

University of Oklahoma College of Law

University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

7-1-1897

Report of the Governor of Oklahoma, 1897.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>



Part of the [Indigenous, Indian, and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

H.R. Doc. No. 5, 55th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1897)

This House Document is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu.

REPORT
OF THE
GOVERNOR OF OKLAHOMA.

TERRITORY OF OKLAHOMA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Guthrie, July 1, 1897.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition and progress of Oklahoma Territory for the year ending June 30, 1897:

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

It has been but seven years since Oklahoma was created a Territory, yet it is to-day one of the most talked-about and read-about portions of the United States. In these seven years it has made greater progress than have most Commonwealths in three times that length of time. At the election last fall 53,000 votes were cast—11,000 more than in Florida and 22,000 more than in Delaware, and the Territory outranks a dozen different States in population.

Oklahoma has never had a boom, and has never suffered the consequent collapse. It has been a steady growth and progress from the start.

Blessed with abundant crops during the year, and with still better prospects for the future, Oklahoma farmers are prosperous and hopeful, and the prosperity of the farmer has brought prosperity to all other classes.

Business is reviving in every channel, large amounts of the products of the soil are going to outside markets, outside capital is coming in to seek investment, considerable building is going on both in town and country, and the outlook for the future is indeed bright for Oklahoma and her people.

No portion of the United States to-day offers a more inviting prospect to the home seeker—farmer, business man, or artisan—and nowhere is there a better field for the safe and profitable investment of capital.

POPULATION.

Oklahoma is distinctively an American community, the proportion of citizens of foreign birth being smaller than in any State of the Union. Oklahoma people are industrious, thrifty, and enterprising; known the nation over for their push and energy. These people, who have settled an empire in a day and builded cities in a night, who have met and surmounted the difficulties and discouragements so common in a new

country—pioneers who took possession of the virgin soil with nothing to depend upon save their grit and energy and labor, and builded homes, opened successful farms, and planted orchards that are to-day the wonder of the world—are a new and unique type of American citizens. The true Oklahoman is the embodiment of courage, thrift, energy, and enterprise, an optimist of optimists, a conqueror of a new world, reaching out for other things, overcoming obstructions and difficulties that to most men would seem insurmountable.

The population as returned by the assessors for 1896 was slightly in excess of 275,000. No enumeration was taken this year, but as there has been during the entire year a steady immigration and no emigration worth speaking of, it can be safely estimated that the population is now considerably in excess of 300,000.

The immigration during the past year has been of the best character, mostly farmers and stockmen from Northern and Eastern States, coming with ready money to purchase claims and farms and make substantial improvements thereon.

The following table shows the population, by counties, as based upon the assessors' enumeration for 1896:

Population, by counties.

Beaver	4, 778	Logan	19, 995
Blaine	6, 415	Noble	13, 402
Canadian	12, 837	Oklahoma	19, 999
Cleveland	13, 006	Pawnee	8, 293
Custer	5, 296	Payne	14, 192
D	2, 986	Pottawatomie	17, 300
Day	611	Roger Mills	1, 267
Garfield	16, 092	Washita	5, 404
Grant	16, 575	Woods	20, 805
Greer	8, 500	Woodward	7, 487
Kay	16, 959	Reservations	12, 500
Kingfisher	15, 346		
Lincoln	16, 542	Total	275, 587

TAXABLE PROPERTY.

In spite of the financial depression of the past three years, which has caused a general shrinkage of values, the assessed valuation of the Territory has increased from \$19,937,940.86 in 1894 to \$32,034,752 in 1897. In a majority of the counties the property is returned for taxation at very much less than its real value. It can safely be stated that the assessed valuation should be from sixty to seventy millions instead of thirty-two millions.

The supreme court of the Territory has recently decided a case involving the question of the powers of the board of equalization, denying the power of the board to raise the aggregate valuation as shown by the assessment rolls of the counties. This decision reverses the decision made by the same court last year, and the conflict is somewhat annoying and vexatious. Both cases are still pending and undetermined before the court on motions for a rehearing. The effect of the present status of this question is confusing to the average county clerk and collector, and may induce such procedure by some as will jeopardize collections in some of the counties.

With no intention of criticising the court, I think I may say without impropriety that a good public policy seems to demand an early and final disposition of this question, to the end that no mistakes may be made hereafter by those charged with the performance of duties which

are so far-reaching and are of so great importance to the individual taxpayer and to the welfare of the Territory.

The following table shows the valuation of each county for the year 1897:

Taxable valuation, by counties, 1897.

Beaver.....	\$1, 097, 495	Logan	\$3, 033, 326
Blaine	384, 122	Noble	1, 304, 585
Canadian	3, 254, 830	Oklahoma.....	4, 365, 687
Cleveland.....	1, 847, 683	Pawnee	1, 018, 644
Custer	447, 934	Payne.....	1, 583, 869
D.....	240, 039	Pottawatomie	1, 364, 136
Day.....	222, 483	Roger Mills	334, 433
Garfield.....	1, 192, 601	Washita	477, 364
Grant	1, 003, 300	Woods	1, 399, 057
Greer	840, 273	Woodward	1, 148, 355
Kay	2, 549, 119		
Kingfisher	1, 871, 114	Total	32, 034, 752
Lincoln	1, 054, 303		

TAXES.

The total Territorial tax for the year is 4.3 mills, divided as follows: General Territorial tax, 3 mills; normal school tax, one-half mill; university tax, one-half mill; college building bond interest tax, one-fifth mill; for the care and education of deaf-mutes, one-twentieth of a mill; for the care and education of the blind, one-twentieth of a mill.

To this must be added the county and district school taxes, which are of course much higher, but the average county tax during the past year was but 3½ per cent, which, when the very low valuation of property is considered, makes the taxes not greater than in any enterprising and flourishing community. The Territorial tax is much smaller than that of any other Western State or Territory.

A very large addition will be made to the real estate subject to taxation each year as the title to homestead lands are perfected by settlers, and there will be a consequent reduction of the tax rate in each county.

TERRITORIAL INDEBTEDNESS.

The Territory has a bonded indebtedness of \$48,000, bearing 6 per cent per annum payable annually in July at the Western National Bank in New York City. These bonds were issued in 1893 to aid in the construction of the buildings for the Territorial University, the Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the Normal School at Edmond are redeemable at any time after ten years.

The normal-school fund and the university fund are practically out of debt and on a cash basis.

The general-fund indebtedness has gradually increased year by year since the organization of the Territory, the expenses each year over-running the revenues by reason of failure to collect full amount of taxes levied, thereby creating a casual deficit which now amounts to about \$190,938.04, including interest accrued on outstanding warrants. All warrants issued by the auditor draw no interest until registered with the treasurer, after which they draw 6 per cent until paid. Under the Territorial law warrants are paid in the order of their registration, and the treasurer issues a call every sixty days and applies accumulated funds to the redemption of outstanding warrants, and the interest stops on all warrants thirty days after date of the call.

I regret that the books of the auditor's office are not fully posted and balanced, so that it is impossible to give an exact statement showing the casual deficit year by year since organization, but I give below a statement showing the condition of the general-revenue fund at the close of business June 30, 1897:

Statement 1892-1897.

General-fund warrants outstanding November 30, 1892.....	\$21, 691. 86
General-fund warrants issued year ending November 30, 1893.....	61, 451. 22
Making a total of.....	83, 143. 08
General-fund warrants redeemed year ending November 30, 1893.....	10, 543. 67
Leaving a balance outstanding November 30, 1893, of.....	72, 599. 41
General-fund warrants issued year ending November 30, 1894.....	55, 655. 07
Making a total of.....	128, 254. 48
General-fund warrants redeemed year ending November 30, 1894.....	37, 246. 73
Leaving a balance outstanding November 30, 1894, of.....	91, 007. 75
Cash in treasury available for redemption of general-fund warrants....	4, 326. 41
Net warrant indebtedness November 30, 1894.....	86, 681. 34
Warrants outstanding November 30, 1894.....	91, 819. 26
Warrants issued year ending November 30, 1895.....	109, 656. 24
Making a total of.....	201, 475. 50
Warrants redeemed year ending November 30, 1895.....	26, 658. 81
Leaving a balance outstanding November 30, 1895, of.....	174, 816. 69
Warrants issued year ending November 30, 1896.....	80, 767. 71
Making a total of.....	255, 584. 40
Warrants redeemed year ending November 30, 1896.....	80, 028. 90
Leaving a balance outstanding November 30, 1896, of.....	175, 555. 50
Cash in fund available for redemption of warrants.....	12, 481. 52
Net general-fund indebtedness November 30, 1896.....	163, 073. 98
Total.....	163, 073. 98
Warrants outstanding November 30, 1896.....	\$175, 555. 50
General-fund warrants issued from November 30, 1896, to June 30, 1897.....	102, 713. 24
Total.....	278, 268. 64
Warrants redeemed to June 30, 1897.....	84, 472. 70
Cash in treasury applicable to redemption of called war- rants June 30, 1897.....	3, 658. 00
Total.....	88, 130. 70
Warrants outstanding and unprovided for June 30, 1897.....	190, 138. 04
Accrued interest (estimated).....	800. 00
Net general-warrant fund indebtedness (including accrued interest) June 30, 1897.....	190, 938. 04

It is in contemplation to take such steps in the near future as may seem wise and practicable to enhance the value, or rather the market price, of general-fund warrants, which it appears to me is unjustifiably low at the present time.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

The work of the higher Territorial educational institutions during the past year has been effective and deserves the highest commendation. The faculties of each are able and earnest educators, whose work speaks for itself in the success of each one of the institutions, and their management and conduct meets the approval and praise of the patrons.

THE UNIVERSITY.

The first legislative assembly of the Territory provided for the location of a university at Norman, the county seat of Cleveland County, a city of about 3,000 inhabitants. A large pressed brick and white stone building, containing twenty-one recitation, assembly, and office rooms, has been erected on a campus containing 40 acres of land. The same legislature provided for the support of the university a tax levy of one-half mill on all taxable property of the Territory.

When the lands known as the Cherokee Outlet were opened to settlement, section 13 in each township was reserved from settlement for the university, agricultural college, and normal-school purposes. By act of Congress the Territory was authorized to lease these lands and to devote the income from them for the purposes for which they were reserved from settlement. The different sources of support provide an annual income of from \$15,000 to \$20,000. The faculty now consists of six professors and the president. All the members of the faculty have been trained for their special work in the best educational institutions of the country. The work of the university is divided into preparatory, collegiate, pharmaceutical, and musical departments. It is expected to add other departments as the resources of the institution will permit. There is already a strong demand for both a law and a medical department.

The courses of study are all of about the same standard as is required in the best State universities of the West. It has been found necessary to establish a preparatory department, but this will be dispensed with as the high schools and academies develop sufficiently to supply its place. The coming collegiate year will witness the first graduation from the college department. The equipments of the university consist in the usual furniture for assembly room, recitation rooms, and office, of a well-equipped chemical laboratory, a good physical laboratory, considerable apparatus for instruction in biology, and a well-selected library. The headquarters of the Territorial Historical Society is located in the building. It is making a complete collection of the current history of the Territory that is already worthy of great praise and will be very valuable to the future historian of the West. The campus has been improved, 6 acres of trees having been planted, which are in a thrifty, growing condition. The enrollment of the university for the last year was 122, every county of the Territory being represented. Of these, 98 were males and 74 were females. Classified as to occupation of parents, 108 were the children of farmers, 22 of merchants, 14 of lawyers, and 26 miscellaneous. The enrollment the first year was 119, the second year 137, the third year 142, the fourth year 149, and the fifth and last year 172, showing an increase over the previous year of 23. The indications all point toward an attendance of considerably over 200 students the coming year.

THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

The work of this college is well stated by the law of Congress making annual appropriations for its support. This provides that the funds granted under this act can be used "only for instruction in agriculture, the mechanic arts, the English language, and the various branches of mathematical, physical, natural, and economic science, with special reference to their application in the industries of life." Under this law the college received \$22,000 for the last year and will receive \$23,000 for the ensuing year. It also receives one-third of the rental received from sections 13 in the "Cherokee Outlet." The college is under the direction of a board of six regents, the governor being one ex officio, and five being appointed by him and confirmed by the council. A substantial and well-arranged college building has been erected, but is already overcrowded. By gift of the citizens of Stillwater the college owns a tract of 200 acres of land. The faculty numbers eleven well-trained instructors, two of whom give chief attention to the preparatory department. The relatively liberal endowment has made it possible to provide an unusually good library and collections of apparatus for illustration in the teaching of science.

The laws of the Territory indicate the intention that this shall be especially a college for the people and not for any one class. No fees of any kind are required from students. Pupils are admitted direct from the common schools. The full course of four years leads to the degree of bachelor of science, but it is arranged to give the greatest help to those able to attend for only one or two years.

The funds received from the United States can not be used for the erection of buildings, and there is not yet accommodations sufficient to make it possible to establish a mechanic arts department. Aside from this the work of the college conforms in letter and spirit to the provisions of the endowment act.

As a department of the college, an agricultural experiment station has been established, receiving annually \$15,000 from the United States Government. This station makes use of the greater part of the 200 acres for its field experiments. It also has a small chemical laboratory and stables for experiments in stock feeding. Bulletins are regularly issued giving the results of the experiments and investigations. Seven members of the college faculty are also engaged in work as members of the station staff.

During the past year there were 131 students in attendance and a second graduating class received the degree. There are indications of a marked increase in attendance for the coming year, as well as many evidences of increased interest in the work of the experiment station.

THE NORMAL SCHOOL AT EDMOND.

The legislature of 1891 authorized the establishment of the Territorial Normal School, and it was the first of the Territorial institutions to open its doors to those desiring a higher education, starting at once in a local church building.

With many obstacles to overcome, the institution has prospered from the very start, and year by year it has grown in popularity, and the session just closed under the management of President Edmund D. Murdaugh had an attendance of about 200 students, and, judging from the correspondence and inquiries, there will be in attendance the coming year not less than 300 students.

The school has long since been removed to its own substantial home, situated on grounds overlooking a vast and beautiful expanse of country surrounding the town of Edmond, on the main line of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad.

The building was carefully planned, well constructed of native red sandstone of fine quality, is heated and ventilated by the most approved system, and, together with furniture and fixtures, has cost about \$35,000. This school is entirely out of debt.

The principal aim of the normal school is to fully equip the teacher for his important work. While the course of study must be in harmony with the absolute requirements of our common schools, it must not stop at this. It has a broader field than merely fitting one to teach. It must train him never to lose sight of the most approved methods, to do his work with force and skill, and fully arm and equip those who leave its halls to successfully battle with the exigencies always to be met in the path of honorable citizenship.

With the beginning of the fall session a model school and training department for young teachers will be established and placed in charge of a teacher trained for this class of work.

With a school especially designed for the training of teachers, the importance of this department can not well be overestimated, for it enables the young teacher to acquire the most approved method in the art of instructing and to avoid the mistakes commonly made by inexperienced teachers.

At a recent meeting, the board of education made liberal appropriations for the purchase of books, which will give the institution about 1,500 carefully selected volumes. There was made a further appropriation for the completion of the laboratory and the purchase of chemicals and such other supplies as are necessary for the full equipment of the institution for scientific work. With such encouragement, excellent results may be confidently expected.

THE NORMAL SCHOOL AT ALVA.

Provision was made by the fourth general assembly for the establishment of a new normal school at Alva, in Woods County, Okla., and the board of regents of the Edmond Normal School is charged with the management and control of the new school. Ample provision was also made for its maintenance.

Alva is situated in the heart of a very thickly inhabited portion in the middle western part of the Territory, and in what is known as the "Cherokee Strip," and the establishment of this school is due perhaps more to the desire of the legislature to recognize the political importance and claims of the "West Side" and the "Strip" than to any immediate necessity for actual educational purposes. However, if present crop prospects are realized this fall, the capacity of all our Territorial educational institutions will be severely tested, and the necessity for this new school will be demonstrated this year, and the wisdom of its establishment by the legislature can be no longer questioned. It is but fair to add that the people of the town of Alva donated 40 acres of land as a suitable site for this school, and voted an issue of \$5,000 in bonds, the proceeds to be used to erect a suitable school building. This school will be open for students this season.

THE AGRICULTURAL AND NORMAL UNIVERSITY.

The fourth general assembly also provided for the location and establishment of the Colored Agricultural and Normal University, the exclusive purpose of which is the instruction of both male and female colored persons in the art of teaching and the various branches which pertain to a common-school education and in such higher education as may be deemed advisable, and in the fundamental laws of the United States, in the rights and duties of citizens, and in the agricultural, mechanical, and industrial arts.

This school is to be under the direction of a board of regents composed of the Territorial superintendent of public instruction, Territorial treasurer, and three members appointed by the governor by and with the advice of the council, and two members of the board are appointed from among the colored race.

This board will be organized at as early a date as possible, and in a way to effectually inaugurate for the colored people a first-class educational institution with a faculty composed exclusively of colored teachers. The establishment of this school by enactment by a Populist legislature, and with the approval of a Democratic governor, indicates the progress and development of the great republican doctrine that all men are created free and equal and are entitled to equal rights, benefits, and privileges, as well as the decline and decay of prejudice against the colored people as a race.

The school will be located at Langston, in Logan County, which is the only exclusively colored city in the United States, and whose people will donate 40 acres of land suitable for a site for the institution.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Oklahoma may well be proud of her public schools. In the earliest days of the Territory, before there were school laws of any kind, school-houses were built by subscription and children at once given the benefit of free schools in almost every community. The school laws enacted by the first legislature and added to later give Oklahoma one of the best public-school systems in the Union.

There are in the Territory 1,909 organized school districts, as follows:

Woods	224	Lincoln	133
Garfield	126	Grant	121
Kingfisher	114	Pottawatomie	108
Payne	98	Logan	97
Canadian	96	Kay	88
Pawnee	80	Oklahoma	79
Blaine	79	Cleveland	66
Greer	65	Noble	61
Washita	59	Woodward	52
Custer	49	Beaver	44
D	42	Roger Mills	16
Day	12		

About 1,500 of these have substantial and comfortable schoolhouses, the others holding school in rented quarters. Every town of any size has graded schools, and the more important cities have a complete system of graded and high schools, which graduate classes annually. Nearly all the city school buildings are substantial, modern structures of brick and stone, many of them costing from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

A regular course of study is prescribed for the district schools by the Territorial board of education, and many county superintendents are grading their schools and providing uniform rules for their government.

In the towns from seven to nine months' school is held, and in the country districts from four to seven months, and people contemplating coming to Oklahoma can be assured of excellent school advantages in even the remotest corner of the Territory.

In a few instances there has been some little friction over the question of mixed or separate schools for colored and white children, but separate schools are now maintained in nearly all parts of the Territory. The colored children are given identically the same advantages as the white. The school enumeration for 1897 has not yet been fully reported, but it is certain that it is largely increased over the enumeration for last year, which was 88,705.

I give below interesting tables showing the school population, by counties, last year; also the receipts and expenditures for school purposes in each county in the Territory:

Scholastic population for the year 1896.

County.	White.			Colored.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Beaver.....	483	488	971			
Blaine.....	1,153	1,052	2,205	407	462	869
Canadian.....	2,168	2,000	4,168	100	84	184
Cleveland.....	2,440	2,451	4,891	36	35	71
D.....	434	423	857			
Day.....	120	99	219			
G (Custer).....	921	780	1,701	38	32	70
Garfield.....	2,447	2,270	4,717	55	53	108
Grant.....	2,259	2,078	4,337	16	16	32
Greer.....	1,356	1,235	2,591			
Kay.....	2,545	2,388	4,933	22	20	42
Kingfisher.....	2,550	2,363	4,913	512	447	959
Lincoln.....	2,959	2,747	5,706	264	276	540
Logan.....	2,964	2,803	5,767	979	1,000	1,979
Noble.....	1,299	1,387	2,686	57	48	105
Oklahoma.....	2,854	2,605	5,459	428	410	838
Pawnee.....	1,522	1,417	2,939	125	154	279
Payne.....	2,752	2,380	5,132	59	52	111
Pottawatomie.....	3,080	2,846	5,926	101	88	189
Roger Mills.....	333	332	665			
Washita.....	1,104	1,062	2,166	48	42	90
Woods.....	4,076	3,808	7,884	28	21	49
Woodward.....	615	652	1,267			
Total.....	42,434	39,666	82,100	3,320	3,285	6,605

County.	Male total.	Female total.	Total aggregate.
Beaver.....	483	488	971
Blaine.....	1,560	1,514	3,074
Canadian.....	2,268	2,084	4,352
Cleveland.....	2,476	2,486	4,962
D.....	479	468	947
Day.....	120	99	219
G (Custer).....	959	812	1,771
Garfield.....	2,502	2,323	4,825
Grant.....	2,117	2,054	4,171
Greer.....	1,356	1,235	2,591
Kay.....	2,567	2,408	4,975
Kingfisher.....	3,062	2,810	5,872
Lincoln.....	3,223	3,023	6,246
Logan.....	3,943	3,803	7,746
Noble.....	1,356	1,435	2,791
Oklahoma.....	3,282	3,015	6,297
Pawnee.....	1,647	1,571	3,218
Payne.....	2,811	2,432	5,243
Pottawatomie.....	3,181	2,934	6,115
Roger Mills.....	333	332	665
Washita.....	1,152	1,104	2,256
Woods.....	4,104	3,829	7,933
Woodward.....	615	652	1,267
Total.....	45,754	42,951	88,705

Receipts for the year.

County.	Balance on hand June 30, 1896.	From apportionment of Territorial and county school funds.	District tax.	Sale of bonds.	Other sources.	Total receipts.
Beaver.....	\$397.36	\$3,843.27	\$4,468.37	.....	\$81.34	\$8,790.34
Blaine.....	258.37	709.33	3,675.79	.....	3,735.03	8,378.52
Canadian.....	12,471.18	9,165.05	22,603.18	.....	5,141.54	49,380.95
Cleveland.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
D.....	48.77	440.75	369.49	.....	1,128.76	1,987.77
Day.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
G.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Garfield.....	4,196.31	1,229.80	5,228.24	.....	6,064.74	16,719.09
Grant.....	.....	5,753.66	11,950.24	\$17.00	.....	17,720.90
Greer.....	.....	515.97	.....	.....	12.37	528.34
Key.....	1,338.21	11,152.77	10,401.87	7,214.25	4,581.49	34,688.59
Kingfisher.....	1,180.66	14,972.48	19,891.98	621.30	2,123.70	38,790.12
Lincoln.....	850.60	3,745.50	14,114.06	3,037.00	346.96	22,094.12
Logan.....	1,254.23	16,883.98	.....	.....	32,270.74	50,408.95
Noble.....	817.22	5,274.20	6,828.18	1,016.25	2,143.30	16,079.15
Oklahoma.....	4,328.55	11,782.16	20,101.69	.....	8,122.79	44,335.39
Pawnee.....	224.01	2,158.60	4,036.09	1,876.25	430.17	8,725.12
Payne.....	352.12	11,708.18	14,263.00	2,935.04	785.70	30,044.10
Pottawatomie.....	229.34	9,045.54	7,959.87	.....	.....	17,234.25
Roger Mills.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Washita.....	452.43	1,839.38	3,260.92	.....	151.24	5,703.97
Woods.....	.....	13,057.04	22,532.18	7,295.12	39.91	42,924.88
Woodward.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	28,399.36	123,277.66	171,685.54	24,012.21	67,159.78	441,534.55

Expenditures for the year.

County.	Teachers' salaries.	Sites, buildings, and furniture.	Rents, repairs, and incidentals.	Library and apparatus.	Other purposes.	Total expenditures.	Balance on hand, June 30, 1896.
Beaver.....	\$4,992.82	\$194.71	\$877.98	.....	\$1,154.91	\$7,220.42	\$1,569.92
Blaine.....	5,511.19	409.91	729.19	\$6.50	1,372.51	8,028.58	940.94
Canadian.....	20,232.22	13,168.45	4,141.30	335.30	5,939.27	43,816.54	5,564.41
Cleveland.....	16,300.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,300.50	.....
D.....	1,694.24	201.71	50.51	8.00	98.30	2,052.77	.....
Day.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
G.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Garfield.....	6,706.08	912.28	1,146.81	233.30	16,047.51	25,045.98	.....
Grant.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Greer.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Key.....	16,585.44	8,361.39	5,188.45	255.11	3,966.29	33,356.68	1,331.91
Kingfisher.....	20,013.20	1,620.16	3,358.30	571.11	7,489.24	33,052.01	5,438.11
Lincoln.....	15,676.61	1,523.85	1,440.96	292.59	1,221.83	20,355.84	1,738.28
Logan.....	27,331.00	799.74	4,534.20	504.89	4,736.11	37,905.94	12,503.01
Noble.....	8,240.94	3,519.35	2,022.50	189.86	1,422.21	15,394.86	684.29
Oklahoma.....	23,271.12	667.31	10,425.93	820.23	396.87	35,581.46	8,753.93
Pawnee.....	3,453.33	1,497.92	940.41	59.80	1,424.17	7,375.63	1,349.49
Payne.....	18,332.72	4,929.01	2,519.07	543.24	7,946.33	34,270.37	.....
Pottawatomie.....	4,345.20	383.63	343.46	96.85	269.02	5,438.16	11,796.09
Roger Mills.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Washita.....	4,299.67	164.05	375.69	20.16	118.70	4,979.27	724.70
Woods.....	19,582.92	10,462.12	3,574.17	404.45	789.66	34,812.32	8,901.22
Woodward.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	216,589.20	49,015.87	41,668.93	4,341.39	53,692.94	365,288.33	60,765.90

Every county in the Territory holds a normal teachers' institute from three to six weeks each year and the standard of teaching is being steadily raised.

A source of much revenue for the public schools are the school lands reserved by Congress to be leased and the proceeds distributed per capita of school population among the various districts of the Territory.

During the year just closing \$71,722.53 has been so distributed, making 81 cents per capita going to the different counties, as follows:

School-fund apportionment.

Beaver	\$798.27	Logan	\$6,425.46
Blaine	2,427.99	Noble	2,274.60
Canadian	3,618.57	Oklahoma	5,272.56
Cleveland	4,038.75	Pawnee	2,558.24
Custer	1,406.58	Payno	4,280.85
D	713.73	Pottawatomie	4,827.36
Day	179.07	Roger Mills	553.35
Garfield	3,933.03	Washita	1,792.50
Grant	3,518.31	Woods	6,240.72
Greer	2,070.57	Woodward	991.04
Kay	3,041.93		
Kingfisher	4,869.30	Total	71,722.53
Lincoln	4,914.15		

I desire to commend the public schools of the Territory and the efficient work being done therein. The future of any Commonwealth is assured by so generous and successful an education of the mass of the whole people.

OTHER SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

In addition to the excellent common schools and the higher Territorial institutions of learning, there are a number of schools and colleges of a private or sectarian nature.

The Congregational Church has a college at Kingfisher and an academy at Perry. The Roman Catholics have parochial schools in most of the towns, a seminary for girls at Guthrie, a college at Sacred Heart, several large mission schools in the Osage Nation, as well as missions among the Kiowas and Comanches. The Friends have mission schools among the Shawnee and Kickapoo Indians, and the Presbyterians, Baptists, Mennonites, Episcopalians, and Congregationalists have mission schools and mission stations among the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches. Well up toward a hundred thousand dollars was spent in mission school work among these latter tribes alone during the past year.

The Methodists will build a hall in connection with the Territorial university, and flourishing business colleges are being conducted at Guthrie, Elreno, Oklahoma City, and Shawnee.

The Government schools for Indians form an important part of the educational work of Oklahoma. On each reservation are the regular reservation schools, with comfortable buildings, excellent equipment, and efficient teachers; the schools at Darlington, Pawnee, and Shawnee-town deserving special mention.

At Chilocco is Haworth Institute, with magnificent stone buildings and modern equipments, costing considerably over \$100,000, a corps of a score or more of teachers and 500 scholars representing all of the Indian tribes of the Southwest.

It is unfortunate, however, that the employees at these Government schools have been placed in the classified list of public servants. To insure active, energetic service the tenure of their service should be entirely at the discretion of the Indian Bureau and in the reservation schools under the direction of the Indian agent.

DEAF MUTES AND BLIND.

The fourth legislative assembly provided for the levying of a Territorial tax of one-twentieth of a mill for the care and education of deaf mutes and the same amount for the blind. This tax has been levied. The first installment will be collected in December next, and it is hoped to have ample provisions made for these unfortunates by January 1, 1898. The deaf mutes will be cared for under the direction of the governor and the board of regents of the Territorial normal school, and the blind under the direction of the governor and the board of the Territorial university.

REFORM SCHOOL.

By legislative action the governor is authorized to contract with any other State for the correction and education of incorrigible youth, but owing to the lack of an appropriation for that purpose no contract has yet been made, though it is hoped that it will be found practicable to carry out the intent of the law should necessity seem to demand it.

INSANE ASYLUM.

The insane of the Territory are cared for by contract with the Oklahoma Sanitarium Company, whose large and commodious hospital is located near the town of Norman. There are confined there at present 143 patients, a net increase of 17 during the year.

The following table shows the number of patients confined from each county in the Territory on July 1, 1896, the number received and discharged during the year, and the number remaining:

Insane statistics.

County.	Patients in asylum July 1, 1896.	Patients received during year.	Deaths.	Releases.	Escapes.	Patients now in asylum.
Blaine	1	1	1			1
Beaver	1	1		1		1
Canadian	6	6	1	3		8
Cleveland	9	10	1	7		11
Custer						
D		1	1			
Day						
Garfield	11	13	1	9		14
Grant	2	2	1	3		2
Kay	3	4		2		5
Kingfisher	9	4				13
Lincoln	6	6	3	2		7
Logan	14	10	3	6		14
Noble	4	2	1	2		3
Oklahoma	20	13	4	3		26
Pawnee	2	2		2		2
Payne	12	5		5		12
Pottawatomie	13	8	3	7	1	10
Roger Mills	2			1		1
Washita	4	3		3		4
Woods	4	5	1	3		5
Woodward	1	2				3
Greer		1				1
Total	126	99	22	59	1	143

The death list seems to be abnormally large, but is explained by the superintendent of the asylum, Dr. John Threadgill, in his report to myself, as follows:

Our death list would not be nearly so large if the boards of insanity of the different counties were more careful in not waiting so long to send some of the unfortunates here, as many of those who have died were in a moribund condition when received here. We have not yet had a death in the asylum from fever, pneumonia, dysentery, or any of the prevalent diseases of the country. At all times the asylum has been free of sickness, and no death has ever occurred in the asylum from sickness originating in it. At the present time all the patients in the asylum are in a healthy condition.

Under the contracts the Territory pays \$25 per month for the care of each patient, the amount paid for the year ending June 30 aggregating \$39,812.75. The cost of transportation was \$2,987.49 for the year.

The asylum is a substantial structure of brick and stone, built with all modern improvements, well located, and equipped in every way, and the care and attention given the patients has been of the best. The laws, however, regulating the admission and discharge of patients are crude and unsatisfactory, and it is quite possible that a number of those committed by the various counties would be more properly cared for at homes for the indigent and poor rather than at an asylum for the insane.

SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS.

In a social and religious way Oklahoma will compare favorably with any State in the Union. The people have the same social connections, attend the same gatherings, belong to the same churches, and listen to the same preaching of the same gospel and worship in the same way as do the people of Ohio, New York, or New England. The same social customs are observed, the same manner of dress prevails as is found in any civilized and enlightened community. There is no border ruffianism, no everyday, open outlawry, no semi-savage barbarity, such as is depicted in some unreliable journals or has found belief in the minds of misguided and uninformed individuals in unprogressive communities.

The percentage of crime among all classes is lower than in half of the States in the Union, all laws are, as a general thing, enforced, and churches and other religious institutions receive liberal support.

Nearly every town has its literary society or Chautauqua circle, good lecture courses are carried on, the best of concerts and theatrical entertainments are well patronized, and the legislative and inaugural balls and banquets and other gatherings of note at the capital and other leading cities will bear the closest comparison with similar affairs in any State or Territory.

All of the leading religious branches of work are carried on, and the fraternal organizations are strong and effective. We give below figures obtained from the leading ones:

Christian Church.

Number of organizations.....	80
Membership	6, 000
Church buildings	15
Value of buildings.....	\$30, 000
Preachers.....	55
Colored preachers.....	2
Colored churches	3
Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor organizations.....	25
Sunday schools.....	35
C. W. B. M. organizations	7

Presbyterian.

Organizations.....	44
Membership.....	1,480
Church buildings.....	24
Value of church property.....	\$35,000
Colored churches.....	1
Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.....	35
Sunday schools.....	47
Preachers.....	27
Sunday school missionaries.....	4

Episcopal.

Organized missions.....	13
Other regular stations.....	11
Church buildings.....	9
Parsonages.....	5
Clergy.....	5
Communicants.....	346
Value of church property.....	\$20,000
Chapter St. Andrew's Brotherhood.....	1
Daughters of the King.....	2
Children in Sunday school.....	130

Methodist Episcopal Church.

Number of churches.....	72
Value.....	\$68,980
Parsonages.....	25
Value.....	\$10,300
Paid for buidings and improvements during year.....	\$6,381
Paid on old indebtedness.....	\$2,782.75
Members.....	5,405

Friends.

Total white membership.....	900
Indian members.....	200
Indian missions.....	5
Schools.....	1

Congregational.

Organizations.....	90
Membership.....	2,500
Church buildings.....	60
Value of church property.....	\$50,000
New churches organized last year.....	14
Preachers.....	49
Colored churches.....	1
Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.....	28
Membership, Society of Christian Endeavor.....	928
Sunday schools.....	96
Membership.....	4,512
Missionary appropriations.....	\$10,500
Collected and expended on field.....	\$11,005
Benevolent contributions.....	\$692
Grants to build churches since 1889.....	\$22,000
Expended by Home Missionary Society.....	\$70,000

Roman Catholic.

Bishops.....	1
Priests.....	21
Churches.....	28
Chapels.....	6
Stations visited.....	80
Membership.....	11,000
New residences for priests.....	6
Academies.....	4
College for boys.....	1
Schools for boys and girls.....	4
Schools for colored.....	3
Convents.....	4
Monastery.....	1
Value of school and church property.....	\$80,000

Methodist Episcopal Church South.

Pastors	26
Assistant pastors	2
Local preachers	27
Pastoral charges	26
Societies or churches	88
Members (Indians, 95; white, 3,189)	3,284
Church buildings	22
Value of churches	\$29,975
Number of parsonages	14
Value of parsonages	\$6,000
Number of Sunday schools	45
Number of officers, teachers, and scholars	2,054
Missionary money appropriated to pastors	\$3,100
Raised on the field for pastors	\$3,713.19
Expended on churches and parsonages	\$5,521.75

Baptist.

Churches:	
White	160
Colored	85
Membership:	
White	5,000
Colored	3,600
Ministers:	
White	60
Colored	100
Membership of Sunday schools	8,000

Sunday schools.

Schools	850
Officers and teachers	5,950
Scholars	34,000
Per cent of population attending Sunday school	13
Per cent of children attending Sunday school	30

Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.

Societies	150
Members	5,295
Junior societies	20
Members	800
Total membership	6,095
New societies	50
Associate members uniting with the churches during the year	273

Lodges and camps reporting.

Name.	Number of members.	New members.	Number of organizations.	Value of property.	New lodges.
Ancient Order of United Workmen	1,000		31		
Knights of Pythias	820	150	20	\$3,500	4
Odd Fellows	2,385	250	64	3,200	12
Woodmen of the World	500	250	11		10
Grand Army of the Republic	1,300	447	56	836	10
Confederate Veterans	250		5		
Maccabees			2		
Eastern Star			20		
Sons of Herman			10		
Masons	1,458		34		

THE PRESS.

The press of Oklahoma will compare favorably with any portion of the United States. There are published in the Territory at present ten daily and eighty weekly papers and twelve monthly publications.

The standard of most of these papers is kept well up to the average, and the editors are all loyal and energetic in advancing the best interests of the Territory and of their particular localities.

An active editorial association holds semi-annual meetings to discuss matters looking toward the advancement of the profession.

VACANT LANDS.

There are yet many thousands of acres of unoccupied Government lands in Oklahoma, much of which is excellent agricultural and fruit land and offers a chance for homes for thousands of settlers, either wholly free or at the low Government price of from \$1 to \$2.50 per acre. Reports from the registers and receivers of the various land districts in the Territory give the number of acres in each district subject to homestead entry as follows:

Guthrie district.—No lands subject to entry.

Oklahoma City district.—There are 355,670 acres opened to settlement. Most of this land is in Washita, Mills, and Custer counties and can be secured by settlement and payment of \$1.50 per acre at the end of five years. There are many fine farms still unoccupied in this district.

Kingfisher district.—Of unappropriated and unreserved lands there are 10,216 acres in Blaine County, 760 in Canadian, 319,160 in D, 240 in Kingfisher, 598,520 in Day, 114,080 in Custer, and 103,280 acres in Roger Mills County, making 1,146,256 for the district.

An inspection of these vacant lands will reveal scores of fine homesteads suitable for general farming, and if a man desires to devote his attention to stock raising he can find no better location anywhere. This land costs \$1.50 per acre, and the farmers of all these counties have produced abundant crops the past year and during the years preceding. An erroneous idea has obtained that these counties are without sufficient rainfall to produce crops. While this is true of portions in the extreme west, the records of weather observers in Custer and Washita counties show a greater average rainfall in crop seasons than many other parts of the Territory, and there has been no crop failure there in the past five years for men who planted and cultivated right.

Alva district.—The records of the land office show 434,554 acres of unappropriated land. This can be had for \$1 and \$1.50 per acre. Much of it is good agricultural land and all fine for grazing purposes. Water is easily obtainable, and crops find a ready home market among the cattlemen to the west and south. It is a noteworthy fact that in this district has been found the only artesian water in the Territory.

Woodward district.—There still remain 4,837,800 acres of vacant land subject to homestead entry lying in Woodward and Beaver counties. The land in Woodward County can be homesteaded at \$1 per acre; in Beaver County a settler can obtain 160 acres by simply paying the land-office fees, amounting to but \$14. All of this land is the very finest for grazing, and there are thousands of acres along streams and level stretches of prairie where farming can be very profitably carried on. Fruit of many kinds does well, and where water can be obtained for partial irrigation the growth and yield of all kinds of crops is immense. Parts of Beaver County are remarkably well adapted to the successful growing of apples. Thousands of people can find good homes on these lands.

Enid district.—There are but 3,100 acres of land unoccupied in Grant and Garfield counties, the good lands having been mostly taken up in 1893, and being now under profitable cultivation.

Perry district.—The good lands are about all occupied. Pawnee County has 2,686 acres and Noble County 217 acres vacant, some of which is good grazing and fruit land.

Mangum district (Greer County).—Greer County was long considered a part of Texas, but was given to Oklahoma by a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States March 16, 1896, and was by Congress at once created a separate land district with a land office at Mangum and a provision for throwing the unoccupied lands open to settlement early in 1897.

H. D. McKnight, register of the land office, writes of the district as follows:

This land district contains in round numbers 1,372,666 acres. In June we disposed of 18,320 acres, leaving 1,354,346 acres open to settlement July 1. It is estimated that there are 2,000 preference-right settlers in the county who are entitled to 320 acres each, which will take 640,000 acres and leave 732,666 acres open to homestead settlement with only the land-office fees to pay to secure 160 acres.

Persons who are not preference-right settlers can file at any time by making affidavit that the land applied for is not claimed by a preference-right settler, and the majority of those who have filed have done so in this way. Greer is one of the best counties in Oklahoma, and the soil is well suited for corn, cotton, wheat, and oats, but almost anything will grow and produce in abundance if put in the ground and tended as it should be, regardless of the statements that this is only a grazing country. I never saw such crops anywhere as are grown in this county this year. Wheat has averaged 25 bushels to the acre and oats three times as much. Corn and cotton look fine.

All laws are enforced and the people are unusually law abiding. There is not one person in our jail and has not been since the May term of court, and but one man under bond. I never saw better people in my life than live in this county.

Thousands of the homeless people of the States will undoubtedly find comfortable and prosperous homes on these vacant lands in the Territory, and I hope that all that are available will be speedily taken up.

SCHOOL LANDS.

There are about 2,300 sections of common school, college, and public-building lands in the Territory, exclusive of Greer County. Sections 16 and 36 in each township were set apart by act of Congress for the benefit of common schools. Indemnity lands, 101,000 acres in the Kickapoo country and about 23,000 acres in Woodward County, have been selected in lieu of sections 16 and 36 in the Osage, Ponca, Otoe, and Missouri reservations, the eastern, middle, and western saline reserves and deficiencies on account of fractional townships, etc., and are nearly all leased.

In Pawnee, Noble, Kay, Grant, Garfield, Woods, and Woodward counties, commonly called the "Strip," sections 13 and 33 are reserved, the former for the use of the agricultural college at Stillwater, the normal at Edmond, and the university at Norman, and the latter for the erection of public buildings.

East of range 14 west of the Indian meridian these lands are leased by the quarter section, limiting each lessee to one-quarter, at an average yearly rental of about \$35, leases limited to three years. Lessees desiring to renew their leases are given preference rights upon certain conditions, and are amply protected in their improvements.

West of range 14 west the lands are leased principally by the section for grazing purposes, the minimum price being \$33 a year per section, and in Beaver County \$20 per section. Counting by quarters, there are in all about 6,000 quarters leased, or nearly two-thirds of the entire amount outside of Greer County.

There are many quarter sections of good agricultural land still unleased which will make very desirable homes for new settlers, and the system of transfer of leases enables persons to buy out lessees on excellent improved quarters, often with growing crops thereon, and secure comfortable homes on productive farms at a very low figure.

The school-land department is well organized, transacting a very large amount of business in a most expeditious manner. In addition to arranging all the leases, collecting rentals, and making transfers of leases, this department looks after the appraising of the improvements on the lands, furnishes to all inquirers lists of vacant lands and full information as to the method of leasing, transfer, etc., transacting a greater amount of business than any other department of the Territory.

It is estimated that 300 new leases will be made at the public leasing to be had this fall, and that nearly, if not all of the old lessees whose leases expire the present year will renew. It is the intention to commence leasing not later than January next in Greer County, where four sections in each township have been reserved for common schools, colleges, and public buildings.

Your attention is respectfully called to the subjoined tables and statements, showing receipts and expenditures, apportionment, and net proceeds for each year from June 30, 1891, to June 30, 1897, amount of notes on hand, etc.

Receipts and expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1897.

On hand June 30, 1896.....	\$42, 916. 48	
Received from June 30, 1896, to June 30, 1897.....	108, 902. 84	
	<hr/>	\$151, 819. 32
Expenses for the year.....	9, 796. 06	
To treasurer.....	137, 924. 18	
Returned to applicants.....	638. 97	
Balance on hand.....	3, 460. 11	
	<hr/>	151, 819. 32

Receipts and expenditures of each fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897.

COMMON SCHOOL.

Cash received.....		\$80, 447. 31
Expenses.....	\$6, 871. 66	
Returned to applicants.....	358. 05	
Net proceeds.....	73, 217. 60	
	<hr/>	80, 447. 31

COLLEGE.

Cash received.....		13, 528. 51
Expenses.....	1, 461. 82	
Returned to applicants.....	129. 08	
Net proceeds.....	11, 937. 61	
	<hr/>	13, 528. 51

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Cash received.....		14, 927. 02
Expenses.....	1, 462. 58	
Returned to applicants.....	151. 84	
Net proceeds.....	13, 312. 60	
	<hr/>	14, 927. 02

Total net proceeds.....		98, 467. 81
-------------------------	--	-------------

Net proceeds from leasing school lands.

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
June 30, 1895.....	88, 627. 97
June 30, 1896.....	71, 740. 68
June 30, 1897.....	98, 467. 81
Total	350, 470. 37

School fund apportionment to counties, 81 cents per capita of school population.

Beaver.....	\$798. 27	Logan.....	\$6, 425. 46
Blaine.....	2, 427. 99	Noble.....	2, 274. 60
Canadian.....	3, 618. 57	Oklahoma.....	5, 272. 56
Cleveland.....	4, 038. 75	Pawnee.....	2, 558. 24
Custer.....	1, 406. 58	Payne.....	4, 280. 85
D.....	713. 73	Pottawatomie.....	4, 827. 36
Day.....	179. 07	Roger Mills.....	553. 35
Garfield.....	3, 933. 03	Washita.....	1, 792. 50
Grant.....	3, 518. 31	Woods.....	6, 240. 72
Greer.....	2, 070. 57	Woodward.....	991. 04
Kay.....	3, 041. 93	Total	71, 722. 53
Kingfisher.....	4, 869. 30		
Lincoln.....	4, 914. 15		

Notes on hand.

COLLEGE.

When due.	Number.	Amount.
December, 1894.....	6	\$280. 00
December, 1895.....	42	1, 328. 51
October, 1896.....	9	218. 50
December, 1896.....	168	6, 496. 14
October, 1897.....	152	4, 757. 75
December, 1897.....	188	8, 056. 27
October, 1898.....	144	4, 718. 60
December, 1898.....	27	2, 243. 00
October, 1899.....	92	2, 871. 30
December, 1899.....	27	2, 243. 00
December, 1900.....	1	33. 00
December, 1901.....	1	33. 00
Total		33, 278. 07

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

December, 1894.....	4	\$62. 33
December, 1895.....	51	1, 766. 68
October, 1896.....	15	391. 00
December, 1896.....	175	7, 083. 90
October, 1897.....	190	5, 898. 02
December, 1897.....	178	7, 596. 97
October, 1898.....	179	5, 855. 24
December, 1898.....	33	2, 209. 00
October, 1899.....	118	3, 503. 55
December, 1899.....	38	2, 209. 00
December, 1900.....	2	66. 00
December, 1901.....	2	66. 00
Total		36, 707. 69

Notes on hand—Continued.

COMMON SCHOOLS.

When due.	Number.	Amount.
January, 1892.....	14	\$755.22
April, 1892.....	16	485.40
December, 1892.....	30	845.15
January, 1893.....	33	1,457.00
April, 1893.....	22	574.90
December, 1893.....	94	2,710.75
Miscellaneous.....	13	291.00
January, 1894.....	39	1,732.75
April, 1894.....	20	591.90
December, 1894.....	275	10,480.82
October, 1895.....	67	1,375.72
December, 1895.....	445	19,531.11
October, 1896.....	501	14,361.55
December, 1896.....	499	24,067.65
October, 1897.....	2,163	71,450.33
December, 1897.....	192	10,354.01
October, 1898.....	1,884	66,251.73
December, 1898.....	54	6,093.74
October, 1899.....	1,526	52,965.78
December, 1899.....	49	5,898.75
October, 1900.....	2	66.00
December, 1900.....	3	99.00
October, 1901.....	1	33.00
December, 1901.....	1	33.00
Total		292,485.97
Total notes on hand June 30, 1897		362,471.73

BANKS AND BANKING.

Oklahoma's banking interests are in a prosperous condition. There are in the Territory five national and forty-nine Territorial or private banks. The last legislature passed an act for the regulation and control of the Territorial and private banks, compelling all to become incorporated, providing for regular reports and an annual examination by a Territorial bank examiner, which office was created by the act.

The first reports of the condition of the forty-nine Territorial banks made to the examiner summarize as follows:

<i>Territorial bank statement.</i>	
Resources:	
Loans and discounts.....	\$1,096,470.36
Overdrafts by solvent customers.....	70,514.05
Other bonds, stock, and script.....	100,573.68
Expenses and taxes paid.....	50,225.65
Real estate at present cash market value and furniture and fixtures.....	202,398.80
Cash and sight exchange.....	743,756.09
Other resources.....	30,325.01
Total	2,294,263.64
Liabilities:	
Capital stock paid in.....	613,328.70
Surplus fund on hand and undivided profits.....	165,847.01
Certificates of deposit.....	114,129.36
Deposits subject to draft by other banks, individuals, and others.....	1,365,020.33
Bills payable.....	15,938.24
Total	2,294,263.64

Nearly all of the forty-nine banks have been examined, and in each case the reserve has been found to be far in excess of that required by law. The minimum cash reserve allowed by law is 15 per cent. The actual reserve is 51 per cent. Practically all these deposits are owned

by farmers and business men. Examiner Pugh says the deposits have increased 25 per cent in the last two months, which goes to show that the farmers and business men are getting on a cash basis and are enjoying bank accounts. This is a remarkable showing for so young a Territory, where everything has been taken out of the earth in from four to eight years.

NATIONAL BANK STATEMENT.

The reports of the five national banks made to the Comptroller of Currency summarize as follows:

Resources:

Loans and discounts.....	\$267, 250. 77
Overdrafts	7, 774. 91
United States bonds to secure circulation.....	62, 500. 00
Premium on United States bonds.....	2, 250. 00
Stock securities, etc.....	78, 842. 41
Buildings, furniture, and fixtures.....	44, 300. 00
Other real estate and mortgages.....	4, 375. 00
Due from other national banks.....	80, 803. 55
Due from State and private banks.....	11, 588. 59
Due from approved reserve agents.....	200, 120. 63
Checks and other cash items.....	3, 240. 40
Exchanges for clearing house.....	300. 34
Notes of other national banks.....	24, 225. 00
Cash.....	75, 358. 37
Five per cent redemption fund.....	2, 812. 50
Total.....	<u>866, 042. 47</u>

Liabilities:

Capital stock paid in.....	250, 000. 00
Surplus fund.....	32, 800. 00
Undivided profits less expenses.....	8, 411. 23
National bank notes outstanding.....	54, 610. 00
Due to other national banks.....	2, 674. 48
Due to State and private banks and bankers.....	32, 434. 31
Due to approved reserve agents.....	1, 876. 39
Individual deposits.....	483, 236. 06
Total.....	<u>866, 042. 00</u>

These reports all show a large increase of deposits and of cash on hand over a year ago, and the receipts from the sale of crops within the next ninety days will greatly augment the deposits above the present figures.

BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS.

Oklahoma's law provides thoroughly for the organization, management, and encouragement of building and loan associations, but owing to the cramped financial condition of many localities in the past but few associations have been organized, there being one each at Guthrie, Shawnee, Norman, and Pawnee. All these associations are flourishing and paying good semi-annual dividends. The Guthrie association, which has been in existence six years, has nearly \$150,000 of the capital subscribed, about one-third of which is paid up, and has made about 120 loans, almost every one meaning the construction of a new home to be owned by the borrower.

The dividends the first four years exceeded 24 per cent per annum; the past two years have been about 13 per cent per annum. Other cities are considering the question of organizing associations, which should be in every community, as no other means are as effectual in building up a city and adding to its permanency.

RAILROADS AND TELEGRAPH.

Oklahoma has within her boundaries 475 miles of railway, about 20 miles of which were built the past year—the Hutchinson and Southern, from Manchester to Medford, and the Air Line, from Tecumseh to Shawnee, the latter line being built and operated by enterprising citizens of Tecumseh.

Many new lines are projected in the Territory, and it seems reasonably sure that a line will be built during the year from Sapulpa or thereabouts southwest through Oklahoma; that the Hutchinson and Southern will extend southeast from Medford and the Choctaw west from Elreno.

All of the railway, express, and telegraph companies operating in the Territory report largely increased business the past few months.

Deep water at Galveston, Port Arthur, and other Texas points has resulted in lower freight rates and a consequent increase in the price of farm products. The one thing needed is a cultivation of closer trade relations with these Texas ports, which would result in the railways carrying loaded cars each way instead of but Gulfward, and bring a still further reduction of freight rates.

The Western Union Telegraph Company has offices at all the cities and towns on the railways, and the principal inland towns are connected by telephone with each other and the railway and telegraph stations.

MANUFACTURING.

Comparatively little has been done toward developing manufacturing industries in Oklahoma during the years of formative period, though within the past year more attention has been given to this subject. Oklahoma flour took first premium at the World's Fair and is well known in all the markets of the Southwest. Nearly every town of any importance has one or more good flouring mills, six or eight having been erected during the past year. Canning factories are running at Guthrie, Oklahoma City, and Alva, and the immense fruit crop of the Territory would make them profitable enterprises at many other points. Five distilleries have been started in the Territory for the manufacture of peach brandy, and two creameries are being successfully operated, with movements on foot to start several others. The product of these creameries finds a ready market at a good price, and a half dozen more would be paying industries.

A cotton-seed-oil mill paid over 25 per cent dividend the past year at Norman, and a score of cotton gins scattered over the Territory were run to their utmost capacity. Cotton compresses are being put in at Elreno and Tecumseh, and the number of cotton gins in the Territory will be more than trebled this year.

At Shawnee the Choctaw railway shops are nearing completion. Oklahoma City and Elreno have iron foundries and Guthrie a bicycle factory. Every town has its local newspaper and printing plants, and at Guthrie there are two book-binding and manufacturing establishments in connection with printing plants employing an average of forty people each the year round.

Oklahoma City has a vinegar and yeast works. At Newkirk a cement works has been located. Near Okeene salt is being manufactured for the market, while nearly every town has its local carriage works, planing mill, brickyards, and stone quarries.

AGRICULTURE.

After all, it is upon the tiller of the soil and the results of his labors that the real progress and prosperity of the entire Territory rests; agriculture and her handmaiden horticulture are the mainstays of any prairie community.

Oklahoma's progress in agriculture has been in keeping with her advance in all things, and this year she comes before the people with the greatest crop of grains and other products ever raised upon an equal area of land.

The partial failures of the farmers the first few years in Oklahoma were due more from a failure to plant the right thing at the right time than from any lack of rain or fault of the climate. Few settlers realized how far South they had come, how great was the difference of seasons, and how differently must the crops be raised. Each year they have learned better how to farm successfully in this latitude, until this year the efforts seem all to have been crowned with success and a crop record made which astonishes the world.

WHEAT.

Farmers have generally been successful in raising wheat in the Territory, and an extra large acreage put in last fall, with a winter and spring favorable to its growth and development, produced a crop this year that is really marvelous in its magnitude. The total yield of the Territory will surely reach 20,000,000 bushels or over, and enough has already been thrashed to show yields per acre that are almost beyond belief. The harvest began in May, and early in June Oklahoma was marketing train loads of wheat.

Few fields fall below 18 bushels per acre, while the general average is undoubtedly in excess of 25 bushels. Fields of 100 acres or more yielded as high as 34 bushels per acre straight through, and many smaller tracts ran to 40 and 45 bushels.

At the experiment station at Stillwater several varieties went over 50 bushels per acre, and a well-authenticated yield is reported from Kay County of 4 acres running 55 bushels per acre.

Many yields of from 40 to 46 and 48 bushels are reported on the best of authority, and the buyers and mill men report the wheat so well filled as to overrun in weight from 4 to 8 pounds per bushel. Kay County is the banner wheat county of the Territory, and in passing through it it seemed as though the whole county was one vast wheat field.

A visitor who climbed to the court-house tower in Newkirk, the county seat, on June 30, counted 1,960 wheat stacks and 186 straw stacks within a radius of 6 miles. In the southern part of the county G. W. Miller has his famous 2,500-acre wheat field, and across the river, in the Osage country, 600, 800, and 1,000 acre wheat fields are common.

A Logan County farmer paid off an \$800 mortgage and built a new home with his wheat crop. A Nebraska man bought a Garfield County farm for \$600 in March and realized \$900 from the wheat growing on it. A Blaine County man who tried to sell out and took a \$25 deposit last fall, bought seed wheat with the money after the would-be purchaser had backed out, and sold \$500 worth of wheat this summer.

The Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railway, which shipped out 297 cars of wheat last year, is preparing to handle 2,000 cars this year, and the other railways expect a proportionate increase in their business.

The long, pleasant fall for sowing, the mild winter, the early harvest, and the long, dry summer in which to thrash and market grain, with no cost for storing, makes Oklahoma the wheat-growers' paradise.

OATS.

The acreage was not unusually large this year, but the yield ran from 60 to 75 bushels to the acre and often higher.

CORN.

Oklahoma raises millions of bushels of corn, but she markets the greater part of it in the form of hogs and cattle. The average yield in bottom lands last year was from 50 to 60 bushels per acre, on upland 40, with many special fields running 80 to 90 bushels. The acreage this year is larger than last, and the prospect is good for a large crop. All eastern Oklahoma is a good corn country, and when fed to hogs and cattle for market there is no better or more profitable crop.

KAFIR CORN.

This product, with its kindred grains, milo maize, Jerusalem corn, dhuso corn, etc., is little known throughout the country at large. A native of the hot and burning sands of Kafir Land in Africa, it was introduced experimentally in the semi-arid sections less than a decade since, and has proved an inestimable boon to the farmer and the stock raiser of the entire West. Three years ago, when the long dry spell cut the wheat short and killed the young corn, the farmers planted largely of Kafir corn up to as late as July 10, and reaped an abundant harvest, giving them an abundance of grain and fodder for their live stock.

Growing luxuriantly in the driest of seasons, providing an abundance of rich fodder and a large bunch head of grain which resembles somewhat a grain of rice, and is thrashed out like wheat in a separator, this new product presents to the farmers of the Territory a resource which never fails.

It produces from 50 to 75 bushels per acre, can be planted early or late, on new or old ground, and is the very best of feed for cattle, horses, hogs, and poultry.

Thrashed and ground, it makes a meal superior to ordinary corn meal, makes cakes superior to buckwheat, excellent corn bread and gems, and ground into flour makes sweet and palatable light bread, though of a dark color. The crop last year was abundant, and it has been planted largely this year.

CASTOR BEANS.

Oklahoma last year marketed 150,000 bushels of castor beans, and will grow more than double that amount this year. They grow readily, are easily cared for, bring \$1 per bushel, and are a profitable crop.

COTTON.

There is a lively contest in Oklahoma this year between wheat, corn, and cotton as to which is supreme. A few years ago it was emphatically stated that Oklahoma could not raise cotton. The colored people who had come in from the South and had spent their lives in raising the fleecy staple persisted in planting it, however, and, finally finding the variety best suited to this country, showed to their incredulous white neighbors that cotton was a paying crop in this Territory. The increase

in the amount raised has been very rapid since then. Last year Oklahoma marketed about 40,000 bales, but the acreage and condition of the cotton at this time insures a crop three times as large this year.

Lincoln County is the banner cotton county of the Territory, the acreage there this year being about 90,000.

Cotton in Oklahoma produces on an average from one-half to three-fourths of a bale to the acre, and the ease of marketing and the ready cash buyers always on hand make it a very desirable crop. To the man with a large family it is the ideal thing to grow upon 10 or 20 acres, as boys and girls down to a very tender age can pick cotton as well as a man. Even while cotton growing was in an experimental stage in the Territory Oklahoma cotton took first premium at the World's Fair, and it has since been rated high in the markets of the world.

WATERMELONS.

By the first of July of each year Oklahoma begins to market her melon crop, and before the month is out they are going by the car load to all the cities of the North and East. Several hundred cars were shipped out last year, and the crop will be much larger this year. The home consumption of melons is enormous, as the low price at which they sell puts them within the reach of all. A 40-pound melon can be bought most any day for a nickel, and 60, 70, and 80 pound ones are not uncommon. Several are reported in last year's crop that tipped the scales at 110 pounds.

HAY.

During the year the Territory has marketed thousands of tons of prairie hay in addition to supplying the home consumption. Alfalfa is proving very profitable, producing from two to four crops a season. Clover does well, and timothy is being successfully started in some sections.

OTHER PRODUCTS.

There are many other products of the Oklahoma farms which are finding their way to market. A considerable quantity of excellent broom corn was marketed the past year. Some flax is grown, and rye and barley are raised to a limited extent, both producing well.

Oklahoma this year marketed a dozen carloads or more of early potatoes at a time when prices were very high in the North. Sweet potatoes produce 200 bushels and over per acre, and are of excellent quality.

STOCK RAISING.

Her vast expanse of plains carpeted with luxuriant grasses, an abundant supply of fresh water, long summers and short, mild winters, and an almost complete immunity from many of the diseases of domestic animals makes Oklahoma a paradise for stock raisers. Cattle and hogs take the lead, though some attention is being paid each year to horses and sheep, and poultry forms no inconsiderable item in the products of the Territory.

The western third of the Territory is devoted very largely to cattle raising, and upon the great areas of virgin prairie many thousands of head of cattle pasture the year round. This industry is not devoted to the west alone, however, for great herds are fattened on the Indian reservations in the east and south, and every farmer has cattle of his own preparing for market, and sells his surplus corn and "roughness" to Texas feeders shipped in to fatten in the winter.

In Woodward, Beaver, D, Day, Mills, and Greer counties, the cattle interests predominate. The cattlemen in that part of the Territory are members of the Oklahoma Live Stock Association, which looks well after the interests of its members by maintaining three inspectors at Oklahoma points, and hopes to maintain its own inspector in the Kansas City market the coming year.

The annual convention of this association is held on the second Tuesday in February each year, and is attended by hundreds of people from outside the Territory, affording opportunity for trading and investment that can not be overestimated.

At the last session of the legislature laws were enacted for the special protection and encouragement of cattle growers west of range 14 west of the Indian meridian. The board of regents of the Territorial Agricultural and Mechanical College was constituted a live-stock sanitary commission, with authority to make and enforce rules and regulations governing the care of live stock, importation, shipment, quarantine, etc. The law provides for a force of three regular inspectors, the inspection of pastures, pens, and cars, and the examination of all cattle killed for domestic consumption, and under it a rigid system of inspection and protection has been inaugurated and the Territorial quarantine line maintained in every instance. There has been but little splenic or Texas fever among cattle in this Territory this year, and as all suspicious cases are rigidly quarantined there is no apprehension that it will get a serious foothold here.

W. E. Bolton, secretary of the Oklahoma Live Stock Association, writes of western Oklahoma: "The range grass is better than for several seasons, and in consequence cattle are in fine condition; * * * the outlook for better grades, better care, and greater profits per head, with less winter kill and invasion by disease, is attracting attention to Oklahoma as never before."

Horses are gradually bringing a better price, and a better grade of animals are being produced. Many fine speed horses have gone out from the Territory, and several prominent Eastern horsemen have purchased and leased land in Woods County for horse ranches.

Hogs do well in every part of Oklahoma, and the number shipped from every railway station is large, but the great hog-raising section is in the wooded lands in Pawnee, Payne, Lincoln, and Pottawatomie counties, where the mast and nuts form a large part of their sustenance. Cholera and other diseases are little known where proper care and food are given, and by the aid of alfalfa and other pasture a minimum amount of grain is needed and the maximum degree of profit is reached.

During the year the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company carried out of the Territory 2,226 cars of cattle and 1,400 cars of hogs; the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific road 270 cars of cattle and 467 cars of hogs, and the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf road 107 cars of cattle and 267 cars of hogs, making a total of 2,603 cars of cattle and 2,134 cars of hogs shipped out during the year.

With the exception of several large herds in the western grazing counties, there are few sheep in Oklahoma. They do not thrive so well on the native wild grasses, but will clear out underbrush and weeds clean, and do finely where they can have some tame grass with roughness and a little grain, the absence of cold or wet weather being favorable to them.

Poultry raising has not received the attention it merits, as with scarcely a day in the year in which they can not run at large and no extreme cold weather they can be raised at great profit and with but little care. Even now the Territory is marketing eggs by the carload.

HORTICULTURE.

Time has proved Oklahoma to be a fruit country, and her fruits will this year be seen on the markets of the nation.

R. Kleiner, president of the Oklahoma County Horticultural Association, in a report to this office, after telling of the agricultural advantages of the Territory, says:

Oklahoma's future lies in its horticultural capacity. There can be no further doubt as to the success of fruit growing in this Territory. Five successive crops of peaches have been gathered from orchards that have been planted above the late frost line in spring, and the fruit is not surpassed anywhere east of the Rocky Mountains in size, flavor, and color; specimens of 9 to 10½ inches in circumference are common. All pit fruit has done well. The Japan varieties of plums are doing exceedingly well, giving extraordinary yields of fine-flavored and large-sized fruit. Apricots and cherries are giving satisfaction, as are all pit fruits.

Apples and pears have not come into full bearing, but from present indications there need be no fear of failure, and the orchardists are jubilant at the prospects before them. The standard varieties, such as the Missouri Pippin, Winesap, Jonathan, Ben Davis, Romanite, and many others, are now reasonably loaded with large and very fine fruit of first-class market qualities.

With a few exceptions every variety of grapes are surprising the owners of vineyards with an extraordinary yield of the very best quality of grapes. In well-tilled vineyards 20 pounds of grapes to the vine is about an average, and 600 vines to the acre will give this year a prospective yield of 6 tons to the acre.

Our climate is especially adapted to the perfect maturing of grapes, which is a great advantage in the manufacture of wine. Wine made from Oklahoma grapes will mature very soon, and is pronounced by experts to be equal to the best California or French imported wines. A very large proportion of the Territory is adapted to the culture of grapes.

With a judicious selection of location, soil, and varieties, the intelligent horticulturists are bound in the near future to push this Territory to the front as a fruit-growing country, and supply and contribute a large share to the wants of the Northern and Eastern States.

OKLAHOMA PEACHES.

Up to this time peaches have been the principal fruit crop of the Territory, and the yield has been such in quantity and quality that Oklahoma can well rest her reputation as a fruit-producing section upon them alone.

The crop of peaches last fall was large, and many were shipped to outside markets, though the demand from the newer portions of the Territory consumed much of the surplus crop. This year the Territory will ship several hundred carloads to the markets North and East, and even to points in the South. The earliest varieties ripen here the first part of June, and heavy shipments are already being made to city markets.

At the Territorial fair in Guthrie last October many specimens of both clings and freestones weighing from 8 to 14 ounces and measuring from 9 to 12 inches in circumference were shown, and the Oklahoma peaches shipped to market have attracted attention, both for size and flavor, and will undoubtedly supplant the California fruits in many places.

APPLES.

Apple orchards are beginning to bear and those borne on young trees last year were a guaranty of the success of apple growing here. All the orchards are loaded this year with every indication of a good crop. Many magnificent specimens of standard varieties were shown at the Territorial fair.

GRAPES.

Grapes of almost every kind, including the celebrated Mission grapes, and several varieties of raisins do well here, and the crop this year will reach thousands of tons.

Considerable wine was made last year and much more will be made this. A number of growers report net proceeds of from \$50 to \$80 an acre from grapes.

BERRIES.

Strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries do well and the acreage is large in every county.

OTHER FRUITS.

Pears are coming into bearing for the first this year and look fine. Cherries do well. A Logan County farmer sold \$1,000 worth from an orchard bearing for the first time this year.

All kinds of plums are doing well, the Japan varieties bearing so prolifically as to astonish all fruit men.

German prunes have been planted quite largely and produce abundantly, and at Edmond and Lexington are almond trees well loaded this season.

The number of all kinds of fruit trees already planted in the Territory is enormous. The present growing orchards would alone in a few years make this one of the greatest fruit sections in the country, and new orchards are being laid off and planted on every side at a rate that will double the acreage of orchards within the next two years.

Good nurseries have been established in the leading counties, so that no fruit grower need go outside the Territory to buy his trees.

IRRIGATION.

Comparatively little has been done in the way of testing and developing irrigation in the Territory. The results obtained where plants have been put in have been highly satisfactory.

The legislature at its last session passed a complete irrigation act, defining water rights, providing for the construction and maintenance of canals, ditches, etc.

Many farmers are successfully irrigating small tracts of fruit and vegetables from wells and ponds, and at several points the water is being pumped from streams by windmills or gasoline engines, the net returns in almost every case the first year more than paying for the entire outlay for machinery and ditches as well as paying a good profit in addition.

The constant blowing breezes of Oklahoma makes lifting water from wells, ponds, or streams by windmills a cheap and sure method of irrigation for small tracts, and the striking of artesian water near Augusta, Woods County, opens new possibilities along the line of successful irrigation of larger areas.

Some farmers who have irrigated fruit tracts report one flooding to have made sure a crop that would otherwise have failed for lack of rain at the right time, and in every case has the crop been greatly increased in quantity and improved in quality over that of unirrigated tracts in the same locality.

MINERALS.

Many people believe that rich mineral deposits underlie large portions of Oklahoma. But, owing chiefly to the fact that no title to lands can be obtained in the Indian reservations and that under the laws of Congress opening Oklahoma to settlement all lands are declared to be

agricultural and therefore the mineral laws of the United States do not apply, little if any effort has been made to develop our mineral resources.

This subject will therefore be more properly dealt with and more fully referred to under the heading of undeveloped resources.

UNDEVELOPED RESOURCES

Few States in the Union have greater undeveloped resources than Oklahoma.

As a matter of course her greatest resources are in her agricultural, horticultural, and stock-raising possibilities, but a careful investigation will show many other resources. At very many places in the Territory there are indications of coal. At several points along the eastern side have good veins been found, and at Ralston and Osage City, in Pawnee County, a fairly good quantity of coal has been mined for months.

At Pawhuska, in the Osage Nation, two test wells have produced petroleum of superior grade, while there are many indications of oil at other places in the reservation, and also in Payne and Pawnee counties, and the Kaw and Comanche reservations in the southwest.

Nearly every county has good building stone; in Kay County are some of the best flagging quarries in the West, and in the Wichita Mountains are inexhaustible supplies of granite. Natural cement beds have been opened at Okarche, Canadian County, and Newkirk, Kay County, while the gypsum piled up in great blocks at places in Blaine County would supply the United States with plaster.

Several of the streams are strongly impregnated with salt, and near Okarche, Blaine County, are salt springs with a remarkably strong percentage of salt, where the best salt is now manufactured in large quantities by simple evaporation. In Woods and Woodward counties are saline reserves of many thousands of acres which for a large part of the year are covered with a coat of pure salt glistening white in the sun like fields of snow.

In the northeastern part of the Territory and in the Wichita Mountains in the southwest there are good indications of iron and zinc, and iron ore is found in several different localities. There have been rumors of rich gold fields in the Wichita Mountains for years, and within a few months gold and silver have been mined on a paying basis in the Navajoe Mountains, in Greer County. A rich deposit of asphaltum is reported near Fort Sill.

In Oklahoma's great fruit yield are large possibilities for canning factories and preserve establishments. In her cotton yield openings for cotton and oil mills and numerous other resources, as yet undeveloped, will in time make successful factories of various kinds a component part of the progress and prosperity of our coming State.

INDIANS.

There are in the Territory at this time 12,631 Indians, under the care of five different agencies, the number of each tribe being as follows:

OSAGE AGENCY.

Osages	1,750	Kaws	215
--------------	-------	------------	-----

WHITE EAGLE AGENCY.

Poncas	596	Otoes	354
Pawnees	702	Tonkawas	55

SAC AND FOX AGENCY.

Sac and Fox.....	495	Pottawatomies.....	780
Iowas.....	86	Kickapoos.....	355
Shawnees.....	493		

DARLINGTON AGENCY.

Cheyennes.....	2,089	Arapahoes.....	1,005
----------------	-------	----------------	-------

KIOWA AGENCY.

Kiowas.....	1,105	Apache.....	197
Comanches.....	1,526	Wichita and affiliated tribes.....	958

The Tonkawas, Pawnees, Sacs and Foxes, Iowas, Pottawatomies, Shawnees, Kickapoos, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes, who have taken their land in severalty and had the balance thrown open to settlement, are making the greatest progress. A large majority of them live on their allotments, and during the past year have engaged more or less in farming. Many have harvested a good acreage of wheat, and have corn and cotton and potatoes out, with excellent prospects.

The other tribes who live upon reservations have not made so much progress, but all are moving up gradually in the scale of civilization and progress.

A law passed by the last legislature, through the instrumentality of Major Woodson, agent of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe tribes, prohibits further plural marriages, and another prohibits the practices of Indian medicine men, both of which are having beneficial effects.

The different tribes are gradually giving up their dances and other savage rites, spending less time in wholesale visiting and riotous feasting, devoting more attention to farming and stock raising, and adopting the dress and the ways of civilization.

It is an encouraging sight to see Indians marketing grain, fruit, live stock, or wood, and this is becoming quite common.

A local paper writes that—

Standing Bird, a Cheyenne who was a "blanket Indian" five years ago, has this year raised and dug 30 bushels of Irish potatoes, has good fields of corn and Kafir corn, and has 4 acres of the finest cotton in Custer County.

Similar progress is being made by nearly all our Indians, and we are satisfied that allotment and civilized surroundings is the only solution of the Indian problem. All of our Indians should be given farms and surrounded by white farmers at the earliest practical moment, and the Indian problem will soon solve itself.

Recently, when a delegation of Osages came to visit the Pawnees for a dance and a feast, the latter tribe refused to participate, because of being too busy hauling wood to the agency to fill a contract made with the Government.

Maj. A. E. Woodson, agent of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, says of the condition and general progress of his tribe:

Under the allotment of land in severalty to these Indians in 1891 they were clothed with the rights of citizenship and entitled to all the rights and privileges of such. They were not at that time prepared for citizenship, and as a consequence their progress has been necessarily slow. It would, indeed, be a matter of surprise were it otherwise.

When it is remembered that the Cheyennes and Arapahoes were wild blanket Indians, frequently on the warpath, rendering life and property of the early settlers of western Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado at all times unsafe, their present peaceable, quiet disposition and compliance with the local laws enacted for the government of civilized people incites surprise and wonder. They now live in harmony side by side, maintaining amicable and friendly relations with their white neighbors, with whom they have shared the surplus land of their reservation.

With few exceptions they are localized and in permanent homes, and indicate as

much laudable pride in their individual possessions as their more fortunate white neighbors. With due allowance for their ignorance and inability to comprehend the force and effect of local laws, they are indeed a most law-abiding people. Fewer crimes are committed by them than by the white settlers of the Territory, and to their credit be it said they are more mindful of their pecuniary obligations than their more enlightened white brothers. They show a considerable desire to adopt civilized habits. The men, as a rule, wear citizens' clothing, which they preserve with care, always keeping one good suit for special occasions. The women cling to the shawl and squaw dress as more comfortable for wear while pursuing their daily avocations, but they are now relieved of much drudgery and toil once imposed upon them by the male members of the tribe, while the burden of the heaviest work is now borne, as it should be, by the stronger sex.

Under the progressive measures that have been enforced at this agency, many of the old tribal customs have been abrogated. Now it is rarely that forbidden practices are indulged in. They are subservient to the rules and regulations of the Department and the instructions of their agent, and are beginning to recognize the advantages of education for their children. The opposition once made to placing them in schools is fast disappearing.

Rapid advancement has been made among the progressive Indians of this agency, and marked improvement is apparent in their manner and habits over their condition of a few years ago.

A laudable desire to live in houses and to adopt the habits of the white man is becoming more evident. The women are less progressive.

The desire of these Indians to live in houses on their allotments has become so general, that proportionately a very limited number could be accommodated in this line during the past year. Seventy-four dwelling houses were erected on allotments during the year, at a total cost of \$6,696 to the Government, to which the sum of \$4,325 was contributed by the Indians out of their own private funds. They are generally 2-room houses, plastered or ceiled, containing 384 square feet of floor space, although several 3 and 4 room houses were erected by the most progressive ones. All of these houses are now occupied and a number of them are supplied with all necessary household furniture, and are as comfortable as most of those of their white neighbors. There are, moreover, a number of Indians who are prepared to build houses, but who, for want of materials, could not up to date be accommodated by me.

Capt. F. B. Baldwin, agent of the Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches, says of those tribes:

The Indians of this reservation have been advancing in all respects every day, and their prospects for the future are, in my opinion, very bright. They are doing more farming, raising more stock, and in every way following more and more civilized pursuits.

Contrary to the general belief that the Indians are rapidly becoming extinct, the records of the agencies show that in a majority of tribes during the past year the births in the tribe exceed the deaths.

But few real crimes are committed by the Indians of the Territory, and the courts or officers of the law have had but little trouble with them.

INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

No Indian lands have been opened to settlement during the past year. The people have watched anxiously the progress of making allotments in the Wichita Reservation, and waited in vain for some tidings of the opening of these fertile lands to settlement.

Thousands of people are anxious to obtain homes upon lands which are of no use or benefit to the Indians, and it does seem that the ends of justice and right would best be subserved by a speedy opening to settlement of the Wichita and affiliated tribes reservation, and also that of the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache tribes, both of which were treated for by the Government several years ago.

I respectfully urge such action by the Department as will lead to the settlement of the controversy as to the real title of these lands and the early throwing of them open to settlement under the homestead laws of the United States.

CLIMATE.

The rainfall during the past year has been much greater than for several years previous, and the abundant crops testify to its beneficial effects. For the first six months of 1897 the rainfall was 21.6 inches, as compared with 21.9 inches for the entire year of 1896.

The table given below, furnished by United States Weather Observer Widmeyer, of Oklahoma City, gives for the past six years interesting information as to the climatic conditions of Oklahoma during that time. It will be seen from the figures given that the extremes of heat and cold are not so great here as in many parts of the United States, and that the average temperature is very pleasant. Though the rainfall is adequate during almost every year, the number of cloudy days is very small.

The rainfall record, as given for a number of years at the Government fort stations, shows that the drought seasons are comparatively few. The averages at Forts Reno, Sill, and Supply are about fair for the driest portions of the Territory, at Gibson and Towson for the extreme eastern counties, and about an average of 35 inches for the central portion of the Territory.

The small amount of humidity in the atmosphere, the small number of rainy or cloudy days, the absence of great extremes, the cool nights, and almost constant breezes make of Oklahoma a desirable place of residence for invalids and those afflicted with lung troubles and rheumatism. Within the year many cases of cure or great improvement have been reported among invalids from the North and East from the influence of climate alone, and the strong salt waters of the Cimarron and Salt Fork rivers have been found as invigorating and health giving as sea or mineral baths.

Year.	Average temperature.	Maximum temperature.	Date.	Minimum temperature.	Date.	Relative humidity.	Prevailing wind direction.	Average hourly velocity.	Total rainfall.	Clear days.	Partly cloudy days.	Cloudy days.	Days with rain.	Average cloudiness.	Last killing frost in spring.	First killing frost in fall.
1891...	58.1	99	Aug. 20	10	Feb. 3	72	S. E.	9.3	37.48	168	122	75	112	4.1	Apr. 5	Oct. 7
1892...	58	98	July 21	a-11	Jan. 19	73	S. E.	9.1	42.29	179	103	84	110	4.1	Apr. 9	Oct. 25
1893...	59.1	101	Sept. 15	a-2	Jan. 19	68	S. E.	10	24.28	242	69	54	79	3	Apr. 21	Nov. 13
1894...	59.9	104	July 3	a-5	Jan. 24	66	S.	9.6	26.72	254	65	46	66	3	Mar. 29	Nov. 11
1895...	57	100	July 7	a-8	Feb. 7	73	S.	9.6	32.49	221	81	63	86	3.6	Mar. 21	Oct. 28
1896...	61	104	Aug. 1	11	Jan. 3	70	S.	9.7	21.90	233	79	55	78	3.6	Apr. 2	Nov. 7
Mean.	59.0	104	Aug. 1 1896.	-11	Jan. 19 1892.	70	S. E. +S.	9.6	30.85	216	86	63	88	3.6	Apr. 5	Oct. 29

a Below zero.

Fort Reno: Average of fourteen years' rainfall, 27.67 inches.

Fort Sill: Average of twenty-five years' rainfall, 29.82 inches.

Fort Supply: Average of twelve years' rainfall, 21.74 inches.

Fort Gibson: Average of twenty-nine years' rainfall, 36.55 inches.

Fort Towson: Average of twelve years' rainfall, 51.53 inches.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Fortunate indeed is any State that can give to her people material financial prosperity, and to that can add a climate and atmospheric condition that is health producing, invigorating, and free from any of the

deleterious, atmospheric, and climatic conditions that sometimes, even when great commercial prosperity exists, brings but sorrow through loss of health or life itself.

The time of which Professor Huxley spoke in one of his optimistic moments, "The time is coming when a friend meeting another in the street will as soon ask, 'Are you honest,' as are you well?" has not yet arrived. The loss to the State from the untimely death of her citizens is, from an economic point of view, at least worthy of contemplation. The State protects the property of her citizens, educates her children, and punishes crime. Are any of these things of more value than health? Health is a combination of wealth, happiness, and power; hence the State owes it to her own self-preservation as well as to her people to, so far as in her power lays, protect her citizens in the enjoyment of health.

Oklahoma is the "Sunny France" of America, and in many respects resembles that land. Its large proportion of days of sunshine, its porous soil and freedom from stagnant pools, its constant cooling breezes from the Gulf, which always tempers its otherwise hot days and nights, together with its abundant supply of pure water, all conduce to make it one of the most healthful spots in America.

The depressing influence of damp, cloudy days and foggy nights, common to many localities in the East, that are so injurious to health and trying to the sickly, are unknown here. The exposure, due to inclemency of weather, to wet, to sleet, to mud, so trying to those employed in out of door pursuits of the North, is much modified in our climate. Seed time and harvest are not so often interrupted, as is the case in many districts, by continuous rains or damp days that expose the husbandman to loss of time or health, as well as to part of the products of his toil. More or less sunshine bathes our land for nearly three hundred days in the year. No place between us and the Atlantic seaboard can give such exhilarating sun baths, such rare, dry, pure air as can be had almost daily during autumn and winter in Oklahoma.

With us epidemics of contagious diseases—diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, etc.—lose their force. When such have appeared under our climate and hygienic surroundings, they lack in virulence known to like epidemics in Northern and Eastern States.

Our dry air, free from disease-laden germs, our water supply, uncontaminated by the sewerage of large cities, make visitations of yellow fever, cholera, or kindred diseases from the South of but little danger to us.

To a large extent the malarial conditions and continued fevers that accompany the turning over of the soil of new land, which was prevalent during the first years of the settlement of the Territory, are rapidly passing away. Severe malarial diseases that once were so common along the streams have become mild in their type, and on upland are almost unknown at the present time.

Our public health laws are in accord with those of the most advanced States. Health boards or health officers exist in every county and town. Sanitary conditions are not neglected, although, as is doubtless true in all communities, it is possible not enough attention is being given to the enforcement of sanitary regulations and laws.

The Territorial board of health has supervision and control of the admission of all physicians to practice medicine. This board is endeavoring to keep out of the Territory ignorant and morally disqualified doctors. Persons not graduates of reputable medical colleges, or who are unable to pass a proper examination before the board of medical examiners are legally disqualified to practice medicine.

In 1896 the superintendent of public health requested the physicians of Oklahoma to answer a series of questions presented by him, among which occurred the following: "29. Is it your experience that consumptives from the States northeast, southeast, and east of us find relief on coming to Oklahoma?" Eighty per cent answered that "relief is obtained if subjects come here before the disease is too far advanced." A few had had no cases under observation, and a very few answered in the negative.

When we stop to consider that one-sixth of all deaths in the United States are from consumption, that upward of 150,000 die annually, the fact of any State presenting ameliorating conditions or conditions antagonistic to the development of this dread disease and of other lung troubles should and does add largely to its commercial advantage, as well as conduces much to the happiness and comfort of the homes of its citizens. In connection with this subject I would call attention to certain facts presented in a recent report by Dr. L. Haynes Buxton, superintendent of public health for Oklahoma. He says:

With the conditions of climate, soil, and days of sunshine that we have in Oklahoma, I know of no better land under the sun for the consumptive or person with lung trouble. The fact of such persons, with comfort, being able to be in the open air and sunshine a large percentage of all the days in the year, combined with our conditions of soil, temperature, prevailing and invigorating winds, is enough to give to those affected with pulmonary diseases all the chances of recovery that any climate can offer.

Other hygienic, sanitary, and economic problems sink into insignificance when we contemplate the question of control and prevention of that scourge which is worse than any epidemic of cholera or yellow fever in its mortality—the monster pulmonary consumption. As we write, the fleeing multitudes are passing by, hoping to evade the yellow fever in the South, which is but an infant aside of that plague which is constant in its insidious work, year by year grinding out the lives of its thousands, more relentless and unceasing in its force than the raging torrents of a Niagara.

The average death rate from pulmonary consumption per year in Minnesota is 1,277. In Michigan the number of deaths reach about 3,000; in New Hampshire, 1,000; Massachusetts, 5,500—and these figures do not tell all the tale. A closer scrutiny shows that in Minnesota 610 heads of families are among the victims. Six hundred and ten homes devastated! And if we add to the deaths from consumption those from pneumonia and bronchitis, not including many other minor lung troubles, we have a total of 2,565 persons lost to the State of Minnesota from three lung diseases alone. This is a fair picture compared with the figures given on page 60, Massachusetts Health Report, which gives 11,026 deaths from consumption and pneumonia alone. This report says: "It [consumption] is the most prominent and destructive cause of death." The Michigan State board of health reports: "Consumption is the most destructive disease; the number of persons dying annually from this cause in Michigan amounts to 3,000." The president of the New Hampshire board of health writes on this topic: "Tuberculosis is the most fatal disease known to civilized life. It is widespread in its destruction, and comes with such insidious tread that its footfall is unheard."

Therefore, again we say that it is not of small moment that a State can say, as can be said by Oklahoma: "We give to our citizens a chance for life against this monster furnace of disease that is destroying its millions yearly. We, to you who are already in danger, give a second hope for happiness, and to you who are now sound in body we will fold you in the dry, warm winds of our embrace and shield you from this danger. We will not banish you to desert, uninhabited plain; to bleak, barren mountain region, exiled from the sympathizing hand of humanity, but welcome you to our boundless, undulating prairies, dotted with churches and schoolhouses, and invite you to find employment and enjoyment, to eat of the bounty of our grain-laden fields, sit under your own vine and fig tree, and become one of our intelligent and prosperous citizens. While you wake, the dry air and sunshine shall guard you from the evils of disease, and when you sleep, if you please, under heaven's open canopy, the cool, ozone-laden breezes shall be your sentinel and fan your brow, invigorating your brain and body, and you will arise to a new day fully able to meet its requirements." This is Oklahoma.

Such mortality figures as are given above are ever an impossibility to this land. My observation has been that oftentimes puny, white, poorly nourished children brought to Oklahoma become plump and hearty.

This is largely due to two causes, the ability to stay in our sun-bathed open air nearly all the time and at any time they care to do so, and to improvement in digestion, due partly to the above and partly to the fact that a great variety of ripe fruit can be obtained as an article of diet during so many months of the year.

It is my opinion that the children of Oklahoma are better nourished, heavier in weight, than children of the same age in an Eastern State. From an extended practice in a Northern State and my observation from six years' practice in Oklahoma, I believe that there is less than one-half the per capita diseases of childhood here that existed in my former practice in the North.

Although we are in the South, yet our extremes of temperature compare favorably with many Northern States, and the severity of heat here is no greater than there. The maximum temperature for 1894 was the highest for the past six years in Oklahoma. Yet in the summer of 1894 (last report at hand) the maximum temperature for Iowa was, for June, 99°; July, 104°; August, 100°; while for Oklahoma it was, for June, 98°; July, 104°; August, 100°—the temperature record showing in favor of Oklahoma in June, and being the same for July and August.

Our winters are mild and not so exhausting to the vital forces of the aged as in the North. Seldom does our temperature reach zero.

A comparison again with Iowa shows mean average temperature for January for past six years: Iowa, 17°+, and for Oklahoma, 36°+.

LEGISLATION.

No vicious legislation has been enacted in this Territory. The fear somewhat generally entertained by investors of the East that populistic legislation inimical to the enforcement of contracts would find a home in Oklahoma is not founded upon sound and logical premises. The people of Oklahoma are as honest as those of any State in the Union, and no legislation is to be feared that will not scrupulously regard the proper enforcement of all lawful contracts.

Every legislature assembled in the Territory thus far has refused to enact proposed vicious legislation in regard to the proper enforcement of mortgage and usury laws, and all propositions against the interest of corporate investments have been uniformly defeated. Sufficient care in the preparation of legislation enacted has not been given, however, and in consequence many of our laws are crude and ambiguous in their text.

This state of affairs, however, is likely to continue to exist under the system prevailing here, and now generally in vogue in the States, of holding biennial sessions of the legislature, and those sessions limited to sixty days. Careful and perfect legislation can not be attained under this system. The record of four general assemblies demonstrates the fact that Oklahoma can be relied upon for the enactment of as wise and wholesome laws as in Michigan, Massachusetts, or any other State.

THE COURTS.

Owing to the many troubles arising out of claim and town-lot contests, and the uncertainty and conflict of the laws during the first few years of the Territory's existence, the courts have been burdened with an unusual amount of business, both civil and criminal, during the past few years, and the dockets were far behind in many counties.

There has been a great decrease in new business in all the district courts the past year, and the dockets have in many counties been practically cleared of the old cases that had dragged along for years.

Considerable business has accumulated in the supreme court, however, and the plan of having the district judges sit as a supreme court is

daily coming more into disfavor, both with the members of the bar and the litigants. Such a court can not give the requisite time and attention demanded by the many cases coming before the supreme court of so populous a Territory, as the judges must of necessity give almost their entire time and thought to their work in the district courts, and the disqualification of judges to participate in the decisions by the supreme court, arising from their participation in like cases on the district bench, frequently leaves the appellate court without a quorum.

Suggestion is made that the laws of Oklahoma, instead of those of Arkansas, as is now the case, be made applicable to affairs in the Indian Territory, and that a supreme court be established having jurisdiction over both Territories. In view of the logical and desirable union of these two Territories in one State, the creation of such a system of appellate jurisdiction seems altogether preferable to the present one.

CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS.

Territorial convicts are, under contract with the Territory, confined in the Kansas Penitentiary.

The total number confined on June 30, 1896, was 128. During the past year there have been 81 commitments and 61 discharges, which leave a total of 148 in confinement on June 30, 1897.

The expense to the Territory during the year has been, for—

Transportation of convicts.....	\$3,599.35
For care and keeping.....	12,905.00
	<hr/>
Making a total of.....	16,504.35

As the Territory grows in years crimes against the person and against property have decreased, so that there is no more law-abiding community on earth than Oklahoma. Mob violence has so far been unknown here, and the criminal laws have been and are strictly enforced in all parts of the Territory.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

No legislation has yet been enacted for the erection and establishment of public buildings except the educational institutions heretofore mentioned.

A fund, however, is gradually accumulating in the Territorial treasury, arising from the leasing of lands made applicable to such purposes, which fund now amounts to \$35,407.12. This fund, by the action of the late legislature, is invested in general fund Territorial warrants, thus saving to the Territory the interest that would otherwise accrue upon such warrant indebtedness.

The general sentiment prevails in the Territory that the permanent location and establishment of public buildings should be deferred until such time as the Territory becomes a State and the people have determined the location of the capital.

COUNTIES.

Under the provisions of an act passed by the legislature in 1895, the counties of the Territory are all now on a cash basis, being prohibited from making any contracts or incurring any indebtedness greater than 80 per cent of the tax levy for the current year. The debts created in the early history of all the counties by the expense of running a county government a year or more before any taxes could be collected have

nearly all been bonded. These bonds are the best of securities, and will be paid without in any way becoming burdensome, as the lands are proven up and the assessed valuation increases accordingly. In no instance has any county repudiated a single just debt, and county warrants command very near par on the market.

Several counties have in the past year purchased or erected court-houses, so that almost every county in the territory now owns its own court-house.

There are almost no paupers in the Territory, so that poor-houses and poor-farms are practically unknown, the counties being called upon to supply only temporary aid in cases of sickness and destitution, and that but rarely.

In almost every instance county expenses have been reduced the past year, though the high waters of the spring destroyed many bridges and roads and imposed a great expense upon several counties.

Owing to some irregularity in its first assessment, Greer County, that small empire lately added to our Territory, experienced some difficulty in carrying on the county affairs last year; but this year everything is in excellent condition there, and Greer promises soon to become one of the leading counties in the Territory.

In Grant, Kay, Custer, and Day counties the court-houses were accidentally destroyed by fire, but all have been or are being replaced.

CITIES.

The city governments of the Territory are all carried on with efficiency, and the cities, by an act of the last legislature, have all been placed on a cash basis under the same plan as the counties.

The principal cities have electric-light and waterworks plants, well improved streets, good sidewalks, and proper police and health regulations.

PHARMACY.

The practice of pharmacy is well regulated under the laws of the Territory, and a board of pharmacy controls the registration of pharmacists and the practice of the profession. None but duly qualified and competent pharmacists are permitted to practice in the Territory.

There are now 149 regular pharmacists registered in the Territory, representing 69 cities and towns, and 62 permits have been issued to doctors and merchants in the country and small towns where there are no registered pharmacists within reach.

DENTISTRY.

The practice of this profession is regulated by wise and wholesome Territorial laws. Strict examinations are required under rules adopted by a competent board of dental examiners for admission to practice in the Territory. There are forty-nine practicing dentists in the Territory.

LABOR SUPPLY.

The demand for labor in Oklahoma during the past year has been greater than at any time during the history of the Territory, and for the past three months has been much of the time in excess of the supply.

No man or woman need be idle in Oklahoma to-day, and the cotton planters already anticipate a shortage of help during the fall picking and are sending to neighboring States to engage cotton pickers.

The industrious laboring man willing to work at whatever is offered will find steady employment anywhere in Oklahoma at good living wages, and artisans and mechanics usually do well. There is a special demand in some parts of the Territory for good farm laborers.

OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD.

The total strength of the Oklahoma National Guard is 500 officers and enlisted men, with a complete regimental organization, composed of 12 companies of infantry and regimental band, located as follows:

Band and Company A at Guthrie, B at Alva, C at Oklahoma, D at Elreno, E at Ponca, F at Pawnee, G at Shawnee, H at Kingfisher, I at Perry, K at Newkirk, L at North Enid, M at Medford.

The band is fully equipped with both dress and undress uniforms and necessary instruments, and is a thoroughly efficient organization. Companies A, B, C, D, E, and F are fully equipped with the Springfield rifle, caliber .45, and undress uniform of the same pattern used in the Army. Companies G, H, K, and L are now being furnished with the same equipments, and with a liberal allotment from the Federal appropriation next year I and M can be equipped and the necessary tent equipage can also be purchased.

The personnel of the militia is of the best material among the young men of the Territory. The spirit of enthusiasm is all that can be desired, and the discipline will shortly be all that is necessary.

No occasion for placing the Territorial militia on active service has yet occurred, but the force as at present constituted may safely be relied upon for any ordinary emergency.

SOLDIERS' HOME.

There is a small tract of land in original Oklahoma, known as the Council Grove Reservation, which was reserved from settlement by Executive order because it was covered with a fine growth of good forest trees. The timber, however, had been used for many years to supply the military forces stationed at Fort Reno with fuel, and the land is now covered mostly by thick underbrush and stumps only, and it would probably cost more than it is worth to place it in suitable condition for farming. It would bring little or nothing into the Treasury if ordered to be sold, but it would be a grand gift to the Territory for the purpose of the establishment of a home for the aged and disabled veterans of the late war, who are coming more and more, year by year, to need the sheltering care of the Government.

The very large number of old soldiers in the Territory (aggregating fully 7,000) have petitioned Congress through their organization, the Grand Army of the Republic, for this land, to be used for the purpose mentioned, and I earnestly ask the good offices of the Administration to accomplish a consummation so devoutly to be wished.

FREE HOMESTEADS.

By acts of Congress opening lands to homestead settlement since 1889 settlers are required to pay for said lands at prices ranging from \$1 to \$2.50 per acre, in addition to the usual requirements as to settlement, cultivation, and residence. This abandonment of the Government policy of free homes for free men, which has prevailed for over forty years, is not favorably regarded by the settlers nor by the people

generally who have settled and builded the great empire States of the West.

The hardships endured and difficulties surmounted by our people in reducing these lands to the uses of civilization and the establishment of our homes upon them are, perhaps, somewhat varied in character from those of the pioneers of the Western States, but they were none the less severe and expensive. The people generally who have settled this Territory are as earnest, honest, intelligent, and as high-minded as those of any State in the Union, and, with a full knowledge and understanding of all the circumstances of the case, they earnestly demand that the old homestead laws be made to apply to all the lauds of Oklahoma, and that the laws requiring them to pay the Government a price for the same be repealed.

The enactment of such a law by Congress might well include a clause requiring settlers to make their final proofs within a year thereafter and receive their patents therefor, thus placing all our people upon an equality in sharing the burdens as well as the benefits of a good Government.

STATEHOOD.

No one of sound mind can doubt that, measured by all the standards and precedents by which the Western States have been admitted to the Union, Oklahoma is clearly entitled to statehood.

The area of good land exceeds that of many of the States, the population and wealth of the Territory is greater than that of many of the States at the time of their admission, and her citizenship is composed of a very large majority of people who, by birth, education, and raising in the States, guarantee all the necessary prerequisites for good local government.

Thoughtful citizens, however, are not clamoring for immediate Statehood. It is generally conceded that the best interests of the whole people will best be subserved by the union of the Indian Territory and Oklahoma into one State, and Oklahomans are willing to wait the action of the Government in composing the many vexatious questions arising with the five civilized tribes, a settlement of which seems to be required before adopting a scheme of union.

It is hoped, however, that these matters will be rapidly advanced by Congress, and that the people of these two Territories will at an early date be permitted to form one State government of their own.

In my judgment, the formation of two separate States would be burdensome and annoying to the people of both, while a union of the two would make a strong, vigorous, and prosperous State.

Respectfully submitted.

C. M. BARNES, *Governor.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C.