plant, cotton gins, a saw mill, and about 60 mercantile houses.

Jacksonville, on the junction of the Cotton Belt Route, the T. & N. O. and the I. & G. N. R'ys, is a thriving town of 1,780 inhabitants. It is a great shipping center for

growers, who were quick to recognize the value of the natural advantages of this county. In two years this orchard will commence the shipment of enormous quantities of fruit.

HE area of Collin County is about 884 square miles, and the population 50,007 in 1900. Threefourths of the county is rolling prairie, rising in a series of sharp slopes from the banks of the east fork of the Trinity River, which traverses the county. The only timber in the county is along this stream and its tributaries. The principal varieties are post oak, pin oak, red oak, ash, elm and bois d'arc. Fully nine-tenths of the area of Collin County has the tenacious

fruit and truck, and judging from its progress during the

years 1901 and 1902, is destined to become one of the leading towns of Eastern Texas. It has exceptionally

fine school facilities, both public and private. All prom

nent denominations have spacious edifices devoted to religious worship. Commercially, Jacksonville is very

gins, two banks, a fine electric light plant, and ice

Craft Dialville and Mt Selman are the other extensive

COLLIN COUNTY

truck and fruit shipping points in the county. At Altan immense orchard has been planted by Michigan fruit

rous, having three newspapers, a cotton compress

stiff, black waxy soil, capable of resisting the effect of drouth to a remarkable degree, and possessing a degree of fertility unknown to any other portion of the country. t varies from two feet in thickness on the uplands, to feet in the valleys of the east fork of the Trinity and its tributaries. This soil needs less preparation than any known earth to bear fruitfully. No fertilizers are needed, the commercial fertilizer not being used in the county at all. The land itself has that happy combination of phosphates, potash and nitrates which are imparted to less fertile soils by bone and other fer-Collin County has an average rainfall of about 38 inches, so distributed as to assure proper maturing of crops. The climate of the county is mild, the winters being short and light, and the summers moderated by the breezes from the Gulf. Water is abundant, the supply for domestic uses being obtained from springs and shallow wells, while the numerous streams afford good stock water. Diversified farming has gradually displaced stock raising as the main occupation of the people of Collin County. The usual yield of the principal crops of the county is as follows: Cotton, three-fourths of a bale; corn, 30 to 40 bushels; wheat, 15 to 20 bushels; oats, barley or rye, 40 bushels; Irish potatoes, 100 bushels; sweet potatoes, 200 bushels; sorghum, 100 gallons; hay, one and one-half to two tons; millet, three tons. The wheat grown in this county is especially fine, being found to exceed the weight of the standard variety by several pounds. Bermuda and common field grasses are cultivated for hay. A native growth of sedge furnishes good pasturage in season. The railroad facilities for Collin County are excellent, the Fort Worth Branch of the Cotton Belt Route passing through the county, and other trunk lines running through the county from north to south. The public highways are splendidly kept. Every point in the county is easily accessible to market and railroad ransportation. The proximity of the large cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, both exporting centers, is of great advantage to the farmers of this county. The total assessed valuation of property in Collin ounty in 1901 exceeded \$13,000,000, about \$6,000,000 f which represented land values. The average taxable of which represented land values. The average taxable value of land was \$12.60. Unimproved and pasture land is obtainable in the county for \$2 to \$10, improved lands bringing \$10 to \$50 per acre according to location. The tax rate is very low, being only 40 cents per hun-Collin County received \$56,000 for the schools from the State apportionment fund in 1901. There were 98 teachers and 149 school houses in the county in 1901, exclusive of the excellent school sytem of the county seat. Substantial buildings and flourishing organizations represent the various religious bodies. McKinney, a prosperous town of 5,000 inhabitants, is the county-seat. The city of Plano, on the Cotton Belt Route, is the principal railroad center. It has a large roller mill, two cotton gins and a cotton compress which handled as much as 30,000 bales a year. There are about 35 flourishing mercantile establishments

Nevada, on the Cotton Belt Route, are also thriving CORYELL COUNTY

in the town. It has excellent public schools, six fine church edifices and all modern advantages. Wylie and

ERE the Cotton Belt Route has penetrated into the heart of the stock-raising section. Corvell county, area 960 square miles, situated between the Brazos and Colorado Rivers, consists of rolling upland prairies, crossed in all directions by creeks and

rivers, which furnish abundant water supply. For stock raising these conditions are ideal. The wool industry is important and rapidly growing. The value of last year's shipments was more than \$18,000. Hogs are also tensively raised for shipment. Sufficient timber for local needs is found along the water courses. The high, airy locations demanded by stone fruits render this county peculiarly adapted to their cultivation, and there are numerous fruit farms and nurseries, all very successful and profitable. More than two-thirds of the total area of the county is adapted to cultivation. The staples, cotton and corn, as well as the small grains thrive well. Cotton yields about one-half to two-thirds of a bale to the acre; corn, 25 to 30 bushels; wheat, 10 to 12 bushels; oats, 50 bushels; rye, 10 to 12 bushels; barley, 40 bushels; Irish potatoes, 75 bushels; sweet potatoes, 200 bushels; millet, two tons, and other products in proportion. There are 3,824 farms in the county, with a total acreage of 187,439. There is abundant rainfall, the average being 33 inches. This is so distributed throughout the year as to assure uniformity of seasons, and containty of gread groups. and certainty of good crops. The average taxable value of the land in the county is \$5.08. The rate is 58 cents per hundred, and the total assessed valuation of property in 1901 was \$5,455,000. Of this \$3,331,000 repre sents the valuation of the land. Coryell County is well provided with schools, the total school tax being \$11,000. and the apportionment from the State fund \$25,000. The Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches are The county-seat is Gatesville, the terminus of the main line of the Cotton Belt Route. It is beautifully located on the broad Leon River, surrounded by fruit and truck farms. The town has two lumber yards, two nations banks, 52 mercantile institutions, two weekly newspapers and two religious monthlies.

DALLAS COUNTY HIS is one of the most populous, prosperous and important counties in the State. It is located in the north central portion of the State, on the Trin

ity River. Most of the area of 900 square miles is high,

rolling prairie, rising in some places to hills 200 to 300

extremes, either of heat or cold. The soil on the prairies is stiff, black waxy, a soil which retains moisture and resists the effects of dry weather better than any other known. The timbered portions have a light gray sandy, except in the bottoms, where the soil is a deep, black loam. All these three varieties of soil are very fertile, and produce excellen crops. Cotton makes one-half to three-fourths of a bale oats, 40 to 60 bushels; wheat, 15 to 20 bushels; barley 30 to 40 bushels, and millet two tons to the acre. The raising of fine live stock is an important industry of the county. Fruits, berries and vegetables, not only for the consumption of the metropolitan cities of Dallas and Fort Worth near by, but for export to the North, are raised in great quantities, and the quality is uniformly The total assessed valuation of the property in the county was \$34,788,957 in 1902, this making Dallas one of the richest counties in the country. The tax rate is 46 cents, and the taxable value of land \$11.77 per acre. Improved lands can be had in the county for from \$10 to \$75 per acre, according to location and class of in provements. The railroad facilities are the best in the outhwest, all the great trunk lines of the region cen tering at Dallas. There are 146 schools in the county outside the countyseat, the same employing 316 teachers. The county re ceived \$77,000 as its apportionment of the State school fund in 1901. All prominent religious denominations are represented by flourishing organizations, many of them having specially conducted schools in the county The county-seat is Dallas, the metropolis of Texas and the Southwest. This prosperous and rapidly growing city has a population of about 50,000 people, and is in every way one of the foremost cities of the South. The location of the city is particularly beautiful and

sanitary. It is possessed of all the most modern

of the county are kept in excellent condition at all times

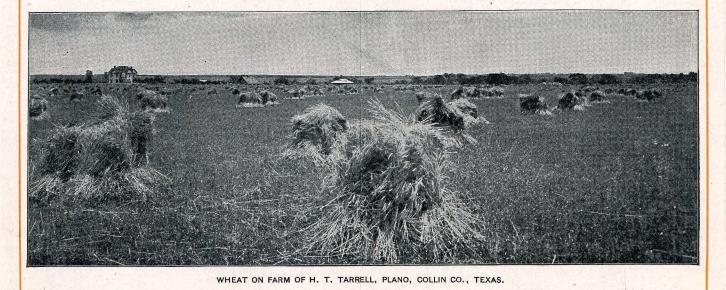
and are a matter of just pride to the citizens. The

ordinary yield of cotton in the county is from one-half

30 to 45 bushels: wheat of superior quality, 12 to 1

bushels; barley, 40 bushels; ribbon cane 300 to 400 ga

two-thirds of a bale to the acre. Corn easily makes



It is the second city in America as a distributing point for agricultural implements. FANNIN COUNTY

THIS is one of the tier of northern counties lying along the Red River, the valley of which is 20 miles wide at this point, half of this valley lying in Fannin County. The area of the county is 891 square miles, and the population in 1902 was estimated at 54,000. About 12 per cent of the population is colored, an ample supply of farm labor being thus afforded. The surface of the county is varied, the ten-mile strip along the Red River in the northern end of the county being heavily timbered bottom land. From this the land rises gradu ally to the southern confines of the county, all the southern portion being undulating upland prairie. Good water is obtainable at a moderate depth and stock water is abundant throughout the entire area. Only the northern third of the county is timbered, the principal varieties being black walnut, oak, ash, hickory, recovered else. In all posts of the county along streams. becan and elm. In all parts of the county along streams tere is sufficient timber for fencing and farm purposes.

The climate is mild and temperate. The rainfall of 40 inches per annum is distributed so as to prevent un-due precipitation or protracted dryness. The county is equally free from floods and drought.

There are a number of different soils in the count. That of the Red River is a deep, rich, red loam, capable of producing three-fourths of a bale of cotton to the acre, and other crops in proportion. On the first shelves of the rise from the valley is a belt of black and red andy loam, while the prevailing soil along the Cotton Belt Route at the southern end of the county is the very fertile black waxy. In this soil cotton produces from one-half to three-fourths of a bale to the acre; 35 to 40 bushels of corn, 12 to 15 bushels of wheat, 50 bushels of oats, two tons of hay, 100 to 125 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 200 bushels of sweet potatoes make the ordinary crop of this region. Garden truck of all sorts is grown in great quantities. Peaches, pears, melons and tomatoes have been found to be especially ern markets now being one of the settled industries of the county.

The total assessed valuation of property in Fannin County in 1902 was \$11,761,000, of which amount \$5,244, 000 was the value of the land. The average taxable value of the land was \$9, and the rate 45 cents pe

of the various religious bodies are numerous throughou FRANKLIN COUNTY

the county.

hundred. The schools of the county number 246, with

259 teachers. The apportionment from the State school fund in 1901 was \$60,000. Representative organizations

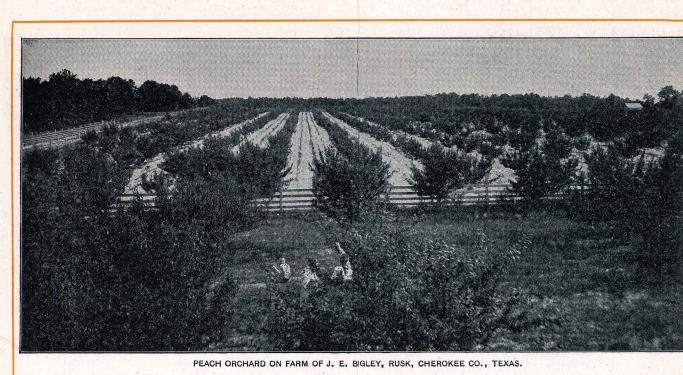
S a long, narrow county lying between Hopkins and Titus Counties, with much the same general char acteristics as those two counties. The general surface of rolling, wooded upland, except in the north where the land drops in a series of benches to the val ley of the Sulphur fork of Red River. The valley of this stream is densely wooded with valuable cypress, oak and ash. The valley soil is a rich black loam, while the wooded uplands have the light gray sandy loam, which has produced such wonderful results in fruit and truck

farming. The climate is mild, not being subject to the violent fluctuations of temperature of northern regions, and enjoying much milder and more equabl This county has an abundant supply of water for stock and domestic purposes. The numerous clear water streams, flowing north and south from the uplant divide, provide excellent drainage for the county, while good wells can be secured everywhere at a moderate depth. The county has a very low death rate, and th general health is good.

A large proportion of the county is arable land, pro ducing paying crops of staples, fruits or garden truck. The early maturity and excellent quality of the peaches and tomatoes raised here make these crops especially valuable. Irish potatoes have been receiving marked attention since 1900, the acreage being steadily on th increase. There are about a thousand farms in the county, with very few renters on farms. The land pays for itself in two or three seasons. Good unimproved lands can be obtained for \$2 to \$7 per acre, the improved lands selling for \$8 to \$20. The land can be secured either by outright purchase or on easy terms. Anything like ordinary attention to cultivation will place a farmer in easy circumstances in a few years. Failure of crops is practically unknown, the excellence of the climate and periodicity of the rainfall, aggregating about 40 inches, being responsible for this happy condition of affairs. The average soil of the county will produce from 600 to 800 pounds of seed cotton to the acre; 20 to 30 bushels of corn, 30 to 50 bushels of oats, 10 to 18 bushels of fine wheat, 25 bushels of barley, 100 bushels of Irish potatoes and 150 to 300 of sweet potatoes The county is very small, having an area of only 31 square miles, and a population of 8,764. The schools are in excellent condition, the county receiving \$10,000 for the school fund in 1901. There are comm church buildings of the various religious bodies in var ous parts of the county, easily accessible to all habitants. The total assessed valuation of the property of Franklin County in 1901 was \$1,622,000, of which \$800,000 represents land values. The average taxable value of the land in the county is \$3.92, and the rate only 43 cents. The county-seat is Mt. Vernon, on the Cotton Bell Route, which crosses the county from east to west. I is a thriving little city, the market for a good agricultura region, and centrally located. It has about 1.000 in habitants, three churches, a bank, a grist mill, a planing mill, one weekly newspaper, a cotton gin and about 3

GRAYSON COUNTY

HIS county fronts the Red River in latitude 96.40 west, has an area of 948 square miles, and a popu lation of 68,884 in 1991. About two-thirds of the county is undulating prairie, broken by hills of moderate elevation, subsiding into narrow valleys through which w small rivers and creeks The Red River hot very wide here, and comprise about one-third of the area of the county. They are heavily timbered with a valuable growth of useful woods, the pecan, bois d'arc and black walnut being the most prominent. A narrow bel of timbered upland crosses the western end of the county Streams are numerous some of them being perennial and others holding sufficient water in the dryest seasons to make an abundant supply for the stock. Good wells are obtained at a moderate depth in almost any locality. There are numerous fine springs



in the prairie land. It is estimated that nine-tenths of the surface of the county is good farming land. The splendid highways of the county present a continuous succession of improved farms. The soils of the prairie

e the celebrated black waxy, alternating with a heavy black sandy soil, each of which is equally adapted to the cultivation of cotton or wheat. The wheat grown in Gravson County is of the very best grade. The soil the Red River Valley is a deep black alluvium, and is extremely productive. A bale of cotton and 60 bushels ocation and nature of the improvements.

of corn to the acre is an ordinary crop on this lan ered upland has the light gray soil on the substratum of red clay, well adapted to fruits, melons, and all sorts of garden truck. Peaches, apples, pears and plums are grown in great quantities for the early market. The crops of small grains and wheat raised in Grayson county are of a very superior quality. Average lands will yield 15 to 20 bushels of wheat to the acre. The total assessed value of the land in Grayson county $_{\rm S}$ \$19,507,702 (1901). Of this amount \$5,000,000 represents land values. The average taxable value of th land is \$9.31 per acre. The tax rate is 43 cents. Good improved lands can be had for \$10 to \$60, according to There are 159 school buildings in the county, exclusive of the cities of Denison and Sherman, employing 283 teachers. There are also a number of higher institutions of learning in the county, many of which rank very nigh in reputation throughout the country. All religious bodies are represented by more or less prosperous or-Sherman, the county-seat, and terminus of the Cotton Belt Route branch line, is a prosperous business city in the midst of a rich agricultural district. It has good

railway facilities, and commands a large trade in the

surrounding country. Its manufacturing establishments

include the largest cotton seed oil mill in the world

cotton gins and compresses, flouring mills, an cil refinery, and the largest iron works in North Texas. Its public schools maintain a high standard of excellence. There are four colleges located here. HENDERSON COUNTY

HIS county occupies the divide between the Trinity and Neches Rivers, which form its western and eastern boundaries respectively. The valleys of the latter rivers are broad and well watered by numerous streams flowing down from the high sandy hills of the divide. This is a forest county, both the hills and bottoms being covered with valuable varieties of oak, hickory, sassafras, etc. The rich, heavy loam of the valleys is especially adapted to seed fruits, such as apple, pear, ce, etc. On the uplands and hills the light, soil is adapted to peach, plum, cherry, etc. Henderson County is not subjected to those sudden changes of cli mate, so destructive to the fruit industry. The quality of the fruit grown is second to none in America. Cotton in the low lands produce two-thirds of a bale to the acre, and one-half a bale in the uplands. Corn produces from 20 to 30 bushels to the acre on the average. Oats, small grain and vegetables thrive splendidly. The average value of the land in the county is \$3.07 per acre. The assessed value of all property in the nty in 1901 was \$3,516,000, of which \$1.803.000 was i

land values. The tax rate is 65 cents per hundred. The

county has an area of 965 square miles, and a population of 19,970. There is still some State land subject to

\$8.141 school taxes, in addition to which the schools of

the county received \$22,728 apportioned from the State school fund. The bonded debt of the county is only

onation in the county. In 1901 Henderson County paid

\$12,000. There are over 100 schools in the county. All prominent religious denominations are represented by flourishing organizations Athens, on the Cotton Belt Route, is the county-seat. and has a population of 2,600. It is a well built town, modern improvements incident to its size It has two banks, several newspapers and schools, 53 ntile houses and good hotels, together with several large brick and pottery works, and cotton gins.

HILL COUNTY

ITUATED on the Brazos River in Central Texas. Has an area of 1,030 square miles, and a population of 41,355. About one-third of the area is timber land. There is, besides the cross timbers, considerable timbered area along the numerous creeks and rivers tributary to the Brazos, which flows through the county. This timber is available for fencing, fuel, etc. Nolans River, White Rock, Pecan, Aquila and Richland Creeks, together with the Brazos River, furnish an abundant water supply for the county. Good soft water wells are obtainable at a moderate depth. The prairie portion, occupying about two-thirds of the county, is all rolling upland. In some portions this prairie has the black limy soil intermixed with sand, in other the stiff, tenacious, black waxy. The soil in the timber lands is red and gray sandy loam. In the timbered uplands this is a very loose gray loam. Along the Brazos is a deep belt of rich red-brown alluvium, which is extremely fer-The climate of Hill County leaves nothing to be desired. The winters are very mild, storms infrequent and the summers moderated by the health-bringing breezes from the Gulf of Mexico. The yearly rainfall of inches is so distributed as to assure the best possible yields and uniformity of crops. The excellent water, grasses, nutritious the vearound, the proximity of good markets, the fine weather, and the pure air of the uplands, make stock raising a profitable and pleasant business, with sure returns for ll labor invested. The great packing houses at Fort Worth, close at hand, consumes the stock shipment of Hill county. Diversified farming, however, is attracting a great deal of attention, and is being followed with unexamp success. The erroneous idea that this region is too far south for wheat has been entirely exploded by the success which has attended wheat culture in this county Very heavy wheat, possessed of the best carrying qualities, is raised in Hill County, and averages 14 to 18 bush els to the acre; 25 to 40 bushels of corn, 50 to 75 bushels of oats, 40 to 50 bushels of barley or rye, and 100 gallons of sorghum cane syrup are the usual productions of an Ribbon cane grown with success will make 300 gallons of molasses. All stone fruits and pears seem to find their natural home here. Truck gardening is an important and rapidly growing branch of the industry of

the county, great quantities of small vegetables being handled commercially every year. The gray sandy loam

of the rolling prairies and cleared uplands produces as

fine a variety of peach or tomato as any land in America.

Hill County is provided with excellent railroad facil

ties, being traversed by five trunk lines. The county

has 220 school houses, and employs 253 teachers, ex-

the county-seat. \$49,832 was apportioned to the schools

of Hill County from the State fund in 1901. The total

assessed valuation of the property in the county in

clusive of the excellent system of the city schools a

1901 was \$11,879,253, and the land valuation \$5,263,500 The average taxable value of land in the county is \$8.49 norses and mules, 32,000 cattle, 3,000 sheep and 31,000 hogs in the county in 1901. The county-seat of Hill County is Hillsboro, the ter minus of the Cotton Belt Route branch which reaches this county. It is a thriving and prosperous shipping cen ter, compactly and neatly built, with excellent railroad connections to all the best markets. Hubbard City, Mt Calm, Mertens and Brandon are all thriving towns located on the Cotton Belt Route.

HOPKINS COUNTY

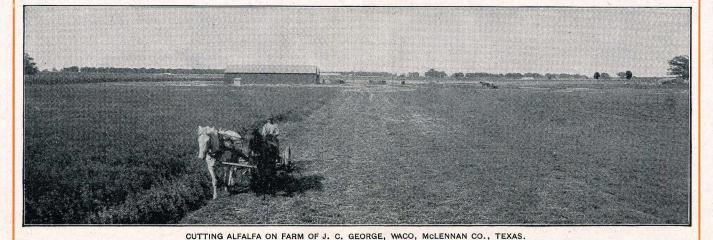
AS an area of 755 square miles, and in 1900 had a population of 27,969. It is located in the northeastern portion of the State. The average elevation of the county above sea level is 400 feet. The surface of the county is generally level. The southwest portion of the county is timber land, while the northeast third is prairie. In the southern portion of the county there is a large area of light, sandy soil on a substratum of red clay. Heavy gray sandy and stiff black waxy soils predominate over the rest of the county. Black riable loam and chocolate colored alluvium occurs along the streams and water courses. The prevailing timbers are blackjack, southern varieties of oak, ash, walnu and box-elder, all of which are valuable both for sale and domestic purposes. The county is well watered by run ning creeks and spring brooks, drought being unknown. Cotton produces from one-half to one bale to the acre. But it is pre-eminently as a truck-gardening, fruitgrowing county that Hopkins County is coming to the front. One hundred cars of fruit and potatoes, 12,000 coops of chickens, 1,500,000 eggs, 4,000 crates of berries, 100 cars small grains, 300 cars cotton seed, and 300 cars ive stock were shipped from Hopkins County in 1901 The most moderate estimate of last year's corn crop is 00.000 bushels: wheat and oats, 600,000 bushels: 110 000 gallons cane syrup, the aggregate value of thes crops, together with the cotton, being \$2,250,000. This s the third potato shipping county of Texas, the moder ate freight rates now being secured, and the excellen means of transportation rendering the cultivation o this vegetable especially profitable. The crop here matures so early as to be all marketed before the Arkansas and Oklahoma potatoes can be placed on the market.

in 1901 was \$5,562,551. The average taxable value of the land was \$4.46, and the rate 60 cents per hundred. The land was valued at \$2,266,000. The county received \$32,000 apportionment from the State fund. There are 1 school houses in the county, employing 120 teachers. The churches in the county represent the various denominations, and have commodious places of worship Unimproved lands in the county range from \$5 to \$15 n price, while improved lands can be had from \$10 to \$40 per acre, according to condition and location. This county is well provided with railroads, being traversed by two trunk lines, the Cotton Belt Route running from west to east, and the M. K. & T. from west to southeast The county-seat is Sulphur Springs, on the Cotton Belt Route. This is a flourishing and important center of population, a magnificent granite court house, with two banks, a building and loan association, two cotton seed oil mills, an ice factory, a steam pressed brick factory, a large compress with a capacity of 65,000 bales a season, three furniture factories, a bottling works, a steam laundry, an electric light plant, water-works, and

The total assessed value of the land in Hopkins Count

There are about fifteen thriving towns in the county. HUNT COUNTY

HIS is one of the most important counties traversed by the Cotton Belt Route. The surface is about three-fourths prairie, balance wooded. The county is well watered and drained, being situated on th head waters of the Sabine and Sulphur Rivers. There is no marsh, swamp or undrained land in the county There are two soils which predominate in the county: a dark, friable loam, and a stiff, black, hogwallow land. They are found in about equal propor tions, the hog-wallow soil being regarded as somewhat superior in fertility. Fully nine-tenths of the county is suitable for cultivation. Diversified farming is no longer an experimen here. It is an established success. Threaded in all directions by trunk lines, giving through connection both to adjacent and distant markets the county possesses that first necessity of the farmer, accessibility to transportation. The highways



lons of molasses; hay from ordinary field grasses, one ton; millet, three tons. The close proximity of the great cities of Northern Texas has given great impetus to the truck farming, which is assuming great proportion The soil is particularly adapted to the growth of garden vegetables, some of the finest tomatoes in the country being grown near Greenville, in this county. Lying as this county does, at the same time in the cotton and wheat belts, and with soil and climate peculiarly suited to the needs of both, fertile enough for truck farming, adapted to fruit culture, and possessed of every facility for transportation from the field to the track and the market, capable of producing excellent crops of small grain and corn, this is one of the most singularly favored regions in the whole country. There are about three thousand farms in the county, only a small per cent o which are rented. Where the land pays for itself within a short time when given anything like intelligent care the occupants do not remain renters for any great length of time. Improved lands adjacent to railroads can be had for \$20 an acre. In the less favored portions of the county there is a little improved land which can b bought for as low as \$12 per acre. The average taxable value of the land in the county is \$8.79 per acre. The total assessed value of the property in the county was \$10,978,674 in 1901, about half of which represents the valuation of the land. The tax rate is 47 cents. There are 150 schools in the county, employing 21 teachers. Hunt County received \$54,000 from the State school fund in 1901. There are churches in every community and neighborhood, all the prominent denominations being represented. The population of the county is estimated at 48,000 in 1902. Greenville, on the Cotton Belt Route, is the county seat. It is a prosperous city of about 6,800 inhabitants situated on a rolling upland prairie, near the center of the county. It is quite a railroad center, 43 passenger trains arriving and departing daily. The city has machine shops, planing mills, factories, foundries, manufactories of saddles and harness, an ice factory cotton oil mills, a compress which handled 90,000 bales in 1901,

an excellent electric light plant and other important in dustries. Wolfe City, located on the Sherman branch of the Cotton Belt Route, is an important shipping point of 1,500 inhabitants. Commerce, situated at the junc tion of the Fort Worth and Sherman branches of the Cotton Belt Route, is a prosperous and well built city backed by an extensive and fertile country. It has more than 60 mercantile establishments and a population of about 2,300.

upland prairies is black, tenacious, waxy lime land that of the valleys a deep, dark, friable loam; of the timbered uplands a light gray, very rich sandy soil rest. ing upon a substratum of red clay. Soils from this county were awarded first prize at the great International Exposition at Paris in 1900. The soils from the Brazos bottoms in this county are a deep, black or redbrown alluvium. It is moderately estimated that farm ing lands of very superior quality compose fully four fifths of the area of the county. With proper cultivation and intelligent care these lands will produce from one half to one bale of cotton to the acre; 20 to 40 bushels of corn: 14 to 20 bushels of wheat; 45 to 60 bushels of oats; 30 to 60 bushels of barley, and two to three tons of hay. In its soil and climate McLennan County presents in a large measure that rare and ideal combination tion of a cotton and wheat producing country, being nearly equally adapted to the cultivation of either o these staples. Vegetables grow in the greatest abundance. Peaches, plums, pears and grapes are also extensively grown, the soil of the timbered uplands being adapted in a marked degree to the cultivation of the stone fruits and truck farming. Berries for the northern markets form an important branch of the agricultura industry of the county. Native grasses are luxuriant and nutritious, but there are no open ranges, all the land being under fence. Stock raising is now confined principally to the finer varieties, all of which do exceed ingly well. There are no unimproved lands in McLen nan County, but improved lands of high quality can be had from \$25 to \$75 per acre, according to location The value of the wool from McLennan County sheep in 1901 was about \$9,000. McLennan County is well provided with railroads, seven through lines passing through the county and bringing it into close communication with all outside markets in every direction. The assessed valuation of the property of McLennar County in 1901 was \$23,147,000, of which nearly \$8,000,000 represented land values. The average taxable value of the land was \$10.64 per acre, and the rate 45 cents per hundred of assessed value. The wealth of McLennan County has increased 150% during the past 15 years. The climate of McLennan county is mild and temper ate, the county receiving the full benefit of the health carrying Gulf breezes. The average annual rainfall i 39 inches, the precipitation occurring in such uniform quantities and at such regular intervals as to assure ull maturity to the crops and equability to the temperature. Destructive droughts are unknown in this county The discovery of hot artesian geysers has rendered the county famous as a health resort. The educational facilities of McLennan County are of the very highest order. There are 143 school buildings scattered throughout the county, employing 257 teachers, to say nothing of the splendid school system of Waco. The county received \$64,000 from the State school fund in 1901. All religious denominations of prominence have organizations in the county and no The county seat of McLennan County is Waco, a prosperous city located near the center of the county, with railroads radiating from it in all directions. It has population of 30,000, and a trade territory comprising over 1,000,000 inhabitants. Commercially, it is one of the great trade centers of the Great Southwest. The

McLENNAN COUNTY

ITUATED near the geographical and commercial center of Texas, this county has an area of 1,083 square miles, and a population of 59,772. The surface is elevated and rolling, two-thirds being prairie The Brazos River crosses one corner of the county, an is fed by numerous creeks and streams, so that the county has an abundant water supply. Good springs are numerous and wells are obtainable at a moderate depth everywhere in this part of the country. The soil of the

largest woolen mill in the Southern States, employing 500 hands, is located here. There are two large cot-

ton seed oil plants, with an output of \$450,000 of cotto seed oil and cake per annum. The city has all the modern improvements, such as trolley lines, electric lights, etc. Fuel is abundant and cheap. The drainage of the city is excellent. There are sixty manufacturing industries of note in the city, and railroads radiate from the city, the principal of which is the Cotton Belt Route, which has the most important northern, eastern an southern connections. The city has public school build ings valued at \$283,000, and is the leading educational center of Texas. The city is entirely supplied with water from tubular and artesian wells. McGregor, South Bosque, Ritchie and Axtel, on the Cotton Belt Route, are all important towns.

MORRIS COUNTY

HIS county lies in the same tier of counties with Titus and Franklin Counties. It is a long, narrow strip of forest land, from nine to ten miles wide and about 36 miles long, containing 170,880 acres. The forest growth, much of which is very fine and large, includes three varieties of merchantable pine, oak, walnu haw, ash, elm, cottonwood, etc. There is an undergrowth of sumac, and wild cherry trees are found herand there throughout the county. Quite an extensive lumber business is carried on, the lumber produc shipped being largely house-builder's lumber, shingles ties and heavy piling. The altitude of the county above the sea level is about 600 feet. The northern part is rolling, the southern rather hilly and broken. There is an abundant water supply from numerous creeks flowing northward to the Sulphur River and south to Big Cypress Creek. Fully nine-tenths of this surface is tillable. All fruits and vegetables attain excellent flavor in this soil. There are a number of small orchards of apples, peaches and plums, as well as a few truck farms in the county. T central location of this county and the general quality of the lands make it particularly desirable for those who wish to engage in truck and fruit farming. It has ex cellent railroad connections with St. Louis, Chicago and Kansas City, as well as with Hot Springs, Ark., which town uses great quantities of early fruit and vegetables. These also mature in time to be marketed without competition from other parts of the Union. Strawberries are a natural product. The fact that the products of this locality can reach Northern markets so early sures fancy prices for everything produced. Lands for fruit culture and truck farms can be bought cheaply and can be rented in any part of the county. Railroad rates for the shipment of fruits are very low, but an increased output of the products would doubtless be encouraged by still lower rates, as the uniform policy of the Cotton Belt Route is to develop this industry. The total assessed valuation of the land in the county was \$1,287,000. The average taxable value per acre was \$2.57, and the tax rate 65 cents in 1901. There are 43 schools in the county, employing 59 teachers. The county received from the State school fund the sum of \$10.644 in 1901. Most of the various religious denominations have church buildings in different parts of the county. The county-seat is Daingerfield, near the center of the county. There are important lumber interests at Naples, on the Cotton Belt Route, which traverses the northern part of the county.

NAVARRO COUNTY

ONTAINS 714,871 acres of land, located in the cen-

tral part of Texas, on the west bank of the Trinity River. The population of the county in 1902 was estimated at 48,000. This is one of the most prosperous and populous of Texas counties. The surface consists for the most part of gentle, rolling upland prairies and wide valleys, the latter being covered with a dense growth of valuable timber. The county is well watered by the Trinity River, Chambers and Richland Creeks, and their numerous tributaries. There are a number of fine springs, and good well water is obtainable at a moderate depth all over the county. The soil along the creeks and rivers is rich, black, sandy loam, It is very deep and extremely fertile. On the prairies the famous black waxy and light gray sandy soils alter nate. In the valleys cotton, corn and other staples thrive luxuriantly. The cotton crop of this county for 1901 showed the enormous number of 99,300 bales, thus establishing Navarro County's claim as one of the premier cotton counties of the South. Roughly stated. this enormous crop provides for 53,000 tons of cotton seed, nearly all of which was handled at the two grea oil mills located at the county-seat. Berries of all kinds make luxuriant yields. Peaches, plums, pears, tomatoes and melons are grown here in large quantities. Th fruit industry of Navarro is growing rapidly. The fertile black waxy soil of the prairies gives magnificent results n staples and small grains. Especial attention is devoted to the cultivation of oats, which here make exceptional vields: 40 to 50 bushels to the acre is an average cror wheat of fine quality will make 10 to 14 bushels to the acre. There are, all told, about 3,400 farms in the county, with very few renters on farms. In the last two years, 1900 1901, more than half of the renters were enabled to pay for their farms and become owners. Many of the farm pay for themselves in two years if given intelligent cul Navarro County is one of the two great oil centers of Texas. The limits of the field have not as yet been determined but some idea of the importance of the

industry may be obtained when it is stated that in 1897

this field produced 97,000 barrels of oil, while in 1900

more than 850,000 barrels were produced. This is a decidedly superior quality of oil to the famous Beaumont Of course this great industry has caused unparallelled development in all directions. The assessed valuation of all the property in the county has nearly doubled in the last ten years. The average value of the land in the county is \$8.49, and the tax rate 47 cents per hundred. Improved lands can be had for from \$10 to \$40 an acre. There is some unimproved land to be had for from \$5 to \$15 an acre. Navarro County has an excellent system of free public schools, a commodious school house being located in every neighborhood in the county. The schools of the county received \$53,000 from the Texas State school fund in 1901. Two hundred and twenty-six teachers were

employed in the 143 school buildings of the county in the same year. Each community in the county is also provided with the means of religious worship, all of the principal denominations being represented. Navarro County is well supplied with railroads, being penetrated from east to west by the Cotton Belt Route. and from about the center in a northwesterly direction by the Hillsboro branch of the same road. The main ine continues west across the county. Another trunk line crosses the county from north to south. The county-seat of Navarro County is Corsicana, on the main line of the Cotton Belt. It is certainly located, being reached also by the north and south trunk line of the county. It is exceedingly prosperous, having within its limits the largest cotton cloth mill in the South, a cotton oil mill, a cotton gin and compress, the latter handling 493,000 bales of cotton in 1901. It is one of the largest cotton markets in the South and is ne largest inland cotton market in America. A large oil refinery located at this point affords work to several hundred employes, and distributes annually considerably over \$2,000,000. Two hundred and fifty commercial esments provide for the growing wants of the community, while magnificent buildings and residences. located on broad and well-kept thoroughfares, give to the city an air of prosperity. Natural gas abounds in the vicinity of Corsicana in quantity and quality. such as to assure an ample supply for any number of factories for many years to come. The present population of Corsicana is estimated at 12,000 (1902).



SMITH COUNTY

HIS is one of the most populous and wealthy counties in the entire southwestern region. It is located in Northeast Central Texas, between the Neches and Sabine rivers. The surface is a succession of low hills, sloping gently into rich valleys. This is a forest county, being covered with valuable timber, which however, is being rapidly thinned out to make way for fruit farms and vinevards. The predominating soil is a rich gray sandy, especially adapted to stone fruits, grapes and small vegetables. All waste or uncultivated places are covered with a growth of the valuable lespedeza or Japan clover, which makes a nutritious and very desirable forage. Switch cane, which affords excellent winter pasturage grows along the creeks. Cotton and corn grow well, the cotton receipts of the last year being 25,000 bales, with 325 tons of cotton seed. The main industry of the county, however, is fruit growing and the cultivation of garden vegetables. At a very moderate estimate, there are in cultivation 1,000 acres in tomatoes, 5,750 acres in peaches, 1,250 in melons, 1,000 in grapes, 225 in apples, 250 in cabbage and 2,000 in gardens, with a constantly increasing acreage in peas, string beans, strawberries and all small vegetables Many of the orchards are practically new, 250,000 peach trees having been set out last year. Peaches generally bear the third year, but do not arrive at full maturity till the fifth year. The mild climate removes the remotest possibility of injury to the young trees. The county is threaded in every direction by railroads, the Cotton Belt Route running through the richest and most desirable sections. There is considerable land to be had for purposes of cultivation, at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$25.00 per acre, according to location The average taxable value of Smith County land is \$3.26. The tax rate is 65 cents per hundred. The total assessed value of all property in the county for 1901 was \$6,388,000, of which amount \$2,169,000 represents land values. Fifteen thousand dollars was paid in school taxes, in addition to which \$44,260 was received from the State fund as the share of Smith County Methodist, Baptist, Cumberland Presbyterian, Congregational, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Catholic and Jew churches are represented. Schools are numerous and the standard of education is high, while the facilities for same are excellent. The county-seat of Smith County is Tyler, a well-built city of 8,000 inhabitants on the Cotton Belt. It has all the conveniences and social advantages common to much larger cities. The situation is particularly beautiful It has three free public schools for whites, and is the seat of East Texas University, an institution of high standing. The city contains seven fine churches, the shops of the Cotton Belt Route, together with the general hospital, three large brick hotels, three bank buildings, an ice factory, a pottery, an oil mill, extensive furniture manufacturing establishments, two bottling works, two

TARRANT COUNTY

brick yards, a large cotton compress, a foundry and

several large modern business blocks.

AS an area of 900 square miles, and is located in the north central portion of Texas. The west fork of the Trinity River enters the county at the northwest corner, curves southward to the center and flows out at the eastern line near the middle. The bottoms of the rivers are well drained, free from

marshes and covered with a heavy growth of timber, the southern varieties of oak, ash, cotton wood and hickory predominating. Running north and south through the eastern end of the county is a strip of timber from ten to twelve miles wide, known as the Cross Timbers. The soil of this woodland is red sandy loam. The soil of the river bottoms is rich alluvium, while north of the Trinity River to the confines of the county the soil is a deep black loam. About four-fifths of the land in this county is tillable and highly fertile, the remaining fifth being very suitable for pasturage. About three-fourths of the county is already inder cultivation. The abundance of stock water and running streams make stock raising a very profitable industry. Fort Worth, one of the leading stock markets of the great southwest, being located in the county, gives

this industry great impetus. The climate is not subject to extremes of either heat or cold, and the rainfall is not only sufficient, but is well distributed through the year. The general health is Cotton raising, half a bale to the acre, oats, wheat, rye, corn, with Irish and sweet potatoes, constitute the main crops. Wheat and oats thrive especially well on the

orairie uplands. The total assessed valuation of the lands of Tarrant County for 1901 was \$20,739,000. The tax rate was 65 cents per hundred. There are 113 school nouses in the county, employing the services of 223 eachers. This is exclusive of the magnificent school system of Fort Worth, the county-seat. Tarrant County's apportionment of the State school fund in 1901 amounted \$51,000. The various religious denominations mainain prosperous organizations, the county being well upplied with churches of all sects. The county-seat of Tarrant County is the city of Fort Worth, one of the leading centers of population in all the Southwest. The estimated population of the city in 1902 was 32,000. Twelve great trunk lines radiate from Fort Worth in all directions, the principal one being the Cotton Belt Route, which terminates at this point. The death rate of this city is among the lowest in the Union, being only 8.49 to the thousand. This arises largely from the excellent climate, fine localities, horough drainage and excellent condition in which the city is always kept. Fort Worth is provided with street railways, being one of the first towns in America to make use of the electric trolley. There are over 3,700 ousiness enterprises represented in the city, exclusive of small stores, etc. Fort Worth is one of the great wholesale distributing centers for a territory of many nundreds of thousands of square miles. The factories of many of these great wholesale houses are located in the city and suburbs. This is the packing center of Texas, having stock yards and packing houses second to no city in the South or West. A vast grain exporting territory is also subject to this city. The town is well supplied with theatres, churches,

schools, banks, fraternal organizations, etc. There are

number of magnificent public buildings, chief among

which may be mentioned the court house, the Carnegie

library, the Federal building, union depot, the board of

trade building, Fort Worth University, and others.

TITUS COUNTY

HIS is one of the northeastern counties of Texas lying within the western extension of the great Louisiana pine belt. The surface is slightly undulating, rising in some places to low hills, and the drainage is excellent. About eight-tenths of the county was originally heavily timbered country, but this is being rapidly thinned out. There is, however, fine timber everywhere for farm buildings and fencing purposes The soil is gray sandy, or dark red in the forest region except where the black loam predominates in the low ottoms. Unimproved lands can be had for from \$2 to \$5 per acre, according to location, accessibility to tran portation, etc. Improved lands bring \$5 to \$18. Cotton

The total assessed valuation of the property in Titus County in 1901 was \$2,169,000, of which \$974,000 represented the value of the land. The average taxable value of land was \$3.62, and the rate of assessment 65 cents. The county has 48 good public schools, taught by an efficient corps of 61 teachers. The State fund allowed \$14,748 to Titus County in 1901 as the county's pro rata share. The country population of the county is large, and there is a great quantity of good land awaiting Railroad facilities are excellent, and the county roads at all times in good condition, making the approach t markets easy at all times. There are 51 miles of tele phone and telegraph lines in the county. The county-seat, Mt. Pleasant, is a commercial center,

with a population of 1,680, located on the Cotton Belt



GATHERING TOMATOES ON FARM OF SOREY & ALEXANDER, JACKSONVILLE, CHEROKEE CO., TEXAS will average one-half a bale to the acre, corn 20 to 50

bushels, wheat 10 to 12 bushels, Irish potatoes 80 to 100 bushels. Enormous quantities of the latter are raised. Vegetables and melons are grown in abundance The ferruginous properties of the light gray sandy and dark red soils peculiarly fits them for the cultivation of fruit. There are several large nurseries and orchards in the county. The raising of dew. black and raspberries for the northern markets has been attended with gratifying results, and is now receiving much attention. Stock raising is on the increase, several kinds of nutritious grasses have been introduced and found to be of great value for this purpose. Switch cane along the streams affords good winter pasturage. Stock water is plentiful all over the county, and good wells can be had at a depth of from 20 to 50 feet. Cattle require only about three months' attention. There were about 5,000 head of horses and mules, 12,000 head of cattle, 1,200

head of goats, 3,000 head of sheep, and 10,000 head of

hogs in the county in 1901.

Route, which here forms a junction with its several branches. It has two newspapers, seven churches, three schools, two banks, a cotton oil mill, electric lights and other modern improvements. Winfield and Cookville both situated on the Cotton Belt Route, are progressive

HIS is a well watered and timbered county, located

UPSHUR COUNTY

in Northeastern Texas. The area is about 519 square miles. The surface of the county is diversified, the high ranges of the hills starting near the center of the county being divided by the narrow valley of Little Cypress Creek. The plateau slopes in a series of shelving benches on the east to the valley of Big Cypress Creek, which here forms the boundary of the county. On the south the Sabine River separates this county from Smith County, one of the other four counties of the great fruit belt. The hills are of conbottoms is alternating black and red sandy loam, while the hills and uplands have the famous gray sandy soil, which is perhaps the best soil for peaches, pears, stone fruits and truck gardening in America. It is the same as the soil of the other counties of the great fruit belt. The substratum of this soil is heavy red clay. As is natural in a heavily timbered district this county has extensive lumbering interests. Cypress, valuable pine, oak, ash, hickory, black walnut, and other merchantable lumber abound, and numerous saw mills are busily engaged in preparing the same for market. Valuable farms are taking the place of timber land as fas as the same is cleared off. The average yield of cotton on the heavy soil of the valleys is one bale to the acre; corn yields from 40 to 60 bushels; Irish potatoes, 90 to 100; sweet potatoes, 150 to 200. Ribbon cane is also grown that has been known to make 400 to 500 gallons of molasses to one acre. The usual yield of sorghum cane is 150 to 200 gallons. The upland soils will not of course make these heavy yields in staples, but they are cultivated with profit in all parts of the county. More than 40.000 bales of cotton were shipped from Upshur County in 1901. It is, however, in the cleared upland farms that the hope of the future for Upshur County rests. Little has as yet been done in the way of developing this marvelous fruit and truck farming, but wherever such cultivation has been attempted the most wonderful results have been obtained. The statements above for Smith and Cherokee Counties apply as well to Upshur. The iron-bearing soil producing the same fine flavored peaches and enormous crops of garden truck and berries is found here. Many inquiries are being received from prospective settlers, and there is little doubt that in a few years Upshur County will be one of the leading fruit and truck counties of the Southwest. The heavy forests north and west as well as the mountains of the Indian Territory serve to break the force of any winter storms, and such a thing as injury to fruit or gardens from bad weather is unknown. The climatic conditions are not only favorable to the crops, they also render the county healthful, pleasant and comfortable as a dwelling place the year round. The assessed valuation of Upshur County is \$2,216,000 The average taxable value of land is \$2.18 per acre. There is every prospect that the figures both for land values and property will be enormously increased in a few years by the tide of immigration which is setting in at present. The tax rate is 65 cents. The county received \$20,000 for the schools in 1901. In every neighborhood there is a church building, and all denomination are represented by local organizations. The Cotton Bel Route, crossing the county from north to south, furnishes the main artery of transportation to the county. Another trunk line crosses the county from east to west in the southern portion, so railroad facilities are The county-seat is Gilmer, on the Cotton Belt Route. This is a prosperous town, with an electric light plant

a saw mill with a capacity of 85,000 feet, numerous cot-

ton gins, three newspapers and a national bank.

siderable elevation as compared with the rest of the

county, and are covered, as are the bottoms, with a

dense growth of valuable forest timber. The soil of the