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Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 1, 53rd Cong., 3rd Sess. (1894)

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REPORT

OF

THE GOVERNOR OF OKLAHOMA.

GUTHRIE, OKLA., *August 28, 1894.*

SIR: Pursuant to your request of July 14, 1894, I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition and progress of Oklahoma Territory for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894:

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

In the year that is past Oklahoma has been almost constantly before the people of the United States through the press and is becoming much better known and understood, although there are yet many erroneous ideas current with the people. I shall endeavor to present the true condition and progress free from any of the pernicious "boom" statements that have heretofore been so injurious to many of the Western States. Oklahoma has never had a boom or anything like it, but its progress has been steady and rapid ever since the 22d of April, 1889. Capital has not as yet sought investment to any great extent in Oklahoma, but there has been a real and substantial increase in wealth from the almost unlimited natural resources of the Territory, and it now furnishes one of the best fields for capital in the United States. Every step that is made is fundamental, and to the present inhabitants is consigned a trust the faithful execution of which will largely determine the happiness and prosperity of many generations to come. The enterprise of the people has always been a matter of remark among strangers. But at the original opening of Oklahoma proper and at the opening of the Cherokee Strip the world has beheld the strange sight of a city of 10,000 inhabitants built in a day and a territory of 9,400 square miles settled in one half day. Many of the farms are already in a high state of cultivation.

POPULATION.

In the table below is given the population of the Territory by counties, as shown by the returns of the assessors. It is believed that the returns are in quite a number of instances too low and that the total population of the Territory is at least 250,000. Of these an unusually large number are engaged in agriculture, and some in manufacturing. The percentage of foreigners is very small. The settlers consist principally of American-born citizens and are a thrifty and intelligent class. Many were poor when they settled on their claims, but wherever they were industrious they have now fine farms and are quite well to do, very few owing any considerable amount.

Population by counties on the 1st day of February, 1894, as shown by reports of county clerks to the Territorial auditor.

County.	Population.	County.	Population.
Beaver *	2, 316	M †	16, 000
Blaine	5, 899	N	2, 241
Canadian	13, 259	O	14, 994
Cleveland	12, 716	Oklahoma	20, 523
D	1, 640	P	7, 570
Day *	215	Payne	13, 407
G	2, 572	Pottawatomie	12, 875
K	14, 379	Q	5, 613
Kingfisher	15, 155	Roger Mills	1, 023
L	14, 032	Washita †	1, 800
Lincoln	14, 554		
Logan	19, 532	Total	212, 635

* 1893.

† Estimated.

‡ 1892.

TAXABLE PROPERTY.

The following is the valuation of all property in each county as fixed by the Territorial board of equalization:

Beaver	\$384, 288. 58	M	\$682, 206. 78
Blaine	260, 141. 00	N	720, 378. 14
Canadian	1, 889, 631. 57	O	790, 617. 59
Cleveland	1, 389, 008. 10	Oklahoma	3, 279, 886. 25
D	90, 757. 00	P	966, 563. 16
Day	151, 950. 58	Payne	958, 077. 57
G	147, 207. 00	Pottawatomie	658, 343. 00
K	962, 997. 00	Q	185, 853. 00
Kingfisher	1, 562, 038. 43	Roger Mills	256, 209. 00
L	808, 829. 22	Washita	193, 604. 00
Lincoln	648, 734. 00		
Logan	2, 950, 619. 89	Total	19, 947, 922. 86

The assessment given above does not include very much real property save in the cities. In the greater number of cases where parties have made final proof it was too late to be included in the assessment of 1894, therefore the assessment is very much less than it will be when the title to the land is vested in citizens. The farmers have not had time to accumulate very much personal property. The larger portion of their earnings have been used in improving the land. During this year most of the settlers in that portion of Oklahoma which was opened to settlement April 22, 1889, will make final proof on their claims, which will at least double the taxable property of the Territory and lower the present high rate of taxation.

RAILROADS AND TELEGRAPH.

There are four lines of railroad in Oklahoma in active operation. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe and Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific run through the Territory from north to south. The Choctaw Coal Road, extending from El Reno to Oklahoma City, connecting the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific and Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, is being built on from South McAllister, Ind. T., where it will connect with the main line. The southern division of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe runs through the northwestern part of the Territory and does a thriving business in shipping cattle. Several other lines of road are contemplated. A charter has been granted to the Kansas, Oklahoma, Central and Southwestern Railroad Company, which proposes to

build a line from Coffeyville, Kans., to Guthrie and on through the Territory in a southwesterly direction, connecting with Texas lines. An extension of the Frisco from Sepulpa westward has been much talked of. While many of the Western States have made the mistake of too much railroad building, Oklahoma has not enough, and no doubt, with the return of more prosperous financial times, capital will see many profitable lines of investment in railroads in Oklahoma. Certainly an east and west line is very much needed, thus bringing in close contact Oklahoma and Indian Territories and opening up vast resources of commerce.

Below is given the assessment of railroads, telegraph lines, and sleeping cars made by the Territorial board of equalization.

Requests were sent to the several railroads asking for statements as to amount of business done, revenues, etc., but up to date no such statements have been received. It is believed, however, that despite the hard times prevailing in the country the railroad lines doing business in Oklahoma have done well and have felt the influence of the times as little as any lines in the country.

	Miles.	Valuation per mile.	Total.	Grand total.
Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe:				
Arkansas City Division—				
Main track	117.68	\$5,250.00	\$617,820.00	
Side track	15.50	2,000.00	31,000.00	
Rolling stock	117.68	1,092.50	128,565.00	
Buildings			14,105.00	
Personal property other than rolling stock			1,934.00	
				\$793,424.00
Kiowa Division—				
Main line	116.30	4,000.00	465,200.00	
Side track	8.08	1,500.00	12,120.00	
Rolling stock			46,261.00	
Buildings			12,069.00	
Personal property other than rolling stock			1,609.00	
				537,259.00
Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific:				
Main line	116.86	5,250.00	613,515.00	
Side track	7.73	2,000.00	15,460.00	
Rolling stock		300.83	35,155.38	
Buildings			9,635.00	
Personal property other than rolling stock			1,050.00	
				674,815.38
Choctaw Coal Road:				
Main line	31.68	4,500.00	142,560.00	
Side track	2.84	1,500.00	4,260.00	
Rolling stock			9,715.00	
Buildings			2,700.00	
				159,235.00
Western Union Telegraph Co	350.84	150.00	52,626.00	52,626.00
Choctaw Telegraph Co	31.00	75.00	2,325.00	2,325.00
Pullman Palace Car Co.:				
Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad			4,607.76	
Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad			3,231.54	
				7,839.30
Total				2,227,533.68

BANKS AND BANKING.

The financial depression throughout the country has affected Oklahoma somewhat less than other parts of the country. Very few banks have failed, and a smaller number among business firms have occurred. This condition was owing very largely to the fact that the people of Oklahoma were not in debt. Everywhere in Oklahoma has a conservative spirit prevailed, as well among people in general as in financial circles.

There are fifty-six banks in the Territory—six national banks and fifty private banks. Many of the private banks have very small capital, but others are doing a good business. All of the national banks are prosperous and sound. There is no bank commissioner in the Territory and so it is not possible to obtain accurate statistics. I have written all the banks for reports, but so many failed to reply that I can not give the exact amount of capital stock or deposits, or loans and discounts, though I very much desired to do so.

PUBLIC FINANCES.

Below is given the latest financial statement of Oklahoma Territory, made by the auditor May 1, 1894 :

Total general fund warrants issued to May 1, 1894.....	\$135,866.39
Total general fund warrants redeemed to May 1, 1894.....	52,195.53
	<hr/>
Total general fund warrants outstanding to May 1.....	83,670.86
Taxes for 1893, now due	42,484.93
	<hr/>
Balance against Territory	41,185.93
Estimated taxes for 1894, payable in May, 1895.....	59,373.40

The expenses for the past year have been unavoidably quite heavy, and the revenues of the Territory are still limited, owing to the fact that the title to most of the land is in the United States and is therefore not taxable. Settlers are delaying final proof as long as possible in order to avoid paying taxes. However, the time is very short, in Oklahoma proper, until all settlers who filed at the opening must make final proof. Whenever the land becomes taxable there will be plenty of money to run the Territory at a low rate of taxation.

The commitment and care of the insane has been a very expensive item. They are at present confined at Oak Lawn Retreat for the insane, at Jacksonville, Ill., by contract with Dr. J. D. McFarland, the proprietor. The Territory has expended for care of the insane from January 1, 1893, to May 1, 1894, \$25,805.96, having already exceeded the appropriation made by the legislature by \$10,805.96. The Territory pays the officer's fees and expenses while taking patients to the asylum.

Although a very close check has been held on requisitions, the expenses arising from requisitions on the governors of other States have amounted to \$7,110.31. The commitment and care of the prisoners has cost about \$8,000.

The Territory now has outstanding \$48,000 in thirty-year 6 per cent school bonds, redeemable in ten years, the proceeds of the sale of which was used in the erection of buildings for the Territorial University, Territorial Normal School, and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Many of the counties have considerable outstanding indebtedness in the form of warrants, and a few are bonded.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The people of Oklahoma have been truly loyal to the public schools, and, before there was any law regulating the subject, the people in a large number of districts built schoolhouses and hired teachers, and had very good schools. Now neat schoolhouses dot the whole country, and there is a schoolhouse convenient to every family. The school districts are in the main 3 miles square. In most, if not all the counties,

normal institutes have been held for training teachers during the summer months.

The only Territorial fund for public schools is that derived from leasing school lands. This fund has largely increased in the past year, and will likely in the near future increase to \$100,000. At the last semiannual apportionment, \$31,241.28 was apportioned to the several counties, making 42 cents per capita for each child of school age. The school population of the Territory by counties, as shown by reports of county superintendents, and the apportionment made by the Territorial superintendent July 30, 1894, is given below:

County.	School population.	Amount.	County.	School population.	Amount.
Beaver	1 025	\$430. 50	M	7, 702	\$3, 234. 84
Blaine	2, 028	851. 76	N	723	303. 66
Canadian	4, 163	1, 748. 46	O	3, 265	1, 379. 70
Cleveland	4, 335	1, 820. 70	Oklahoma	6, 405	2, 690. 10
D	123	51. 66	P	1, 825	766. 50
Day	103	43. 26	Payne	5, 880	2, 469. 60
G	1, 056	443. 52	Pottawatomie	4, 086	1, 716. 12
K	5, 282	2, 218. 44	Q	1, 554	652. 68
Kingfisher	6, 200	2, 604. 00	Roger Mills	632	265. 44
L	4, 235	1, 778. 70	Washita	761	319. 62
Lincoln	4, 948	2, 078. 16			
Logan	8, 033	3, 373. 86	Total	74, 384	31, 241. 28

COLLEGES.

The University.—The Territorial University was established at Norman by act of the first legislative assembly. It is supported by a one-half mill tax on the taxable property of the Territory. By act of Congress, approved May 4, 1894, section 13 in each Congressional township in the former Cherokee Outlet, Pawnee and Tonkawa Indian reservations, was set aside for the use and benefit of the University, Normal School, and Agricultural and Mechanical College. This fund will amount to something like \$7,500 each for the colleges after the January leasing and will be a very material aid to them. The people of Oklahoma will ever feel grateful to the President and Congress for this beneficent gift.

There were 147 students in attendance, an increase of 28 over the previous year. The faculty now consists of 4 able professors and 1 instructor. The course is a severe one, and the graduates of the University of Oklahoma will be fully as well equipped as the graduates of Eastern institutions of learning. It is the purpose of the legislature to make this institution second to none in the West. A large and commodious building at Norman was erected during the last year.

TERRITORIAL NORMAL SCHOOL.

The first legislative assembly established the normal school at Edmond and provided for a levy of one-half mill tax for its support. During the past year a fine building was erected for the use of this institution. Last year there was an enrollment of 116 students. The faculty consists of 5 members. The institution presents 3 courses, elementary, scientific, and Latin. The college, in addition to preparing teachers, gives thorough literary training, fitting its students for business or the professions.

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

The Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College was located and established in Payne County by an act of the first legislative assembly, which took effect on the 25th day of December, 1890. The town of Stillwater gave \$10,000 in land and money to secure the location of the college adjoining the corporation limits. Two hundred acres of land were given, well situated for the purpose.

With this land and buildings costing \$3,000, which were erected from United States funds, the Agricultural Experiment Station, by law "a department of the college," began its operations during the year 1891, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 2, 1887, and became the recipient of the annual Congressional grant of \$15,000 for this purpose.

The college, as an educational institution, was organized and tentatively opened in a borrowed building at Stillwater, in December, 1891, there being at the beginning 45 students.

The Territory of Oklahoma accepted the provisions of the act of Congress approved August 30, 1890, and known as the "new Morrill act," by an act of the legislature approved March 7, 1893, and this college became the beneficiary of the annuity under the said act of Congress, amounting now to \$20,000.

Under an act of the second legislative assembly, approved March 13, 1893, the sum of \$15,000 was provided by the Territory for a college building. This and the Stillwater contribution enabled the board of regents to erect a substantial and suitable building of pressed brick and stone and properly furnish the same, and it is ready for occupation and use of the college for the school year to begin September 12, 1894.

The college shares in the income from the leases of reserved section No. 13, in the townships of the Cherokee Outlet, and will receive from this source the present year about \$1,600, with the prospect of material increase on this account in years following.

The total income of the college, including the experiment station, was \$34,000 during the year ending June, 30, 1894. For the year 1894-'95 the estimated income is \$36,500, while unexpended balances of \$18,500 are carried forward, making a total of \$55,000 available for the year. A considerable part of the share for college purposes proper (\$40,000) will be used to purchase models, apparatus, appliances, and facilities for instruction in general, to thoroughly equip the various departments of the college.

The faculty of instruction consisted the past year of a president and 6 professors, and will be the same the coming year, with the addition of 1 professor.

The attendance during the past year has somewhat exceeded 100, organized in 2 college classes and 2 preparatory. For the coming year, 3 college classes will be organized and there is prospect of considerable increase in the number of students. The college maintains no domestic establishment. The students find homes among the families of the town. No tuition is charged and living expenses are not high, so that a student can get through the college year of nine months upon a total expenditure of \$140 to \$175, besides necessary clothing.

The college at present offers a course of study which is broad, liberal, and practical, having for its "leading object" agriculture and such branches of learning, especially the sciences, as relate to the foundation industry of the Territory and the country; these branches also have a direct bearing upon various other pursuits and professions of life of an industrial character.

THE INSANE.

The Territory has no insane asylum. At present the insane are cared for at a private asylum, Oak Lawn Retreat for the Insane, at Jacksonville, Ill., under a contract by which the Territory pays \$25 per month for the care of each person, and pays transportation and fees of officers, the asylum paying the transportation of the insane person.

The last legislature appropriated \$15,000 to defray the expenses of the insane for two years. That appropriation is now overdrawn, and it is estimated that the expenses will amount to \$50,000 by the meeting of the legislature in January. The Territory certainly needs relief from such an enormous expense, and it will be one of the subjects demanding attention of the next legislature.

PENITENTIARY.

The Territory has no penitentiary, and convicts are now cared for at Lansing, Kans., by contract with the State. The Territory pays 25 cents per day for each prisoner.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The Territory has no public buildings for Territorial purposes save three college buildings. All the Territorial offices are compelled to pay rent, which very much increases the expense. A few of the counties have court-houses. I have urged the building of some kind of structure in each county to stop the payment of ruinous rents. I trust that in the near future both the Territory and the counties may have some public buildings of their own. The beneficent act of the President and Congress in setting aside section 33 in each Congressional township in the former Cherokee Outlet for the construction of public buildings, will make a fund that will one day go far toward remedying this evil. There will be a revenue from this section amounting to very nearly \$25,000 per annum.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture is the principal occupation of the people of Oklahoma. Almost every quarter section has an occupant. There are as many fine farms and as well improved as one would want to see. It is difficult to realize as you pass through the Territory that only five years ago the coyote and deer held their native sway. The soil of Oklahoma is in the main very fertile, consisting largely of a sandy loam. It is very easy to stir, and a farmer can cultivate a large tract with a minimum expense. The soil holds moisture excellently and the valley and bottom lands will very nearly mature a crop in a dry season without rain. The rains have been very satisfactory in the past five years, proving that Oklahoma is not a portion of the former great American desert.

A very considerable amount of surprise was evoked at the World's Columbian Exposition when the awards were announced and Oklahoma appeared with so large a list. In the article on the World's Columbian Exposition is given a list of awards made to Oklahoma, which is certainly very flattering and covers a large number of the principal agricultural products. In wheat Oklahoma leads the world, and while her flour only took second premium I am told that the flour that took first premium was made from Oklahoma wheat. Corn is a good crop. Cotton is fast becoming one of the standard crops and gives evidence of

being of the very finest quality. Peanuts grow to an enormous size and took the premium at the World's Fair at Chicago. Oats do well and make a profitable yield. There are no finer watermelons raised in the United States than those that grow in Oklahoma. They are of exquisite flavor. The sweet potatoes are very fine. Irish potatoes do well. Kaffir corn and milo maize are raised very extensively by farmers in the reservations recently opened and make a most excellent sod crop. Of course the country is much too young to say much of it as a fruit-raising country, but some of the finest peaches in the market this year were raised in Oklahoma. Grapes grow to perfection and the white grapes promise to rival those raised in California in quality and flavor.

STOCK-RAISING.

Before the opening of Oklahoma the cattlemen used its vast prairies for pasture. With its settlement they were driven out or driven westward. The high price of hogs has made them exceedingly profitable. The grade of stock is steadily being raised. Many fine-blooded horses are being shipped into the Territory. Not very much has been done in woolgrowing, though the Territory is well adapted to that industry.

MINERALS.

The land of Oklahoma has been declared by Congress to be nonmineral in character. Notwithstanding this, there are strong indications of valuable mineral deposits in many places in the Territory. Specimens of lead, zinc, iron, copper, coal, lignite, asbestos, asphalt, gypsum, and other minerals have been found, but the place of their deposits have not been made known, fearing it might affect the title to the land in some way. In digging several wells in the vicinity of Stillwater, at a depth of 100 to 140 feet from the surface, a sand rock containing marked indications of petroleum has been found, and in other places small fragments of coal showed strong indications of a good quality of nearly anthracite coal. Most of these specimens came from the Cimmaron, in county Q, or the east side of Payne County.

The limestone that crops out along the creeks and rivers east of Stillwater, and Perkins is fossiliferous, very compact, and capable of a high polish, and when burned makes a strong lime, unequalled for building and plastering purposes.

Gypsum occurs very plentifully in all directions, and in time will be a valuable agent in recovering the areas of alkali soil that occur so commonly over the Territory.

There are plenty of surface indications of both coal and gas, besides oil, and a survey will undoubtedly develop all these things at no great depth, perhaps from 400 to 600 feet for coal and 700 to 900 feet for gas and oil.

Asphalt is found in the southwestern part of Oklahoma, and will in time form a valuable mineral deposit.

It is certain that in the northeastern part of the Territory is a large area, as valuable for minerals as any part of the region near Joplin, Mo., as it appears from surface points to belong to the same formations. In the Wichita Mountains many rich specimens of gold ore have been found. There are old mines that have been worked by the Spaniards, and every indication would point to rich deposits. A complete survey of the Territory should be made at an early date with a view to developing its mineral resources.

Building stone of excellent quality is found in many places. Near Arkansas City is found a fine quality of flagging and building stone. In many parts of the Territory there is an abundance of red sandstone which is largely used for building purposes. It is soft at first, but hardens with exposure. Many of the finest and most substantial buildings are built from this stone. There is an abundance of clay for bricks everywhere.

MANUFACTURING.

Manufacturing industries have as yet been very little developed in Oklahoma, though unquestionably some excellent inducements are offered. There are many fine flouring mills that not only supply the home demand, but make large shipments to other States. Oklahoma flour has already acquired an enviable reputation and took second premium at the World's Fair. With the extension of the Choctaw road from South McAllister, and a direct communication thus established with the coal fields, manufactories of all kinds will spring up.

SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS.

The Territory has made considerable advance in its social and religious phases, and will, I think, compare very favorably with the older States. Its institutions are not so well established, but there is an enthusiasm and spirit in all kinds of work peculiar to new countries. The people are cordial and friendly and easy of acquaintance. There are no strong caste lines as in older countries, and few class jealousies to contend with. The people have come from every State in the Union, both North and South, but are easily molded into one commonwealth. Society events in the larger cities are numerous, and are often quite formal.

The churches early recognized the importance of Oklahoma as a field for their labors, and sent strong mission forces here at the time of the opening, and services were held in all the principal cities on the first Sunday after the opening. Since then they have steadily grown. The various mission boards have been very liberal in their allowances for the work here, and each denomination seems to vie with the other in establishing churches and congregations.

There have been few great revivals, but religious interest in the Territory has been steadily increasing. Requests were sent to ministers of all denominations for statistics relating to their churches, and answers from the following have been received:

Baptist—(reported by Rev. L. J. Dyche):	
Number of white churches.....	95
Membership, at least.....	3,000
Membership, about.....	2,000
Value of church property.....	\$25,000
Missionary appropriation.....	\$15,000
Episcopal—(reported by Bishop F. K. Brooke):	
Organized missions.....	12
Other places where worship is held.....	7
Regularly maintained clergy.....	9
Communicants.....	300
Church edifices.....	8
Value of church property.....	\$16,000
Catholic—(reported by Bishop Maerschaert):	
Number of churches.....	24
Membership.....	9,000 to 10,000
Number of academies for young ladies.....	4
Colleges for boys.....	1

Catholic—Continued.

Schools for boys and girls.....	4
Schools for Indian children.....	4
Schools for colored children.....	2
Presbyterian—(reported by Rev. Fred W. Hawley):	
Churches.....	31
Membership.....	1,000
Ministers.....	20
Missionary appropriation.....	\$10,000
Value of church property.....	\$25,000
Congregational—(reported by Rev. J. H. Parker):	
Number of churches.....	55
Number of members.....	1,200
Value of church property.....	\$25,000
Number of missionaries.....	35
Missionary appropriation.....	\$10,000
Value of college property.....	\$25,000
Methodist Episcopal—(reported by Rev. Joel F. Smith):	
Number of church edifices.....	42
Number of organizations much larger.	
Value of church property.....	\$58,400
Missionary appropriation.....	\$10,110
Epworth League Chapters.....	20
Epworth League membership.....	800

INDIANS.

There are on their allotments in Oklahoma the following tribes of Indians: Iowa, Sac and Fox, Absentee Shawnee, Pottawatomie, Kickapoo, Cheyenne and Arapaho, Pawnee, and Tonkawa.

A large number of these Indians are well to do and are adopting the ways of civilization. They have farms and good farm implements, horses, and carriages, and dress in citizen's clothes, which are, however, decorated usually with some trinket peculiar to Indians. Many still prefer blankets to coats and wear blankets outside their coats. Not a few who have taken thorough courses in educational institutions come home and doff the college clothes and dress for the blanket, paint, and feathers. Some even will pretend not to be able to speak English. However, I believe I am justified in saying that the Indian has made double the advancement on his allotment that he made when living on the reservation. Indian life on the reservations is not essentially different from the life his grandfathers led, save that his warlike spirit is pretty much subdued. From all that I can see of Indian life on both reservation and allotment, I am led irresistibly to the conclusion that the allotment of the land to the Indians in severalty is the best solution of the problem of Indian civilization.

STATEHOOD.

The question of statehood for Oklahoma has been much agitated, and the people are divided on the question. Some desire statehood for Oklahoma with its present boundaries; others prefer to have the matter of statehood deferred until such time as Oklahoma and the Indian Territory may be admitted as one State. There are many conditions and many intricate problems entering into the matter which must be carefully considered in order to arrive at a correct conclusion.

One of the most peculiar conditions and most difficult problems arises out of the peculiar relations of the Indians to the United States. The Indian tribes have so far been treated as powers that treaties have been made with them, and yet it is clear that they are merely wards of the nation and are as much subject to the laws of Congress as any

citizen. The lands of the Indian Territory are held by virtue of these treaties with the United States upon which patents have been issued. They have governments of their own, but are under the jurisdiction of the U. S. courts. The problem then is, how can these Indians be formed into a State? For the purpose of solving this and other perplexing problems relative to the future of the Indian nations, the Dawes Commission was appointed by the U. S. Government. In the attempts of this commission to treat with the Indians, considerable hostility has developed among the Indians against any further treaties looking to the allotment of their lands in severalty, or indeed any scheme which should open the reservations to white settlers, or sale to white men, or which should bring the Indians in closer contact with the white man. There is, however, in the Indian nations a progressive element that has strenuously insisted on allotment and statehood with both Territories combined.

Very much the larger portion of the Indian Territory is unsettled and in a state of nature. Some portions are very well tilled. It furnishes a rendezvous unexcelled for criminals from adjoining States, and is in its self-productive of crime. No courts in the Union have such bloody records as the U. S. courts at Fort Smith, Ark., and Paris, Tex., the courts having jurisdiction in the Indian country, and yet they have been unable to suppress crime or even diminish it to any great extent, and I am frank to say that I do not believe it can be done while the Indian country remains in its present condition.

The Territory of Oklahoma furnishes many reasons for single statehood for both Territories. As separate States neither Oklahoma nor the Indian Territory would rank among the great Western States either in extent or wealth. Together they would be equal to the greatest, and, in my opinion, the finest State west of the Mississippi.

The taxable property of Oklahoma alone is too small to support a State government properly. A large portion of the western part can be used only for grazing purposes. Already the burden of taxation is as heavy as is consistent with prosperous business. The necessary expenses of erecting a statehouse, penitentiary, asylums, college buildings, etc., would be a heavy burden upon the people of either State. I do not believe that any greater mistake could be made than to create two States out of a Territory just large enough for one.

I desire to emphasize the recommendation made in my report of last year that "negotiations be kept on foot with a view to the ultimate allotment in severalty of all the lands in the Indian Territory," and to add that in the event that the Indians finally refuse to treat on this basis, the situation will be one which, in my opinion, will demand positive action on the part of Congress looking to the accomplishment of the desired end.

INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

In this connection I desire to call your attention to the Indian reservations located within the Territory, to wit: The Kickapoo, Wichita, Kiawa, Comanche, and Apache, and to earnestly solicit the influence and assistance of your Department to secure their early opening to homestead settlement. Within these reservations is situated some of the richest lands to be found in Oklahoma. Much of it lies idle and unused. The only pretended use to which any of it is put by the present occupants is grazing Indian ponies and Texas steers. While this might at one time have been considered a most useful purpose to make of these rich lands, it can no longer be considered so when thou-

sands of landless and homeless worthy citizens are eagerly and anxiously waiting the hour when they may lawfully go upon these lands and establish their homes and firesides. Give the Indian his allotment, and let the white man have the residue, and thus give the poor man a home and the red man an ever-living and present object lesson in the civilizing influence of home building and its environs.

It is estimated that the opening of these reservations will add 50,000 to the population and many millions to the taxable property of the Territory.

The allotment plan has proved beneficial to the Indians whose reservation have heretofore been opened for settlement in the Territory, and it will no doubt be equally beneficial to those yet to be opened. I sincerely hope that the day will not be far distant when there will be no Indian reservations in Oklahoma.

WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

The second legislative assembly appropriated \$15,000 for the purpose of exhibiting the products and resources of Oklahoma at the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, and the governor was given charge of the matter. With this a very creditable building was erected and maintained. The exhibits of Oklahoma were first-class in every particular. Many persons pronounced the agricultural exhibit to be one of the finest exhibited by any State, and the list of awards made to Oklahoma would tend to prove the assertion. The products named in the list grow very nearly to perfection in Oklahoma. The victory for wheat and flour was a notable one, and will prove to be of great profit to Oklahoma. The following will show the condition of the appropriation:

Total amount of appropriation.....	\$15,000.00
Total amount expended.....	10,698.57
Turned back into the Treasury.....	4,301.43

Awards to Oklahoma.

AGRICULTURAL.

Exhibitor.	Address.	Exhibit.
GROUP 1.		
C. G. Jones.....	Oklahoma City.....	Flour.
C. G. Jones.....	do.....	Wheat.
Oklahoma Territory.....	Cleveland County.....	Corn, oats, buckwheat, grass, peanuts.
GROUP 3.		
Oklahoma Territory.....	Guthrie.....	Red sorghum.
GROUP 5.		
A. J. Seay.....	Kingfisher.....	Squashes.
GROUP 9.		
Oklahoma Territory.....	Guthrie.....	Cotton.

MANUFACTURES.

GROUP 91.		
Mrs. S. D. McKay.....	Guthrie.....	Painted china.

SCHOOL LANDS.

By act of Congress approved March 3, 1891, the governor of Oklahoma was authorized to lease sections 16 and 36, reserved for the benefit of the common schools, under rules and regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. In April, 1891, the lands of Oklahoma proper were offered for lease. Governor Steele, in his report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891, said that out of 656 quarters, leases had been made on 584 quarters, and that he had realized in cash \$4,536.82 and in notes \$47,642.85. The larger number of these leases were made at low prices and the collections on these notes have been excellent.

As each successive reservation was opened the school lands have been leased. Prices have steadily advanced, and while many quarters leased in 1891 did not lease for more than \$16 per year, the same quarters will now easily bring \$50 per year.

In February, 1894, the school lands in the Cherokee Outlet were offered for lease. There were an unprecedented number of bids made, more than 18,000 in all. As high as 80 bids were received on one quarter-section, at prices ranging very high. On one section the bids aggregated \$1,097 per year. About 1,000 awards were made on all these bids, but as no deposit was required to be made with the bids, many of the applicants failed to comply with the terms of their applications, and so forfeited their rights. There was a very alarming number of these bogus applications—about 400 in all—and they caused considerable annoyance and delay.

In April the lands in cases where parties had failed to comply with their applications were again offered for lease, and this time a deposit of \$25 was required with each application. This effectually eliminated bogus bids, and since then this rule has been strictly adhered to and it works well. The work of leasing in the Cherokee Outlet had to be done largely by correspondence, which greatly increased the necessity for a larger clerical force. As high as 2,400 letters have been received in one day. Four clerks have been kept constantly and busily employed. The receipts in cash from leasing in the Cherokee Outlet were, in round numbers, \$25,000, and in notes \$100,000, due in December, 1894, 1895, and 1896. Every precaution has been taken to insure the best security possible on these notes, and all sureties have been required to make property statement on the notes. However, in view of the high rents agreed to be paid, it will be extraordinary if there is not a considerable per cent of bad notes.

The lands in the western counties do not lease so readily as those in the eastern portion, and there are not above 100 quarters leased in N County. The lands in Beaver County are practically all unleased. There seems to be no demand, and at this time there are only 22 quarters leased out of the 1,000 quarters in Beaver County. The main purpose for which these lands, as well as the lands of many of the western counties of Oklahoma, can be used is grazing. I am of the opinion that it would be advisable to lease as many sections to one person as he might desire. In that way it could be used by the cattlemen, and a very considerable fund derived therefrom.

The leases executed by Governor Steele in 1891 expired in April and July of this year. In the rule heretofore prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior no provision was made for renewing leases that had expired or were about to expire. It seemed unjust to offer all these

lands to the highest bidder, thereby practically compelling every lessee to bid against his own improvements; hence the matter was delayed, hoping that some more equitable law could be secured.

By act of Congress approved May 4, 1894, this whole matter of leasing school lands was transmitted to a board for leasing school land composed of the governor, secretary, and superintendent of public instruction. Pursuant to this act the board ordered the lands upon which leases would expire during the year 1894 to be re-leased for a term to extend from the expiration of their present lease until the 1st day of February, 1895, at a price, to be agreed upon by the board, not less than that heretofore paid. The reason for this action was that the season had far advanced, and already the lessees had planted crops, and no change could well be made. By the same act of Congress the legislature was authorized to make rules and regulations for the leasing of school lands; consequently it was thought best to extend the leases until the legislature should meet. The rent on the new leases was raised on an average of about 50 per cent.

I have endeavored to keep the expenses of this department at a minimum, but the vast volume of business passing through the office has considerably raised the expenses for the last year; besides, records had to be purchased, and a very considerable amount of advertising had to be done. Prior to this administration the records were very inadequate, and an entire and elaborate set of records had to be purchased.

In the tables appended I have endeavored to set forth the condition of the office and show the work of this year as compared with former years. The fund derived from these leases has grown to be a most excellent help to our common schools, and will probably reach \$2 per capita.

By the act of Congress approved May 4, 1894, the reservation by the President of sections 13 and 33 in each Congressional township for the use of colleges and public buildings, was confirmed, and the board for leasing school lands was authorized to lease the same for three years. The board advertised for bids to be received until July 17, 1894, but as the leasing of these lands does not come within the fiscal year they can not be treated here, except to say that the reservation of these lands was a very praiseworthy act on the part of the President and of Congress, and will do much to advance the educational and public interests of the Territory.

This increases the land under the control of the school-land office until now it has reached, in round numbers, 1,250,000 acres.

Notes on hand June 30, 1894.

Due.	Number.	Amount.	Due.	Number.	Amount.
Jan. 1, 1892	28	\$1,175.47	Jan. 1, 1894	82	\$3,472.99
Apr. 1, 1892	17	485.40	Apr. 1, 1894	37	1,029.40
Déc. 15, 1892	55	1,640.28	Dec. 15, 1894	1,433	49,981.76
Jan. 1, 1893	61	2,737.40	Dec. 15, 1895	1,152	45,543.97
Apr. 1, 1893	29	778.25	Dec. 15, 1896	520	28,716.38
Miscellaneous	17	367.00			
Dec. 15, 1893	189	5,531.31	Total		141,459.61

Receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894.

Cash on hand June 30, 1893.....	\$223. 19
Net cash received June 30, 1893, and June 30, 1894.....	50, 052. 60
Total.....	50, 275. 79
Expenses for year.....	4, 062. 62
Turned over to Territorial treasurer.....	46, 083. 29
Cash on hand June 30, 1894.....	129. 88
Total.....	50, 275. 79

Net proceeds from leasing school lands.

For fiscal year ending—	
June 30, 1891.....	\$4, 536. 82
June 30, 1892.....	21, 346. 13
June 30, 1893.....	19, 164. 67
June 30, 1894.....	46, 586. 29
Total net proceeds.....	91, 633. 91

Permit me to say in closing that I have the greatest faith in the future of Oklahoma, and I believe that with its excellent climate, fertile soil, and distinctively American inhabitants, Oklahoma will one day add a star of the first magnitude to that glorious star spangled emblem of liberty.

I have the honor to be, your most obedient servant,
 WILLIAM C. RENFROW,
Governor.

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

APPENDIX.

The following is a statement showing the business done by the several railroads in Oklahoma Territory for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894:

CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND AND PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Statement showing pounds of freight received and forwarded from stations in Oklahoma Territory for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894.

Pounds of freight forwarded.....	134, 112, 304
Pounds of freight received.....	231, 306, 016
Revenue received from freight forwarded.....	\$218, 172. 54
Revenue received from freight received.....	644, 601. 73
Total receipts from freight received and forwarded.....	862, 774. 27
Freight passing through Oklahoma Territory:	
Total number of pounds.....	310, 420, 711
Revenue derived from same:	
North bound.....	\$651, 217. 56
South bound.....	595, 709. 71

Statement showing passengers carried and revenue derived therefrom in Oklahoma Territory.

Number of passengers carried.....	211,090
Receipts from passengers.....	\$233,008.50
Total earnings from both passenger and freight service.....	\$1,095,782.77

ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILROAD.

Statement showing pounds of freight and passengers carried and revenue derived therefrom in Oklahoma Territory during the year ending June 30, 1894.

Pounds of freight received.....	289,316,000
Pounds of freight forwarded.....	141,562,000
Revenue derived from freight.....	\$787,439.35
Number of passengers carried.....	242,463
Revenue derived from passengers.....	\$386,660.76
Total revenue from both passenger and freight service.....	\$1,174,150.11

THE CHOCTAW COAL AND RAILWAY COMPANY.

Total revenue derived from freight carried.....	\$31,055.15
Total revenue derived from passengers.....	27,198.44
Total revenue from mail, telegraph, and express.....	2,698.22
Total.....	60,951.81