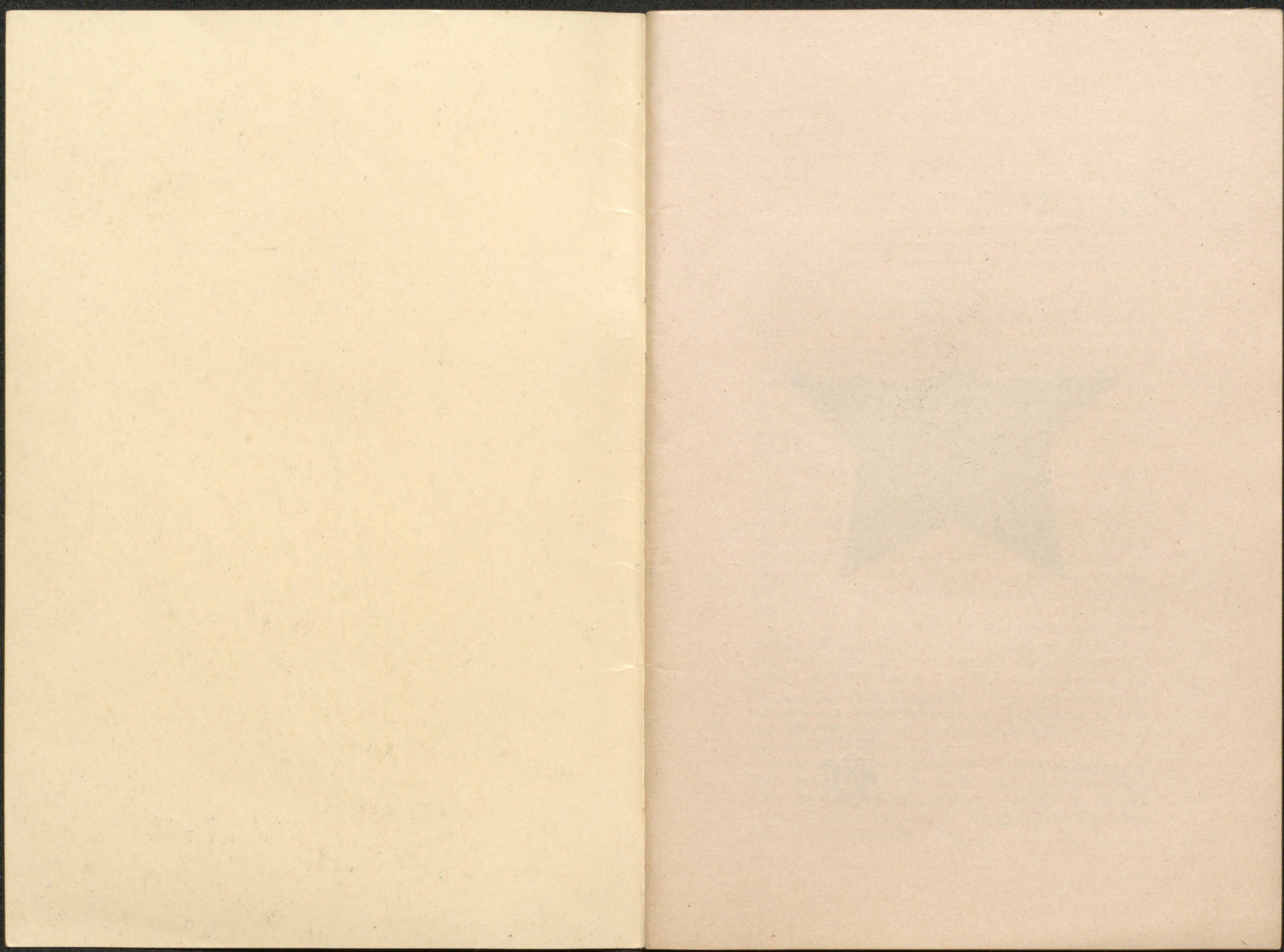


# Texas

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The Empire State  
of the Southwest





## Texas

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St. Louis, December, 1909  
Eighth Edition



## Foreword

Texas farm lands produce an average of \$1.43 per acre; Illinois farm lands produce an average of \$9.54 per acre. These results are arrived at by dividing the area into the total production, and the uncultivated area of Texas is what lowers the Texas average production per acre.

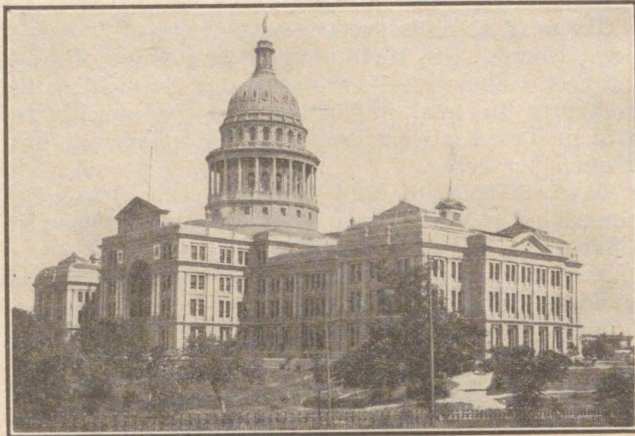
A given tract of land in Texas will yield more pounds of products than a similar area of land in Illinois.

To develop Texas so that it will equal the Illinois standard, it is necessary to increase the number of farmers. No law can be enacted that will increase the production per acre nor the price of products. The increase must come from the outside, by immigration, and then by increase in production per acre from more hands and by better methods.

The development of Texas to the Illinois standard would give Texas a population of 32,000,000, or eight times the present population; an assessed value of \$30,000,000,000, or fifteen times the present assessed value; a gross income of \$16,937,000,000 against \$1,302,505,000; a railroad mileage of 52,000 miles, or four times the present mileage, and the opportunities and prosperity of its citizens would be multiplied thirteen times.

Texas is the only State in the Union with room enough for a population great enough to consume its total production of food, fabrics and building materials; the only area in the world in which the native resources of fuel, iron, water, stone and lumber are sufficient to enable its maximum population to exist and flourish without drawing upon the products of any outside State or nation.

Texas is at the threshold of its greatest prosperity. The development made in the past decade is but a token of that to come, and the dwellers on its rich acres will have reason to be thankful that their steps were guided into such a State.

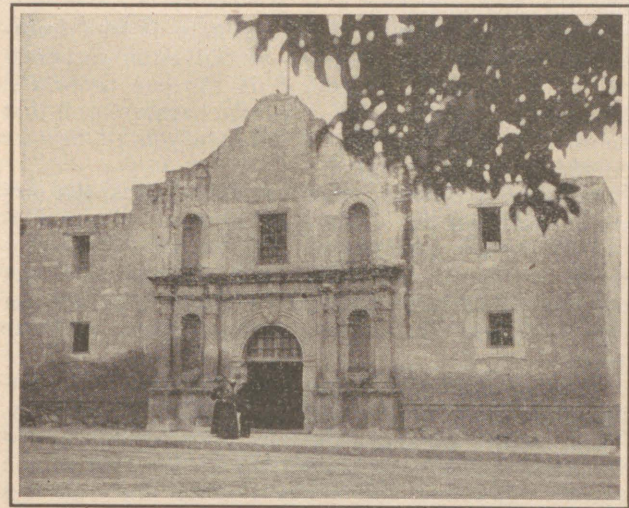


State Capitol of Texas, Austin. Built Entirely of Native Texas Granite; Seventh Building in Size in the World.

## TEXAS.

### Empire State of the Southwest.

TEXAS, an empire in itself, larger than the republic of France, and richer in natural resources than that garden of Europe! Texas, the Lone Star State, equal in extent to seven New Yorks! Texas, whose birth was heroic, whose future will be gigantic! Texas could be better celebrated by an epic poem and a pean than in the plain prose of the economist.



"The Alamo"—Cradle of Texas' Liberty.

France supports 40,000,000 of people in comfort. Texas, whose boundaries are slightly greater than those of France, has today a population of over 3,600,000 people. Her population grows by leaps and bounds. Already it has passed that of Georgia, heretofore the leading Southern State, while only New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio and Missouri sur-

pass her in the North. She is destined quickly to become the most populous State in the Union, since, with her enormous territory, she needs to be only one-seventh as thickly settled as is New York to equal the Empire State's inhabitants.

If the seat of empire is determined by shortest routes, and much can be said for the theory, then Texas is surely the coming center of American exchange. The shift from the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico has been observable the last few years. The completion of the Panama canal will accentuate that inclination, and the gulf to the two Americas will become what the Mediterranean is to Europe.

Texas is the largest and richest body of land fronting on the gulf. Her harbor of Galveston surpasses that of any other. Indeed, it is the one first-class, commodious, approachable, adequate harbor on all that immense stretch of coast. It ultimately must become the Marseilles of the gulf.

And behind Galveston lies not only Texas, the empire in itself, but the whole Southwest, reaching northwest to Denver and west to the Pacific. The commerce of those ports which seek Europe will not travel the long land route to the Atlantic by way of New York and Boston, but inevitably must gravitate gulfward.

Moreover, Texas is the gateway to Mexico. Originally a daughter of the ancient Spanish dependency, Texas, with its Spanish-Aztec nomenclature and memories, is the natural doorstep to the rich region beyond. Through her domain cross the railways which connect with the new lines into the Mexican republic, and the increasing traffic thereon will enrich the State fabulously.

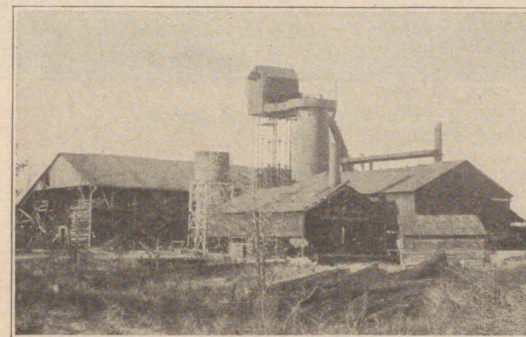
However, were Texas isolated from the world, were her situation not what it is, making her the scene of great crossways, she still would be the seat of great prosperity and enormous industry. Within herself she contains everything which is necessary to the support of a varied population. She could be independent of the world—not merely having a large balance of

trade in her favor as against the world, but actually independent. An embargo could be put upon her coasts and a Chinese wall be raised around her boundaries; yet within the bosom of her prairies, plateaus, swamps, are riches sufficient to supply the every want of civilized mankind.

For Texas contains climates from torrid to temperate; she has rainfalls varying from torrential to Saharan; her land in part is half buried in the sea and in part consists of extensive continental uplands; her productions include sea island cotton and Northern wheat, Asiatic rice and American corn, Louisiana mules and Texas steers; while in the bowels of her hills are massed coal and iron and all other minerals in abundance, and from her southeastern swamps oozes petroleum as water from an oversoaked sponge.

The wealth of Texas is greater than that of any other State in the Union, and it comes from many sources. It is primarily an agricultural community, and has more farmers than any other of the United States.

Texas stands eighth among the States of the Union in agricultural wealth; first in cotton, mules, cattle and cane-sugar production; second in rice; third in horses; sixth in swine; seventh in corn and milch



Iron Works, Jefferson.

cows. The latest yearly report of the farm statistics of Texas shows the following:

	Amount	Farm value
Barley (bus).....	112,722	\$ 68,762
Corn (bus).....	155,804,782	77,902,391
Cotton (bls).....	3,957,619	217,669,945
Hay (tons).....	683,705	5,811,492
Oats (bus).....	31,822,512	13,047,230
Potatoes (bus).....	2,394,469	2,083,188
Rice (bus).....	9,865,800	8,870,220
Rye (bus).....	69,029	58,675
Sugar (tons).....	13,000	975,000
Tobacco (pds).....	294,250	70,620
Winter wheat (bus).....	14,126,186	10,877,163
Wool (pds).....	15,339,120	4,876,560

**Stock on Hand.**

	Number	Farm value
Milch cows.....	993,122	\$ 24,579,770
Other cattle.....	8,236,549	100,856,544
Horses.....	1,277,641	79,456,496
Mules.....	631,050	58,763,376
Sheep.....	1,665,963	4,453,119
Swine.....	2,860,879	16,020,922

Total.....		\$284,130,227
Total land area (acres).....	167,965,600	
Agricultural population.....	2,817,520	

**Farm Statistics.**

Farm land, acres.....	125,807,017
Number of farms.....	352,190
Owned by operators.....	177,199
Rented by operators.....	174,991
Per cent of ownership.....	50.3
Average acres to farm.....	357.2
Average persons to farm.....	8

**Values.**

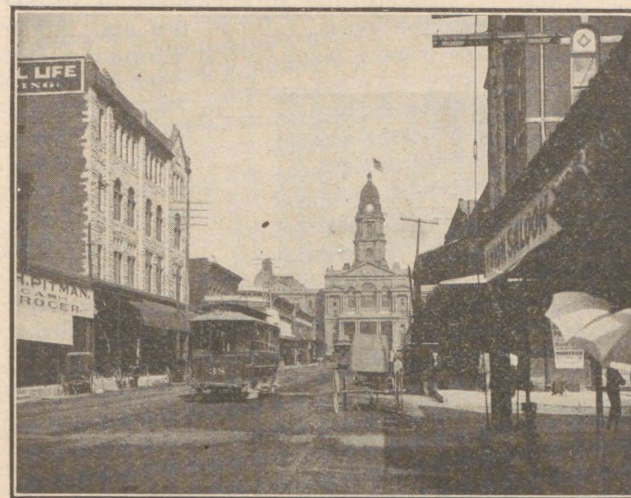
Land.....	\$ 591,550,802
Buildings.....	100,222,811
Implements and machinery.....	30,125,705
Live stock.....	284,130,227

Total.....	\$1,006,029,545
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These figures prove Texas to be a good deal of a State, but it has even more wonderful resources. After agriculture as a source of wealth comes oil. The

first well was struck January 10, 1901. Since then the development has been very rapid, and has extended over various sections of the State.

Texas also has an abundance of coal. The government geologists estimate the area of the deposits at 40,000 square miles. They extend in an irregular stratum, from the Red River to the Rio Grande, within short distances of Dallas, Fort Worth and other of the large cities. In 1907 the output of coal exceeded a million tons.

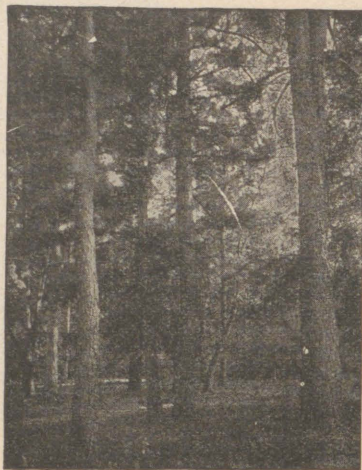


Street Scene in Ft. Worth.

The timber area of Texas is measured at 40,000,000 acres. It is exclusively in the eastern part of the State. There is very little in the west, except mesquite, which makes excellent fuel, but does not grow large enough for lumber. The valley of the Sabine River, which separates Texas and Louisiana, is a dense forest of valuable woods, extending 300 miles from north to south, 100 miles wide at its northern margin and 150 miles wide at its southern extremity. It is one of the

largest forests now standing in the United States, and in a few years will be one of the few sources of supply left to the American people. It is within convenient distance of several of the Gulf seaports.

Along the river Neches is another forest of long-leaved yellow pine. The trees are considered equal if not superior to the best of Mississippi and Alabama in dimensions and quality, and they are sold almost exclusively for the building of ships and railway cars. This timber is now being cut at the rate of 400,000,000 feet a year. Texas also has an abundance of smaller timber for telegraph poles, railroad ties and similar purposes, which is now being cut at a rapid rate to meet the demands from the oil regions.



East Texas Pines.

The entire forest area of Texas is underlaid with valuable deposits of iron ore, but it has never been disturbed or even explored because there is no demand for it. But, as reserve wealth, its value can not be overestimated. It is within easy reach of navigable rivers. It lies almost upon their banks; and as the timber is removed the ore can be reached and mined as easily and as cheaply as the deposits around Lake Superior.

Few people realize that Texas has all of these resources; all this dormant wealth. Were an inventory to be made of its resources, active and passive, that are hidden beneath the ground and the waters, no other State in the Union would come anywhere near Texas, either in amount or value.

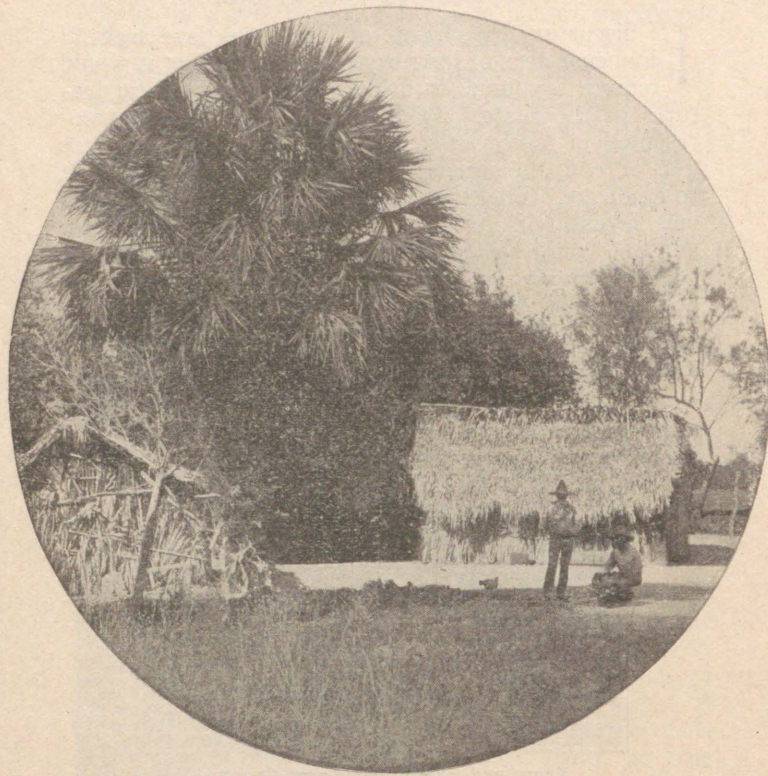
## THE CLIMATE OF TEXAS. Temperatures and Rainfall.

IN discussing the climate of Texas we have such an immense area of territory to deal with that it would require a volume to bring out all the climatic features of the State. Texas' climate has been misrepresented in many ways, and when a false view once gets abroad, the erroneous impression is quite difficult to eradicate. The State contains within its boundaries one-eleventh of the United States, Alaska excluded, and one could not expect to find a single principle or type of climate to prevail over so vast an area, embracing as it does more than 10 degrees of latitude and more than thirteen degrees of longitude. One



Pears and Figs in the Coast Country.

might just as reasonably expect to explain the climate of Illinois upon the principles obtaining in Alabama, as to find an explanation of the normal weather conditions of the Panhandle or Trans-Pecos Country in the conditions prevailing along the Texas Coast. To give some idea of the vast domain Texas covers, remember that the northern portion of the State is nearer to the Pacific Ocean and the Great Lakes than it is to the extreme south portion of the State, or, in other words, if Texas could be hinged and turned upon its



Tropical Scene in the Lower Rio Grande Country.

west line, Texarkana would be a city in or near the Pacific Ocean; if upon its east line, the people of El Paso could cast their hot tamales aside and gather goobers in Georgia; if upon its north line, Brownsville would melt the icicles loose from the Canadian border. From this it will be seen that a variety of climatic conditions must necessarily prevail over such a large territory, but the popular idea of Texas is a country of plains and of low elevation, with only one climate, whereas, in truth, it has been found that there is no State in the Union, except California, which presents to the settler or scientific investigator a greater diversity of climatic characteristics, with reference to temperature, precipitation, wind, cloudiness and humidity than Texas. We are not surprised, therefore, to find the State divided hydrographically into a number of sections, each with its own peculiarities. Perhaps the climate, in its diversity, can be best summed up by saying that in Texas the apple and olive, cotton and hay, find congenial habitat.

The temperature of the air varies considerably in Texas; it partakes of the conditions which prevail in the middle latitudes over the northern portion of the State, while in the extreme southern portion something of a semi-tropical climate prevails. January is the coldest month, and gives the lowest temperatures generally, but sometimes the lowest occurs over the Panhandle in February. Temperatures below freezing, if experienced in South Texas, are of short duration, lasting from one to two days only, and temperatures below zero are rarely experienced even in the extreme northern portion of the State. Frost rarely, if ever, forms more than three or four times during the winter over the coast district, and frequently but one severe frost is experienced, or none at all. During twenty-four years there have been five winters without frost and six with a single frost along the immediate coast. The average date of the last killing frost in spring ranges from February 5, over the southern portion of the State, to April 1 over the northwestern portion, and the average date of the first killing frost in autumn



ranges from October 15, over the extreme northern portion of the State, to December 25 along the immediate coast. From this data it will be observed that there is only about one month during the winter in which killing frosts occur over the coast district, and this proves very favorable for the cultivation of many semi-tropical plants and makes a very favorable climate for a winter health resort.

The summers are also very pleasant along the coast, where the highest temperature ever recorded was 98 degrees Fahrenheit. There is nearly always a cool, refreshing wind from off the Gulf of Mexico, which adds much to the comfort of the inhabitants. Such a thing as sunstroke has never been experienced over the coast district.



Corn in February in Texas.

The following table gives the highest temperatures ever recorded by the Weather Bureau at the places named:

Corpus Christi... 98 degrees	New York, N.Y... 100 degrees
Galveston ..... 98	Boston, Mass.... 101
San Antonio .... 102	St. Paul, Minn... 100
St. Louis, Mo.... 106	Denver, Colo.... 105
Kansas City, Mo. 103	Portland, Ore.... 102
Omaha, Neb..... 106	Red Bluff, Cal... 114
	Chicago, Ill..... 100

The following table gives the lowest temperatures ever recorded at the same places and furnishes an indisputable commentary upon the subject of comparative equability:

Corpus Christi... 11 degrees	New York, N.Y.— 6 degrees
Galveston ..... 8	Boston, Mass...—13
San Antonio.... 8	St. Paul, Minn.—41
St. Louis, Mo...—22	Havre, Mont....—55
Kansas City, Mo.—22	Denver, Colo....—29
Omaha, Neb.....—32	Walla Walla, Wash—24
Chicago, Ill....—23	Red Bluff, Cal... 18

(—Indicates a temperature below zero.)

The figures, in both instances, speak for themselves and ask for no embellishment.

The stations at Galveston and Corpus Christi, which were established twenty years ago, tell the story as far as the Gulf Coast Country of Texas is concerned. Ninety-eight degrees is the maximum reading for both stations in all of those years, while eight degrees, in the one instance, and eleven in the other, are the minimums.

A report recently issued by the observer for the Corpus Christi station, covering a period of seventeen years, shows that only on three occasions in seventeen years has the thermometer gone below twenty degrees, and only four times during the same period has a higher reading than 96 been recorded.

As regards the total annual rainfall, and its geographical distribution, the fall decreases with marked regularity from a little less than fifty inches per annum, in the extreme eastern and southeastern counties, to less than ten inches in the extreme west, that is, in the vicinity of El Paso. The same regular decrease is noticed along the coast as inland; there the fall decreases from about fifty inches, on the east coast, to about twenty inches on the west coast, in the vicinity of Brownsville. The extreme west coast and Panhandle counties have about the same annual fall. The rainfall over the eastern half of the State is ample for agricultural purposes, but over the western half it is rather insufficient, and too precarious.

In the greater portion of East Texas, and the north Panhandle counties, the greatest monthly rainfall occurs in May or June, generally in May; along the immediate coast, September has the greatest average; over that portion of the State west of the 100th meridian, and as far south as, but not including, Jeff Davis and Pecos Counties, the rainfall is greatest in July, except in the most northern counties of the Panhandle, and along the Rio Grande Valley the maximum monthly amount may occur any time from May to October, inclusive. Rainfall in Texas is tropical in character, in that the greater portion of it falls in heavy showers of short duration. A fall of several inches in twenty-four hours is not uncommon in the eastern portion of the State, and along the coast highly-excessive rains sometimes occur.

The question of annual rain variability is a very important one, and might be discussed at some length with profit, but it can be only touched upon here. The territory is so extensive, and the meteorological factors so complex, that it might be safely concluded, from theoretical considerations, even were it not actu-



Lighthouse at Aransas Pass.

ally established by existing records, that rain falls on an average of one day in three in some part of this vast territory during every month in the year; also, that some sections of the State are not so favored, and are subject to drouths of more or less severity. Such a thing as a general drouth was never known in Texas, and the local drouths are not as frequent or as extended as sometimes supposed.

#### TIDE OF IMMIGRATION TO TEXAS.

THE following admonition from Mr. R. T. Milner, Commissioner of Agriculture from the State of Texas, applies with equal force to the residents of other States, particularly the older States, where land values are already high:

"I want to put all the emphasis possible on the fact that every man in Texas not already in possession of a home ought to go right now and buy one. Don't wait for land to get any cheaper, because it will go higher. Land which we thought high at \$3 and \$5



Northern Homeseekers in Texas.

per acre ten years ago, is selling now at \$15 and \$25, and in some places the advance has been greater than that.

"More people are coming to Texas now than ever before. We are daily getting letters from persons living in the Middle Northern States and the Northwestern States, expressing a desire to come to Texas, and asking for information pertaining to the soil and other things naturally concerning those in search of a new country. Nearly all of these persons are farmers. When they reach here and find land as good as they left 75 per cent cheaper, and get acquainted with the people already here, they begin to write back home of the advantages in Texas, and hence a constant tide sets in and keeps on increasing; and this tide will never cease until land values here go where they are now in Illinois. They have found out at the North that sectionalism and North hatred no longer exist here.

"In 1860 Iowa only had a population of 674,913; the last census gave her 2,231,853. In 1860 Nebraska had 28,841 people, and in 1900 there were over a million. The States of Idaho, California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada and the Dakotas have received nearly all their immigration since the Civil War. The last two censuses show a decrease in Nevada. It is my opinion that all these Western and Northwestern States have about reached their maximum of population and wealth for several years—at least, their progress will be slow compared to Texas.

"The tide has even turned from California to South Texas, where citrus fruits can be raised as cheaply as in the 'Golden State.' The next twenty years will witness the greatest tide of immigration to Texas that ever flowed into any State in this Union. I look for a stampede to Texas when the Panama Canal will have been completed that will surpass any migration of people known to history. Hence, I would advise every man and boy in Texas who expects to make a living by tilling the soil to go right now and buy a piece of land on any terms possible."

## GEOLOGY AND SOILS.

**Texas has the Most Varied Soils of all the States.**

**Amazing Variety Makes It Possible to Engage in the Most Diversified Forms of Agriculture.**

**T**O the stranger who travels through Texas for the first time it is a land of wonderful revelations. In the first place, its great size, when a person actually traverses it from the Panhandle to the Gulf, makes an impression on the mind which no amount of description, no matter how vivid, could ever give.

Perhaps second only to its wonderful extent of territory stands the marvelous variety of the soils of Texas. In its geological formation lies the secret of its agricultural versatility, for from the low-lying lands bordering on the Gulf to the great Llano Estacado, the State is marked off in a succession of gigantic terraces, each having peculiar soil characteristics of its own, which make it possible to grow almost all of the products of both the temperate and the tropical zones.

Certain regions, not only on account of their soil, but also because of their water supply, altitude and climate, are peculiarly fitted for the culture of rice, others for cotton, still others for wheat or truck farming or fruit raising, but yet there is a large area where all of these products, with the exception of rice, can be grown most successfully.

### Central Texas.

Central Texas, the very heart of this great State, ought to be one of the most popular sections in all the great Southwest, for it certainly is most highly favored by Dame Nature in climate, soil and products. Roughly speaking, Central Texas extends from the Colorado River and Montgomery and Austin Counties on the south through Johnson and Ellis Counties on the north, and from Llano, San Saba, Mills and Comanche Counties on the west to the Trinity River on the east. The territory is watered by the tribu-

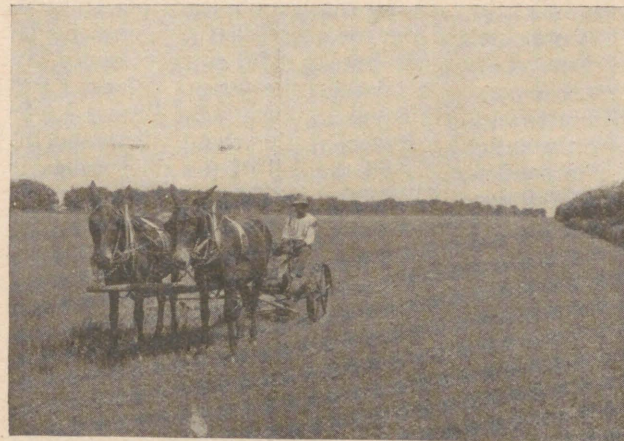


**CORN IN THE GULF COAST COUNTRY**

There is ample proof that Southern Texas Soil and Climate are adapted to Raising Corn

taries of the Colorado River in the south, by the great Brazos River and its streams in the central portion, and by the western tributaries of the Trinity on the east. The average rainfall is from thirty to forty inches, and healthful conditions are insured by the perfect drainage, which is characteristic of all this section. In climate, it is equally favored, for there is never a day in the year when it is not possible to work out of doors. The thermometer rarely drops below 32 degrees in the winter, and only very occasionally soars above 95 degrees in the summer. The spring and fall are long and especially delightful—in fact, the seasons melt one into the other in such a gradual way that it is difficult to draw a line of demarcation.

The "Black Land Belt," famous for its fertility, extends through Central Texas and makes possible a very high cultivation of the soil. Diversified farming is very profitable because of the wide range of crops—from cotton, wheat, corn and other grains to forage plants, vegetables and fruits, the yield is abundant. At the Government experimental farm, located at Giddings, the county seat of Lee County, the soil is being tried for the raising of a high grade of fine cigar



Cutting Clover, near Smithville, Texas.

tobacco. The seed has been carefully selected from Cuban sources, and the results of these experiments are being watched with the greatest interest, for tobacco culture would greatly add to the wealth of Central Texas.

The soil of Lee County is similar to that of many of the other counties of Central Texas. The bottom lands are heavily timbered, but in the uplands the timber is less dense. About one-twelfth of its area is high, rolling prairie. The soil of the farming land is a sandy loam of excellent quality, and there are many thriving vegetable gardens and orchards with rows of berry bushes planted between the trees. The chief source of wealth, however, is the cotton crop, which ranges from one-half a bale to a bale per acre. Corn, Irish and sweet potatoes and sorghum have been most successfully grown, and ribbon cane flourishes on the bottom lands.

#### World's Prize for Soils.

At the time of the Paris Exposition prizes were offered for specimens of soils that were especially adapted to general agriculture. Almost all of the important nations were represented in this competition and exhibits came from those famous fertile valleys of the Nile, the Ganges, the Danube and the Amazon. Yet it was not to one of these that the gold medal was finally awarded, but to McLennan County, in Central Texas. It divides the great "Black Land Belt" in two almost equal sections. The Brazos River flows through the center of the county from northwest to southeast. And the soil of the river valley is a rich alluvial which is unsurpassed in fertility. Farther back from the river are the prairie uplands



North Texas Hogs

and there the soil is second to none in the State, not only for wheat and corn, but for practically all farm products of the temperate zone.

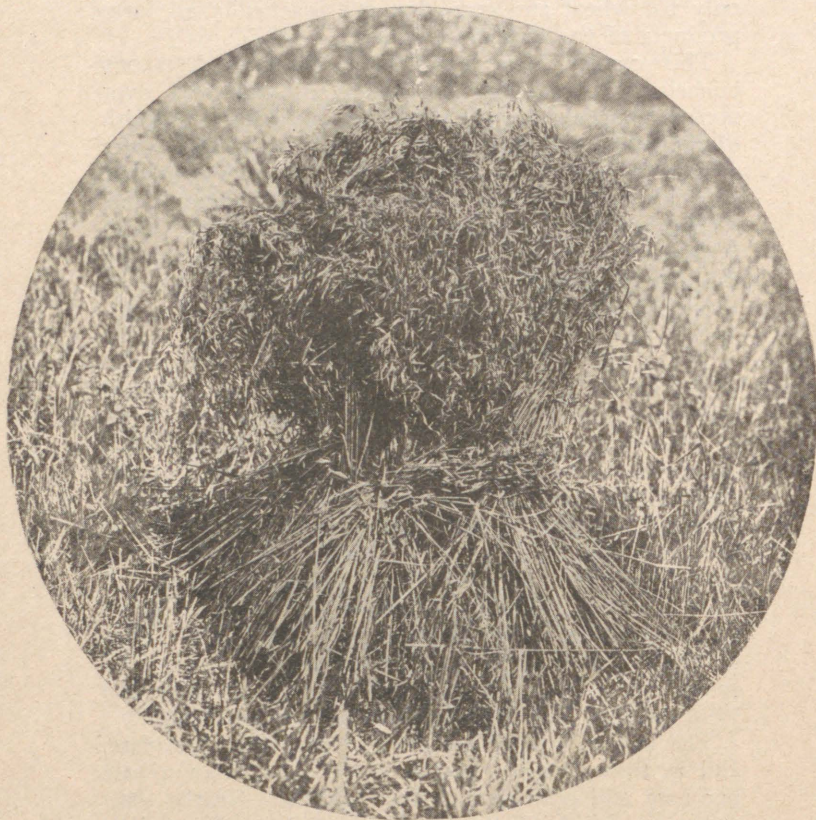
This county alone contributes annually 2,500,000 bushels of corn, 500,000 bushels of oats and over 200,000 bushels of wheat to the agricultural wealth of the State, and, in addition to this fine record, there are large quantities of millet, rye, barley, maize, sorghum and several other kinds of sugar cane, alfalfa and hay in almost bewildering variety. Such a demonstration as this of the fertility of the soil in McLennan County fully justifies the choice of the French Exposition judges.

#### In the Austin District.

Northeast of Austin lies the county of Milam, which sends to the markets in the capital large supplies of fruit and vegetables, for in many sections of this county is found a dark, mellow soil, which is especially adapted to fruit growing and truck gardening. The famous Elberta peach originated near the towns of Cameron and Rockdale. Apples, plums, grapes and cantaloupes are raised most successfully. The soil of Milam County generally is a black, sandy loam, which gives fine returns in vegetables of all kinds. It is quite a common thing to have two excellent crops of sweet and Irish potatoes in the same year, with the yield varying from 200 to 500 bushels per acre.

The soil of the river bottoms is a dark chocolate, and in these sections cotton yields more than a bale per acre and corn seventy-five bushels. Nearly 100,000 acres of the bottom lands have been devoted to rice, and the yield has been extremely good. Improved lands in Milam County bring from \$15 to \$40 per acre and wild lands sell for prices ranging from \$10 to \$20.

These counties are good examples of the entire region of Central Texas, and they speak most eloquently for this part of the State. Surely no ambitious, energetic man need be without a home and income when such a land of promise is within his reach.



Oats—Central Texas

## NORTH TEXAS A GRAIN COUNTRY.

**Four Great Crops of the Red River Valley—Cotton,  
Corn, Wheat and Oats—Give Big Yields and  
Yearly Help to Swell the State's  
Wealth by Many Millions.**

USUALLY when one speaks of any of the principal States of the Union, it is to link its name with some product for which it is especially noted. For instance, Illinois and Iowa are both great corn States, the Dakotas excel in wheat, Wisconsin is the dairy State, while various other States have their especial products in which they excel.

But Texas can not be mentioned in any such specific manner, because of such a variety of products, and each in such enormous quantities that the figures of her crops are simply astounding.

Many people, for instance, have the idea that cotton is the great staple of the State. Not at all. Texas is indeed the greatest producer of the staple in the Union, and her cotton crop runs over 3,000,000 bales a year, this representing an increase in production over six times as great as in the balance of the country, but cotton is only one feature of her great agricultural activity. Texas is also a great corn producer. The State is now growing over 100,000,000 bushels a year, which means that it has quintupled its production during the past three decades. The growth of corn has also made it a great hog-raising State, and its annual contribution of hogs to the country amounts to more than 3,000,000 head a year. It was this development of the hog-growing industry that induced the great packing houses of Armour & Co. and Swift & Co., of Chicago, to locate big packing plants at Fort Worth, and this has become the packing center of the State, and a business amounting to millions is now done there annually.

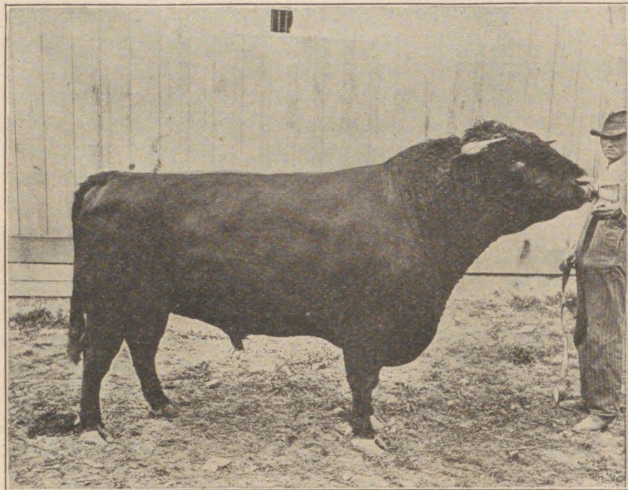
When it comes to wheat growing Texas does not take such a conspicuous position, and yet its figures

are imposing. It is growing between 16,000,000 and 20,000,000 bushels a year, and its production is steadily gaining.

Oats is another crop which it is not usual to associate with Texas, and yet it is raising over 20,000,000 bushels a year.

The value of the four crops mentioned above in 1908, placing a moderate market value upon the four commodities, amounted to more than \$200,000,000.

This great production of wealth is mainly the output of that extremely rich section of the State in which Dallas and Fort Worth are the natural trade centers. The soil is admirably adapted to agriculture, and all standard grains and vegetables are grown profitably. In the bottom lands along the streams the soil is a deep black loam. In other localities it is of black sandy, chocolate and sandy loam. In the central and southern parts of Fannin, Grayson and Cooke Counties, the soil is principally what is known as the black waxy soil, a soil that is rich and productive and capable of the most trying cultivation.



Durham Bull. This is a Popular Breed in Texas.

One other factor in agricultural work in Texas is that the farmer can work every day in the year out of doors. It is not like it is North, where the ground is frozen for months at a time, and in which the growing season is limited. Here the cattle can roam without shelter all the time and generally can find all the forage that they require.

This has made the State the great cattle raising State it is, only that, instead of the old long-horn steer, the cattle raisers have gone in for blooded stock. It is a rare thing to run across the long-horn now. The land, for instance, except out on the western ranges, has become too valuable to raise cattle, except such as will bring the highest market prices. Hence the average farmer now carries a few blooded steers along each year, and these bring him in ready cash whenever he cares to sell. Of the 7,000,000 head of cattle in the State, the majority will grade well up.

The value of the land in the Red River Valley Country—the tier of counties washed by the Red River—has stimulated truck farming, fruit raising, etc., and the many thriving towns and cities, with the excellent railway facilities, give a ready outlet to the farmers for all they can bring to market. As yet these branches of agriculture may be said to be in their infancy, but the profits have been so large that they are gaining every year.



Improved Dairy Cattle



Cattle in Pens at One of the Big  
Ft. Worth Packing Houses.

## THE PANHANDLE COUNTRY.

### Millions of Acres of Land in Northwest Texas Devoted Solely to Vast Herds of Cattle.

THE section of Texas known as the Panhandle has long been recognized as one of the finest cattle regions in the whole country. Long before the pioneer ranchmen went there its fine grasses made it one of the favorite haunts of the buffalo, and the wild antelopes and mustangs were also to be found in large numbers. Of the nutritious grasses growing in abundance there are three varieties, which are considered the most valuable of all as food—the true buffalo grass, the curly mesquite, and the grama grass.

The buffalo grass grows to five or six inches in height, and when the dry season comes on it cures on its roots, just as perfectly as hay, thus forming forage in the winter, as well as an endless supply of grazing during the rest of the year.

The curly mesquite is almost equally abundant throughout the Panhandle, and is very similar to the buffalo grass, growing to about the same height and with the same habit of forming perfect hay on its roots. It seems to have remarkable rejuvenating powers, for after a long dry season, or even a bad drought, it will become green in the space of a very few hours when washed by warm rain.

Two varieties of the grama grass, the blue and the white, are especially fine for grazing purposes and winter forage. They will both withstand the trampling of the cattle unusually well.

In 1874 the first ranch was located in the Panhandle, about forty miles southeast of the present town of Amarillo, the county seat of Porter County. From that time on the ranchmen drifted gradually into this section, and it came to be recognized as exclusively a cattle country. The ranches were of enormous acreage, but they were not fenced in, and the cattle roamed at will over the seemingly endless pastures. The usual allowance was ten acres of pasturage for each steer.



The greatest drawback was the scarcity of water in many regions, for these early ranchmen never realized that beneath the surface of these rolling prairies was an inexhaustible supply, which needed only to be tapped to yield abundantly for the needs of even the largest herds.

Periodically the cattle were rounded up by the ranchmen, who scoured the plains for miles around to gather in all of the scattered groups. Oftentimes a certain portion of the cattle, usually those about two years old, would be separated from the others, and driven to sections where water was abundant and the grazing excellent, so these smaller herds could be fattened sufficiently to be sent to market. Sometimes they were even sent as far north as the ranges of Dakota or Montana to graze for two seasons, and were then shipped to market.



Alfalfa Field in Ward County.

Since the day when the fencing of the ranches with barbed wire began, indicating as it did the increasing value of the land, the vast ranches have been gradually disintegrating, and in a few years, when the old leases expire, they will have disappeared entirely. However, what seems a small acreage to a Texan accustomed to the size of earlier holdings seems enormous to people of the older States, where a few hundred acres is considered a large amount of farming and pasture land.

Ranches of two or three thousand acres are commonly found in the Panhandle and other sections of Texas today, though, of course, there are many holdings much smaller. The famous X. I. T. ranch covers five counties in the northwestern part of the Panhandle and is the tract that was given by the State to the syndicate which built the magnificent capitol building at Austin, costing \$3,000,000. This ranch contains three millions of acres. On the great staked plains lies the largest ranch owned by a single individual. It covers 1870 square miles and contains about 1,400,000 acres. In the Panhandle there are now only about a hundred ranches, each of which approximates twenty-five miles square.

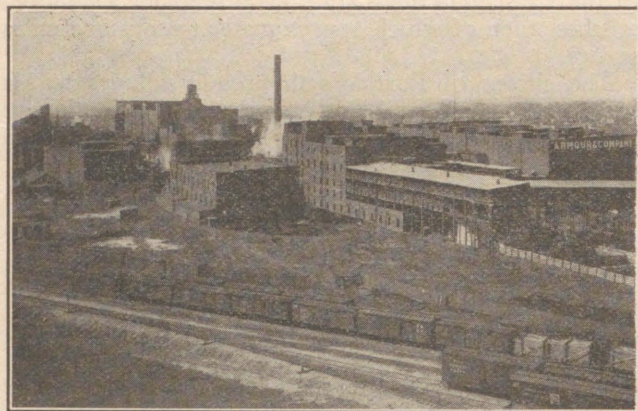
The citizen of Fort Worth proudly alludes to his town as the Cattle and Grain Center of the Southwest. Certain it is that these are the items which contribute largest to the business of this progressive city.



Apple Orchard in the Panhandle Country.

In the Panhandle thousands of head of cattle are bred annually and sold to the dealers of the country, and the packing houses at Ft. Worth have been a priceless boon to this industry.

Previous to their beginning business at Fort Worth, hogs were practically a foreign feature to the Texas stockman. After several years of solicitation on the part of the packing house industries, the farmers and cattle-raisers of the Panhandle were interested in the growth of hogs, and though everyone could not see of what benefit it would be to grow or raise them, there were some wise enough to give them a trial. Within a very short time the industry has grown to enormous proportions.



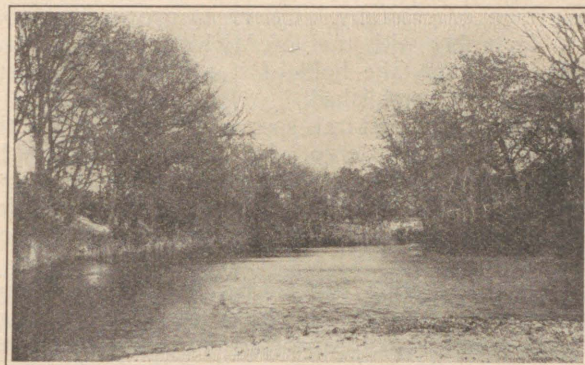
Packing Plant at Ft. Worth.

## WESTERN TEXAS—CONCHOLAND.

### A Great Agricultural and Stock Raising Country.

As recently as five years ago by far the greater portion of the San Angelo Country—familiarly called “Concholand”—was controlled by large cattle and sheep interests, ranches of 64,000 acres, and in many instances larger, being common.

The prosperous cattlemen, depending almost wholly upon the rich native grasses, planted no crops and made no harvests. The extension of the State laws, the sale and lease of lands, the coming of a few small farmers, and the advent of the barbed-wire fence, changed the condition. Land began to have a staple value. Thrifty homeseekers from the thickly populated portions of this and other States, realizing the value of these lands, made such pressing demand for



The North Concho River.

homes that a few of the large land owners were induced to cut their holdings into small tracts and sell them. The newcomers put in some winter forage crops, planted fruit trees and a few varieties of vegetables. The natives smiled and said that the San Angelo Country was a cattle country, a pasture, and the only way to get on was to own a big herd. But the newcomers made good crops; their fruit trees

flourished; their small fruits, vegetables and grapes yielded generously. At this the cattlemen were astonished. The wonderful success of these pioneer farmers caused other tracts to be opened up, and farming is now no longer an experiment in the San Angelo Country.

The cattlemen followed the example set by the farmers, and began to plant feed crops to supplement the native pasturage. It paid, and today there is no grain, grass or fruit that will thrive in similar latitude that is not now successfully raised in this country. The large land bodies are rapidly being opened for settlement, and everywhere there are splendid opportunities. The soil, season and climatic conditions are well adapted for cotton, wheat, millet, milo maize, kaffir corn, sorghum, oats, alfalfa, Colorado grass, etc. Peaches, apples, pears, plums, apricots, berries, grapes and melons grow to perfection. Vegetables of all kinds are grown successfully. Celery is grown that compares favorably with that of Michigan, and if enterprising growers take hold of it a profitable industry can readily be established.

Another great natural source of revenue to this country is the pecan crop. In the fall when they begin to mature, large numbers of people make a business of gathering pecans. Besides home consumption, there is shipped from San Angelo annually \$75,000 worth of nuts.

While this section has always been a great stock country, it is only of late years that stockmen have seen the advantage of improving the breeds for Northern markets. Now the country is full of white-faced Herefords and other well-known breeds. The days of the old long-horn Texas steer have passed. The same change is being wrought in the horse, sheep, hog and goat business. By applying scientific methods to their business stockmen have realized greater profits than under the old methods. The mixing of thoroughbred cattle and hog raising with that of general farming has been found so profitable that most of the settlers are combining the two. Prize winners at the St. Louis, Ft.

Worth and San Antonio stock shows were raised on a ranch within twelve miles of San Angelo. The shipment of beef cattle alone from this point reaches the enormous sum of \$2,250,000 annually. Over 15,000 head of horses and mules are shipped each year.

San Angelo is the largest interior wool market in the United States, more wool being concentrated and sold here than at any other point. Although the sheep industry has materially changed within the last few years, since the flock owners were compelled to own or control their range, it has proven extremely profitable to everyone engaged in the business, because of the high prices of wool and mutton. In common with cattle and all other live stock the breed of sheep in this section has been very much improved. There is no safer or surer income as a side issue on a farm in this country than a small flock of graded sheep. Angora goats are also raised with profit.

Hog raising, too, is coming to be considered one of the more profitable adjuncts of general farming. Profits are largely enhanced by reason of the fact that along the river bottoms alfalfa grows luxuriantly. Ft. Worth is the principal market for live stock shippers from this section, and the prices paid are on a par with St. Louis and Kansas City markets.

San Angelo, with a population of 16,000, is the trade center of Concholand, and is the largest and richest city in Western Texas. It is near the geographical center of the state and draws trade from an area as large as the State of Massachusetts.

The government reports show that the hours of sunshine in San Angelo exceed those of Denver. This, with the low relative humidity of the atmosphere, make a climate highly beneficial for those suffering from lung or throat troubles. The altitude and the perfect drainage make malaria practically unknown. The mild winters, with the sunshiny days, make it possible to carry on farm work practically the year round.

The San Angelo country possesses a great variety of soils—black, red, chocolate and sandy. The soil of the valleys and prairies is of a soft loam, varying in depth

from three to twenty feet. There are some sections where the soil is black and waxy, the most productive soil in Texas. The sandy lands are equal in all respects to those of older settled sections and produce



Pecan Grove in Concho County.

quite as well. Seventy-five per cent of the country is fertile, tillable land, while at present only about twenty per cent is being utilized for farming.

The rainfall is about 28 inches per annum, being slightly higher during the past six years. This is probably on account of increased amount of land under cultivation. About 80 per cent of the rainfall comes during the growing season, from early spring to fall. Along the river valleys are to be found farms cultivated under irrigation with admirable success, and at small expense. Irrigation, however, is not essential to successful farming. The San Angelo country is exceptionally well supplied with running water. Beginning with the Colorado on the north, the North Concho, Middle Concho, Spring Creek, Dove Creek, South Concho, Lipan Creek, Kickapoo Creek and others, follow in succession, all good sized streams of constant running water, entirely free from gyp, alkali or salt. Underground water is to be had in abundance by drilling a depth of forty to one hundred and fifty feet.

## THE PECOS VALLEY COUNTRY.

**One of the Finest Fruit Regions in the State  
Now That the Pecos River Water  
Has Been Brought Into Use.**

**F**OR centuries irrigation has been recognized as one of the greatest factors in the successful solving of agricultural problems in districts where the rainfall is scanty or uncertain and the rivers or creeks few and far apart; yet, strange as it may seem,



European Grape Tree in the Pecos Valley



Sweet Peas in the Pecos Valley. Seasonable Weather  
Makes Early Gardening Possible.

it is nevertheless almost universally true that people are very slow to apply this system of artificial water supply to new territory. Settlers will often prefer to take land which is not one-half so fertile or so advantageously located, but where the moisture is usually ample, to land which has everything else in its favor—fertility, fine location, and variety of soil—but which lacks a natural water supply.

It is only in recent years, perhaps within less than a decade, that men have begun to realize what great wealth lay waiting for the agriculturist in our Western prairies and semi-arid sections. Thousands upon thousands of acres in the great Southwest have been entirely unoccupied or devoted to grazing, ten acres being allowed as foraging ground for each steer, until recent experiments have proved that these lands, which have been so shunned by the farmer and the fruit or vegetable gardener, are in reality most desirable for cultivation, and the tide of immigration has set strongly in these directions, forcing the great ranchers to yield step by step to the men who till the soil.

The Panhandle and Northern and Central Texas are now divided between the agriculturist and the stockman, but in Western Texas there still is much unoccupied land. Some of it has an ample supply of water, but there are many sections where irrigation from rivers or artesian wells must be resorted to in order to furnish the necessary moisture for crops, fruits, or vegetables, and this has proved to be an ideal method for scientific farming.

#### Redemption of Pecos Valley.

The results obtained from cultivation of the soil under irrigation in the Pecos Valley have placed that region beyond the stage of experiment into the front rank of desirable fruit and vegetable growing sections. The climate is everything that can be desired, the winters are very mild and yet the temperature at times drops to the freezing point, so that ice is formed; the spring comes early, and the summer turns gradually into a late fall. The elevation of the Pecos Valley

is about 2,700 to 3,000 feet above sea level, so the excessive heat of the summer is not to be feared. The air is clear, dry and invigorating.

The soil is very fertile and easily worked. Beneath the alluvial deposit, which is rich in plant food, is a subsoil of clay, alternating with sand and occasionally gravel. This combination is most favorable for agricultural purposes, when it has the proper supply of moisture.



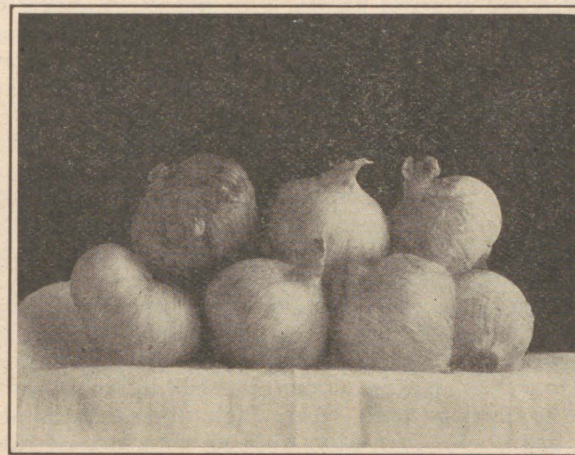
Fig Trees are Profitable in the Pecos Valley

Already a number of irrigation systems have been put into operation in the Pecos Valley and the results have been most gratifying. The one at Barstow is an excellent example of what can be done in the way of scientific irrigation. A spot about fifteen miles above the city was selected, where the conditions of the river bed were such that it was necessary to build only a small, inexpensive dam and dig a short ditch, in order to take the water out on the west side, from whence it is flumed over to the lands surrounding Barstow. The place where the water is brought back to the river lies about twelve miles south of the city. There are in all about 30,000 acres of good, tillable land under

the ditch, and the reports of the Federal government, obtained from accurate observations of the river gauge, which was placed by the authorities at the station located at the flume, proved beyond any doubt that the supply of water is more than sufficient to irrigate the entire tract, although only about 9,000 acres are under cultivation at the present time.

#### Work of the Government.

The prospects of this section of the Pecos Valley are so promising that the Federal government has selected Barstow for the erection of a new experiment station, where skilled men will test the growth of various crops to discover just what grains, fruits and vegetables are best adapted to the soil and climate, and what are the most economic and effective methods of using the abundant supply of water which can be secured from the tract through the main canal and the laterals.



Pecos Valley Onions

That the Pecos Valley has a great future before it as a fruit growing section there can no longer be the least shadow of a doubt, for all experiments along

these lines have met with the most marvelous success. The famous Rocky Ford cantaloupes, grown in the section near Barstow, rival those from Colorado in richness and delicacy of flavor; in fact, they have been pronounced by some experts to be superior to the Colorado product. The yield is abundant and the profit ranges from \$50 to \$100 per acre. Barstow has direct railroad communication with the Eastern markets, so the melons and all other products can be shipped without delay and without exorbitant freight charges.

Phenomenal success has also been attained in the growth of fine grapes, such as the tokay, muscat, malaga and cornishon. The largest vineyard in this district contains 100 acres of bearing vines, and the average yield is 15,000 crates, which bring about \$1.25 per crate.

Besides its already well-established reputation as a fruit section, the Pecos Valley is becoming noted for its splendid crops of alfalfa. The quality is above the average and the yield exceptionally good, five or six cuttings being the average yield. The plant grows luxuriously and requires but little attention. The opportunity for an extensive industry in the handling of alfalfa hay on a commercial scale is exceptionally good at the present time. The outlay for storage barns would be comparatively small and insignificant in comparison to the prospective profit to be gained. This hay will bring from \$10 to \$11 a ton f. o. b. at Pecos, and at some seasons of the year even more.

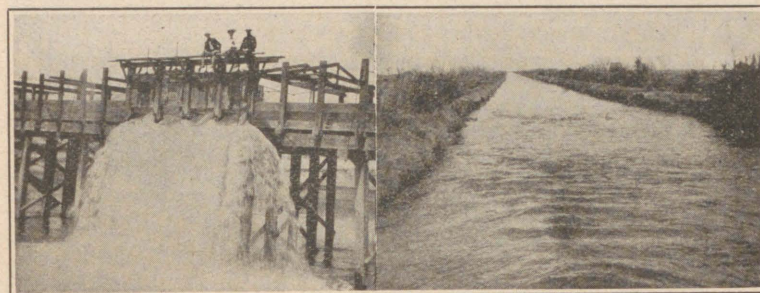
Alfalfa fields easily pay their owners for all work of planting, watering, cutting, baling and hauling the hay, and a net revenue (land rental, we may call it) of \$30 to \$40 an acre. Land that will do this is worth \$300 to \$400 an acre, where high interest rates prevail, and double that, \$600 to \$800, with interest rates at 5 per cent or less.

The immigration into the Pecos Valley and also into the Toyah Valley, which is similar in many ways, is increasing steadily. Most of the newcomers are Northern and Eastern farmers who understand the business

and are prepared to put that practical experience to the test here. So far the results have been most gratifying, and in consequence there is a steady stream of relatives and acquaintances constantly being added to the Northern colony.

The irrigation scheme has been excellently planned and the main channels, ditches and laterals laid out to the best advantage. Many of those locating here were unfamiliar with irrigation until they came, but it is astonishing how quickly they take to farming by irrigation. The profits per acre, too, have in the main been a surprise to these newcomers, and their enthusiasm has increased with each season.

At the present time, while the land values are not exorbitant, the opportunity in this section of Western Texas is exceedingly bright, and as irrigated land can be had of almost any acreage, it appeals particularly to the man of modest means and ambition—the man who would rather farm ten acres and farm it to advantage than to worry along with two or three hundred acres, as he has perhaps been doing in the older States.



Irrigation Plant on Pecos River.

## EASTERN TEXAS.

### A Splendid Fruit and Truck Section.

**E**ASTERN TEXAS is already well known as the timber belt of Texas. While it is true that it is largely a timber country, there is, in the aggregate, a large amount of prairie land interspersed between the large tracts of timber. This portion of Texas, while apparently small, is in reality somewhat larger than the State of Indiana. The general surface is rolling, but in some portions the country is broken by low hills. Probably one-half or two-thirds of this surface is covered with forests of pine, gum, oak, hickory, walnut, cypress and ash, a large part of which is merchantable. Most of the pine timber has been cut, but there still remain considerable forests of oak and gum.

Eastern Texas contains more varied types of soil than any other body of land similar in size which has come to the notice of our government soil service. It has, therefore, many advantages for the man who would buy land for a home. For the most part the territory is of sufficient elevation to be healthful in the highest degree, and in addition it has, for the most part, an unusually fertile soil. On the whole, there is an unusually large area that can be put under cultivation.

The rainfall is ample for the production of two and sometimes three crops each season, being from 40 to 50 inches per year, with rather even monthly distribution, which makes crop failure from drouth an unknown quantity. This section of the State is thus an ideal section for the farmer. He is assured of fertile land, good health and, further, he is in a country where there is timber both for the construction of his buildings and for his firewood.

Eastern Texas is well watered with numerous running streams and springs. Water in wells is to be had at a depth of from fifteen to twenty-five feet. The price of the land is very reasonable, all things being taken into consideration; in fact, it is probably the



Eastern Texas Farm Scene. Sheep Raising  
is Profitable Here.



cheapest land to be had in Texas at the present time. It is adapted for fruits of various kinds, for berries, for vegetables, and for cotton and corn. Stock raising can be carried on most advantageously along with general farming.



Hoeing Peas on Farm near Greenville, Texas.

The development of this section during the past five years has been mainly in horticulture and truck growing, both vocations proving very profitable. Potatoes, both sweet and Irish, will net from \$150 to \$200 per acre; tomatoes, from \$200 to \$300 per acre; cabbage, from \$150 to \$250 per acre; onions, from \$250 to \$300 per acre; cantaloupes, from \$150 to \$200 per acre; strawberries, from \$200 to \$500 per acre; and peaches, from \$200 to \$500 per acre.

Going down into this East Texas country in June, one can easily tell when the fruit and truck country is reached. Entire trains of refrigerator cars, headed for Northern markets, are met frequently. The last of the potato crop is being shipped, the tomato season is at its height, and the early peaches are ripening. In every community the people are busy with the crops, picking and packing the fruits and vegetables.

Where orchards have been planted potatoes and tomatoes are grown between the rows until the orchard is in bearing. Tomatoes are really one of the most



Tobacco Beds; Plants in Cold Frames Before Transplanting to Fields.

important crops of Eastern Texas. They come on the market ahead of the crops from other sections, and consequently prices are usually higher.

The sandy loams and red soils are especially adapted to the growth of fine fruits and high-grade tobacco. While tomatoes, potatoes, onions, cantaloupes, etc., are largely grown in the "East Texas Country," it is as a peach-producing section that this country has made a reputation, since it first attracted attention by its car-load shipments of peaches in 1901. It has, in fact, so well an established reputation as a fruit country that it is now generally known as the "Fruit Belt." Fair

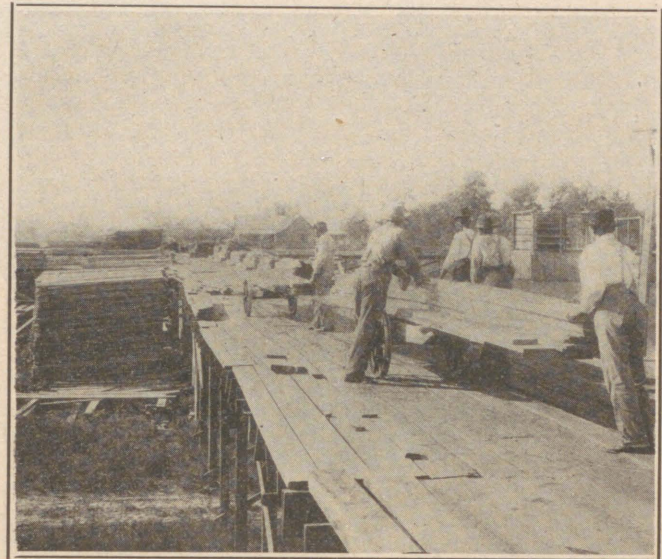
crops of cotton, corn and cereals are also grown. The crops suitable for grazing and for feeding swine can be grown in great abundance, viz., sweet potatoes, pumpkins, peanuts, cowpeas, chufas, stock beets, rape, burr clover and Japan clover. Corn is a safe and profitable crop on both bottom and upland where fertility has been maintained by proper feeding of the soil. Cotton can be grown as a surplus crop. Japan clover and Bermuda grow together and furnish an excellent pasture for eight months in the year, while rape and burr clover will furnish it for the other four months, or Bermuda and burr clover sown together will furnish pasture for the entire year.

So far the greatest success and largest profits have been shown in the peach orchards of this section. Numerous commercial orchards have been planted by peach growers from Michigan and elsewhere, and finding the results so highly satisfactory the acreage is steadily increased year by year. The superior quality of the soil, composed, as it is, of sedimentary deposits containing iron, potash and lime, give to the peach its richness of color, unsurpassed by any grown elsewhere. Both soil and climate impregnate the fruit with a flavor superior to any other peach on the market today. For this reason the Elberta peaches of East Texas have become famous, and the demand thus created is responsible for the added orchards that each year come into bearing.

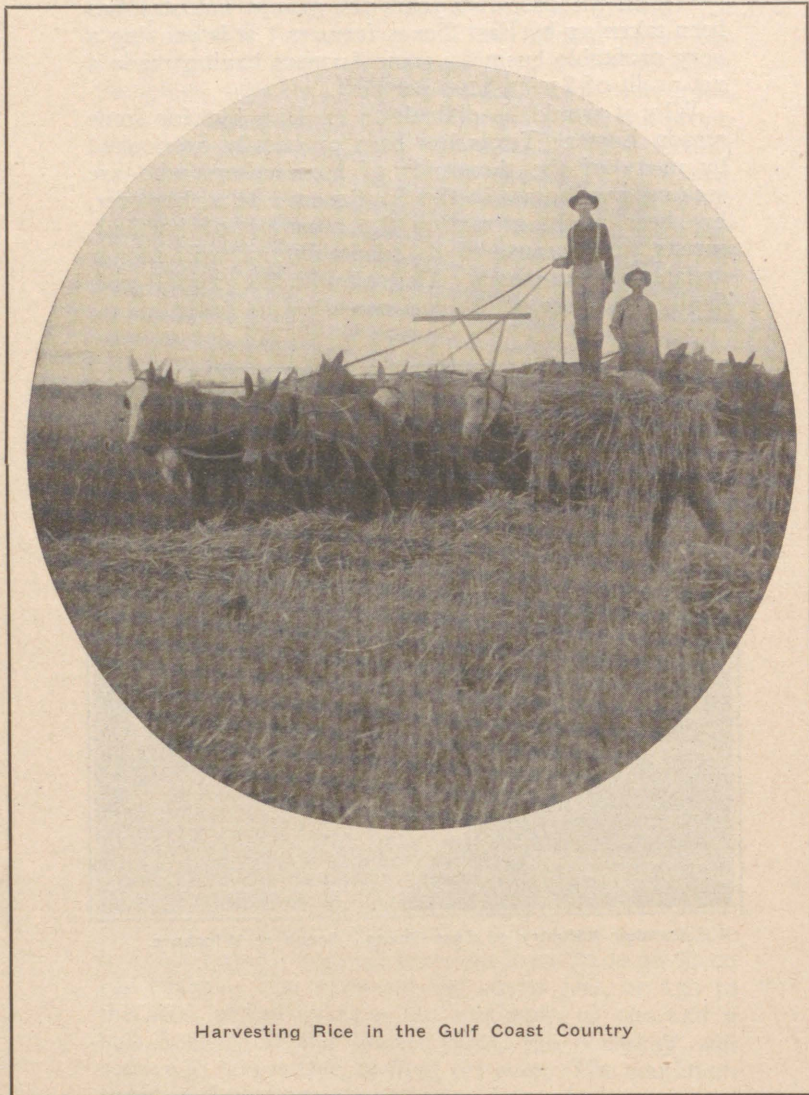
As an illustration of what a commercial orchard pays, the management of the Redlands Fruit Company affirms that the average yield per tree is from one and a half to four bushels of salable peaches, or from \$125 to \$400 per acre in gross receipts. This is a conservative estimate. Both peaches and plums are salable to truck-buyers from all cities at from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per bushel. The trees are set 16x20 feet, or 130 to the acre, so taking even the minimum of one and a half bushels at the lowest price, the company will receive \$1.50 per tree, or \$195 per acre. The maximum profit is thus from two to four times the amount.

Within the past two years the peanut industry has been taken up by East Texas farmers. It is proving a very profitable business, some farmers having made a net profit of \$50 to \$100 per acre.

Why it would be difficult to explain, but for some reason Eastern Texas has been practically overlooked by many of the thousands of homeseekers who are seeking new homes in the Southwest. It is, however, by sheer merit, attracting the attention of horticulturists, and because of its adaptability, it will sooner or later attract others. The soil, climate, rainfall and, finally, the price of the land are all in its favor.



Lumber Industry of East Texas. Scene at Winsboro.



Harvesting Rice in the Gulf Coast Country

### THE GULF COAST COUNTRY OF TEXAS.

WHILE Texas is at present attracting settlers from all parts of the country, the people who are attracted in largest numbers to that State, and more especially to the southwestern portion of it, are, strange to say, the people who are to all appearances most comfortable in their present locations — the farmers of the Middle West — men of means, men of intelligence, men of family.

To say that these people are discontented with their present lot, or that they are abandoning their old homes cheerfully, would be an untruth. They are not going to Texas because they are restless, because they are adventurous, or because they are filled with a desire for new and novel environment, but simply for the identical reason which impelled their fathers to plunge into the wilderness beyond the Alleghenies, the Ohio, the Mississippi, and the Missouri. They are looking for the future of their sons and daughters.

A small farm in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, or any of the older States of the Mississippi Valley, will sell today for enough to purchase a large farm in the rich Texas districts tributary to the cities of Houston and San Antonio, and leave a handsome surplus with which to meet such necessities as may arise until the new farm begins to produce a revenue. In a few years the Middle Western farmer who has not land enough to divide among his children, who sees no prospect ahead save that his boys and girls must be scattered, is able in Texas to give each of them a better start in life than he had, while reserving for himself and wife enough to maintain them independently and comfortably in their old age.

He goes to South Texas, too, without any of the insecurity as to the future that weighed upon his ancestors when they began life in the West. Texas is not a wilderness; settlement there is not an experiment. None of the conditions that existed a half

century ago beyond the Missouri will confront him there. The least populous of Texas counties today are as orderly as the most populous counties in his own State. No matter how small the number of settlers, the school house is to be found in their midst. He will meet there people of his own class, educated, industrious, enterprising people, impregnated with and impelled by the true American spirit.



A Street Scene in Houston.

Best of all he will not be hampered by the rigors of climate that even in the most genial of the Middle Western States have got to be taken into serious account. He is not going into a land where there are "nine months of winter and three months late in the fall." He will not have to work his hands off for one quarter of the year in order that he may exist through the other three. In South Texas he will be able to look forward on every New Year's day to twelve months of "open weather"—twelve months in

which he may plow, and plant, and reap. He may make his choice as regards crops. Practically everything that grows anywhere grows in South Texas, and grows luxuriantly. Every plant that flourishes in any part of the earth, with the exception of the few that are peculiar to the tropics and to the extreme altitude, responds to the soil and sunshine of the country lying along the Gulf Coast.



Gulf Coast Figs.

The Texas Gulf Coast Country is a most interesting region. It occupies the triangle between the Gulf of Mexico and the Rio Grande. The open front of this splendid section of country insures an exhilarating Gulf breeze throughout the summer, while its extreme southerly location affords mild and inviting winters, where work is carried on outdoors often without coat or wrap. Two crops of vegetables during mid-winter and early spring are invariable, while the same soil has by thrift yielded three crops. Only three times during the seventeen years that records have been kept has the mercury registered below twenty degrees,

but during the winter sufficient cold is experienced to destroy the germs of decomposed matter. This is purely a semi-tropic climate, one where most tropical fruits can be raised and where the soil is particularly adapted to raising watermelons and berries. Lands are about half in price to what they will be in the near future, and living is very cheap. It is the richest basin of alluvial deposits perhaps in the world, and with unsurpassed railroad and seaboard facilities, with a country teeming with prosperity, towns and cities alive with activity, it could be no perversion of the truth to predict that it will be, in a short time, one of the wealthiest regions of Texas. The counties of South Texas, beginning at Houston and Galveston on the north and extending to the Rio Grande on the south, offer greater, more varied and richer possibilities for the homeseeker and investor than almost any similar territory.

This Gulf Coast Country is swept by the Gulf breezes, which dispense life to vegetation and health to the inhabitants. They are the prevailing winds and come fresh and pure laden with ozone and vigor from nature's great storehouse, the Gulf of Mexico. The long summers characteristic of this latitude are by them rendered not only endurable but enjoyable. So marked is the influence of the Gulf winds on the State that the average temperature along the Gulf Coast, and for many miles inland, is much lower during the summer months than it is in the higher latitudes of the north. The same influence neutralizes the cold of winter, and makes the winters of the Gulf Coast Country the mildest and most delightful of any section of the Union.

The most desirable lands of Texas are those in the district in which all that is best in climatic and soil conditions are combined. Nowhere in the State are these conditions more perfect than in the Gulf Coast Country. It is in general a beautiful plateau of level prairie land that seems to have been designed to meet not only all the needs but all the ideals of the agriculturist.

The entire range of agriculture lies before the husbandman. When the prime crops are in, or before they are in, and in fact while they are in, he may be carrying on, as extensively as the size of his plantation will allow, the cultivation of every kind of fruit and vegetable, alfalfa, berries and watermelons, nuts of all varieties, and raising live stock—and everything he produces finds a ready and profitable market—because of the coöperation of the railroads, which in Texas, more than in any other State perhaps, take a constant and a deep interest in the welfare of the settler.

In this section of South Texas, because of the level contour of the land and the adaptability of the soil, rice culture is proving a prominent and paying feature of agriculture. Fifteen years ago scarcely a barrel of rice was raised for commercial purposes in the section now known as the "Rice Belt." Today, the four hundred mile stretch of country along the "Gulf Coast," from Beaumont to Victoria, is the center of the rice industry of this country. Great rice mills and rice elevators are to be found in many of the "Gulf Coast" cities, such as Beaumont, Houston, Katy, Wharton, El Campo and others. The demand for rice as a food product in this country alone is fast increasing. The rice production in other countries can not increase for the reason that every available acre of rice land is now under cultivation. This would indicate a constant increase in acreage to be planted from year to year.

Corn, alfalfa, cotton, rice and sugar cane are staple crops for which no substitutes have yet been found.

Figs, pears, plums, peaches, grapes, oranges, lemons and all varieties of berries and small fruits are grown profitably in the Gulf Coast Country.

Figs, oranges and lemons grow to perfection, and experience shows that an orchard will bear from \$90 to \$125 of fruit per acre the third year, \$150 to \$250 the sixth year and the profits of a 10-year orchard will run from \$500 to \$1,000 per acre for 50 years.

Berries and all kinds of small fruits make remark-

The range of crops grown in Southwest Texas covers everything from such heavy staples as cotton, corn, sugar cane, alfalfa and other forage crops, to early truck, citrus and semi-tropical fruits. Southwest Texas is the best cotton country in the world. The average yield, taking the section as a whole, is probably better than three-fourths of a bale to the acre, while the careful farmer can easily make it a bale.

Two crops of corn, each averaging from twenty-five to fifty bushels to the acre, with roasting ears at Christmas time, can be grown on the same land each year. Alfalfa yields from six to nine cuttings a year, each averaging at least a ton to the acre.

Southwest Texas has always had considerable rainfall, but it was not always distributed through the year so as to insure good crops. The annual precipitation has increased with the settlement of the country, but the danger of not getting moisture when most needed has remained. To obviate this condition irrigation has been resorted to, with exceptionally remunerative results. This has led to the undertaking of irrigation projects that alone would solve the question of sufficient water supply for an area as large as some of the Eastern States.

Artesian water was discovered five or six years ago on the King Ranch, forty miles southwest of Corpus Christi. After the first well was sunk, another, and then another was put down, and each time up came the pure, sparkling artesian water, flowing in great abundance. As time went by the artesian belt was extended until it now covers practically all of Southwest Texas, and it is being extended, with every indication that a satisfactory flow will be obtained in all territory not covered by the systems of irrigation on the Rio Grande and Nueces Rivers. Pure artesian water in abundance means wealth; it makes possible the cheapest kind of irrigation, and irrigation means crop insurance.

Of the advantages of Southwest Texas under irrigation, the following excerpts from the report of Mr. W. L. Sargent, a government expert, made at the meeting of the National Irrigation Congress, recently held in Spokane, are of particular interest:

"Nowhere, in either of the nine States and two territories where I visited, did I see or learn of any irrigation proposition that possessed as fertile soil, a better or healthier climate, that could produce the same variety of crops yielding as large a revenue per acre, that possessed better natural advantages, or offered the inducements to capital and homeseekers as Southwest Texas does.

"I refer to this section of Texas because I am perfectly familiar with it; still I am sure there are other sections of the State that possess almost equal opportunities.



Bermuda Onions are a Very Profitable Crop.

"If that class of homeseekers and capital that are interested in irrigation projects only knew what is awaiting them in Texas, where millions of fertile acres of rich arid domain is untouched, there would soon be a rush to the State that would develop and populate the lands, build magnificent towns and cities, new lines of transportation be constructed and millions of tons of freight produced for shipment by the old lines, and prosperity would prevail now where we only have a barren desert."

Southwest Texas contains the richest land in the world for the growing of mixed vegetables, commonly

called truck, and for almost every known fruit except apples. There are many authentic instances where good-sized farms, purchased on credit, have been paid for out of the proceeds of the first crop raised. It is not out of the usual run, at the cost of \$100 for production, for an onion grower in this territory to net \$500 per acre. Everything in the vegetable and fruit line can be grown by the intelligent agriculturist with success and profit. English peas, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, cabbage, corn, snap beans, beets, spinach, watermelons, onions, radishes, cantaloupes, cucumbers, garlic, asparagus, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers; in fact, every known variety of vegetable grows in Southwest Texas in abundance. The cultivation of celery in this section is as yet the baby industry in truck farming, but promises splendid returns.

The truck industry, already great, is only in its swaddling clothes; it is growing with every season. Ten years ago there was but little, if any, truck or fruit growing anywhere in this section. Today thousands of acres of the land are under cultivation, and the wealth of the country has been more than doubled. There is plenty of room for more truck farms. There is splendid opportunity in this line of agriculture for the sober, industrious and intelligent husbandman of the North, East, South and West, who desires to make a home for himself and children in a land where total crop failures in truck, or, in fact, any product are almost unknown.

Grapes, such as are grown in California, are destined to become one of the chief products of this section, for the following reasons: They will grow as luxuriantly and as perfectly here as in any place known. The vines, either from cuttings or from roots, will come into bearing in from one to two years sooner than the same varieties in California, and ripen and be ready for market four weeks earlier. In fact, grapes have been grown in Southwest Texas and shipped to California, reaching there a month before the same variety of grape ripened there. From this, one has a fair idea of what the market and price would be. One

good feature of grape culture in this section is, that when the crop has been gathered as there are no rains of any importance, and irrigation is suspended, the vines will stop growing and enjoy a period of absolute rest, or hibernation, which is a very essential thing. Then, when irrigation is resumed in February following, the vines will respond with a vigor and promptness unknown in any country where it rains much in the fall and early winter. The dry atmosphere and breezes here prevent any diseases like mildew.



Roasting Ears at Christmas Time.

Cotton is still the principal crop in Southwest Texas, as, indeed, it is all over Texas, as this State produces about one-sixth of the entire cotton crop of the United States. Cotton is not an expensive crop to grow. Cotton pickers are paid from 40c to 75c a hundred pounds. The price of cotton, of course, varies, but ten cents a pound, to a bale of 500 pounds, is valued at \$50.

Corn produces from twenty-five to fifty bushels an acre. It is planted very early in the spring in dry land farming and is cultivated throughout the year on irrigated lands. The supply of corn is not equal to the demand of the country and the prices are equal to the best obtainable elsewhere.

Kaffir corn and milo maize, which are being grown extensively by dry farming, give a good yield and make fine feed for hogs, poultry and other stock.

Durham and Macaroni wheat is grown in Uvalde and Kinney Counties, and other varieties are grown in the hill country to the north and northwest of San Antonio. Oats and rye are also grown in the hill country, though not very extensively. They are generally cut green and fed to the cattle and horses.

Broom corn, flax and hemp have also been demonstrated with, but are not raised extensively as yet, owing to the lack of a good market.

Southwest Texas is the coming fruit country of America. Any of the semi-tropical fruits, if given proper attention and care, will flourish and produce profitable returns for the grower. Oranges, lemons, citrus fruit, bananas, limes, peaches, pears, apricots and all kinds of berries can be raised with profit and shipped to market much earlier than from any other section, not excepting Florida or California. The profits from these crops are large ones; the fruit is always in demand, and the prices to be obtained for the early product are exceedingly high.

Texas, wide, diversified and rich, is getting her share of brains and brawn in the work of development. Forty years ago she could not give away her lands, thirty years ago she sold them at six cents an acre. Last year such lands sold for fifteen dollars an acre. In Southwest Texas, where vast transformation enterprises are going briskly forward, lands with the wall of mesquite and cactus torn from them bring under the ditch \$30, \$50, \$100 an acre. A new country has been discovered by industry, if not by history. It is one in which all old values and earlier estimates are wiped out.

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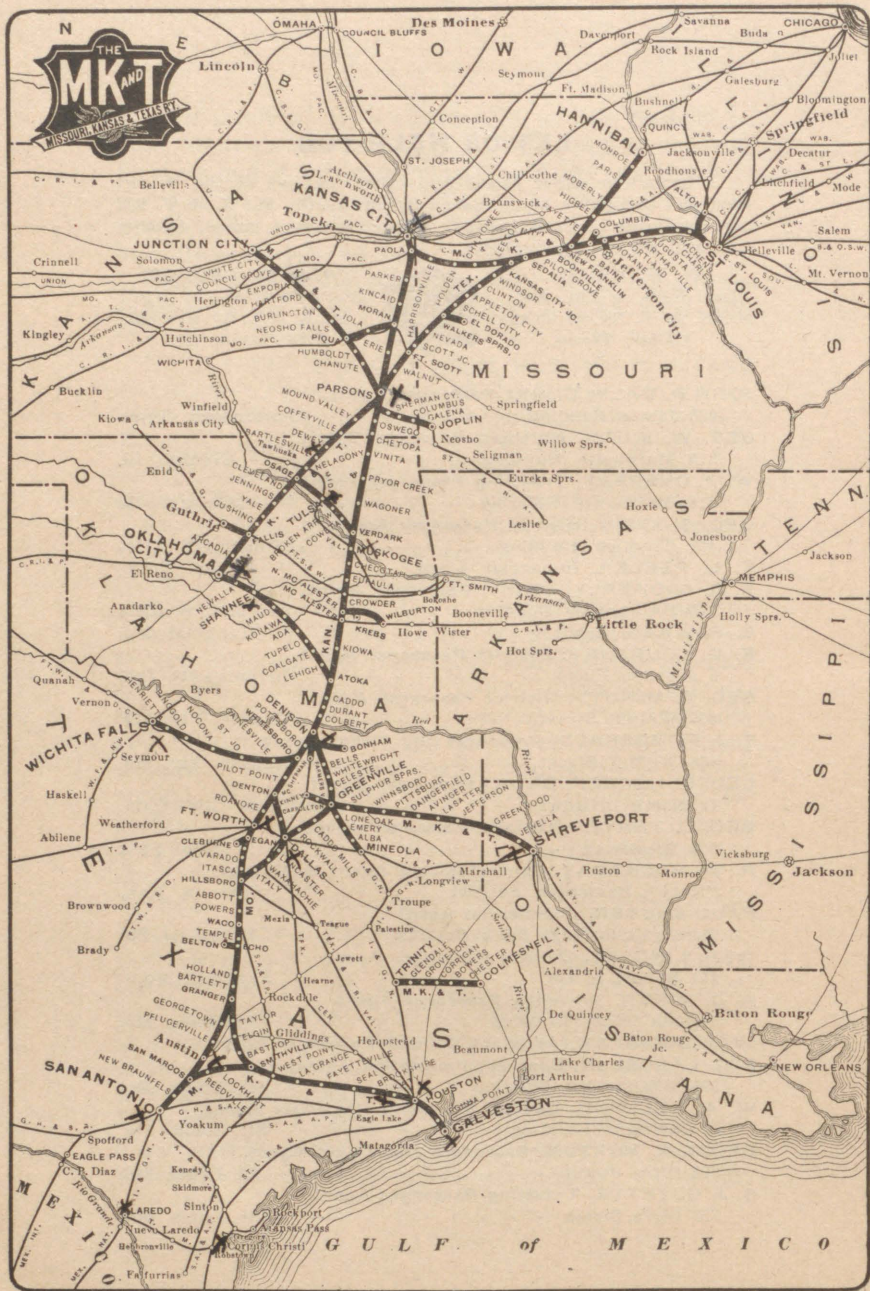
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