

1250 1907

WEST TEXAS

THE

"Land of Opportunities"

REACHED VIA



AN

IDEAL CLIMATE

WEST TEXAS OF THE PAST



E. P. TURNER, General Passenger Agent,
DALLAS, TEX.

WEST TEXAS

THE

"Land of Opportunities"

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AN

IDEAL CLIMATE

WEST TEXAS OF TO-DAY.



L. S. THORNE, General Manager,
DALLAS, TEX.

West Texas, The Land of Opportunities.



Pear Orchard near Clyde, Callahan County, Texas

Callahan County

The Eastern section of Callahan County, and the country surrounding Chautauqua and extending either way from the Clearfork of the Brazos to the Pecan Bayou. Herein lies some as fine black land as will be found in any part of

our great State. The land resembles very much the best lands of Ellis and other black land counties, both in color and nature of the soil. The grass is of the mesquite variety and is thickly set, while the timber growth consists of mesquite of sufficient size for posts and wood, besides there



Wheat Field near Chautauqua, Texas

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are several streams, namely, Hubbard, Deep Mexia, and Battle Creek farther to the east, all of which afford a plentiful supply of pure, fresh water the year around, with all the fish any angler would wish for, and these streams are thickly studded with hackberry, elm and pecan, the last named more numerous than the other named trees, and when cared for will prove a very profitable crop.

This land is very fertile, being practically all valley land, first and second valley, and possibly 200 feet average lower than the lands lying around Baird, six miles west. This land produces excellent wheat, oats, cotton, corn and fruit of the more long lived varieties. There is cotton around Chautauqua this year which will produce one bale per acre. After suffering severe hail storm about first of June, some wheat produced 25 bushels per acre.

Chautauqua is located near the center of the county and about midway between Abilene and Cisco, and surrounded by very rich lands, which already carry a great many settlers and will soon

be made a nice little town and trading point. In addition to having such good farm lands surrounding it, it has the advantage of an everlasting water supply from the creek near by and is undoubtedly within the coal measures and with some development can be made an interesting proposition in that line. It is also included in the gas belt extending northeast from Brown County, Texas, into Kansas. Natural gas and some oil have been developed along this belt in sufficient quantities to guarantee much interest in future prospecting, and besides near Chautauqua is some hills of shale that only await investigation by capital to be converted into the manufacture of tile brick and Portland cement.

Finest climate in Texas.



Lake in Ward Park, Chautauqua, Texas



Bird's-eye view of Chautauqua from Chautauqua Park, Ward Park Lake in the foreground

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Alfalfa Field, near Chautauqua, Texas

Misrepresenting West Texas

There has been two active but antagonistic elements in Western Texas, the live stock interest, contending that the country was adapted to stock raising only, and the quasi-agricultural element, contending that the country was especially adapted to farming. The conversion of the ranges into farms was a transformation necessarily adverse to the interests of the cattlemen and the cattlemen did just what any other class of people would have done under the same circumstances—bestirred themselves to put a stop to it. To show the character of advertising Western Texas was getting we reproduce clipping taken from a certain daily paper published in Texas.

"Gloomy Prospects—Mr. B—, a prominent stock man of C—, is registered at the —. Speaking of conditions in his section of country, Mr. B— said: 'Everything is in mighty bad shape in my section just at present. We have had an unusually dry spring and summer, and unless we get rain in a few weeks and have a very late fall, enabling grass to grow and mature, I do not see how we are going to pull through the winter. Quite a number of farmers have moved into that country during the last two years and things are

mighty squally for them. What little money they had has been spent for improvements and to live on, and now they are without money and can't get credit nor sell what they have at any price. Many of them are pulling out, going back East, where they can at least get work of some kind and keep from starving. If we can have a good rain and a late fall, cattle will do all right, but so far as crops are concerned they are hopelessly done for.'"

Some Resources and Advantages of Callahan County

Malaria unknown.
Fine public schools.
A great diversity of soil.
Cool breezes all summer.
A great diversity of crops.
Snow storms rare in winter.
As fine grass as Texas affords.
Has an immense crop of pecans.
A cotton crop is a yearly certainty.
Six times as many births as deaths.
Has an abundance of wood and water.
Inexhaustible supply of fine building stone.
Has averaged thirty bushels of wheat to acre.
Sandy land equal to the East Texas fruit belt.

West Texas, The Land of Opportunities.

Persons Who Do Well By Coming [to Texas]

The farmer, willing to till the soil.

Persons who are skilled in industrial, manufacturing or mechanical pursuits.

Persons suffering from incipient consumption, asthma, catarrh and nervous debility.

Persons wishing to secure first-class investments at wonderfully remunerative returns.

Persons who are in search of a healthful climate, superior soils and educational facilities.

Persons wishing to build themselves into big business from small beginnings but with limited means.

The industrious man of small means, who is willing to till the soil and care for a few fine stock around him.

Persons who love a semi-tropical section with all its fruits and flowers, combined with all that northern climes produce.

Persons who prefer to mingle with people who are striving to push themselves ahead in the business world, strictly on business principles.

Persons desirous of settling their children in healthful, productive localities in the grandest State in the Union, and in the section with the greatest future.

In soil there is much diversity. The man who has sandy land and has learned its advantages thinks no other quite so fertile as his own while the black or red land farmer is just as sure that he has the best of it in every way. Each has learned to properly appreciate the value of his particular kind of soil, and all do well when they work their land as it should be done.

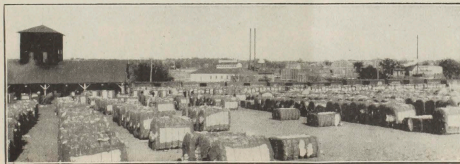
Strange But True

MILTON EVERETT, IN SOUTHWEST INVESTOR.

Do you know that a producing empire vaster than all the New England States is rapidly developed in West Texas; that stretching for three hundred miles westward as the Texas & Pacific railway goes hundreds of thousands of acres of virgin soil are for the first time feeling the touch of the plow, the lodestone that draws commerce from the ends of the earth? A great territory—a million acres of land accessible to transportation facilities, has been found to rival the San Joaquin Valley for fruits and the Brazos bottom for cotton. Westward from Eastland County to Midland two million dollars will come from cotton alone this year. Another million formerly spent for meat supplies, provender and table luxuries saved by the miraculous scratching of the plow point! And the work of the plow not yet even begun in earnest. A man buys a farm and receives out of the abundance of nature enough to pay for it. He wakes up after the summer harvest to find his farm paid for, and, if that were not enough, has its value doubled.

We buy grapes from California, pears from Michigan, apples from Missouri—next year all of them from West Texas. West Texas, for which is the mart, established and unafraid. A West Texas county, Callahan, this year gets first prize at the Fair—secures the precious persimmon of pre-eminence. For what? Long-horn steers? Nit! For the best agricultural exhibit! It almost seems like heresy to say it. Ten years ago a fellow would have been put in a straight-jacket for repeating a rumor to this effect. Best horticultural exhibit?—also from West

Texas! And also, alas and alack! these West Texas folks have had the cheek to take the prize for the biggest watermelons! These people from a town out there called Midland, whom we thought subsisted on condensed milk and jerked beef, actually take away from under our very noses all the honor for watermelons and "such like."



Compress and Cotton Yards, Weatherford, Texas

West Texas, The Land of Opportunities.

The Midland Country

It is perfectly safe to say that 90 per cent of Midland Country and many of the counties adjoining are tillable lands and productive. The soil is of a rich, red, sandy loam nature, with a heavy clay foundation.

That it will produce half a bale of cotton to the acre on an average has been proven beyond any question of doubt. "Sod cotton" has yielded two-thirds of a bale, and it is well known that one man can cultivate here four to six

acres of land to one back East, and do it with less tiresome labor.

It is not well that we bore the reader with elaborate descriptions, for of late people are too well posted as to conditions of the West to read them with interest. An illustration as to the productiveness and resources of the Midland Country, however, may not be amiss.

Last year one farmer two or three miles from town, A. M. Cobb, by name, planted ten acres in cotton. He planted too deep and failed to



35 VARIETIES OF PRODUCTS FROM FARM OF J. F. BUSTIN, NORTH OF ODESSA, TEXAS
All Gathered the same day, September 30, 1906.—This is an "Eye-Opener" to people who have been told that this is a Cattle Country exclusively

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Products from Farm of Mr. T. B. Roberts, near Midland, Texas

get a good stand. He went over and replanted in watermelons. In the summer and fall he marketed over \$500 worth of watermelons and \$200 worth of cotton. A pretty good yield for ten acres, is it not? And yet, not one drop of water did this patch get except by rainfall. There are hundreds of thousands of acres indistinguishably the same as this in the Midland Country; for sale, too, and ranging in price from \$8 to \$15.00. Is this not cheap land? Is there not here a rich field for investment?

California is not to be compared with the Midland Country in the production of fruit of extra quality and flavor. We have seen single clusters of grapes, with not a faulty grape in them, which weighed from two and a half to four pounds.

No country ever produced finer peaches than this. We have seen and eaten them that measured from eleven to thirteen inches in circumference, and they were as delightfully flavored as one could desire.

Fruit never fails to mature perfectly. The

apple, the pear, the peach, and the plum, all in their many varieties, do equally well here and seem in their natural element for the most perfect development, while the production of the watermelon is the wonder of all comers to the Midland Country. We have seen wagonloads of them ranging in weight to 75 pounds, while our production of vegetables is becoming equally wonderful.

Two pumpkins were brought in last fall, by the man who grew them. They grew on one vine, and were the largest and smallest of seven that grew on this vine. One weighed 94 and the other 107 pounds. This we know to be true for we saw them weighed.

These are a few of many instances of what the country has and what it will do, and if such proof is not convincing and conclusive, then one must certainly be beyond the power of argument and blind to the knowledge of facts.

Without in any particular exaggerating, the Midland Country to-day is an ideal one. Out on our broad expanse of rolling, undulating prairies,

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Ranch and Three-Year-Old Orchard* of H. M. Pegues, Three Miles North of Odessa, Texas

nature has seemed to do her prettiest, covering the earth with a mantle of green, and upon which proud herds of royal blood, their silken coats glistening in the sunshine, feast to fullness and when done lie down in lazy comfort to enjoy the rich cuds they have stored since early morn.

All men are lovers of nature's handiwork, and the day has now long gone by since it was known that the West was adorned by a pattern exclusive to the West, and that there are yet secrets hidden in her rich, deep, red sandy loam soil, and protected by her thick clay foundation that will one day be laid bare and astonish the World at large.

It could not be other than this, for it is in line with the precedent established by the ages. From the dawning of civilization the march of progression has been Westward, and as the marts of the World have advanced onward and onward, ever toward the Orient from which they sprang, greater and more wonderful have been the secrets unfolded by nature; and greater and yet greater must they continue to be until the West is no more; until nature's battlements, built strong to guard her precious secrets, shall have been torn asunder, and her treasures yielded to the comfort of man.

That day is coming. Already it has dawned in the Midland Country, and in the light of this early morn, realities, not fancies, confront us in images of gold, and all nature sings her songs of hope. To the horny-handed son of the sod, she smiles in sweet witchery and bids him come and partake of her comforts; to the man of middle circumstances her demureness is indicative of peace and plenty; and to the man of wealth she is draped in regal garb, proud of her charms, and her graceful beckoning shimmers in the sunshine and her welcome is golden.

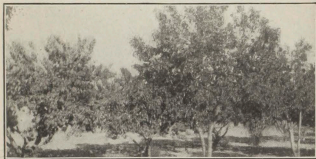
Odessa and Ector County

Ector County is located on the Southern edge of the great Staked Plains of Texas and is situated in decidedly the pleasantest climate on the Plain or for that matter in the State. Owing to its altitude it is very pleasant throughout the summer, owing to its latitude (it being about that of Southern Navarre County) the winters are very mild, in fact almost if not quite equal to the famous Southern California Country. It rarely snows and when it does, the snow disappears in less than twenty-four hours; as a rule it melts as fast as it falls. Ector County has long been known by the cattle men as the most favored portion of the State for breeding and developing purposes, cattle or other stock never requiring feed either winter or summer, doing well all the year on the native grasses of which there are a great number of varieties. There are more registered cattle in Ector and adjoining counties than in any other portion of like size in the State.

For these reasons the cowman has discouraged the man with the hoe to such an extent that he has been kept back until recent years and he is just now seeing the great possibilities of the soil and has gone to work, and farms are being opened up everywhere and the farmer is now making the country look as if some one lived in and intended to remain. The soil is particularly adapted to raising Indian corn, milo maize, Kaffir corn, sorghum, millet and cotton, and the farmers are so much encouraged from their experience of last year and the year before that they are putting in large crops this year, some having in as much as 100 acres in cotton alone this season as well as feed crops and vegetables of all kinds which do exceedingly well anywhere on the plains. The rainfall of Ector County is sufficient for all crops that have yet been tried, it being

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about the same as at Amarillo or elsewhere on the plains. The soil, climate and altitude seem to be peculiarly adapted to the growth of trees of any kind when properly cultivated and attended to, particularly fruit trees have been thoroughly tested and have proven a complete success, the list of the different fruits that can be successfully raised here is probably not exceeded anywhere in the state or the United States; apples, pears, cherries, peaches, apricots, plums, almonds, figs, quinces, grapes, currants and in fact any kind of fruit tree or vine that can be grown anywhere North of the tropical zone. The fruit grows to a very large size and is pronounced of better flavor than that raised elsewhere, particularly peaches and apricots. In our opinion it will not be long before Ector



Apple Orchard at M. D. Herbert's Farm, near Odessa, Texas

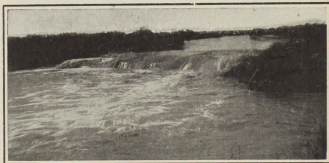
County will forge to the front as a commercial fruit country as several land owners are now preparing to put out large commercial orchards and they will not be confined to any particular fruit as all do equally well. The soil is a deep red sandy or chocolate loam and is very productive. Watermelons, pumpkins, potatoes and in fact anything that grows on a vine seem to be a natural product of the soil and yield enormous crops.

The climate is simply superb, the health cannot be surpassed in the State or the United States and the water is as good as anywhere on the plains and that is saying a good deal and it can be had at a depth of from 60 to 100 feet in inexhaustable quantities. All kinds of crops are now in a flourishing condition, cotton particularly which bids fair to make a first class crop. The farmers have always been able to raise any amount of feed crops, on the South plains. The



Cornfield, Farm of N. G. Buchanan, near Odessa, Texas

seasons are long, cotton can be raised with success thereby guaranteeing the farmer a crop which is always money at some price and the price under the present conditions is always good. Odessa, the capital of Ector County, is a thriving little town of about one thousand souls, it has a fine brick school house and a school of some 150 scholars and is conducted by Prof. J. H. Rotramel, and two assistants for ten months in the year. We have a \$25,000.00 stone court house, two hotels, one restaurant, three stores, and several mercantile establishments of a lesser nature, a grain and hay store, a livery and sale stable, two wagon yards, several church organizations, but one building (the Baptist) other denominations are preparing to build, we also have a national bank and one of the best and newsiest county papers in the State. The citizens of Odessa are public spirited and are enthusiastic over the building up of the town and county and offer inducements to any kind of an honorable enterprise, and will give a lot to any church or school organization that will build on it inside of one year. Good land can yet be bought very cheap but is growing in value very fast, but now ranges from \$6 per acre in some parts of the county to \$10 and \$15 for the best land close in and well located and improved.



Falls on Pecos River, Grand Falls, Tex.

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Flume Across Pecos River, Barstow, Tex.

What Has Been Done at Barstow, West Texas

Remember irrigation in West Texas is a comparatively new thing. Each irrigation district presents new problems which take time to solve.

Barstow has had its years of trial and experiment and has won out. Irrigation in the Pecos Valley is no longer an experiment, it is a success.

The dam where the water is taken out of the Pecos river is only 15 miles above Barstow. The peculiar condition of the river bed makes it possible to take the water out with a small and inexpensive dam and a short ditch, and to utilize the water almost at once. The water is taken out on the west side and flumed over to the Barstow lands, and returned to the river some 12 miles below the town.

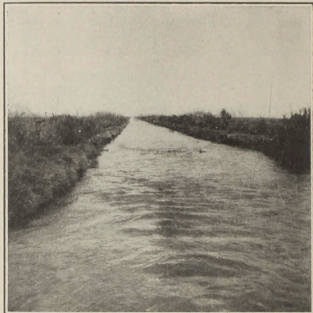


Barstow Irrigation Co.'s Flume and a Spillway in same

The main canal and laterals carry water to some 9,000 acres of land now in cultivation. There are 20,000 acres more under the ditch which are as yet uncultivated for lack of hands to till the soil.

The Government has had a river gauge for years at the station at the flume, the reports show that abundant water passes down the river to irrigate all the land under this ditch. The problem of taking the water to the land is solved.

To quote from an article in the *New South*



Barstow Irrigation Co.'s Main Line Canal

West describing the irrigated lands at Barstow, it says: "Of the 9,000 acres now in cultivation, about 6,500 are planted in cotton. The maximum yield has been one and three-fourths bales to the acre, on land which had been enriched by plowing alfalfa under. Four hundred acres are planted in alfalfa. The average number of cuttings is five, one ton per acre is the average yield to the cutting.

"The price during the season ranges from \$8.00 to \$20.00 a ton, averaging \$12.00. It is said that the cost of producing a ton, including water rate, cutting, hauling, baling, etc., is three dollars.

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Pecos River and Main Canal, Grand Falls, Tex.

"The present acreage in fruit is 550 acres in grapes, 200 in peaches, 100 in pears, and 200 in cantaloupes. The oldest vineyard in the district is the Rancho de los Alamos. There are 100 acres of bearing vines, 40 acres planted in 1899, and 60 in 1902. This ranch produces 15,000 crates (20 pounds to the crate) every year and they are sold at an average price of \$1.25 per crate."

Successful Irrigation

At Grand Falls, 25 miles below Barstow, on the Pecos river, is another irrigation system in successful operation. The principal crops are those that bring the quickest returns, cotton and alfalfa, and some small grain, and other feed crops. The canal leads the water from the river to a point about 12 miles above the town, with the laterals it can reach some 20,000 acres of land. About 6,000 are now in cultivation. There are several young vineyards started and doing well.

Grand Falls occupies a beautiful valley which seems to have been specially designed by nature for irrigating. It is seven miles long by three broad, and has sufficient fall to insure good drainage.

Between Barstow and Grand Falls a new ditch is now in process of construction to water the valley above the Grand Falls system, which is beyond the reach of the present capacity of the Barstow canal.

Mark These Facts

The success at Barstow.

The progress at Grand Falls.

The inception of a new project at Big Valley.

What do they mean?

They prove that in the opinion of those who are on the spot to judge and have seen the test of actual experience applied, the Pecos Valley in West Texas is an exceptionally good field for irrigation-farming and fruit-growing.

There is lime and plaster in the Loving County hills. There is another industry in Ward County which is worthy of attention.

There is a bed of sandstone there of such excellent quality that it was shipped to Roswell for the big dam. It was chosen, on account of its goods qualities as a building material and its beautiful appearance, for the courthouse at San Antonio and Texarkana. The courthouse, public school, and bank at Barstow are built of this stone. The main quarry is near the T. & P. R. R. five miles east of Barstow. We have a section joining the quarry on the north.

The State Geol. Rep., Vol. 3 says: "These sandstone strata extend about 16 miles southward, gradually getting lower until they run under the edge of the plains. They are shipped to distant points of the State for building purposes.

With this magnificent store of building stone and the plaster and lime of the Loving County hills, we have at hand the best of material for permanent improvements, homes, public buildings, schools, dams, reservoirs, etc., and an industry that may be developed until the "Red Sandstone of the Pecos Valley" shall be as widely and as favorably known as the Brown Stone fronts of Fifth Avenue, the granite of New Hampshire or the marble of Vermont.



Cotton Field, Grand Falls, Tex.

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Threshing Oats, Grand Falls, Tex

Pecos Valley Beats California

In a paper headed "Report of Sam H. Dixon, Chief Department of Horticulture, St. Louis Exposition," is given the following description of Pecos Valley Fruits: "This great exhibit clearly demonstrated the adaptability of our soil and climate to the perfect development of the grape . . . the muscat, the malaga, tokay, and cornishons exhibits by the several growers at Barstow, Ward County, Texas, were the finest type, of large bunch and berry, and in flavor *superior to those of any other state*. The success achieved clearly demonstrates that that section has the advantage in cultivation of the grape over any section of the United States. California is the nearest competitor. Barstow growers, being 1,200 miles nearer the market, and their fruit coming in from three to six weeks earlier, gives the *Texas growers an advantage which cannot be overcome.*"

From the same paper: "Mr. C. E. Pierce of Barstow, also forwarded us a shipment of Elbertas which were far above the ordinary. These peaches were grown under irrigation and in appearance very much resembled the Elbertas sent from Grand Junction, Colorado. They were not quite as large but equally as firm and as highly colored. In exquisite flavor they were *superior to the Colorado product.*"

From another: "The growing of Rocky Ford Cantaloupes was started in Barstow in 1901. Since that time an average of about 30 carloads

are shipped each year, the fruit selling at \$1.08 a standard crate. The net profit runs from \$30.00 to \$100.00 an acre and it takes about three acres of fruit to load a car." One who has not tasted these melons, cannot have any idea of the peculiarly rich and delicious flavor that the Pecos Valley soil gives. They are unquestionably the finest melon of the kind grown anywhere and need only to be introduced in any market to be in instant demand.

These facts above quoted show something of what irrigation with the soil and climate Pecos Valley can do and has done.

It will surprise many in our State to hear that there is here in Texas a soil, climate and water that will in combination, produce superior fruit to that raised in the far-famed fields of California and Colorado. They will say, why have we



Grapes, Grand Falls, Tex.

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not heard of this before? Because the enterprise is young. But the time of trial and test is over and the Pecos Valley comes to the front and proudly shows to the world the products of her vineyards, orchards, gardens, cotton fields and alfalfa meadows, and says to the doubting Thomases, "come, and see for yourself."

In talking with a cotton buyer recently in Bartow he made this statement: "There are but few points in the cotton belt where cotton of a long staple is grown suitable for thread, the Pecos Valley is one of these. Where improved seed has been used in the Valley, they raise a cotton with a staple from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. I can give two cents more a pound for this cotton than I can give for the ordinary staple."

About West Texas

Only a few years since has West Texas become known as the best portion of the Lone Star State for diversified farming. For years and years the outside world looked upon West Texas as one vast area of country unfit for anything except for cattle ranchers. A wonderful transformation has taken place within the past few years, and now the "man with the hoe" is weeding out the cattleman, and the big ranches are being supplanted by small farms. The cattleman is being made rich by the enhanced value of his lands, while the farmer is congratulating himself upon settling in a country where "life is really worth the living," and he makes more profit on less labor than is the case anywhere on earth. Here a farmer can cultivate 100 acres of land more easily than he can 35 acres in any other part of Texas. This statement can be verified by hundreds of farmers who have located in the West Texas, coming here from other parts of the state.

Going West, the Texas & Pacific Railroad traverses a territory that, practically speaking, is yet undeveloped; however, all along the line will be found settlers who have experimented with crops of all kinds and have been successful in every instance. It is this particular section of the State to which we invite the attention of home-seekers and offer the following reasons for so doing:

1. We have short, mild winters and delightful summers. No malaria to cause chills and

fever, bilious fever, and such like. A good climate for people of weak lungs, the altitude being from 2,000 to 4,000 feet above sea level. There are but very few days in the year that are too cold or too wet to work out of doors. The coldest weather that we generally have is indicated on the thermometer at 20 above zero. The highest rise in thermometer is about 100 above, then it is so moderated by the breeze that it is not as oppressive in heat as it is in St. Louis at 80 degrees above. We have no sunstrokes here.

2. The people are intelligent, enterprising and law-abiding. All the various religious denominations are here. All shades of political beliefs are here. When a man comes to this section, the only thing we care to know much about is: is he steady, industrious and law-abiding? Then we know he will be a good citizen, and that he will be a benefit to the country.



Baling Alfalfa Hay, Grand Falls, Tex.

3. The country is well watered as compared with other sections west of the Mississippi river. Surface water exists on most of the land; and on almost every quarter section of land, with \$100 outlay, tanks can be made that will hold water all the year.

4. The rainfall here is 20 to 30 inches per annum, falling mostly during crop time. Do not have but little rain through winter.

5. There are several varieties of soil. These soils are generally rich. The heavier soils will make from 12 to 40 bushels of wheat, and from 40 to 100 bushels of oats, owing to season and work. Will make 25 to 50 bushels of corn, 80 or more bushels of milo maize and several tons of sorghum per acre. These latter products are used for feed. Then we regard this country as the best cotton country in all the cotton belt and a young, industrious man can and does cultivate 100 acres of land, save the hoeing.

6. Good, free schools all over the country, and colleges as well.

West Texas, The Land of Opportunities.

7. Land can be bought for from \$6.50 to \$18.00 per acre, owing to the quality, improvements, quantity and distance from town and railroads. As a speculation, investors in West Texas lands will find that by buying at this time, they will double their money within less than three years.

Fruits and Vegetables

Any of this soil is adapted to the growth of fruits and vegetables. In every county can be seen orchards and vineyards, where peaches, pears, apples, apricots, plums and different varieties of grapes grow; and there is no soil that produces more abundantly all kinds of vegetables, watermelons, cantaloupes, etc.

New Towns

New towns in West Texas, along the line of the Texas & Pacific Railroad, are being established and each is having a phenomenal growth. Town lots that were sold for a mere song, in some instances are bringing fabulous prices.

Fruit Growing in West Texas

William Cooper, with one of the big Dallas produce houses, said to a newspaper representative recently:

"I believe the season just passing has proven to the Dallas fruit and produce man, as to his fellows in trade over a good part of the State, that West Texas, instead of the eastern part of the State, as heretofore, is destined to furnish the State's output of fruit in the very near future. It seems that the West Texas fruit is superior to that from the black land regions, and the public is gradually finding it out. We have kept several good men in West Texas this year purchasing fruit and have still been unable to supply the demand of those who insist that the fruit from this part of the State is better. On the contrary, much of our East Texas fruit has spoiled on our hands. Now, when it comes to certain classes, East Texas does and always will take the lead."

There is no locality in the big State of Texas where people can enjoy better health. This fact alone should induce hundreds of people to locate here. The climate is mild, atmosphere dry, pure and invigorating. The water supply is obtained

from wells which is good and pure. Grapes, orchards and truck gardening will pay handsomely. You can own a home here by making a small payment down and have all the time you want on deferred payments and at a low rate of interest.

Winters Are Mild in Central West Texas

Snow is almost unknown and it is seldom cold enough to freeze. The farmers do not have any of the hardships of winter to bear. They do not have to build expensive barns for their stock, nor feed and shelter them all winter. Neither do they have to remain idle half the year. Many farmers begin their plowing in January, at a time when farmers in the north are giving their best effort to keeping their family and stock from freezing. Many plant in February, while they are still hugging your stove.

When you stop to think that the West Texas farmer has all these advantages, besides getting his land for a small part of what yours cost, and that he will raise bigger crops than you raise and get better prices than you get—don't you think that he is better off than you are?

Why not become a West Texas farmer yourself? Why not leave the cold winters behind you and move to West Texas where you and your family can live in comfort and become prosperous? You can get a big farm for what a small farm costs in your neighborhood. You can raise as much corn, oats, alfalfa, potatoes and stock on land that will cost you from \$5.00 to \$20.00 an acre there, as on \$50.00 to \$100.00 land where you are. Besides all kinds of fruit, vegetables and cotton (if you wish) are natural products of West Texas. It is easy to prove this. Take a few days off and run down and see for yourself.

West Texas, a region unparalleled in its possibilities for home-getting and fortune-making—recently opened up by the placing of large ranches on the market.

You have heard of other sections that are or were favorable for such purposes, but you have never heard of the like of West Texas.

The actual increase in production of cotton for the past ten years has barely exceeded 22 per cent. Our demand has increased 31 per cent,

West Texas, The Land of Opportunities.



Cotton Picking Scene on Farm of Mr. Geo. E. Goodwin, Eight Miles North of Westbrook, Texas.

our population has increased nearly 10 per cent. This increase in demand of course is caused by the expansion of our commercial relations and the introduction of cotton fabrics into countries that are semi-civilized, but who are beginning to take advantage of the luxury of cotton "rags" as wearing apparel.

Who can figure a lower price than ten cents upon cotton, when our demand is increasing at such a pace? PHIL. OSSIFER.

The Stanton Country and the Farmer

The old theory, or rather idea, that the Stanton country would not do to farm in is being rapidly exploded, as is evidenced by the fine growing crops of this and the past three years. It is true the farms are not so numerous as those which dot the prairies further east, but it is just simply for the reason the farmer could not get hold here to give it a test. Until recently the whole country was a continuous ranch and the man with the hoe was given discouragement on every hand. The rancher well knew that in the wake of the farmer followed higher-priced lands, higher taxes and less lease lands. He did not want his peaceful monotony broken. But now he is taking an altogether different view and sees the farmer is making him rich in spite of himself. From one and two dollars his land

has advanced to five and ten dollars, which means much indeed for the owner of ten and twenty sections, who are now cutting them up into farms and anxious to sell to the men they once dreaded to see come.

But now the ice is broken. By three years actual test the discovery is made that our lands will produce much better cotton and with less labor than East Texas land, which is worth \$25 to \$65 per acre. This is not idle talk. It is an actual fact, and can be verified by every man who has made the least attempt at farming here. We have talked to many farmers and as yet have not found even one who is discouraged with the country, but are well pleased. From Mr. N. Kaderli, who is one of the pioneer farmers of this country, we get some information which will doubtless be a surprise to many of our own people and especially to Easterners. He came here three years ago principally for his wife's health and, being a farmer, bought a half section within a mile and half of town and went to work. Considerable time was spent in improving the place the first and second years, but for the seasons 1905-1906 he made thirty-three bales of cotton on sixty-five acres which netted him \$1,548, enough to pay for his half section. After deducting what was used as feed and by his own family he reports the following sales: Cotton

West Texas, The Land of Opportunities.



Cotton Picking on L. Kennon's Farm out of the Slaughter Ranch. This ground was broken March 1, 1906.

seed, \$87.80; cane seed \$29.30; eggs, \$44.20; butter, \$8.30; chickens, \$28.75; grapes, \$58.70; roasting ears, \$21.75; melons, \$58.75; vegetables, \$21.00; sweet potatoes, \$163. This is his experience at farming in the "arid" West and is entirely satisfied with it as he is putting more land in cultivation all the time, and says his cotton prospects are even better this year than last.

He reluctantly gave us these figures, saying he did not have time to answer the numerous inquiries the publicity would give him from people in the East who have their eye on this country.

Any man can make a success at farming here. We have the land and the rainfall and all this country needs to make it blossom as the rose is for more people to find it.—*The Reporter*.

STANTON, TEXAS, AUGUST 30, 1906.

DEAR SIR: I came to Stanton, Martin County, Texas in 1884. I engaged in raising sheep, cattle and horses. Found sheep very profitable.

I also planted an orchard and vineyard which have never failed to yield a good crop. I have planted onions which yielded well. This year I made \$900.00 per acre on onions; many onions weighing $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. each. This year I harvested a good crop of wheat; after which I planted the same ground in maize and sorghum which promises a good yield. My corn is as good this year as can be found anywhere and I also had crops of cabbage which were very profitable. Come to the best place in Texas.

J. J. PETERS.

STANTON, TEXAS, JUNE 30, 1906:

Mr. E. P. Turner, G. P. & T. A., Dallas, Texas,

DEAR SIR: The following is a list of stuff raised and sold by Mr. N. Kadesli, one mile south of Stanton. Mr. Kadesli bought of George Walch 320 acres of land, fifty head of cattle, one horse, one buss, a few farm implements and a small vineyard on the place, for which he paid \$2,680. He put in cultivation last year 105 acres, and from same as follows:

West Texas, The Land of Opportunities.

65 acres in cotton, sold 33 bales averaging 500 pounds.....	\$1,548.00
amount from sale of cotton seed....	\$3.75
9 acres in corn.....	29.30
2 acres in sweet potatoes.....	163.00
6 acres in cane.....	21.75
9 acres in maize, consumed.....	
7 acres in kaffir corn, consumed.....	
7 acres in truck, melons, grapes, etc., sold as follows;	
Vegetables, \$21.00; melons, \$78.50; grapes, \$58.70; chickens, \$28.75; butter, \$8.80; eggs, \$44.20; total.....	\$239.95
Cattle sold out of the 50 head and increase.....	1,000.00

Total \$3,084.75

This is the amount sold by Mr. Kadesli; he reserved enough feed, etc., to make a crop on this year. He moved here from Oklahoma Territory and moved from Williamson County, Texas, to Oklahoma a few years since; he is a firm believer in this as a farming country and is investing in lands.

Mr. B. Good, two miles south of this place, planted six acres of turf land in cotton from which he gathered and sold five bales, all weighing over 500 pounds each.

Both parties have enlarged their acreage this year and at present prospects are better for a larger yield than last year.

Yours truly,

D. W. KYLE.

Macaroni Wheat

The advantage of learning by observation of others is seen in the importation of the so-called "Macaroni Wheat" from Russia. This wheat, it has been discovered, finds favorable conditions for its growth in the semi-arid regions west of the Dakotas and West Texas. The statistics of its phenomenal productive increase are most interesting. In 1901, 75,000 bushels were grown; in 1902, 1,000,000 and more bushels were obtained, and the flour now begun to be used for bread; in 1903, 6,000,000 bushels were raised; in 1904, 15,000,000, and so the production has gone, in ever increasing ratio. The flour obtained from this macaroni wheat is said to be as good as the ordinary varieties, and possesses, moreover, one great additional advantage over the others in its resistance to "rust." In the regions where it is grown, land values have greatly increased. Macaroni wheat does fine in West Texas.

—Ex.

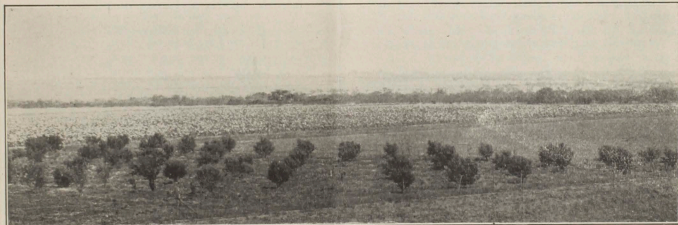
Hear the Latest from Middle West Texas

MONAHANS, TEXAS, AUGUST 30, 1906.

Mr. E. P. Turner,

G. P. A., Texas & Pacific Ry.,
Dallas, Texas.

DEAR SIR: It now seems opportune to publish to the World at large some facts and figures regarding this country which, heretofore, has



Geo. B. Roof's Farm, South of Colorado City, Texas.

West Texas, The Land of Opportunities.



M. D. Hebert's Peach Orchard, near Odessa, Texas.

been regarded by some people as being remote from civilization.

I now, as a close observer for over twenty years of the natural resources, promise and progress of this part of the country, want to most emphatically state that this region is something of an Eldorado after all.

We know that the climate is as good as there is in Texas—and that is saying a great deal. True, it is sometimes spoken of as being subject to drouth; but drouth is not known here in the true sense of the word. Here we have a dry, healthful climate with never too much rain (but plenty for all purposes) and seldom a snow storm—the earth rarely showing any trace of the snow twenty-four hours after the fall. However, the rain and the snow do furnish sufficient moisture to give us an abundant growth of grasses and nutritious plants and shrubs for good pasturage for all kinds of live stock all the year 'round and "Big Fat" for, at least eight or nine months.

Besides, those who have experimented with domestic trees, plants and crop products generally find that the finest peaches, grapes, etc., grown in the world, grow here in what is known as the "Sand Hill Region," a belt of country many miles in extent lying north and south,

and east and west with this place in the midst of it. In this belt of country, tomatoes, beans, onions, melons, pumpkins, potatoes—both sweet and Irish—Kaffir corn, sorghum, milo, maize, Indian corn, etc., etc., grow luxuriantly throughout the summer and fall seasons when the rain fall is sufficient to produce crops, and this has been the case for the past three or four years as well as in divers other years since I have known the country.

The best beef found anywhere on the "open range" goes from here to supply the markets—especially in the winter months—many miles East and West to the towns along the T. & P. Ry., and this beef feeds in the open ranges on the natural grasses alone, winter and summer.

Water, as good as the best found anywhere, is obtained here from wells at a depth of from a few feet to not exceeding one hundred feet in this sandy region. This water supply, though subterranean in the main, adds the greatest charm to this otherwise somewhat dreary appearing country. The water is wholesome—non-mineral of course—and "soft" and good for laundering, boiler and all other purposes.

Another, among other charms—among the many too numerous to mention here—is that this country has no mud after light or heavy

West Texas, The Land of Opportunities.

rains, no malarial fever or ague, no mosquitoes or other insectivorous pests such as ticks, bed bugs, "red bugs" or fleas, or flies of any kind in less numbers than any place on earth and many kinds of these are altogether absent here—for instance the "Fever Skelter." But bees! Why this is the home of the busy bee. With a great abundance of the best honey. They can work eight months in the year and make 100 lbs. of the best honey each year to the hive.

Now to the reader of this partial description and publication of the good things outlined herein and meant for the benefit of the energetic and go-head element of the human family, it may be something of a puzzle as to why such opportunities have not been taken advantage of long ago. But it must be remembered that once upon a time, the "mainest" stone in the building was rejected until the building was approaching a finish and then the despised and rejected stone was found to be the most important one in the entire structure.

Yours very truly,
HOLMAN & HOGG.

Some Facts About Howard County

Howard County is located in West Texas and Big Springs, the county seat, is on the Texas and Pacific Railroad, 270 miles from Fort Worth.

The surface is generally rolling, with a few hills, it being situated at the foot of the plains. There are numerous draws and valleys of considerable extent. There are many varieties of soil, including the black, sticky, dark and red sandy, catclaw and mesquite. The soil has a red clay foundation from 10 to 36 inches under surface. In some places the black soil is 6 to 8 feet deep. The principal timber is mesquite, with a few wild china and hackberry and scrub cedar on the hills. In most places the timber is sufficient for firewood and for fence posts. There are no streams of water in the county that run all year, though there are springs that run a stream a short distance, and then sink in the sand. Good wells are generally obtained at a depth of from 30 to 160 feet. Sometimes the

water is salt or gyp, but is regarded as excellent for stock.

Facts About Texas

Texas has the lowest tax-rate of any other state excepting Missouri.

Texas has increased more rapidly in population last year than any other state.



Milo Maize and Kafir Corn, near Odessa, Texas.

Texas has more miles of railroad and built more miles last year than any other state.

Texas is second in the production of petroleum. Its locomotive, stationary and traction engines use it for fuel in the coast country.

Texas, if in stage of cultivation equal to Illinois, could feed the entire nation and its cotton would clothe all the people of the nation.

Texas has the best harbor facilities of any state except one, which will insure low rates of transportation and good prices for all time.

Texas supplies one-fourth the cotton used in the whole world. Last year, it produced 2,776,090 bales and each bale brought the grower \$50.

Texas owns its public lands. It did not cede them to the union when it was annexed. There are state lands for sale, but no government lands. Texas produced in 1905 35,000,000 pounds of sugar.

Varied and interesting scenery.

West Texas, The Land of Opportunities.

Extracts From Letters

What Northerners Say of Their Experience in Texas.

"Texas produces three to four million bales of cotton; 60 per cent of her entire area will produce average cotton. At one-fourth of a bale per acre we could put 42,400,000 bales of cotton on the market.

Texas produces nearly one-fourth the cotton of North America. She has a cotton area sufficient to produce 10,000,000 bales, and then some, and this land can be bought at \$2.50 to \$15.00 per acre."

"The renter, the wage-earner, the teacher, the clerk, look forward to the time when they may own a farm, yet many delay while the best lands are going beyond their reach. Greeley's advice is good, "Go West Young Man" and it is surprising to find so many taking his advice. Farms may be had among the black and chocolate loam lands of West Texas, well improved, at \$15 to \$35 an acre, and often less that will readily rent and will insure a profit on the investment. Responsible agents will find good tenants, attend to all rentals, taxes, etc., and remit the proceeds without the personal attention of the owner. The advance in price of the land will make the investment a most profitable one. One can buy western lands on about his own terms, usually

one-third or one-fourth cash is required and the balance as the buyer may desire with interest at 6 to 8 per cent. Moral: Buy lands."

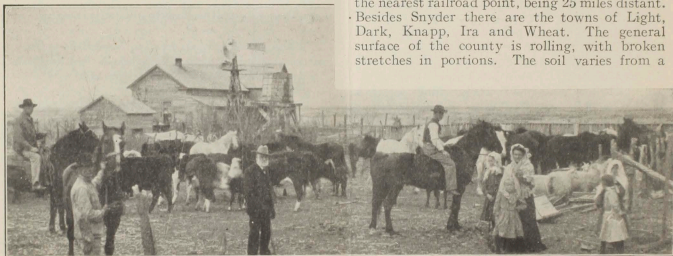
Secretary of Agriculture, Wilson, says: "If I were a young man I would pack my grip and come to Texas. The conditions and prospects are such that I could not afford to stay away."

"I came here from New Jersey 20 years ago on account of my health which improved from the start. Small capital counts for more here than in older sections. There are many opportunities for the man who is willing to work." Tom Green Co. **GEORGE E. WEBB.**

"I came here in 1898 and bought a quarter-section with some improvements, on time for \$1,000. The first year I cleared \$1,500 besides feed enough for one year. This country surpasses all I have ever lived in." S. A. GASTON. **Runnells County.**

Scurry County

Lies at the foot of the plains and joins Mitchell County on the north. The population is about 6,000, area 900 square miles, and altitude 2,200 feet. There is no railroad in the county. Snyder, the county seat, has a population of 1,500, and is conceded by many to be the best inland town in the State of Texas. Colorado City is the nearest railroad point, being 25 miles distant. Besides Snyder there are the towns of Light, Dark, Knapp, Ira and Wheat. The general surface of the county is rolling, with broken stretches in portions. The soil varies from a



Fairview Stock Farm, Eight Miles North of Westbrook, Texas.

West Texas, The Land of Opportunities.



Shipping Cotton, Colorado City, Texas.

black to sandy loam or chocolate, and is productive of cotton, cereals of all kinds, all kinds of feed stuffs, vegetables and fruits. The cotton yield for 1905 was 12,438 bales, an increase of 4,000 bales over the preceding year. The county is traversed by the Colorado River, which flows across the southwestern part of the county; also the Clear Fork of the Brazos, Deep Creek. Water can be had at a depth of 20 to 140 feet. The mean annual rainfall varies from 30 to 40 inches. Land prices range from \$10 to 30 per acre.

BIG SPRINGS, TEXAS, AUGUST 30, 1906.

*Mr. E. P. Turner, G. P. A., Tex. & Pacific Ry.,
Dallas, Texas:*

DEAR SIR: I am a farmer and farm exclusively. I came to West Texas in 1898. My principal crop is cotton. My annual average has been $\frac{1}{2}$ bale per acre the least and $\frac{3}{4}$ bale per acre the greatest. I was worth about \$2,000.00 when I came here and I could close out to-day for \$25,000.00 but don't want to sell. There is still a great deal of land undeveloped that can be had at reasonable prices and on good terms, and we will gladly welcome you good white men from East, West, North and South to the country where you will get better returns for your

labor than any place I ever saw. I have lived from the Mississippi Delta to West Texas.

S. WALKER.

COAHOMA, TEXAS, AUGUST 30, 1906.

*Mr. E. P. Turner, G. P. A., Tex. & Pacific Ry.,
Dallas, Texas:*

DEAR SIR: I came to West Texas in 1892. I have farmed myself or had it done every year since I came and have never failed to make a crop. I have not planted corn every year, but have made corn every year that I did plant and a good crop at that. Have planted cotton every year and my least annual average was $\frac{1}{2}$ bale per acre and I have made 1 bale per acre. This year I have 120 acres of cotton and it is good for 120 bales. My land is of the best quality of red sandy loam and there is a great deal of such land here that can be had reasonable. Come and see and be convinced.

A. L. ECHOLS.

Tide of Immigration Turning to West Texas, the "Land of Opportunities"

The tide of immigration has turned from the North, Northwest and Southeast to West Texas. There are reasons for it.

A healthful climate, knowing neither extreme of heat nor cold to which our Northern neighbors

West Texas, The Land of Opportunities.



Three Views of E. G. Weyer's Place at Kent, Texas. "All Grown Without Irrigation."

are subjected; a rich fertile soil at from \$5 to \$20 per acre—according to improvements—the actual growing on the same land of from 2 to 3 profitable crops per year; the cheapness of building material and all of life's necessities, and the consequent lighter cost of living, of caring for live stock and carrying on farm operations, coupled with a low tax rate, an excellent public school system, are among the inducements West Texas offers.

Seeing is believing. An old fashioned Southern welcome awaits you. Come whether you come to buy or merely to look. The "Home-seekers Excursion" which runs from your section on the first and third Tuesdays in each month affords you a fine opportunity to come down and see for yourself. Don't forget the dates.

Abilene, Texas

Abilene is near the geographical center of Texas. In 1880 it was a cattle country; now it ranks among the best of the farming countries. It is on the Texas and Pacific Railway; the county seat of Taylor County. The elevation is 1750 feet.

Abilene has a live commercial club. The 25,000 Club, which is striving to attain what its name indicates, a population of 25,000. It has the purest of water and a waterworks system deriving its supply from an artificial lake large enough to supply a city of 20,000; the present population is about 8,500 and increasing fast.

Abilene has 15 religious denominations, with elegant houses of worship; twenty fraternal or-

ders, two colleges, the Baptist and the Christian; three fine public school buildings with an enrollment of 1,500 pupils; the Dellis Home School, a business college, three large banks, a 100-barrel roller mill and elevator, 100-ton cotton oil mill, a cotton oil refining plant, a cotton compress, which handled 60,000 bales of cotton last year, a \$125,000 U. S. court house and post-office. The sale of stamps last year was \$16,000. Three weekly and two daily newspapers, two wholesale grocery houses, one wholesale drug house, two wholesale hardware stores, a wholesale produce and commission house, the largest dry goods house west of Fort Worth, a fire department with two stations, a low insurance and tax rate, the State Epileptic Colony, built by the State at a cost of \$100,000; an ice plant, electric light plant, waterworks and sewerage system, two telephone systems, a bottling works, three gins, two planing mills, a broom factory, three lumber yards, etc.

The population of Taylor County is 21,000; it has an area of 60,000 acres of land, most of which is the best farming lands. The soil is largely red and sandy chocolate, with a clay sub-soil of the best, and some black prairie land; the prices of lands are \$12.50 to \$35 an acre.

There is plenty of wood in the country and an abundance of good water found at a depth of 20 to 100 feet.

The soil is specially adapted to cotton culture, all kinds of feed stuffs and small grain, and experiments prove that it is a fine fruit and truck farming country; the shineries are not excelled by any country for these purposes, especially

West Texas, The Land of Opportunities.

for grapes and berries, watermelons and cantaloupes—fruit growing and truck farming in Taylor County are paying propositions. The high altitude gives it a delightful climate in summer and the dry atmosphere tempers the winters—for healthfulness it is the equal of any part of the country.

The following investments in Abilene would pay: A cotton mill, a gas plant, a cigar factory, a glass factory, a canning factory, another gin and another lumber yard, a mattress factory, a foundry and machine shops, a woolen mill, a brick plant, a tannery, a wholesale music house, a shoe factory, a street railway system and a candy factory.

Dawson County

Is principally located on the plains, though a portion of it is located right at the foot of the plains, 270 miles west of Fort Worth, and is proving itself to be one of the best farming counties west of Fort Worth. There are growing crops of every description, and cotton is as fine as could be wished for and is sure to make at least three-quarters of a bale per acre. Most of the farmers think they will make an average of 35 bushels of corn per acre. The soil in many places is black with just enough sand to make it scour on the plow, and is very deep, with clay foundation. There is some black sandy loam land, but the greater part of the county is a mulatto soil and dark red sandy loam. It is

covered with cat claws, which denotes good soil. Water can be had at from 40 to 100 feet in abundance, and it is all good freestone. Nearly every acre of Dawson County can be cultivated. It has been thoroughly demonstrated that farming is a success in Dawson County, every kind of crop has been raised: Potatoes grow in abundance. Lamesa, the county seat, is a beautiful growing town.

ESKOTA, TEX., JUNE 29, 1906.

Hon. E. P. Turner, Dallas, Tex.:

DEAR SIR: I will endeavor to outline to you the developments of the Eskota County. First will say this county has improved 200 per cent in the way of farming country in the last 5 years; it has proven beyond a doubt to be the home of cotton, maize, Kaffir corn, also oats do well here. It is a good fruit county also. Lands unimproved are selling from \$8 to \$15 per acre; these prices are out some 8 to 10 miles from town, nearer to railroad prices run from \$15 to \$20 per acre. Plenty of water to be had with but little cost, such as cisterns and tanks. Plenty of wood. We have a variety of soil—sandy, grey and black sandy, red sandy and some red light lands. The Herndon pasture, also the Coggins pastures, have been cut up into small blocks and are now on the market to farmers on good easy payments, long time, 8 per cent net, 10 years time if so desired. Now is the time to get a home easy.

Yours truly,

J. W. HERNDON.



Geo. B. Root's Farm, Two Miles South of Colorado City, Texas.

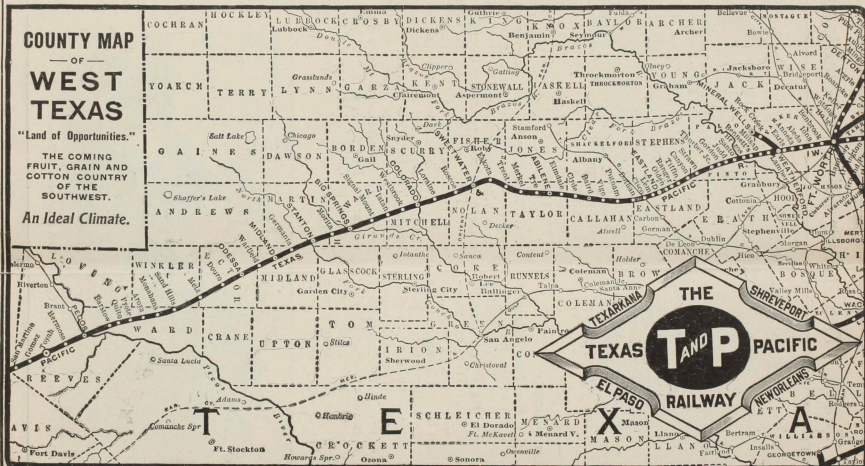
CENTRAL WEST TEXAS THE "LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES."

COUNTY MAP — OF — WEST TEXAS

"Land of Opportunities."

THE COMING
FRUIT, GRAIN AND
COTTON COUNTRY
OF THE
SOUTHWEST.

An Ideal Climate.



Texas is the last of the "GREAT WEST" that offers an exceptional opportunity to procure RICH AGRICULTURAL LANDS, where Corn, Cotton, Grain, Fruit and Vegetables are grown to perfection.

AN IDEAL CLIMATE

It is here where the Northern and Eastern Farmer finds the "NEW EL DORADO" of the Southwest, with long growing seasons and mild Winters, and where land can be purchased at prices equivalent to paying rent on farms in the North and East.

YOU WILL PROSPER IN WEST TEXAS.

E. P. TURNER, General Passenger Agent.

DALLAS, TEXAS.