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Report of the Governor of Oklahoma, 1898

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OKLAHOMA COTTON FIELD.

REPORT
OF THE
GOVERNOR OF OKLAHOMA.

GUTHRIE, *September 1, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition and progress of the Territory of Oklahoma for the year ending June 30, 1898, believing that it tells a story of progress, prosperity, and development never before equaled in the history of the States and Territories of the United States.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

With a population aggregating a third of a million and greater than that of any other Territory and half a dozen different States of the Union; with an area of 40,000 square miles or 24,499,680 acres; with a prosperous, contented people largely engaged in agriculture and kindred pursuits and producing crops that astonish the world; with a taxable valuation exceeding forty millions of dollars; with a commerce that has doubled and trebled in the past twelve months; with a smaller bonded debt than any other State or Territory, and the small amount there is having been incurred only for the erection of educational institutions; with a public school system equal to any in the land; with better facilities for higher educational training of her youth than many States five times as old and with many times the population; with the best of transportation facilities and almost unlimited natural resources; with a fertile soil, a delightful climate, bright sunshine, and health-giving breezes, Oklahoma extends a cordial invitation to the farmer, the stock raiser, the fruit grower, the manufacturer, the investor, the invalid, and the homeseeker of every class to come and better his condition and challenges comparison with any other equal area of the continent.

Our north boundary is 37° north latitude. Except in Greer County little of the Territory extends south of the thirty-fifth parallel. In latitude it corresponds with southern Kentucky and Tennessee. Except Beaver County, which extends in a strip 35 miles wide to the one hundred and third meridian west longitude, nearly all the Territory lies between 96° 30' and 100° west longitude, being in the same belt as central Kansas and Texas.

In general, the face of the country is rolling prairie, with a considerable number of rivers and streams usually flowing from the northwest to the southeast, and often having high and steep banks. In the eastern half there are considerable areas covered with timber, usually of the different varieties of oak. Timber is found in the valleys of the streams in all parts of the Territory.

The altitude increases from east to west. Most of the better settled portion of the Territory is between 800 and 1,400 feet above sea level.

The soil of the Territory varies greatly in appearance and considerable in composition, but it is, on the whole, fertile and well supplied with plant food.

The rainfall during the winter months is light, but most years it is abundant in the growing season in every part of the Territory, and as a result Oklahoma can produce most of the great field and orchard crops grown in the States North and South, and is well adapted to rearing and fattening each of the great classes of farm animals.

THE FARMER OUR MAINSTAY.

The Oklahoma farmer is to-day prosperous, happy, and contented, and with his success has come prosperity to the whole Territory. During the nine years of the existence of the Territory the farmer has gone through many hardships and encountered many difficulties, but he kept bravely on, surmounted every obstacle, and is to-day as prosperous as any man in the nation.

Coming into a new and unknown country, settled under conditions which rendered inevitable controversy over the possession of his land; coming, in most instances, with only such few possessions as could be loaded with his family in a single wagon and what little cash was in his pants pocket, the pioneer Oklahoman conquered the wilderness, broke the trackless prairie into field and garden, experimented until he found the things which best would grow and yield, and learned the time to plant and to reap; kept bravely on, no matter what the odds, and to-day has his reward in a comfortable home, a productive farm, and a bright future.

True, there were days when his home was a dugout or a cottonwood shack, when his family were in rags, when his farm was unproductive, when his future was anything but bright, but he forgets all these things in the comfort and content of to-day.

His family is clothed in comfort, his home is a substantial structure, he rides to church or to town in a comfortable carriage instead of the creeping white-topped schooner, well-fed stock roam his fields, growing crops are all about him, orchards are fruiting on every side, and feed and grain are found in his barns, while a schoolhouse is within easy reach of his children and a college almost at his door.

POPULATION.

Oklahoma's growth of population has been as remarkable as her development along other lines. From an unbroken, uninhabited prairie, in a single day she sprang into existence as a community of three score thousand souls.

The census of 1890 gave the Territory, then barely organized, a population of 61,834, but on several occasions since the Territory has increased its population 50 per cent or more in a single day by the settlement of Indian lands thrown open to homestead entry. For several years there have been no openings of reservations and hence no such sudden increase in population, but the tide of immigration from all parts of the United States has been an unceasing one and the peopling of some of the counties has been unprecedented for a steady growth without the attendant elements of boom or rush. Some of the western counties of the Territory have more than doubled in population



AN OKLAHOMA FARM HOME.

since the taking of the Territorial census in 1896. We give here a table showing population of the counties as returned in 1896 and again in 1898:

County.	1896.	1898.	County.	1896.	1898.
Beaver	4, 778	2, 548	Logan	19, 995	23, 589
Blaine	6, 415	8, 527	Noble	13, 402	10, 421
Canadian	12, 837	18, 336	Oklahoma	19, 999	20, 324
Cleveland	13, 006	15, 426	Pawnee	8, 293	10, 795
Custer	5, 290	6, 482	Payne	14, 192	17, 386
D	2, 986	4, 129	Pottawatomie	17, 300	22, 594
Day	611	843	Roger Mills	1, 267	2, 262
Garfield	16, 092	16, 228	Washita	5, 404	9, 468
Grant	16, 575	14, 319	Woods	20, 805	24, 414
Greer	8, 500	10, 132	Woodward	7, 487	4, 206
Kay	16, 959	a18, 000	Reservations	12, 500	13, 033
Kingfisher	15, 346	16, 044			
Lincoln	16, 542	21, 884	Total	275, 587	311, 400

a Estimated.

This shows the present population of the Territory to be 311,400, a gain of 13 per cent in two years. But the enumeration taken by the township assessors has always been found to be much less than the actual population, as they miss almost all of the transient population of the towns and cities, who do not list property for taxation, and it is therefore reasonably certain that the population of the Territory at this time is fully a third of a million.

Energetic, enterprising, pushing, and progressive, the people of Oklahoma have come to be known as the true type of successful Americans. They know no failure, give way to no difficulties, recognize no claims as paramount to those of their own beloved Commonwealth, and wherever they may be found are singing the praises of their land of sunshine and prosperity.

In no State in the Union is the percentage of foreign-born population so small, and the foreigners who are in the Territory are thoroughly naturalized and identified with American ways and American institutions. Coming from every State in the Union, the people are truly cosmopolitan, but they are united in one great determined endeavor to build here one of the grandest States of the Union, and to this end they have conquered a new and untried land, endured hardships, surmounted great obstacles, and are to-day bending every energy.

TAXABLE PROPERTY.

The return of property for taxation in the Territory for the year 1898 was as follows:

County.	Amount.	County.	Amount.
Beaver	\$1, 421, 158	Logan	\$3, 493, 962
Blaine	411, 906	Noble	1, 633, 724
Canadian	3, 597, 338	Oklahoma	4, 156, 754
Cleveland	1, 985, 072	Pawnee	3, 034, 408
Custer	608, 880	Payne	1, 751, 281
D	461, 793	Pottawatomie	1, 594, 474
Day	348, 638	Roger Mills	532, 126
Garfield	1, 929, 349	Washita	979, 561
Grant	1, 426, 243	Woods	2, 532, 563
Greer	1, 219, 460	Woodward	1, 544, 983
Kay	1, 955, 344		
Kingfisher	2, 578, 863	Total	40, 623, 816
Lincoln	1, 425, 886		

This shows an increase of \$8,589,064 over last year.

TAXES.

The taxes in Oklahoma are no greater than in any progressive community. The Territorial tax rate is less than in any Western State or Territory, being but 4.3 mills for all Territorial purposes, 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 is to be added the county, township, school-district, or city taxes, but the total rate is not in any case exorbitant, and it is a significant fact that in almost every county and district the tax rate has been materially reduced the past year. The issuance of Government patents to homesteaders and the rapid increase in taxable wealth in every part of the Territory will result in still greater reduction the coming year.

TERRITORIAL INDEBTEDNESS.

The total bonded debt of Oklahoma Territory is but \$48,000, incurred in 1891 to erect buildings for the higher institutions of learning. In addition to this the Territory had outstanding on July 1, 1898, a warrant indebtedness of \$251,530.51, which had accumulated from casual deficits in the revenues from year to year since the organization of the Territory, the deficit being caused by failure to collect a large percentage of the taxes levied.

The following statement from the Territorial treasurer shows the business of his office during the past year, and gives the exact amount of warrant indebtedness at this time, together with the accumulated interest:

Warrants outstanding June 30, 1897	\$190, 138. 04
General fund warrants issued from July 1, 1897, to June 30, 1898	117, 797. 55
Accrued interest on outstanding general fund warrants (estimated)	15, 268. 00
	<hr/>
	323, 203. 59
Warrants redeemed and cash in treasury June 30, 1898	71, 673. 08
	<hr/>
Outstanding June 30, 1898	251, 530. 51

Interest paid for year ending June 30, 1898.

On bonded debt	\$2, 880. 00
On general fund warrants redeemed	7, 129. 89
On normal school warrants redeemed	243. 63
On university warrants redeemed	892. 80
	<hr/>
Total interest paid	11, 146. 32

The warrant indebtedness, as shown by the treasurer's statement, will be materially reduced by the collection of delinquent taxes, and the outstanding warrant indebtedness with the accrued interest may be fairly estimated to be not in excess of \$200,000.

From this statement it appears that the Territorial debt is insignificant, and when it is considered that no taxes were levied or collected during the first year after the organization of the Territorial government, that the bulk of the land has until the last year not been taxable, that in some counties the title to land is still largely in the name of the Government and nontaxable, and that the greater portion of the people of the Territory for years had very little personal property subject to



SOD SCHOOLHOUSE—FIRST YEAR.



SOD SCHOOLHOUSE—FIRST YEAR.

SOME OKLAHOMA DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

taxation, it is apparent that the Territorial finances have been well managed, and the wonder is that the debt is not very much greater than it is.

A comparison with the two other organized Territories of the United States, in a financial way, will show very favorable to Oklahoma:

As shown by the report of the governor for 1897 Arizona had a population of 87,500, a taxable valuation of \$30,613,702, and a bonded debt of \$965,588; New Mexico had at the same time a population of 242,000, a taxable valuation of \$36,396,748, and a bonded debt of \$959,000; while Oklahoma, with a population of 333,000 and a taxable valuation of \$40,623,816, has a bonded debt of but \$48,000 with a net warrant indebtedness of about \$200,000; making the debt per capita in Arizona about \$11, in New Mexico about \$4, and in Oklahoma less than 75 cents.

COUNTY INDEBTEDNESS.

The bonded indebtedness of the counties of the Territory is as follows:

County.	Amount.	County.	Amount.
Beaver	\$17,500	Logan	\$121,000
Blaine	24,800	Noble	35,000
Canadian	73,500	Oklahoma	136,500
Cleveland	79,000	Pawnee	15,000
Custer	13,200	Payne	77,500
D	9,050	Pottawatomie	51,500
Day	7,500	Roger Mills	9,450
Garfield	46,000	Washita	15,500
Grant <i>a</i>		Woods	32,500
Greer (no debt)		Woodward	25,000
Kay	35,000		
Kingfisher	34,800	Total	926,300
Lincoln	67,000		

a No report.

OKLAHOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Common-school education in Oklahoma has received due attention. Growth in its schools has kept pace with material progress. The educational interests of the Territory are under the general supervision of the superintendent of public instruction.

The law also provides for a Territorial board of education, which in a large measure molds the educational policy of the Territory. All questions used in the examination of applicants to teach are prepared by this board; also regulations to be used by the county examining boards in conducting examinations.

This board issues certificates to applicants for conductor's and instructor's certificates to do normal-institute work.

It has been the special effort of this board to improve the condition of the district school. To this end a graded course of study was prepared about four years ago, that the opportunity of the children to receive the full benefit of the common-school course might be improved. It was printed in pamphlet form and put in the hands of teachers and patrons throughout the Territory. Provisions exist for the graduation of pupils on the completion of the course of study. Great interest is taken in the plan in most of the counties in the Territory.

Under provision of law an annual normal institute is held in each county. The general management of the county institute is a part of of the work of the Territorial Board of Education. Each year a manual or course of study has been prepared by the Board to be used by the instructors and teachers as a guide in their institute work.

For the institutes of 1898 a graded course of study was prepared and used in all the counties in the Territory. This consists of a gradation of the subject-matter in the institute into three sections or divisions, provision being made for a normal-institute certificate to issue to the teachers on the completion of the work of a division, and a normal-institute diploma on the completion of the entire course. This plan leads up to the teacher's professional certificate to teach. It is adopted as a permanent feature of our school system and it is hoped that it will do much toward improving our common schools. The legal requirements for teachers are equal to those in the States, and it is gratifying to record the estimate of the intellectual and moral worth of Oklahoma teachers. It is the desire of our teachers to know and use the best methods in teaching, that the best results may be obtained. The term of service and wages are superior to some of the States. This is beginning to be realized, as is shown by the frequent inquiry by nonresident teachers for positions. A high professional sentiment will make it difficult for the nonprogressive teacher to find employment. Rapid progress has been made in attendance, and assurance is given of further advancement in the future.

When we think of the nearly one hundred thousand boys and girls of school age in the Territory, and of the more than two thousand teachers, then it is that we begin to have some conception of the necessity of proper organization and system in the management of a school system which guarantees an education to every child; and this Oklahoma has to an unusual degree.

There are in the Territory 1,879 school districts, with schoolhouses valued at \$454,574.68, under the Territorial insurance law, shown by the following tables:

Number of school districts in Territory by counties.

County.	No.	County.	No.
Beaver.....	42	Logan.....	97
Blaine.....	79	Noble.....	61
Canadian.....	84	Oklahoma.....	80
Cleveland.....	67	Pawnee.....	61
Custer.....	49	Payne.....	98
D.....	40	Pottawatomie.....	107
Day.....	12	Roger Mills.....	16
Garfield.....	127	Washita.....	60
Grant.....	121	Woods.....	226
Greer.....	61	Woodward.....	54
Kay.....	88		
Kingfisher.....	116	Total.....	1,879
Lincoln.....	133		

Value of school property by counties.

County.	Value.	County.	Value.
Beaver.....	\$6,118.74	Logan.....	\$22,207.75
Blaine.....	10,450.50	Noble.....	31,294.00
Canadian.....	10,947.00	Oklahoma.....	30,778.25
Cleveland.....	25,516.30	Pawnee.....	17,214.79
Custer.....	2,119.00	Payne.....	33,750.00
D.....	2,033.50	Pottawatomie.....	30,063.89
Garfield.....	25,933.00	Roger Mills.....	3,239.40
Grant.....	30,704.52	Washita.....	6,492.82
Greer.....	11,366.71	Woods.....	25,601.94
Kay.....	49,502.50	Woodward.....	7,295.50
Kingfisher.....	45,025.15		
Lincoln.....	26,908.50	Total.....	454,574.68



SECOND YEAR.



FOURTH YEAR.

SOME OKLAHOMA DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

Receipts for the year.

County.	Balance on hand June 30, 1897.	From apportionment of Territorial and county school fund.	District tax.	Sale of bonds.	Other sources.	Total Receipts.
Beaver	\$394. 18	\$2, 982. 01	\$4, 877. 78	-----	-----	\$8, 253. 97
Blaine	191. 62	2, 510. 21	4, 788. 96	-----	\$37. 12	7, 527. 91
Canadian	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cleveland	4, 751. 13	10, 206. 32	15, 320. 74	-----	-----	30, 278. 19
Custer a	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
D	495. 12	808. 00	1, 405. 73	-----	32. 60	2, 741. 45
Day	-----	179. 01	1, 061. 69	-----	15. 00	1, 255. 70
Garfield	305. 45	6, 238. 90	19, 287. 18	-----	452. 20	26, 283. 73
Grant b	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Greer	-----	2, 425. 04	3, 716. 03	-----	158. 23	6, 299. 30
Kay	910. 13	4, 055. 83	5, 333. 07	\$505. 00	1, 596. 63	12, 460. 66
Kingfisher	3, 152. 39	6, 893. 09	19, 374. 70	52. 93	1, 314. 65	30, 786. 76
Lincoln	1, 819. 99	6, 594. 83	18, 243. 58	998. 00	2, 347. 43	29, 503. 83
Logan	12, 503. 01	11, 590. 60	27, 488. 23	2, 955. 00	-----	54, 536. 84
Noble	971. 92	5, 940. 44	7, 808. 34	-----	981. 10	15, 701. 80
Oklahoma	2, 473. 78	9, 087. 52	29, 228. 84	1, 040. 00	224. 15	42, 054. 29
Pawnee b	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Payne	2, 448. 51	6, 511. 61	11, 744. 69	8, 418. 36	663. 12	29, 786. 29
Pottawatomie	5, 025. 67	6, 566. 33	8, 758. 65	300. 00	3, 733. 38	24, 384. 03
Roger Mills	568. 08	553. 31	1, 489. 57	-----	80. 00	3, 054. 11
Washita	231. 66	2, 313. 68	4, 195. 76	-----	121. 95	6, 863. 05
Woods	2, 733. 25	10, 436. 93	12, 328. 73	-----	7, 020. 95	32, 519. 86
Woodward b	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	38, 475. 89	95, 256. 81	196, 452. 27	4, 329. 29	18, 738. 41	364, 292. 77

a Records destroyed by fire.

b No report.

Expenditures for the year.

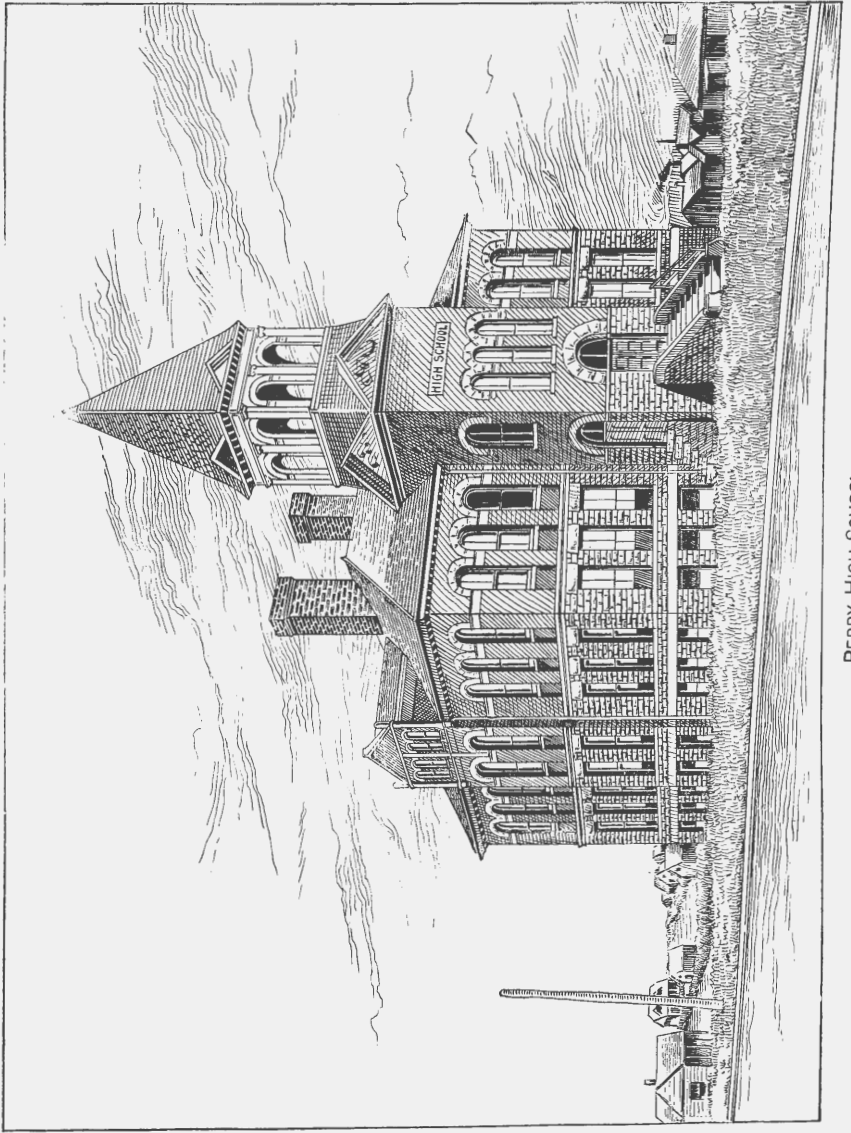
County.	Teachers' salaries.	Sites, buildings, and furniture.	Rents, repairing, and other incidentals.	Library and apparatus.	Other purposes.	Total.
Beaver	\$5, 900. 43	\$520. 63	\$375. 09	\$35. 15	\$288. 34	\$7, 119. 64
Blaine	6, 007. 65	158. 01	561. 95	30. 61	570. 88	7, 329. 10
Canadian	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cleveland	18, 058. 05	447. 11	2, 041. 22	659. 74	561. 20	21, 767. 32
Custer a	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
D	2, 408. 58	22. 30	134. 24	-----	. 10	2, 561. 22
Day	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Garfield	8, 352. 38	3, 483. 33	1, 973. 06	121. 95	1, 095. 82	15, 026. 54
Grant b	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Greer	4, 664. 89	50. 15	557. 38	-----	55. 85	5, 328. 27
Kay	11, 225. 07	12, 799. 14	3, 404. 10	343. 50	1, 021. 75	28, 793. 56
Kingfisher	19, 562. 97	840. 45	3, 791. 38	818. 89	2, 574. 98	27, 588. 67
Lincoln	15, 058. 77	2, 409. 73	2, 169. 25	267. 67	2, 632. 88	22, 538. 30
Logan	26, 748. 28	5, 755. 00	5, 260. 00	1, 829. 15	6, 098. 28	45, 690. 71
Noble	8, 041. 97	2, 490. 47	1, 358. 80	169. 96	658. 31	12, 728. 51
Oklahoma	24, 680. 35	2, 073. 47	3, 710. 60	576. 73	11, 415. 79	42, 456. 94
Pawnee b	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Payne	15, 744. 62	10, 984. 56	2, 852. 86	590. 74	885. 18	31, 057. 96
Pottawatomie	10, 783. 33	1, 001. 40	1, 275. 66	242. 02	8, 666. 29	21, 971. 70
Roger Mills	1, 936. 55	-----	38. 77	-----	144. 63	2, 119. 95
Washita	5, 034. 00	91. 05	187. 07	915. 60	439. 51	6, 667. 23
Woods	22, 649. 45	4, 676. 34	2, 642. 32	307. 67	1, 719. 45	31, 995. 23
Woodward b	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	206, 857. 34	47, 812. 14	32, 333. 75	6, 909. 38	538, 832. 24	332, 740. 85

a Records destroyed by fire.

b No report.

HIGHER INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING.

No community on earth ever took so early a stand for higher education or made so rapid progress in an educational way as has Oklahoma. The first public institutions located in the Territory were institutions of



PERRY HIGH SCHOOL.

learning, the first public buildings erected were colleges, and the first and only bonded indebtedness of the Territory was incurred for the erection of these colleges. Other Territories of the Union have been content generally to wait for statehood before establishing colleges and universities; but Oklahoma had the youth to educate and rose to the emergency at once. Before the Territory was a year old a university, a normal school, and an agricultural and mechanical college were ready to receive students; and these institutions have grown and expanded and others been added to their number, until to-day Oklahoma is probably better provided with higher institutions of learning than any similar number of people, and has permanently established a system of public education, with all the modern and requisite appliances, more complete than exists in some of the oldest States of the Union. Every Oklahoman is proud of these institutions, and they are liberally patronized. Excellent work is being done in each one, and the attendance is increasing rapidly each year.

TERRITORIAL UNIVERSITY.

The university is located in Norman, the county seat of Cleveland County, a growing town of 3,000 inhabitants. It is beautifully located, on high ground. Its citizens are intelligent, enterprising people, who are in hearty sympathy with educational progress. The building is a fine one. It is built of stone and pressed brick; contains 21 recitation and reception rooms and a large chapel. It is located on a fine campus, 40 acres in extent, lying at a good elevation, overlooking the surrounding country. The campus and approaching boulevard have been planted in trees.

The University of Oklahoma is supported by a general tax of one-half mill upon each dollar of valuation on the assessment roll of the Territory. In addition to this support, section 13 in each township in what is known as the Cherokee Outlet was reserved from settlement for university, normal school, and agricultural college purposes in the proclamation of the President of the United States opening those lands to settlement. The lands so reserved have been appropriated for the above purpose by act of Congress, and have been leased for the benefit of the institutions named.

From these statements it will be seen that it is the purpose of the Territory to furnish practically free to her young men and women instruction of the highest order. This conception will be carried into effect to the limit of the resources of the institution. Believing it to be just as much a part of the public-school system of the Territory as any high school in any community, it is the purpose of the management to unite with the public-school system of the Territory in making its work articulate with the work of the graded and elementary schools, so that the course of study provided by the Territory may be continuous from the lowest primary in the public schools to the highest class in the university.

Any young man or woman who has finished the course in a good country school may enter the university and find educational work and a welcome.

The work of the university has been characterized by absolute harmony between all the members of the faculty and the students of the university, and no interruption or unpleasant frictions have occurred from any source to interrupt the work of the institution.

All the members of the faculty have been active, prompt, energetic, and for the most part constant in their devotion to their work. One of

the most gratifying features of the year has been a manifestation on the part of each member of the faculty of a responsibility for the development of his part of the university.

During the year there have been 359 different students enrolled.

These students are the children of parents of twenty four different professions or occupations, come from twenty different counties and seven other States, and are adherents of seventeen different churches.

The college department, which must in time be the great part of the university, has made decided advancement the past year, and for the first time the full four-years course was offered, and two students were graduated. In the preparatory, pharmacy, and music departments excellent work was done. The prospects for the future of the university are very high indeed. A department of biology has been added and another professor engaged, making the faculty one of great proficiency.

Many additions are being made to the library, the apparatus, and entire college equipments, and the grounds being beautified by walks, drives, etc.

A summer term of the university is being held this summer, with an attendance of nearly two hundred, and the prospects are good for a greatly increased attendance the coming year.

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

The Agricultural and Mechanical College at Stillwater is made by law especially a "college for the people," receiving students direct from the common schools, and being required to specially adapt its instruction in all branches to their applications in the industries of life. It is endowed by the United States Government, receiving \$23,000 last year. It also receives a portion of the rentals of leased lands in the "Cherokee Strip." As in all the institutions for higher education, instruction is free, except a nominal incidental fee. The past year was the most successful in the history of the college, 170 students being in attendance, 70 of these in regular college classes. A third class of 8 members was graduated after a four-years course. The chief lines of study are the sciences, with their applications, English, and mathematics. A suitable building for use of the mechanic-arts department is being erected. With the opening of the new college year, September 12, regular courses in civil and mechanical engineering will be established, also a commercial, a stenography and typewriting, and a musical department will be opened. The college will have 15 professors and instructors, including 2 in the preparatory department, maintained for those desiring review in common-school studies, in preparation for teaching or entrance into the college classes. The college has a good but overcrowded building, well-arranged laboratories, over \$20,000 worth of apparatus, and a library of about 4,500 volumes.

The Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, supported by the United States, which gives it \$15,000 per year, is a department of the college. It occupies the larger part of the college farm of 200 acres, and has convenient but too small buildings for its scientific and practical work. Chief lines of investigation are study of soils, especially as to their relations to water as influenced by cultivation, manuring, and different crops; tests of varieties and methods of culture of field, orchard, and garden crops; feeding and breeding experiments with cattle, swine, and poultry. Experiments in irrigation had been prepared for, but the abundant rains made this impracticable. Aside from tests of



OKLAHOMA NORMAL SCHOOL AT EDMOND.

many varieties of wheat, corn, kaffir, cotton, grasses and other forage plants, sugar beets, etc., the station has large orchards and fruit gardens. There is a marked increase in interest in the work of the station by citizens of the Territory, shown by a multitude of requests for information and for the bulletins reporting results of experiments, sent free to all applicants.

OKLAHOMA NORMAL SCHOOL.

In keeping with its determination to have the very best school system to be had, Oklahoma declared early for the special education and training of her teachers in normal schools. The Oklahoma Normal School was located by the first legislature at Edmond, a beautiful little city on the Santa Fe Railway, and the next year a brick and stone building was erected on a finely located campus, which has since been added to until it is one of the imposing educational structures of the West.

This institution has been successfully conducted from the start, and is now in a most flourishing condition, reflecting credit upon the management and the faculty.

Last year its students numbered 251, a gain over the previous year of nearly 46 per cent. This is exclusive of the pupils in the model school, a department opened for the first time in the fall of 1897.

In the past year several thousand dollars were judiciously expended in completing the north wing of the building and fitting up laboratories for the development of natural and physical science. Large additions were made also to the library, and valuable mathematical instruments bought. Water pipes have been run over the grounds and through the building.

The faculty, consisting of a president and 9 assistants, is thoroughly organized, and it is believed that the future of this school will be a source of pride to our Territory.

It is expected that in the coming year the board of education will put gas into the building, greatly strengthen the model department, and largely increase the library facilities.

At this writing there is every prospect of an increased attendance, a fact which attests more strongly than words the high standing of the school and the interest our people feel in its welfare. Educational expansion seems to be a principle with them.

Edmond and Alva (standing as one), with their normals, are earnestly cooperating to solve our educational problems.

NORTHWESTERN NORMAL SCHOOL.

It did not seem at the time of the location of the Northwestern Normal School at Alva that there was need for such an institution in that part of the Territory; but a careful investigation will readily convince the most skeptical that the institution was needed, and it would have been an injustice to hundreds of teachers and aspiring young people to longer deny them an accessible institution of learning. There are in Woods County alone 226 school districts demanding competent and progressive teachers, and three times that many districts in other western counties, so located that it is out of the question for the teachers to attend a normal school in eastern Oklahoma.

The attendance at the normal during its first year, when the sessions were held in a church and many disadvantages constantly present, reached 168, and the prospects are that when the new building is completed the coming winter the attendance will be more than doublé. The

teaching force is excellent and will be added to as the needs of the school require. The students are earnest and energetic, and have all done good work. There are 9 married students in the school, and the oldest student is 42 and the youngest 11 years, the average age in the normal department being 18 years 5 months, and in the preparatory department 14 years 10 months.

In February the board of education, with the approval of the governor, let the contract for the building for this school, a handsome and substantial structure of cut stone and pressed brick, to cost, when completed, \$85,000. It will be a credit to the Territory and a structure in keeping with the educational needs of this coming great State. Ground was broken March 26, 1898, and on July 1 the foundation was complete and the first floor laid. Work will be pushed from this on, and the structure will be completed by the close of the year.

COLORED AGRICULTURAL AND NORMAL UNIVERSITY.

Work has been vigorously pushed on the new Territorial Colored Agricultural and Normal University, provided for by an act of the last legislature.

The people of Langston, Logan County, the only exclusively colored city in the United States, donated 40 acres of ground for a site, and last winter the board of regents adopted plans and specifications for a building to cost about \$5,000, to be a substantial stone building with basement and four rooms two stories high.

The corner stone was laid April 7 with appropriate ceremony. Many visitors were present from abroad, both white and colored. Excellent addresses were made and the Masonic Order laid the stone. This building is now nearing completion and is expected to be ready for occupancy by September 14. It will be a credit to the Territory, while the expense of building has been very reasonable. In anticipation of the school to be opened, a president and members of the faculty have been chosen from among the leading colored educators in the land.

The course of study will include all the regular college branches of science, mathematics, and languages, as well as music, vocal and instrumental, drawing, etc., and later it is hoped to add practical and normal training in various lines of work.

A matron has been selected for the girls also, and there will be provisions for homes for all students.

The outlook for a large attendance this first year seems good, as the colored people through the Territory exhibit a lively interest in their own school. The time set for the dedication of the new building is September 22, when public exercises of an interesting character will be held.

CHILOCCO INDIAN SCHOOL.

Foremost among the educational institutions in the Territory is the Chilocco Indian School (once named Hawarth Institute), located in Kay County, 5 miles south of Arkansas City, Kans. Located upon a reservation of 6,000 acres, this institution is almost a little city in itself, with its large college building, girls' and boys' dormitory, hospital, chapel, workshops, laundry, electric light and waterworks plant, residences, storehouses, granaries, and barns, surrounded by bearing orchards, waving fields of grain, or tempting gardens—all the property of the school. When the school was first established, it was the intention to cut the reservation into small farms and locate thereon the



CHILLOCCO INDIAN TRAINING SCHOOL.

graduates of the school, away from the tribal reservations and their consequent degenerating influences. This policy was long since abandoned, but the boys and girls, young men and young women, gathered here from all the different tribes of Oklahoma and Indian Territory, as well as from many of the other tribes of the West, are given a fair education, not only in the ordinary school and college branches, but in farming, the trades, and domestic work of various kinds, so that they leave the school fitted to cope with life in all its phases and to compete fully with their white brothers and sisters. This school is most excellently managed in every department, and the progress being made by the scholars is truly remarkable. Over 500 pupils were in attendance the past year, and in the manual training departments, in shops, laundry, and household, are made the clothing and shoes of the scholars, while the farm is made very profitable by the labor of the scholars learning the art of the successful tilling of the soil. In the school are literary and debating societies that compare favorably with those of any white college, the largest active Christian Endeavor society and Sunday school in the Territory, and the commencement exercises this year were of a high order and of deep interest to the hundreds of white visitors.

OTHER INDIAN SCHOOLS.

There are a number of other Indian schools in the Territory. The Osage tribe has as fine an equipped school building at Pawhuska as can be found anywhere in the country. At Darlington is a finely equipped and managed school for the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, while there are also large and well conducted schools at White Eagle, Sac and Fox, Shawneetown, Seger, Anadarko, Rainy Mountain, and other points, in which all the Indian children of the various tribes are being trained and educated and the advancement of the race insured.

OTHER SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

There are a number of sectarian and other schools in the Territory. The Catholics have several large schools in the Osage reservation, a college at Sacred Heart, and one at Guthrie. The Congregationalists have an academy at Perry and a college at Kingfisher, where they are erecting a fine building.

The Friends have an academy at Stella, Woods County, and schools at several other places.

The Methodists have arranged to erect a hall in connection with the Territorial University at Norman, and there are good business colleges at Guthrie and Oklahoma City.

SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS.

From a social and religious standpoint Oklahoma will compare favorably with any of the old settled States. A people who hold religious services in every town before it is a week old; organize fraternal societies in the rush and hurry of putting up tents and other temporary shelter; erect churches and schoolhouses among the first permanent structures in a community; locate colleges and universities before they do capitols, penitentiary, or asylums, and issue their first bonds to erect higher institutions of learning, need nothing further to prove their educational worth, moral and religious standing. All of the leading religious denominations are represented in the Territory, and every town has handsome and commodious church structures. In fact, some

of our towns have really more church buildings and church organizations than are needed, and it would be well if some of the surplus energy was transferred to the remote country districts. All of the denominations report rapid growth of their work the past year. In the early days of the Territory's existence, her Christian Endeavor Union carried off the national banner for most rapid growth of the work, and at the last International Sunday-School Convention at Boston, Oklahoma ranked first as having made the greatest per cent of increase of any State or province in America for the three years preceding. In not only the church edifices but in almost every one of the 1,600 country schoolhouses of the Territory is the Gospel preached and the Bible studied.

In a social way our people meet, as do those of any community, in the various private and public gatherings and functions of society, equal in every way to similar gatherings in the staid and conservative East. The towns have the drama, literary societies, lecture courses, reading circles, music clubs; the country, horticultural and agricultural and other societies, while the leading beneficiary and fraternal orders are well represented in all parts of the Territory. There are in the Territory a dozen or more active women's clubs, who within the past year organized a Territorial federation and sent a large delegation to take an active part in the recent national federation meeting at Denver.

I give below the statistics of the leading churches and fraternal organizations:

Presbyterian Church.

Church organizations	43
Church membership	1, 450
Church buildings	28
Value of church property	\$45, 550
Colored churches	2
Young people's societies Christian Endeavor	20
Sunday schools	47
Preachers	29
Sunday school missionaries	4

Episcopal Church.

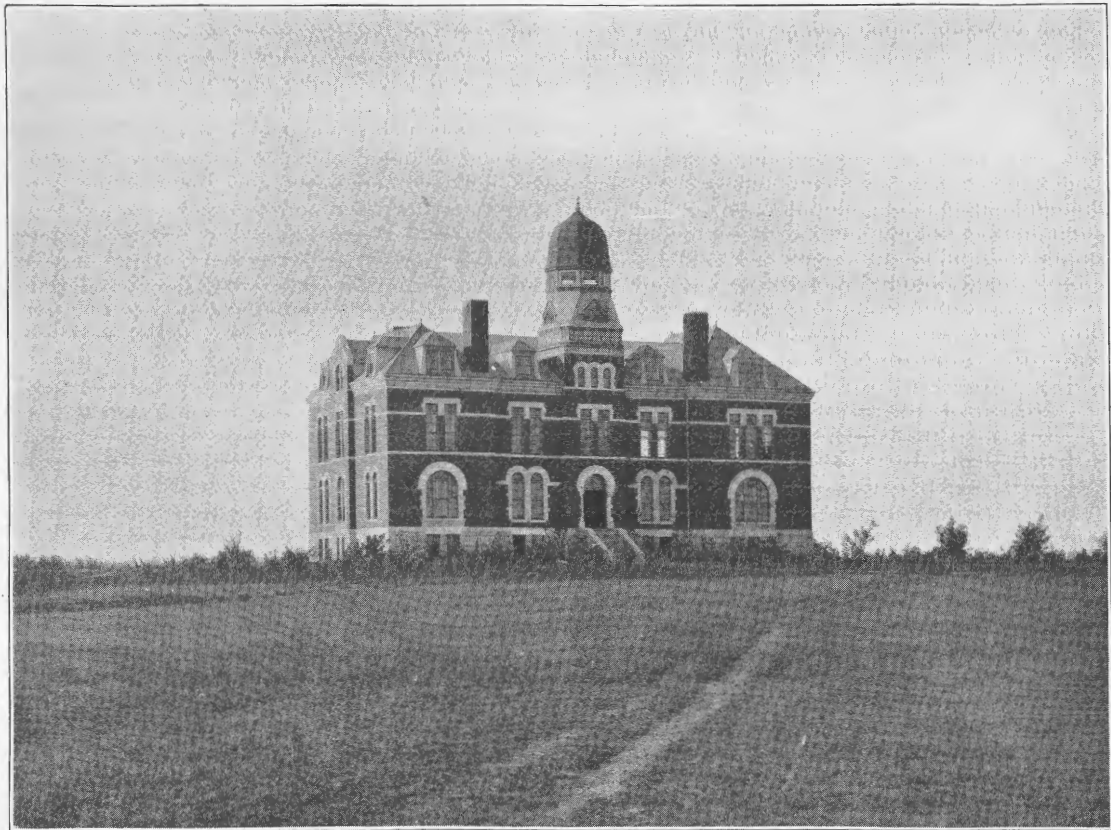
Organized missions	14
Other regular stations	14
Church buildings	11
Parsonages	7
Clergy	7
Communicants	380
Value of church property	\$21, 000
Chapters St. Andrew's Brotherhood	1
Daughters of the King	1
Children in Sunday school	130

Baptist Church.

Churches:	
White	185
Colored	85
Membership:	
White	5, 388
Colored	3, 600
Ministers:	
White	80
Colored	100
Membership, Sunday school	8, 000

Methodist Episcopal Church.

Number of churches	78
Value of churches	\$75, 000
Parsonages	30
Value of parsonages	\$15, 000
Members	5, 000



TERRITORIAL UNIVERSITY AT NORMAN.

Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavor.

Societies.....	163
Members.....	5,660
Junior societies.....	22
Members.....	840
Total membership.....	6,500
New societies.....	30
Associate members uniting with church during year.....	275

Fraternal organizations.

Name.	Number of members.	New members.	Number of organizations.	Value of property.	New Lodges.
Ancient Order of United Workmen.....	1,400	400	34	.....	4
Knights of Pythias.....	1,002	182	23	\$10,000	3
Odd Fellows.....	2,395	250	64	3,200	12
Woodmen of the World.....	500	.....	20	.....	.....
Grand Army of the Republic.....	1,500	200	56	900	2
Confederate Veterans.....	250	.....	5	.....	.....
Maccabees.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....
Eastern Star.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....
Sons of Herman.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....
Masons.....	1,458	.....	34	.....	.....

DEAF MUTE INSTITUTE.

October 1, 1897, in accordance with the provisions of the act of March 12, 1897, levying a special tax for the care and education of deaf mutes and authorizing the governor to contract for same, I made a contract with H. C. Beamer, of Guthrie, to establish the deaf mute institute.

The institute was located in West Guthrie, in a large two-story frame building, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Cottonwood River, the premises embracing an entire block, giving ample play and exercise grounds for the pupils.

The formal opening was made on January 1, 1898, and 22 pupils have been admitted, apportioned among the counties as follows:

Canadian.....	3
Lincoln.....	1
Logan.....	3
Noble.....	2
Oklahoma.....	3
Payne.....	3
Pottawatomie.....	2
Roger Mills.....	1
Washita.....	1
Woods.....	3

At this time there are on file 27 additional applications for admission which can not be entertained until the legislature makes further and adequate appropriation for their care. There are in the Territory between 60 and 70 deaf and dumb of school age and about 30 infants and adults.

The institute building has been arranged with special reference to the comfort and health of the inmates. It constitutes their domicile. There they eat, sleep, and resort for rest and recreation, and, so far as possible, its appointments and furnishings have been made with a view to contentment, good health, and the enjoyment of such conveniences and acquisitions as are usually found in well-ordered homes.

The superintendent and matron reside here with the pupils and have them in immediate charge and oversight.

A separate building adjacent to the premises is used as a schoolroom.



OKLAHOMA SANITARIUM BUILDING (INSANE ASYLUM) NORMAN.

The school is in charge of Miss Kate Lindsay, a capable teacher of the deaf and dumb, who has had seven years' experience in this special work. The school hours are the same as in the public schools of the Territory, but the pupils are required to study one hour each evening of the school days. On Sunday a Sabbath school is held and Bible study conducted in the mute language. This language is used in returning thanks at meals.

The pupils have made surprising progress in their school work, and it is a pleasure to record that moral development has kept pace with the intellectual, and the majority have learned and put into practice many of the virtues essential to the maintenance of good character, of which they were before ignorant or concerning which they were apparently indifferent.

THE BLIND.

The last legislature made an appropriation for the care and education of the blind of the Territory, but the amount of the appropriation was so small that it has been impracticable as yet to make any arrangements for the establishment of a school or asylum.

REFORM SCHOOL.

It seems desirable that Oklahoma should have a reform school for youthful criminals, for within the past few years a number of mere boys have been sent to the penitentiary, who, with the training to be secured in a proper reform institution, might become useful citizens.

The legislature has empowered me to contract with other States for the care of such youth; but having failed to make a specific appropriation it has been impossible to complete any arrangements.

INSANE ASYLUM.

Oklahoma's insane are cared for by contract with the Oklahoma Sanitarium Company, who have erected a large and commodious asylum or hospital of brick and stone near the city of Norman, in Cleveland County. The first contract, which had been made at the rate of \$300 per annum for each patient and run for three years, expired last spring, and I renewed the contract for a second term of three years at a reduction of 33½ per cent, the Territory now paying but \$200 per year for each patient. When the accommodations and care given the patients are considered it becomes apparent that this rate is about as low as the Territory could care for the insane in her own asylum had she one built.

This asylum is well conducted in every way, and the fact that private patients are being brought from other States and the United States has contracted with the company for the care of insane Indians speaks well for the management and conduct of the institution. The third annual report of the superintendent of the asylum shows that the institution has completed a most prosperous year, marked by extensive improvements in buildings and grounds and increased capacity and attendance.

Besides the addition of a large new laundry, two comfortable cottages, each capable of accommodating 50 patients, have been erected for the use of the epileptic and violent patients, thereby separating them from the other milder classes of patients, to the benefit of both. The trees, of which there are now several hundred on the grounds, are

in a flourishing condition. The lawn has been graded and nicely sodded and greatly improved by the addition of flowers and shrubbery.

The sewerage system has been enlarged to meet the requirements and thoroughly renovated, a complete private system of waterworks put in, and the entire institution renovated and improved.

The number of admissions for the past year has been considerably in excess of the number for the preceding year, and the number under treatment at the close of the year is greater than ever before. The health of the entire institution is remarkably good, attesting the fine sanitary condition and comfortable location of the institution.

The records show the number of patients under treatment during the year to have been 298. The death rate among these is $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The percentage of cures is 25. Of the 196 patients now confined in the asylum there is only one case of illness, and this is a patient who was brought there from Pottawatomie County on the 10th of June, 1898, in a very feeble condition from consumption.

The following table shows the number of patients from each county, number received, discharged, etc.:

County.	Number of patients July 1, 1897.	Received in one year.	Deaths.	Releases.	Escapes.	Number on hand July 1, 1898.
Beaver.....		3		2		1
Blaine.....		2	1			1
Canadian.....	8	10	1	4		13
Cleveland.....	10	12	1	9		12
Custer.....		1				1
D.....		3		1		2
Day.....						
Garfield.....	13	3		5		11
Grant.....	1	6		1		6
Greer.....	1	5	1	1		4
Key.....	6	12	3	3	2	10
Kingfisher.....	13	6		2		17
Lincoln.....	8	6		3		11
Logan.....	14	12	4	5		17
Noble.....	4	8	1	2	1	8
Oklahoma.....	26	21	5	12		30
Pawnee.....	2	1		2		1
Payne.....	13	14	5	7		15
Pottawatomie.....	11	17	2	8		18
Roger Mills.....	1			1		
Washita.....	4	5		3		6
Woods.....	4	8		2	1	9
Woodward.....	3	1	1			3
Total.....	142	156	25	73	4	196

During the year the Territory paid:

For care of the insane	\$58,265.79
For transportation of the insane	3,054.52
Total.....	61,320.31

Owing to the large increase in the number of patients, this is \$18,520.07 more than was paid in the preceding year, but under the new contract the greatly reduced price per patient will reduce the item of care over \$20,000 the coming year.

PUBLIC LANDS.

Notwithstanding the great rush of settlers at each successive opening of public lands, the subsequent rapid development of all parts of

the Territory and the great influx of population the last year or two there are still many thousands of acres of Government land in the Territory, a considerable portion of which will make good homes for the homeless people of the more populous sections of the country, where, by energy and industry, they can establish farms that will yield of grains, fruits, and vegetables enough for the support of a family and the making of provision for old age or the inevitable "rainy day," which in the western country proves to be in reality a dry season.

This land is to be acquired under the homestead laws by the settler filing on same at the land office, and then taking up his residence on the land and occupying and cultivating it for five years. In Greer and Beaver counties the settler gets his land free at the end of five years, his only cost being \$14 filing fees. In the other parts of the Territory the land costs him from one to two and a half dollars per acre.

From reports received from registers and receivers of the different United States land offices in the Territory I glean the number of acres of land in each district and the number still vacant, which is given below.

Guthrie land district.—No lands subject to entry.

Oklahoma land district.—There are 4,095,000 acres in this district, but 138,270 acres of which are yet open to settlement, as shown by the following table:

Statement of lands vacant, reserved, and segregated in the Oklahoma land district, July 1, 1898.

County.	Vacant.	Reserved.	Filed on.	Area in district.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Blaine		55,000	10,000	65,000
Canadian		181,420	200,580	382,000
Cleveland		80,000	268,000	348,000
G (Custer)	9,000	80,000	237,000	326,000
I		646,000		646,000
Lincoln		118,000	111,000	229,000
Oklahoma	3,270	36,720	308,010	348,000
Pottawatomie		273,900	227,100	501,000
Roger Mills	108,000	40,000	474,000	622,000
Washita	18,000	109,000	501,000	628,000
Total	138,270	1,620,040	2,336,690	4,095,000

Perry land district.

County.	Reserved.	Vacant.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Kay	46,579	
Noble	30,345	
Pawnee	30,949	2,153
Payne	10,842	

In closing, the register and receiver of that office say:

You will see from the above that there are no vacant lands in our district except in Pawnee County, and very little of that is of any value for anything except, perhaps, grazing land.

Kingfisher land district.—In this district there are over 1,000,000 acres subject to homestead entry. The prospective settler can find many

good locations for successful, paying farms and comfortable homes, and there is no place in the district where cattle raising is not profitable.

County.	Area unap- propriated.	Reserved.	Disposed of.	In the dis- trict.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Blaine	17, 880	237, 040	273, 080	528, 000
Canadian	760	39, 560	98, 880	139, 000
D	274, 050	103, 360	259, 590	637, 000
Day	587, 260	38, 400	40, 340	666, 000
Custer	91, 264	51, 520	178, 216	321, 000
Kingfisher	190	74, 240	493, 570	568, 000
Logan		6, 400	105, 600	112, 000
Oklahoma		1, 280	21, 720	23, 000
Roger Mills	91, 600	12, 160	31, 240	135, 000
Total	1, 063, 004	563, 760	1, 502, 236	3, 129, 000

Enid land district.—There is not an acre of land vacant in Garfield County and only 1,280 acres in Grant County, most of which is poor farming land.

County.	Vacant land.	Land re- served.	Appro- priated.	Total.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Garfield		74, 462	565, 538	640, 000
Grant	1, 280	75, 335	595, 385	672, 000

Alva land district.—The district embraces Woods County alone, and the report of the register and receiver shows:

	<i>Acres.</i>
Appropriated July 1, 1898	1, 317, 517
Unappropriated July 1, 1898	372, 513
Reserved	41, 970

Total in district (Woods County)

1, 732, 000

There are many excellent homesteads still vacant in this district, but they are being settled on very rapidly.

Woodward land district.

County.	Open for homestead entry.	Appropri- ated and reserved.	Total.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Beaver	3, 255, 955	425, 045	3, 681, 000
Woodward	1, 506, 238	617, 762	2, 124, 000
Total	4, 762, 193	1, 042, 807	5, 805, 000

In furnishing the above statement the register and receiver say:

You will see from said statement that we still have 3,255,955 acres in Beaver County and 1,506,238 acres in Woodward County (total, 4,762,193 acres) of unappropriated lands that are subject to homestead entry.

We have had an abundance of rain this season, and the crop prospect was never better in any country, though we do not attempt to grow a general variety. Stock was never in better condition at this season of the year. In fact, western Oklahoma is on a boom. Land office business has increased wonderfully, and we are looking for many homeseekers as soon as harvest is over elsewhere.

While this district is largely devoted to stock raising, the farmers (who largely raise feed for stock) are all prosperous, for they have good



TERRITORIAL NORTHWESTERN NORMAL SCHOOL AT ALVA.

crops as a general thing, and have a market right at their door at good, profitable prices. Many settlers can still find good farm locations in this district, and the man who combines farming with stock raising has success assured.

Mangum land district.—This district embraces Greer County (in itself almost an empire), which was given to Oklahoma by a decision of the Supreme Court three years ago. The district embraces 1,511,575 acres of land, 843,798 of which had been taken up preceding July 1, 1898, leaving 667,777 acres subject to homestead entry at that time. The rush of immigration into this county is great, and the land is being taken up rapidly. It is an excellent farming and stock-raising county, and the people are generally prosperous. The register and receiver of the United States land office, in a report to me, say:

This county is enjoying a period of great prosperity. There has been plenty of rain for all crops the past two seasons; crops of corn, cotton, wheat, oats, vegetables, kaffir corn, and all kinds of feed crops are immense this year. There is a large immigration to the county this season, and the land is being rapidly taken up.

SETTLEMENT OF LANDS.

During the year settlers have taken up lands in the districts as follows:

	Acres.
Guthrie district.....	
Oklahoma City district	217,400
Perry district.....	750
Kingfisher district.....	83,252
Enid district.....	1,820
Alva district.....	62,041
Woodward district.....	75,607
Mangum district.....	686,596
Total	1,127,466

This makes 7,046 quarter sections settled upon during the year, and as there is generally a family on every quarter section it makes that number of new families settled in the Territory during the year. This is, however, but a small part of the immigration, as the greater portion of the newcomers leased school lands, bought farms, or settled in the towns. Still we have farms and homes for many thousands more.

SCHOOL LANDS.

By act of March 4, 1889, opening Oklahoma to settlement, sections 16 and 36 were reserved for the the use and benefit of common schools, and the reservation was confirmed by the organic act. The authority to lease these lands for a term not exceeding three years for the use and benefit of the common schools of the Territory, under rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, was conferred upon the governor by act of March 3, 1891.

By authority conferred upon him in the act opening the Cherokee Strip to settlement, the President in his proclamation of August 19, 1898, not only reserved the regular school sections of 16 and 36, but also sections 13 and 33 in every township in what now constitutes Kay, Grant, Woods, Woodward, Garfield, Noble, and Pawnee counties, section 13 for the benefit of the colleges and university of the Territory and section 33 for public buildings.

By act of May 4, 1894, Congress turned the school lands over to the Territory and constituted the governor, secretary, and superintendent

of public instruction of the Territory a school-land board, to have full charge of the lands and lease same under the rules already prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior until such time as the Territorial legislature should prescribe other methods of caring for them. Up to this time the legislature has not been able to devise any better method.

The same act which created this school-land board also authorized them to lease sections 13 and 33, the proceeds of the former being divided semiannually among the educational institutions of the Territory and those of the latter going into a permanent public building fund. The act of June 19, 1897, creating Greer County as a part of Oklahoma, reserved sections 13 and 33 for such purposes as the future State of Oklahoma should prescribe, and the lands are now being leased and the proceeds kept in a separate fund subject to disposal by the State legislature when one shall have convened. It was not until January of this year that the preference right of old settlers in Greer County expired, but since then the school lands have been rapidly leased. Early in the year the secretary of the school-land board made a trip to Greer County and selected 48,585 acres of indemnity land in lieu of school lands taken by settlers, in allotments, lost by rivers, etc., the entire expense for this selection being \$226.85. During the year 3,185 acres of indemnity lands were selected in Custer County and 4,868 acres in D County at a very small expense to the Territory. The right to make such indemnity selections was conferred by act of Congress of February 28, 1891, and while the securing of these lands is a great boon to the public schools of the Territory, the selection of large bodies of adjacent lands is apt to work a hardship on the immediate locality, as in the case of the Kickapoo Reservation, where nearly all the land was so reserved and consequently is not subject to taxation.

As a result, the only means of raising money for erecting school-houses, constructing roads and bridges, and carrying on the schools is by personal taxes upon the lessees of the school lands. As they are mostly poor men, the amount raised is small, and it is with great difficulty that they are able to give their children the advantages of schools. The Territorial superintendent of public instruction is trying to devise some means of helping them. These settlers pay annually large sums into the school fund for the benefit of the schools of the Territory, and it does not seem right that they should be so restricted in their own school facilities.

There are now under the control of the school-land board about 10,800 quarter sections, about 8,500 of which are leased. East of range 14 west the lands are declared to be agricultural lands, and but one fourth section can be leased to one person. West of there they are declared grazing land, and a person can lease as many sections as he is willing to pay for. An arbitrary line dividing grazing from agricultural land is of course very misleading, as there are west of this line some as fine agricultural land as can be found, and east of it many quarters that are really only fit for grazing; but it was necessary to have a dividing line, and at the time this line was selected the country west was very thinly settled and not much farming carried on. Since then much of that country has been raising the finest of crops, and is filling up rapidly, though there are of course many large areas suitable only for grazing.

In grazing districts the school lands are leased in large bodies by the cattlemen, whose herds fatten upon the luxuriant grasses of these lands and the surrounding unentered Government land. In the agricultural district they are leased by settlers who failed to get Government land

or by late comers not able to buy farms. They are generally in a good state of cultivation, having more land broken and cultivated than the surrounding homesteads, and the improvements of a substantial kind. The reports of appraisers, sent out this year, show values of improvements on single quarters running as high as \$1,500 and \$1,800. Lessees desiring to renew their leases are given preference rights upon certain conditions, and are amply protected in their improvements. The constant flow of immigration the past year has caused an increased demand for school lands, and in several counties every quarter is leased at a profitable figure. There are, however, 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 has grown from a very small beginning, with one man doing everything, to the largest and most important department of the Territorial business. The records for the office show at this time the names of about 6,000 lessees; there are in the safes 11,086 notes for deferred payments, and in addition to the collection of rental, appraisal, and transfer of lands and a correspondence of several hundred letters a day, the office force has in the past year made out and recorded 2,800 leases, a large proportion of which were for lands heretofore unleased, but which now make a handsome addition to the receipts of the office, which now aggregates well up toward \$200,000 per annum. During the year the cash receipts of the office were \$186,789.49; 1,354 quarter-sections heretofore vacant were leased, and \$165,293.70 in notes added to the various funds. Of the \$96,866.98 of past due rentals turned over by the preceding administration, \$49,534.76, or over 45 per cent, has been collected. A special agent has been sent out to investigate vacant lands, and already \$2,574.39 has been collected from parties who were using school lands without lease. The total expense of conducting the department during the year has been 6.8 per cent of the receipts, as compared with 8.3 per cent the year preceding, and 9.3 per cent in 1896.

I invite your attention to the following tables giving the status of the school-land funds and all details:

Receipts and expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1898.

On hand June 30, 1897.....	\$3,460.11	
Received from June 30, 1897, to June 30, 1898.....	186,789.49	
		\$190,249.60
Expenses for the year.....	12,719.71	
To treasurer.....	152,068.64	
Returned to applicants.....	626.95	
Balance on hand.....	24,834.30	
		190,249.60

Receipts and expenditures of each fund for the year ending June 30, 1898.

COMMON SCHOOL.

Cash received.....		\$134,182.67
Expenses.....	\$8,816.14	
Returned to applicants.....	563.45	
Net proceeds.....	124,803.08	
		134,182.67

Receipts and expenditures of each fund for the year ending June 30, 1898—Continued.

COLLEGE.

Cash received.....		\$24,966.96
Expenses.....	\$1,851.03	
Returned to applicants.....	17.00	
Net proceeds.....	23,098.93	24,966.96

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Cash received.....		\$25,527.71
Expenses.....	\$1,842.92	
Returned to applicants.....	46.50	
Net proceeds.....	23,638.29	25,527.71

GREER COUNTY.

Section 13:		
Cash received.....		\$1,089.15
Expenses.....	\$104.81	
Net proceeds.....	984.34	1,089.15
Section 33:		
Cash received.....		1,023.00
Expenses.....	\$104.81	
Net proceeds.....	918.19	1,023.00

Net proceeds from leasing lands.

Fiscal year ending June 30—		
1891.....		\$4,536.82
1892.....		21,346.13
1893.....		19,164.67
1894.....		46,586.29
1895.....		88,627.97
1896.....		71,740.68
1897.....		98,467.81
1898.....		173,442.83
Total.....		523,912.20

School-fund apportionment to counties (\$1.34 per capita of school population).

Counties.	Children of school age.	Apportionment.		Total.
		January, 1898.	July, 1898.	
Beaver.....	909	\$954.45	\$263.61	\$1,218.06
Blaine.....	2,293	2,407.65	664.97	3,072.62
Canadian.....	4,270	4,483.50	1,238.30	5,721.80
Cleveland.....	6,868	5,541.90	1,530.62	7,072.52
Custer.....	1,804	1,894.20	523.16	2,417.36
D.....	1,033	1,084.65	299.57	1,384.22
Day.....	244	256.20	70.76	326.96
Garfield.....	4,904	5,149.20	1,422.16	6,571.36
Grant.....	4,455	4,677.75	1,291.95	5,969.70
Greer.....	2,513	2,638.65	728.77	3,367.42
Kay.....	4,983	5,232.15	1,445.07	6,677.22
Kingfisher.....	5,354	5,621.70	1,552.66	7,174.36
Lincoln.....	6,868	7,211.40	1,991.72	9,203.12
Logan.....	7,207	7,567.35	2,090.03	9,657.38
Noble.....	2,808	2,948.40	814.32	3,762.72
Oklahoma.....	6,495	6,819.75	1,883.55	8,703.30
Pawnee.....	3,260	3,423.00	945.40	4,368.40
Payne.....	5,564	5,842.20	1,613.56	7,455.76
Pottawatomie.....	7,886	8,280.30	2,286.94	10,567.24
Roger Mills.....	581	610.05	168.49	778.54
Washita.....	2,561	2,689.05	742.69	3,431.74
Woods.....	8,048	8,450.40	2,333.92	10,784.32
Woodward.....	1,267	1,330.25	867.43	1,697.68
Total.....	90,585	95,114.25	26,269.65	121,383.80

NOTE.—The net proceeds for July, 1897, \$3,252.71, was turned over to the Territorial treasurer and was apportioned by the board with money turned over to them for the year ending June 30, 1897. If apportioned with the receipts for the year ending June 30, 1898, as it should properly have been, it would have made the apportionment per capita nearly 4 cents greater.

Amount of distribution per capita each year.

Year ending June 30—

1892	\$0. 83
1893 .....	. 56
1894 .....	. 72
1895 .....	. 69
1896 .....	. 62
1897 .....	. 86
1898	1. 34

Notes on hand.

When due.	Number.	Amount.	When due.	Number.	Amount.
Common school:			College—Continued.		
Jan. 1, 1892	13	\$745. 22	Dec. 15, 1900	2	\$99. 00
Apr. 1, 1892	16	465. 40	Oct. 1, 1901	8	264. 00
Dec. 15, 1892	28	825. 15	Dec. 15, 1901	2	99. 00
Jan. 1, 1893	28	1, 359. 75	Oct. 1, 1902	2	66. 00
Apr. 1, 1893	21	544. 90			
Dec. 15, 1893	86	2, 474. 75	Total	1, 562	56, 302. 94
Miscellaneous	13	291. 00			
Jan. 1, 1894	34	1, 665. 75	Public buildings:		
Apr. 1, 1894	18	551. 40	Dec. 15, 1894	2	21. 00
Dec. 15, 1894	34	9, 042. 67	Dec. 15, 1895	21	975. 05
Oct. 1, 1895	23	543. 26	Oct. 1, 1896	1	28. 00
Dec. 15, 1895	305	14, 441. 87	Dec. 15, 1896	34	1, 563. 81
Oct. 1, 1896	97	2, 383. 89	Oct. 1, 1897	34	1, 017. 65
Dec. 15, 1896	211	11, 432. 62	Dec. 15, 1897	33	1, 539. 37
Oct. 1, 1897	517	15, 180. 83	Oct. 1, 1898	407	14, 118. 73
Dec. 15, 1897	33	2, 159. 37	Dec. 15, 1898	34	2, 242. 00
Oct. 1, 1898	2, 344	81, 297. 41	Oct. 1, 1899	498	16, 179. 22
Dec. 15, 1898	56	6, 226. 75	Dec. 15, 1899	34	2, 242. 00
Oct. 1, 1899	2, 684	87, 407. 83	Oct. 1, 1900	362	12, 025. 67
Dec. 15, 1899	51	6, 031. 75	Dec. 15, 1900	3	99. 00
Oct. 1, 1900	1, 011	28, 656. 76	Oct. 1, 1901	8	323. 50
Dec. 15, 1900	2	133. 00	Dec. 15, 1901	3	99. 00
Oct. 1, 1901	88	2, 781. 37	Oct. 1, 1902	3	91. 00
Dec. 15, 1901	2	132. 00			
Oct. 1, 1902	20	570. 00	Total	1, 477	52, 563. 00
Total	7, 935	277, 344. 70	Greer County, section 13:		
College:			Oct. 1, 1899	32	922. 65
Dec. 15, 1894	4	175. 00	Oct. 1, 1900	32	923. 15
Dec. 15, 1895	18	779. 00	Total	64	1, 845. 70
Dec. 15, 1896	27	1, 115. 02	Greer County, section 33:		
Oct. 1, 1896	3	75. 00	Oct. 1, 1899	24	839. 25
Oct. 1, 1897	23	495. 75	Oct. 1, 1900	24	842. 75
Dec. 15, 1897	21	994. 32	Total	48	1, 682. 00
Oct. 1, 1898	410	14, 903. 80	Grand total		
Dec. 15, 1898	28	2, 309. 00		11, 086	389, 738. 34
Oct. 1, 1899	550	18, 138. 55			
Dec. 15, 1899	28	2, 309. 00			
Oct. 1, 1900	436	14, 480. 50			

SALINE RESERVES.

There has been more or less agitation the past year looking toward the opening to settlement of the Saline reserves in Grant, Woods, and Woodward counties, in the northwestern part of the Territory. These lands are in three reservations aggregating about 100,000 acres, and at the opening of the Cherokee Strip to settlement were reserved from homestead entry because of the lands having been leased years before by the Cherokee Indians. It has since been discovered that this lease was never approved and hence is invalid.

The statutes of the United States require a special act of Congress to dispose of any real saline lands, and it has been the custom to donate them to the various States in which they are located. A large portion of these reservations are real saline lands, with salt springs and remarkable deposits of salt covering large areas; but there are parts which are not saline which make excellent pasturage, and still other parts good

agricultural lands. In view of the fact that much of the land sought to be donated to the Territory for colleges and public buildings has been lost by reason of fractional quarters, allotments, streams, etc., I would urge upon the Department and upon Congress the advisability of donating these saline reserves to the Territory for the benefit of the higher institutions of learning.

BANKS AND BANKING.

In the condition and business of the banks of the Territory is told a story of a year's prosperity unequaled anywhere in the United States. There are in the Territory 49 Territorial or State banks and 6 National banks, with an aggregate paid-up capital of \$789,786.69.

The Territorial banks are all under the jurisdiction of the Territorial banking board, subject to examination at any time by the Territorial bank examiner, and are compelled by law to make quarterly reports of their actual condition to all depositors. These regulations inspire confidence in the banks by the people, who patronize them generally. During the year 6 new banks have been started, 2 have consolidated, and 1 failed.

We give below a comparative statement showing the condition of the Territorial banks at stated periods during the year, also the per cent of reserve at each period, gain in cash, increase in loans, and per cent of gain in deposit.

Comparative statement of the Territorial banks in Oklahoma Territory.

RESOURCES.

	July 23, 1897.	Dec. 31, 1897.	Mar. 31, 1897.	June 30, 1898.
Loans and discounts	\$1, 126, 795. 37	\$998, 989. 28	\$1, 289, 998. 38	\$1, 420, 202. 99
Warrants and bonds	100, 573. 68	78, 587. 78	103, 090. 89	78, 388. 74
Overdrafts	70, 514. 05	49, 887. 64	55, 690. 09	55, 786. 09
Cash and sight exchange	743, 756. 09	1, 707, 559. 94	1, 617, 672. 58	1, 561, 262. 37
Real estate, furniture, and fixtures	202, 308. 80	191, 897. 59	176, 533. 36	150, 784. 96
Total	2, 244, 037. 99	3, 116, 922. 23	3, 242, 985. 30	3, 275, 425. 15

LIABILITIES.

Capital	\$613, 328. 70	\$565, 578. 83	\$492, 320. 69	\$509, 786. 69
Surplus and profits	115, 621. 36	146, 154. 64	188, 316. 40	205, 153. 28
Deposits	1, 499, 149. 69	2, 405, 191. 76	2, 562, 348. 21	2, 560, 485. 18
Rediscounts	15, 938. 24			
Total	2, 244, 037. 99	3, 116, 922. 23	3, 244, 985. 30	3, 275, 425. 15

COMPARATIVE.

Reserve	49	74	63	60
Gain in deposits		\$906, 042. 07	\$157, 156. 65	\$9, 603. 00
Gain in cash since July, 1897		645, 417. 32	873, 916. 49	827, 506. 26
Loans and discounts increased since July, 1897			163, 203. 01	293, 407. 62
Loans and discounts decreased since July, 1897		40, 514. 10		
Per cent gain in deposits since July, 1897		70	75	75

In addition to the banks under the control of the Territory, Oklahoma has 6 National banks. A report taken from their last report to the Comp-



WASHINGTON SCHOOL, OKLAHOMA CITY.

troller of the Currency follows. During the past year 1 National bank went into voluntary liquidation and 2 new ones have been established. No failures. The following is a statement of the National banks:

Resources:	
Loans and discounts	\$589, 289. 16
Overdrafts	15, 308. 18
United States bonds and premiums	77, 375. 00
Stocks and securities	68, 757. 75
Real estate, furniture, and fixtures	62, 442. 91
Cash and sight exchange	651, 060. 52
Total resources	1, 464, 233. 52
Liabilities:	
Capital paid in	\$280, 000. 00
Surplus and profits	45, 253. 16
Circulation	67, 490. 00
Deposits	1, 071, 490. 36
Total liabilities	1, 464, 233. 52

This shows a gain of 50 per cent, or \$520,221, in the deposits of the national banks over their showing of a year ago. Their loans have increased \$320,039, or 125 per cent, and their cash holdings have increased 80 per cent, or \$252,312.

The figures for our banks herewith presented speak only of the past. The results of this year's crops are yet to be made up, and with their abundance, the prospects for good prices, and the present financial condition of the people, there is evident indication that the coming year will be one of greater prosperity to the banks than the present has been. Our banks have a larger reserve average at this time than those of any other State or Territory, and almost without exception have their affairs in excellent condition.

With a reserve four times as large as is required by law, I consider our banks in condition to meet any kind of emergency that may arise.

BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS.

There are three or four building and loan associations in the Territory which are doing a good business, and are important factors in building up the towns in which they are located and encouraging the people in habits of saving and economy. Their dividends average from 12 to 18 per cent per annum, compounded semiannually.

The Guthrie association, which is the oldest, has helped build over one hundred homes in that city; has now \$38,000 loaned to stockholders, and during the past year has paid \$10,000 of maturing stock to members, who thus accumulated considerable sums from small savings.

Many outside associations, attracted by the general prosperity of the people of Oklahoma, are coming into the Territory to get business, but it is to be hoped that every town of any size in the Territory will in the near future have an association of its own.

INSURANCE AND INVESTMENTS.

The territorial laws regulating insurance are ample, and afford full protection to the people against insecure and unreliable concerns. Before doing business in the Territory all insurance and indemnity companies must file with the secretary of the Territory, who is ex-officio insurance commissioner, a statement of their condition, and it is

discretionary with him as to whether or not they shall be licensed to do business in the Territory. If they are sound and all right he grants them a license, but still has the right to examine them at any time and to revoke the license and shut them out of the Territory at any sign of weakness or insecurity.

Each year every company is required to report to him fully the amount of business they have done in the Territory during the year, and they are taxed on their gross earnings in each county in which they do business.

The reports of the companies licensed to do business in the Territory show the following business done during the year 1897:

Fire insurance.—January 1, 1898.

Name of company.	Location.	Insurance written in 1897.	Premiums received.	Losses paid.	Losses incurred.
Ætna	Hartford, Conn	\$289, 135	\$4, 460	\$998	\$1, 498
American Central	St. Louis, Mo	181, 924	3, 203	1, 118	1, 093
British American Assurance Co.	Toronto, Canada	48, 950	1, 352	475	475
Connecticut	Hartford, Conn	523, 912	8, 554	1, 359	1, 359
Delaware	Philadelphia, Pa	102, 272	2, 719	443	15
German American	New York	365, 326	6, 688	3, 050	2, 875
German Alliance <i>a</i>	do				
Hartford	Hartford, Conn	368, 917	6, 245	360	1, 360
Fire Association of Philadelphia	Philadelphia, Pa	190, 297	5, 498	1, 262	1, 037
Insurance Co. of North America	do	180, 906	4, 694	3, 278	4, 565
London and Lancashire	Liverpool, England	209, 600	6, 487	718	718
Liverpool and London and Globe	do	306, 157	6, 708	1, 300	4, 800
Niagara	New York	280, 000	4, 679	30	30
North British and Mercantile	London, England	34, 230	652		
Orient	Hartford, Conn	183, 760	3, 116	451	451
Providence Washington	Providence, R. I	116, 715	1, 429	50	50
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, Pa	284, 984	4, 737	3, 910	4, 281
Phoenix	Brooklyn, N. Y	560, 236	9, 535	3, 668	3, 765
Royal	Liverpool, England	93, 696	1, 326	64	64
Shawnee <i>a</i>	Topeka, Kans				
Springfield Fire and Marine	Springfield, Mass	797, 451	12, 865	3, 120	3, 889
Scottish Union and National	Edinburgh, Scotland	142, 636	3, 988	947	955
Traders	Chicago, Ill	102, 225	2, 583		
Westchester	New York	148, 868	4, 442	1, 562	1, 415
Western Assurance	Toronto, Canada	65, 074	1, 737	493	493
Merchants <i>a</i>	Newark, N. J				
Total		5, 567, 271	107, 697	28, 656	35, 188

a Entered 1898.

Miscellaneous.—January 1, 1898.

Name of company.	Location.	Insurance written in 1897.	Premiums received.	Losses paid.	Losses incurred.
Fidelity and Causalty	New York	\$421, 621	\$1, 359	\$93	\$93
Lloyd's Plate Glass	do	4, 278	131	67	67
The Traveler	Hartford, Conn	14, 000	118	101	101
American Surety Co.	New York	9, 222	31	None.	None.
Total		449, 121	1, 639	261	261

Life insurance.—January 1, 1898.

Name of company.	Location.	Insurance in force Dec. 31, 1896.	Insurance written in 1897.	Total insurance in force Dec. 31, 1897.	Premiums received in 1897.	Losses incurred in 1897.	Losses paid in 1897.
Connecticut Indemnity Association. ^a	Waterbury, Conn.						
Covenant Mutual a.	St. Louis, Mo.						
Equitable Life Assurance Society.	New York	\$155, 193	\$94, 450	\$211, 143	(c)	\$167. 00	\$167. 00
Hartford b.	Hartford, Conn.						
Massachusetts Mutual.	Springfield, Mass.	(c)					
Mutual Reserve Fund.	New York	332, 500	78, 500	216, 500	\$2, 305. 74	2, 000. 00	2, 000. 00
Mutual Life.	do	248, 787	75, 000	304, 217	6, 801. 81	50. 15	50. 15
Merchants Life Assurance of United States. b	St. Louis, Mo.						
New York Life.	New York	721, 268	516, 800	1, 135, 514	25, 811. 21	4, 146. 25	4, 146. 25
Northwestern Mutual.	Milwaukee, Wis.	214, 700	135, 136	336, 518	(c)	2, 000. 00	2, 000. 00
National Life Assurance.	Hartford, Conn.	24, 000	6, 250	8, 250	178. 08	None.	None.
Union Central b.	Cincinnati, Ohio						
State Life b.	Indianapolis, Ind.						
Mutual Life Insurance of Kentucky. b	Louisville, Ky.						
Total.		1, 696, 448	906, 136	2, 212, 142	35, 096. 84	8, 363. 40	8, 363. 40

^a Entered late in 1897.^b Entered 1898.^c Not given.

RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION.

History tells of no new country with a title of the transportation facilities possessed by Oklahoma. The Territory can be reached by direct trunk lines from any portion of the nation, and there is no portion of it but is reasonably accessible to railways and their attendant comforts and advantages.

Crossing the eastern portion of the Territory is the main north and south line of the greatest of American railway systems, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, giving a direct line to the Gulf on the south, the markets of Kansas City and Chicago to the north and east, and those of the mountains to the west, as well as an unbroken line to the Pacific. Running parallel and about 40 miles west of the Santa Fe is the Gulf line of the great Rock Island route, reaching the Gulf ports to the south; Kansas City, Omaha, and Chicago to the north and east, and Denver and the Rockies to the west. Across the southern portion of the Territory from east to west, and connecting the Santa Fe and Rock Island lines, is the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf line, which east, in the Indian Territory, connects with the Missouri, Kansas and Texas, the Frisco, the Missouri Pacific, and the Pittsburg and Gulf, direct trunk lines to the Gulf, to the Mississippi, St. Louis, Kansas City, and Chicago, and from thence to all parts of the country.

In the northern part of the Territory is the Hutchinson and Southern road, entering the Territory at Manchester and running southeast as far as Blackwell, giving connection at Hutchinson with the Union Pacific and other lines. In the western part of the Territory the Pan Handle branch of the Santa Fe runs diagonally through Woods and Woodward counties, offering ready shipment for the agricultural products and the great herds of cattle of that vast country. Both the Santa Fe and the Rock Island touch the north line of Beaver County, in the extreme west, and the Missouri Pacific touches the north

line of the Territory at Caney, Arkansas City, and Kiowa, Kans., while the Frisco reaches it at Arkansas City and Hunnewell, Kans., and by August 15 will be running trains into the eastern part of the Territory over a new line.

Many new lines of railroads have been projected in Oklahoma the past year, nearly a dozen new companies having been chartered and half as many surveys made for new lines or extensions of those already in operation.

The first to build was the Hutchinson and Southern, which extended its line from Medford to Blackwell, a distance of 26 miles, and began running trains thereon by March 1, 1898. It is less than two years since this road built into the Territory, but their business is very satisfactory and they have put in first-class equipment, with good track and sidings at the half dozen or more flourishing towns that have sprung up along their line. They are figuring on hauling 4,000 cars of wheat out of the Territory this fall, and will extend their line a distance of 15 miles to a junction with the Santa Fe before winter.

In the winter the Choctaw ran a survey north from Shawnee and one west from Fort Reno. They decided to build the western line and on July 1, 1898, were running cars into Geary, a town 17 miles west of the fort, which in a few weeks had sprung from unbroken prairie into a flourishing city. This line will be extended 28 miles farther to Weatherford in the eastern part of Custer County this fall, and will open up a vast trade in that western country, where the cheap coal and lumber brought in by this line, coupled with a better and more convenient market, will be factors in the rapid development of these western counties. They have also extended their line in the Indian Territory.

The Kansas and Southern Railroad Company have graded 15 miles of roadbed from Hunnewell into Kay County, but no iron has yet been laid.

The St. Louis and Oklahoma City road, in reality an extension of the Frisco, began to grade from Sapulpa, Ind. T., to Oklahoma City early in the spring, and by June 30 had 16 miles of steel laid and the grading of two-thirds of the line was completed. They expect to have the road complete and cars running to Oklahoma City (a distance of 103 miles), by October 15, and to later extend farther southwest.

The Kansas, Oklahoma and Southern Railway is now grading a section of its line near Bartlesville and expects to push on through Pawhuska, Pawnee, Stillwater, Guthrie, and Elreno from Coffeyville, Kans., within the year. Lines are also projected in various directions all over the Territory, but no work has been done on them.

The Rock Island road has built no extensions during the year, but has put in nearly two miles of siding and is now at work on a mile more; a new depot has been put in at Darlington and the train service much improved.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe have been improving and renovating their whole line through the Territory to better accommodate their rapidly growing business in Oklahoma and to handle their immense Gulf traffic. During the year the company laid 62 miles of heavy steel and ballasted 40 miles of track in the Territory with crushed rock, have replaced a large number of ties, have replaced several wooden bridges with steel ones, making a total of 740 feet of steel bridges put in, have rebuilt half a dozen old bridges, and are building many brick and stone arches. They have also completed a new depot at Seward, new depot, reading room, bathrooms, and eating house at Purcell, and a new eating house and reading room at Woodward; have put in four additional 2,000-foot passing tracks and 8,500 feet of side track to accommodate



BRIDGE ACROSS CIMARRON RIVER, AT PERKINS.

new elevators, grain bins, coal bins, lumber yards, and other local industries, at different points between Arkansas City and Purcell.

The coming year they expect to complete the stone ballasting, replace all the old bridges with new, put in the block system, and make many more improvements in Oklahoma, and also contemplate spending \$1,500,000 improving the line from Oklahoma to the Gulf.

COMMERCE.

The commerce of Oklahoma, both local and foreign, has increased at a very rapid ratio in the past few years, and the freight carried by the railways out of and into the Territory the past year has been more than double that of any previous year. Oklahoma wheat has been going to the elevators of the North and East and to the Gulf, and thence to foreign lands; flour has gone to Central and South America by the cargo; train loads of cotton to Liverpool and even to far-off Japan; fruits, melons, and vegetables to even the other fruit belts of the nation; cattle and hogs to every market of the nation and to many foreign lands, while implements, vehicles, dry goods, clothing, and various other supplies have been coming in in greatly increasing quantities, and household goods and other emigrant possessions have filled many trains and added largely to the aggregate of business. The two trunk lines passing through the Territory find the Oklahoma portion of their lines the best paying of their entire system. Take Guthrie, for example; the increase of freight business each month of the year was greater than the entire business for any previous month in the history of the Territory. The commerce toward the Gulf the past year has increased very perceptibly, and I believe it would be greatly to the advantage of the entire Territory to cultivate still closer trade relations with the Gulf ports.

The following abstract of business done in certain lines at their different stations in Oklahoma, as furnished by the several railroads in the Territory, gives some idea of the huge proportions of the Territory's commerce:

CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND, AND PACIFIC.

Goods shipped from stations in Territory.

Commodities.	Renfrow.	Medford.	Jefferson.	Pond Creek.	Kremlin.	North Enid.	Enid.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Merchandise	39,502	430,893	131,216	506,087	40,325	367,683	3,825,734
Machinery	6,400	104,900	5,020	20,000	10,000	224,000	113,800
Wheat	14,858,570	21,209,690	5,384,193	17,924,013	11,798,508	25,259,810	50,253,705
Corn	758,310	2,553,486	3,524,110	4,192,420	774,830	983,310	600,255
Rye			25,200				
Oats		30,800		33,000			24,000
Seed		147,648	25,200	209,250	24,135	155	386,400
Mill stuffs		88,000	57,000			117,540	1,083,460
Broom corn		66,900	75,650	421,435	15,140	400,810	807,005
Butter	1,570		1,575		317	2,300	
Hides	58	1,745	2,455				
Flour		1,239,709	66,820			434,670	1,599,093
Salt		7,394,060					
Eggs	39,439	1,244	28,141	2,725	4,713	6,510	36,655
Milk		7,085				58,455	
Fruit (green)		93,400	436,905	24,350			52,900
Cattle		2,807,480	661,100	566,600	50,600	19,000	1,047,200
Sheep				266,500			
Hogs	352,220	1,210,350	389,330	1,536,840	448,630	882,220	3,025,200
Hay	2,809,000	4,212,327	597,700	157,600	198,900	156,000	231,200
Horses	3,000	102,000			2,000		120,000
Cotton			13,200	79,010			483,911
Total of all shipments from the station	18,870,549	42,000,857	11,750,155	25,967,240	13,317,198	29,097,728	63,885,518

CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND, AND PACIFIC—continued.

Goods shipped from stations in Territory—Continued.

Commodity.	Waukomis.	Hennessey.	Dover.	Kingfisher.	Okarche.	El Reno.	Union City.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Merchandise	169, 627	812, 445	37, 088	1, 815, 943	181, 831	5, 215, 845	44, 905
Machinery		76, 810		107, 500	88, 100	215, 300	21, 600
Wheat	24, 027, 185	47, 885, 144	1, 782, 190	62, 108, 410	23, 186, 745	21, 315, 216	
Corn	161, 100	49, 650				24, 000	139, 200
Rye						33, 030	
Oats	237, 000	117, 900		531, 430	83, 000	1, 711, 695	32, 100
Barley				24, 000			
Potatoes		26, 000		24, 500		78, 500	
Seed		878, 110	555, 640	1, 404, 550	63, 240	2, 091, 450	300
Mill stuffs		317, 400		927, 160		2, 357, 810	
Broom corn				298, 690		42, 275	
Butter	3, 055	9, 936		16, 225	2, 582	16, 750	
Hides	1, 410	7, 199		27, 946		26, 940	
Flour		29, 216		2, 736, 164		7, 028, 233	
Salt						24, 000	
Eggs	13, 420	54, 131		135, 248	12, 564	24, 785	1, 400
Milk	22, 660	7, 150		48, 345	46, 971		
Fruits (green)		22, 300				88, 165	150
Cattle	418, 000	679, 900	19, 000	1, 567, 600	184, 500	903, 300	128, 200
Hogs	753, 650	1, 707, 830	78, 920	1, 200, 120	33, 700	1, 142, 080	306, 100
Horses		3, 000		20, 000			
Hay	20, 000						
Cotton		814, 186	276, 807	2, 055, 389		7, 196, 772	
Total all shipments from the station.	25, 872, 107	54, 249, 482	4, 736, 360	78, 330, 850	26, 972, 713	138, 344, 291	682, 325

Farm implements, vehicles, etc., shipped into the Territory.

Station.	Implements.	Vehicles.	Machines.	Emigrant movables.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Renfrow	48, 700	25, 000	59, 205	89, 495
Medford	425, 735	47, 400	415, 350	176, 000
Jefferson	166, 275	56, 120	95, 205	105, 505
Pond Creek	242, 300	107, 700	309, 550	254, 700
Kremlin	168, 100	23, 900	80, 700	190, 900
North Enid	199, 150		301, 000	208, 650
Enid	1, 742, 705	890, 350	968, 490	1, 000, 835
Waukomis	189, 500	32, 000	220, 000	325, 885
Hennessey	872, 148	232, 150	538, 585	257, 351
Dover			8, 000	2, 320
Kingfisher	1, 500, 500	674, 520	1, 090, 680	630, 550
Okarche	353, 000	28, 600	279, 300	176, 730
El Reno	1, 153, 750	538, 080	634, 517	958, 766
Union City	22, 700	890	89, 180	92, 465
Total	7, 082, 563	2, 656, 710	5, 090, 237	4, 470, 152

CHOCTAW, OKLAHOMA AND GULF RAILWAY.

Shipments from stations in Territory, in carloads.

Station.	Wheat.	Flour.	Corn.	Oats.	Other mill products.
El Reno	222	215	5	46	175
Yukon	627	20	21	93	37
Council	55		1	13	
Oklahoma City	124	249	40	95	122
Dixon	7				
Choctaw City	54		1		
Total	1, 089	484	68	247	334

CHOCTAW, OKLAHOMA AND GULF RAILWAY—continued.

Shipments from stations in Territory, in carloads—Continued.

Station.	Cattle.	Hogs.	Cotton.	Cotton seed.
			<i>Bales.</i>	
El Reno.....	2	2	2,394	27
Yukon.....	10	62	-----	-----
Council.....	5	2	-----	-----
Oklahoma City.....	6	4	1,517	15
Choctaw City.....	6	3	2,956	78
McLoud.....	2	1	3,447	74
Dale.....	9	34	458	-----
Shawnee.....	48	59	25,334	374
Tecumseh Junction.....	-----	-----	9,803	101
Earlboro.....	17	29	1,203	25
Total.....	105	196	48,112	694

HUTCHISON AND SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

Number of cars shipped out of the Territory.

Cattle.....	17
Hogs.....	92
Horses.....	1
Wheat.....	559
Corn.....	33

Number of cars shipped into the Territory.

Machinery and implements.....	50
Vehicles of all kinds.....	5
Household furniture.....	5

ATCHISON, TOPEKA & SANTE FE RAILWAY.

Number of cars shipped out of the Territory.

Cattle.....	3,771
Hogs.....	1,672
Sheep.....	25
Horses.....	20
Wheat.....	5,666
Corn.....	487
Other grain.....	143
Castor beans.....	120
Flour.....	381
Mill products.....	173
Cotton-seed products.....	623
Cotton..... bales..	46,210

Number of cars shipped into the Territory.

Agricultural implements.....	215
Vehicles of all kinds.....	64
Household goods.....	226

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

The Western Union Telegraph Company has well-managed and well-equipped offices in every railroad town in the Territory. Their business has shown a large increase the past year, and they have run three new wires into the Territory and are increasing their facilities in other ways. The Missouri and Kansas Telephone Company operate exchanges

at Guthrie, Oklahoma City, and El Reno, and will put in plants at Norman and Ponca in the near future. They also have long-distance connections between Fort Reno, El Reno, Yukon, Oklahoma City, Edmond, Waterloo, Seward, Council Grove, Darlington, and Guthrie, and expect soon to extend their line north from Guthrie to connection at Arkansas City, Kans., with Wichita, Topeka, Kansas City, and other points; also, a line from El Reno to Kingfisher. Local companies contemplate putting in exchanges at Newkirk and Shawnee this fall.

The Perkins Telephone Company has a line from Guthrie to Stillwater, Perkins, Langston, Morrison, Pawnee, Perry, Chandler, Tyron, Carney, and Sac and Fox Agency, while other lines run from Chandler to Stroud, Wellston, Shawnee, Tecumseh, and Oklahoma City, and a line connects Newkirk and Blackwell with Arkansas City, Kans. All these lines are doing a paying business, and in a short time every town in the Territory will have either telephone or telegraph connections.

CLIMATE.

Few portions of the continent have a more attractive climate the year round than Oklahoma. True, there are occasional disagreeable days, but they are succeeded by others so perfect that the hours of discomfort pass quickly from the memory.

The winters are mild and pleasant, the spring and fall delightful, and while the summers are hot there is almost a continual breeze, and with but very few exceptions the nights are cool and pleasant, affording refreshing sleep to all.

The dryness of the air, the ever-present sunshine, and the very few days that are cloudy or gloomy make it a delightful place for the worn-out worker, invalid, or consumptive, and many have been restored to health whose days seemed numbered at their coming. Rheumatism, that terror of the North and East, is almost unknown, and many remarkable cures are reported from the influence of the climate or the effects of bathing in the salt and mineral impregnated waters of the Cimarron or Salt Fork rivers.

The conditions of air, the temperature the year round, and the rainfall of the Territory seem to be not only pleasant and healthful to the people, but favorable to the growth and development of flowers, fruits, vegetables, grain, and other products.

TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL.

Meteorological observations are daily made at the Territorial experiment station, at army posts, and by volunteer observers at various places in Oklahoma and Indian Territories. Reports are forwarded to Oklahoma City, at which place the climate and crop service of the Weather Bureau of the United States Department of Agriculture maintains a central office for this section, under the direction of James I. Widmeyer, who is also observer at that point.

The accompanying tables have been compiled by Mr. Widmeyer, or from data furnished by him. They are worthy of a careful study, as a knowledge of the climatic conditions is especially important in a newly settled agricultural region. As there are marked variations from year to year, summaries are given as to rainfall at different places for each of several years, especially at Oklahoma City and Fort Reno, at which places the observations have been made either by specially trained observers or under the direction of army officers.



GUTHRIE HIGH SCHOOL.

The reports from a number of places are not complete for the year, but give facts for most of the months. In each of the tables places marked with an asterisk (*) are in the Indian Territory, the others in Oklahoma.

The rainfall for 1898, up to July 25, was—

	Inches.
January	4.38
February	2.37
March	2.34
April .....	.95
May	9.96
June	1.75
July (to 25th)	3.27
Total	25.02

as compared with 23.50 inches for the same period in 1897.

Precipitation in inches by months in 1897.

	Latitude.	Longitude.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Alva	36.48	98.40	1.50	1.55	1.60	3.40	4.00	1.70	.90	5.40	2.40	.....	.....	.....	.....
Arapahoe	35.30	98.55	1.56	.46	1.71	4.22	8.80	2.85	1.74	1.65	2.30	.99	.18	.23	26.69
Anadarko	35.08	98.15	.60	1.20	3.37	3.32	7.12	2.60	2.19	.92	.35	1.72	.25	.30	23.94
Burnett	35.10	97.10	1.75	1.20	5.24	4.41	5.85	3.37	2.42	2.32	2.93	1.61	1.61	.76	33.47
Clifton	35.30	96.55	1.19	1.25	4.82	9.22	3.61	2.64	3.63	2.73	.60	1.26	.77	.97	32.69
Edmond .....	.....	.....	.86	1.86	3.69	13.35	6.29	2.05	.....	.....	.....	.76	.37	.70	77
Fort Sill	34.40	98.23	1.50	.39	2.62	.80	8.07	2.80	1.95	2.37	1.75	2.73	.49	.80	26.27
Fort Reno	35.33	98.01	1.10	1.55	1.80	7.36	6.07	2.69	.66	1.01	1.27	1.28	.37	.50	25.66
Hennessey	36.12	97.57	.58	.79	.....	5.39	7.22	1.40	.88	4.09	8.10	1.11	T.	.20	.....
* Healdton	34.10	97.25	2.67	.34	4.85	2.55	8.41	3.85	2.05	4.80	2.34	2.52	T.	1.95	36.33
* Lehigh	34.26	96.10	6.00	.42	8.13	4.83	3.94	4.59	3.01	.43	.25	1.93	T.	4.27	37.80
Mangum	34.48	99.32	1.82	.26	1.48	2.72	3.52	3.23	2.28	2.91	2.78	.92	.36	.21	22.49
Norman	35.20	97.30	1.22	1.15	4.43	4.87	6.07	5.35	2.34	1.60	1.02	1.38	.55	.86	31.14
Jefferson	36.45	97.50	.91	1.02	2.65	5.80	4.96	5.15	1.15	5.48	1.36	.72	.00	.50	29.70
Prudence .....	.....	.....	1.65	1.50	2.68	6.49	8.26	3.81	1.59	3.89	4.49	1.08	T.	.71	36.15
Oklahoma	35.26	97.33	1.10	1.32	4.71	5.87	6.02	2.58	1.90	1.66	1.22	.81	.58	.70	28.47
Sac and Fox Agency	35.30	96.40	1.40	1.30	5.80	7.90	3.90	2.50	2.70	2.40	1.60	1.00	.70	.....	.....
Stillwater	36.10	97.05	.81	1.51	3.62	6.36	4.77	4.13	2.63	4.51	.71	.97	.80	.87	31.69
* Tahlequa	34.48	94.58	6.83	1.25	5.36	6.60	4.59	3.45	.....	5.47	.98	1.00	1.38	1.05	.....
Waukomis .....	.....	.....	.78	.24	2.32	4.15	5.38	1.22	2.27	2.85	2.25	1.26	.00	.48	23.13
Winnview	36.10	98.80	1.53	.81	2.29	4.49	7.42	2.33	1.54	1.08	2.25	2.36	.03	.42	26.55
Wagoner .....	.....	.....	3.26	.90	3.26	2.24	.26	4.07	3.22	4.37	T.	1.29	1.19	1.30	25.26
* South McAlester	34.56	95.47	4.12	.00	8.50	7.75	2.70	6.50	2.45	2.37	.41	.99	1.22	5.22	42.23
South McAlester	34.56	95.47	4.12	.00	8.50	7.75	2.70	6.50	2.45	2.37	.41	.99	1.22	5.22	42.23
* Tulsa	36.08	95.56	2.40	.97	6.70	5.60	.80	2.20	3.72	4.24	.00	1.22	1.27	1.08	30.22

Temperature records for 1897.

	Latitude.	Longitude.	Temperature.	Year.												
				January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	
Arapahoe	35.30	98.55	Mean	31.0	39.8	49.0	58.6	67.2	76.6	82.2	80.4	75.0	64.3	47.8	34.2	58.8
			Max	57.0	72.0	87.0	87.0	91.0	100.0	107.0	107.0	105.0	92.0	82.0	67.0	.....
			Min	3.0	14.0	14.0	31.0	42.0	45.0	54.0	55.0	49.0	29.0	7.0	1.0	.....
Anadarko	35.08	98.15	Mean	36.0	45.2	52.8	61.7	68.0	78.2	83.2	78.0	75.7	67.4	52.0	39.0	61.4
			Max	77.0	80.0	87.0	87.0	90.0	100.0	104.0	106.0	103.0	96.0	95.0	75.0	.....
			Min	1.0	15.0	18.0	32.0	49.0	43.0	51.0	51.0	42.0	31.0	14.0	4.0	.....
Burnett	35.10	97.10	Mean	33.7	41.8	51.7	59.9	66.0	76.2	80.3	77.0	72.6	64.4	45.0	36.2	59.2
			Max	67.0	77.0	86.0	83.0	86.0	94.0	102.0	100.0	98.0	92.0	80.0	74.0	.....
			Min	1.0	15.0	18.0	34.0	39.0	47.0	48.0	54.0	41.0	32.0	15.0	8.0	.....
Clifton	35.30	96.55	Mean	33.0	41.6	51.8	60.8	67.4	77.4	81.5	78.0	74.1	65.4	48.7	36.0	.....
			Max	66.0	73.0	87.0	85.0	91.0	99.0	102.0	103.0	102.0	96.0	82.0	75.0	.....
			Min	-2.0	13.0	17.0	32.0	39.0	45.0	54.0	54.0	38.0	31.0	12.0	7.0	.....
Fort Reno	35.33	98.01	Mean	33.4	42.6	51.8	58.8	65.6	75.3	81.0	79.1	75.4	64.4	45.0	27.8	59.6
			Max	62.0	75.0	86.0	82.0	85.0	94.0	107.0	103.0	99.0	98.0	80.0	69.0	.....
			Min	2.0	12.0	11.0	32.0	42.0	46.0	56.0	57.0	48.0	33.0	10.0	0.0	.....
Fort Sill	34.40	98.23	Mean	35.1	44.0	52.6	60.4	67.2	76.2	80.3	77.0	74.8	66.1	51.7	35.7	60.5
			Max	64.0	76.0	83.0	84.0	86.0	99.0	106.0	101.0	99.0	91.0	82.0	72.0	.....
			Min	5.0	20.0	18.0	34.0	43.0	48.0	55.0	56.0	48.0	34.0	16.0	4.0	.....
* Healdton	34.10	97.25	Mean	37.4	47.1	56.3	63.0	67.4	78.4	83.1	79.6	74.2	64.9	53.9	39.0	62.0
			Max	68.0	82.0	88.0	87.0	87.0	97.0	101.0	102.0	95.0	87.0	82.0	76.0	.....
			Min	6.0	15.0	20.0	37.0	45.0	53.0	52.0	59.0	48.0	35.0	16.0	9.0	.....
Jefferson	36.45	97.50	Mean	36.6	41.8	53.0	61.0	67.4	77.7	83.2	82.4	78.2	66.0	50.6	36.4	.....
			Max	72.0	90.0	91.0	89.0	93.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	99.0	97.0	85.0	75.0	.....
			Min	-2.0	12.0	11.0	28.0	40.0	42.0	54.0	58.0	46.0	30.0	11.0	5.0	.....
* Lehigh	34.32	96.10	Mean	37.1	46.0	55.2	60.8	68.0	76.5	82.5	81.4	76.0	67.7	53.2	39.7	62.0
			Max	66.0	83.0	87.0	82.0	88.0	98.0	104.0	108.0	108.0	98.0	85.0	78.0	.....
			Min	6.0	17.0	24.0	37.0	42.0	50.0	54.0	53.0	36.0	33.0	14.0	0.0	.....
Mangum	34.48	99.32	Mean	36.6	45.6	55.1	60.6	67.0	77.0	80.8	78.8	73.6	63.9	50.0	36.0	60.1
			Max	70.0	80.0	84.0	82.0	89.0	104.0	106.0	105.0	101.0	91.0	87.0	74.0	.....
			Min	6.0	17.0	16.0	32.0	42.0	42.0	55.0	53.0	48.0	23.0	14.0	3.0	.....
Norman			Mean	35.0	44.5	51.8	60.5	68.3	77.4	83.6	79.7	76.5	66.5	50.7	37.3	61.0
			Max	63.0	76.0	85.0	97.0	90.0	97.0	106.0	104.0	102.0	94.0	82.0	73.0	.....
			Min	2.0	19.0	17.0	31.0	47.0	46.0	55.0	54.0	45.0	32.0	13.0	6.0	.....
Oklahoma City	35.26	97.33	Mean	34.8	42.1	50.4	59.6	65.8	75.4	80.8	78.4	75.2	66.0	48.6	35.6	59.4
			Max	63.0	74.0	84.0	80.0	85.0	94.0	103.0	98.0	96.0	91.0	78.0	70.0	.....
			Min	3.0	19.0	18.0	37.0	42.0	48.0	57.0	56.0	49.0	36.0	11.0	6.0	.....
Sac and Fox Agency	35.30	96.40	Mean	33.6	40.7	51.2	59.0	66.0	76.0	80.9	78.1	74.4	65.4	48.0	.....
			Max	68.0	78.0	86.0	83.0	88.0	97.0	104.0	102.0	101.0	95.0	88.0	.....
			Min	0.0	15.0	11.0	32.0	40.0	43.0	50.0	53.0	38.0	29.0	12.0	.....
Stillwater	36.10	97.05	Mean	32.1	41.4	51.2	58.3	65.4	75.6	81.2	77.2	74.2	64.2	47.2	34.4	58.4
			Max	64.0	76.0	88.0	83.0	88.0	93.0	106.0	100.0	98.0	94.0	82.0	66.0	.....
			Min	3.0	17.0	16.0	32.0	41.0	44.0	51.0	56.0	40.0	30.0	8.0	4.0	.....
Waukomis			Mean	30.9	40.1	49.8	57.9	66.0	78.2	83.6	82.4	75.4	65.2	43.3	36.2	59.1
			Max	60.0	73.0	88.0	87.0	92.0	104.0	107.0	105.0	100.0	98.0	.....	68.0	
			Min	1.0	10.0	12.0	31.0	40.0	44.0	54.0	65.0	51.0	32.0	12.0	2.0	.....
Prudence			Mean	33.6	41.7	49.8	58.5	66.2	77.0	80.1	79.0	73.2	62.7	46.0	33.6	58.4
			Max	61.0	78.0	91.0	87.0	92.0	102.0	106.0	104.0	97.0	82.0	76.0	63.0	.....
			Min	-5.0	15.0	12.0	30.0	36.0	36.0	56.0	54.0	50.0	32.0	9.0	2.0	.....

First and last killing frosts at Oklahoma stations, 1897.

Stations.	Last of spring.	First of autumn.	Stations.	Last of spring.	First of autumn.
Alva	Mar. 25		Norman	Apr. 9	Oct. 29
Arapahoe	Apr. 9	Oct. 29	Pond Creek	Apr. 16	Do.
Anadarko	do	Do.	Prudence	Apr. 14	Do.
Burnett	Mar. 25	Do.	* Purcell	Apr. 9	Do.
Clifton	Apr. 9	Do.	Sac and Fox Agency	do	Do.
Edmond	Mar. 24	Nov. 2	Stillwater	do	Do.
Fort Reno	Apr. 11	Do.	Waukomis	Apr. 16	Do.
Fort Sill	Mar. 23	Do.	Winnview	Mar. 25	Do.
Guthrie		Do.	Woodward	Apr. 14	
Hennessey	Apr. 16	Oct. 29	Wagoner	Mar. 24	Do.
* Healdton	Mar. 24	Nov. 2	* South McAlester	Mar. 17	
Kemp	Mar. 23	Do.	Kingfisher	Apr. 14	Do.
Keokuk Falls	Apr. 8		Ponca City	Apr. 9	
* Lehigh	Mar. 24	Nov. 2	Newkirk		Do.
Mangum	Apr. 14	Oct. 29			

Monthly mean temperature, Oklahoma, Okla.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	An-nual.
1891	37.8	39.2	43.6	60.8	64.4	74.3	76.2	76.8	72.4	60.8	47.0	44.4	58.1
1892	33.0	44.5	44.6	59.2	66.2	75.1	79.0	77.0	72.4	62.0	48.0	35.6	58.0
1893	37.6	35.8	50.2	62.4	65.4	76.2	81.2	75.2	74.4	61.7	45.4	43.7	59.1
1894	36.8	34.8	52.6	62.9	68.2	75.5	79.4	78.4	74.4	64.0	49.8	41.6	59.9
1895	33.2	29.5	50.0	63.1	69.3	76.8	78.3	79.1	76.1	55.7	45.0	38.4	57.9
1896	39.4	43.4	46.4	66.1	73.3	76.7	80.7	83.2	71.9	59.2	46.8	45.2	61.0
1897	34.8	42.1	50.4	59.6	65.8	75.4	80.8	78.4	75.2	66.0	48.6	35.6	59.4
Average	36.1	38.5	48.2	62.0	67.5	75.7	79.4	78.3	73.8	61.3	47.2	40.6	59.0

Rainfall, Oklahoma, Okla.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	An-nual.
1891	2.48	0.44	3.04	4.30	5.92	4.73	6.17	0.79	5.43	0.31	1.17	2.65	37.43
1892 .....	.93	2.22	3.17	1.33	11.90	2.48	3.66	4.27	1.29	4.68	1.01	5.35	42.29
1893 .....	.43	.69	1.25	3.12	1.53	1.60	3.80	5.65	3.20	.06	1.26	1.69	24.28
1894	3.74	1.11	4.79	2.82	1.87	3.71	1.66	1.95	1.65	1.84	.07	1.51	26.72
1895 .....	.93	.07	.82	.41	1.34	3.11	5.95	4.44	2.93	2.93	5.79	3.78	32.49
1896 .....	.45	.14	1.03	1.07	4.62	3.32	1.81	1.83	2.14	1.91	2.41	1.22	21.90
1897	1.10	1.32	4.71	5.87	6.02	2.58	1.90	1.66	1.22	.81	.58	.70	28.47
Average	1.44	.85	2.69	2.70	4.74	3.07	3.56	2.94	2.55	1.79	1.75	2.41	30.49

Rainfall at Fort Reno, Okla.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	An-nual.
1891	2.02	0.13	2.47	2.10	3.02	5.02	6.97	1.02	1.17	0.30	0.85	1.70	26.77
1892 .....	.66	1.00	3.10	1.12	7.37	2.62	1.80	4.30	1.93	5.21	0	4.40	33.51
1893 .....	.30	.72	1.90	1.92	1.88	3.25	5.62	10.25	1.17	.90	.93	1.46	29.40
1894	1.51	.50	1.90	3.30	1.30	1.10	1.31	1.61	3.16	1.49	1.00	.10	18.28
1895	1.13	.75	.25	1.74	.94	2.41	2.24	4.45	.60	2.53	3.24	2.50	22.78
1896 .....	.40	.30	.60	1.05	1.50	1.29	4.05	3.31	1.85	2.13	1.30	1.30	19.13
1897	1.10	1.55	1.80	7.36	6.07	2.69	.66	1.01	1.27	1.28	.37	.50	25.66
Average	1.02	.71	1.72	2.65	3.15	2.62	3.23	3.70	1.59	1.85	1.09	1.71	25.04

Rainfall for places and years indicated.

Place.	County.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Burnett	Pottawatomie				45.84	27.75	25.10	36.17	26.08	33.47
Fort Reno	Canadian	31.91	28.79	26.77	33.51	29.40	18.28	22.78	19.13	25.66
Fort Sill	Comanche, Ind. T	29.29	31.08	32.76	34.32	24.19	24.08	29.17	17.12	26.29
Fort Supply	Woodward	23.61	18.26	30.43	21.99	13.15	18.24			
Guthrie	Logan				37.98		22.99	30.71	31.71	
Mangum	Greer				27.20	11.39	19.52	32.89	22.85	22.49
Oklahoma	Oklahoma			37.43	42.29	24.28	26.72	32.49	21.90	28.47
Jefferson	Grant						17.79	21.56	26.01	29.70
* Purcell	Chickasaw, Ind. T				40.03	32.38	24.88		31.28	
* Tulsa	Creek, Ind. T	26.28	34.15	24.80	46.16	34.12	27.09	46.81	23.80	30.22
Winnview	Blaine			19.34			22.98	26.19	21.72	26.55

AGRICULTURE.

Oklahoma is largely an agricultural and stock-raising country, and the great majority of the people of the Territory are engaged in these pursuits.

While the soil of the Territory presents a decided variety in appearance and composition, it is generally fertile, well supplied with plant food, and holds moisture for a reasonable length of time. The soil, rain-

fall, and climate present a combination that renders possible the profitable growing of the leading crops of both the North and the South.

No system has been perfected by which aggregate acreage or yield of the different crops can be fully estimated. As a whole, the crops of 1897 were very good, and the farmers of the Territory all made a decided advance in their financial condition.

The last half of 1897 was as propitious for the maturing of crops as the first half was for their early growth, and the general crops of the Territory were even greater than anticipated at the time I submitted my last report. The present year has been an ideal one for growth of crops, trees, fruits, and everything needed to make agriculture, horticulture, and stock raising an unqualified success.

PRESENT CROP CONDITIONS.

The report of the Oklahoma section of climate and crop service of the United States Department of Agriculture for the last week of June, 1897, tells of the general crop conditions in the Territory, as follows:

The weather during the week, until Sunday evening, was hot and dry. Cloudy and cooler Sunday night and Monday, with local thunder storms over small areas. The average temperature for the week, 81.2 degrees, is 3.2 degrees above the normal.

The prevailing weather conditions have been very favorable for the harvesting of wheat and oats, the principal work of the week, for the cultivation of cotton and late crops, and for growth of corn, cotton, kaffir, castor beans, grass, and all forage crops.

High southerly winds prevailed from Friday until Sunday evening, which rapidly absorbed surface moisture, and while the ground is yet in fairly good condition, rains this coming week will be required for the best results to the growing crops. Only in portions of Woods County is there a lack of sufficient moisture at the present time.

Wheat.—Throughout the northern, central, eastern, and southern sections wheat is about all in shock. In the western section the harvest is about half done. The weather has been most favorable for this work, and the crop has been cut and shocked in good condition. A few fields of wheat have been thrashed, showing about an average yield.

Oats.—This crop has been cut in the southern section and being harvested elsewhere. The crop is generally reported light, having been badly damaged by rust; the crop is reported best in Greer county, southwest.

Corn.—Corn has grown rapidly all week and is generally in fine condition. Thus far there has been sufficient rainfall, but the ground is now getting dry on the surface and a general rain this week will be necessary for best results to this crop.

Cotton.—Cotton has made a vigorous growth during the week; cotton that came up from first planting and withstood the unfavorable conditions early in the season is now forming squares and a few fields show bloom. The most of the crop, however, is backward.

Grass has made a good growth and haymaking will soon be general. Very little hay has, as yet, been made. It is thought a large crop is assured.

All late crops have made a satisfactory showing during the week.

WHEAT.

Of the various crops grown in the Territory last year wheat had the largest acreage. It is doubtful if any equal area in any State ever gave so large an average yield. At the experiment station, on upland prairie soil, a number of plats gave yields ranging from 50 to 58 bushels per acre, and the average yield of eighty-three plats, including many varieties, was almost 40 bushels per acre.

Hundreds of fields in different parts of the Territory yielded an average of 40 to 45 bushels, and many authenticated yields of 50 bushels and over are reported. The total yield of the Territory for 1897 was about 20,000,000 bushels. The acreage for this year was considerably larger, and wheat never looked better than it did this



GARFIELD COUNTY CORNFIELD.

year in Oklahoma. It was confidently predicted that the yield would exceed 25,000,000 bushels, but since harvest it has been discovered that the spring growth was so rapid that the grain did not properly fill out, and the yield is not as good as last year in some localities. Some yields as low as 10 and 12 bushels are reported, but other localities yield 25 and 30 and over, and the general average will be over 20 bushels to the acre, making the crop in the aggregate about equal to that of last year. Wheat raising has long since passed the experimental stage in every part of the Territory, and Oklahoma will henceforth be included in the wheat estimates of the world.

It is a crop so sure and the yield so large that it brings certain prosperity to the farmer who gives it proper attention. Much of last year's crop of wheat was held until the spring of 1898, and sold at \$1 per bushel, and it is estimated that the wheat crop of the year brought the farmers of the Territory from thirteen to fifteen millions of dollars.

It is generally considered that in a new country the farmers do not have granaries and sell their wheat early in the season, but when wheat went to a dollar this last spring it was a general surprise to everybody to find what a large part of last year's crop was still in the hands of the farmer.

Many individual farmers brought in from 1,000 to 3,000 bushels, and one Logan County farmer, who came to the Territory nine years ago without a dollar, sold 7,000 bushels at 95 cents per bushel. In Oklahoma County a number of farmers went together, loaded an entire train and shipped direct to the Chicago market. Most of the wheat of the Territory is grown on small farms, but there are some very large growers. In the Osage Reservation are numerous fields of 1,000 to 1,500 acres, and one grower in the Ponca Reservation raised 20,000 bushels this year and is preparing to put in 4,000 acres this fall.

CORN.

Oklahoma raises millions of bushels of corn, but the greater part of it is marketed in the form of cattle, hogs, and other live stock. Last year's corn was affected by hot weather and lack of rain at a critical period in its growth, and in some localities by hot winds. Many good yields were reported. The experiment station had yields up to 62 bushels per acre on creek bottom land. On upland it had large yields of good fodder, but the yield of grain probably did not reach 20 bushels on any plat.

In the great river bottom lands many yields of 75 and 80 bushels and over per acre were reported and recorded. Bottom-land corn made a general average of 40 bushels and over per acre. On the upland, where put in early and properly cultivated, the yield was also good; and there was scarcely a locality in the Territory where the crop did not pay well. In the corn sections the farmers are largely hog raisers too, and thus get their corn readily into shape to go to market on foot. Many thousands of head of cattle are brought into the Territory during the winter to feed for market, giving the farmer with a surplus of corn a ready market at a good price, not only for the corn, but for the fodder and other roughness. Under ordinarily favorable conditions corn produces enormously in the Territory, growing to a height almost beyond belief and producing ears of prodigious size. This year the weather and rainfall have been just right for the growth and development of this cereal, and at this early date an enormous crop is assured. Stalks 10, 14, and 16 feet in height are on exhibition, with the immense ears so high from the ground that a man can not reach them, and they

have not yet attained their full growth. The acreage is much larger than usual, and the corn crop of the Territory will be millions of bushels in excess of any preceding year. This increased crop of corn and fodder, together with the fact that cattle brought in during the winter months to fatten are not taxed, offer splendid inducements to stock men all over the Southwest to bring their herds here to be "finished for market."

The western counties of the Territory report a largely increased acreage this year with every prospect of the largest yield in the history of the Territory, and cattle men are already contracting for entire crops at good prices.

COTTON.

Cotton ranks first as the ready-money crop of the Territory. While it is not generally considered that Oklahoma is in the cotton belt, and not longer ago than five years farmers declared that cotton could not be profitably grown in the Territory, the shipments for the past year were 140,000 bales, valued at nearly \$5,000,000 and requiring 5,000 cars to ship. The acreage for 1897 was large; it was an ideal cotton-growing year and the yield was in many instances unprecedented. Many growers report a bale to an acre, three-fourths bale yields were not uncommon, and the general average for the Territory exceeded half a bale. This average is better than can be attained almost anywhere in the South, and Oklahoma cotton always ranks high as to quality. Cotton buyers of long experience in the South claim that as a whole the cotton district in Oklahoma surpasses in every way any similar district to be found elsewhere in the United States.

The extreme low price of cotton last year discouraged many growers, and the acreage is much less this year. Cotton, like everything else, presents excellent prospects for a phenomenal yield this year, however, and it is believed that the Territory will produce not less than 125,000 bales.

One feature about cotton growing which makes it desirable is the fact that every dollar received for the crop is outside money and the \$5,000,000 for last year's crop was that much new money put into circulation in the Territory, and that divided among a large number of people, as the receipts for cotton go largely to the great army of pickers. Cotton picking for several months each fall offers remunerative employment to boys and girls and every laborer in the Territory, and hundreds of bales went to waste last fall because of the shortage of pickers.

Oklahoma last year shipped whole train loads of cotton to Liverpool and large consignments went to Japan. The cotton crop not only brings ready money to the farmer and the laborer, but opens up great possibilities to the Territory in the starting of compresses and oil mills and later of cotton-spinning mills, where the fleecy staple will be made into cotton cloth here where it is grown.

HAY.

The Territory last year marketed thousands of tons of prairie hay in addition to supplying the home market. This year the abundant rains have caused a luxuriant growth of grass in every portion of the Territory and the hay crop is twice as great as in any previous year. So rich is the carpet of native grass here that raw prairie land will year after year net a handsome revenue from hay without the land being touched or a cent of expense incurred except in cutting and marketing the product.

Many of the tame varieties of grass do well, including timothy, millet, and alfalfa. Many farmers are having remarkable success with alfalfa both for hay and as a pasture for hogs.

KAFIR CORN AND CANE.

Kafir corn, a native of Africa and but little known throughout the country, has been found to grow and yield abundantly in any kind of ground and in the dryest seasons, and is planted largely for feed, as it produces from 50 to 75 bushels of grain to the acre in addition to the fodder. It can be planted early or late on new or old ground and is the very best of feed for cattle, horses, hogs, and poultry. The grain, which somewhat resembles a grain of rice, makes also excellent meal and flour.

The crop last year was large, and it is planted heavily this year, particularly in the western part of the Territory. Cane yields enormously, and is largely planted for feed, generally being cut with a mowing machine and dried for its rich fodder before maturing.

Fully 40,000 bushels of Kafir corn were exported from Oklahoma to European markets the past year, and there is a rapidly increasing foreign demand for this new product.

OKLAHOMA MELONS.

It is no uncommon sight to see a 75-pound watermelon in Oklahoma, and any time between July 15 and cold weather an Oklahoma man can get as large a melon as he cares to carry for a nickel. Last year the Territory shipped over two hundred cars of melons; this year the crop is much larger. Every condition for the growth of perfect melons has existed this year. The only trouble last year was a second growth in some fields, caused by unusually heavy rains, a rather dry spell, and then more rain. This made our melons rate a little low in quality. The rains this year have been timely, the weather hot, and not a pest of any kind has attacked the vines. They will be sent to market as far north as St. Paul, east to St. Louis, west to Denver, and south to Texas, and should net the producer from \$40 to \$50 a car. The Oklahoma melon is noted not only for its size but for its excellent flavor, and is everywhere in demand.

Cantaloupes also grow to perfection here, and all during the season hundreds of baskets go out daily by express.

OATS.

Oats do as well in Oklahoma as anywhere else in the country. Many yields of 75 to 85 bushels per acre are reported and the general average over the Territory is fully 45 bushels and the quality excellent.

CASTOR BEANS.

Experience has proven castor beans a very profitable crop for most parts of the Territory. They yield from 10 to 14 bushels per acre, and entail but a small amount of labor. The market price is usually from 90 cents to \$1 per bushel. Last year the Territory produced 175,000 bushels. This year the acreage is less, and the crop will not run quite as large.

OTHER PRODUCTS.

There are many other products of Oklahoma farms finding their way into market. Early potatoes yield largely and are shipped all

over the North. Sweet potatoes produce 200 bushels and upward per acre, of an excellent quality. Peanuts do well and are largely planted.

Turnips grow everywhere and produce enormously, and sugar beets yield 15 tons and upward per acre.

Oklahoma broom corn is favorably quoted in the markets of the nation, and flax and barley are produced to a limited extent.

Truck farming pays well in the Territory, as cabbage, tomatoes, beans, pease, onions, and all varieties of garden vegetables grow readily and bring profitable returns. Pumpkins and squash grow to enormous size, specimens being shown at the Territorial fair last fall up to 50 and 60 pounds. These mammoth products, together with 15-pound heads of cabbage, were brought from D County, in the western part of the Territory, where many misinformed people believe it is too dry to grow successful crops. The truth, however, is that these western counties have an abundance of rain in the growing season, and produce as desirable crops as any portion of the Territory. In fact, from an agricultural point of view, Oklahoma knows no north, no south, no east, no west, the whole Territory being fertile and productive, and the farmer has only to suit his selection of crops and time and manner of planting to his particular locality and combine with horticulture or stock raising to be uniformly successful and prosperous.

STOCK RAISING.

Oklahoma is the ideal stock raisers' country. Here are vast plains, carpeted with rich grasses the year round, alongside of fields of grain and fodder, long summers and short mild winters, and immunity from many of the diseases of domestic animals.

Aside from the possibility of infection of cattle with southern or Texas fever (and the quarantine laws now in force greatly reduce this danger), and the fact that hog cholera caused considerable loss in some parts of the Territory, the year was a prosperous one to all classes of breeders and feeders of good stock. The assessors' returns for the spring of 1898 show the following numbers of head of live stock in the different counties of the Territory:

County.	Horses.	Mules.	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep and goats.
Beaver.....	6,202	337	64,340	495	16,975
Blaine.....	4,541	700	5,538	2,483	168
Canadian.....	7,794	1,639	15,013	7,425	38
Cleveland.....	6,921	2,529	7,736	12,974	64
Custer.....	5,596	944	22,872	4,324	86
D.....	3,968	573	18,771	3,262	102
Day.....	1,643	159	17,254	458	4
Garfield.....	11,412	1,880	21,869	20,270	718
Grant.....	11,128	1,580	15,809	20,941	88
Greer.....	14,903	2,008	54,868	3,282	14,448
Kay.....	11,258	1,756	16,157	20,676	967
Kingfisher.....	9,867	1,854	15,015	8,937	40
Lincoln.....	11,697	3,230	11,998	17,568	432
Logan.....	9,514	2,387	11,558	14,711	165
Noble.....	6,192	1,151	41,487	11,755	.....
Oklahoma.....	8,609	2,285	9,718	14,060	.....
Pawnee ^a	9,285	1,928	107,456	23,259	190
Payne.....	9,956	3,452	13,689	22,865	118
Pottawatomie.....	10,508	3,303	14,083	11,596	145
Roger Mills.....	4,752	492	29,594	1,015	2,647
Washita.....	7,912	2,309	33,568	5,499	215
Woods.....	21,824	2,957	59,599	28,093	2,200
Woodward.....	5,607	359	50,790	1,492	958
Kiowa and Comanche.....	2,895	85	113,169	300	12,100
Total.....	203,974	38,897	775,851	257,740	52,868

^a In the figures for Pawnee County are included live stock in the Osage Reservation.



FRUIT DISPLAY AT MONTHLY MEETING OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The chief interest of much of the western part of the Territory is cattle grazing. In the eastern part there is room for many more cattle, and the cheap pasturage and cheap grain and rough forage for winter feeding are arguments in favor of increased attention to breeding cattle.

The Oklahoma Live Stock Association is one of the largest and most active associations of cattle and stock raisers and breeders in the West (representing \$4,000,000 worth of cattle), and their official paper, the Live Stock Inspector, one of the leading stock journals of the country. This association looks after the interests of its members by maintaining three special inspectors in the Territory and one in the Kansas City market, and its annual convention, held at Woodward the second Tuesday of February each year, is the largest annual gathering of stockmen in the Southwest and is the occasion of heavy trading and investment in live stock and ranches. Greer County also has an active live-stock association.

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY.

A general live-stock law, with provisions for the special protection and encouragement of cattle growers in the western part of the Territory, was passed by the legislature in 1897. Under this act the board of regents of the Territorial Agricultural and Mechanical College are 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 and Federal quarantine line maintained in every instance.

There has been comparatively little Texas or splenic fever in the Territory the past year and all cases have been rigidly quarantined, so that Oklahoma cattle rank high in markets everywhere. The old methods of driving in great herds of Texas cattle to fatten on grass alone, and to look out for themselves in winter, is giving way to smaller herds, better cattle, winter feeding, and grain fattening.

Cattle are being bred up and improved in all parts of the Territory, and western Oklahoma has a number of fine herds of Herefords, Short Horns, and other blooded and grade cattle.

The live-stock sanitary commission has lately erected a dipping vat to thoroughly test the method of killing all ticks and removing danger of infection from Southern cattle by dipping in a solution of petroleum. If this method proves to be a success it will be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to the farmers and stock raisers of the Territory. There are large areas in western Oklahoma not suited for agriculture, but which are admirably adopted to cattle grazing, and the owner of herds upon these lands reaps remunerative returns year in and year out.

A law passed at the last legislature allowing live stock to be brought into the Territory for winter feeding, without being subject to taxation, will be the means of bringing hundreds of thousands of head of cattle and hogs into the Territory this fall and afford farmers a profitable market for all surplus grain and "roughness."

HOGS.

An examination of the reports of shipments by the railroads of the Territory, given under the head of commerce, will show that the ship-

ments, not only of cattle, but of hogs as well, have been enormous the past year and are increasing very rapidly. The farmers of every county in the Territory are more or less engaged in hog raising, and many large ranches in the wooded sections contain thousands of the animals. Special breeders are introducing highest grades of stock in all parts of the Territory. The eastern counties are the most largely engaged in this industry, and by the feeding of alfalfa, or allowing the animals to run in the woods and feed on nuts, the cost of raising is reduced to a minimum.

OTHER LIVE STOCK.

The breeding of fine horses has not as yet been largely followed in Oklahoma, though several Eastern men have bought lands to establish large horse ranches, declaring that the Territory was admirably suited to the production of speed animals.

Oklahoma has already produced many horses with fine track records, and the native horses are being gradually improved.

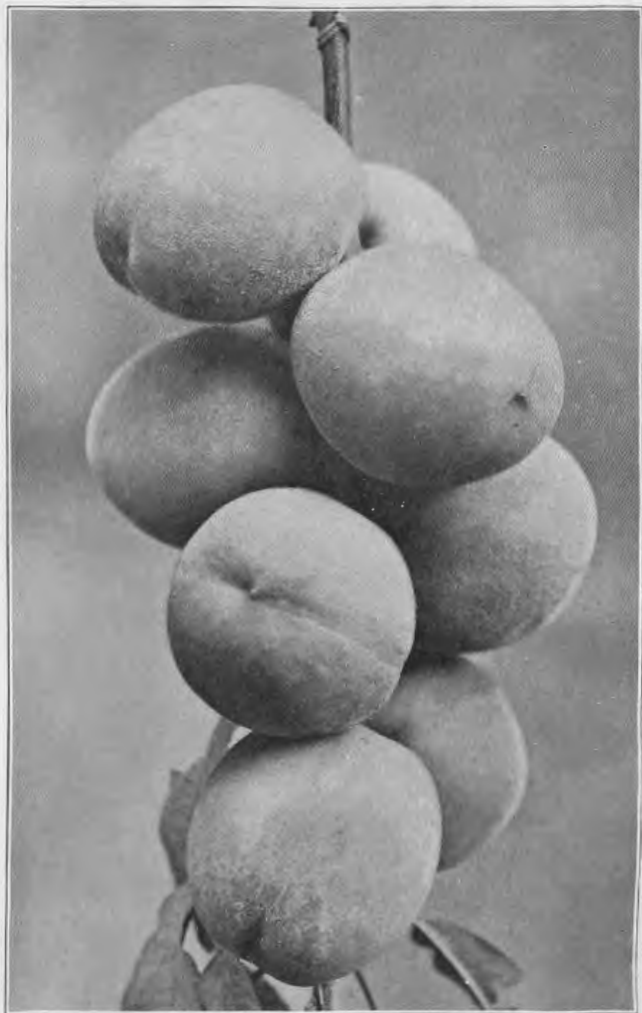
The proper conditions exist in the Territory for the profitable growing of sheep and wool, but outside of Beaver and Greer counties but little has been done in this line.

Poultry do exceedingly well in every part of the Territory, and the shipments of live and dressed poultry and eggs is quite large from some stations.

HORTICULTURE.

Oklahoma bids fair to rank in the very near future as one of the great fruit-growing sections of the continent. Though her orchards and vineyards in the comparative short history of the Territory have as yet been unable to give much more than an indication of what the permanent results will be, enough has already been demonstrated to show that as many varieties of fruit will succeed here as at any other point in the United States, and there can be no further doubt of the complete success of fruit growing in the Territory. Upon every farm are planted orchards covering from 5 to 20 acres, and hundreds of farmers are devoting 40, 50, and more acres to fruits and vines. The assessor's returns show an almost incredible number of fruit trees planted in some counties, and still on every side the planting continues. The best varieties of all fruits are being planted, and every grower is experimenting for the fruits best suited to the climate and soil. At the Oklahoma experiment station, connected with the agricultural college at Stillwater, 100 acres are devoted to experimenting with every variety of fruits to determine those best suited to the Territory, and an idea of the work being done there and its great value to the Territory can be obtained from the following extract from a brief report of the station work made by Horticulturist Glazier:

The large fruits, as contradistinguished from vine fruits, occupy the major portion of the grounds. There are 255 varieties of apples, of only three trees of a variety. The setting of this orchard was commenced in April, 1892. Among this great variety it is to be expected that very many will prove to be not only shy bearers but shy growers. The first fruit of the apple was produced from this orchard this year, showing some very nice samples. Of peaches we have 75 varieties, the famous "Alberta" leading the list. There are 25 varieties of pears—the Keiffers, Bartlett, Douches, and Garber lead. Also 25 varieties of plums, the Chickasaw varieties being the most productive. Of seven varieties of cherries, the Early Richmond, English Morelo, and Montmorency are the only ones that have shown to be of any value. Quinces and nut trees are showing some progress. One dozen apricot varieties, owing to location, have not fruited satisfactorily, or shown any special value. Apricots on proper altitudes have proven to be fruitful and profitable in the Territory. This country



ELBERTA PEACHES CUT FROM TREE THREE YEARS OLD, NOBLE COUNTY. WEIGHT OF CLUSTER 55 OUNCES.

might very properly be called vine land, for in no other country can be found a larger variety of native grape fruit. We have 300 varieties of two and three canes each. We are growing the Northern Fox Grape (*Vitus labrusca*) by the side of the Sand or Rock Grape of western Mississippi Valley and Texas (*Rupestris*), and the Lincecumii or Post Oak. Many of our varieties are valueless here, but the majority show both remarkable growth and fruiting. About 30 varieties of strawberries were grown. The major portion were very prolific, and by selecting varieties our season extended fully six weeks. That the strawberry can be grown at a profit in this Territory there is an abundance of evidence; they are money makers, and should be so recognized. Out of 10 varieties of blackberries 2 have proven to be worthy of any man's trial, the Early Harvest and Kittatinny. The raspberry may be said to be a poor fruiter here, owing to an insufficiency of humidity at fruiting time. The dewberry is a winner, and comes on early. Of some of our varieties 55 berries will make a quart.

In Oklahoma's car of exhibits, sent through the North and East last year, apples, peaches, apricots, plums, pears, and other fruits were shown which were a surprise and compared favorably with the fruits of any portion of the United States, and the samples shown at the Omaha Exposition this year far eclipse those from many old fruit-growing sections. An idea of the value of the fruit crop of the Territory to the people last year, outside of the return for shipments out, is shown by the fact that from 6,000,000 to 8,000,000 fruit jars were sold in the Territory for putting up fruits for home use, insuring more wholesome food for the people and keeping in their hands the money that had gone to buy outside canned goods before the fruit crops materialized here. The assessors' returns for the year 1896, although very incomplete, show the following number of fruit trees in each of the counties of the Territory:

Number of fruit trees in the Territory.

County.	Number of trees.	County.	Number of trees.
Beaver	25, 422	Logan	220, 329
Blaine	252, 666	Noble	216, 408
Canadian	166, 097	Oklahoma	220, 941
Cleveland	162, 256	Pawnee	198, 707
Custer	91, 975	Payne	559, 737
D	37, 181	Pottawatomie	319, 235
Day	9, 235	Roger Mills	11, 708
Garfield	661, 163	Washita	98, 993
Grant	460, 732	Woods	467, 442
Greer	76, 694	Woodward	(a)
Kay	(a)		
Kingfisher	87, 704	Total	4, 648, 151
Lincoln	403, 526		

a No report.

OKLAHOMA PEACHES.

Oklahoma peaches were favorably known on the market of the nation last year. Hundreds of cars were shipped to the cities of the North and many even went into the fruit belt of Texas and the South. The yield last year was almost beyond belief, and peaches 9 and 10 inches in circumference and weighing 8, 9, and 10 ounces were very common. Peach trees begin to bear at four years of age in Oklahoma, and I personally know of one tree bearing half a bushel of peaches when but two and one-half years from the seed. Five successive crops 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.

Owing to an unprecedented freeze from a blizzard which swept over the whole country last spring after the peaches here were well formed, the peach crop will be short this year.

APPLES.

Those varieties of apples which have been found adapted to this climate are doing remarkably well. For the first time last year our home markets had a liberal supply of Oklahoma apples, large in size, excellent in flavor and keeping qualities. This year the crop will be large, as all bearing trees are loaded. In a few years, when the orchards generally reach a bearing age, Oklahoma will be shipping apples to all parts of the United States.

GRAPE CULTURE.

The vineyardist can find no better location in the United States than in Oklahoma, whether he intends the growing of grapes for the markets or the manufacture of wines. Grapes grow to perfection in Oklahoma and produce abundant crops three years from the cutting, and will continue to bear every year for a generation and longer. T. V. Munson, of Texas, one of the noted grape experts of the country, after a careful examination of Oklahoma vineyards, soil, etc., said, in closing an exhaustive treatise on grape raising in the West:

It appears that there is abundant material of best character, which will find in the intermediate location of Oklahoma, with its mild, healthful climate and congenial soils, its place for best development and profitable cultivation. Altogether Oklahoma occupies the ideal climate and contains the ideal soils for most successfully growing, for either table or wine, a greater range in varieties than any other equal area in the United States, save a similar region in central northern Texas, adjoining Oklahoma and materially forming a part of this superlatively fine grape belt.

Grapes grow anywhere in Oklahoma and yield good returns with almost no care or attention, but when properly pruned, cultivated, and cared for the yield is remarkable and the profit correspondingly great. Concord yields 25 pounds and over to the vine and other varieties accordingly.

The fruit grows in immense bunches which ripen evenly with no stung grapes or mildew and, coming into maturity from July 15 to September 15, reach the markets ahead of the Northern grape and just after the Southern. Wine can be made without sugar from Oklahoma grapes and be almost as sweet as Northern wines made with sugar, and the wine made in Oklahoma matures a year earlier than that of the North. The rapid growth of the grape here is almost phenomenal. Instances are known of vines making a growth of 30 feet or over in a single season, and many cases are reported of vines bearing liberally the second year from the cutting. Thousands of acres are now in bearing vineyards in Oklahoma, and thousands of gallons of wine are being made annually, and there are great possibilities in the Oklahoma grape crop as yet almost unthought of.

PLUMS.

Oklahoma is the natural home of the plum. The native varieties all do well, but the most remarkable results have been obtained from the Japan varieties, such as Abundance, Burbank, Satsuma, etc. They yield the second and third year from planting and the limbs are borne to the ground with the immense quantities of fruit. In a few years Oklahoma will be supplying the markets of the nation with the finest of plums.

BERRIES.

Many kinds of berries do well in Oklahoma and the acreage devoted to them is large and constantly increasing. The luscious strawberry



VINEYARD AND ORCHARD NEAR LEXINGTON.

grows to perfection here. Berries 5 inches in circumference are very common and many are seen over 6 inches. They ripen early, yield largely, and have the finest flavor. Some varieties of raspberries do well and blackberries grow to perfection and produce phenomenal yields. The Juneberry, dewberry, and Japanese wineberry all do well, and berry culture bids fair to become an important branch of Territorial horticulture.

OTHER FRUITS.

Cherries do exceedingly well and, though slow to bear, those orchards which have reached fruitage are paying handsome profits. All varieties seem to thrive, but the Richmonds are in the lead.

German prunes yield well, and figs and almonds have been grown to maturity.

IRRIGATION.

Rain has been so abundant in all parts of Oklahoma the past few years that the subject of irrigation has been somewhat neglected. The Territory has full and complete laws on the subject, but as yet there has been no general irrigation movement. In Beaver County an extensive ditch has been constructed and a considerable body of land made more largely productive, and here and there over the Territory plants of some magnitude have been established, while thousands of farmers irrigate small tracts by water pumped from wells or streams or gathered and held in ponds, and all find that even in most favorable seasons water at command to turn in upon berries or vegetables at the right time more than pays all the cost.

The abundance of water in streams, the easy construction of ponds or reservoirs, and the ready supply of water in wells everywhere over the Territory make irrigation easy and cheap, and the strong indications of artesian water in various localities offer inducements for a fuller investigation of the subject.

MINES AND MINERALS.

While there are indications of valuable mineral deposits in various parts of the Territory there has been as yet but little practical development of mineral resources of Oklahoma.

There is no longer any doubt of the existence of coal in commercial quantities in the Territory. Coal has been mined and marketed for over a year at Ralston, Pawnee County, and several fine beds of a good quality of soft coal are known to exist in the Osage Indian Reservation. There are also outcropping veins in eastern Pawnee and Payne counties, and two good veins have been struck by well drillers near Cushing. There are outcroppings in Lincoln County, near Orlando in Logan County, and in the Kiowa and Comanche Reservation, and a lump of coal weighing 2,500 pounds, from Pottawatomie County, is attracting much attention at the Omaha Exposition, being a surprise even to the visitors from the Territory. There are rich deposits of coal all along the Creek Reservation line, and the Choctaw Railway is supplying thousands of tons of the best coal from its mines in the Indian Territory.

There are immense cement deposits in the Territory, which are just beginning to be utilized. A large cement works has lately been established at Okarche, on the Rock Island, and one at Newkirk, on the Santa Fe, which are supplying all the home trade and shipping largely to other States.

There is enough gypsum in deposits and great rocky heaps in Blaine County to supply the United States with plaster for years.

The salt deposits of the Territory are great in extent, and Oklahoma can easily supply the great West with all her salt. In the saline reserves thousands of tons of almost pure salt are in sight on top of the ground, and at many places there are rich deposits of rock salt at a depth easily reached.

Deposits of iron, copper, zinc, and other minerals, including many kinds of clays, undoubtedly exist in the Territory, but as there has as yet been little or no attempt to mine them they are more properly spoken of under the head of undeveloped resources.

UNDEVELOPED RESOURCES.

Oklahoma is rich in undeveloped resources, and in time her mining and manufacturing interests will make her an important factor in the commercial life of the nation. With rich deposits of minerals of various kinds, with agricultural and live stock interests so prosperous and progressive, there is a ready field waiting development by the wheels of industry.

Little mining has been done in the Territory, but a rich harvest awaits the miner. Veins of good coal have been found in several counties, and there are undoubtedly others still unlocated. In the Wichita Mountains, in the southwest part of the Territory, are mountains of iron, while copper has been found so nearly pure as to be malleable. There are strong indications of zinc at a number of points, and both gold and silver have been profitably mined at Navajo, Greer County, while across in the Kiowa and Comanche country are ruins of abandoned Mexican or Spanish silver mines, and many prospectors declare that gold exists in the reservation in large quantities, though the assays of samples do not pan out according to their claims. In this same reservation are large deposits of asphaltum and several oil springs. The Territory is well supplied with a variety of building stone, and in many counties it is so plentiful and so easily quarried as to make stone buildings remarkably cheap. Various kinds of limestone, sandstone, and granite are included, and in the western part of the Territory is found a remarkable soft blue stone, having almost the qualities of common soap. Beds of fine clay, potter's clay, and paint clay are found over the Territory, and in every locality is excellent clay for ordinary building brick.

On the great saline reservations in Woods and Woodward counties there are many places where for miles the ground is covered with salt, stretching in a dazzling, blinding whiteness as far as the eye can see, and for generations the Indian tribes of the West have been making pilgrimages to these lands to secure a supply of salt. Pure salt can be shoveled up with a scoop shovel at many places. The Salt Fork and Cimarron rivers, after flowing through these great salt marshes, are made as bitter as the ocean, and salt wells can be easily drilled any place thereabouts. In Blaine and Greer counties and the Kiowa and Comanche reservations there are deposits of rock salt. Salt is being manufactured for the market at Salton, Greer County, and Okeene, Blaine County, and there are many possibilities for great industries when transportation shall be secured. Salt Creek, in the latter county, heads in remarkable formations of rock and mineral, where there are numerous evidences of a great upheaval of nature. Here are a number of natural bridges across great ravines and chasms, and seeping up

from great deposits of rock salt is a constant flow of brine which forms Salt Creek, one of the most remarkable streams on the continent, the water of which will yield 50 per cent of its weight in pure commercial salt when evaporated.

All of these resources offer a great field for development, yet it is in the factories and other industries contingent upon agriculture and horticulture and stock raising that the Territory offers the richest field. Enough hogs are now shipped out of the Territory to run a large packing establishment, and enough bacon, hams, and other meat products shipped in to give them a home market for most of their products.

The tons upon tons of hides now shipped out should be tanned here and the product manufactured into shoes. Every town of any size has one or more flouring mills, yet there is room for more.

In the great fruit and vegetable yield are almost unlimited possibilities for canning, preserving, and pickling establishments, while the immense cotton crop offers a field for compresses and oil mills, and invites a cotton mill or two for the manufacture of this staple into wearing apparel. Creameries are proving profitable and many more are needed, while the remarkable success of grape culture invites the manufacturer of wines. These are but a few of the most inviting fields now open in this rising young Commonwealth, and the man who takes advantage of these opportunities will be carried forward to success in the swiftly-developing progress of the Territory.

OIL AND GAS.

There has been much speculation the past year or two as to the existence of either oil or gas in paying quantities in the Territory. Several years ago the Government put down a well for water at Fort Reno, going 1,326 feet in depth and finding no traces of either oil or gas. A well put down at Pawhuska a year ago struck some oil, but was immediately sealed up, the drillers declaring that the yield was too small to make it pay commercially. It is a significant fact, however, that the company that put down this well afterwards leased large tracts of land in the Osage Reservation and in Pawnee and Payne counties. At Bartlesville, just over the line in the Indian Territory, oil of an excellent quality has recently been struck in paying quantities, and at Muskogee and Eufala, in the Creek Nation, several paying wells have lately been drilled.

In the Chickasaw Nation, south of central Oklahoma, and in the Kiowa and Comanche Reservation are springs strongly impregnated with petroleum, and large deposits of asphaltum are also found in that vicinity, being the residue of former deposits of oil thrown up in the upheaval of the broken mountains in that section.

The finding of gas and oil northeast of here in Kansas and along the eastern line of the Territory, coupled with the fact that oil and gas fields always trend in a belt running from northeast to southwest, leads us to believe that both gas and oil can be found in paying quantities at least in central and eastern Oklahoma.

A company is now forming at Guthrie to put down a test well 2,000 feet deep.

Secretary Givens, of the Muskogee Gas and Oil Company, in response to my recent request as to the success of their operations, wrote as follows:

Your letter of the 25th instant to the editor of the Muskogee Times, in which you request information in regard to the developments which have been made for oil and gas in the Indian Territory, has been handed by him to me for reply.

I have the honor to state that I hold the position of secretary of the Creek Oil and Gas Company and the Muskogee Oil Company, both of which companies have headquarters at Muskogee. These companies are organized under the authority of the Creek Nation and to them has been granted the exclusive right to prospect for and develop oil and natural gas within the limits of the Creek Nation. In the winter of 1896 and the spring of 1897 the Creek Oil and Gas Company caused two wells to be drilled within the limits of the town of Muskogee, and in each of these wells, which are located in the same part of the town, oil of an exceptionally fine quality was found. It is of a reddish-green color, and in quality has been found to be second only to the best oils in Pennsylvania. I have to-day forwarded to you by express a small sample of this oil, which is in the same condition as when it was withdrawn from the well a few days ago.

In drilling these wells an oil sand was encountered at about 700 feet, and another, which is the one being operated, at a depth slightly in excess of 1,100 feet. The drilling was continued until salt water was encountered at a depth of about 2,000 feet. The sand in which the oil was found is of a whitish color. These wells yield a small quantity of natural gas. Owing to the unsettled condition of affairs in the Indian Territory, and the absence of a market, these wells have not been pumped steadily, but when pumped they have each produced about twenty-five barrels per day. Preparations are now being made for an extensive development of that part of the Creek Nation which is contiguous to Muskogee. At Eufala, Ind. T., the Muskogee Oil Company has caused a well to be drilled to the depth of about 2,500 feet; it is not yet completed, but both gas and oil, similar to that found at Muskogee, have been encountered in small quantities. It is the intention of the Muskogee Oil Company to cause considerable development to be made during the present year in the territory which is adjacent to Eufala.

I am informed that oil in considerable quantities, of a quality similar to that found in Kansas, has been found in a well which has been recently drilled at Bartlesville in the Cherokee Nation by the Cudahy Oil Company of Chicago, Ill. The Creek Nation has been examined by an experienced geologist, representing English capitalists, who has reported favorably with reference to the existence of oil and gas in the Nation.

THE ROCK STRATA.

When the well was drilled at Fort Reno, a complete record of all rock strata passed through and deposits encountered was kept, which is of special interest to all interested in gas, oil, or artesian-water development. The record is as follows:

Rock strata, etc. found in boring artesian well, unsuccessfully, at Fort Reno, Okla.

	Feet.		Feet.
Soil and clay.....	20	Shale	29
White sandstone.....	4	Sandstone.....	47
Red shale and gypsum.....	146	Shale	53
Gypsum	2	Granite (or bowlder)	13
Red sandstone.....	7	Light red sandstone.....	24
Bird's-eye keel	76	Red shale	30
Sandstone.....	3	Red sandstone.....	6
Redstone.....	67	Bird's-eye keel	20
Soft red keel (salt water raised 200 feet).....	6	Red shale	43
Red shale	110	Light red sandstone.....	9
Opening (fresh water raised 325 feet).....	3	Red shale	217
Red and sandstone.....	20	Bird's-eye keel	80
Red shale	200	Red sandstone.....	10
Light red sandstone.....	23	Red shale	26
Shale	17	Red sandstone (work stopped)....	6
Coarse sandstone.....	9		
		Total	1,326

NOTE.—Sea level about 1,370 feet.

MANUFACTURING.

In a commonwealth built up from the virgin soil in eight years it can not be expected that manufacturing industries will have been developed to any great extent, and yet the advance made in this line in



COTTON COMPRESS AT EL RENO.

Oklahoma is really a surprise to even those accustomed to the rapid growth and upbuilding of Western communities.

There are in the Territory at this time twenty-two flouring mills, several with a capacity of 400 barrels per day, whose aggregate output is over 3,000 barrels per day, and a number of additional mills are in contemplation.

El Reno, Shawnee, and Tecumseh have cotton compresses in operation and one is being constructed at Oklahoma City. Norman has had a cotton-seed-oil mill in operation several years and plants for similar mills on a larger scale are being put in at Oklahoma City, Shawnee, and Guthrie.

There are large ice and cold-storage plants at Perry, Ponca, Guthrie, Oklahoma City, Shawnee, El Reno, Kingfisher, and Enid, and profitable canning factories at Guthrie, Oklahoma City, and Augusta.

There are a hundred or more cotton gins in the Territory, the principal towns having from one to six each.

Salt is manufactured in Greer and Blaine counties, and there and elsewhere in the Territory are possibilities of great salt industries.

Large stone quarries are operated in every county, Blackwell and Shawnee have pressed-brick factories, and good brickyards are operated in every town. At Okarche, Newkirk, and Stroud are cement works and at Shawnee are located the general repair shops of the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railway, employing 125 men.

Creameries are being successfully operated at Oklahoma City and El Reno, the latter shipping the greater part of its butter product directly to the City of Mexico. Perry, Enid, Alva, and Medford will put in creameries the coming year. Cheese factories are in operation at Perkins and Orlando, and considerable cheese is manufactured at other points.

Shawnee, Oklahoma City, Guthrie, El Reno, Perry, Ponca, and Enid have both machine shops and planing mills, and Oklahoma City a large sash and door and blind factory. Oklahoma City and Guthrie have carriage factories, and in all the principal towns harness is manufactured.

Excellent wine is being manufactured on a rapidly growing scale, and in Oklahoma County are several large wine vats and cellars.

There are also in the Territory a score or more of cigar factories, several broom factories, a dozen bottling works, and many other small industries, in addition to the electric light, power, and water plants more properly enumerated under the head of cities.

The ready market for products, the cheap fuel, and the rapid growth and development of this country makes it a very desirable location for the establishment of small manufacturing industries to build up and grow with the country. It is only a question of a few years until Oklahoma will have many large manufactories turning out leather, harness, shots, cotton goods and clothing, vehicles and implements, canned goods and preserves, brooms, and the many other articles demanded by the great army of consumers in the Territory, and which can be advantageously manufactured here.

FUEL AND LUMBER.

The eastern part of the Territory is well timbered, supplying an abundance of fuel and cheap native lumber for building, while along the Indian Territory line is considerable timber suited to the needs of manufacturing. In the central and western portions timber is found along the streams and in the rougher sections, but there are some large areas

without native timber or fuel. The close proximity of the large coal fields of the Indian Territory and the lumber regions of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana gives to the entire Territory cheap fuel and lumber.

LABOR SUPPLY.

Few persons are without employment in Oklahoma, except from choice. The reports of the Territory's prosperity has caused a great influx of tramps and beggars from the States of the North and East the past year, but our own people are all busy and the newcomers who really desire work can readily obtain it. The opening up of many new industries in the towns, the construction of many new buildings, and the building of new railways have made a demand for mechanics, artisans, and laborers, while the bountiful harvest of wheat, the great yields of corn and cotton have made the demand for farm laborers in excess of the supply most of the year. Hundreds of bales of cotton went to waste last fall because of the scarcity of pickers, and the supply of competent domestic help is never equal to the demand.

Industrious men and women will at all times find in Oklahoma a good place to locate and will never be long without profitable employment.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The happiness of all people is so closely associated with their health, that aside from the financial prosperity of our citizens, we would call attention to the efforts being made to resist the invasion of disease from without, and its development within, our Territory.

NATURAL CONDITIONS.

Nature has placed our people in the lap of health and it is only gross violation of her laws that with us brings disease. Situated between the extreme winters of the North and the enervating summers of the South, with an altitude that forbids the extension of malarial conditions, on the one hand and serves as well to ward off pulmonary diseases on the other, our people have from the first enjoyed a degree of health which has been of wonderful value to them in the arduous labors of developing comfortable homes for themselves in a new land.

The temperature of our days in summer is no higher than that of many northern States, and our nights are a delight as they are ever made refreshing by the constant southern breezes that bless our people after a day of toil. Our Territory is free from swamps and lagoons where lurk the dread fever germs, and the gentle undulation of our land gives excellent natural drainage to our country as well as to our cities and towns. Pure cool water is found in nearly all parts of the Territory in a substrata of sand or sandstone, varying in depth from 20 to 100 feet.

Nature has done for us so much here in Oklahoma that if her laws were obeyed the work of the doctor and sanitarian would have little place among us, but with our great influx of population we must say with the poet—

“Though every prospect pleases,
And only man is vile,
In vain with lavish kindness
The gifts of God are strown.”

SANITARY LAWS.

On December 25, 1890, the act to establish a Territorial board of health went into effect, since which time no legislation has changed or modified the same. This act gives to health authorities power to supervise and enforce sanitation equal to that of most, and in fact superior to many, of our older States. The law provides for the maintenance of county boards of health, with an executive officer in charge, whose duty it is to report monthly to the Territorial superintendent of public health.

MEDICAL PRACTICE.

In order to prosecute the practice of medicine lawfully, a physician must be a graduate of a reputable medical college, of good moral character, and secure from the Territorial superintendent of public health a certificate showing such qualification, and giving to the applicant the right to practice.

Undergraduates can come before the Territorial medical examining board, and, if found qualified, secure from this board a similar certificate to that mentioned above.

Seven hundred physicians have secured certificates under the first-mentioned method; 104 of this number were granted certificates during the last year; 64 persons have been granted certificates by examination; 15 of this number being issued during the year past; total number of certificates issued, 764. Of this number of physicians who have secured certificates there are now residing in Oklahoma less than 325, or less than 1 physician to 1,000 of our population. Of this latter number many own farms and are not engaged in active practice.

This indicates two things—(a) that the medical profession is not suffering from severe competition; (b) that our citizens do not require the services of the doctor, as do many less-favored localities. Only two States and two Territories in the Union have as few physicians in proportion to their population as has Oklahoma; these are North Carolina and Wyoming, New Mexico and Alaska.

In seven States the ratio of the physicians to population is less than 1 to 500. Owing to our excellent medical laws, which from the first have kept out a class of charlatans that have been a curse to many another community, the qualifications of our physicians have been of an exceptionally high order. Constantly there have come to the office of the superintendent of health communications from illiterate, ignorant men, signing after their names "M. D.," asking if our medical laws would admit them to practice in Oklahoma. Fortunate are we that this class have found no foothold among us, but that rather our laws have been the means of giving us so excellent a class of medical men.

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF HEALTH.

About one year ago the Territorial board of health began the publication of a Bulletin of Health, the object of which was to disseminate sanitary information throughout the Territory and instruct our people in the laws of health. This publication has been a wonderful success along the lines of work desired. It was received from the first with great favor, and many flattering letters have been received both from the medical profession and citizens at home, as well as from eminent sanitarians from other States, in praise of the able manner in which our publication was presenting in a lucid way matters of vital importance to the health of the Territory.

This bulletin of health has been the means of awakening an interest in hygienic conditions among our people that has never heretofore existed. It is predicted that under the present board of health, every member of which is exhibiting a deep interest in the welfare of our people, Oklahoma will in the near future be behind no State in the sanitary condition of her towns and cities, and in the protection of her entire people from the ravages of diseases that can be prevented. With our magnificent climate, favorable geographical location, and with the financial prosperity which is already ours, there is no reason why many broken in health in less favored climes should not seek homes with us.

TRANSPORTATION OF THE DEAD.

Regulations will go into effect September 1 that will require the licensing by the Territorial board of health of all undertakers and embalmers who desire to ship bodies dead from contagious diseases to other States. This provision has been long desired by the employees of the transportation companies, who have often been exposed to great danger.

This regulation will also lessen the danger of the spreading of contagious diseases at the point of receiving such bodies. An extract from a letter received from the general baggage agent of the Atchison, Topeka, and Sante Fe Railway system, Mr. P. Walch, says: "I thank you for your very kind interest in this matter, and only wish that some of the older States would take as prompt action."

HOSPITALS.

It is a great pleasure to notice that plans are being perfected to establish hospitals in different parts of the Territory. These will be of much comfort to those who require special treatment, and to many who have only a temporary home among us. In fact, as we come to fully know the value of well-managed hospitals, no one will be reluctant to avail themselves of the advantages of these institutions, but will consider it a privilege when suffering from disease to receive the intelligent care administered to the sick in these institutions.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

An inspection of our three Territorial colleges, the Territorial normal school at Edmond, the agricultural college at Stillwater, and the university at Norman shows them to be in good hygienic and sanitary condition. These school buildings have excellent locations from a sanitary point of view, and are well ventilated and heated by approved systems. The buildings and grounds are kept in hygienic condition, and the health of the pupils attending last year was excellent. No epidemics of contagious or infectious diseases have visited any of our public institutions.

The insane asylum at Norman, although under private management, is a well-equipped institution. During the past year many expensive improvements of a sanitary nature have been made.

New sewerage has been constructed, which is a decided improvement over the old system. A private water supply has been put in service, and the institution now has pure, clear water. The buildings have also been screened entirely, which has added to the comfort as well as to the health of the inmates. We imagine that there are few superior

private institutions for the care of the public insane, that are maintained with a view of giving comfort and proper hygienic surroundings to the inmates, than our institution at Norman.

PROGRESS.

Much advancement has been made along the lines of sanitary work during the past year. For the first time systematic county reports from county superintendents of health have been made. These reports have been complete and valuable, and county health officers have, in most instances, been faithful to their trust, although oftentimes at a personal sacrifice. Health laws have been vigorously enforced, and our cities and towns are in a better condition than ever before. The monthly reports of county superintendents of health show that Oklahoma has had less sickness than heretofore. Yellow fever last autumn was on our south and east, and the present spring smallpox has existed in numerous towns in many States, as well as in our neighboring States—Arkansas, Texas, and Colorado; yet we have been so fortunate as to escape.

THE FUTURE.

The appropriation made by the last legislature for the department of health was so small that much work that had been contemplated by this department was necessarily postponed, yet in the near future a number of reforms will be undertaken. A better inspection of food products will receive early consideration, and deleterious canned foods, adulterated food products, and other injurious foods will be kept from our markets. There will be presented to our larger towns cheap yet efficient methods of sewerage, which they will soon require.

PHARMACY AND DENTISTRY.

The sale of drugs and medicines and the practice of pharmacy are well regulated by legislative enactment, and a Territorial board of pharmacy appointed by the governor looks well after the enforcement of the law on the subject.

There are in the Territory at this time one hundred and fifty-eight registered pharmacists, and eighty-five general merchants located 10 miles or more from a registered pharmacist have been granted permits to sell certain common drugs, patent medicines, and bottled goods under regulations prescribed by the board of pharmacy. The druggists of the Territory are organized into an active pharmaceutical association which cooperates with the board of pharmacy in every way.

The practice of dentistry is fully regulated by Territorial laws requiring strict examinations under rules prescribed by a competent board of examiners appointed by the governor, and all persons attempting to practice without examination, and license are promptly prosecuted. There are at this time fifty licensed dentists in the Territory.

THE PRESS.

From the first day of its existence, Oklahoma Territory has had the advantage of a progressive and energetic press, and it is largely to the untiring efforts of her newspapers and newspaper men that Oklahoma owes much of her progress and prosperity. Unceasingly have they sung the praises of this fair country, each loyal to his own community

or section, and yet all true to the Territory as a whole, and they deserve not only the thanks of the people of the Territory but a substantial patronage from every citizen.

Not only does the press compare favorably with that of any other section of the country, but it is far ahead of most sections with the same population, settlement, and patronage, and it speaks volumes for the intelligence and home patriotism of the people of the Territory that not only does every locality support a good local paper, but at the capital is published a full-fledged metropolitan daily, with full associated press dispatches over a special leased wire, while four or five other dailies in the Territory have during the war excitement been carrying a special telegraphic service.

There are published in the Territory at this time 14 dailies, 108 weeklies, 1 semi-monthly, and 10 monthlies, a total of 133 publications, as follows:

Dailies.

Guthrie: Oklahoma State Capital, Daily Leader, Free Press.

Oklahoma City: Times-Journal, Oklahoman, News.

El Reno: Star, Bell.

Enid: Wave.

Shawnee: Dinner Bell, Chief.

Perry: Enterprise-Times, Democrat-Patriot.

Ponca: Courier.

Weeklies.

Beaver County: Beaver—Herald; Hardesty—Herald.

Blaine County: Watonga—Republican; Okeene—Eagle; Geary—Rustler.

Canadian County: El Reno—News, Democrat, Globe, Bell, Volksblatt (German), Republican; Okarche—Times; Yukon—Weekly.

Cleveland County: Norman—Transcript, Voice, Democrat-Topic, Journal; Lexington—Leader, News and Notes; Moore—Courier; Noble—Citizen.

Custer County: Arapahoe—Bee, Argus.

D County: Taloga—Advocate, Times.

Day County: Grande—Tribune.

Garfield County: Enid—Eagle, Sun, Coming Events, News, Democrat.

Grant County: Pond Creek—Vidette, News; Jefferson—Rustler; Medford—Patriot, Star; Manchester—Journal; Wakita—Herald.

Greer County: Mangum—Star, Monitor, Sun; Altus—Plain Dealer.

Kaye County: Newkirk—Republican, News, Democrat, Populist; Ponca—Courier, Democrat; Kildare—Journal; Blackwell—Times-Record, Sun; Nardin—Star; Tonkawa—News.

Kingfisher County: Kingfisher—Free Press, Times, Reformer, Constitution; Hennessey—Clipper, Kicker, Democrat.

Lincoln County: Chandler—Telegram—Democrat, News, Publicist; Stroud—Messenger, Star; Tyron—Mercury.

Logan County: Guthrie—State Capital, Leader, Register, Guide; Orlando—Herald; Mulhall—Enterprise; Langston—Herald.

Noble County: Perry—Sentinel, Enterprise-Times, Democrat-Patriot.

Oklahoma County: Oklahoma City—Champion, Farmer, Times-Journal, Oklahoman, McMaster's Weekly; Edmond—Republican, Sun-Democrat.

Pawnee County: Pawnee—Times-Democrat, Dispatch.

Payne County: Stillwater—Gazette, Populist, State Sentinel; Perkins—Journal; Cushing—Herald.

Pottawatomie County: Tecumseh—Republican, Democrat, Leader; Shawnee—Quill, News, Blade; Earlsboro—Plainspeople; McLoud—Sunbeam.

Roger Mills County: Cheyenne—Sunbeam.

Washita County: Cloud chief—Herald-Sentinel, Beacon; Cordell—Messenger.

Woods County: Alva—Courier, Pioneer, Review; Cleo—Chieftain.

Woodward County: Woodward—News, Bulletin.

Osage Reservation: Pawhuska—Osage Journal.

Semi-monthly

Woodward—Live Stock Inspector.

Monthly.

Guthrie: Oklahoma Sunday-School Worker, Oklahoma Churchman, Oklahoma Christian, Oklahoma Medical Journal, Practical Pointers. Sanitary Bulletin.
 Oklahoma City: Home, Field, and Forum.
 Norman: Oklahoma School Herald, University Empire.
 Stillwater: College Mirror.

This shows a daily paper for every 23,000 people, a weekly for every 3,000, and a regular publication for every 2,300 of the population of the Territory; while Colorado shows 1 for every 2,500; New York, 1 for every 2,900; Ohio, 1 for every 3,200; Massachusetts, 1 for every 3,600, and Mississippi, 1 for every 6,400.

PREPARING HISTORY.

Early in the history of the Territory, W. P. Campbell, a newspaper man, of Hennessey, started a historical collection. Later this was turned over to the Oklahoma Press Association, and in 1895, by legislative action, the Territory received the collection in trust, a majority of the board of directors to be continued to be elected by the press association. Quarters were assigned for the collection in the university building at Norman, and a custodian put in charge.

The collection now fills two large rooms, and includes the files of all the Territorial newspapers and periodicals, and many of those of the Indian Territory, which will become very valuable for the student and historian of the future.

There are also many valuable manuscripts, photographs, pamphlets, and books, the whole forming a collection of interest and value at this time, and which will become invaluable as the Territory passes into history.

TERRITORIAL LIBRARY.

By legislative enactment in 1893 provision was made for a Territorial library and the office of Territorial librarian created.

The act of the legislature in 1893, creating the Oklahoma Library, provides that the proceeds derived from the sale of the statutes, session laws, and reports of the supreme court shall be turned over to the Territorial treasurer to the credit of the library fund, to be used for the purchase of books and other necessary expenses, and this fund, together with \$1,000 appropriated in 1895 and \$1,250 in 1897, has been the only means at hand with which to build up a library, yet when the present librarian took charge on April 14, 1898, the invoice showed 9,505 volumes, classified as follows:

First. Miscellaneous and public documents; reports of the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of State, Secretary of Navy, Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of Agriculture, Postmaster-General, Attorney-General; consular reports; Congressional reports; House and Senate Journals; reports of State institutions of the various States, consisting of and including such books as are received by donation and exchange by the Oklahoma library—2,157 volumes.

Second. State reports, received from the various States in exchange for Oklahoma reports and by purchase, 1,800 volumes.

Third. American and Supreme Court reports, 275 volumes.

Fourth. Pacific Reporters, 50 volumes.

Fifth. Digests United States reports and laws, 79 volumes.

Sixth. Digests State reports and laws, 35 volumes.

Seventh. State laws, session laws, and statutes of the various States, including indexes to the same, acquired by exchange for Oklahoma statutes and by purchase, 267 volumes.

Eighth. United States Statutes, 21 volumes.

Ninth. Law text-books, 474 volumes.

Tenth. House and council journals, statutes, session laws, reports of supreme court, including all books published by Oklahoma Territory and now in the custody of the Territorial librarian, 4,347 volumes.

Since April 15, 1898, the librarian has received, by donation and exchange, 94 volumes, making the total number of volumes now in the library 9,599.

The library has been greatly cramped for room in the past, but a plan is now on foot to secure more commodious and comfortable quarters. I desire here to emphasize the fact that, while Congress has made liberal appropriations for the establishment and maintenance of libraries in Colorado, Kansas, Utah, Wyoming, and other States and Territories, not a dollar has ever been appropriated for this purpose in Oklahoma, and I desire to strongly urge the need and appropriateness of such an appropriation by Congress in the near future.

IMMIGRATION.

Immigration is being attracted to Oklahoma from all parts of the United States. Nearly 75,000 copies of my last annual report were circulated through the North and East, all of the metropolitan papers published extracts and made liberal mention of it, and the story of prosperity and progress told therein has been the means of turning the faces of thousands toward Oklahoma.

Our local newspapers are constantly telling the story of Oklahoma's prosperity, and the car of agricultural and horticultural exhibits sent out last fall, together with the fine display being made at the Omaha Exposition, have all served to convince the people that Oklahoma is the mecca for the homeseeker and the investor. As a consequence, people have been coming singly, by families, and in colonies, from all sections of the country, and particularly from the States of the North have come a desirable class of immigrants with ready money to purchase farms and stock and improve them, or to develop important business enterprises.

LEGISLATION.

There has been no session of the legislature the past year, and hence no new legislation enacted. Some of the laws enacted during the session of 1896 have proven unwieldy and incongruous, and several have been declared inoperative by the supreme court.

No really vicious legislation has ever been enacted in the Territory, and none ever contemplated which would annul any contract or repudiate any just debt, public or private.

THE COURTS.

The business of the courts has been expeditiously administered during the past year. As time passes and the farm and town-lot contests and squabbles of the early days of settlement are settled, the business of the courts, both civil and criminal, grows less.

From information furnished by the several clerks of the courts, I give below a statement showing the business transacted in the supreme court and each of the district courts of the Territory.



EL RENO PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING.

Supreme court.

Number of cases docketed during the year	113
Number of cases disposed of	138
Total number of cases on docket June 30, 1898.....	121

District courts.

First district:	
Number of cases docketed during the year.....	740
Number of cases disposed of.....	600
Total number of cases on docket June 30, 1898.....	354
Second district:	
Number of cases docketed during the year.....	540
Number of cases disposed of.....	506
Total number of cases on docket June 30, 1898.....	255
Third district:	
Number of cases docketed during the year.....	891
Number of cases disposed of.....	666
Total number of cases on docket June 30, 1898.....	798
Fourth district:	
Number of cases docketed during the year.....	757
Number of cases disposed of.....	572
Total number of cases on docket June 30, 1898.....	368
Fifth district:	
Number of cases docketed during the year.....	487
Number of cases disposed of.....	453
Total number of cases on docket June 30, 1898.....	311

CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS.

Oklahoma has at the present time 155 convicts in the penitentiary, a small number when the fact is considered that the population of the Territory is now considerably in excess of 300,000. There has long been an erroneous impression in many sections in the East that Oklahoma is populated largely by criminals and outlaws, but a little comparison to other States shows very favorably to Oklahoma.

Statistics show that Arizona has 1 convict to each 425 of population; Indiana, 1 to each 1,250; Kansas, 1 to each 1,600; Ohio, 1 to each 1,900, and Oklahoma, 1 to each 2,150.

The number received at the penitentiary during the year was 88 and the number discharged was 81, 29 of whom were pardoned, 2 died, and 1 escaped, making a net increase of but 7 prisoners for the year, a showing probably not equaled by the same number of people anywhere in the United States. The number of prisoners from the different counties of the Territory are shown as follows:

County.	No. of convicts.	County.	No. of convicts.
Beaver.....	2	Logan.....	30
Blaine.....	2	Noble.....	9
Canadian.....	20	Oklahoma.....	7
Cleveland.....	7	Pawnee.....	8
Custer.....	..	Payne.....	8
D.....	2	Pottawatomie.....	11
Day.....	..	Roger Mills.....	1
Garfield.....	1	Washita.....	3
Grant.....	5	Woods.....	2
Greer.....	5	Woodward.....	4
Kay.....	7		
Kingfisher.....	8	Total.....	155
Lincoln.....	13		

The Territorial convicts are kept in the Kansas penitentiary by contract, the rate having heretofore been 25 cents a day. In April of

this year, however, the Kansas authorities notified me that owing to lack of employment for even their own prisoners they could no longer keep the Oklahoma prisoners for less than 50 cents a day. After negotiating with several other States, I finally, on June 30, made a new contract with the State of Kansas to retain our prisoners for 35 cents a day, the contract to run one year, or until terminated by sixty days' written notice by either party.

The expense to the Territory for the year has been:

Transportation of convicts.....	\$3,377.18
Care and keeping.....	14,843.00
Total.....	18,220.18

This is an increase of \$1,715.83 over the preceding year. From a close scanning of the court dockets and of the newspapers of the Territory I am led to believe that crime of every description is on the decrease in Oklahoma.

For the first time in the history of the Territory a lynching has taken place by a mob. On December 30 Mrs. Laird, wife of a white renter in the Seminole country, in the Indian Territory, was most brutally murdered and outraged in the presence of her little children, who watched by the mother's dead body part of a day and all of a night alone and in terror. When the murder became known the people were seized with frenzy, and capturing two Indian boys, whom they believed to be guilty, after a brief investigation and trial they dragged them over the line into Oklahoma Territory, tied them to a stake, and burned them to death. I am pleased to be able to state that a very large number of these lynchers were not citizens of Oklahoma. The object of coming across the line into this Territory to commit the crime seems to have been to escape the jurisdiction of the United States laws in force in the Indian Territory, the members of the mob probably believing that they could better fight the cases in the county courts of Pottawatomie County.

As soon as news reached the executive office of the mobbing I telegraphed all the authorities of the county to use every means to prevent further trouble, and to bring the guilty to justice, and at once offered \$1,000 reward (the highest amount allowed under the statutes) for the arrest and conviction of the lynchers. A large number of the members of the mob have since been arrested by the United States marshal's force, and are under heavy bonds to appear for trial at the next term of court.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Outside of her five handsome and commodious college structures Oklahoma has no public buildings belonging to the Territory. Sections 33 in a large portion of the Territory, were reserved by Congress and given to the Territory for the public-building fund, and from their lease has already been accumulated a fund of \$58,838.87 for the erection of public buildings. This fund is rapidly growing, and will form a handsome nucleus for the construction of a penitentiary, insane asylum, blind asylum, deaf-mute school, reformatory, and other institutions when the people of the Territory believe the time has come for locating them and erecting buildings. The prevailing sentiment, however, appears favorable to the deferring of the location and erection of such institutions until statehood is attained.



Bird's Eye View looking Southwest



Line of Officers' Quarters looking Eastward



Interior - looking North-East

FORT RENO, OKLAHOMA TERRITORY

COUNTIES.

The affairs of the different counties are on the whole well managed, and in almost every county of the Territory expenses are beginning to be cut down and the tax rate decreased. A majority of the counties own their own court-houses and jails, which is speaking well for so new a country, and several really handsome structures have gone up the past year. In several of the counties the question of county-seat elections has been agitated, but has not gained enough force as yet to make any particular disturbance. It is to be hoped that this kind of agitation will be kept down in every county, as it is never productive of any real good.

The percentage of paupers in the Territory is so small that as yet there has been no necessity for the counties supplying poorhouses or poor farms.

The debts created by running the counties several years before any tax could be collected have in nearly all cases been bonded, and under the provisions of an act of the legislature, passed in 1895, the counties are all practically on a cash basis, being prohibited from creating any indebtedness in excess of 80 per cent of the tax levy for the year.

In no case has any county in Oklahoma repudiated a single just debt, and their bonds and warrants are the best of securities. The rapid proving up of land heretofore not subject to taxation, the increasing valuation of personal property, the erection of buildings, and the building of railways will enable the counties to meet these obligations very readily and at the same time still continue to reduce their tax rate.

CITIES.

Towns and cities spring up in a day in Oklahoma; in a week are established business centers; in a month are well-settled communities, and it is only a question of the time actually required by workmen to do the work until they have substantial buildings and improved streets and sidewalks, and a little later come waterworks, electric lights, and projected street car lines.

All of the principal cities of the Territory have electric-light systems, waterworks, ice plant, well-improved streets, good sidewalks, proper police and fire protection, strict health regulations, and excellent graded schools.

A recent act of Congress allowing the cities in Territories to bond themselves to construct sewers, improve streets, and establish waterworks will result in many permanent improvements along these lines in all of the cities of the Territory. In no city is the tax rate excessive; the expenses are readily met, and most of them are practically on a cash basis.

MILITARY POSTS.

The two military posts still occupied in the Territory are Fort Reno, in Canadian County, and Fort Sill in the Kiowa and Comanche Reservation, both historic and interesting points.

These posts are generally kept well garrisoned with troops, and I am glad to know that it is the policy of the Government to make them permanent posts and improve them accordingly. At the outbreak of the Spanish war the regulars, with the exception of a small guard, were taken from these posts to the front, leaving them largely unoccupied. The Oklahoma Battalion and Indian Territory Company of the

Arizona, Indian Territory, New Mexico, and Oklahoma First Volunteer Infantry are now rendezvoused at Fort Reno, and it is the Mecca for thousands of visitors who are delighted with the location and the beauty and comfort of the post.

Fort Supply, or Camp Supply, as it is generally known, located in Woodward County, in the northwestern part of the Territory, has been abandoned as a military post, and the commodious quarters and other buildings, with the thousands of acres of reservation now stand unused and unoccupied. A bill has been introduced in Congress to donate the post to the Territory for a soldier's home, another to donate it for an insane asylum, and the people of western Oklahoma are urging that it be converted into a live stock and veterinary experiment station.

It does seem to me that these fine buildings, which are now going to decay from neglect, and the reservation surrounding them, should become the property of the Territory at once by gift from the United States, and that they be utilized as the people of the Territory deem best.

OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD.

The National Guard organization at the breaking out of the war were anxious to enter the United States service in a body, but this being impracticable many volunteered from every company; as a result, the strength of the militia has been greatly diminished, the total strength of the Oklahoma National Guard at this time being only about two hundred officers and enlisted men, with a regimental organization composed of ten companies of infantry and regimental band, located as follows:

Headquarters Company A and band, at Guthrie; B, at Alva; C, at Oklahoma City; D, at Ponca City; E, at Pawnee; F, at Shawnee; G, at Kingfisher; H, at Perry; I, at Newkirk; K, at Enid.

The band is fully equipped with the dress, undress, and summer uniforms and necessary instruments, and are on the same footing and subject to the same discipline and regulations as the National Guard, of which they are a part, and is a thoroughly efficient organization. Companies A and B are fully equipped with the undress uniforms of the same pattern used in the Army, the Springfield rifle, caliber .45, and with leggings, blanket bags, haversacks, and canteens. Companies C, D, E, F, G, I, and K are equipped with the undress uniforms and the Springfield rifles. Company H has never been equipped, but will be furnished with the same equipments this year.

The National Guard will be recruited up again to its original strength of five hundred officers and men, and in the course of two or three months may safely be relied upon for any ordinary emergency.

The personnel of the militia includes the best material among the young men of the Territory and the discipline is generally good.

The staff of the commander in chief is as follows :

Commander in chief and staff.

- C. M. Barnes, governor and commander in chief.
- Bert C. Orner, second lieutenant and acting adjutant-general.
- J. H. Wheeler, colonel and inspector-general.
- M. J. Holt, major and judge-advocate-general.
- Paul Jundt, major and commissary-general.
- Richard Messall, major and paymaster-general.
- Samuel A. Mann, captain and aid-de-camp.
- Bert C. Maine, captain and aid-de camp.
- Otto R. Montgomery, captain and aid-de-camp.



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PONCA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING.

OKLAHOMA IN THE WAR.

Long before the actual declaration of war with Spain I began receiving letters from patriotic citizens of the Territory offering their services in defense of the nation, and almost simultaneously with the opening of hostilities the militia companies all offered to volunteer and my mail was loaded down with offers to enlist under the flag of freedom. In the first call for troops we were accorded but one troop of cavalry or special mounted riflemen, and so great was the rush to enlist that a regiment could have been filled as readily as was the troop.

After a rigid examination, 80 men were mustered in to become a part of the First Regiment of United States Volunteer Cavalry, since become famous as Roosevelt's Rough Riders. The officers commissioned for this troop and the men mustered in were as follows:

Huston, Robert B., captain.	Honeycutt, James V., private.
McGinnis, Schuyler A., first lieutenant.	Hunter, Paul W., private.
Schweizer, Jacob, second lieutenant.	Ishler, Shelby F., private.
Palmer, Orlando G., first sergeant.	Johnston, Edward W., private.
Webb, Gerald A., sergeant.	Jordon, Andrew M., private.
Hill, Ira A., sergeant.	Joyce, Walter, private.
Sands, George H., sergeant.	Luther, Arthur A., private.
Randolph, Joseph A., sergeant.	Love, Henry K., private.
Hunter, Charles E., sergeant.	Loughmiller, Edgar F., private.
Hill, Calvin, corporal.	Lusk, Henry, private.
McClure, David V., corporal.	McMillen, Robert L., private.
Norris, George, corporal.	Meagher, Henry, private.
Rhoades, John D., corporal.	Miller, Volney D., private.
Wetmore, Starr M., trumpeter.	Miller, Rosco V., private.
Moran, Thomas, farrier.	McGinty, William, private.
Amrine, William D., private.	Muxlow, Lorrin D., private.
Beard, Lyman F., private.	Mitchell, William H., private.
Brandon, Perry H., private.	Newcomb, Marcellus L., private.
Beal, Fred M., private.	Norris, Warren, private.
Byrne, Peter F., private.	Pollock, William, private.
Brown, James T., private.	Proctor, Joseph H., private.
Bailey, William, private.	Palmer, William F., private.
Burgess, George, private.	Page, John F., private.
Chase, Leslie C., private.	Reay, Scott, private.
Cease, Forest L., private.	Russell, Albert P., private.
Cashion, Roy V., private.	Stewart, Clyde H., private.
Crosley, Henry S., private.	Scott, Cliff D., private.
Crawford, William S., private.	Shipp, Edward W., private.
Cook, Walter M., private.	Staley, Francis M., private.
Cross, William E., private.	Stewart, Clare H., private.
David, Icem J., private.	Shockey, James M., private.
Denham, Alexander H., private.	Shanafelt, Dick, private.
Douthett, Mathew, private.	Smith, Fred, private.
Emery, Elzie E., private.	Tauer, William L., private.
Faulk, William A., private.	Thomas, Albert M., private.
Folk, Theodore, private.	Vanderslice, James E., private.
Freeman, Elisha L., private.	Weitzel, John F., private.
Hill, Edwin M., private.	Wilson, Frank M., private.
Hulme, Robert A., private.	Wright, William O., private.
Holmes, Thomas M., private.	Woodward, John A., private.

These brave sons of Oklahoma were among the first American troops to land on Cuban soil, and they were in the thick of the fray at El Caney and La Quasina and acquitted themselves with honor. When the gallant Captain Capron (who had been a resident of Oklahoma for years and the first to volunteer to raise a regiment in the Territory) fell, the brave boys of Oklahoma and Indian Territory were close about, and dashing forward helped put the Spaniards to rout. Many were wounded in these fights before Santiago and several gave up their lives, but they shall live long in the memory of the people of the Territory, who honor them all for their patriotism and their bravery.

When the second call for troops was made, it seemed that Oklahoma would be left out entirely; but I visited Washington, presented the matter to the Secretary of War, and by hard work and the assistance of friends of the Territory finally secured the assignment of one full battalion of infantry to Oklahoma, the same to form a part of a regiment to be recruited from Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Indian Territory. The rush to enlist was as great as under the first call, and each one of the companies of the battalion had from 250 to 300 men enrolled r examination.

The officers commissioned and the men mustered into service were as follows:

Stone, John F., major.
Baker, William P., surgeon.
Ingram, Job, chaplain.

Barnes, Harry C., captain.
Neal, James P., first lieutenant.
Arrell, David B., second lieutenant.
Stewart, Charles N., first sergeant.
Laverty, Albert B., sergeant.
Garrison, Albert C., sergeant.
Filson, Karl J., sergeant.
Foster, Paul J., sergeant.
Williams, Joseph C., corporal.
Hill, Sherwood W., corporal.
Campbell, John M., corporal.
Burrell, Henry A., corporal.
Arnold, Jesse H., corporal.
Arnold, Samuel E., corporal.
Ripley, John M., corporal.
Lufkin, Charles H., corporal.
Hitch, William S., corporal.
Eppinger, Gottlute, corporal.
Stewart, Rufus L., corporal.
Boue, Charles, artificer.
Greiwer, Pius M., musician.
Perkins, Benjamin F., wagoner.
Adams, John F., private.
Adams, William J., private.
Beard, James C., private.
Bebout, Charles P., private.
Bonter, George A., private.
Brady, Thomas F., private.
Breedlove, William E., private.
Brown, Abraham L., private.
Brown, Orlin C., private.
Carwagey, Jet, private.
Chapman, Joe E., private.
Crowell, Charles M., private.
Chapin, Elba R., private.
Cottingham, Lou W., private.
Derrig, William E., private.
Davis, John S., private.
Dierolf, Henry J., private.
Durling, John V., private.
Elliott, Thomas B., private.
Elliott, Griffith, private.
Ewing, Silas R., private.
Ferguson, G. Walker, private.
Freed, William J., private.
Fessler, Frank A., private.
Fretz, Hazzard, private.
Harmon, Jake, private.
Hedglin, Benjamin A., private.
Harst, Walter W., jr., private.
Harvey, Charles, private.
Holmes, Wellington H., private.
Joiner, Daniel W., private.
Jones, Stanton A., private.
Kendall, Arthur E., private.
Kelley, James, private.
Kiespert, William S., private.
Klavitter, Jack, private.
King, John G., private.
Lewis, Ralph L., private.
Lovett, Thomas, private.
Lucas, Robert, private.
Loving, William V., private.
Lyon, George H., private.
Mason, Homer W., private.
Mayfield, Thomas J., private.
Marshall, Claude R., private.
Martin, Larkin N., private.
Mathias, Chris., private.
Metz, Ernest, private.
Mitchell, Jesse F., private.
Morris, George E., private.
Mundis, Jess C., private.
Miller, Ferris, private.
Mitchell, Thomas N., private.
Mulhall, Patrick, private.
Murry, Dan, private.
Norris, Millard B., private.
Ogborn, Arthur J., private.
Payton, George W., private.
Peoples, Ernest E., private.
Payne, George B., private.
Pearson, Ira B., private.
Phillips, Albert C., private.
Phillips, John W., private.
Phillips, Art., private.
Querry, Samuel R., private.
Reachy, Lewis, private.
Ripley, Elmer E., private.
Ray, Burt A., private.
Rice, Frederick H., private.
Robinett, Robert L., private.
Rumford, Charley A., private.
Rodman, Will, private.
Sanders, Chesley L., private.
Sherman, John, private.
Sturgis, Bert H., private.
Taylor, William A., private.
Tompson, George F., private.
Viers, David S., jr., private.
Whitley, Stephen, private.
Witten, Edwin B., private.
Wright, Luther, private.
Wilson, Elmer, private.
Worline, Walter O., private.

- Hoffman, Roy V., captain.
 O'Rourke, Jeremiah J., first lieutenant.
 Finley, Gordon L., second lieutenant.
 Barrett, Charles F., first sergeant.
 Minton, Lawrence E., quartermaster-sergeant.
 Ulam, Peter L., sergeant.
 Palmer, John F., sergeant.
 Beard, John W., sergeant.
 Braselton, Samuel R., sergeant.
 Cowling, James J., corporal.
 Honeycutt, William L., corporal.
 Poling, Frank, corporal.
 Hamlin, James W., corporal.
 Bradshaw, Alie R., corporal.
 Johnston, Alphonso F., corporal.
 Egbert, Harry, corporal.
 Clark, Brent, corporal.
 Tomson, Robert R., corporal.
 Furber, James D., corporal.
 Morton, Daniel J., corporal.
 Ridenour, Charles A., corporal.
 Ashton, Orin, musician.
 Estes, William M., musician.
 Zipf, Leopold, artificer.
 Morris, Carl, wagoner.
 Adams, John Q., private.
 Albin, Dudley, private.
 Affolder, Charles A., private.
 Banks, Fred H., private.
 Barnard, Clay, private.
 Boyd, Howard, private.
 Braselton, Stephen O., private.
 Bush, Ebb A., private.
 Barker, James F., private.
 Buman, Leo L., private.
 Branderson, Andy H., private.
 Bryan, Daniel F., private.
 Bush, John S., private.
 Condon, George W., private.
 Davis, William, private.
 De Moss, George M., private.
 Dustin, Timothy W., private.
 Dorsey, William E., private.
 Donoghue, Harry J., private.
 Eboss, George W., private.
 Fees, Emerson H., private.
 Foster, James B., private.
 Fraley, Benjamin F., private.
 Finney, Elwood C., private.
 Foster, Madison A., private.
 Gallagher, Walter E., private.
 Gardner, Jefferson M., private.
 Glenn, Morgan R., private.
 Geren, Sherman, private.
 Gose, James F., private.
 Hall, John B., private.
 Hinch, John A., private.
 Heavner, William P., private.
 Johnson, John K., private.
 Keeney, John H., private.
 King, Harlon E., private.
 Kellison, William E., private.
 Knapp, Fred C., private.
 Lancaster, Norton T., private.
 Long, James D., private.
 Leach, Brice, private.
 Lumly, Eli M., private.
 McBride, James M., private.
 Mahler, Clarence J., private.
 Merricks, Charles, private.
 McCamman, Willias J., private.
 Martin, Lewis E., private.
 Mitchell, Andrew J., private.
 Norris, Fred J., private.
 Northen, Perry I., private.
 Owens, Ben, private.
 Payton, John C., private.
 Perswell, Clayton H., private.
 Pidcock, Odie, private.
 Poling, Alonzo, private.
 Pool, William T., private.
 Purnell, William T., private.
 Pomeroy, Arthur W., private.
 Pugh, Allen L., private.
 Quaiatta, Godlip A., private.
 Reilly, Joe, private.
 Ritchie, Charles T., private.
 Rogers, George F., private.
 Riley, William C., private.
 Rogers, George, private.
 Russell, James, private.
 Scogin, John D., private.
 Sherman, Calvin, private.
 Springer, Frank, private.
 Stewart, Edgar A., private.
 Sevier, Edward C., private.
 Soper, Alfred, private.
 Stager, James W., private.
 Tatum, William, private.
 Thompson, William A., private.
 Vermont, Edward, private.
 Wakefield, Isaac N., private.
 Watkins, Lewis J., private.
 Wray, George D., private.
 Warren, Thomas J., private.
 Webb, John V., private.
 Wightman, William M., private.
 Ziegler, Edwin F., private.
 Zimmerman, Sterling S., private.
 Lowry, Robert A., captain.
 Platt, Henry A., first lieutenant.
 McFadyen, John A., second lieutenant.
 Workman, Jerome S., first sergeant.
 Baldwin, Nathan O., quartermaster-sergeant.
 Halzer, Chris., sergeant.
 Morris, John T., sergeant.
 Caswell, Henry U., sergeant.
 Taylor, Thomas J., jr., sergeant.
 Hasselton, Lerie G., corporal.
 Hayford, Elbert E., corporal.
 Harrington, Albert, corporal.
 Thomas, Roy W., corporal.
 Overton, Charles A., corporal.
 Spencer, Walter C., corporal.
 Edmondson, Howard, corporal.
 Slack, John O., corporal.
 Brixey, John T., corporal.
 Dickman, George, corporal.
 Northup, Frank D., corporal.
 Arrendiell, Schuyler C., corporal.
 Swallow, Marion S., musician.
 Hamlin, James E., musician.
 Shrader, Charles M., artificer.
 Hardesty, William M., wagoner.
 Annis, Earnest G., private.
 Arrendiell, Edward, private.

Baker, Monroe, private.
 Barrett, Wilmer K., private.
 Bell, Abner D., private.
 Boone, Paul, private.
 Brandon, William N., private.
 Brewster, Charles C., private.
 Bryan, Bert B., private.
 Bryan, Richard A., private.
 Buck, Charles A., private.
 Burnett, Clyde B., private.
 Canfield, Ula G., private.
 Casteel, Fred, private.
 Crosby, Arthur, private.
 Crosby, Ray, private.
 Crusha, John F., private.
 Darenport, Alma E., private.
 David, Edward, private.
 Davidson, Ernest B., private.
 Dedrick, William H., private.
 Dennis, Elijah J., private.
 Devall, Henry C., private.
 Devine, Hubert, private.
 Dixon, Albert J., private.
 Eckes, Frank B., private.
 Etter, Charles, private.
 Fesler, Robert, private.
 Foreman, Ben F., private.
 Frost, Earl, private.
 Gamble, Jerome R., private.
 Garault, Homer, private.
 Gilbert, Marion A., private.
 Goss, Clarence L., private.
 Hancock, Everle W., private.
 Haney, Henry, private.
 Hannah, George W., private.
 Hansbrough, Hubert J., private.
 Harrell, Rallston G., private.
 Harris, Ira, private.
 Haviland, Joseph, private.
 Houston, Clinton O., private.
 Jenkins, Leander, private.

Boynton, Fred L., captain.
 Wheeler, James M., first lieutenant.
 Switzer, Simon W., second lieutenant.
 Foose, Seymour, first sergeant.
 Salter, Lewis A., quartermaster-sergeant.
 Switzer, Earl G., sergeant.
 Hunter, Fred W., sergeant.
 Alley, John P., sergeant.
 Douglass, Ernest G., sergeant.
 Hackett, John, corporal.
 Holbrook, George W., corporal.
 Hart, Grant A., corporal.
 West, Charles J., corporal.
 Stewart, Fred H., corporal.
 Sheetz, James L., corporal.
 Oates, David C., corporal.
 Way, Ross R., corporal.
 Baldwin, George A., corporal.
 Myers, William P., corporal.
 Smith, Horace G., corporal.
 Craig, Dorris, corporal.
 Bonnett, George P., musician.
 Devin, Charles, musician.
 Bastion, Charles H., artificer.
 Higginbotham, Martin L., wagoner.
 Adams, Rollie G., private.
 Anderson, Edward E., private.
 Arnold, John W., private.

Johnson, William, private.
 Knox, John W., private.
 Korns, Robert L., private.
 Lacy, Henry, private.
 Landis, Allen J., private.
 Lefever, Charles, private.
 Lester, Rease L., private.
 Lyon, Wesley, private.
 Marin, George, private.
 May, Jay V. D., private.
 Minor, George W., private.
 Morgan, James T., private.
 Newton, William, private.
 Noblet, George R., private.
 Perrizo, Fred, private.
 Pickard, Aleck C., private.
 Quick, William H., private.
 Rains, George W., private.
 Ralls, William R., private.
 Reynolds, Ira, private.
 Ridgeway, William F., private.
 Simmons, William, private.
 Smith, Leon, private.
 Stallard, William M., private.
 Sullivan, John W., private.
 Teel, Benjamin F., private.
 Tucker, Edwin A., private.
 Vario, Edward, private.
 Waldo, Edward, private.
 Walker, James W., private.
 Wasson, George S., private.
 Waters, George F., private.
 Watkins, Elmer, private.
 Williams, Albert D., private.
 Williams, Clyde B., private.
 Williams, James W., private.
 Wilson, Virgil A., private.
 Wilson, William A., private.
 Witcher, Frank, private.
 Witcher, Irmin R., private.
 Yarbrough, Loyd D., private.

Baker, James A., private.
 Ballinger, Bert O., private.
 Bass, Frank H., private.
 Baxter, Louis J., private.
 Benedick, Omer K., private.
 Bienz, Abram W., private.
 Bliss, George T., private.
 Bradshaw, Albert E., private.
 Bricker, Jacob W., private.
 Brown, Charles C., jr., private.
 Brown, Oscar H., private.
 Burson, Homer T., private.
 Conaway, James R., private.
 Decker, Selby J., private.
 Diefendorf, Floyd, private.
 Durkett, Clarence S., private.
 Farnier, James F., private.
 Faughn, James W., private.
 Freed, George W., private.
 French, Albert N., private.
 Garren, Frank T., private.
 Gibbons, James F., private.
 Gifford, Charles B., private.
 Hall, Robert L., private.
 Hally, Mark, private.
 Hammer, Carl S., private.
 Hicks, Joseph F., private.
 Hobson, Seth C., private.

Homer, Edgar A., private.
 Houghton, Elmer E., private.
 Jackson, Edward C., private.
 Jennings, Carson A., private.
 Johnson, Oscar W., private.
 Jolliff, Frank, private.
 Kelley, Walter B., private.
 Kesterson, Arthur, private.
 Kugle, Giles C., private.
 Lawrence, Edward, private.
 Litteer, Earl J., private.
 Long, Edward H., private.
 McFaddin, Winfield S., private.
 McIrvin, Arthur H., private.
 Miller, Henry J., private.
 Miller, Walter J., private.
 Montgomery, John M., private.
 Morris, Thomas B., private.
 Mott, Eddie L., private.
 Myers, Oliver J., private.
 Paul, Alonzo S., private.
 Paul, John W., private.
 Petet, Louis A., private.
 Pope, William E., private.
 Poppelbaum, Thomas, private.
 Power, Alvin W., private.
 Proskey, John, private.

Reap, Edward A., private.
 Rector, Benjamin F., private.
 Ricketts, Mansfield O., private.
 Roberts, Cleaborn, private.
 Roberts, George W., private.
 Robertson, Otis, private.
 Rockwell, Fred J., private.
 Rolan, Francis M., private.
 Rose, John, private.
 Ross, Ira V., private.
 Russell, Claude W., private.
 Ruckman, William C., private.
 Sharp, Newton E., private.
 Sims, James P., private.
 Slemp, Charlie C., private.
 Sloan, John A., private.
 Smith, Jake, private.
 Smith, James A., private.
 Smith, Joseph F., private.
 Snoddy, James C., private.
 Sweet, Harry O., private.
 Swink, Harry L., private.
 Turner, Harry M., private.
 Venker, George F., private.
 Wilson, William D., private.
 Wood, Lee V., private.

Morrison, Ira I., first lieutenant.

Morrison, Ralph E., hospital steward.

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.

The legislature failed at its last session to make an appropriation for an exhibit of the Territory's products and resources at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition now in progress at Omaha, Nebr. The work of the executive office was such that it was very late in the year before I could give this matter any attention.

Early in the spring I appointed Hon. J. C. Post, of Kingfisher, vice-president for Oklahoma and chairman of the Territorial commission, and appointed commissioners from a number of the leading counties of the Territory. After giving the matter considerable thought and attention and discussing every possible means of providing funds, I asked the railway companies and different counties of the Territory to advance the money needed, with the assurance that a strict accounting would be made for every dollar advanced, and that the whole matter should be reported to the legislature in detail and they would be asked to make an appropriation to refund the amounts donated.

Funds were then subscribed and paid as follows:

Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company.....	\$1,000
Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company.....	1,000
Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railway Company.....	500
Logan County.....	300
Noble County.....	250
Kingfisher County.....	200
Garfield County.....	250
Canadian County.....	250
Total.....	3,750

Mr. Post, the chairman, in the spirit of enterprise that characterizes the original Oklahoma settler and in the goodness of his heart, guarantees to advance \$1,000 more if necessary to secure a successful display of our agricultural resources at Omaha.

An excellent space was secured for the Territory in the agricultural building, and early in June the exhibit began taking shape.

It was early for any products of this year; not much had been saved from last; some of the commissioners failed to do anything, and the work went very slow at first; but up to this time three carloads of specimen products have been forwarded, and others will follow.

The exhibit now compares favorably with the agricultural exhibit of any State, and before the exposition closes we expect to eclipse many of the other displays.

Oklahoma, while the Territory was in its earliest infancy, and agriculture as yet an experiment, took first premiums on wheat, cotton, and flour, and awards on six other products, at the World's Fair in Chicago, and we expect to secure a number of awards and attract much favorable attention and comment at this great Western exposition.

OFFICIAL ROSTER.

The change of national Administration has resulted in a change of most of the Territorial and Federal officials of Oklahoma during the past year. The official roster at this time is as follows:

- Governor: Cassius M. Barnes.
 Secretary of the Territory and ex-officio lieutenant-governor: W. M. Jenkins.
 Attorney-general: Harper S. Cunningham.
 Treasurer: Frank M. Thompson.
 Superintendent of public instruction and ex officio auditor: S. N. Hopkins.
 Secretary school land board and ex officio school land commissioner: Charles H. Filson.
 Assistant secretary: Joseph H. Norris.
 Private secretary to the governor: Fred L. Wenner.
 Assistant secretary of the Territory: James J. Houston.
 Deputy auditor: E. P. McCabe.
 Oil inspector: Amos A. Ewing.
 Bank examiner: John M. Pugh.
 Librarian: George H. Dodson.
 Acting Adjutant-general: Bert C. Orner.
 Superintendent of public health: L. Haynes Buxton, M. D.
 Delegate in Congress: J. Y. Callahan.
 Territorial school land board: Governor Barnes, Secretary Jenkins, and Auditor Hopkins.
 Board of railway assessors: Governor Barnes, Secretary Jenkins, and Auditor Hopkins.
 Board of equalization: Governor Barnes, Secretary Jenkins, and Auditor Hopkins.
 Banking board: Governor Barnes, Secretary Jenkins, Attorney-General Cunningham, Treasurer Thompson, and Auditor Hopkins.
 Regents of the Territorial University: Governor Barnes; Henry E. Asp, of Guthrie; James D. McGuire, of Norman; James H. Wheeler, of Oklahoma City; and C. O. Blake, of El Reno. (One vacancy.)
 Regents of the Agricultural and Mechanical College: Governor Barnes; B. S. Barnes of Ponca City; R. J. Edwards, of Oklahoma City; J. C. Tousley, of El Reno; C. J. Benson, of Shawnee; and Robert A. Lowry, of Stillwater.
 Live-stock sanitary board: Same as regents of Agricultural and Mechanical College.
 Board of education of normal schools: Superintendent of Public Instruction Hopkins, Treasurer Thompson, D. P. Marum, of Woodward; L. J. Gunn, of El Reno; and D. D. Leach, of Oklahoma City.
 Board of regents of Colored Agricultural and Normal University: Superintendent of Public Instruction Hopkins, Treasurer Thompson, Rev. L. H. Holt, of Guthrie; E. O. Tyler, of Kingfisher; and John W. Hamilton, of Oklahoma City.
 Territorial board of education: Territorial Superintendent of Public Instruction Hopkins; President D. R. Boyd, of Norman; President E. D. Murdaugh, of Edmond; Prof. B. F. Nihart, of Oklahoma City; and Prof. L. E. Cooley, of Shawnee.
 Presidents of the Territorial institutions of learning: D. R. Boyd, Norman, of the Territorial University; E. D. Murdaugh, Edmond, of the Normal School; J. C. Ament, Alva, of the Northwestern Normal; G. E. Morrow, Stillwater, of the Agricultural and Mechanical College; Inman E. Page, Langston, of the Colored University.
 Board of health: Auditor Hopkins; Dr. L. H. Buxton, of Guthrie; and Dr. F. S. Hamilton, of Norman.



SUSPENSION BRIDGE 400 FEET LONG OVER SOUTH CANADIAN RIVER AT NOBLE.

Board of pharmacy: F. B. Lillie, of Guthrie; C. N. Dow, of Pond Creek; and E. E. Howendobler, of Perry.

Board of dental examiners: W. E. Furrow, of Guthrie; Robert Wilson, of El Reno; E. E. Kirkpatrick, of Oklahoma City; J. Q. Waddell, of Kingfisher; and L. A. Kelsy, of Chandler.

Supreme court: Chief justice, J. H. Burford, of Guthrie; associate justices, J. C. Tarsney, of El Reno; B. F. Burwell, of Oklahoma City; B. T. Hainer, of Perry; and J. L. McAtee, of Enid. These judges also serve as judges of the district courts in the first to fifth districts, respectively.

Clerks of courts: Supreme court, B. F. Hegler, of Guthrie; first district, M. C. Hart, of Guthrie; second district, J. H. Warren, of El Reno; third district, Byron H. Shear, of Oklahoma City; fourth district, W. F. Harn, of Perry; fifth district, J. C. McClelland, of Pond Creek.

FEDERAL OFFICERS.

United States district attorney: Samuel L. Overstreet.

Assistant United States attorneys: John H. Scothorn and B. S. McGuire.

United States marshal: C. H. Thompson.

Registers and receivers of land offices: Guthrie, J. J. Boles and F. E. McKinley; Oklahoma City, S. S. Price and A. H. Classen; Kingfisher, E. E. Brownlee and J. V. Admire; Enid, J. B. Cullison and J. J. S. Hassler; Perry, A. H. Boles and J. J. Powers; Alva, R. A. Cameron and W. J. French; Woodward, F. S. Healy and J. W. Miller; Mangum, H. D. McKnight and James Kelly.

United States Indian agents: Osages, W. J. Pollock, Pawhuska; Poncas, Pawnees, and Otoes, John Jenson, Whiteagle; Iowas, Sacs and Foxes, and Pottawatomies, Lee Patrick, Sac and Fox; Cheyennes and Arapahoes, Maj. A. E. Woodson, Darlington; Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches, W. T. Walker, Anadarko.

INDIANS.

The number of Indians in Oklahoma at this time is 13,033. They are under the care of five different agencies, the total enumerations being as follows:

OSAGE AGENCY.

Osages	1,800		Kaws	215
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WHITE EAGLE AGENCY.

Poncas	608		Otoes	356
Pawnees	706		Tonkawas	53

SAC AND FOX AGENCY.

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

DARLINGTON AGENCY.

Cheyennes	2,200		Arapahoes	1,100
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KIOWA AGENCY.

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

Contrary to the general opinion that the Indians are passing away, nearly every one of these tribes is gradually increasing in numbers.

While the Indians as a whole are advancing in the scale of civilization, the advance of those whose lands have been allotted and the residue opened to settlement is so much greater than of those still holding tribal reservations that he who runs may read the solution of the Indian problem—allotment, division, education, and self-reliance.

The Tonkawas, Pawnees, Sacs and Foxes, Iowas, Pottawatomies,

Shawnees, Kickapoos, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes have taken their lands in severalty and had the balance thrown open to settlement. The other tribes live on large reservations away from whites and the influences of full civilization.

While the wigwam, the red blanket, and other evidences of nomadic and semibarbarous days are still in evidence here and there, the majority of Indians now live in houses, wear "store clothes," and practice many of the arts of civilization.

The sun and ghost dances and other savage rites are gradually passing away, less time spent in wholesale visiting and riotous feasting, and more in farming and other industries, polygamy being stamped out and the women more or less emancipated from the slavish life of the past. The Indians as a whole are quiet and law-abiding, and the courts or officers of the law have had little or no real trouble with them in the history of the Territory.

CHEYENNES AND ARAPAHOES.

These Indians occupy land in the western part of the Territory. They are recognized as citizens under the allotment system, and each individual holds 160 acres of land, upon which about 75 per cent of them have established permanent homes. Many of these have built for themselves (partly from the proceeds of their own labor) comfortable dwelling houses. They have made rapid progress in civilized habits during the past few years. All able-bodied men engage in farming and cultivate from 5 to 60 acres, upon which they grow fair crops when the season is favorable.

Maj. A. E. Woodson, who has been the agent in charge of these tribes for a number of years and met with remarkable success in his work among them, says of his charges in a recent report to me:

Under the rigid system of withholding gratuitous supplies from those who will not work, and the encouragement of those who will by a generous distribution of farming utensils, the evolution of these people from a barbarous condition, though gradual, is quite marked. They obey the laws and conform to the requirements of the Government, exercised with kindness and firmness, and show evidence of becoming good citizens when the civilizing influences of education shall have swept away the ignorance and superstition which has been their heritage for generations.

The school facilities furnished by the Government are now sufficient to accommodate the children of school age, while compulsory attendance is exacted from all. It is observed that these Indian children acquire education just as rapidly as white children, and as evidence of this fact attention is invited to the large number of Indian teachers and others employed in the Indian schools throughout the country. Though the right of these Indians to vote is recognized, no effort to exercise their right has been made except among those who have been educated.

The absence of drunkenness among them is most marked; a drunken Indian is seldom seen, and it is noted that fewer crimes are committed by them than by a similar number of white citizens of the Territory. At this time I know of no Indian of this agency in prison.

Marriages are now consummated under the laws of the Territory. Violations of such laws are promptly punished by local courts. The lack of progress which usually attends upon the frequent changes of Indian agents at the several agencies throughout the country is not witnessed among these Indians. That so large a number of Indians, who but recently were brought under control as citizens and compelled to abandon tribal customs, which militated against all progress toward civilization, are progressing so well elicits surprise as well as commendation. They are now living amicably side by side with their white neighbors, who have learned that they are not "as black as they have been painted," and that the statement that "there are no good Indians except dead ones" is a fallacy.

KAWS AND OSAGES.

Hon. William J. Pollock, United States Indian agent at Pawhuska, in a recent communication says of these people:

The Kaw Indians reside at the northwest corner of the Osage Reservation, on a reservation of their own containing 100,000 acres, a considerable portion of which, along the river and creek bottom, is very fine arable land, and is now to a considerable extent under cultivation. This 100,000 acres, which was formerly a part of the Osage Reservation, has for its northern boundary the Kansas State line, and for its western boundary the Arkansas River. There are three leased cattle ranches of this reservation which bring to the Kaws considerable revenue, but in the main they are self-supporting, quiet citizens. The Kaws formerly had an independent agency, where their school and agency affairs were conducted, but it is now under the supervision of a "clerk in charge" as a subagency under the Osage agent.

The Osage Reservation contains about 1,400,000 acres of land, of which the greater portion is more or less broken, and rocky highlands, fit for grazing purposes only, with intervening creek bottoms, and particularly the Arkansas River bottom lands, which are among the finest agricultural lands in the world. Corn and wheat are raised here in abundance, and the crops this year are simply immense. The Osage Reservation contains 22 leased cattle pastures, from which these Indians derive an annual income of over \$40,000.

There are about 1,800 Osage Indian citizens, about half of whom are full bloods, and the other half mixed in various degrees with the Anglo-Saxons, etc.

These people stand alone in the history of the world as to the ownership of their land, having bought and paid for it with a tribal fund, yet hold it in common with a treaty guaranty (made in 1866) by the United States that no State or Territory shall ever pass laws extending jurisdiction over them without their consent.

They have the finest equipped school buildings, etc., in the United States. They also have to their credit in the United States Treasury about \$9,000,000, on which they draw 5 per cent interest, which is paid to them in quarterly installments, pro rata, by their agent, and this is altogether the most exacting and responsible duty of the agent, requiring more clerical work of a devious and exacting character than any other Indian agency.

Most of the farming carried on by these rich and aristocratic aborigines is really done by white tenants, as these Indians are too rich and too proud to work.

There are on the Osage Reservation a very large agency, boarding school, and two contract schools, all well attended, where their youths are slowly but surely approaching the educational pathway of their white brothers.

PONCA AGENCY.

Hon. John Jenson, United States Indian agent at Whiteagle, in a recent communication gives the following interesting facts about the tribes of this agency:

There are four tribes of Indians under the supervision of this agency—Poncas, Pawnees, Otoes and Missourias, and Tonkawas. The condition of these Indians is gradually improving. The majority of them are fast abandoning their nomadic habits and are adopting the pursuits of civilized life more or less. The following figures exhibit the amount of produce raised by the several tribes during the past fiscal year:

Wheat	bushels..	31,000
Corn	do.....	46,135
Potatoes	do.....	1,800
Turnips	do.....	210
Onions	do.....	120
Beans	do.....	555
Melons	number..	14,500
Pumpkins	do.....	4,400
Hay	tons.....	1,240
Butter	pounds..	997
Lumber, sawed	feet....	182,601
Wood, cut	cords....	405

The stock owned by the several tribes may be enumerated as follows:

Horses.....	2,022
Mules.....	57
Burros.....	9
Cattle.....	204
Swine.....	203
Domestic fowls.....	1,072

A very great change in the financial condition of the Poncas, Pawnees, and Tonkawas comes from the fact that thousands of acres of their lands are leased to good farmers, who pay cash rentals ranging from 40 cents to \$1.50 per acre. This will also apply to the Otoes when the Department approves their allotments.

While the lands throughout the agency are well adapted to the production of wheat, corn, and fruits, they are also wonderfully suited to cattle raising, and it shall be my policy to encourage this pursuit.

There are three boarding schools throughout the agency—Ponca, Pawnee, and Otoe—with a combined enrollment of 303 pupils. These institutions are all in a most flourishing condition.

SOME NOTED PRISONERS.

At Fort Sill, in the Kiowa and Comanche Reservation, are 300 Western Apaches, held as prisoners of war by the United States. Among them is Geronimo, once the terror of all the West. They are all peaceable and engaged in farming and other pursuits, but are closely guarded at all times by United States troops detailed for that duty. Geronimo, the once bloody warrior, is at present reported to be running a sawmill.

The missionary and educational work being done by various religious organizations among the Indians of the Territory is bringing about a great change in their condition, and several once noted chiefs, who led their tribes in bloody warfare against the whites, are now humble preachers of the gospel.

INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

No material changes have taken place upon and around the Indian reservations in Oklahoma.

The Supreme Court of the United States has recently decided that personal property of traders and cattle owners in the Osage Nation is subject to like taxes as are levied in the counties to which it is attached by law for judicial purposes. This has stirred them up to endeavor to secure the passage of an act of Congress attaching that nation to the Cherokee Nation, so that they may escape all taxation. It seems perhaps a hardship to require them to pay taxes other than the Territorial tax and the taxes levied for court expenses, and I have no doubt the legislature which meets the coming winter will modify the laws to that extent.

I earnestly recommend that the bill now pending in Congress to ratify the treaty heretofore made with the Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches, and the Wichitas and affiliated tribes be enacted, and urge the speedy opening to settlement of the surplus lands that will be acquired by the United States under said treaty.

The rapid advancement being made by the Indians whose lands have been allotted in severalty is a strong argument in favor of opening to white settlement all reserved lands not actually needed by the Indians.

BEAVER COUNTY.

Beaver County, extending, in a strip 168 miles long and 35 miles wide, west from the northwestern part of the Territory, is a vast expanse of territory with conditions quite different from the greater part of Okla-



Bird's Eye View looking North West



Bird's Eye View looking Eastward



Line of Officers' Quarters - looking North West



Interior from Hospital - looking South East

FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA TERR.

homa. This county was for a long time known as No Man's Land, not being under the jurisdiction of any State or Territory and no laws whatever being in force there. Many settlers were in this land at that time, and they organized a provisional government, and on March 4, 1886, resolved themselves into a territory to be called Cimarron, elected Dr. Chase a Delegate to Congress, and demanded recognition. Nothing came of this organization, however, except as a means of protecting property rights among the settlers, and in 1890 when Oklahoma was organized as a Territory, No Man's Land was made a part of it as Beaver County.

The county contains 3,681,000 acres of land, 3,255,955 acres of which are yet open for homestead entry absolutely free to settlers. While there are many settlers in this county who have fine farms along the streams, the greater portion of the land, lying as it does on the high western plains, is suited only for cattle and sheep raising. A man can not do much in these industries on 160 acres of land, which is all he can secure under the homestead laws, and it seems to me that the restoration of tree-claim and preemption rights to this section, or the privilege of purchase of a limited area at Government price, would be but a matter of justice to these people and aid greatly in opening up and developing that portion of the Territory.

SOME NEEDED LEGISLATION.

The bill now pending in Congress ratifying the treaty with the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache Indians, and providing for the opening of the residue of their reservation to settlement after the members of the tribes have selected their allotments, reserves sections 16 and 36 in each township for school purposes, but fails to make reservation of sections 13 and 33 for colleges and public buildings. This is a matter of great importance to the people of Oklahoma, and the bill should be amended so as to reserve these sections and also to give the Territory the right to select from the public lands, not otherwise disposed of, indemnity lands in lieu of sections 13 and 33 in original Oklahoma for like purposes. The educational and public-institution interests of the future State of Oklahoma will thus be advanced, and in the light of the donations of land to other States and Territories I believe it but a matter of right and justice that such reservations be made, and urge your good offices in behalf of such measures, and in connection with the subject I desire to call your special attention to the phraseology of the acts of Congress reserving said lands for common school and college purposes in that part of the Territory known as the Cherokee Strip. Under these acts it is contended that the proceeds arising from the leasing of such lands should constitute a fund separate and apart from the funds arising from leasing of lands in other parts of the Territory and should be distributed for the use and benefit only of the schools within said lands.

It has been held by the Territorial government that the funds arising from the leasing of sections 16 and 36 in the Strip should constitute a part of one common fund arising from the leasing of all the lands donated or reserved for like purposes in all parts of the Territory, and distribution has been made pro rata to all the common schools of the Territory and upon the annual school enumeration made by the various counties, and the funds arising from the leasing of section 13 in the Strip have been distributed to the various universities, normal schools, and agricultural colleges as seemed to be for the best interest of the

various higher educational institutions in the Territory. I suggest that Congress shall pass an act correcting the ambiguity and uncertainty of the existing law, to the end that no further contention should be had over the distribution of these funds and to prevent litigation otherwise likely to arise.

STATEHOOD.

Since the passage of the Curtis bill, changing to some extent the status of the Five Civilized Tribes and apparently postponing the question of statehood therefor for several years, the sentiment in Oklahoma is somewhat stronger for immediate statehood than when I made my last report.

All political parties have this year declared in favor of statehood upon such terms and with such boundaries as may seem best to Congress.

Respectfully submitted.

C. M. BARNES, *Governor.*

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