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## Report of the Governor of Oklahoma, 1893

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# REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF OKLAHOMA.

GUTHRIE, OKLA., *November 3, 1893.*

DEAR SIR: In reply to your request for a report of the condition of Oklahoma Territory, I beg leave to submit the following:

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The growth of the Territory in the four years following the opening of the first lands has been in many respects wonderful. Where once the deer bounded in freedom over the plains now are found farm-houses and wheat fields not differing materially from those of the older States. Fine cities with electric lights, waterworks, and all modern conveniences have been built up. He who deplors that the red man has been driven back and back until he is almost gone will find in these happy homes of Oklahoma much to console him and justify God's law of the survival of the fittest.

### INHABITANTS.

There has been no official census of the inhabitants of the Territory since the census of 1890, and so the major portion of the figures I shall give subsequent to that date can at best be but approximate. Below I have prepared a table of the population of the Territory by counties for 1890, according to the census for 1892, as estimated by Governor Seay in his report, and for 1893 I estimated the population by finding the ratio of voters to population in 1890, which was  $7\frac{1}{15}$ , and to find the population in 1893 I multiplied the number of votes for Representative to the Fifty-third Congress by the ratio with the result below.

County.	1890.	1892.	1893.
Logan .....	14,254	22,000	30,995
Oklahoma .....	12,794	21,000	25,363
Kingfisher .....	8,837	16,500	20,640
Payne .....	6,835	13,000	15,967
Canadian .....	7,703	15,500	15,580
A (Lincoln) .....	None.	10,500	13,401
Cleveland .....	7,011	14,000	12,844
B (Pottawatomie) .....	None.	10,000	8,911
C (Blaine) .....	None.	3,000	3,204
D .....	None.	1,000	554
E .....	None.	300	215
F .....	None.	700	-----
G .....	None.	1,000	723
H .....	None.	1,600	-----
Beaver .....	2,982	3,000	2,816
Total .....	60,416	133,100	151,213
Cherokee Strip .....	-----	-----	100,000

There were 115,000 certificates issued by the booths to intending settlers in the Cherokee Strip. Many of them, however, were just there for speculative purposes, and returned to their homes in a very few days. So that I place the population of the Cherokee Strip at 100,000, believing it to be full high for the winter season, but not far from right next spring when the settlers return.

The immigration of colored people from the South has very largely stopped, and now there is not a very great number in the Territory. They have been useful as servants, and not a few of them have homes of their own and employment. Of the Indians I shall speak later.

## TAXABLE PROPERTY.

County.	Assessed valuation	
	1892.	1893.
Logan .....	\$2,747,276.50	\$3,107,710.44
Oklahoma .....	2,661,221.70	3,084,307.00
Kingfisher .....	1,252,036.67	1,606,493.17
Canadian .....	1,943,853.40	1,498,646.66
Cleveland .....	1,105,875.48	1,267,785.81
Paine .....	665,629.90	900,126.00
Pottawatomie .....	314,685.78	552,098.00
Lincoln .....	275,109.48	539,527.00
Beaver .....	519,493.54	497,783.40
Blaine .....		297,322.00
Roger Q. Mills .....		180,369.84
Washita .....		132,908.00
Day .....		103,476.76
G .....		96,029.00
D .....		80,473.30
Total .....	11,485,162.45	13,951,056.88

Total assessed value of property for 1891, \$6,878,928.95.

The greater number of people came to Oklahoma poor, but the above table will show that there has been a wonderful increase in wealth in the last four years. The above table includes both real and personal property, but by far the larger portion is personal property, as not many farms are as yet proved up. In the not very distant future the taxable property of the Territory will be multiplied many times. This coming winter most of the farmers in Oklahoma proper will take out their patents.

## RAILROADS AND TELEGRAPH.

There are at present but two trunk lines of railroad in Oklahoma, with a short line—the Choctaw Railroad. Several other lines are projected, but have not yet been built. We are in need of a few more lines, as many portions of the Territory are removed 60 to 100 miles from the railroad. A more direct connection with the pineries of Arkansas would be of great advantage. The table below shows the miles of track and its nature, in Oklahoma, exclusive of the Cherokee Strip.

## RAILROADS AND TELEGRAPH.

Name.	Miles.	Value per mile.	Total.
<b>Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe R. R.:</b>			
Main track.....	84	\$5,500	\$462,000
Side track.....	12.32	2,000	24,640
Buildings.....			12,730
Rolling stock.....			117,600
Total.....			616,970
<b>Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific R. R.:</b>			
Main track.....	56.76	5,500	312,180
Side track.....	4.06	2,000	8,120
Buildings.....			6,550
Rolling stock.....			22,232
Total.....			349,082

Appended herewith is a report of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, showing the nature and amount of business transacted by it for the year ending June 30, 1893:

Name.	Miles.	Value per mile.	Total.
Choctaw Coal Road, main track.....	31.40	\$4,006	\$125,600
Western Union Telegraph Co.....	123.60	150	18,520
Choctaw Telegraph Co.....	30	75	2,250
Pullman Palace Car Co. (5 cars).....			6,000
			152,370

## BANKS AND BANKING.

There are six national banks in Oklahoma, each having a capital stock of \$50,000, and twenty-four private banks with capital stocks ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000. I have written all the banks of the Territory for statements, but as yet have not received answers from but five national banks, which show for the five a capital stock of \$250,000; deposits, \$685,547.87; loans and discounts, \$322,573.68. I have received answers from seven private banks which show an average capital stock of \$24,000 and average deposits of \$31,000, with average loans and discounts of \$30,000. I take it that those unreported would show about the same as those reported, and this would make the following showing for the thirty banks:

Capital stock.....	\$876,000
Deposits.....	1,429,000
Loans and discounts.....	1,042,000

These figures show the condition October 3, 1893. The deposits are very much lower than on June 30. However, the financial stringency here has very largely passed. When the very large wheat crop of this year is harvested the deposits will be larger than now.

## PUBLIC FINANCES.

The latest report of the auditor of the Territory I have is one made April 1, 1893, which is as follows:

*Financial statement of Oklahoma Territory.*

Total Territorial warrants issued to April 1, 1893 .....	\$47, 184. 89
Total Territorial warrants redeemed to November 30, 1893 .....	19, 863. 59
	27, 321. 30
Amount due Territory on assessed valuation (\$11,485,142.45) for the year 1892 .....	34, 455. 54
Amount due from insurance licenses .....	1, 500. 00
	35, 955. 54
Deduct total standing indebtedness April 1, 1893 .....	27, 321. 30
	8, 634. 24
Balance in favor of Territory .....	8, 634. 24

Since this the Territory has incurred some considerable expense, but on the whole our financial condition is excellent, and I sincerely trust will continue so. The Territory has no bonded indebtedness. Several of the counties have gone in debt to a very considerable extent, but with the increase of taxable property all will be well.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

When the settlers first came to Oklahoma they found themselves without schoolhouses and without laws; but with a fortitude certainly admirable they built schoolhouses by private subscription and had schools the first winter. By act of Congress \$50,000 was appropriated for the use and benefit of the public schools of Oklahoma; this materially aided the efforts of the people, and schools have been maintained in nearly every district ever since. Very few school districts but that have very comfortable schoolhouses now, and that, too, in most instances without any bonded indebtedness.

The second legislative assembly changed from township to the district system, and in most instances it has proved satisfactory. I am not able to speak as definitely about the public schools as I would like for the reason that reports from the school districts are very meager.

With the increase of taxable property and the increased funds derived from leasing the school lands, the financial condition of the schools will be very much better in the future. Concerning the leasing of school lands more will be said in another place.

A similar condition which confronted the settlers of Oklahoma proper now confronts the settlers of the Cherokee Strip. No assessment was made this year, and no taxes can come in until February, 1895. If Congress would make an appropriation for the benefit of the schools to be established in the Cherokee Strip it would be money well spent. The people in general have manifested a very great interest in the public schools of the Territory, and justly, for in the schoolhouse rather than in the forts and arsenals must a nation find its true strength.

## COLLEGES.

By act of the Territorial legislature a Territorial university was located at Norman, and a Territorial normal school at Edmond, and the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Stillwater. The univer-

sity has made a very excellent start towards accomplishing the purpose for which it was created. It is supported by a one-half mill tax, which will amount to about \$8,000 per year. The course would correspond favorably with that of Eastern colleges. A new building has just been completed for the university.

The Normal school at Edmond aims to prepare teachers for the public schools, and has just completed a fine building.

The Agricultural and Mechanical College at Stillwater is the best endowed of any of the schools of the Territory, and bids fair to do most excellent work. It was established in pursuance of an act of Congress authorizing the establishment and endowment of colleges for the benefit of agriculture and mechanic arts, appropriating \$15,000 for the fiscal year 1890, and providing for \$1,000 increase each year for ten years. The experimental station issues a bulletin of the results of their investigation, which promises much good to the Territory.

The President's proclamation opening the Cherokee Outlet reserves the thirteenth section for the benefit of the three colleges. This will make a very neat income for each of the colleges, once it is leased.

Each of the institutions has in attendance about one hundred students, and new ones constantly coming. It is the aim to have these colleges correspond with the high school and make a complete system of education from the lowest to the highest.

There are several private institutions doing good work and which have a good attendance.

#### AGRICULTURE.

Situated as it is, midway between the North and the South, with a soil and climate unsurpassed, Oklahoma is admirably adapted to growing almost every kind of plant. In agriculture the Territory has a never-failing source of support and income. With the exception of one year the seasons have been excellent. Wheat this year made a very fine yield, averaging about 20 bushels to the acre all over the Territory. Some pieces are reported as yielding 62 bushels to the acre. I personally know of several pieces that have made 40 bushels all over the field. This has placed most of the farmers, very few of whom are in debt, in comfortable circumstances, notwithstanding the very low price of wheat. Those who have seen the hardships passed through in the early days can appreciate the advances made by the farmers of this Territory. Corn, too, has made a very good crop, as well as oats, each making about 40 bushels to the acre. Very little grass has been sown as yet, and so there are not very many meadows. I can not pass this subject by without mentioning the colored man's delight, sweet potatoes and watermelons, both of which grow to enormous size and have a very delicious flavor. The figures given below show the acreage of various agricultural products:

#### AGRICULTURE.

Farm land in use .....	acres..	2, 372, 482
Cash value of farms .....		\$13, 022, 345
Cash value of farm implements .....		\$340, 761
Corn (average yield 40 bushels) .....	acres..	284, 254
Wheat (average yield 20 bushels) .....	do...	222, 310
Oats (average yield 35 bushels) .....	do...	109, 374
Cotton (average yield 500 pounds) .....	do...	21, 311
Sorghum .....	do...	18, 755
Hungarian millet .....	do...	14, 121
Broom corn .....	do...	4, 422

Irish potatoes.....	acres..	4, 983
Sweet potatoes.....	do.....	1, 907
Castor beans.....	do.....	984
Rye.....	do.....	929
Peanuts.....	do.....	807
Flax.....	do.....	596
Timothy.....	do.....	545
Clover.....	do.....	538
Buckwheat.....	do.....	194
Orchard blue grass.....	do.....	153

## HORTICULTURE.

Vineries.....	acres..	8, 059
Apple trees.....		683, 611
Peach trees.....		648, 222
Cherry trees.....		69, 242
Pear trees.....		51, 147
Apricot trees.....		36, 865
Quince trees.....		25, 711
Vineyards.....	acres..	1, 808
Blackberries.....	do.....	2, 437
Strawberries.....	do.....	1, 402
Raspberries.....	do.....	640

The entire Territory is well adapted to fruit-raising, and in a short time will have a large surplus to export. The more hilly portions are especially adapted to apples and grapes. It is a matter of satisfaction to see the acreage of fruit at this early day.

## STOCK-RAISING.

There has not been as much done at this as ought to have been done, because many of the farmers were very poor on coming to the Territory and did not bring with them much stock. However, most farmers have gotten a start now, and before long this will be one of the principal occupations. The portions of the Territory removed from the railroad are very well adapted to feeding stock, owing to the difficulty of marketing the grain in any other way.

## MINING.

As yet almost nothing has been done by way of opening up mines in the Territory saving those of building stone, of which an excellent quality is found in various parts of the Territory. There is a very fine quarry of flagging and building stone in the Cherokee Strip near Arkansas City. Many buildings in all the cities of Oklahoma are built of native stone. Very little has been done by way of prospecting for coal or other minerals. Coal has been found at various places and some iron ore, but no mines have as yet been opened. In due course of time, however, this will become an important industry. There are exhaustless deposits of salt and gypsum.

## MANUFACTURING.

Manufacturing is in its infancy, but is certainly a hopeful youth and offers great inducements to capital. Every city has its mills, and some as fine flouring mills as can be found anywhere may be found in Oklahoma. There are several planing mills turning out good work of all

kinds and cabinet works capable of doing as fine work as can be done anywhere. There has been talk of an iron foundry, but as yet none has been established in the Territory. It would certainly be a paying institution. A great deal of lumber is being sawed from oak, cottonwood, and walnut. Eastern capitalists will find it to their advantage to visit Oklahoma.

SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS.

Society, which at first was disorganized, is now in much better condition and the worthy moral element is fast coming to the front, while the rough element, at first so prominent, are seeking their level as they become known. Nearly all the fraternal societies are represented here by a good, strong membership. There are very few caste lines, and in the main the people are sociable and friendly.

The churches recognizing the importance of this new and promising field early sent strong missionary forces here. I judge that the several churches are expending in this home mission work not less than \$60,000 per annum. A large portion of the people came here to better their financial condition and do not have much concern for other matters, but there is a small portion of earnest and philanthropic persons who are working very hard for the advancement of the whole people.

I have written to the ministers of the various denominations for statistics concerning their churches, and the table below will show the estimates furnished by such as have answered. The Young Peoples' Society of Christian Endeavor have been doing good work.

Ruffianism in Oklahoma is fast on the wane and will soon be a thing of the past.

Church.	No.	No. of members.	Average membership.
Episcopal .....	6	166	27
Methodist Episcopal (North).....	165	2,136	13
Baptist.....	25	800	32
Congregational.....	24	616	26
Catholic.....	25	10,000	250
Presbyterian.....	24	750	30
Epworth League.....	3	.....	.....
Young Men's Christian Association.....	1	15	.....
Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.....	50	1,000	.....

INDIANS.

I can not in this place enter upon any extended discussion of Indian problems, nor is it desirable. We have within the Territory, upon their allotments, Iowas, Sac and Foxes, Pottawatomies, and Absentee Shawnees, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes, in Oklahoma proper, and in the Cherokee Strip the Pawnees, Cherokees, and Tonkawas. Full statistics may be found in the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

In my judgment the best solution of the Indian problem lies in allotment of their lands in severalty and bringing them directly in contact with civilization. The portions of the Indian Territory not yet opened to settlement are very wild and the Indians see only the worst side of civilization, and their progress will be very slow until they come in closer contact with the white man. Where lands have been taken in severalty the Indians have generally made an effort to accommodate



themselves to civilization and many have gone to work and are doing very well in agricultural and mercantile pursuits. I earnestly recommend that negotiations be kept on foot with a view to the ultimate allotment in severalty of all the lands of the Indian Territory.

#### THE CHEROKEE OUTLET.

Almost a new empire has just been opened to the north of us and now, or soon, there will be 100,000 people finding homes there. No such a wild exciting run for homes was ever yet made as when the guns fired the signal at 12 o'clock noon, September 16, and yet all was orderly and not many were hurt. There were 115,000 booth certificates issued to intending settlers. Just here I may say that the booth system has done a vast amount of good in keeping out illegal claimants and will long continue to do so. The difficulty experienced in registering at the booths was far overbalanced by the check it was upon fraud. In spite, however, of all that faithful officials could do there were a vast number of "sooners" who took possession of some of the best lands and lots. No effort should be spared to bring them to justice. The eastern part of the Cherokee Outlet is very fertile and will soon make a very wealthy community. I have had a very arduous task on my hands in making the appointments of county officials in the new counties and have already issued upward of a hundred commissions. In a place where persons are as newly acquainted as in Oklahoma this has been no small task, but I have discharged it to the best of my ability. Several very fine towns have grown up on the Cherokee Strip and large and permanent buildings are in process of erection.

This office is in receipt of a very heavy mail daily asking of the school lands in the Cherokee Strip. No more useful and beneficent thing was ever done than the reservation by the President of sections 13 and 33 in each township. This makes a very much needed fund for education and benevolence, and I sincerely hope that the same policy may be followed in future opening of lands. I would recommend that these school lands be immediately leased to the highest bidder.

#### THE FIVE NATIONS.

It is certainly very desirable that the five nations of Indians be included in any State that may be formed so that the whole may come in as one State. The condition of affairs in the Indian Territory is certainly very deplorable, and with the crudity of their forms of government it will always be difficult to suppress crime.

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

As yet no public buildings have been erected by the Territory for the public officers. It would be much better if some buildings could be erected at an early date. Very few of the counties have county buildings at present. The United States have no public buildings of any consequence, though it has much business to transact here.

#### WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

The second legislative assembly appropriated \$15,000 for the Oklahoma exhibit at Chicago. With this a very nice building has been erected and a very creditable exhibit prepared. Our exhibition of cereals is considered especially fine.

## LEASING SCHOOL LAND.

The results obtained from leasing the school lands of Oklahoma are eminently satisfactory, and this will in the near future be a very great source of income to the public schools. Already very nearly \$100,000 in cash and notes has been received from leasing the school lands. The leases of lands in Oklahoma proper expire next April, and these lands ought to be re-leased this winter. This will probably be upon us at very nearly the same time as the leasing of the Cherokee Strip lands and will make the business of that department very large.

I trust that some equitable rule for re-leasing, protecting both the lessee in his improvements and the school fund, will be made at an early date. It is very desirable that provision be made for leasing the school lands of the Cherokee Strip during this coming winter, so that lessees may begin work next spring.

Below I have made a tabulated statement of funds received from the leasing of school lands for the year ending June 30, 1893:

Total cash received, for fiscal year ending June 30, 1893.....	\$21,021.83
Total expenses for fiscal year ending June 30, 1893 .....	1,857.16
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Balance.....	19,164.67
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Total amount covered into Territorial treasury for fiscal year ending June 30, 1893 .....	18,941.48
Cash on hand June 30, 1893 .....	223.19
	<hr/>
Net proceeds from leasing school lands for fiscal year ending June 30, 1893 .....	19,164.67
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Notes on hand June 30, 1893:	
Due January 1, 1892.....	1,478.47
Due April 1, 1892 .....	485.40
Due April 1, 1893 .....	1,137.15
Miscellaneous .....	640.75
Due January 1, 1894 .....	10,694.46
Due April 1, 1894.....	1,494.00
Due December 15, 1893 .....	13,760.97
Due December 15, 1894 .....	8,808.93
Due December 15, 1895 .....	3,177.46
Due December 15, 1892 .....	3,838.65
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Total .....	45,516.24

## A GREAT FUTURE.

Anyone acquainted with the vast resources of Oklahoma and Indian Territories can but feel that there is a very enviable destiny before the State that will one day be carved from this Territory. Its soft Italian climate, its fertile soil, and genuine American inhabitants are elements that can not fail to produce a Commonwealth equal to any in that glorious galaxy of States that are at once the hope and inspiration of humanity.

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM C. RENFROW,  
Governor.

Hon. HOKE SMITH,  
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.