













# OKLAHOMA AND Indian Territory

ALONG THE



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# OKLAHOMA

#### Introductory.



HERE is something about the very name of Oklahoma that sends a thrill of pride through the average American citizen, and especially is this true of the people of the West, who have watched its magical development from the vantage

ground of association and proximity. There is something in the brief history of Oklahoma that appeals to the senses and challenges the admiration of all. The restless energy and indomitable courage that converted wilderness into civilization; that substituted the city of brick and wood for the dog town of the plains, between noon of one day and sunrise of the next; that was as ready to partake of the hardships of frontier life, as to provide and enjoy the luxuries of our modern civilization a few months later; that was as ready to divide the last loaf with the hungry as to shoot the "claim jumper;" that was always alert for individual rights and loyal to the whole; there was something in these conditions that made it inevitable that Oklahoma should thrive as no other new community had thriven. and progress as no other new settlement had progressed. It was inevitable that this spirit of energy, enterprise and loyalty should halt at no obstacle, quail before no difficulty, nor lose confidence in the outcome. Had the country been as barren as the old geographers pictured "The Great American Desert," these people that populated Oklahoma would have built reservoirs, dug irrigating ditches, and made their desert blossom as the rose, but instead of a desert they found a country that

was rich in soil, favored by climatic conditions, and only waiting for the energy of civilized man to convert it into a garden. It was soon learned that Oklahoma had been well named, and that the "Land of the Fair God," as the name signified, was indeed here.

#### Briefly Historical.

It is not intended to go deep into historical research, but to briefly refer to some of the main features of the history and growth of this commonwealth, for commonwealth it is in reality. Oklahoma is a portion of the Louisiana Purchase, and has therefore been United States territory an even century. More than three hundred years ago the Spaniards believed the territory embraced in Oklahoma was rich in gold, silver and other valuable metals and minerals, and this belief was not founded entirely on tradition. For many years it has been known that gold, silver and copper existed in the Wichita Mountains, but exploration was impracticable until very recently, and even yet prospectors are unwilling to tell the public of their discoveries.

Oklahoma has been visited and explored by many noted explorers, including De Soto, Fremont, and Lewis and Clark. The United States Government has from time to time had geological and other surveys made, but to the mass of our people it was as a sealed book until the struggle for possession began about thirty years ago. In the early seventies this struggle began, and every session of Congress the lobbies were haunted by one or more of the so-called "boomers," until finally in 1889 their efforts were crowned with success and a law was enacted providing for the opening of what is now known as Old Oklahoma. Previous to this there had been various organized attempts made by raids to secure a foothold in the then Indian country, and such men as Pavne and Couch immortalized themselves and laid the foundation for future success.

At high noon on April 22nd, 1889, at the sound of a pistol shot, tens of thousands of people began the most wonderful race ever seen in our country, and by sunset there was hardly a quarter section of original Oklahoma, or a lot in one of the platted towns, but what had from one to a dozen claimants, and in a day the population had increased from nothing to more than a hundred thousand. It was a race that made history. It was a race that won for the winners homes and the certainty of accumulating a competence. It was a race that would be possible in no other country, and was a most fitting start for the future great State of Oklahoma.

A territorial form of government for Oklahoma was established in June, 1890, and in the same year "No Man's Land," lying to the west, was added to the territory, under the name of Beaver County, thus adding 3,681,000 acres more. In September, 1801, the opening of the Sac and Fox and Pottawatomie Indian reservations in Southeastern Oklahoma, added some 1,282,434 acres to settlement. The next lands to be opened were those of the Cheyenne and Arapaho reservations, immediately to the west of original Oklahoma, comprising 4,297,771 acres, and forming the counties of Blaine, Day, Dewey, Washita, Custer and Roger Mills, and the western portions of Canadian and Kingfisher Counties. this occurring in April, 1892. On September 16th, 1893. the Cherokee Strip, on the Kansas border, was opened by a run, and 6,014,239 acres more added to white settlement. The Cherokee Strip was divided into seven counties, viz.: Kay, Grant, Woods, Garfield, Woodward, Noble and Pawnee. In 1895 the Kickapoo reservation in eastern Oklahoma, comprising 206,662 acres, was opened to settlement. In 1896 Greer County, which had been for many years governed as a part of Texas, was added to Oklahoma by a decree of the Supreme Court of the United States. On August 6th, 1901, the Kiowa, Comanche, Apache and Wichita Indian reservations were opened to white settlement by means of a drawing in which 176,000 persons participated, and this added



about 4,000,000 acres more. The largest area in Oklahoma, yet to be opened to white settlement, is the Osage reservation in the northeastern corner of the territory, which contains 1,400,000 acres.

#### Location and Area.

The extreme southern boundary of Oklahoma is the thirty-fourth parallel of latitude and its northern boundary is the thirty-seventh, the southern boundary being the Red and Canadian Rivers and irregular, while the northern boundary follows the line of latitude. The extreme eastern boundary is the ninety-sixth degree of longitude, and the extreme western the one hundred and third, while the one hundredth degree marks the western boundary, with the exception of Beaver County. Oklahoma is bounded on the east by Indian Territory, on the south by Indian Territory and Texas, on the west by Texas and New Mexico, and on the north by Kansas and Colorado.

The area of Oklahoma, including the Osage Indian reservation, is 40,036 square miles, or 25,623,205 acres of land, and is therefore equal in area to many of the leading states. It is larger than Maine or Indiana, twice as large as Maryland, nearly as large as the combined area of Maine, Delaware, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey and Rhode Island, and in the same class as to area as Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and New York. As its soil is productive and its proximity to tide water on the Gulf insures it a good market, it is sure to support a dense population when once its resources are fully developed.

### The Climate.

One of the first things to be considered in looking for a home, or investigating as to probable profits in an investment, is the question of climate, and in this particular Oklahoma is peculiarly well favored. She is situated

far enough south to escape the long winters of the north. and far enough north to escape the fevers and malaria of many southern sections. She is far enough north to escape the enervating effect of a frostless climate, without being far enough to necessitate expensive preparations for the winter. While the snows of winter are not unknown, they are of but short duration, and seldom make extra care of stock necessary. Experience of more than a dozen years of settlement has proved that the greater portion of Oklahoma is well within the rain belt, or safe crop region, and that all east of one hundredth meridian can be depended upon for wheat, oats, cotton, vegetables, alfalfa and the various forage crops. Experience has proven that crops in Oklahoma are as certain and more profitable and prolific than in most of the older States of the Union. Storms are no more common in Oklahoma than in Missouri, Iowa or Ohio, while the great drouth of 1901 was much more disastrous in the valley of the Mississippi than on the prairies of this territory. As for healthfulness, it would be hard to find a better climate than that of Oklahoma. The elevation is great enough to preclude the fevers and malarias of the lowlands, while the purity of the atmosphere insures strong lungs and healthy circulation. The breezes of the prairies disperse the microbes of disease. and keep the air healthful and invigorating, while the sunshine plays an important part. As the elevation is more or less associated and connected with the climate. it is well to give the elevation or altitude of some of the leading points in the territory. The altitude of the following places is as follows: Oklahoma City, 1200 feet; Chandler, 900; Guthrie, 932; Lawton, 1250; Enid. 1244: Hobart, 1528; Shawnee, 1045; Arapaho, 1560; Perry, 871; Wichita Mountains, 3000.

#### Rainfall.

As the impression is so prevalent that Oklahoma is outside the rain belt, and that drouths are to be expected, the subjoined table, giving the rainfall by years and months for the years, and the average annual precipitation, will be of interest. The table is official, being taken from the report of Gov. Ferguson to the Secretary of the Interior, and is as follows:

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
1892	0.46	2.02	2.89	2.25	9.70	3.05	2.61	4.03	1.62	5.23	0.63	3.66	38.18
1893	.63	1.07	1.47	2.71	2.68	2.12	3.48	5.16	3.18	.15	1.51	1.33	25.49
1894	2.33	1.84	2.97	4.26	3.25	1.55	1.72	1.51	2.73	1.89	.30	1.22	25.57
1895	1.07	.56	.72	1.24	2.91	5.78	5.58	5.06	1,10	3.14	3.79	4.13	35.09
1896	1.04	.66	1.09	1.49	3.79	3.28	2.96	1.46	2.19	2.75	1.83	1.24	23.78
1897	1.87	96.	4.16	5.38	5.20	3.12	2.05	3.12	1.86	1.37	.51	1.01	30.61
1898	3.09	2.50	3.87	1.52	8.16	4.64	4.44	3.26	2.24	1.96	1.04	2.73	39.45
1899	1.01	.56	.85	3.62	6.00	5.06	6.05	.87	1.90	4.30	4.01	1.84	36.07
1900	69.	1.44	.76	4.44	4.59	2.58	4.15	1.75	6.68	3.73	1.18	.51	32.50
	.52	.94	1.53	2.95	5.39	1.97	1.52	1.55	1.56	1.99	1.34	1.12	22.78
1902	.61	.39	4.02	3.15	10.13	2.42							
Average	1.30	1.17	2.21	2.09	5.62	3.23	3.50	2.78	2.51	2.65	1.61	1.88	30.95



# The Soil.

The farmer may be satisfied as to climate and all other conditions, but if he finds a poor or unproductive soil he wants none of it. All farmers do not want the same kind of soil, nor does a farmer care to have exactly the same kind of soil on all parts of his farm. One soil may be first class for wheat, and yet undesirable for corn. A soil may be just what is needed for fruit, but produce an indifferent crop of grass. The ideal farm has a variety of soils, but all excellent for their specialty. Oklahoma has a variety of soils, but it all appears productive. In some localities the deep, black loam prevails, while in others the color is a rich brown or a reddish hue. In some places there is a considerable proportion of sand, and in others a gumbo formation like some of the rich lands of Illinois. The bottom lands are more generally black and on the uplands the red or mulatto soil prevails. The red soil of the uplands is excellent for wheat and other small grains and grasses, but not so good for corn as the black land. However, there are many varieties and classes of both black and red soil, so that no general description can be given that will apply to all, but they are all good. Only a few places in Oklahoma have any considerable amount of land that is not good, and there is but a small percentage that is not smooth enough and productive enough for profitable cultivation.

# Water Supply.

Few States are as well watered by rivers and smaller streams as is Oklahoma. The Arkansas River cuts across the northeast corner, and with Salt Fork and other tributaries, drains that section. A little further down the Cimarron flows southeasterly to the Arkansas, near the Indian Territory line. The Canadian and North Canadian both flow diagonally nearly through the center of the territory, and Red River bounds the greater part of the southern line. All these streams have many tributaries, many of which are nearly as important as the

parent streams, so that there are but few localities without river, creek or brook. Springs abound in some sections, and a good supply of water can generally be secured by digging to a moderate depth. Like all the prairie states, there is some water that is bad to the taste, but generally healthful. There is some water that is saline, some with a touch of alkali, and some with gypsum, but in most places an abundant supply of pleasant, pure water can be secured with but little trouble or expense. The abundance of streams makes it a fine stock country, and has tended to make it a favorite of the western stockman for many years. If anyone doubts that Oklahoma is well watered let him take an official map and study the location and number of streams, and he will doubt no more.

#### Population.

Returns from the county assessors of the various counties for 1902 show a total population of 541,480, a gain of 143,149 over that of 1901, which is something over 35 per cent. An increase of over one-third in population in one year would be considered phenomenal in any place but Oklahoma, but there it is taken as a matter of course, and as something to be expected. Of this number all can read and write except about 30,000, or 5 I-2 per cent, showing that the people are well educated. Only about 4 per cent of the people are foreign born. hence the intense Americanism of Oklahoma. Of this population a little more than half, or 54 per cent, are male and 46 per cent female. Of the male population over 15 years of age, 46 per cent are single, and of the female population of same age, only 23 per cent are unmarried, showing an undue preponderance of marriageable males. Elsewhere the population is given by counties, and those county statistics are worthy of careful consideration. As an example, and to show what may be in store for Oklahoma, it is noted that Ohio. with an area but 1000 square miles greater than Oklahoma, has a population of 4,157,545. Thus it will be seen that while Ohio has a population of over 100 to the square mile, Oklahoma has as yet but little more than 13, yet Oklahoma is capable of supporting a population almost as dense as that of Ohio, when her resources are fully developed. While statistics are usually dry, the population statistics of Oklahoma are of great interest to the person in search of a home or a place for an investment, for they tell a story of past progress and future promise that few other localities can tell.

#### Physical Features.

The surface is considerably diversified, and the person would be hard to suit who could not be suited some place in the territory. While a very large per cent of Oklahoma is a level or gently rolling prairie country, there are also some large areas of timber, and here and there a range of hills. Much of the eastern portion of the territory is covered with a fair growth of timber, while the central and western portions are more generally prairie. As a rule the river banks are not bordered with bluffs, as in some States, and the land is tillable to the edge of the steams. In the western portion some of the streams are bordered by sand hills that look as though they may have been beds of streams in times past. A few rocky hills may be found, but they are scarce. In the southwest part of the territory, in what was the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Indian reservations, are found the Wichita Mountains, an irregular range of rugged hills, extending from east to west about sixty miles and about half that direction from north to south. In the vicinity, but detached from the range, there are numerous isolated, rugged hills on the otherwise level prairie, adding to the picturesqueness of the scene. The Wichita Mountain range is unique and striking in appearance, and the peaks reach 2000 feet above the level of the surrounding country, and resemble the Rocky Mountains, though of course much smaller,

and are probably a detached spur of that range. In this mountain range there are many beautiful valleys, natural parks, sparkling streams and flowing springs. They are also believed to be rich in minerals. Taken as a whole, Oklahoma is a pretty country to look at, and full of surprises, and a trip through it can not help but be interesting.

#### Timber.

While Oklahoma is mainly prairie and makes no pretensions to being a timber country, yet there is much good timber to be found, and some portions are heavily timbered. The timber here consists of different varieties of oak, elm, hickory, walnut, pecan, sycamore, ash and other varieties, including cedar in some localities. The lumber is made mostly from oak, ash and walnut. While the timber supply is not great enough to supply the lumber needs, the great forests of Texas, Indian Territory and Arkansas are near by to draw from. In most sections cultivated groves grow so rapidly that a few years will solve the fuel problem on the prairie farms, and hedges and wind-breaks will be found on every farm.

#### Mines and Manufactures.

Oklahoma is well supplied with undeveloped resources in the form of minerals, stone, gas, oil and salt. The Wichita Mountains are known to have valuable deposits of copper, lead and zinc, and are believed to be rich also in gold and silver. A fine quality of petroleum has been found in Greer County, in Kiowa County, and also in Comanche County, and it is abundant in the Osage Nation. Gas is found in the Wichita Mountain district. in the Osage Indian Nation, in the vicinity of Blackwell in Kay County, and in other sections, and prospecting has not fairly commenced. The Wichita Mountains produce copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver, magnesia, calcium, cobalt, nickel, manganese, barium, antimony, arsenic, aluminum and sulphur, but it has not yet been proven as to how many of these are found in paying quantities, though many of them are. Asphalt beds have been found in several places, and are expected to develop into an important industry. Inexhaustible cement beds are found in various portions of the territory, and the manufacture of cement is already developing into an important industry. Salt springs and salt deposits are found in several counties, and the manufacture of salt is coming to be important and profitable.

Shales and clays for pottery ware, pressed brick, vitrified brick, drainage tile and sewer pipe are found in various sections, while material for building brick is found everywhere. The manufacture of flour and other grain products constitutes one of the most important business interests of the territory, and is one that is capable of indefinite expansion. The manufacture of cotton products should be one of the great industries of Oklahoma, and more attention is paid to it every year.

Building stone is abundant in many sections of the territory. The granite deposits of Greer County and the Wichita Mountain district are of very fine quality and inexhaustible quantities, and their development is destined to be an important industry. In a brief sketch of this kind it would be impossible to speak of all the mining and manufacturing possibilities of Oklahoma, but enough has been said to call attention to many resources, and those interested can make further investigations so as to satisfy themselves. There is believed to be coal in several parts of Oklahoma, and recently a heavy vein of semi-anthracite was found in the Osage Nation.

#### Undeveloped Resources.

Oklahoma is rich in undeveloped resources in agriculture, horticulture, mining and manufacturing. The minerals that abound in some sections are only waiting for the men and capital for their development. The asphalt is needed for city streets, but it takes capital and labor to prepare and get it to the market. Cement



is in demand all over the country, and the raw material is here in abundance. Vast deposits of petroleum are waiting for the developer to come and bring it to the surface and refine it for everyday use. Thousands of bales of cotton are annually shipped from the territory to be made into fabrics in other States, when that should be done here. The list might be extended into scores of articles of commerce, but it is needless to do so. In fact it may be said that the great resources of Oklahoma are hardly touched as yet. So intent have the people been in raising wheat, cattle and cotton to sell for money to deposit in banks, that they have neglected other things. So prosperous have the pioneers of Oklahoma been that they have hardly felt the necessity for going below the surface to look for something to make profits from, and have generally been content to hold on to a good thing without searching for a better. New people are now coming in singly, in pairs, in groups and in colonies, and these are the ones who will develop the resources that have heretofore been neglected, and they are the people whom it is especially sought to interest at this time. The country is full of men who are looking for just such opportunities as Oklahoma offers, and they are invited to give this a thorough investigation.

#### As to Health.

As the altitude of Oklahoma is from 800 to 3000 feet above the sea level, it is but natural to expect a high degree of public health. Being above the malarial and fever districts, the territory is free from epidemics that are so serious in some southern States. Being too far south for the severe winters, lung troubles are few, and consumption, if not too far advanced, finds a cure in the high, dry and invigorating atmosphere of these prairies. The nature of the soil, the lay of the land, the condition of the atmosphere all tend to promote health and strength. In addition to natural conditions, the laws have been wisely framed to still further protect public health, and contagion rarely extends to any considerable extent.

#### Education.

As has been noted elsewhere, the people of Oklahoma, as a class, are educated. A very large per cent of them came from States where education is the rule, and they were therefore educated. Being accustomed to education, and being educated themselves, it was but natural for them to at once provide for the education of the children, and the result has been that but few, if any, of the old states have better systems for public education than has this young territory. The public school system is the pride of Oklahoma, and is based on a thorough and comprehensive plan. Beginning with the ward or district school, the persistent scholar is taken through the primary, grammar and high school grades and on up to a complete university course. Provision is made for an ample number of rural schools and a county high school for each county, and the territory conducts schools of higher and technical education. Each county has a county school superintendent, who has control and supervision over all the schools of the county, and visits them and keeps in touch with them and sees that the laws are enforced. The county superintendent, in turn, is under the supervision of a territorial superintendent and territorial board of education.

Oklahoma has a magnificent heritage for the schools in the shape of 2,055,000 acres of school lands, all of which are leased for the benefit of the school fund, and this land will in time be the principal support of the public schools.

The University of Oklahoma is located at Norman. and has a fine campus of 60 acres and buildings that would do credit to any State, and a faculty of thirty members. The instructors are chosen because of recognized ability.

The Agricultural and Mechanical College is located at Stillwater, and it is located on a 200 acre tract, and good buildings are provided. A government experiment station is operated in connection with this college. The courses in the Agricultural College cover a wide field and are very thorough.

A Territorial Normal School was located in Edmonds in 1890, and is very successful, and has special courses, among which is a model training school. The school is maintained by a tax and by rental of certain lands set aside for that purpose.

The Northwestern Normal School was opened in Alva in 1897 with an enrollment of 55, and in 1902 the enrollment had reached 593. The present building and equipment cost \$125,000.

The Colored Agricultural and Normal University was located at Langston in 1897, and owns 160 acres of land and has seven residence and school buildings.

The University Preparatory School was located at Tonkawa in 1901, and buildings erected and the school opened in the fall of 1902.

The legislature of 1901 provided for the location of The Southwestern Normal School, but before a location was definitely agreed upon litigation was begun and the matter tied up in the courts for an indefinite time.

There is a United States Indian Industrial School in the Chilocco reservation in the northeastern portion of Kay County.

In addition to the aforementioned educational institutions, there are numerous private and denominational academies and colleges of various kinds. The people of Oklahoma have every reason to feel proud of their schools, and there is nothing that speaks better for the territory and bodes better for her future welfare.

#### Churches and Societies.

The church is always the near neighbor of the school and where either is found the other is generally near. All the various church organizations are represented in the territory, and it would be hard to find a town without one or more neat church buildings. When a town is laid out one of the first provisions made is for churches, and this feature is never neglected. There were 801 church buildings in 1902.

All the leading lodges, orders and fraternal societies are represented in Oklahoma, and in 1902 sixteen orders reported 922 organizations in the territory with a total membership of 32,865. Any lodge man who wants to locate where his lodge is represented, may feel at home in Oklahoma.

#### Newspapers.

That Oklahomans are a reading people is evidenced by the number of newspapers. In the last report of the territorial governor is given a list of 212 weeklies; 29 dailies, 16 monthlies, 7 semi-monthlies and 1 quarterly, showing an increase of 43 weeklies and 7 dailies during the year. It may also be added that the newspapers of Oklahoma will compare favorably with those of like sized towns in any State in the Union. It is doubtful if any State can show a better class of local papers, or papers that bear evidence by their appearance that they are appreciated and patronized better than are those of Oklahoma. To the character of her press Oklahoma owes much of her past progress and future prospects. A progressive community is always represented by a progressive press, and where the press leads the public will follow. One can hardly imagine that a town is progressive if he picks up one of its newspapers and finds it listless, non-progressive and poorly patronized by the business public. On the other hand when the newspaper is vigorously edited, enterprising and spicy in its news columns and well filled with live advertisements of home people, it takes no argument to convince one that here is a go-ahead community. Oklahoma is certainly to be congratulated on the number and character of her newspapers and periodical publications.

#### Land and Land Values.

The question of land values is one that is of especial interest to the farmer in search of a new home, but is also of interest to the investor. The day of free agricultural land is practically at an end, that is, land that can be classed as safe crop land without the aid of artificial water supply by means of irrigation. There is yet some free homestead land in the territory, but what is left is mostly grazing land. Of the 3,777,883 acres of government land reported June 30, 1902, some 3,032,408 acres was in Beaver County and is classed as grazing land. The other counties showing any considerable amount of government land are Woodward, with 349,334 acres; Day, with 201,600: Greer, with 70.831: Roger Mills, with 48,270; Dewey, with 19,000; Comanche, with 17,613; Woods, with 9,561; Kiowa, with 8,467, and Custer, with 5,097. Blaine, Caddo, Canadian and Washita all have some public land, but not much.

In some of the newer counties relinquishments, or the rights of a homesteader who has filed on land, can be purchased at a few hundred dollars per quarter section. and there is quite a traffic of this kind. Good deeded land varies in price from \$10 to \$50 per acre, according to quality, location and improvements, but it would be useless to go into a discussion of prices, as they vary so. Suffice it to say that land can be purchased in almost any locality at prices that are very attractive to farmers who are accustomed to the high prices of the older agricultural States. The Iowa farmer knows he is making a good exchange when he can get from two to four acres of Oklahoma land for each acre of his Iowa farm, and the same is true of those of other States. Especially is this true when he realizes that the Oklahoma land will produce a greater diversity of crops, and yield as many dollars profit, acre for acre, as his Iowa or Illinois farm. The value is in the land, and the price will generally be found most attractive on investigation.

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# Debt and Taxation.

On June 30, 1902, the territorial debt was \$466,950.43, or a debt of 85 cents per capita only. This debt is mainly represented by public buildings worth much more than the outstanding obligations. A sinking fund has been provided for the early redemption of all outstanding bonds, and the public lands of the territory will eventually pay the debt and pay a large part of the building and maintenance of the public institutions. The rate of taxation for territorial expenses for 1902 was a fraction over seven mills on a very low rate of assessment. As more land is being "proved up" and listed for taxation, this rate of levy must be gradually reduced, which means still lower taxes. There are no exemptions.

# Care of Insane and Criminals.

At present the criminals of Oklahoma are cared for at the Kansas penitentiary at Lansing under contract, as no territorial penitentiary has been provided for. An insane hospital has been erected at Norman at a cost of about \$80,000, and this asylum is well kept and modern in all its appointments.

The deaf and dumb of the territory are educated at public expense by contract at a deaf and dumb institute at Guthrie.

# Banks and other Corporations.

The territorial laws require that all banks must be incorporated, the minimum capital being \$5,000. These banks are subject to examination by the pank commissioner, and are not allowed to employ their money in trade or commerce, and are otherwise restricted. These banks are required to make at least four reports per year. The same laws govern national banks as in other States.

Provision is made for the organization of corporations for various business purposes, including manufacturing,

railroad, insurance and commercial purposes. Three or more persons may organize a corporation.

#### Railroads.

For a new country, Oklahoma is well supplied with railroads, every county in the territory having at least one line, but that the needs of the territory are not yet supplied is evidenced by the activity in railroad circles and the lines now building. The following railroad companies have lines in operation or course of construction in the territory: St. Louis and San Francisco; Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe; Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific; Kansas City, Mexico and Orient; Denver, Enid and Gulf; Missouri, Kansas and Texas; Fort Smith and Western; Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe.

#### Laws and Courts.

The laws of Oklahoma were taken largely from those of Kansas, and the practice is similar to that of the codes of New York and Ohio. The courts are territorial, the judges being appointed by the President of the United States, and have the powers of United States judges. The county probate court is intermediary between the justice courts and the district courts, and has concurrent jurisdiction with both in civil cases to a certain amount. The laws of the territory are enacted by the legislature elected by the people, but are subject to review and repeal by Congress. Taken as a whole, Oklahon.a has wholesome laws, they are well enforced, and her people are peaceable and law abiding.

#### Mills and Elevators.

Oklahoma has good laws governing the operation of mills and elevators and has a territorial grain inspector. Because of the vast amount of grain raised, the milling and marketing must necessarily be one of the most important industries. Much flour is made for shipment to other States and for export, and this is an industry that is destined to grow and greatly increase in importance. The last report of the governor shows 228 elevators, with a capacity of 2,857,000 bushels, and 48 flour mills, with a daily capacity of 8,760 barrels. Since that report was made there has been a considerable



A WATER POWER MILL.

number of both elevators and mills built and put in operation.

# Public Roads.

An important consideration with most farmers is that of public roads. In this particular Oklahoma is peculiarly fortunate. For the most part the country is



sufficiently level to permit a road on every section line, thus making long detours unnecessary, as is the case in swampy and hilly countries. The nature of the soil is generally such that mud dries up very quickly, so that the ordinary dirt roads of the country are generally good. As most of the people of Oklahoma are from the older States, and have had experience in the improvement of roads, they are using this knowledge to advantage in making good roads. The result is certain to be a system of road improvement that will place Oklahoma well to the front in the "Good Roads" movement.

# Diversity of Crops.

Oklahoma is located in that central belt of the United States, where the greatest variety of products is found. The wheat fields of the valley of the great Red River of the North in Minnesota and North Dakota do not surpass in quantity or quality the winter wheat fields of Oklahoma, while much of the land will match the corn fields of Illinois and Iowa. The cotton States of the Southeast must look to their laurels or they will be distanced by the cotton fields of Southern Oklahoma. Oats, barley and rye succeed equally with wheat. The valleys of Eastern Oklahoma have already developed a strong rivalry for Colorado in the production of potatoes and melons. Fruits of all kinds that are grown in temperate climates are cultivated successfully. Alfalfa, the king of grasses, is at home here and vields prodigiously. Here no farmer need stake his all on one crop, for the variety that he may produce is so great that if the season is bad for one crop, others will thrive. A country capable of producing such a variety of crops is a country that is safe, pleasant and profitable.

#### Agriculture.

Oklahoma is pre-eminently an agricultural State, and to agriculture must she look for continued prosperity. While she has mineral resources and manufacturing possibilities equal to some States that have become important factors in the mining and manufacturing world, yet her main dependence is and must be the pursuits of farming and kindred industries.

With a soil that is adapted to the cultivation and growth of practically all the vegetables, grains, grasses and fruits of the temperate climate, and with a climate that is pleasant and healthful and calculated to mature the various farm products, it is but natural that agriculture should engross the public mind. Hence the growing season extends over a period of seven months, while in the North that is about the period of the close feeding season, while the close feeding season here seldom exceeds three months.

The farmers of Oklahoma may so diversify their crops that there need be no undue rush of work at any season, and neither need they fear a failure of any particular crop. If it should be too hot and dry for corn and wheat, a good crop of cotton, Kaffir corn and alfalfa may be depended upon, and thus a crop of some kind can always be depended upon.

This is the only belt of country where the products of the South grow side by side with the products of the North, and vie with each other as to which shall be the most prolific, and shows that both soil and climate adapt themselves equally to the cotton of the South and the corn of the North, and the wheat of the North to the tobacco of the South.

Some space will here be devoted to a more particular mention of some of the farm crops that are destined to make Oklahoma great among the agricultural States of the Union, and that have already tended to bring fame to her and fortune or competence to so many of her citizens. Much more space might profitably be devoted to each variety of crop mentioned, but it is hoped that enough will be said to excite the interest and give the reader a fair idea of the conditions existing.

### Wheat.

It is natural to begin with wheat, because wheat has so far been the crop that has been most cultivated, and which has enriched so many Oklahomans. Winter wheat is the staple, not only because it does well, but because it furnishes a most excellent winter pasture for stock. It is the common thing to pasture the wheat several months, and in fact winter stock on it without other feed, and then harvest a crop that will yield an average of 25 bushels per acre. This grain is staple in parts of the territory, and can usually be depended upon. The winters are favorable for its growth, and it matures before the dry season fully sets in, should there be a dry season. It is hard to arrive at figures as to average yield, but the governor of Oklahoma estimates it at 25 bushels per acre, though yields of 30 to 35 bushels are not uncommon and as high as 45 have been secured. A conservative estimate would place the average yield at 22 bushels per acre.

#### Oats.

The oat crop is extensive and profitable, and enormous yields are frequently reported. It is the common thing to expect from 60 to 80 bushels per acre, and as high as 110 bushels have been secured. One farmer in the Canadian Valley threshed nearly 13,000 bushels from 120 acres, or an average of about 107 bushels per acre. Another farmer secured 8,000 bushels from 80 acres. In the southern counties a species of winter oats is being introduced and is proving quite popular, as it matures early and yields liberally. Like wheat, the Oklahoma oats is heavy and of excellent quality, and always brings top prices on the market.



LINCOLN COUNTY CORN.

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#### Corn.

Oklahoma is a corn country. That question has been decided by years of trial, and is no longer experimental. Not all the land is first class corn land, but a large percentage is. The yield on Oklahoma corn land compares favorably with the yield on the best corn land of Iowa and Illinois, and enormous yields are sometimes reported. Farmers from the corn States who want to continue to raise corn need not fear Oklahoma. Some of the western counties, like Custer and Washita, have already made an enviable record in corn production, and the farmers show great prosperity.

# Kaffir Corn.

This is an excellent forage crop, and withstands drouth that will kill most field crops. It can be planted late in the season, even after it is evident that a drouth is well advanced, and it will thrive. The fodder is an excellent rough feed, the grain is good for poultry and all kinds of stock and an excellent fattener if properly prepared, and the young stalks make good pasture. It is a prolific producer and grows well on both high and low land. While Kaffir corn is essentially a dry weather and dry country crop, it appears to do equally well in wet seasons and in wet countries. The production of this crop is increasing every year as its virtues are becoming better known.

# Alfalfa.

This is another crop that is peculiarly adapted to dry districts, but does equally well in a country that has ample rainfall, providing it is land that drains well, but alfalfa does not take kindly to a cold, wet soil on which water stands any considerable time. Alfalfa roots go down deep, and any soil that has a sufficiently porous subsoil to let these roots penetrate will fill the bill. Alfalfa does remarkably well in most parts of Oklahoma,

and there is no crop that is more profitable. It is one of the best of pastures for all kinds of stock, including hogs, and poultry will live and thrive on it. As hay it has no superior, Alfalfa hay being a good winter feed for hogs as well as cattle and horses. A farmer near El Reno reports buying nine brood sows in 1901 and turning them in an alfalfa pasture, and letting them run there and breeding them. In the course of sixteen months he was offered \$2400 for the increase of this drove of hogs and he had fed them nothing but alfalfa. Hundreds of testimonials as to the value of alfalfa in stock raising can be secured in Oklahoma, and yet its cultivation there is new. In Oklahoma there are from three to four cuttings per year and in some cases five. The attention of the writer was called to one farmer who cut four hay crops and one seed crop last year, and his twenty acre field yielded him a net profit of something over \$800, besides leaving his mows full of hay for his own use. If Oklahoma could produce no other crop than alfalfa, her future as an agricultural and live stock State would be assured. Another beauty about alfalfa is that when once started it is there to stay, and the most trouble there is in it is in the frequent harvestings of from one to three tons per acre at each cutting.

# Timothy and Clover,

There is a general impression that timothy and clover do not do well in Oklahoma, but this is an error, as has been proven by many persons in widely separated sections of the territory. This impression gained evidence because of repeated failures to get a good stand of these grasses before the prairie soil was thoroughly rotted. All Oklahoma soils do not raise these grasses successfully, but most of them do after the prairie sod is entirely decomposed.

# Sorghum.

Sorghum is grown extensively for a forage crop, and for this is about equal to Kaffir corn. It withstands a great deal of dry weather also. It is also grown to a considerable extent for the manufacture of molasses. For a forage crop it is usually sown thickly or drilled thickly in rows, and is harvested and cured like corn fodder.

#### Broom Corn.

The growing of broom corn has become a profitable industry in many parts of Oklahoma, and large quantities are yearly being manufactured into brooms or shipped to eastern manufactories. It is what is called a dry weather crop, and is not affected like field corn by dry, hot weather, providing the soil is of the right character.

#### Soy Beans and Cow Peas.

These have not been extensively grown in Oklahoma as yet, but they have been very successful in Kansas and other States where conditions are very similar. Experiments at the Kansas experimental station has shown that soy beans are worth three times as much, bushel for bushel, as corn for hog feed, and the greater portion of Oklahoma will raise these beans prolifically.

# Castor Beans.

Castor beans are being introduced into various parts of Oklahoma as a market crop, and so far with flattering success. The yield is from 15 to 20 bushels per acre, and the price is seldom below \$1 per bushel.

#### Peanuts.

Good results have been obtained in the growing of peanuts, both as to quantity and quality. The yield averages from 50 to 60 bushels per acre, and the price varies from 50 to 75 cents per bushel. They are cultivated like potatoes. This is also a good hog crop, as the nuts are excellent feed, and the hogs will dig them as they want them, if allowed to do so.

#### Melons.

There is always something to eat in Oklahoma in melon time, for watermelons and cantaloupes reach their highest perfection. The production of cantaloupes has become a large and profitable industry in some of the eastern counties, though the newer counties further west seem equally adapted to their growth. It is not unusual to see a watermelon weighing from 60 to 80 pounds, and some even reach 100 pounds. S. R. Myers, a farmer near Hobart, last year marketed a load of 54 melons that averaged 863⁄4 pounds. The flavor of the Oklahoma watermelon is equal to those of Georgia, and the cantaloupes rival the justly celebrated Rocky Fords of Colorado. This is an industry that is destined to grow into tremendous proportions.

#### Potatoes.

The culture of Irish potatoes has become one of the most important industries in portions of Oklahoma, an early crop being raised for supplying the demand for early potatoes in the North, and a second crop for winter use. Thousands of acres are annually cultivated to potatoes and the acreage increases every year. A field of 80 to 100 acres in potatoes is not an uncommon sight in the southeastern counties. The yield averages from 150 to 200 bushels per acre, and the early potatoes always bring a good price. This is an industry that means dense population and intense cultivation.

# Sweet Potatoes.

Sweet potatoes have also proven a profitable crop in many sections of Oklahoma. The quality is excellent. and especially so in the sandy bottom lands of the Canadian valleys. The yield is from 125 to 200 bushels per acre, and the price is always good. More attention is being paid to the production of sweet potatoes every year.

#### Onions.

A person might not think onion culture a profitable business, but few crops are more so. They do remarkably well in many localities, and the yield is so great per acre that the most intense cultivation is profitable. It might be noted that most northern vegetables do well.

#### Cotton.

The southern half of the territory is in the cotton belt. and cotton culture is one of the most, if not the most important interest. The yield in Oklahoma is from a half to a bale to the acre, and the average price of a bale of cotton for the past few years has been about \$40 making it a profitable crop. This is a crop that will give employment to all the members of the family, and the work is not bunched into a short period. It is a staple product, and can always be turned into cash, which is another great advantage. Cotton seed and cotton seed products add greatly to the value of the cotton crop, and these by-products have a value but little less than the fibre. Cotton seed meal and cake make an important stock feed, and the demand is widespread and increasing yearly. The annual cotton production of the United States is about 10,000,000 bales, and Oklahoma will soon be an important factor.

#### Horticulture.

Oklahoma is in the great fruit belt of the United States, the same as the Ozark and Boston Mountain regions of South Missouri and North Arkansas, and extending clear across the continent. She is in the belwhere climatic conditions are more nearly perfect than elsewhere for the production of all American grown fruits except those of a tropical nature. It is now conceded that the geographical location of Oklahoma is all right for the various northern fruits, and it is only necessary to show that the soil is right to satisfy anyone



as to her claims as a fruit country. This has been proven by experiments in practically every county, and by hundreds of practical fruit growers. It has been demonstrated that apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries and the various berries all grow prolifically and yield profusely. Once planted and started, the trees make a good growth from the start, are healthy and vigorous. When it is known that in 1897, only eight years after first settlement, twenty full car loads of peaches were shipped from Oklahoma City alone, it can readily be understood that this is a fruit country.

Not looking upon Oklahoma as a fruit country, comparatively few of the first settlers set out fruit, but such is not the case now. One of the first things a settler thinks of in opening a new farm is to get an orchard started. He will now start in by planting an assortment of apple, peach, plums, berries, etc., and he will care for them, for he now knows what he can depend upon. The long growing season, coupled with mild winters and rich soil, tend to rapid growth and early maturity. It is unnecessary to go into detail here, but reference will be made to a few leading fruits.

Apples.

It has been proved by a dozen years' experience that eastern Oklahoma has the right kind of soil as well as climate for the production of apples. It has been proved that apples grown there are of excellent flavor, good color and fine keeping qualities. It has also been shown that the trees fruit heavily and the apples grow to a good size. There seems to be something in the climate that prevents the rot and mildew so common in some sections. As in Missouri, the favorites of the apple orchard seem to be the Ben Davis, Gano, Winesap, Missouri Pippin and Jonathan, with several other varieties not far behind. It is generally believed that apples are at home in all parts of Oklahoma, and this is certainly true as to the old settled parts of Greer County, which

has many fine apple orchards. The adjacent counties of Kansas have also succeeded admirably in apple culture, so there is no reasonable doubt that the whole of Oklahoma will prove to be a fine apple country.



OKLAHOMA PEACHES.

#### Peaches.

The peach being a much earlier bearer than the apple, there has been time to test the peach question in nearly every county, and the result has been highly satisfactory. Oklahoma has been a shipper of peaches tor several years, and few farms are to be found without their peach orchards. The peach will begin to bear the second year after planting, and by the fifth year is a heavy producer. Both soil and climate are suitable for profitable peach growing, and many are turning their attention to peach culture, and commercial peach orchards are being started all over the territory.

#### Grapes.

When it comes to grape culture, Oklahoma will not take a back seat for any other State, not even excepting the Piedmont district of the Southeast. The vines grow rapidly and mature early. The grapes are comparatively free from mildew, are sweet and fine flavored. Sufficient experiments have been made to make it certain that the wine varieties will reach perfection here, and their culture for wine-making has already assumed considerable proportions. The Catawba is the favorite wine grape, while the Concord takes the lead for tables and commercial purposes. There is apparently a great future for grape-growing and wine-making in Oklahoma.

#### Other Fruits and Berries.

Pear trees make a rapid growth, are comparatively free from blight, and bear well. The fruit is of good size and delicious flavor. Cherries and plums are considered staple, and a crop can generally be depended upon. Some of the more delicate fruits like prunes. nectarines, apricots and figs have been successfully experimented with, but none have as yet been grown in quantities.

Strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, currants, gooseberries, etc., all do well, and no garden need be without an abundance of small fruits and berries. A little care in selection and preparation of ground, a little intelligent cultivation after planting, and the fruit crop is as sure as any crop can be.

# Live Stock.

For centuries the buffalo roamed and thrived over the prairies of Oklahoma, but they have long since disappeared. The buffaloes were succeeded by the long-horned long-legged, half-wild cattle of the plains, with their accompaniment of cowboys. The farmers came and the cccupation of the cowboy was gone, and the long-horned cattle gave way before the short-horns and other improved breeds. Today the big cattle ranges of Oklahoma are almost gone, and the picturesque cowboy is almost a tradition. In the days of the buffalo, great droves of wild horses, or ponies, also roamed these prairies, and from these droves the mounts of the cowboys were recruited. These, too, have disappeared, and the horses of Oklahoma today are of the best stock the world can produce. It is so in all kinds of stock. The age of improvement has done its work. The same conditions that made these prairies a favorite pasture ground for buffaloes and half-wild cattle have made it possible for things to be as they are today. In a large measure the grass that grew wild and was so nutritious, has disappeared and been succeeded by the grasses and grains of civilization, with equally nutritious qualities and many times the quantity to the acre. The open corral has given place to the roofed sheds and stables, and conditions have changed, and changed decidedly for the better.

Horses, mules, cattle, sheep, goats and hogs all do as well here as in Kansas and Texas, and these two States are noted for their live stock interests. With better breeds, better methods and better markets, there is no reason why Oklahoma should not continue to make substantial progress in all branches of the live stock industry.

# Live Stock Statistics.

As a matter of especial interest in this connection a table is here appended, giving the number of the various kinds of live stock returned for taxation in Oklahoma. for the year 1902.

LIVE STOCK RETURNED FOR TAXATION, 1902.

COUNTY.	Horses.	Mules and asses.	Cattle.	Sheep and goats.	Swine.
Beaver	7,663	536	117,017	17,143	403
Blaine	6,610	1,188	14,720	723	3,16
Caddo	8,186	765	13,503	259	1,639
Canadian	8,995	1,839	25,048	303	6,34
Cleveland	6,618	2,216	13,424	888	7,06
Custer	8,542	1,931	32,110	186	12,081
Comanche	10,734	2,138	26,485	1,214	1,549
Day	3,457	668	17.034	16	1,98
Dewey	8,037	1,332	20,746	561	6,649
Garfield	14,056	2,502	36,618	631	9,57
Grant	13,806	2,011	43,327	74	8,659
Greer	20,941	5,525	73,871	5,211	8,610
Kay	11,557	1,833	33,316	314	13,203
Kaw Reservation	326	78	19,053	UIT	43
Kingfisher	10,764	2,078	31,468	501	5,875
Kiowa	5,683	1,492	10,903	352	816
Lincoln	12,492	3,866	24,657	510	7,610
Logan	9,604	2,430	22,097	331	6,779
Noble	8,414	1,975	41,587	2,018	6,348
Oklahoma	9,117	1,887	15,074	560	7,785
Pawnee	7,682	1,940	19,286	461	11.241
)sage Reservat'n	3,000	300	50,000	100	3,500
Pavne	11,622	3,667	26,526	378	11,795
Pottawatomie	10,625	4,660	24,916	621	8,115
Roger Mills	6.854	1,820	30,409	529	4,538
Washita	9,953	3,140	28,902	378	11,773
1 oods	32,150	3,709	92,534	3,382	18,225
Woodward	13,431	1,611	55,185	674	3,470
Tota1	280,939	58,143	959,816	38,308	189,218

In 1904 there were returned for taxation in the territory 328,352 horses, 70,048 mules and asses, 1,057,020 cattle, 35,735 sheep and goats, and 287,368 hogs.

#### Horses and Mules.

The broncho of the plains is still to be seen in Oklahoma, but is gradually disappearing. For the past few years much interest has been taken in improved stock. In the farming communities the heavy draft horses are the favorites, though much attention is being paid to breeding thoroughbred and standard bred horses. The altitude, and the purity of the atmosphere tend to breed horses that are strong and have good lungs. Every year thousands of large, well-bred brood mares are taken into Oklahoma and readily bought up by the farmers, but this trade will soon cease and they will soon have heavy horses to sell. Mules are bred to a considerable extent, and this branch of live stock is constantly growing in public favor.

#### Cattle.

The growth of the cattle industry is keeping pace with the growth of other industries, and no change is more noticeable than the change from range cattle to the sleek, round cattle of the farms of today. Since it has been discovered that wheat makes so fine a winter pasture, and that stock can generally be wintered on it without much, if any, other feed, the cattle industry has received a great impetus. More interest is being taken in the dairy, and in some sections creameries are now doing a thriving business.

# Sheep and Goats.

Sheep do well in most parts of Oklahoma, and sheep raising is both pleasant and profitable. The climate is very similar to that of the noted sheep districts of New Mexico and Colorado, as far as temperature is concerned. Angora goats are being introduced in some sections and so far have done well, and this is especially true as to the Wichita Mountain region and the timbered districts of eastern Oklahoma.

#### Hogs.

In a corn country like Oklahoma, hog raising is sure to be profitable. When to the corn crop is added alfalfa, it would seem that the swine industry might easily become the most important of her interests. Artichokes, peanuts and other root crops that hogs thrive on are so easily grown that the corn crop might be easily dispensed with and still leave the hog industry large and profitable. Hogs will not only live and thrive, but will actually get fat on alfalfa alone, and this with little or no other feed, winter or summer.

#### Poultry.

A treatise of this kind on Oklahoma would not be complete without some reference to poultry. Turkeys, chickens, ducks, geese and other fowls all do well. The long breeding season and short winters make poultry raising pleasant, profitable and sure. As an adjunct of the farm, the poultry yard is as important as any other branch, and the most profitable considering labor and investment. As a separate industry, a few acres of ground can easily be made to yield a good living for a small family in this climate. In these days of refrigerator cars, the poultry raiser in Oklahoma is nearly on an equality as to market with his brother in the East.

#### Indians.

As a matter of history something should be said regarding the Indians of Oklahoma, as they are today. It would be out of place to go into any description of their manners and customs or to their past. It is the present and future with which we have to deal, and not the past, as the Indian of the past is gone. The rapid breaking up of all Indian reservations and the taking in severalty of their land, is solving the Indian question. At most it will be but a few years until the average Indian will be like the average white man, have his little home. or abiding place, make a living to the best of his ability, and put in his spare time making laws and generally performing the manifest duties of American citizenship. The last official returns show a total number of 12,893 Indians in Oklahoma, being a slight decrease from the previous year. The Indians are divided by tribes as follows: Osage, 1,800; Kaw, 220; Poncas, 557; Otoes, 370; Tonkawas, 54; Pawnees, 638; Sac and Fox, 479; Iowas, 91; Pottawatomies, 1,722;



Shawnees, 509; Cheyennes and Arapahoes, 2,808; Kiowas, 1,134; Comanches, 1,407; Apaches, 164; Wichitas, 940. Some of these Indians are located on reservations, but most of them live on individual allotments. What reservations still remain will, in the nature of things, soon be broken up and lands held by individual ownership. Some of the Indians will cultivate or graze their own land, but for many years to come, more of them will lease their holdings to whites who will cultivate them. Indians do not take readily to the pursuits of civilization, and comparatively few will become artisans, tradesmen or enter the professions. One Indian to every fifty whites must in time become entirely assimilated. but the process will be slow.

#### Oklahoma by Counties.

We have drawn on the last report of Governor T. B. Ferguson for the following statistics and other information as to the various counties of Oklahoma. The information is official and reliable, and it is hoped it will receive a careful consideration.

Below is presented a brief statement of general information concerning each county in the territory. In a few instances the county clerk's report to the auditor has not been received, and the information relative to taxation and schools is omitted.

#### Beaver County.

Location, extreme northwest; area, 3,681,000 acres; population, 12,000; taxable valuation, \$2,008,896; land taxed, 193,914 acres; county bonded debt, \$31,000; county tax levy, 7.6 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$11,158.37; number of school districts. 52; number of school children, 2,759; school land in county, 1,352 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 3,032,408 acres; county seat, Beaver; other leading towns, Kenton and Guyman; principal occupation of people, stock raising and mining; products, cattle, sheep, horses and stock feed; manufacturing industries, copper smelter; undeveloped resources, sheep raising, fruit production by irrigation; some copper now being mined in western part.

### Blaine County.

Location, middle west; area, 656,000 acres; population. 17,500; taxable valuation, \$2,108,627; land taxed, 241,066 acres; county bonded debt, \$43,000; county tax levy, 21 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$27,394.92; number of school districts, 84; number of school children, 4,974; school land in county, 226 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry. 2,184 acres; county seat, Watonga; other leading towns, Geary, Okeene, Homestead and Hitchcock; principal occupation of people, agriculture and stock raising; products, wheat, cotton, corn, castor beans, peaches, hogs, cattle, salt and cement; manufacturing industries, cotton gins, salt works; undeveloped resources, immense cement, salt and building stone deposits.

# Caddo County.

Location, south central; area, 979,000 acres; population, 26,240; taxable valuation, \$2,864,879; school land in county, 544 quarter sections; number of school children, 7.373; government land subject to homestead entry, 2,453 acres; county seat, Anadarko; other leading towns, Caddo, Fort Cobb, Cement, Sickles, Apache, Bridgeport, Hydro; principal occupation of people, agriculture and stock raising; products, wheat, cotton, corn and live stock; undeveloped resources, gas and oil wells, and minerals.

### Canadian County.

Location, south central; area, 598,630 acres; population, 19,650; taxable valuation, \$3,429,859; land taxed, 373,209 acres; number school districts, 97; number school children, 5,903; school land in county, 210 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 885 acres; county seat, El Reno; other leading towns, Okarche, Yukon, Union; principal occupation of people, agriculture; products, wheat, cotton, corn, cattle and hogs; manufacturing industries, flouring mills, cement works, cotton compress and gins; undeveloped resources, cement and clay deposits.

# Cleveland County.

Location, extreme south; area, 348,000 acres; population, 17,253; taxable valuation, \$2,177,522; land taxed, 279,316 acres; county bonded debt, \$76,500; county tax levy, 17 mills; amount expended for county purposes. 1901, \$24,563.03; number school districts, 69; number of school children, 6,981; school land in county, 122 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, none; county seat, Norman; other leading towns, Lexington, Noble, Moore; principal occupation of people, agriculture: products, corn, wheat, cotton, hogs, cattle, sheep; manufacturing industries, cottonseed oil mill, gins, flouring mills.

# Comanche County.

Location, southwestern; area, 1,845,000 acres; population, 26,509; taxable valuation, \$4,567,460; county tax levy, 13 mills; land taxed, 332,251 acres; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$11,287.32; school land in county, 1,016 quarter sections; number of school children, 10,397; government land subject to homestead entry, 17,613 acres; county seat, Lawton; other leading towns. Waurika, Park City, Temple, Walters, Apache, Frederick and Texana; principal occupation of people, agriculture, stock raising and mining; products, wheat, corn, cotton, live stock, building stone; undeveloped resources, stone, oil, and mineral desposits.

# Custer County.

Location, central west; area, 647,000 acres; population, 18,127; taxable valuation, \$2,577.351; land taxed. 279,727 acres; county bonded debt, \$38,800; county tax levy, 14 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$25,140.27; number of school districts, 112; number of school children, 5,759; school land in county, 290 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 6,000 acres; county seat, Arapahoe; other leading towns, Weatherford, Independence, Parkersburg, Thomas; principal occupation of people, agriculture and stock raising; products, cotton, corn, wheat, hogs and cattle; manufacturing industries, flouring mills, cotton gins; undeveloped resources, cement and building stone deposits.

#### Day County.

Location, extreme west; area, 666,000 acres; population, 8,000; taxable valuation, \$477,913; land taxed, 44,284 acres; county bonded bebt, \$19,800; county tax levy, 32 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$7,850.14; number of school districts, 31; number of school children, 2,636; school land in county, 240 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 350,000 acres; county seat, Grande; other leading towns, Ioland, Texmo. Stone; principal occupation of people, stock raising; products, cattle and cattle feed.

#### Dewey County.

Location, north middle west; area, 638,000 acres; population, 11,358; taxable valuation, \$1,012,171; land taxed, 154,539 acres; county bonded debt, \$33,900; county tax levy, 33 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$39,531: number of school districts, 82; number of school children, 4.930; school land in county, 259 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 13,000 acres; county seat, Taloga; other leading towns, Seiling and Butte; principal occupation of people, agriculture and stock raising; products, corn, kaffir corn, castor beans, wheat, and cattle; undeveloped resources, cement deposits.

# Garfield County.

Location, north central; area, 640,000 acres; population, 29,732; taxable valuation, \$4,765,734; land taxed, 543,206 acres; county bonded debt, \$46,000; county tax levy, 13 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$41,086.95; number school districts, 127; number of school children, 8,716; school land in county, 465 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, none; county seat, Enid; other leading towns, Waukomis, Fairmont, North Enid, Kren:lin, Roper and Garber; principal occupation of people, agriculture; products, wheat, corn, castor beans, fruit; manufacturing industries, flouring mills, cotton gins and brickyards; undeveloped resources, cement and clay deposits.

#### Grant County.

Location, middle north; area, 672,000 acres; population, 19,096; taxable valuation, \$3,302,209; land taxed, 477.737 acres; county bonded debt, \$29,000; county tax levy, 11 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$41,736.90; number of school districts, 123; number of school children, 6,283; school land in county, 480 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 960 acres; county seat, Pond Creek; other leading towns, Medford, Jefferson, Manchester, Deer Creek, Lamont and Renfrow; principal occupation of people, agriculture; products, wheat, corn, castor beans, cattle; manufacturing industries, flouring mills; undeveloped resources, salt plains.

#### Greer County.

Location, extreme southwest; area, 1,511,575 acres; population, 32,793; taxable valuation, \$5,202,011; land taxed, 516,033 acres; county banded debt, \$20,000; county tax levy, 8 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$70,576.99; number of school districts, 87; number of school children, 12,939; school land in county, 1,134 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 223,322 acres; county seat, Mangum; other leading towns, Altus, Olustee, Eldorado, Navajo, Granite and Texola; principal occupation of people, agriculture and stock raising; products, wheat, cotton, corn, cane, cattle and sheep; manufacturing industries, salt and cement works, flouring mills, cotton gins; undeveloped resources, cement, mineral and oil deposits.

# Kay County.

Location, northeast; area, 575,000 acres; population, 22,766; taxable valuation, \$4,508,544; land taxed, 371,544; acres; county bonded debt, \$35,000; county tax levy, 15 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$50,450.53; number of school districts, 88; number of school children, 8,035; school land in county, 325 quarter sections; county seat, Newkirk; other leading towns, Ponca, Blackwell, Tonkawa, Kildare; principal occupation of people, agriculture; products, wheat, corn, cattle and hogs; manufacturing industries, flouring mills, cement works, brick yards and stone quarries; undeveloped resources, cement and stone deposits.

# Kingfisher County.

Location, central; area, 493,570 acres; population, 19,594; taxable valuation, \$3,448,792; land taxed, 482,374 acres; county bonded debt, \$47,500; county tax levy, 19 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$55.485.30; number of school districts, 119; number of school children, 6,205; school land in county, 200 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 372 acres; county seat, Kingfisher; other leading towns, Hennessey, Cashion and Kiel; principal occupation of people, agriculture; products, corn, wheat, cotton, castor beans; manufacturing industries, flouring mills, ice plant, cement works, cotton gins; undeveloped resources, cement beds.

# Kiowa County.

Location, south central; area, 734,000 acres; population, 22,685; taxable valuation, \$3,034,872; county tax levy, 18 mills; school land in county, 720 quarter sections; land taxed, 162,847 acres; government land subject to homestead entry, 8,467 acres; number of school children, 6,189; county seat, Hobart; other leading towns. Harrison, Dill, Cooper, Roosevelt, Mountain Peak, Snyder and Wildman; principal occupation of people, agriculture and stock raising; products, wheat, corn, cotton, live stock; manufacturing industries, oil mill; undeveloped resources, stone, gas, mineral deposits.

# Lincoln County.

Location, middle east; area, 619,000 acres; population, 31,196; taxable valuation, \$4,015,372; land taxed, 447,-181 acres; county tax levy, 17 mills; number of school districts, 134; number of school children, 11,655; school land in county, 212 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 32 acres; county seat, Chandler; other leading towns, Stroud, Wellston and Carney; principal occupation of people, agriculture; products, cotton, corn, peanuts, castor beans, onions, hogs and cattle; manufacturing industries, oil mills, cotton gin, flouring mills, pressed brick yards; undeveloped resources, cement and clay beds. In 1902 Lincoln County produced 41,472 bales of cotton, valued at \$1,878,125. The value of the seed alone was \$340,550.

### Logan County.

Location, east central; area, 465,600 acres; population, 43,636; taxable valuation, \$5,033,760; land taxed, 438,900 acres; county bonded debt, \$125,000; county tax levy, 15 mills; amount expended for county purposes.



1901, \$43,920.13: number of school districts, 97; number of school children, 8,891; school land in county, 165 guarter sections; county seat, Guthrie; other leading towns, Mulhall, Orlando, Coyle; principal occupation of people, agriculture and commerce; products, wheat, corn, cotton, fruits, melons, castor beans, cattle, hogs, broom corn; manufacturing industries, oil mill, cotton gins, flouring mills, planing mills, broom factory, foundries, ice plant, etc.

#### Noble County.

Location, northeast; area, 398,000 acres; population, 13,028; taxable valuation, \$2,521,849; land taxed, 235,289 acres; county bonded debt, \$70,500; county tax levy, 19½ mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$36,631.58; number of school districts, 61; number of school children, 3,802; school land in county, 192 quarter sections; county seat, Perry; other leading towns, Billings and Morrison; principal occupation of people, agriculture; products, wheat, corn, cotton, castor beans, onions, cattle and hogs; manufacturing industries. flouring mills, ice plant and cotton gins.

#### Oklahoma County.

Location, south central; area, 461,720 acres; population, 56,000; taxable valuation, \$9,124,530; land taxed, 386,876 acres; county bonded debt, \$136,900; county tax levy, 14 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$74,758.18; number of school districts, 87; number of school children, 14,501; school land in county, 158 quarter sections; county seat, Oklahoma City; other leading towns, Edmond, Choctaw City, Luther; principal occupation of people, agriculture and commerce; products, wheat, corn. cotton, tree fruits, grapes, cattle, hogs; manufacturing industries, oil mill, cotton compress and gins, flouring mills, ballast works, brick yards, broom factory, etc.

#### Pawnee County.

Location, extreme northeast; area, 333,000 acres; population, 13,327; taxable valuation, \$3,639,963, and Osage reservation; land taxed, 174,931 acres; county bonded debt, \$32,000; county tax levy, 20 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$38,269.94; number of school districts, 64; nuumber of school children, 5,697; school land in county, 200 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 40 acres; county seat, Pawnee; other leading towns, Cleveland, Blackburn, Ralston, Jennings, Keystone; principal occupation of people, agriculture and stock raising; products, corn, cotton, castor beans, cattle and hogs; manufacturing industries, flouring mills, cotton gins, saw mills; undeveloped resources, coal and stone deposits.

# Payne County.

Location, northeast; area, 484,000 acres; population, 22,084; taxable valuation, \$3.528,727; land taxed, 379,508 acres; county bonded debt, \$78,000; county tax levy, 11 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$36,344.49; number of school districts, 100; number of school children, 8,333; school land in county, 198 quarter sections; county seat, Stillwater; other leading towns. Perkins, Ripley, Cushing and Glencoe; principal occupation of people, agriculture; products, wheat, corn, cattle, cotton, castor beans, hogs and fruits; manufacturing industries, flouring mills, cotton gins, brick plant; undeveloped resources, indications of oil.

# Pottawatomie County.

Location, extreme southeast; area, 501,000 acres; population, 49,400; taxable valuation, \$4,020,185; county tax levy, 14 mills; land taxed, 298,130 acres; number of school districts, 108; number of school children, 14,203; school land in county, 168 quarter sections; county seat. Tecumseh; other leading towns, Shawnee, McLoud. Avoca, Keokuk Falls, Dale, Earlsboro; principal occupation of people, agriculture; products, cotton, corn, cattle, hogs, peaches, apples, grapes, potatoes, alfalfa; manufacturing industries, flouring mill, oil mills, cotton gins, railway shops, brick yards; undeveloped resources building stone and clay beds.

# Roger Mills County.

Location, extreme west; area, 757,000 acres; population, 15,000; taxable valuation, \$1,630,259; land taxed, 132,140 acres; county bonded debt, \$23,450; county tax levy, 19 mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$16,199.84; number of school districts, 49; number of school children, 5,598; school land in county, 265 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 48,170 acres; county seat, Cheyenne; other leading towns, Berlin, Busch, Sayre; principal occupations of people, agriculture and stock raising; products, cattle and cattle feed, corn, cotton and wheat.

#### Washita County.

Location, southwest; area, 1,275,000 acres; population, 24,650; taxable valuation, \$2,463,028; land taxed, 321,967 acres; county tax levy, 10 mills; number of school districts, 88; number of school children, 7,359; school land in county, 256 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 1,180 acres; county seat, Cordell; other leading towns, Cloud Chief, Mountain View, Herald, Wood, Rocky, Foss, Stout, Sentinel; principal occupation of people, agriculture; products, cotton, wheat, corn, castor beans, cattle and hogs; undeveloped resources, cement and gypsum beds.

#### Woods County.

Location, central north; area, 1,732,000 acres; population, 59,360; taxable valuation, \$7,118,533; land taxed, 939.303 acres; county bonded debt, \$52,221; county tax levy, 7½ mills; amount expended for county purposes, 1901, \$31,812.97; number of school districts, 257; number of school children, 15,459; school land in county, 1,223 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 9,561 acres; county seat, Alva; other leading towns, Cleo, Augusta, Carmen, Ingersol, Ringwood, Rusk, Aline, Yewed, Waynoka; principal occupation of people, agriculture and stock raising; products, wheat, corn, cane, castor beans, peaches, cattle and hogs; manufacturing industries, flouring mills and creamery; undeveloped resources, salt, guano deposits.

# Woodward County.

Location, northwest; area, 2,124,000 acres; population, 28,865; taxable valuation, \$2,736,540; land taxed, 318,626 acres; number of school districts, 119; number of school children, 8,906; school land in county, 102 quarter sections; government land subject to homestead entry, 349,-334 acres; county seat, Woodward; other leading towns, Curtis, Alston, Gage, Tandy, Shattuck; principal occupation of people, agriculture and stock raising; products, cattle, sheep, wheat, corn, cane and stock; undeveloped resources, salt and cement daposits.



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# INDIAN TERRITORY

Indian Territory is located near the center of the United States from east to west, and but little south of the center from north to south, which brings it well within the so-called rain belt, where crops are certain and vegetation grows profusely. It is bounded on the east by Missouri and Arkansas; on the south by Texas; on the west by Oklahoma and Texas, and on the north by Oklahoma and Kansas. The thirty-seventh parallel of latitude marks its extreme northern boundary, while the irregular boundary on the south, marked by Red River, in places nearly reaches the thirty-third parallel. In longitude the extremes are from about 941/2 to 98 degrees. These boundaries indicate that Indian Territory is located well below the line of hard freezing. and above the sultry districts further south, and that none of it reaches within two degrees of what is generally considered the eastern drouth line, or the one hundredth degree of longitude. In area the territory has 31,400 square miles, or nearly as large as Indiana. nearly one-third larger than West Virginia, more than three times as large as either Vermont or Massachusetts. and practically the same as Maine. Allowing 400 square miles for rivers classed as navigable, there remain 19,840,000 acres of land in the territory, and land that is capable of sustaining a dense population.

#### Political Divisions.

Aside from the area in the northeast corner of the territory, where the Quapaws, Peorias, Miamis, Ottawas, Modocs, Shawnees, Wyandottes and Senecas have small reservations, Indian Territory is divided into five distinct



sections or nations, each with a government of its own, laws of its own and a capital of its own. These five divisions will be considered separately, and a brief description of each will be given, including area, boundaries, character of country and known resources. That the conditions existing in the different nations or sections of the territory may be made as plain as possible, each nation will be taken up by itself and considered separately, after which the territory will be considered as a whole.

#### Cherokee Nation.

With the exception of the small reservations in the northeast corner, the Cherokee Nation occupies the north and northeast part of Indian Territory, extending from the Kansas line on the north to the Arkansas and Canadian Rivers on the south, and from Arkansas and Missouri on the east to the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. and the Creek Nation of Indian Territory, on the west.

AREA-There are 4,420,070 acres in the Cherokee Nation, classified by the Dawes Commission as follows: Agricultural land, 2,575,436 acres; rocky prairie land, 210,560 acres; hilly and rocky land, 693,120 acres; mountain land, 940.960 acres. There are many good upland stretches and also valleys in what are classified as rocky land that are good farm land, and will be cultivated. The north half of this nation is largely prairie, with but little waste land. There is also a large body of what is classified as agricultural land on the south end, and considerable bodies are found in all portions except the mountain districts, which border on the Arkansas line and extending well towards the Creek Nation line. In fact this government classification gives about one-fourth of the Cherokee land as unfit for agriculture, while some of this will be cultivated. It is probably safe to say that two-thirds of the Cherokee land will be farmed and most of the remainder will be utilized for fruit culture and pasture.



How TO GET LAND .- The matter which most interests the public at large is how land in Indian Territory can be secured and on what terms and in what manner. As different laws and rules apply to the different nations. each nation will have to be considered separately. In the Cherokee Nation, each citizen or member of tribe gets an allotment equal in value to 110 acres of average land, which in money amounts to \$325.70 at the values at which the lands were appraised by the Dawes Commission. As first class land was appraised at \$6.50 per acre, the citizen whose allotment was all first-class land would only get fifty acres, which is the smallest allotment. If the allotment was the lowest grade, the appraised value of which was 50 cents per acre, the allotment would be 600 acres, thus the lowest number of acres allotted to one citizen of the tribe was 50 acres and the highest 600.

The law requires that each allottee shall select for a homestead a tract equal in value to forty acres of average value, which homestead cannot be sold, taxed or in any way encumbered for a period of twenty-one years from date of certificate of allotment, or during the lifetime of the allottee if he should die sooner. This would set aside as a homestead about eighteen acres of first-class land and a varying amount, up to about 215 acres of the lowest grade. Citizens who are not of Indian blood-i. e., intermarried whites and negro freedmen-may sell the surplus above the homestead at once, but citizens of Indian blood are not permitted to sell surplus allotments for five years from the date of the patent. Under this clause the citizen having an allotment of the best grade lands, which is fifty acres, could sell thirty-two acres of it, and the one whose allotment has all the lowest grade land or 600 acres could sell 385 acres, it being provided that if the citizen is of Indian blood the surplus cannot be taxed, sold or in any way encumbered before the expiration of five years from date of patent. The approval of the Secretary of the Interior will not be required for the sale of surplus
lands when it can be sold at all. In addition to this, the land belonging to estates of deceased allottees may be sold, whether it be homestead or surplus land, and as deaths occur from time to time more land will be thrown on the market. When allotments are made the allottee must designate the portion desired to be set aside for homestead purposes, and a separate certificate is issued for that. It is provided, also, that Cherokee citizens may rent their allotments for a term not exceeding one year for grazing purposes, or five years for agricultural purposes, but there shall be no stipulation or agreement for renewal of said leases, and any such agreement will be void. Leases for a longer period than one year for grazing, or five years for agricultural purposes, may be made with the consent of the Secretary of the Interior. Leases for mineral purposes may only be made with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

Provision is made for the establishment of public roads two rods wide on all section lines, without payment for the land thus taken for road purposes. Roads, when necessary, may be established elsewhere than on section lines, by means of condemnation and appraisement, and are to be paid for out of tribal funds.

The laws governing the selection of town sites, and sale of town lots are such that every legitimate interest is protected, and means are provided whereby towns and additions to towns may be established when needed. Town sites are surveyed and platted under government supervision, a government townsite commission appraises the lots, and the final deeds must be approved by the government. It is provided that persons holding lots by means of some permanent improvement shall have the option of buying the lots after appraisement at one-half the appraised value, but for lots not held by permanent improvements, the full appraised value must be paid. Persons owning improvements of this nature rightfully are fully protected to the value of the improvements. As the United States government virtually guarantees title to town lots, it is generally safe to make valuable improvements even before appraisement, and this is being done in all the Indian Territory towns, as substantially the same laws as to roads and townsites apply in all the five nations.

A great deal of the agricultural portions of the Cherokee Nation is under cultivation by whites under leases from the Indians, and many of these lessees have grown rich, and as a rule they are prosperous. Many farmers from the various States have gone in and taken leases and made fairly good improvements, the object being to purchase the land as soon as the citizen can legally sell. Even though these lessees may not get the land they have cultivated, they will be on hand and familiar with all the conditions and be able to make desirable purchases. While much of the land is thus under cultivation, there are many thousands of acres of choice land yet to be leased, and these offer an opportunity for a foothold, not only in the Cherokee, but in the other nations.

CAPITAL AND OTHER TOWNS.—Tahlequah is the capital of the Cherokee Nation and is located near the center of what is classed as the mountain district, and is located on the Muskogee branch of the Frisco. The other principal towns of the Cherokee Nation are Afton, Vinita, Claremore, Grove, Westville, Sallisaw, Fort Gibson, Pryor Creek, Catoosa, Chelsea, Nowata and Bartlesville.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Cherokee Nation is well watered by rivers, springs and wells. The Arkansas, the Canadian, the Verdigris, the Neosho, the Grand and the Illinois Rivers are all good sized streams that help water the Cherokee Nation, and all have many tributary streams, and these, and the many springs and artesian wells make this nation peculiarly fortunate as to water supply. While it is true that there is some alkali in the water, there are few places where an abundance of good water cannot be secured. In addition to this, the rainfall is ample to supply an abundance of rain water where cisterns are provided.



COAL.—Coal is found generally in the north half of the Cherokee Nation, but owing to unsettled conditions of title it has been but little developed. Strip coal is mined in many localities and hauled into neighboring towns for local use. Deeper mining for commercial purposes has been carried on at Dawson, Collinsville and Bartlesville, and at the latter point it is said a thick vein of semi-anthracite has been drilled into.

TIMBER.—The greater part of the south half of the Cherokee Nation is covered with timber, much of which is valuable for commercial purposes. The principal commercial varieties are oak, ash, hickory, gum, walnut, pine and cedar. Timber is found on most water courses in the prairie districts, and there are few localities that are not supplied for local uses.

OL AND MINERALS.—The Cherokee Nation is well supplied with oil, gas and minerals. The Bartlesville oil district is well known and considerably developed. In the vicinity of Tulsa, oil and natural gas exist in this nation. At Chelsea there is both oil and gas. Indications are as strong at other points, but the development has not been made. In the eastern part of the Cherokee Nation, iron, zinc, lead and copper have been found at different places.

Creek Nation.

The Creek Nation is bounded on the north by Oklahoma and the Cherokee Nation: on the east by the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations; on the south by the Choctaw and Seminole Nations; on the west by the Seminole Nation and Oklahoma. The Canadian River marks the greater part of the southern boundary.

AREA.—In the Creek Nation, there are 3.072,813 acres of land, which the Dawes Commission classified as follows: 2,157,613 acres of agricultural land; 215,680 acres of rocky prairie land; 618,240 acres of hilly and rocky land; 81,280 acres of mountain land. This classification was for the purpose of equalizing allotments and is substantially correct. Of course, a good percentage



of the rougher lands will be cultivated and make good farms.

How to GET LAND.—In the matter of disposing of their surplus lands, the Creeks are more advanced than the others of the five nations. It may be noted at the outset that Creek citizens were allotted 160 acres each, of which forty acres must be set aside as a homestead and cannot be sold, taxed or encumbered for a period of twenty-one years from date of deed, unless the allottee should die before the expiration of the twenty-one years, but in case of death the estate would be probated and the land sold under the laws governing the sale of estates of deceased persons.

The remaining 120 acres of each allotment may be sold at any time after the deed is received, with the approval and consent of the Secretary of the Interior, and without the consent of the secretary after five years from date of the ratification of the supplementary treaty, which was July 26th, 1902. From the foregoing it will be seen that the surplus allotment, or 120 acres, of each Creek citizen may be sold at any time after July 26th. 1907, without the consent of the Secretary of the Interior; also that said surplus may be sold at any time now for not less than the appraised value, with the consent of the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary may prescribe rules for the sale of such surplus land. At the time this article is written the rule prescribed is that when a Creek citizen wishes to dispose of his surplus land, that fact shall be advertised sixty days, and sealed bids shall be received, accompanied by twenty per cent of the amount bid. These bids must be sent to the Indian agent, and the highest bid must be accepted, providing the said highest bid is not less than the value fixed by a new appraisement by the Indian agent or some other federal official appointed for that purpose. Other regulations are prescribed intended to protect the individual purchaser against combinations, and to give all a fair and equal chance for securing the land.

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In the Creek Nation there were some 600,000 acres of surplus land after allotments had been made to all entitled to them, which land will be disposed of in some manner hereafter to be agreed upon, and the proceeds will be devoted to equalizing the value of individual allotments. Allotted lands in the Creek Nation may be leased by the allottees without the consent of the Secretary of the Interior for a period not exceeding one year for grazing purposes or five years for agricultural purposes, but for mineral purposes and for longer periods the consent of the Secretary of the Interior is necessary. A regulation of the Interior Department is to the effect that leases will not be approved for a longer period than three years for grazing purposes, ten years for agricultural purposes and fifteen years for mineral purposes. In all cases the usual rentals and royalties will be required.

CAPITAL AND OTHER TOWNS.—The capital of the Creek Nation is Okmulgee, located on the Frisco Railroad, and near the Deep Fork of the Canadian River. The other principal towns in the Creek Nation are Muskogee, Wagoner, Eufaula, Holdenville, Wetumka, Weleetka, Beggs, Sapulpa, Mounds, Bristow, Red Fork and Tulsa.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Creek Nation is watered by the Arkansas, the Cimarron, the Verdigris, the different branches of the Canadian and numerous smaller streams and springs; in most sections an abundance of good water can be secured by digging to a moderate depth. Salty or alkaline water is found in some localities, but in most places there is no difficulty in securing a supply of good, pure water.

COAL.—The greater part of the Creek Nation is underlaid with coal, which has not yet been developed, but will be as soon as whites secure title to land. The most extensive coal mines at present are at Henryetta, on the Red River division of the Frisco, where mines are operated under an old Indian lease. TIMBER.—There are no large bodies of heavy timber in the Creek Nation, such as are found in the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations, but there are some quite large bodies of commercial timber, and all water courses and most hilly districts are well supplied. The principal lumber varieties are oak and walnut.

OIL AND MINERALS.—The greatest development in oil and gas is at Red Fork and Tulsa, where there are now a number of producing oil wells and several strong gas wells. Oil and gas have both been found in the vicinity of Sapulpa, Wagoner and Muskogee in good quantities, and strong indications at Okmulgee, Mounds and several other points. It is believed that oil and gas will be found under practically the whole Creek Nation. Lead, zinc, iron, glass sand, and various mineral clays, have been found in different sections and will be developed in due time.

#### Seminole Nation.

The Seminole Nation is the smallest of the five, containing only 365,854 acres. Of this land, 24,055 acres are classified as first-class; 248,838 as second class and 92,961 as third class. Most of the second-class land is good for farming.

The Seminole Nation is bounded on the north by Oklahoma and the Creek Nation; on the east by the Creek Nation; on the south by the Chickasaw Nation, and on the west by Oklahoma. This nation is generally well watered and well timbered, and the greater portion has a deep, rich soil, which is usually of a sandy nature. It is estimated that fully two-thirds of the land in the Seminole Nation will be brought to a high state of cultivation.

How to GET LAND.—At the present time there is no way to secure land in the Seminole Nation but by leasing, except that when deaths occur the estates will be probated in the usual way and the land sold. Seminoles may lease their lands for any purpose not exceed-



ing six years, but leases must be approved by the principal chief.

In the Seminole allotments each citizen got 60, 120, or 240 acres, according to character of land, none of which can be sold until the disbandment of the tribal government on March 4th, 1906. Each allottee must select forty acres for a homestead, which can not be sold and is inalienable in perpetuity. After the tribal government shall cease to exist on March 4th, 1906, any citizen may sell all the land he has in excess of the forty acres set aside for a homestead. Seminole deeds will be issued by the last principal chief at time of dissolution of tribal government.

Wewoka is the capital and principal town of the Seminole Nation, and is the only town of present importance. This section has not been prospected to any extent for oil, gas, coal or minerals, but it may be said to be in the belt where some or all of these products may be expected.

#### Choctaw Nation.

This nation is bounded on the north by the Creek and Cherokee Nations; on the east by Arkansas; on the south by Texas, and on the west by the Chickasaw Nation.

AREA.—The Choctaw Nation has an area of 6,950,043 acres, which was classified by the Dawes Commission as follows: Agricultural land, 3,755,606 acres; hilly and rocky land, 254,080 acres; mountain pasture land, 1,436,052 acres; mountain land without pine timber, 512,097 acres; mountain land with pine timber, 992,097 acres. A large percentage of the good farm land is covered with a good growth of timber, but there are considerable prairie districts, especially on the west.

CAPITAL AND OTHER TOWNS.—Tuskahoma, on the Paris line of the Frisco, is the capital. The other principal towns are Poteau, Wister, Antlers, Grant, Hugo, Durant, South McAlester, Coalgate, Atoka and

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Haileyville, with many others of but little less importance.

WATER SUPPLY.—As the Red River forms the southern and the Canadian the northern boundary, and both have many tributaries, it can readily be seen that this nation is well watered. In addition there are many fine springs, and wells can be had anywhere. There is always an abundant rainfall for crops and water supply.

COAL.—The Choctaw Nation is considered the great coal basin of the Southwest. Large quantities of coal are being and have for years been mined at South McAlester, Poteau and Coalgate under leaseholds. The federal government segregated 444,000 acres of coal land, nearly all of which is in the Choctaw Nation, which segregated land is to be sold for the benefit of the Indians.

TIMBER.—Not only in coal, but in timber is the Choctaw Nation very rich, perhaps two-thirds of the nation being covered with a fine growth of merchantable timber. The greater part of the mountain district is covered with fine timber, but much of the level land is also well timbered. The principal timber of the Choctaw Nation is an excellent quality of yellow pine. Much cedar is also native here. The other merchantable timber is oak, ash, hickory, walnut, cypress, gum and bois d'arc.

MINERALS.—Aside from coal, there has been but little prospecting, but surface indications point in many places to iron, lead, zinc, copper. Gold-bearing quartz has been found in small quantities, as has also some silver ore, and it is believed by many that both will eventually be found in paying quantities in the Kiamichi Mountains. Some large beds of asphalt have been found and will be developed in due time.

How TO GET LAND.—In the matter of allotments and the sale and lease of land, the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations are treated as one. Choctaws may take allotments in the Chickasaw Nation and Chickasaws in the Choctaw, hence what is said in this respect will apply alike to both. In the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations each citizen is entitled to an allotment equal to 320 acres of average land, and as the land was appraised at from 25 cents to \$6.50 per acre, this will give them allotments varying in amount from 160 to 4,100 acres of land per head. One half the allotment cannot be sold, taxed or in any way encumbered during the lifetime of the allottee, not exceeding twenty-one years from date of certificate of allotment. This applies to those only of Indian blood or intermarriage. Freedmen in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations get only forty acres of average land, which is inalienable during the lifetime of allottee, not exceeding twenty-one years.

The Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians may sell their surplus lands, which is one-half their allotments, as follows: One-fourth of the surplus in acreage may be sold in one year; one-fourth in three years, and the remainder of the surplus in five years. Thus is the allottee has 320 acres, 160 must be kept as a homestead. One year from date of patent he may sell forty acres: three years from date of patent he may sell another forty, and five years from date of patent he may sell eighty acres. The approval of the Secretary of the Interior is not required, and the only qualifying provision is that no land can be sold for less than the appraised value before the expiration of the tribal government in 1906. The estates of deceased may be probated and land sold by due process of law at any time after allotment.

Choctaws and Chickasaws may lease their lands for agricultural purposes for five years, but can give no renewal right to such leases. No lease for coal, oil, gas or mineral shall be valid unless made by the tribal government by and with the consent of the allottee, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. In such case one-half the royalty shall be paid to the tribal government while in existence.



# Chickasaw Nation.

The Chickasaw Nation is the furthermost west of Indian Territory. It is bounded on the west by Comanche and Caddo Counties in Oklahoma; on the north by Oklahoma and the Seminole Nation; on the east mainly by the Choctaw Nation and the south by Texas.

AREA.—The Chickasaw Nation contains 4,703,108 acres, and is classified as follows: 4,253,961 acres of agricultural land; 154,533 acres of mountain land; 294,612 acres of rocky land. It will be seen by the above government classification that more than ninety per cent of this nation is classified as agricultural land, or land that may be profitably farmed.

How TO GET LAND.—As the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations are covered by the same laws and treaties, the reader is referred to the article on the Choctaw Nation for information.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Canadian River marks the northern boundary, the Red River the southern boundary, and the Washita crosses it diagonally, and numerous tributaries penetrate it in all directions. It is also well supplied with springs, and good wells can be had by digging. For the most part the water is good, but in some localities it has a touch of alkali or other mineral.

CAPITAL AND OTHER TOWNS.—Tishomingo, on the Washita River, is the capital of the Chickasaw Nation. The other more important towns are Ardmore, Chickasha, Paul's Valley, Sulphur, Ada, Francis, Madill, Comanche, Roff and Mill Creek.

OIL AND MINERALS.—While indications of oil are very strong in various parts of the Chickasaw Nation, there has been no systematic prospecting as yet. The same is true as to gas and minerals. Coal is found in the vicinity of Ardmore and in other localities. Asphalt beds have been found in numerous places, and some development is under way. TIMBER.—While a very large percentage of the Chickasaw Nation is prairie, the streams are all fringed with timber, and the hilly districts well covered and there is a-sufficient supply at least for home needs.

### Quapaw Agency.

The Quapaw Indian agency is located in the extreme northeast corner of Indian Territory, and consists of the remnants of eight tribes, with their small reservations. These tribes consist of the Quapaws, Miamis, Peorias, Modocs, Ottawas, Shawnees, Wyandottes and Senecas, and are located in the above order beginning in the northeast corner. The agency headquarters are located at Wyandotte, a town on the Frisco system in the Wyandotte reservation, where is also located the agency government school. The Quapaw agency is bounded on the north by Kansas, on the east by Missouri, and on the other sides by the Cherokee Nation. It is well watered by the Neosho, Spring and Grand Rivers and numerous smaller streams and springs.

SURFACE AND AREA.—The surface of the country is varied, there being timber and prairie, hills and valleys, and wide prairies. It is a beautiful country to look at, and most of the land is as rich as the landscape is pretty.

Following is given the acreage of the various reservations of the Quapaw agency: The Quapaws have 56,245 acres; the Peorias and Miamis have 43,000; the Ottawas, 14,000; the Senecas, 51,907; the Wyandottes. 21,000; the Shawnees, 13,000, and the Modocs, 4,000. making a total in the Quapaw agency of 203,152 acres.

How TO GET LAND.—The lands of the Quapaw agency have generally been allotted to the Indians, but different laws govern the different tribes, and these will be given briefly.

The Quapaws were allotted 240 acres each, none of which may be sold for twenty-five years from date of allotment, which was in 1895, unless the allottee shall die before that time, when the estate would be probated and sold.

The Peorias and Miamis were allotted 200 acres each, and permitted to sell one-half this allotment, or 100 acres each, at any time, by advertising the fact for ninety days. The balance of the allotment cannot be sold for twenty-five years from date of patent. These tribes also had 6,000 acres of surplus land, which has been sold. The greater part of the land permitted to be sold has already been sold. Estates of deceased Indians may also be sold.

The Ottawas were allotted eighty acres each, which cannot be sold during lifetime, not exceeding twentyfive years from date of patent. The Ottawas have 1,587 acres of surplus land, which will be sold in the near future.

The Senecas were allotted eighty acres each, which cannot be sold for twenty-five years from date of patent, if the allottee lives that long. The Senecas had 10,000 acres surplus land, which has been sold.

The Wyandottes have eighty acres each, which cannot be sold for twenty-five years from date of patent, except in case of death.

The Shawnees were allotted eighty acres each, which cannot be sold for twenty-five years from date of patent. This tribe has 2,000 acres surplus land.

The Modocs were allotted forty-eight acres each, which cannot be sold for twenty-five years from date of patent, except in case of death. In these various tribes from seven to ten years of the twenty-five have already passed, and as deaths are of frequent occurrence each year will see the whites getting more of a foothold.

Leases may be secured in all these reservations on favorable terms, and as the soil is generally very productive many whites are conducting profitable farming operations there already.

TIMBER AND MINERALS.—There is a considerable amount of good timber in the Quapaw agency, which is generally hardwood, oak predominating. In some sections there is considerable walnut of commercial size.

Lead and zinc have been found in quantity, and the mining industry is destined to be important. Some good beds of asphalt have been opened near Miami, and various clays and building stone can be found in abundance.

FARM CROPS.—Wheat, corn, oats, flax and grass are the principal farm products. Vegetables of all kinds do remarkably well, and there is no better fruit country anywhere.

# Recording Districts.

Under the tribal form of government which has existed in the Indian Territory, there have been no counties, but in order that deeds and other written instruments may be properly recorded, the territory has been divided into twenty-five recording districts.

Deeds and other papers are to be recorded in the proper district very much the same as if these districts were regular counties, which, in fact, they will, ultimately, become. Purchasers of land and others engaging in business in the territory should be extremely careful to see that all transactions are properly recorded as required by law.

# Farm Products.

Without going into detail or extended discussion of the subject, brief mention will be made of some of the principal farm products that are known to be successful in Indian Territory and the various localities.

WHEAT.—This staple is successfully grown in most parts of the territory, but the upland prairies of the northern and western parts seem peculiarly adapted. Winter wheat is grown and yield and quality are practically the same as Kansas and Oklahoma.

CORN.—This is a crop that is grown in all sections of Indian Territory, but the level prairies and bottom lands produce the greatest yields. Many localities are peculiarly good for this crop, and sixty to eighty bushels per acre is by no means uncommon.

OATS.—This is a crop that is peculiarly adapted to this latitude, and adjacent lands in Oklahoma yield as high as one hundred bushels per acre. In the southern portion of the territory a winter variety of oats is grown successfully. It yields equally well with the spring variety and comes on much earlier. In many cases winter oats seeds itself and requires no attention except at harvest time.

POTATOES.—In the southern part of Indian Territory, quite an industry has already grown up in the production of early potatoes for the Northern markets and, sparse as the settlement is, hundreds of car loads are shipped yearly. Two crops of potatoes are grown each year on the same ground. Sweet potatoes do exceptionally well in many localities.

MELONS.—Melon culture is already an important industry in some sections, and is destined to be very profitable to the farmer. No better flavored watermelons or cantaloupes are produced anywhere, and they bring top prices in the northern markets.

TOMATOES.—This popular fruit or vegetable is in its element in most parts of Indian Territory, and the canning industry is sure to be an important one. Climate and soil conspire to bring the tomato to perfection.

VEGETABLES.—All vegetables can be successfully cultivated in the rich land of Indian Territory. Turnips, radishes, beets, sugar beets, onions, etc., are all profitably produced here.

GRASS.—Red clover and timothy do well in many sections; blue grass grows profusely in the northern and eastern part; alfalfa is known to produce luxuriantly in the bottom lands; Bermuda grass grows wherever planted; Hungarian, millet and other similar grasses do well; the raw prairies are covered with a heavy growth of blue stem which is excellent for both hay and pasture : in fact, it is emphatically a grass country, hence a good stock country.



COTTON.—The south two-thirds of Indian Territory is in the cotton belt, and a large percentage of the land within these limits is excellent for this staple. A bale of cotton to the acre is not uncommon, and even more is often picked. It is a crop that the poor man can raise profitably. The cotton industry of Indian Territory is already very important, and will naturally become more so every year.

FRUITS.—All fruits of the climate seem to do well in most parts of Indian Territory. Apples do especially well in the northern half, but grow in all sections. Peaches are surer in the south half, but can generally be depended upon all over. Pears seem freer from blight than further east, and are good bearers. Plums, cherries and all berries are in their element. Grapes grow rapidly and produce enormously. Expert vineyardists predict a great future for the hill districts of the territory, and especially in the growing of wine grapes and manufacture of wine.

POULTRY.—Indian Territory is in the great poultry belt of the country, the belt that produces more poultry with less trouble and risk than any other section. Either as an adjunct to farming or as a separate industry, there is nothing that can be handled with so small a capital that is as profitable. This includes the raising of chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, etc.

CATTLE.—Indian Territory has long been known as a great grazing country for range cattle, the luxuriant growth of native grass and the large amount of nutriment in it, making it nearly ideal, especially when considered in connection with its mild climate and abundance of water. The day of the range cattle of Indian Territory is about at an end, and the longhorned rangers are being superseded by shorthorns, Herefords, and other domestic breeds, which will prove even more profitable, though less picturesque, than the range stock. Grain and cultivated grass are taking the place of the native grass, and a new era in the cattle business is on.



HORSES AND MULES.—What has been said as to cattle will apply equally to these animals.

SHEEP AND GOATS.—The hilly and mountainous districts of the territory should be an ideal sheep and goat country, as natural conditions are highly favorable. The Angora already has a good foothold in the adjacent country of Arkansas and Missouri.

Hogs.—Any country that will produce corn successfully will produce hogs profitably. When, in addition to the corn, it will produce cotton for the seed for hog food, it will be that much more profitable, but when added to these is an alfalfa country the hog is strictly in it.

SUMMING UP.—To sum up the situation from an agricultural standpoint, it may be said that Indian Territory has resources of soil and climate that cannot fail to make it one of the great agricultural sections of the United States. Located as it is in a belt where grow equally well the crops of the North and the South, and separated by but one State from tidewater, with the world for its market, can anyone for a moment doubt its future?

# Mines and Mining.

The condition of land titles has been such that there has been no mining other than coal, and but little prospecting has been done. However, there has been enough prospecting to make it certain that Indian Territory is rich in minerals of various kinds. It is reasonably certain that nearly half of the territory is underlaid with coal, it having been found in widely separated districts. The north half of the Choctaw Nation, a considerable portion of the Chickasaw Nation, most of the Creek Nation, and the north half of the Cherokee Nation are all known to be well supplied.

Lead and zinc have been found without systematic prospecting in many portions; iron has been found in both the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations, as have also gold, silver and copper ore. Asphalt has been found in considerable quantities in the Cherokee, Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, and will probably be found in all parts of the territory. Oil and natural gas have been proven to exist in large quantities in the Cherokee and Creek Nations, and excellent prospects in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. There are but few localities in Indian Territory but what have one or more valuable mineral products.

# Manufacturing Possibilities.

With an abundance of coal, gas, oil, lead, zinc, glass sand, pottery clay, hardwood pine, cedar, cotton, flax, wool, etc., it would seem as though the manufacturing possibilities of Indian Territory were so great as to attract unlimited capital. The West is the coming market for manufactured products, and the nearer the article can be made to the market the better, and especially is this true where the crude material and fuel are both on the ground. In addition to the oil, gas and coal for power, there are many fine water powers, and artesian wells also bid fair to furnish unlimited and inexpensive power.

#### Schools.

Perhaps many of the readers of this pamphlet believe that education in Indian Territory is a dream and society a myth. To such it would be a pleasure to show the fine schools, colleges, churches, opera houses, stores, dwellings, well-dressed men and women, and the hundreds of evidences of civilization to be seen on every hand. It is true that the land as yet mainly belongs to the Indians and that comparatively little of it is yet in cultivation, but it is also true that these same Indians are fairly well educated, and have fine schools and colleges of their own. It is true that schools for the children of white renters of farm land are few, and the educational advantages of these children poor, but nearly all the towns have schools equal to those of towns of similar size in many of the older States. The history of other Western States indicates what will be done for schools as soon as the whites get title to lands. The school is the western pioneer, and no one need fear a lack of good schools in Indian Territory.

# Population.

According to the census of 1900, the population of Indian Territory was 392,062, of which about 300,000 were whites. Since that time the white population has been largely increased, and it is safe to estimate the population of the territory at half a million in the summer of 1904.

# The Climate.

It is hardly necessary to make specific mention of the climate, but it is something that all are interested in. Indian Territory is located well to the south, and is in the same belt as South Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Northern Georgia and the Carolinas, and is therefore between the extremes. Ice is seldom formed to any depth, and the feeding season is short.



FOR detailed information in regard to the location, character, and price of lands, address

#### S. A. HUGHES.

# General Immigration Agent, Frisco System, St. Louis, Mo.

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