

Homeseekers Series No. 10.

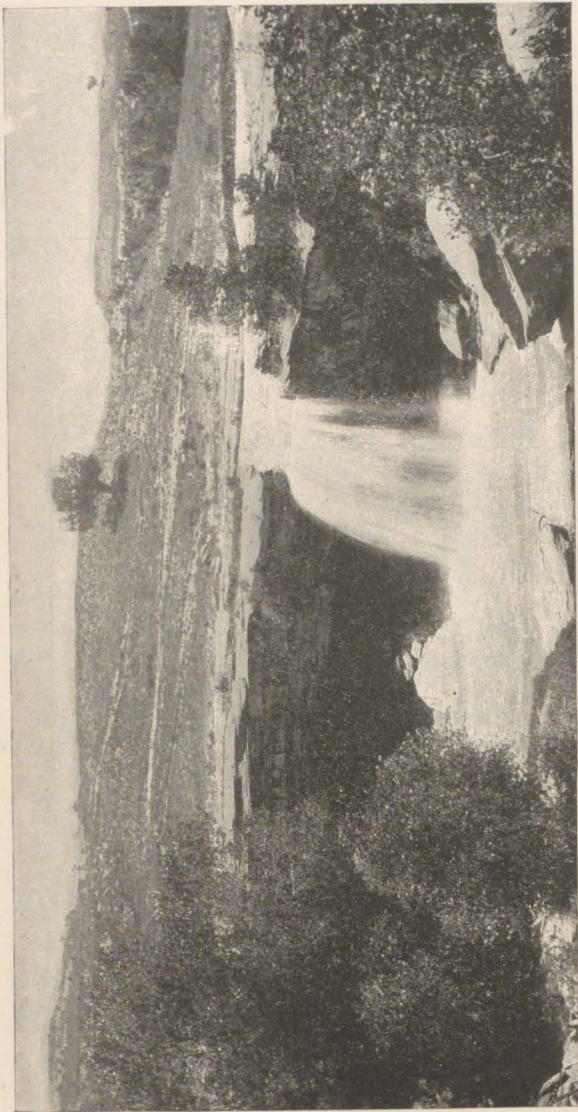
THE  
PANHANDLE  
OF TEXAS



# The Panhandle of Texas



Issued by the Passenger Department of the Santa Fe  
TWENTIETH THOUSAND  
Chicago, 1903



*Falls in Palo Duro Canyon.*

## THE PANHANDLE OF TEXAS.

### WHERE IT IS.

The Panhandle is the extreme northwestern part of Texas. It is 150 miles from north to south, and 170 miles from east to west. It contains twenty-six counties, namely: Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Childress, Castro, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, and Wheeler.

### EARLY RANCHMEN.

The settlement of the Panhandle of Texas began in 1878, when the Indians were finally driven out by McKenzie and his gallant troopers. The first immigrants seeking homes were sturdy ranchmen, with their flocks and herds. When they came they found a vast and seemingly endless stretch of fertile lands, where "lonesome, lawny prairies melt into airy streams." Over every foot of the rolling prairies was a heavy carpet of rich mesquite grass on which their stock grazed and grew fat and wild. This period has now passed into history. But the time will not soon be forgotten when the whole vast plains region from the southern boundaries of Kansas to the Rio Grande was one great open range, covered by grazing herds, an epoch which culminated in making Amarillo, in Potter county, one of the most important cattle-shipping points in the Southwest.

### THE MAN WITH THE HOE.

Following these ranchmen came "the man with the hoe," and he began the arduous task of converting a wilderness far removed from business and social centers into the home of a brave and progressive citizenship. All the privations, hardships and reverses attendant upon such efforts were his; but perseverance, amounting almost to heroism, supplemented by the great natural advantages of the country, brought its reward. The railroads at last came with their varied advantages and then the outside world began to open its eyes wide at the stories of the great natural wealth and advantages of a hitherto supposed dreary desert.

## THE FERTILE SOIL.

The first natural advantage of this country is its splendid soil. It will produce almost anything that grows in the zone it occupies. Its productiveness can not be appreciated until you see the tremendous crops that grow upon it. Depth and texture make soil drought-resisting to a wonderful degree, and in the very wettest weather a drowned crop is an unknown thing. The roll of the surface prevents the water from standing and stagnating. The soil is rich. You can look and see that. The fruits and vegetables of this country are not vapid and tasteless, but their fine flavor elicits praise from every one who tastes them.

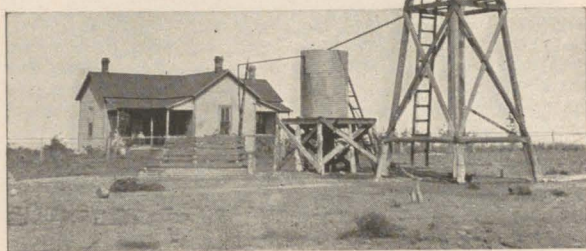
## A DELIGHTFUL CLIMATE.

The climate—the most delightful anywhere—is the next feature. The air is as a general thing dry and consequently pure. There is nearly always a gentle breeze blowing, which dispels the sun's heat. The winters are not as rigorous here as in most high countries. The Panhandle is too far south to suffer the terrible blizzards and snow of the Dakotas. The climate naturally produces robust health, and malarial fevers are practically unknown. Lung troubles and all wasting diseases are permanently cured if the sufferers are brought here in time.

The mean temperature of the Panhandle is 75 to 80 degrees in summer and seldom drops below zero in winter.

## THE WATER SUPPLY.

Its next great natural advantage is its water supply. And this is where we shall probably have to overturn the preconceived ideas of



*Farmhouse and Windmill, XIT Ranch.*

some of the readers of this pamphlet. Notwithstanding the generally accepted belief that this is a country without much water, it is nevertheless a fact that an abundance of good, pure living water can be found anywhere in this entire region at depths varying from twenty-five to 300 feet, and every farmer and ranchman has his one or two or more drilled wells with windmill pumps, insuring him an inexhaustible supply of good water the year around. These wells, and the numerous natural basins which collect and hold the rainfall, furnish all the water needed for domestic and stock purposes. It is true there are a few living streams which offer exceptional advantages in some localities, but these are not the rule.

The rainfall in the Panhandle is not heavy, but amply sufficient for the needs it is expected to supply, though it is not enough to destroy the advantages to be found in the peculiar climatic conditions. It varies from year to year in the average, but maintains one peculiarity; the least rainfall is during the late fall and winter months, and the heaviest during the spring and summer, or growing months. This peculiarity is brought out more fully in the letters appended hereto, and is clearly shown in the official reports of the United States Weather Bureau observation stations at Fort Elliott and Amarillo, which will be found on page 16. It is shown that the rains are to be expected when most needed for the main crop seasons and for the proper starting of fall planting. Too much stress can not be placed on this peculiarity of the Panhandle rainfall, as it is the one reliable feature upon which depends the success of farming operations in this region.

## SURFACE CONTOUR.

The surface contour of this section is determined by its two principal features, the valley of the Canadian river and the plateau of the "Staked Plains," rising up to the south of this valley. The river flows through the country in a general northeasterly direction through the northern part of Oldham and Potter counties, diagonally across Hutchinson county and across the northern part of Roberts and Hemphill counties. The northern border of the "Staked Plains" extends east and west through Oldham and Potter counties, through the southwest corner of Carson, then generally southward through eastern Armstrong, central Briscoe, western Motley, central Crosby, and thence southwest towards the Pecos river. From the Canadian river the land rises on either side in a succession of "breaks" or broken lands to the general prairie level. From the eastern border line between Texas and Oklahoma, the surface rises rather

rapidly to the foot of the "Staked Plains," where the rise is quite abrupt, the ascent being from 800 to 1,000 feet within distances varying from twenty to forty miles, to the level of the "Staked Plains," nearly 3,700 feet above the level of the sea.

In the northeastern portion of the Panhandle the counties of Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hutchinson, Roberts and Hemphill may be classed together as requiring very much the same description in regard to surface, farming possibilities, and present development. The surface is mainly rolling, with only small creeks tributary to the Canadian river or its north fork. There are many quite extensive stretches of fertile lowlands and rolling uplands, interspersed with broken lands or "breaks."

This is the land favored by the stock farmer on account of the long grass pasture, hay fields and shel-



*Water Tank for Cattle Supplied by Windmill.*

ter afforded by the "breaks," while the uplands and intervening lowlands furnish him his ground for his fields and orchards.

Wheeler county has very much the same character of surface, but it is regarded with a little more favor at present on account of its earlier settlement and consequent greater development.

In the west part of Gray county the surface rises more nearly to the level of the plains, and becomes more smooth and unbroken until the "breaks" of the plains are reached. In this level stretch is included Carson county.

The southern half of Potter county lies in the "Staked Plains" and presents a very slightly undulating surface, breaking away near the middle from north to south into the descent of the plains to the valley of the Canadian.

## SUCCESSFUL FARMERS.

All of these counties are fairly on the way to the development of which they are capable. Each contains within its borders a great many good farms and little ranches whose owners have been long enough residents of the Panhandle to speak from experience and to justify us in saying that farming in the Panhandle has passed the experimental stage.

We have published in the latter half of this book several letters from farmers in this section to which we refer the reader at this point. We do this for the reason that it will save space in describing the character of the farming done in this section and the success which has followed the line of work pursued.

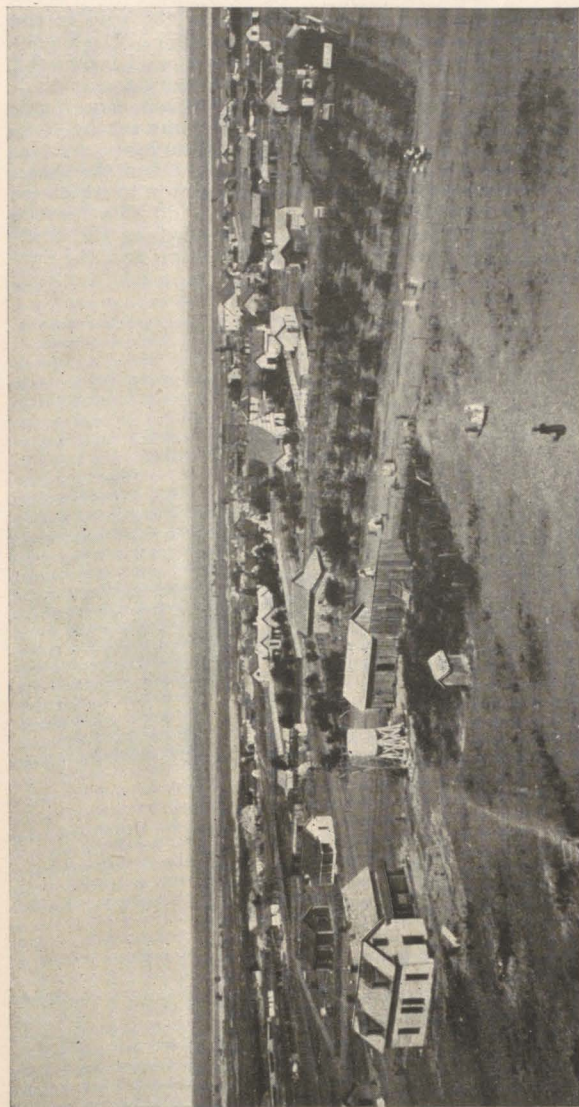


*Buffaloes on the Good Night Ranch.*

These letters are from farmers located in the counties which have been mentioned. There are some facts to be gleaned from them that need to be categorically stated for a more complete comprehension of the subject.

## FROM BIG TO SMALL RANGES.

In the development of this section from a country of big cattle ranges, its growth has been on a solid foundation and in lines conforming to the natural conditions. It may be true that science has not played a very large part in this development, but more reliable experience has guided its formation.



*Bird's-eye View of Canadian.*

In grading up his "long horn" herds the ranchman found it necessary to concentrate his efforts, looking more and more to individual merit in his stock than to numbers, and finally came to look upon the "nester" with his farm crops more as a necessity than as a nuisance. Then the "nester" began to increase and prosper and took to himself a small herd and to feed his own crops, finally becoming an important citizen, until now the small stock farm is the rule and the large ranch is the exception in the Panhandle.

#### CHARACTER OF CROPS.

Starting at first with the drought-resisting crop as a necessity on account of the light rainfall, and improving in his method of cultivation with experience, the



*Haying Scene, Panhandle Country.*

farmer has come to regard these crops as essentials on account of their value as producers of superior beef, mutton, pork, poultry and horse flesh. The climatic conditions are very favorable to the production of such crops as Kaffir corn, milo maize, millet, sorghum and Johnson grass, and to these the farmer pins his faith, not because they are the only crops he can raise, but because they produce abundantly the desired results.

#### KAFFIR CORN AND KINDRED CROPS.

It will be noted from the letters published that Indian corn and oats and even wheat can be raised, and have been raised, successfully; but most of the farmers express themselves as getting the best results from

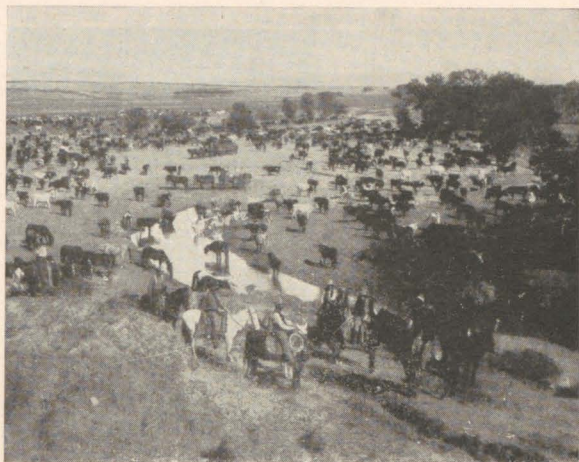
Kaffir corn and other kindred crops. The Northern and Eastern farmer may not understand just what this kind of farming is, but one or two days with a Panhandle farmer will convince him.

Mr. Thomas S. Bugbee, one of the best known of the large cattlemen of the Panhandle, who has had considerable experience in feeding stock, stated to the writer that he would rather have one acre of Kaffir corn, taking the fodder and grain together, than an acre and a half of Indian corn for feeding purposes, and that in the twenty-six years that he has been engaged in stockraising in the Panhandle country, there has never been a single season in which he could not have gotten a good crop of Kaffir corn.

From his Kaffir corn the farmer gets his forty to fifty bushels of grain per acre, rich in food value, and the stalks and leaves furnish an additional heavy crop of excellent forage. His sorghum and Johnson grass produce heavy crops of hay, and the farmer finds ample profit in sending his produce to market on the hoof, depending on the stock market instead of the grain market. However, there are many farmers who find good profit in raising these crops for sale to other ranchmen and farmers, or in the local markets. Once fairly launched in this business in the Panhandle the farmer becomes an enthusiast. He finds that the



*Kaffir Corn, XIT Ranch.*



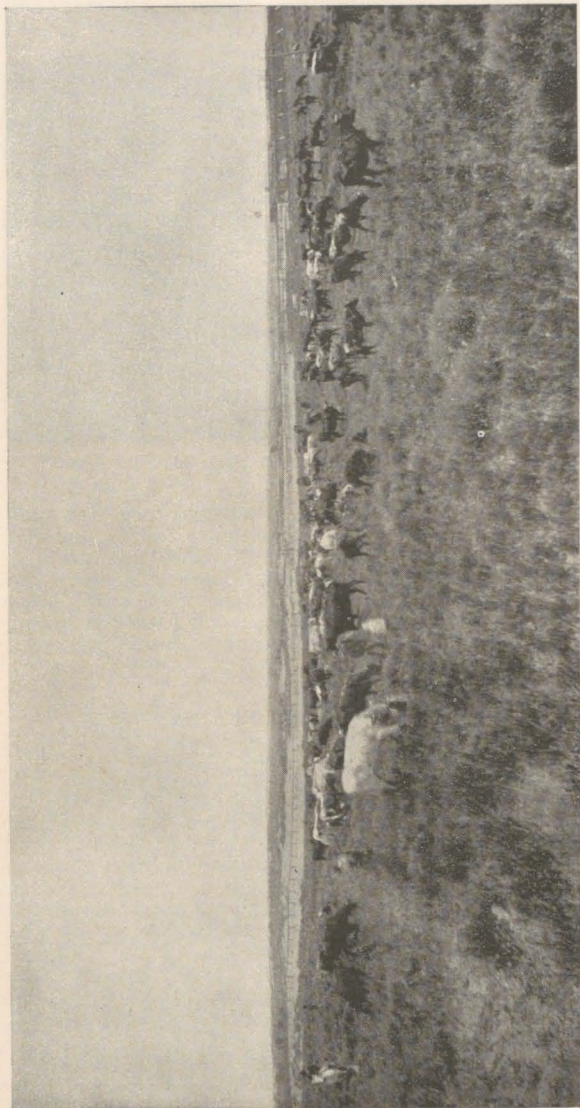
*Herd of Cows in the Panhandle.*

climatic and atmospheric conditions are not only favorable to the health of the human family, but that they also impart vigor, vitality and fine physical quality in the brute creation. Those who have had their attention called to the matter know that during the past few years Panhandle stock has been taking prizes at many of the great expositions and stock shows all over the country.

### THE "STAKED PLAINS."

What has been said previously in regard to climatic and crop conditions of the eastern Panhandle will apply as a general proposition to that part known as the "Llano Estacado," or "Staked Plains," which occupy considerably more than half of the territory in the Panhandle below the Canadian river. For a general description of this region we are indebted to Mr. L. T. Lester, president of the Canyon City Bank, at Canyon City, Texas, who has been a resident of the Panhandle for more than eighteen years, is familiar with every portion of the country from the center of the State to its northern boundary, and knows its history, conditions and possibilities. Mr. Lester says:

"Lying to the south and southwest of Amarillo is a great scope of country at this time not more than past the 'pioneer' stage of growth, and only awaiting the advent of money and people to develop it into one of



*Cattle Grazing Near Canadian.*

the most prosperous sections of the United States. This section embraces practically all the best part of the 'Staked Plains' in Texas, and includes, besides Potter county, the counties of Randall, Castro, Swisher, Bailey, Lamb, Hale, Floyd, part of Motley, Cochran, Hockley, Lubbock and Crosby.

"The Santa Fe Railway System runs through Randall and Deaf Smith counties, but all the other counties named are commercially tributary to this line of railroad, for the reason that the broken lands climbing to the 'cap rock' of the plains to the east and south make traffic with other lines difficult, not considering the question of distance.

"The surface of this country is slightly undulating, but apparently level where the sight is uninterrupted for the full stretch of the horizon. To the east an occasional 'canyon' cuts into the plains for some distance and on the west a considerable range of sand hills runs in through the northern portion of Bailey and Lamb counties. Sometimes the surface slopes down to the level of a small stream, but practically there is no broken land in this section."

#### CROPS.

"The soil is a chocolate or dark red loam and produces abundantly the crops suited to the climatic conditions. Kaffir corn, milo maize, millet and sorghum are the crops most depended on, as in other sections of the Panhandle. Indian corn requires special cultivation, but is regarded as fairly reliable. Wheat and oats have been grown very successfully, but can not be depended upon. All sorts of vegetables do well. In the older counties in the center of the plains (Swisher, Hale, Floyd, Lubbock and Crosby), where the older orchards are, apples have proven very successful, the trees bearing abundantly and regularly, year after year, without the usual intermission."

#### CLIMATE.

"The altitude of this section is from 3,200 to 3,700 feet, and the climate good. It is far enough south to be secure from rigorous cold in winter, yet its altitude protects it equally as well from extreme heat in summer. An encyclopedia not more than ten years old is likely to tell you that the 'Llano Estacado' is an arid country, but, while the climate may be classed generally as 'dry,' there has scarcely been a season during the past eighteen years when the rainfall has not been amply sufficient for crops.

"Good water for domestic and stock purposes is obtained anywhere in drilled wells at from forty to 150 feet deep, and the wells are not known to fail."

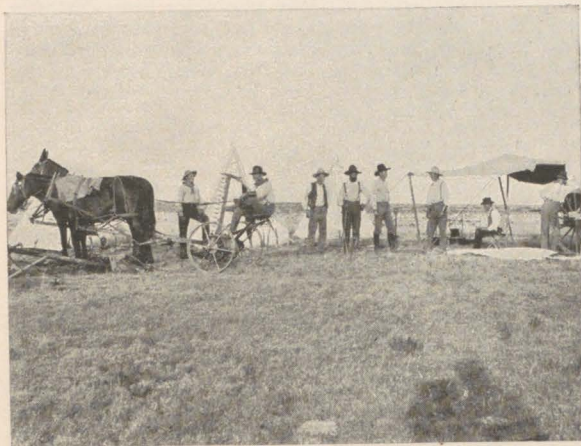


## LAND HOLDINGS.

"Nearly all the land is held under individual title, mostly in large bodies, but present conditions demand that it be sold into smaller farms, and the next two or three years will witness a large immigration to this section, which needs for its proper development many times the present population. Any quantity of desirable land may be had now at three to five dollars an acre."

## A BIG RANCH.

"About one-half of Deaf Smith, all of Parmer, and a considerable portion of Castro, Lamb and Hockley counties are included in the Capitol Syndicate ranch,



*Cutting an Alfalfa Field of 1,000 Acres.*

but it is probable that these lands will be sold out to smaller holders within the next two or three years. In the point of desirable lands obtainable at low prices, this section of the country probably offers better inducements than any other part of the Southwest."

## UNORGANIZED COUNTIES.

"The description that has been given of this country will apply pretty generally to all of the counties named. However, Bailey, Cochran and Hockley counties are not sufficiently populated to be organized. Possibly these counties may not be quite as good from an agricultural standpoint, but there is very little doubt

that they contain a great area of tillable land and will support a very considerable population."

## FRUIT RAISING.

The attention of the reader is especially invited to all that has been said in the letters referred to about fruit raising in the Panhandle. This branch of farming has not been neglected; the evidence shows that all kinds of fruit can be successfully raised. This is not a conclusion reached from a short experience, but covers a period of fifteen years—which is amply sufficient to show reliable results.

## PRINCIPAL PANHANDLE TOWNS.

Lipscomb and Higgins are in Lipscomb county; Lipscomb is the county seat, off the railroad; Higgins is on the line of the Santa Fe Railway System.



*Street Scene, Amarillo.*

Canadian is the county seat of Hemphill county, and Miami, of Roberts county, both located on the Santa Fe. Pampa, in Gray county, is the principal town of that county. Mobeetie, one of the oldest towns in the Panhandle, is in Wheeler county, off the railroad. Panhandle, the county seat of Carson county, is located on the line of the Santa Fe.

Amarillo, in Potter county, with a population of 5,000, is one of the most important towns of the Panhandle on account of the junction here of the Fort Worth & Denver City Railway, the Santa Fe System, and the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Texas Railway.

RAINFALL AT FORT ELLIOTT STATION, WHEELER COUNTY, TEXAS.

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual.
1879.		0.05	0.40	0.16	4.48	4.50	2.11	1.70	0.54	2.40	0.10	0.10	16.79
1880.	T	0.74	T	1.26	5.27	0.10	3.28	0.49	3.18	0.69	0.42	0.26	16.16
1881.	0.33	0.16	0.53	0.66	7.48	1.54	5.65	1.55	3.18	2.82	0.96	0.40	24.76
1882.	T	0.53	0.04	0.82	4.56	1.66	2.87	5.82	4.97	2.32	0.04	0.84	28.21
1883.	0.61	0.27	0.34	1.08	6.29	6.86	1.29	5.60	0.84	5.54	2.14	3.05	33.91
1884.	0.45	0.87	1.86	4.07	7.23	9.82	3.62	4.94	0.65	0.60	0.25	2.11	37.07
1885.	0.62	1.44	1.49	2.44	7.01	3.45	1.50	4.57	1.67	5.04	0.18	0.09	22.83
1886.	0.01	0.06	1.19	6.06	7.01	2.39	0.92	3.52	0.69	0.69	0.23	0.84	22.83
1887.	0.32	0.61	0.40	2.69	3.19	1.34	2.50	2.27	0.71	0.55	0.79	0.08	16.51
1888.	1.63	1.28	1.28	4.86	0.72	1.64	0.88	1.88	1.94	2.99	0.74	0.00	19.40
1889.	2.40	0.89	0.02	3.94	1.69	1.71	0.88	1.89	0.05	2.89	0.74	0.00	19.40
1890.		0.01									Discontinued.		

RAINFALL AT AMARILLO STATION, POTTER COUNTY, TEXAS.

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual.
1892.	0.42	0.57	2.10	0.21	2.70	1.49	1.85	1.93	0.27	2.85	0.16	1.08	15.7
1893.	0.09	0.03	0.05	0.16	2.19	2.03	2.05	2.67	5.24	0.03	0.29	0.43	17.2
1894.	0.02	1.15	0.05	0.85	1.30	3.59	1.82	3.41	2.41	0.39	0.79	0.82	15.8
1895.	1.60	1.92	0.16	1.31	1.78	6.84	2.88	3.87	0.57	0.81	0.35	2.26	24.3
1896.	0.76	0.41	0.21	1.95	2.20	2.31	7.04	0.63	2.45	3.09	0.08	0.83	14.2
1897.	2.26	0.65	0.47	1.08	4.44	2.32	2.16	2.71	0.73	1.63	0.34	2.06	22.5
1898.	0.86	0.82	0.35	0.98	3.52	4.81	3.88	4.03	0.48	0.41	0.32	1.11	27.4
1899.	0.29	0.07	0.17	0.23	3.12	4.45	6.96	0.51	6.09	1.15	3.24	1.07	24.4
1900.	0.59	0.47	0.48	5.47	4.53	1.84	3.21	0.83	5.25	1.58	0.08	0.04	24.4
1901.	0.03	0.48	0.02	4.90	5.99	0.92	1.56	3.03	2.19	3.26	2.00	0.07	24.4
1902.	0.04	T	0.74	1.83	9.14	2.01	1.45	2.42	0.95	1.74	2.24	0.55	23.1

Canyon City, the county seat of Randall county, and Hereford, the county seat of Deaf Smith county, are both located on the line of the Santa Fe Railway. The interior towns south of this line of railway and tributary to the same at Canyon City and Hereford, are Dimmitt, county seat of Castro; Tulia, county seat of Swisher; Plainview, county seat of Hale; Floydada, county seat of Floyd; and Lubbock, county seat of Lubbock county. Bovina, in Parmer county, is an important town on account of its being the southern headquarters of the great XIT (or Capitol Syndicate) ranch. All of the places mentioned are good, thriving, growing towns, and offer exceptional advantages to the homeseeker.

The peculiar situation of Plainview and Lubbock in the lower plains country, about sixty and 100 miles, respectively, from Canyon City, together with the good surrounding country, has made these two towns of considerable importance; present estimated population of Plainview, 1,500, and Lubbock, 1,000.



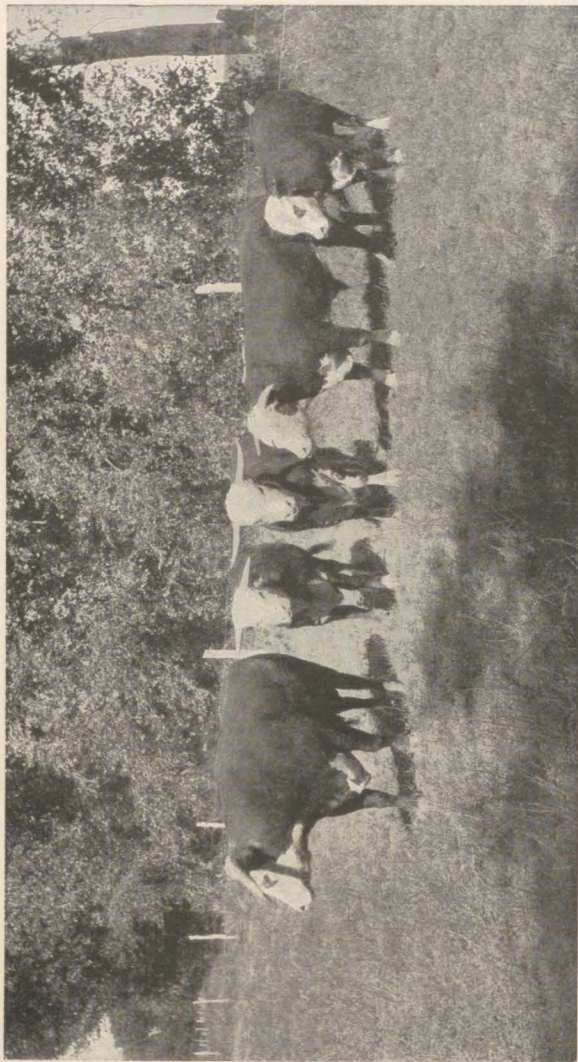
A Round-up on the Plains.

RAINFALL IN PANHANDLE OF TEXAS.

Herein are given full and accurate statistics of rainfall in the Panhandle covering two counties for the years 1879 to 1890; also 1892 to 1902. The distribution by months can easily be seen. It will be noted that the smallest annual precipitation was 14.2 inches in 1897, and the largest, 37.07 inches, in 1885.

TESTIMONY OF PANHANDLE FARMERS AND STOCK RAISERS.

General information about a new country is necessary and is read with interest by intending settlers. But convincing facts are often best furnished by those who have lived there and who have individually worked out perplexing land problems.



*Herefords.*

The following testimony from Panhandle farmers and stock raisers shows just what results have been achieved by early settlers. Don't fail to read what each man says:

## TESTIMONIALS.

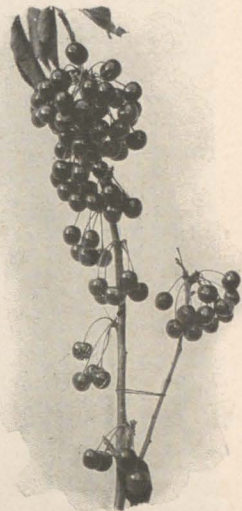
BY G. W. PALMER, OF CANYON, TEXAS.

"I settled on survey No. 43, in Block A-1 of the H. & G. N. R. R. Co. surveys in Hemphill county, Texas, in the year 1886, and have been a continuous resident of the Panhandle ever since. I consider the Panhandle and Hemphill county, in particular, a fine stock-farming country. Some eight or nine years ago I planted an orchard, consisting of apple, peach, plum and pear trees. All of the trees are in healthy bearing condition, and have produced a fine lot of fruit. Some of the peach trees attained a growth of six inches in diameter within four years after planting. I have produced peaches from this orchard eleven inches in circumference and of superior flavor. Many of the apple trees produced from ten to fifteen bushels of fruit apiece during 1902. The pears and plums are equal to anything produced in any section of the country. I am thoroughly satisfied with the results of my efforts in the Panhandle."

BY J. C. PAUL, OF AMARILLO.

"I have lived for fourteen years in Carson and adjoining counties, and farmed for ten consecutive years in Carson county. I raised oats, Kaffir corn, Johnson grass, millet and Indian corn. Perhaps the most profitable crops have been oats and Kaffir corn. I threshed as much as fifty bushels of oats per acre several years in succession. Two years ago I sold my ranch and farm near Panhandle; my successor has, each of the past two years, done even better than I had done before. He raised sixty bushels of oats per acre this year. His Kaffir corn will yield this year fully fifty bushels to the acre."

"While we do not consider Indian corn at all a sure crop here, I have raised several paying crops. I sold



*A Sprig of Cherries from a Canadian Orchard.*



*Bonita Park, Headquarters of L. X. Ranch, near Amarillo.*

one year \$120 worth of Johnson grass seed from five acres and had left about fifteen tons of fine hay, which in itself was a big crop and sold for \$6 per ton.

"My two years' experience teaches me that this plains country will prove a profitable farming country in connection with stock raising. It has done so wherever earnest, faithful and intelligent effort has been used.

"On my former place, two miles south from Panhandle city, I raised an orchard which produced as finely flavored peaches as I ever ate in any country. They lacked the size of the Carlsbad and California fruit, but were superior to them in flavor.

"Last year the owner of this place sold over two tons of Concord grapes from less than half an acre of vines I had planted and but poorly cultivated. All this was done without irrigation and is conclusive proof that vines and fruit, as well as vegetables and grains, can be raised here, when the proper effort is made.

"In another decade Amarillo will be the center of the finest stock raising district in America, settled by the most independent class of people."

BY T. B. HUMPHREY, COUNTY JUDGE, HEMPHILL COUNTY,  
CANADIAN, TEXAS.

"I have lived in the Panhandle since 1883. Began farming and truck growing in 1887. In that year I raised and marketed over \$900 worth of produce off of eight acres of land. My crop consisted of cabbage, onions, melons, tomatoes, sweet potatoes and turnips. The next year I raised about forty bushels of corn per acre. This was on the Washita, on Section 32. Those two years were very dry. I also farmed one year on the high lands and raised on these lands corn, sorghum and vegetables. I raised splendid sorghum, good vegetables and about ten bushels of corn per acre. I then came to Clear Creek, the Egypt of the Panhandle, for truck growing. Gardeners there have made a success for the last ten or twelve years raising vegetables. I for one have raised cabbages weighing twenty-one pounds, onions weighing two and one-half to three pounds, and tomatoes as fine as ever grown in any country. As for feed stuff—such as millet, sorghum and Kaffir corn—they grow readily. I have raised four pounds of onions and have dug from twelve to eighteen pounds of sweet potatoes from one hill."

BY ABRAHAM FINSTERWALD, OF MOBEETIE,  
WHEELER COUNTY, TEXAS.

"My home is on Survey No. 62, in Block A-4, of the H. & G. N. R. R. Co. surveys, in Wheeler county, Texas. I settled on this land in 1889, and have been



*Quince Tree on Grounds of Dr. A. M. Newman, Canadian.*

continuously engaged in stock farming since that time. I consider this a fine stock-farming country. My crops consist mainly of Kaffir corn, sorghum, millet, Indian corn and oats. While crops vary one year with another, as in all countries, during the past thirteen years I have not made a single failure. My oats for the year 1902 made an average of forty bushels to the acre. The land where I farm is not bottom land, but all is upland, so that no special advantage can be claimed for it on account of location. I am successfully raising such fruits as plums, peaches, apples, apricots and grapes; also various kinds of forest trees. My locust trees are six or seven years old and have already supplied me with many fence posts. I handle stock cattle exclusively, and my experience has demonstrated that this is a fine breeding country if the cattle are properly cared for."

**BY J. R. HENRY, OF MIAMI, TEXAS.**

"I am a resident of Gray county, Texas. Have lived on my present place ever since 1890, and have

been engaged in farming on the plains each year. My forage crops have never failed. My Kaffir corn has averaged from twenty to fifty bushels per acre. Wheat has averaged fifteen, twenty-one and twenty-nine bushels per acre, respectively, for three seasons. I am combining stock raising with farming and am thoroughly satisfied with the results. I think the country is all right for what it is adapted to."

**BY J. R. BAIRD, OF PAMPA, GRAY COUNTY, TEXAS.**

"My home is on the plains, in the northern part of Gray county, a little south of the Santa Fe Railway. I have resided there for a number of years. My crop of oats for 1901 and 1902 averaged between thirty-five and forty bushels to the acre. I have also raised very profitable crops of wheat, Kaffir corn, sorghum and millet."

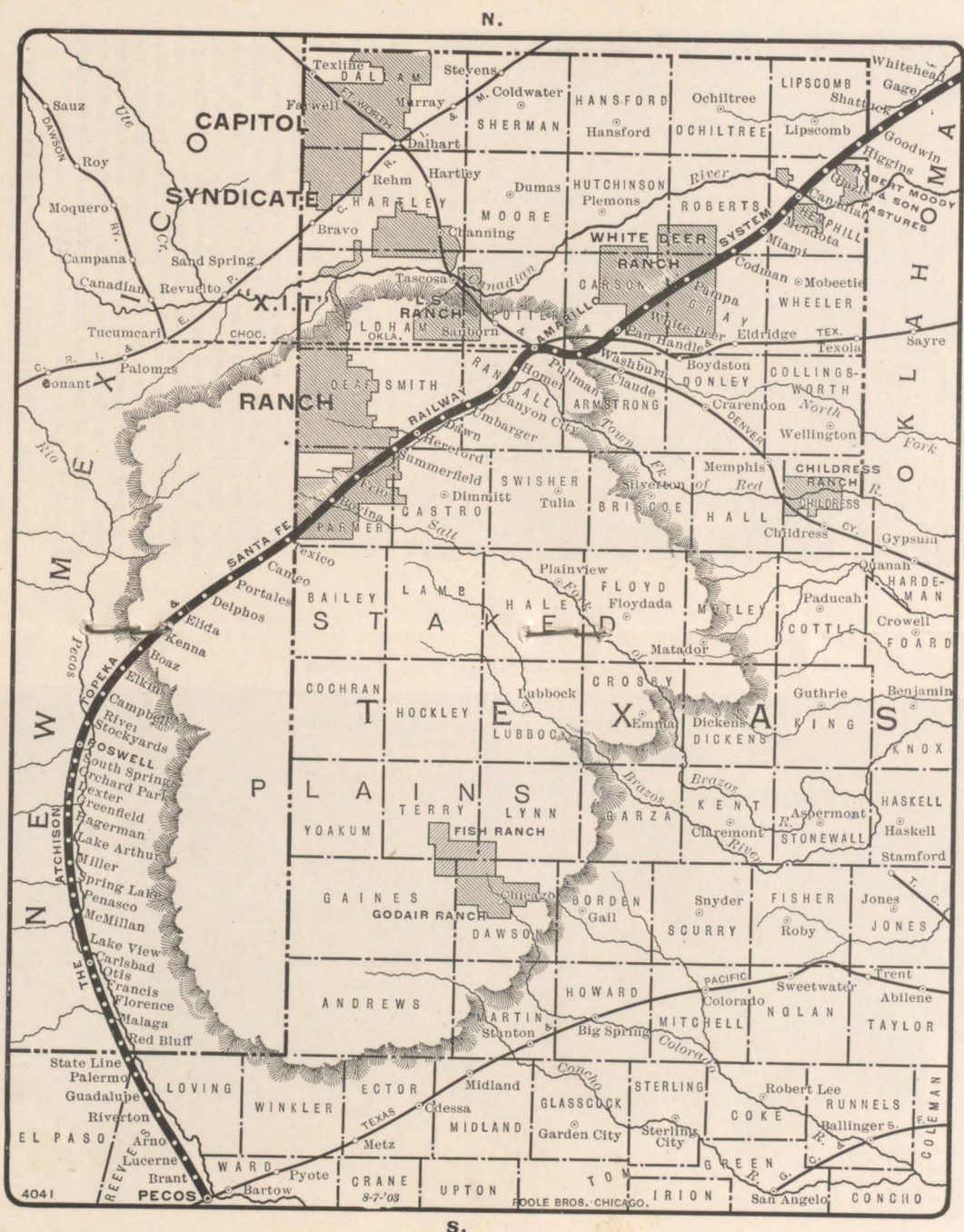
**BY AL HOLLAND, OF PAMPA, GRAY COUNTY, TEXAS.**

"I have lived in Carson and Gray counties since the spring of 1883, most of the time farming on these plains. The climate is healthy and the water very good. The soil is rich, deep and lasting, and holds moisture very well when cultivated. I never saw a healthier country for poultry and all kinds of live stock. Have raised good crops of most every kind of grain, vegetables and forage. Every man who has been farming on these plains, and has stuck to it, has prospered, and many of them are getting rich. The winters are dry. Most of the rain falls in spring and summer months. Crops are sure wherever the ground has been properly plowed and where seed is sowed early enough. In 1890 I sowed at White Deer 384 surveyed acres in winter wheat, with only one man besides myself. The crop was twenty bushels (buyer's weights) to the acre, and sold for 63 cents at the farm. Some of the latest sowing gave about ten bushels to the acre. What was put in before middle of September yielded over thirty. Last year a neighbor, Mr. Hickox, made thirty bushels to the acre, and sold for 60 cents and over. Another, Mr. John Mungo, made fifty-nine bushels of oats and sold at 45 cents; Mr. J. D. Dickson made fifty-five bushels of white oats and sold at 50 cents. Dr. Greenwood sold \$1,100 worth of stuff from a little over forty acres near Panhandle. Year before last Jackson Brothers sold over \$2,800 from about 100 acres. Numbers of men make \$5 to \$30 an acre from farming this plains land."

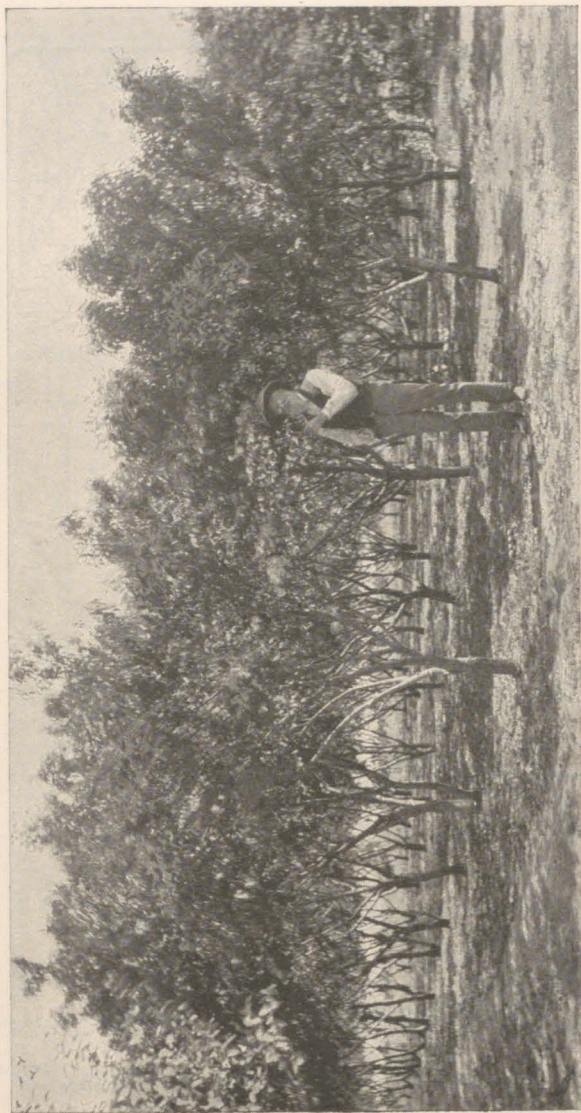
**BY J. LILL, OF PANHANDLE, CARSON COUNTY, TEXAS.**

"My home is in Carson county, about three miles southeast of Panhandle. I have been a resident of

Map of the Panhandle Country.  
 Showing Counties and County Seats, Principal Towns, Railroad Lines, Watercourses, Staked Plains and Large Ranches.



S.



*Orchard of W. A. Witherspoon, near Hereford.*

Carson county for thirteen years and have been engaged in farming all that time. Am well satisfied with results obtained. I have raised successfully the following crops: oats, barley, Kaffir corn, rye, sorghum, Indian corn and millet, as well as potatoes, all kinds of vegetables and melons. Fruit trees and grapes do as well here as in any country, if properly cared for. I have never made a failure in raising oats, with the exception of one year when my crop was injured by hail. Oats during the past two years have yielded me more than \$20 per acre, net. Last year I sowed three bushels of barley from which I raised 103 bushels. I have raised cabbages that weighed eight pounds to the head, and that without irrigation. The fruit produced in this country is of a very superior flavor. All kinds of stock and poultry do well here."

**BY J. L. MASTERS, OF PANHANDLE, CARSON COUNTY, TEXAS.**

"I reside three miles south of Panhandle, and have been engaged in farming for many years. I have raised successfully Indian corn, Kaffir corn, sorghum, wheat, oats and millet. My oats last year averaged about forty bushels per acre. My wheat for the past two years averaged fifteen bushels per acre. Some of my land yielded about twenty-five bushels per acre. My Kaffir corn has yielded forty to fifty bushels to the acre. I consider this a fine farming and stock-raising country."

**BY W. H. HICKOX, OF PANHANDLE, CARSON COUNTY, TEXAS.**

"I have lived on my farm in Carson county, Texas, for twelve years, and have been engaged in farming all of that time. Have raised successfully crops of Indian corn, Kaffir corn, sorghum, barley and oats. My corn for the past five years has yielded from twenty-five to fifty bushels per acre. My oats have yielded twenty-five to fifty bushels per acre. Kaffir corn has always been a profitable crop. I was formerly a resident of Grayson county. I was in what was considered the best farming section of Texas, and I have been more successful raising vegetables on my present farm in Carson county than I was in Grayson county. My cabbage heads last year weighed from eight to fifteen pounds each. The industrious farmer will be amply paid for his efforts in the Panhandle country."

**BY A. N. HENSON, COUNTY JUDGE OF RANDALL COUNTY, CANYON, TEXAS.**

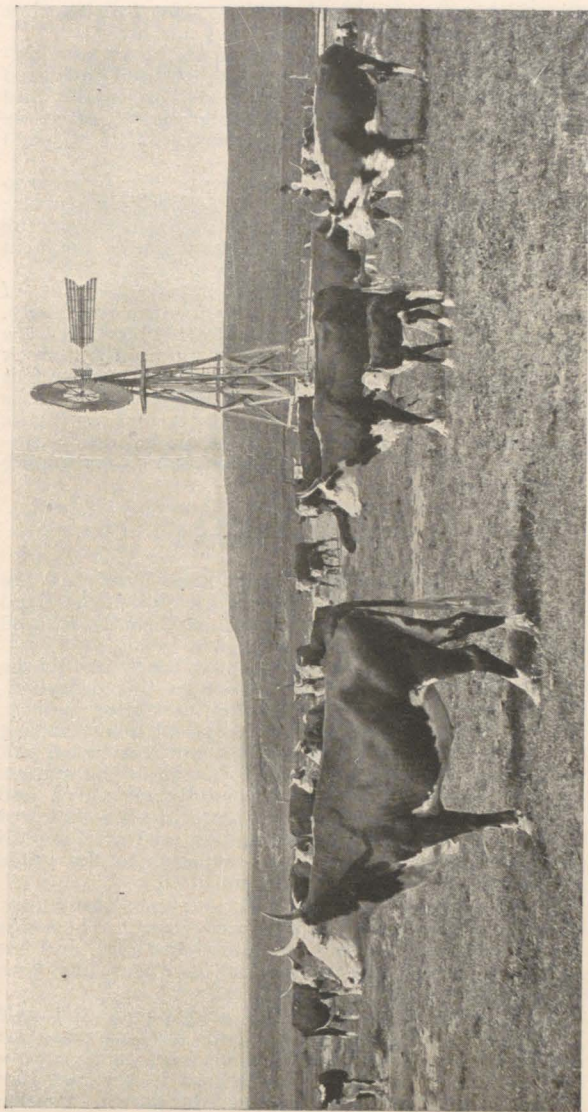
"I have been here six years. Before coming I had supposed this to be a dry, barren, sandy waste. But I



*Cutting Johnson Grass on a Panhandle Ranch.*

found, instead, a fine black soil, uniformly smooth, except occasional large depressions, which, in the rainy seasons, become lakes of water. These lakes tend to moisten and cool the atmosphere during the heated season, and together with the natural elevation and the pleasant breezes, render the summer season the most desirable of any I have seen. There is but little precipitation in winter and consequently no ice or mud. The rains generally begin about the first of April, after which sufficient water falls every year to produce crops, provided it is properly husbanded, and this can be accomplished by early and deep breaking. Our seasons are later than in the black land belt east, and there is not such a pressing need of early planting, for it frequently rains abundantly here after the drought has done its work farther east. Besides, this seems to be the home of the drought-resisting crops, such as milo maize, sorghum and Kaffir corn. Kaffir and milo maize yield nearly twice as much as in the central belt of Texas. All vine crops do exceptionally well. I have seen forty-two bushels of Indian corn grown per acre in Swisher county, though as a rule Indian corn can not be depended upon as a staple crop.

"Every one who has a windmill can irrigate a small garden, thus assuring abundant returns every year. There seems to be more uniformity of the seasons here than elsewhere in the Southwest, a total failure rarely if ever occurring. Enough has been done in fruit growing to prove that plums, cherries and some of the smaller fruits succeed admirably, and that apples



*Kings and Queens of the Herd.*



and pears, when properly cultivated, can be relied on for good returns. Peaches often miss fruiting, but are of splendid quality when they do hit.

"Alfalfa is a splendid success on the bottom or lowlands, and even pays when properly planted and cared for on the uplands. Hogs raised on alfalfa and sorghum, and fattened on Kaffir grain (of which we raise forty bushels per acre) can be made to yield enormous profits.

"Every farmer here supplements his farm crop with a crop of white-faced or short-horn calves; though so long as grain and feedstuffs command the prices they now do, good profits could be made in growing them alone.

"A man coming here should have a fair sum of money to begin with, as improvements cost dearly, and he should have some money to tide him over the first year or two. Most farmers pump their stock water by windmills from wells about seventy-five feet in depth. This water is of the finest quality, and is abundant. The wind in late winter and spring is unpleasant, but preferable to mud; besides, a certain amount of wind is indispensable for pumping stock water."

#### A LAND AGENT'S VIEWS.

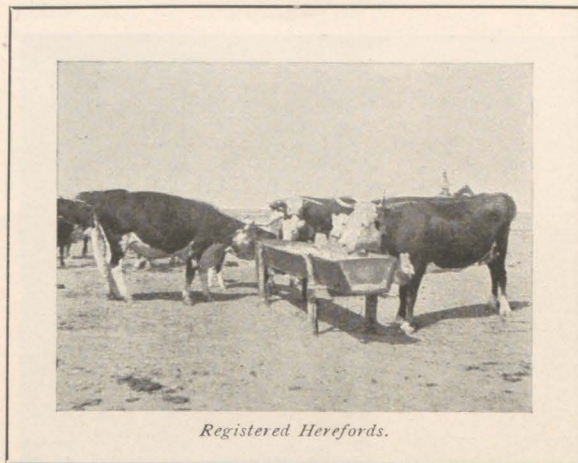
Mr. T. D. Hobart, of Canadian, Texas, is the Panhandle agent for the New York and Texas Land Company, which owns the noted I. & G. N. R. R. land grant and other properties.

Being requested to submit his ideas about the Panhandle country for publication in this pamphlet, Mr. Hobart furnishes the following interesting facts:

"I used to be somewhat skeptical about raising Indian corn in this country, but am convinced, not only from my own experience, but from the success of others, that it can be successfully raised. I had occasion to purchase part of a crop of corn that was raised two years ago, in the eastern part of Hemphill county, and it was decidedly superior to the grade of Kansas corn usually sold here.

"This plains country will, at no distant day, become noted for its production of wheat. The soil is deep, rich and apparently inexhaustible, and its adaptability to the production of wheat has been thoroughly tested, with success.

"As to fruit growing: The wild plums and wild grapes, found in profusion along the streams, are abundant evidence that that class of fruit can be successfully raised here, in addition to the fact that tame varieties have been successfully grown. Peaches and apples do well, and cherries I regard as one of the



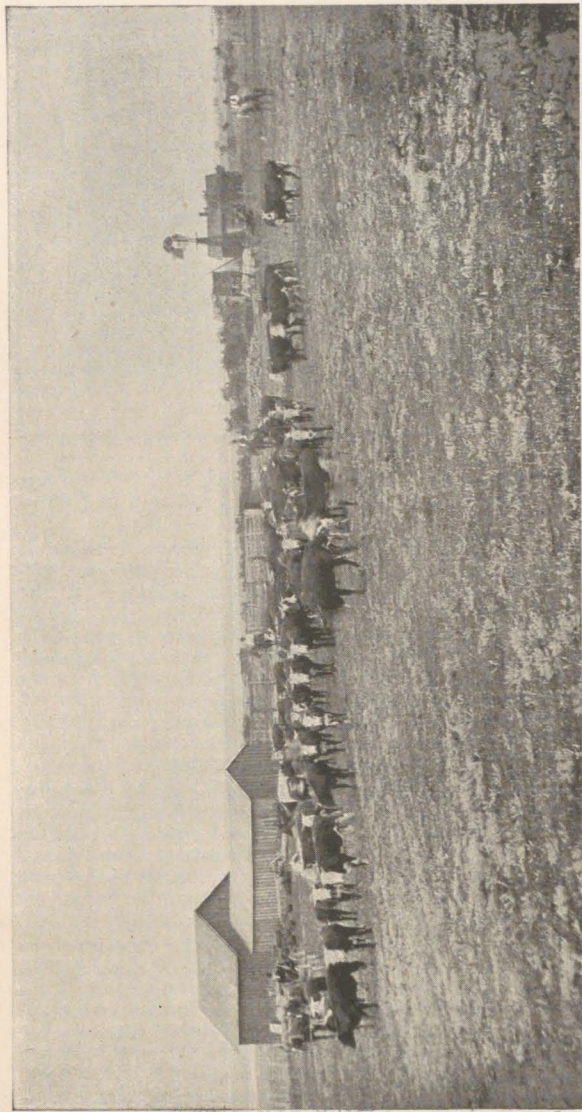
*Registered Herefords.*

surest fruit crops that can be raised here. Some fine specimens of the latter have been produced in Hemphill county.

"In advocating the raising of wheat, I think it would be safer to combine stock raising with it. Failures are liable to occur in any country at times, but the farmer who has grazed his cattle on his wheat fields is the most successful. My experience in the Panhandle covers a period of sixteen years, and I fail to call to mind a single instance where stock farming has been a failure, if good judgment was used in carrying it on. Such a thing as a grass failure is practically unknown, especially along the Santa Fe lines, and this can not be said of many other range districts.

"Fine crops of Kaffir corn, milo maize, sorghum, wheat, oats, rye and other crops are being raised all over the Panhandle. Kaffir corn, especially, seems to be a very reliable crop, and I believe its importance as a feed crop will be very largely increased in the near future. In the valleys of the Panhandle, adjacent to the streams, alfalfa is being successfully raised.

"From an open range country, the development of the Panhandle has been largely along the lines of stock farming. In my judgment, the greatest development in the immediate future will be in that industry. The large ranches are rapidly being cut up into smaller holdings—a very healthy tendency. The soil of our Panhandle country is greatly diversified. In some localities the broken lands are suitable almost exclusively for grazing purposes, while in other localities it



Scene on Isaacs Brothers' Ranch, near Canadian.

is mixed, there being a sufficient amount of smooth, arable land for agricultural purposes. On the vast expanse of plains the soil is almost all suitable for agriculture.

"In laying stress upon stock farming, I do not wish to belittle the idea of raising crops, but my observation has been that people who combine the two interests of stock raising and farming, have been most successful.

"Even though he should make a total failure in the production of grain, the stock farmer will still have been amply repaid for his work from the benefits derived through grazing his cattle during the winter and feeding them the straw produced from his wheat fields.

"Lands can be had along the railroad in quantities practically to suit the purchaser, at moderate prices and on reasonable terms. Many instances have come under my observation of people who came here with very limited means, and by industry and good judgment acquired a competency."

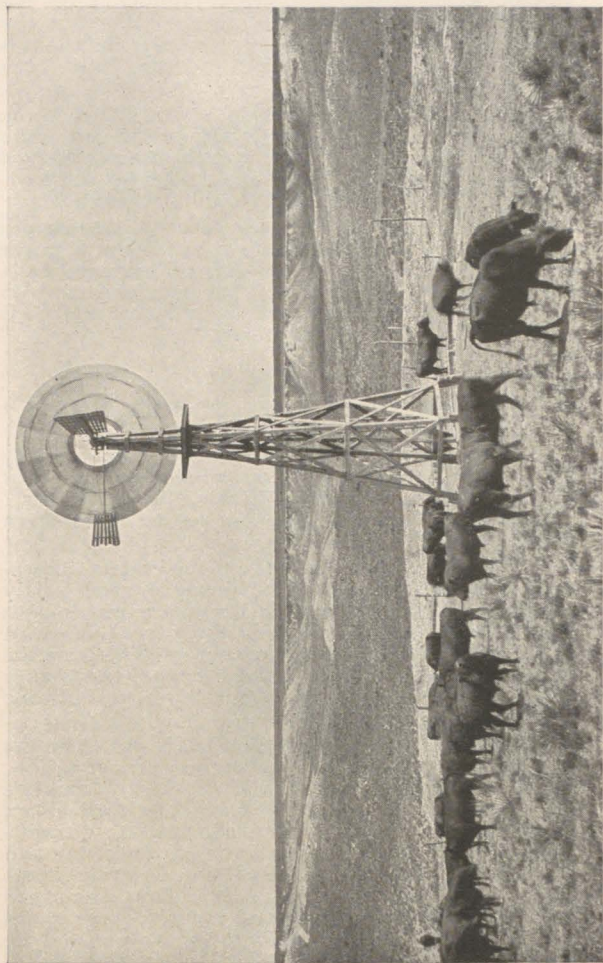
#### ON THE BORDER OF THE "STAKED PLAINS."

John W. Murray, Sr., editor of the Crosby County *News*, contributes the following valuable article about one of the border counties of the "Staked Plains," which applies to all of the counties on the eastern boundary of that region:

"Crosby county is situated on the eastern escarpment of the Llano Estacado, partly on and partly below the plains. Its eastern boundary corresponds with the 101st meridian. It is about 250 miles west by north from Dallas and about ninety miles from the western boundary of the State. Emma, the county seat, is about equally distant from Seymour, Colorado City, Childress and Canyon.

"This county has a variety of soils, and offers the immigrant his choice of a home on the plains or on low, rolling lands. About one-half of Crosby county's 900 square miles lies on the plains. The dark brown soil is deep, fertile, tenacious of moisture, drought-resisting, is from two to five feet deep over clay and rotten limestone subsoils. The land is level, except where the basins (saucer-like depressions from 300 yards to half a mile in diameter) occur. These basins give the plains a rolling, wave-like appearance, and are helpful as watering places. They hold water most of the time, and are supplied from rainfall.

"The productions of the plains soil are: Indian corn, Kaffir and milo maize, cotton, millet and sorghum. Cotton does well here and produces a fine



*Aberdeen-Angus Bulls in Winter Pasture.*

lint. With little cultivation from half to three-quarters of a bale per acre is raised. A crop failure has never been known.

"Fruits do well here, and will average four years of fruitage to one of failure. Peaches, plums, apples, pears and grapes have been successfully tried. I own a fine orchard eleven years old, and have had only one total failure.

"In the lowlands there are mesquite, hackberry, cottonwood, wild china and other timber growths, and running streams of water. Two canyons, Blanco and the Yellow House, cross our country and debouch into the lowlands on the east.

"The soil of the lowlands is sandy, with clay subsoil and fertile. The little valleys are very rich, and the 'shinneries' (areas of country covered with 'shin oak' and deep sand) are also overlaid with clay subsoil and will, in time, become great fruit-producing regions. There are not many 'shinneries' in Crosby, however.

"There is in the breaks a great variety of fine building stone; also there are beds of lignite and evidences of coal oil in places in our lowlands, all undeveloped and as nature left them, awaiting capital to open up worlds of wealth.

"Crosby county has been settled since 1878, but its citizens have devoted their energies exclusively to stock farming. Cattle and horses are raised and driven to market, and only enough farming has been resorted to to furnish winter feed to weak stock. But this limited farming has been a surprise even to us who live here.



*Profitable Stock Raising.*

"Rain begins to fall as soon as it gets warm in the spring and continues until cold weather sets in. Our winters are dry—barring a snow storm or two. The annual rainfall is said to be about twenty-five inches—but it all comes when it is needed. Let it be what it may, after twenty years' experience, we do know we have a sufficiency for all crops, fruit and vegetable.

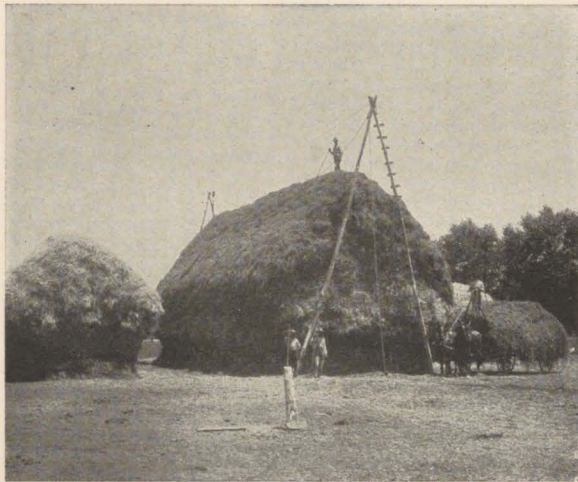
"There is always a wind stirring which gives us health, and also turns our windmills and gives us an abundance of the purest of water for man and beast. Underlying the plains is a great reservoir of water reached by boring from twenty-five to 170 feet. When tapped it is inexhaustible.

"Our altitude on the plains is 2,600 feet above sea level. Our winters are not as cold as in moist countries. The dry winters are pleasant compared to the chilly, rainy, fever-breeding winters on same latitude east.

"Emma is the county seat of Crosby county. It contains about ten business houses, two doctors, two lawyers and other corresponding enterprises.

"Patented land is selling at from \$2 to \$4 per acre, and school land can be had for a bonus of from \$1 to \$2 per acre. The inhabitants of this section are enterprising, industrious and wide awake.

"While the homeseeker can do no better than secure a home in Crosby, the counties of Floyd, Hall, Lubbock, Briscoe and Central Plains are alike rich in natural resources and advantages."



*Stacking Alfalfa.*

## BARTO RANCH.

The Barto ranch, comprising 160,400 acres, is situated in Dawson county, Texas. It is also known in the Godair Ranch and as such it appears on the map in this pamphlet. It is one of the best pastures as the southern part of the Panhandle country and the water supply is ample and constant. Like all large ranches in this county it is split up into pastures. In this case they range from 2,400 acres to 23,000 acres, all fenced with galvanized wire. Chicago, Texas, is the postoffice in the center of the ranch.



*A Flock of Sheep in the Panhandle.*

## THE L. X. RANCH.

The L. X. Ranch and cattle are the property of the American Pastoral Company (Ltd.) Included within its limits are 300,000 acres of deeded lands, besides a large acreage of lands leased from other owners within the boundaries of its range. It also has numerous fine springs, making it one of the best watered cattle ranches in northern Texas.

## WHITE DEER LANDS.

Situated in the counties of Roberts, Carson and Geary is what is known as the White Deer Lands, comprising some 700,000 acres. It is divided up



*Winter Street Scene, Hereford.*

into several large tracts, namely, the White Deer, Red Deer, Spring Creek, Buffalo, Jeffries, North Fork, Gillespie, McClelland Creek, Mortimer, Combination and Dixon Creek pastures. These different sections are all leased at the present time, except Jeffries and Gillespie pastures and a portion of land divided up among small holders in the southeast part of the ranch. Dixon Creek pasture is sold, thereby being entirely out of the market. The shipping facilities are of the best, the ranch being crossed diagonally near the center by the Santa Fe System.

#### THE ISAACS BROTHERS RANCH.

Some eight miles in length, and about the same in width, is a scope of beautiful country, embracing the Isaacs Brothers pasture, bounded on the north by the Canadian river, and on the south by a stream known as Red Deer. In the western portion of this pasture is the Washburn Arroya creek, while at intervals over the whole extent one comes upon cool shaded springs, and running brooks. Along the river land in sheltered canyons are groves of cottonwood, elm, hackberry, willow and other trees. Grasses of various kinds cover bottom lands and hills, affording ample grazing for over four thousand cattle. Something like fifty per cent of this place is good agricultural land. Outcroppings of limestone on various

hill-tops show another source of hidden wealth, in an unlimited supply of good building material. The Santa Fe runs through the entire length of this pasture, near its-southern boundary, and ample facilities for loading cattle direct from the pasture are furnished.

#### TEXAS CAPITOL LAND RESERVATION.

Texas is the land of big things. It will always be big in area and population, resources and push, but the day of the great ranches—empires in extent—is fast passing away. One of the largest of these imperial tracts, popularly known as the "Capitol Syndicate," or "XIT" Ranch, is now on the market. The description of this notable reservation, given below, will be read with interest.

#### WHERE AND WHAT IT IS.

The Pecos Valley Line of the Santa Fe System traverses this reservation for forty miles, entering it about fifty-five miles southwest of Amarillo, at a point near Summerfield station, and leaving it about fourteen miles southwest of Bovina, in Parmer county, where the railway crosses the New Mexico and Texas State line.

This is a tract of 3,000,000 acres of land set aside by the State of Texas to be given in exchange for the State Capitol building, at Austin, Texas. A syndicate of Chicago parties, of which ex-Senator C. B. Farwell and his brother, John V. Farwell, were the principals, erected the Capitol, and were awarded the land, the title to which comes to them directly from the State, and is, therefore, perfect.

The bill passed by the Texas Legislature, creating this reservation, provided that the land should be agricultural or grazing land. It was selected in accordance with this provision, carefully surveyed, and is in a solid body.

The owners, upon acquiring this tract, immediately set about fitting it for a mammoth cattle ranch. They dug or bored and equipped with windmills, drinking tubs and reservoirs, about 300 wells, varying in depth from about ten to 400 feet, and averaging about 125 feet; built ranch houses and camps, and erected about 1,500 miles of barbed wire fence, four to six strands, enclosing and dividing the tract into a great many pastures. They have been using it since as a cattle ranch, ranging as high as 150,000 to 160,000 head of cattle, but it never had the necessary number of wells, etc., to admit of its being stocked to the full grass capacity.

## BEING RAPIDLY SOLD.

The owners of the Capitol Land Reservation placed it on the market early in 1901, and inside of twenty months had sold over 1,300,000 acres to stockmen, farmers, fruit growers and capitalists. They are still offering to sell more of it and believe that nowhere else can better bargains be obtained than they are offering. They will sell at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$5, according to location and quality of the land, and for those who do not wish to pay all cash a reasonable part of the price may be paid on purchase and the balance by annual installments, extending over several years, with interest at 6 per cent per annum.



*Residence at Amarillo.*

## DESCRIBING THE SOIL.

That portion of this reservation tributary to the Pecos Valley Line is a beautiful plateau, with an altitude of 3,600 to 4,000 feet above sea level. The soil is a rich, chocolate or black sandy loam of most excellent quality, supposed to be composed of the sediments of a great lake which is believed to have existed in tertiary times. The subsoil is practically of the same porous material and underneath this lies an impervious bed of clay.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply on this section of the reservation is of excellent quality for domestic uses, and is procured almost anywhere at a depth of from 150 to 200

feet. The supply in such a well is practically inexhaustible and equal to the needs of 500 to 1,000 head of stock.

The rainfall at Escarbada ranch, in Deaf Smith county, in 1899 and 1900, was 22.9 inches and 31.55 inches, and the number of days in which it rained or snowed was thirty-seven and forty-seven, respectively.

**The rainfall during the crop-growing season was, in 1900, 24.40 inches.** The average rainfall at the following points for the past twenty years during the crop-growing season as compiled by the government weather bureau was, at

Topeka, Kansas.....	24.7	inches
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	22.4	"
Louisville, Ky.....	23.9	"
Indianapolis, Ind.....	22.7	"
Chicago, Ill.....	19.7	"
Davenport, Iowa.....	21.6	"
St. Louis, Mo.....	23.6	"
Detroit, Mich.....	18.7	"
Minneapolis, Minn.....	20.4	"
Milwaukee, Wis.....	18.9	"

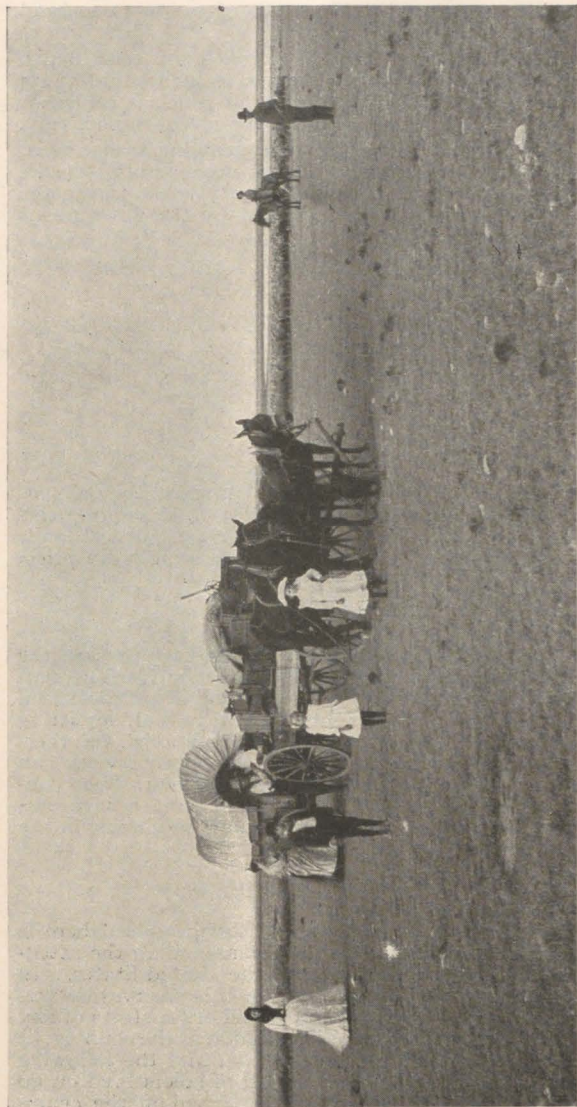
This would indicate nearly as favorable a condition, as far as moisture goes, for crop growing in this reservation as around points where agricultural lands are selling from twenty to forty times higher in price.

## CLIMATE.

The climate in this section is most delightful, the large proportion of bright, crisp, exhilarating, sunshiny days makes it a very agreeable and healthful place to live in. The nights are always cool, admitting of refreshing sleep, sunstrokes are unknown, the thermometer rarely drops to zero, and outdoor work can be carried on almost every day in the year. Such conditions are destined to produce in time a vigorous, hardy race of people as they are now producing hardy live stock.

## CATTLE AND GRASS.

The quality of cattle now being produced here is unsurpassed anywhere, and is commanding the attention of the foremost feeders of the United States. In 1900 a carload of cattle bred on this reservation was second choice for champion carload of fat steers of any age or breeding, and from any section of the country, at the Chicago Fat Stock Exposition, and the following year at the same place a carload of steers bred on an adjoining ranch in the Panhandle carried off the championship in competition with all comers.



*Flock of Sheep—Hereford.*

In the natural state there is in this section a great wealth of most nutritious grasses, such as the true buffalo grass (which reliable experiments have shown to be superior to Kentucky blue grass and very much better than timothy), the curly mesquite, and the blue and white grama, all of which cure on their roots into perfect hay upon which live stock can subsist throughout the fall and winter. Other varieties of grass—bluestem, bunch and sedge—abound in places on these Panhandle plains.

#### PRODUCTS OF THE SOIL.

The owners of this Capitol Land Reservation have been experimenting in a very small way for some years past with sorghum, millet, alfalfa, Kaffir corn, milo maize, Jerusalem corn, Johnson grass, etc., with very satisfactory results. Kaffir corn, with which the Kansas Agricultural College found more pork could be produced than with Indian corn, acre for acre, is almost an unfailing crop, and can be depended upon to produce from thirty to forty bushels per acre. Indian corn, though never tried very extensively, has gone from twenty-five to forty bushels per acre, sorghum has weighed out over three and a half tons per acre.

Vegetables of nearly all kinds grow well here, and melons rival in quality the Vernon or Rocky Fords.

Peach, pear, plum and apple trees and grapes all do very well, and in flavor and quality are not excelled anywhere. Fine specimens of locust, soft maple, elm, catalpa, cottonwood, poplar, etc., are to be seen growing on this tract.

#### ITS FUTURE.

The owners of this land firmly believe that no new country offers greater attractions or greater promise of success than this does to those who have energy and means enough to engage in stock farming on a proper scale here. They believe that a ranch of say 2,000 acres properly improved and stocked, and carefully looked after, will produce better returns than can be had from the same amount of capital and energy invested in the more strictly farming localities of the United States.

They believe that this section is destined to become as famous for cattle fattening and finishing as it is now for cattle breeding. They believe that owners of a 2,000-acre ranch here can, by using a portion of it for raising forage crops for roughness, also Kaffir corn, Indian corn and other feedstuffs (supplemented by cotton-seed meal from other parts of the State and from Oklahoma), fatten cattle and hogs as successfully as can be done anywhere. In no country where

the fattening of stock is now carried on is there such an admirable climate for the purpose as here. Here there are no protracted spells of wet, sleety weather, with muddy lots, which, in the North, frequently result in no improvement being made in the stock for a month or more almost every spring. With a suitably located well, properly equipped with a windmill, drinking tubs and reservoir, the home and the stock can be adequately supplied with good water and all surplus water run on to the vegetable and fruit garden, orchard and newly planted ornamental trees; thus, in a few years' time a most beautiful home place can be established anywhere on these plains.

#### PRESENT CONDITIONS.

Land is cheap here now (and can never go lower) with every prospect of a steady advance in price. This section is filling up rapidly with an excellent class of settlers, and schools, churches and trading centers are being established on every hand. Taxes are very low. Law and order are observed. Political and religious rights are respected. Railways are penetrating every section of the Texas Panhandle, and in their wake follows the settler, who finds facilities at hand for reaching the markets with his products.

#### PRICES OF LAND.

Lands in the Panhandle can be purchased at very reasonable figures and on exceptionally good terms. The prices for unimproved and improved lands range from \$2 to \$10 per acre, according to location and character. At present the homeseeker will find exceptional opportunities in the way of acquiring a home. There are several large proprietary interests owning immense tracts in this section that have placed them on the market within the last few months. These lands have hitherto been leased to large cattle owners, but the country has now reached the stage where these large holdings are breaking up and the owners of the land are offering it for sale to small holders.

#### LARGE TRACTS FOR SALE.

The principal lands now being sold under these conditions are the railroad lands originally held by the H. & G. N. Ry. Co., the Tyler-Tap R. R. Co., the White Deer lands near Pampa Station on the Southern Kansas Railway of Texas, outlying sections of American Pastoral Company's LX pastures near Amarillo, and the Capitol Syndicate or XIT Ranch. There are also numerous large tracts of land which have been bought

up by companies and individuals from the holders of State titles under the school land law of the State of Texas. The land laws of the State of Texas provide that in certain sections of the State alternate sections are reserved for the benefit of the free school fund of the State. These lands are sold to actual settlers at prices fixed according to the class of the land, ranging from \$1 to \$1.50 per acre. The purchaser is entitled to take up four sections under this law, one for a home section and three for grazing purposes; the three extra sections may be located at any point within five miles of the home section. The purchase price is payable one-fortieth upon filing the entry, and one-fortieth of the purchase price is to be paid annually



*Typical Bunch of Texas Calves.*

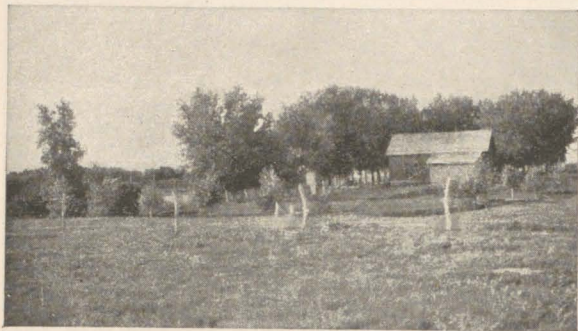
until the whole price is paid, with interest at three per cent per annum on the unpaid portion. The purchaser is required to live on his land three years before making final proof; that is to say, before he can pay out the entire amount. However, after filing the original entry the holder may secure his title at any time, and in this way large tracts of land have been taken up and sold to individuals and companies, which heretofore have conducted the large ranches in this part of the State.



## BUY EARLY TO AVOID THE RUSH.

As a general proposition, in the Panhandle there is very little of this school land to be had on original entry. There may be some sections remote from the railroads that have not been taken up, but all the desirable land is now occupied. However, the conditions have been such that at this time a very considerable area of the Panhandle may be considered unoccupied land, as it is not in use, and is on the market for sale. It is rapidly being purchased, and the country is filling up every day with permanent residents. It is quite probable that the next two or three years will see the Panhandle fully settled.

The traffic department of the Santa Fe Railway will take pleasure in furnishing information to homeseekers in regard to the land in any part of the Pan-



*Orchard on "Staked Plain," Three Years Old.*

handle, and will put them into communication with reliable agents who have lands to offer. The inquirer should address Don A. Sweet, Traffic Manager, Pecos Valley Lines, Amarillo, Texas.

### IN CONCLUSION.

In summing up, you will see that here is to be found a country:

With rainfall adequate for many crops.

With soil most productive.

With water of excellent quality and inexhaustible supply.

With climate unsurpassed for healthfulness and admirably adapted for the production of a vigorous, hardy race of people and live stock, and for the fattening of live stock.

With a central location, being near the principal southwestern live stock markets.

With excellent schools and churches, trading centers, and respect for property, religious and political rights.

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