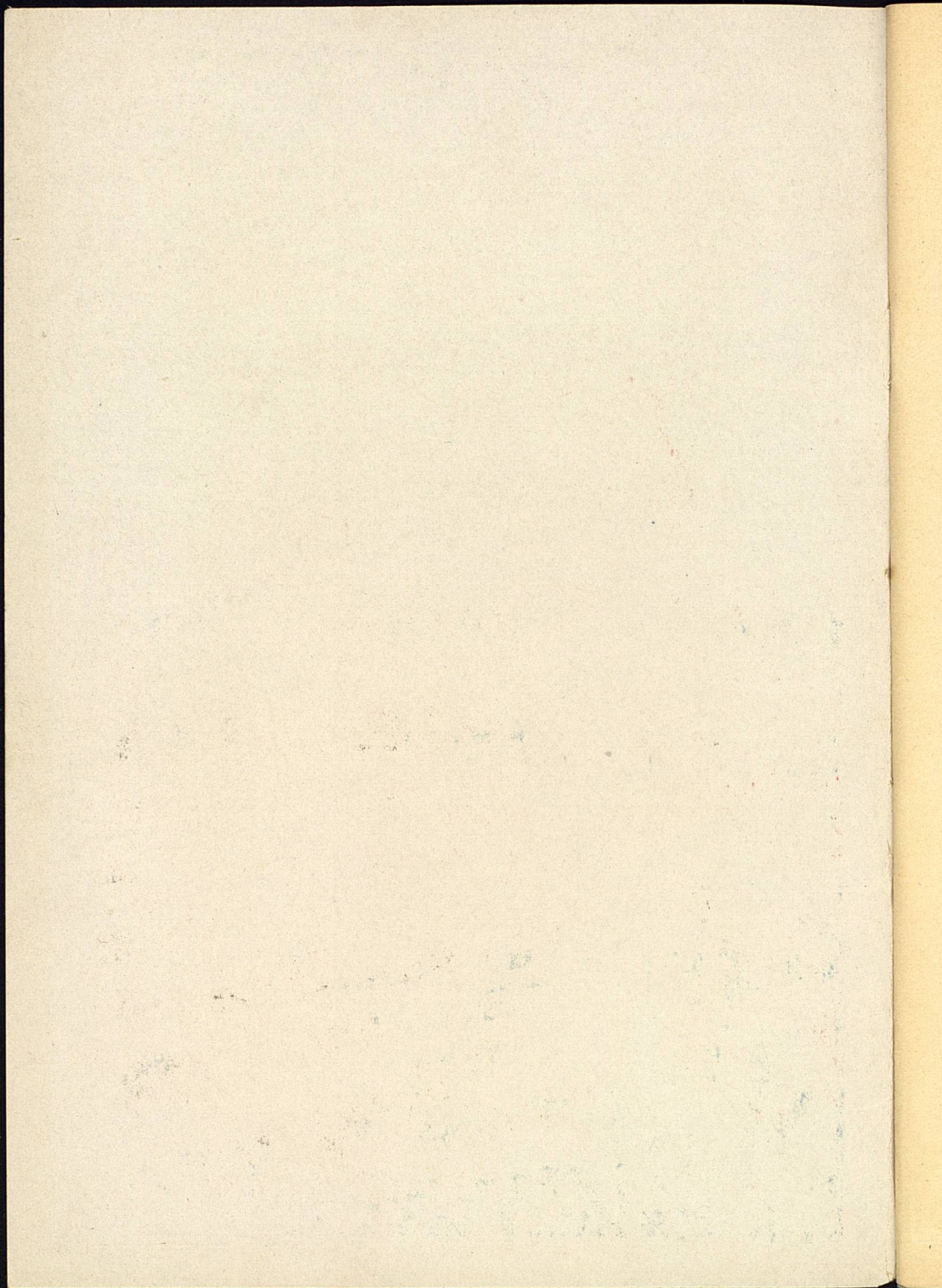
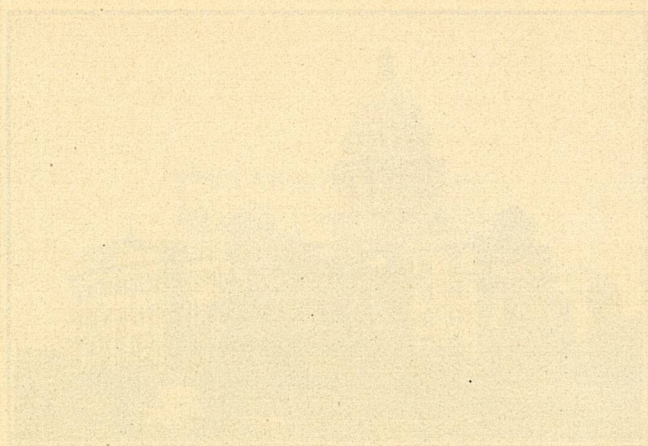


TEXAS

AN AGRICULTURAL EMPIRE

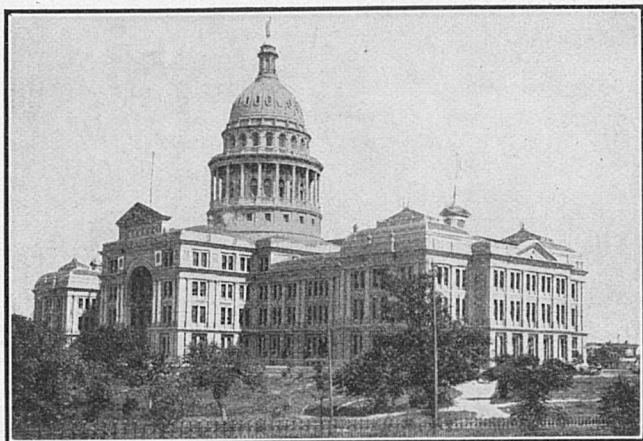






TEXAS





The State Capitol at Austin.

TEXAS

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TEXAS is the only State in the Union with room enough for a population great enough to consume its total production of food, fabrics and building materials; the only area in the world in which the native resources of fuel, iron, water, stone and lumber are sufficient to enable its maximum population to exist and flourish without drawing upon the products of any outside State or nation.

Texas is at the threshold of its greatest prosperity. The development made in the past decade is but a token of that to come, and the dwellers on its rich acres will have reason to be thankful that their steps were guided into such a State.

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Michael Vinson

sational writers. A Texas "norther" is nothing more nor less than what is elsewhere called a cold north wind. The long, unobstructed sweep across the prairies from the plains of the northwest heightens its velocity and increases the suddenness of its approach and these are the only things that distinguish it from a cold wave from the north in other States.

Rainfall in Texas differs in sections to the same extent as the climate. The precipitation varies greatly. The average annual rainfall at El Paso, for illustration, is 9 inches, while at Orange it reaches 50 inches. West of the 101st meridian the rainfall is precarious and generally insufficient for the maturing of crops, while in the upper coast belt the rainfall is abundant, averaging from 50 to 60 inches. In the forest-covered country of the cross timbers the average rainfall is 30 inches. On the Staked Plains section of the State the rainfall reaches about 20 inches.

Texas farm lands produce an average of \$1.43 per acre; Illinois farm lands produce an average of \$9.54 per acre. These results are arrived at by dividing the area into the total production.

A given tract of land in Texas will yield more pounds of products than a similar area of land in Illinois.

To develop Texas so that it will equal the Illinois standard, it is necessary to increase the number of farmers. No law can be enacted that will increase the production per acre nor the price of products. The increase must come from the outside, by immigration, and then by increase in production per acre from more hands and by better methods.

The development of Texas to the Illinois standard would give Texas a population of 32,000,000, or eight times the present population; an assessed value of \$30,000,000,000, or fifteen times the present assessed value; a gross income of \$16,937,000,000 against \$1,302,505,000; a railroad mileage of 52,000 miles, or four times the present mileage, and the opportunities and prosperity of its citizens multiplied thirteen times.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

TEXAS is essentially an agricultural State, and though it is capable of being developed in a great many ways, agriculture will remain the most important industry. Nature has been lavish in bestowing her blessings on Texas; the story of the agricultural development of the State reads like a romance. Prior to the civil war but little was known of Texas and its opportunities in agricultural development.

The growth and development of the agricultural possibilities of Texas is shown by reviewing the four leading staple crops of the State—cotton, corn, wheat and oats.

In 1866 Texas produced 245,000 bales of cotton. In 1886 it was 1,499,689 bales. The greatest crop in the State's history was produced in 1906—4,066,472 bales. The crop of 1909 was 2,570,000 bales.

The corn crop shows an increase equally as wonderful, as the following shows:

In 1866	number of bushels	20,205,863
" 1886	" " "	60,213,000
" 1906	" " "	155,804,782
" 1910	" " "	175,000,000



Corn in Texas During February.

The increase in the production of wheat speaks for itself:

In 1866	number	of	bushels	1,847,931
" 1886	"	"	"	4,529,210
" 1906	"	"	"	14,426,186
" 1910	"	"	"	21,750,000

The production of oats has kept pace with that of other grain crops. The grain is of high quality, and the territory devoted to its growth in commercial quantities is gradually being extended. In 1866 the yield was 1,084,478 bushels, which increased in 1910 to 17,500,000 bushels.

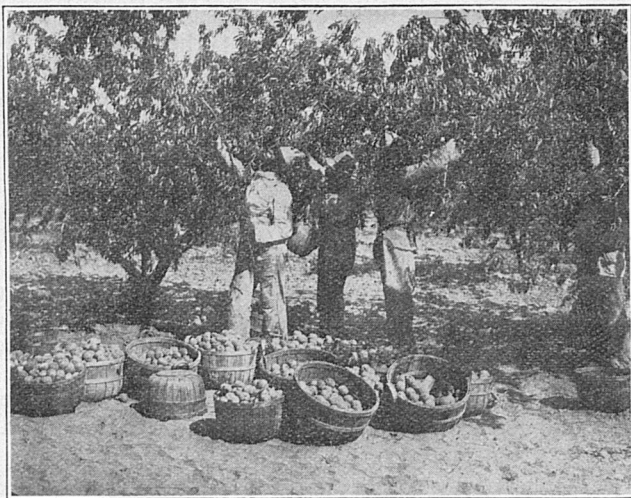
The rice industry has perhaps made more gigantic strides than that of any other agricultural crop in recent years. The acreage is increasing rapidly each year. The area upon which rice may be grown successfully is so extensive that there is no doubt but that Texas will soon lead all rice-producing States in the value of this food crop.

The acreage devoted to the cultivation of ribbon cane for the production of sugar has given profitable results, and there is now no crop receiving more general attention. During the past two or three years the acreage has more than doubled, and the next few years will doubtless witness tremendous advances in this industry.

The success attending the growing of tobacco in Texas is conclusive evidence that it is destined to become an important industry. It has passed the experimental stage. The tobacco grown in the Orangeberg soils of Nacogdoches, Anderson, Houston, Tyler, Montgomery, Orange and other East Texas counties has been pronounced quite equal in aroma to the Cuban product. A cigar filler-leaf tobacco of superior quality which this section produces has been pronounced by the trade the finest so far grown in the United States.

No State of the Union offers as many advantages to the commercial fruit grower as does Texas. While there may not be any section of the State where all the required conditions are met, yet it is being demon-

strated that Texas comes nearer to supplying these conditions than any of the States.



Peaches in Central Texas, near Waco.

The Texas peach is unsurpassed for beauty, flavor and general excellence. There is no spot on the earth where it grows to greater perfection. The earliness of maturity places the grower in a position of great advantage. This, coupled with the fact that the soils and environments are so well suited to its culture, places Texas in the front rank as a peach-growing State. The peaches are grown principally in East Texas, although there are successful orchards in other sections of the State.

There are several well recognized sections of the State where apples are grown to perfection. These sections are the Erath—Montague belt; the Pecos—Fort Davis belt; and the Northwest Plains belt. In all these belts many small orchards and a few large ones are demonstrating the suitability of both soil and climate to apple culture.

Pears and plums are grown over a large range. The largest orchards of the former are located in South Texas. The plum is grown successfully wherever the peach and apple thrive.

Grapes are grown throughout the State. The European varieties are being very successfully grown in the Pecos, Toyah and Lower Rio Grande Valleys. The older vineyards have been bearing for a number of years, the product clearly demonstrating the adaptability of soil and climate. The date of ripening of these European or *Vinifera* varieties proves the advantage Texas has over any section of the United States. California is the nearest competitor.

Strawberries, dewberries and blackberries are grown very successfully throughout the State. The largest acreage being in South Texas, tributary to Galveston and Houston, and in Eastern Texas, tributary to Tyler and Jacksonville. The berries are profitable and have added a great deal to the horticultural wealth of the State.

Raspberries, gooseberries and currants are grown very successfully and profitably in the plains section of the Panhandle. The Red River section of the State is also splendidly adapted to the raspberry, and the berry is grown commercially.

The fig is grown on a commercial scale throughout the coast section of the State. An especially large acreage has been planted in the Houston-Galveston section. Preserving plants have been established for the special purpose of utilizing this fruit. The growers have a ready market for all they can produce, at prices which make the fig industry a safe business proposition.

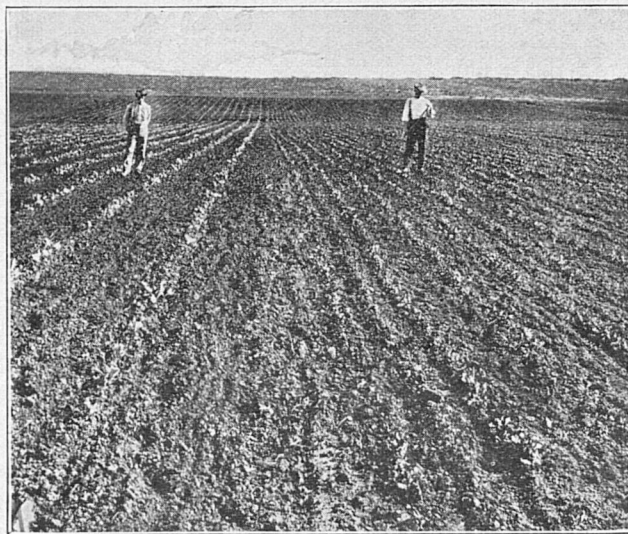
Oranges and other citrus fruits are also being planted on a commercial scale. There are many groves of small acreage of bearing age which are producing heavy yields annually. The orange most commonly grown is a hardy Japanese variety known as the Satsuma. The Dugat, an orange almost as hardy as the Satsuma, is also being planted extensively. Most marked success has been achieved by growers in the

humid portion of the Gulf Coast section. Growers at Alvin, Arcadia, La Porte, Friendswood and League City report heavy crops and sales of Satsumas, ranging from \$300 to \$600 per acre.

Vegetable growing or truck farming is an important industry in Texas. The bulk of the tomatoes raised in the State are produced in Eastern Texas. The crop in this section matures very early in the season, consequently very remunerative prices are received.

In the irrigated districts of the State, Bermuda onions are grown successfully. The silty or alluvial soils in the Rio Grande and Nueces River valleys are peculiarly suited to their greatest development. The Bermuda onion is a winter crop, and requires mild climate such as this section has. The other essential is water, hence irrigation is resorted to.

The production of Bermuda onions in the United States is a comparatively new industry, and the great-



An 80-Acre Cabbage Patch In Nueces County.

est area devoted to it is in Southern Texas, from 5000 to 7000 acres in all.

Phenomenal yields of 34,000 to 35,000 pounds of Bermuda onions are frequently made on an acre of land, but this is far above the general average of about 16,000 pounds, returning under normal conditions about \$250 per acre.

In the North Texas black land belt other varieties of onions are being grown very successfully.

Cabbage is a staple crop of the Rio Grande valley trucker, as well as of the truckers in South Texas and East Texas.

Potatoes are a profitable crop in Texas. The soils and climatic conditions appear well suited to their growth. The principal supply, which goes to the markets of the country, is grown in Eastern Texas.

Melons are grown in commercial quantities, and, too, of the finest size and flavor. Many hundred cars are shipped annually.

Cucumbers are also largely grown, many cars being shipped annually to the markets of the North and East. Pickling factories also contract for large supplies.

In no State can the sweet potato be grown upon a commercial basis with greater certainty of producing a profitable crop. Usually the yield is much greater per acre than that of the Irish potato. It is one of the great commercial crops of the State, and can be grown over as wide a range of territory as any of the other vegetable crops.

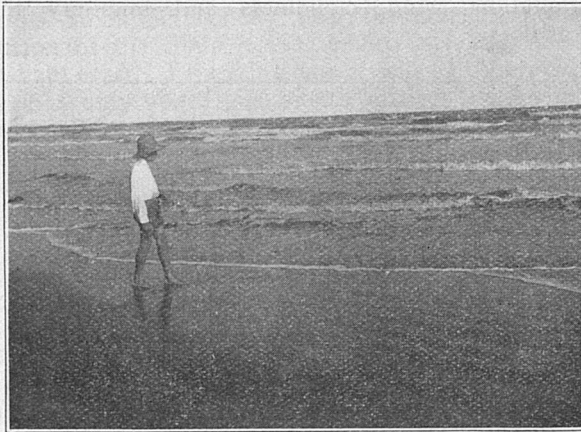
The other principal vegetables grown for markets in and out of the State, are yams, beets, beans, lettuce, garlic, radishes, spinach and cauliflower. Celery and asparagus are also money-making crops.



Park Scene in San Antonio.

THE CLIMATE OF TEXAS.

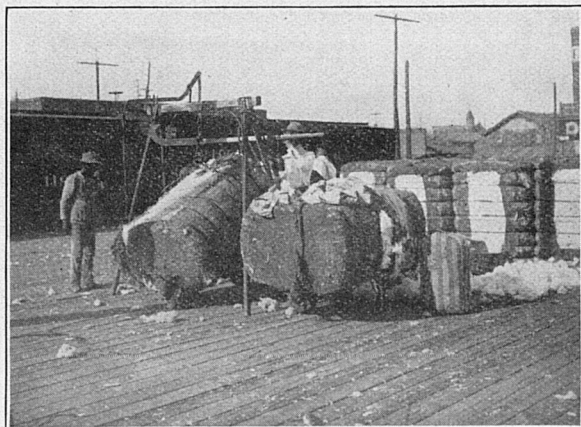
IN discussing the climate of Texas there is such an immense area of territory to deal with that it would require a volume to bring out all the climatic features of the State.



Breakers at Galveston.

One might just as reasonably expect to explain the climate of Illinois upon the principles obtaining in Alabama, as to find an explanation of the normal weather conditions of the Panhandle or Trans-Pecos Country in the conditions prevailing along the Texas Coast. To give some idea of the vast domain Texas covers, remember that the northern portion of the State is nearer to the Pacific Ocean and the Great Lakes than it is to the extreme south portion of the State, or, in other words, if Texas could be hinged and turned upon its west line, Texarkana would be a city in or near the Pacific Ocean; if upon its east line, the people of El Paso could cast their hot tamales aside and gather goobers in Georgia; if upon its north line, Brownsville would melt the icicles loose from the Canadian border. From this it will be seen that a variety of climatic conditions must necessarily prevail over such a large territory,

but the popular idea of Texas is a country of plains and of low elevation, with only one climate, whereas, in truth, it has been found that there is no State in the Union, except California, which presents to the settler or scientific investigator a greater diversity of climatic characteristics, with reference to temperature, precipitation, wind, cloudiness and humidity than Texas does.



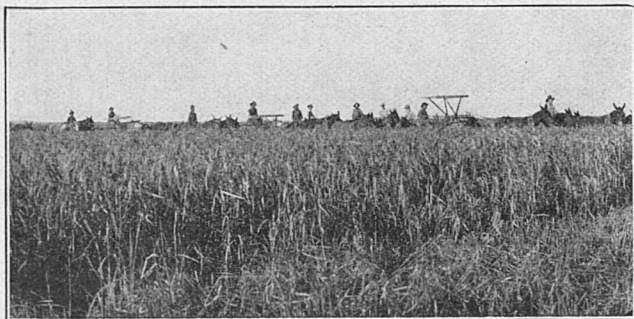
Inspecting and Weighing Cotton.

The temperature of the air varies considerably in Texas; it partakes of the conditions which prevail in the middle latitudes over the northern portion of the State, while in the extreme southern portion something of a semi-tropical climate prevails. January is the coldest month, and gives the lowest temperatures generally, but sometimes the lowest occurs over the Panhandle in February. Temperatures below freezing, if experienced in South Texas, are of short duration, lasting from one to two days only, and temperatures below zero are rarely experienced even in the extreme northern portion of the State. Frost rarely, if ever, forms more than three or four times during the winter over the coast district, and frequently but one severe

frost is experienced, or none at all. During twenty-four years there have been five winters without frost and six with a single frost along the immediate coast. The average date of the last killing frost in spring ranges from February 5, over the southern portion of the State, to April 1 over the northwestern portion, and the average date of the first killing frost in autumn ranges from October 15, over the extreme northern portion of the State, to December 25 along the immediate coast. From this data it will be observed that there is only about one month during the winter in which killing frosts occur over the coast district, and this proves very favorable for the cultivation of many semi-tropical plants and makes a very favorable climate for a winter health resort.

The summers are also very pleasant along the coast, where the highest temperature ever recorded was 98 degrees Fahrenheit. There is nearly always a cool, refreshing wind from off the Gulf of Mexico, which adds much to the comfort of the inhabitants. Such a thing as sunstroke has never been experienced over the coast district.

The stations at Galveston and Corpus Christi, which were established twenty years ago, tell the story as far as the Gulf Coast Country of Texas is concerned. Ninety-eight degrees is the maximum reading for both stations in all of those years, while eight degrees,



Harvesting Rice.



Part of an Orange Grove Near Houston.

in the one instance, and eleven in the other, are the minimums.

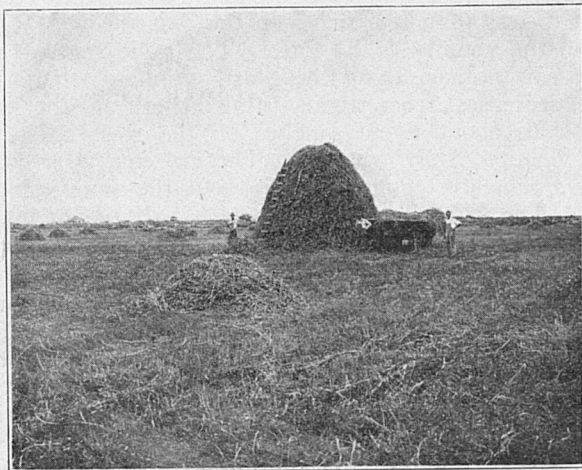
A report recently issued by the observer for the Corpus Christi station, covering a period of seventeen years, shows that only on three occasions in seventeen years has the thermometer gone below twenty degrees, and only four times during the same period has a higher reading than 96 been recorded.

As regards the total annual rainfall, and its geographical distribution, the fall decreases with marked regularity from a little less than fifty inches per annum, in the extreme eastern and southeastern counties, to less than ten inches in the extreme west, that is, in the vicinity of El Paso. The same regular decrease is noticed along the coast as inland; there the fall decreases from about fifty inches, on the east coast, to about twenty inches on the west coast, in the vicinity of Brownsville. The extreme west coast and Panhandle counties have about the same annual fall. The rainfall over the eastern half of the State is ample for agricultural purposes, but over the western half it is rather insufficient, and too precarious.

In the greater portion of East Texas, and the north Panhandle counties, the greatest monthly rainfall occurs in May or June, generally in May; along the immediate coast, September has the greatest average; over that portion of the State west of the 100th meridian, and as far south as, but not including, Jeff Davis and Pecos Counties, the rainfall is greatest in July, except in the most northern counties of the Panhandle, and along the Rio Grande Valley the maximum monthly amount may occur any time from May to October, inclusive. Rainfall in Texas is tropical in character, in that the greater portion of it falls in heavy showers of short duration. A fall of several inches in twenty-four hours is not uncommon in the eastern portion of the State, and along the coast highly-excessive rains sometimes occur.

The question of annual rain variability is a very important one, and might be discussed at some length with profit, but it can be only touched upon here.

The territory is so extensive, and the meteorological factors so complex, that it might be safely concluded, from theoretical considerations, even were it not actually established by existing records, that rain falls on an average of one day in three in some part of this vast territory during every month in the year; also, that some sections of the State are not so favored, and are subject to drouths of more or less severity. Such a thing as a general drouth was never known in Texas, and the local drouths are not as frequent or as extended as sometimes supposed.

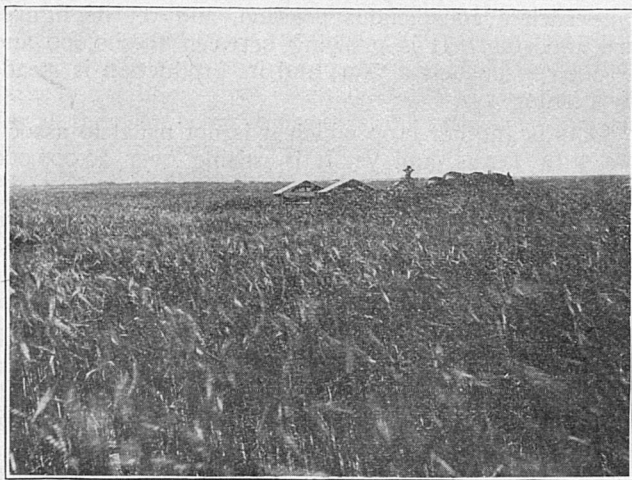


Making Hay near San Antonio.

NORTH TEXAS.

USUALLY when one speaks of any of the principal States of the Union, it is to link its name with some product for which it is especially noted. For instance, Illinois and Iowa are both great corn States, the Dakotas excel in wheat, Wisconsin is the dairy State, while various other States have their especial products in which they excel.

But Texas can not be mentioned in any such specific manner, because of such a variety of products, and each in such enormous quantities that the figures of her crops are simply astounding.



Wheat Like This Is Making North Texas Famous.

Many people, for instance, have the idea that cotton is the great staple of the State. Not at all. Texas is indeed the greatest producer of the staple in the Union, and her cotton crop runs over 3,000,000 bales a year, this representing an increase in production over six times as great as in the balance of the country, but cotton is only one feature of her great agricultural activity. Texas is also a great corn producer. The

State is now growing over 100,000,000 bushels a year, which means that it has quintupled its production during the past three decades. The growth of corn has also made it a great hog-raising State, and its annual contribution of hogs to the country amounts to more than 3,000,000 head a year. It was this development of the hog-growing industry that induced the great packing houses of Armour & Co. and Swift & Co., of Chicago, to locate big packing plants at Fort Worth, and this has become the packing center of the State, and a business amounting to millions is now done there annually.

When it comes to wheat growing Texas does not take such a conspicuous position, and yet its figures are imposing. It is growing between 16,000,000 and 20,000,000 bushels a year, and its production is steadily gaining.

Oats is another crop which it is not usual to associate with Texas, and yet it is raising over 20,000,000 bushels a year.

The value of the four crops mentioned above in 1908, placing a moderate market value upon the four commodities, amounted to more than \$200,000,000.

This great production of wealth is mainly the output of that extremely rich section of the State in which Dallas and Fort Worth are the natural trade centers. The soil is admirably adapted to agriculture, and all standard grains and vegetables are grown profitably. In the bottom lands along the streams the soil is a deep black loam. In other localities it is of black sandy, chocolate and sandy loam. In the central and southern parts of Fannin, Grayson and Cooke Counties, the soil is principally what is known as the black waxy soil, a soil that is rich and productive and capable of the most trying cultivation.

One other factor in agricultural work in Texas is that the farmer can work every day in the year out of doors. It is not like it is North, where the ground is frozen for months at a time, and in which the growing season is limited. Here the cattle can roam with-

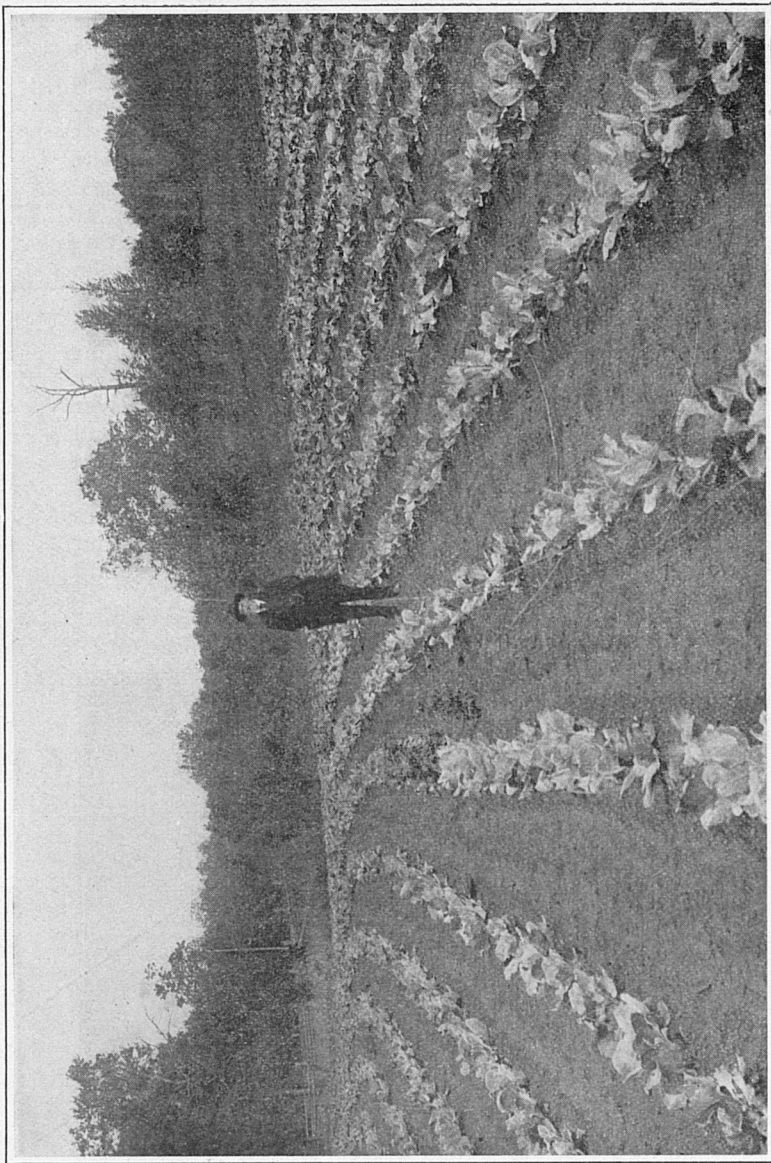
out shelter all the time and generally can find all the forage that they require.

This has made the State the great cattle raising State it is, only that, instead of the old long-horn steer, the cattle raisers have gone in for blooded stock. It is a rare thing to run across the long-horn now. The land, for instance, except out on the western ranges, has become too valuable to raise cattle, except such as will bring the highest market prices. Hence the average farmer now carries a few blooded steers along each year, and these bring him in ready cash whenever he cares to sell. Of the 7,000,000 head of cattle in the State, the majority will grade well up.

The value of the land in the Red River Valley Country—the tier of counties washed by the Red River—has stimulated truck farming, fruit raising, etc., and the many thriving towns and cities, with the excellent railway facilities, give a ready outlet to the farmers for all they can bring to market. As yet these branches of agriculture may be said to be in their infancy, but the profits have been so large that they are gaining every year.



Onions are a Profitable Crop.



Cabbages—East Texas.

EASTERN TEXAS.

WHILE it is true that Eastern Texas is largely a timber section, there is, in the aggregate, a vast amount of prairie land interspersed between the tracts of timber. This portion of Texas, while apparently small, is in reality somewhat larger than the State of Indiana. The general surface is rolling, but in some portions the country is broken by low hills. Probably one-half or two-thirds of this surface is covered with forests of pine, gum, oak, hickory, walnut, cypress and ash, a large part of which is mer-



Peaches in Eastern Texas.

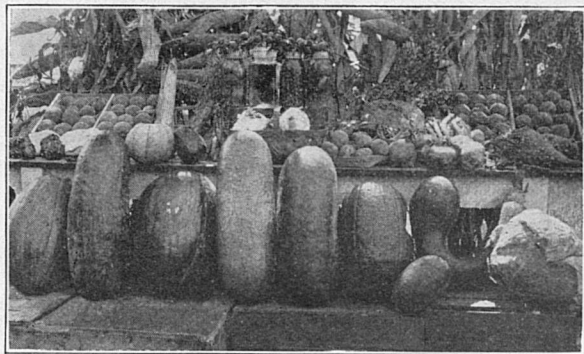
chantable. Most of the pine timber has been cut, but there still remain considerable forests of oak and gum.

Eastern Texas contains more varied types of soil than any other body of land similar in size which has come to the notice of our government soil service. It has, therefore, many advantages for the man who would buy land for a home. For the most part the territory is of sufficient elevation to be healthful in the highest degree, and in addition it has, for the most part, an unusually fertile soil. On the whole, there is an unusually large area that can be put under cultivation.

The rainfall is ample for the production of two and sometimes three crops each season, being from 40 to 50 inches per year, with rather even monthly distribution, which makes crop failure from drouth an unknown quantity. This section of the State is thus an ideal section for the farmer. He is assured of fertile land, good health and, further, he is in a country where there is timber both for the construction of his buildings and for his firewood.

Eastern Texas is well watered with numerous running streams and springs. Water in wells is to be had at a depth of from fifteen to twenty-five feet. The price of the land is very reasonable, all things being taken into consideration; in fact, it is probably the cheapest land to be had in Texas at the present time. It is adapted for fruits of various kinds, for berries, for vegetables, and for cotton and corn. Stock-raising can be carried on most advantageously along with general farming.

The development of this section during the past five years has been mainly in horticulture and truck-growing, both vocations proving very profitable. Potatoes, both sweet and Irish, will net from \$150 to \$200 per acre; tomatoes, from \$200 to \$300 per acre; cabbage, from \$150 to \$250 per acre; onions, from \$250



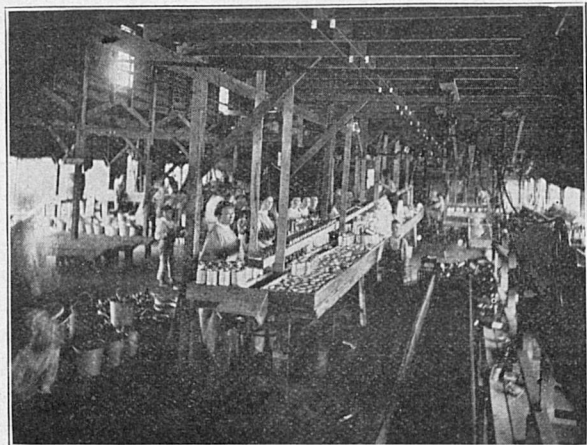
Farm Products of Wood County.

to \$300 per acre; cantaloupes, from \$150 to \$200 per acre; strawberries, from \$200 to \$500 per acre; and peaches, from \$200 to \$500 per acre.

Going down into this East Texas country in June, one can easily tell when the fruit and truck country is reached. Entire trains of refrigerator cars, headed for Northern markets, are met frequently. The last of the potato crop is being shipped, the tomato season is at its height, and the early peaches are ripening. In every community the people are busy with the crops, picking and packing the fruits and vegetables.

Where orchards have been planted, potatoes and tomatoes are grown between the rows until the orchard is in bearing. Tomatoes are really one of the most important crops of Eastern Texas. They come on the market ahead of the crops from other sections, and consequently prices are usually higher. Cantaloupes and watermelons are also very profitable.

The sandy loams and red soils are especially adapted to the growth of fine fruits and high-grade tobacco. While tomatoes, potatoes, onions, cantaloupes, etc., are largely grown in the "East Texas Country," it is as a peach-producing section that this country has made a reputation, since it first attracted attention by its carload shipments of peaches in 1901. It has, in fact, so well an established reputation as a fruit country that it is now generally known as the "Fruit Belt." Fair crops of cotton, corn and cereals are also grown. The crops suitable for grazing and for feeding swine can be grown in great abundance, viz., sweet potatoes, pumpkins, peanuts, cow peas, stock beets, rape, burr clover and Japan clover. Corn is a safe and profitable crop on both bottom and upland where fertility has been maintained by proper feeding of the soil. Cotton can be grown as a surplus crop. Japan clover and Bermuda grow together and furnish an excellent pasture for eight months in the year, while rape and burr clover will furnish it for the other four months, or Bermuda and burr clover sown together will furnish pasture for the entire year.



Canning Factory at Winsboro.

So far the greatest success and largest profits have been shown in the peach orchards of this section. Numerous commercial orchards have been planted by peach growers from Michigan and elsewhere, and finding the results so highly satisfactory the acreage is steadily increased year by year. The superior quality of the soil, composed, as it is, of sedimentary deposits containing iron, potash and lime, give to the peach in richness of color, unsurpassed by any grown elsewhere. Both soil and climate impregnate the fruit with a flavor superior to any other peach on the market today. For this reason the Elberta peaches of East Texas have become famous, and the demand thus created is responsible for the added orchards that each year come into bearing.

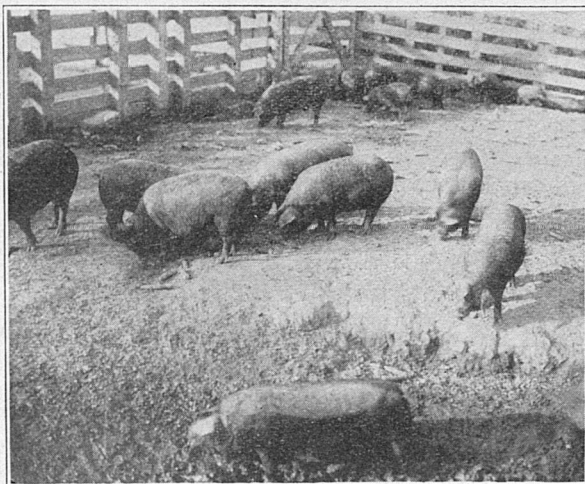
This year's peach crop was one of the greatest crops ever marketed in East Texas. Writing of the success of some of the growers in his vicinity, Mr. F. W. Mack, secretary of the Sulphur Springs (Tex.) Commercial Club, says:

"T. C. McCulloch, four miles southeast of Sulphur Springs, had 600 bearing Elberta peach trees from

which he sold \$600 worth of fruit. Some of the trees were very heavily loaded and some bore but a very small quantity. He had 800 trees of other varieties, Elberta Cling, Yellow September, October's White English, from which he gathered on an average one bushel per tree.

"George C. Kennedy, three miles east of Sulphur Springs, had 110 Elbertas from which he sold \$205 worth of fruit. He has a very large orchard of other varieties which netted him several hundred dollars additional.

"T. J. Garrord, five miles southwest of Sulphur Springs, Texas, has ten acres in Elbertas and sold in cash from same this year \$1,000. He has twenty acres which he is holding for a better price. He also has a good yield of apples. At the least calculation he will make in cash \$2,000 from his orchard this season. There are several hundred trees that are not in bearing this year, being only two years old.



Hogs are Making Eastern Texas Farmers Prosperous.

"T. N. Clifton, four miles south of Sulphur Springs, had 450 Elberta trees from which he sold 600 bushels and in addition canned \$100 worth. He sold to the cannery at 50 cents per bushel, having made a contract at that price.

"J. M. Millsap, five miles south of Sulphur Springs, had 400 Elbertas from which he sold this season \$450 and canned \$100 worth for market and for family use."

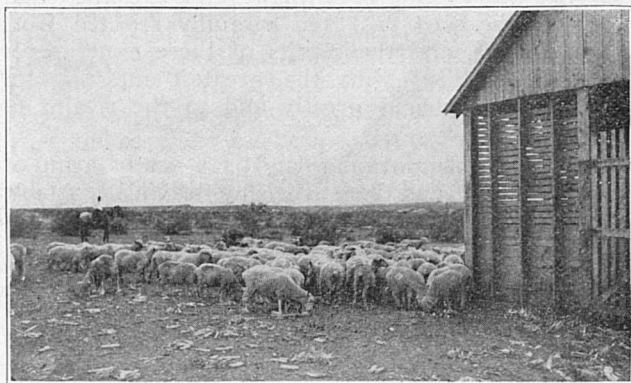
The profits realized from the peach orchards of East Texas have resulted in numerous commercial orchards being planted by peach growers from Michigan and elsewhere.

The natural conditions of East Texas are such as to make the hog industry more profitable there than perhaps in any other section in the Southwest. There is an abundance of timber, oak, ash, black-jack, etc., probably about 75 per cent of the area being timbered land. Along the creeks and river bottoms there is some ash, elm, hackberry and also a small percentage of oak, hickory, mulberry and pecan, as well as some walnut.

Just recently a successful farmer and swine-grower of Iowa purchased 6,000 acres of land in Lee County which he will convert into a hog ranch. This Iowa farmer believes that East Texas is an ideal country for the production of hogs, giving as his opinion that hogs can be produced 25 per cent cheaper than they can be grown in Iowa. The entire 6,000 acres will be enclosed with a hog-proof fence and enough corn, alfalfa and other crops will be grown to finish the hogs in prime condition. In October he will ship from his Iowa farm a train load of improved sows. This Iowa man will make a success.

CENTRAL TEXAS.

CENTRAL TEXAS, the very heart of this great State, ought to be one of the most popular sections in all the great Southwest, for it certainly is most highly favored by Dame Nature in climate, soil and products. Roughly speaking, Central Texas extends from the Colorado River and Montgomery and Austin Counties on the south through Johnson and Ellis Counties on the north, and from Llano, San Saba, Mills and



Texas Wool In the Making.

Comanche Counties on the west to the Trinity River on the east. The territory is watered by the tributaries of the Colorado River in the south, by the great Brazos River and its streams in the central portion, and by the western tributaries of the Trinity on the east. The average rainfall is from thirty to forty inches, and healthful conditions are insured by the perfect drainage, which is characteristic of all this section. In climate, it is equally favored, for there is never a day in the year when it is not possible to work out of doors. The thermometer rarely drops below 32 degrees in the winter, and only very occasionally soars above 95 degrees in the summer. The spring and

fall are long and especially delightful—in fact, the seasons melt one into the other in such a gradual way that it is difficult to draw a line of demarcation.

The "Black Land Belt," famous for its fertility, extends through Central Texas and makes possible a very high cultivation of the soil. Diversified farming is very profitable because of the wide range of crops—from cotton, wheat, corn and other grains to forage plants, vegetables and fruits, the yield is abundant. At the Government experimental farm, located at Giddings, the county seat of Lee County, the soil is being tried for the raising of a high grade of fine cigar tobacco. The seed has been carefully selected from Cuban sources, and the results of these experiments are being watched with the greatest interest, for tobacco culture would greatly add to the wealth of Central Texas.

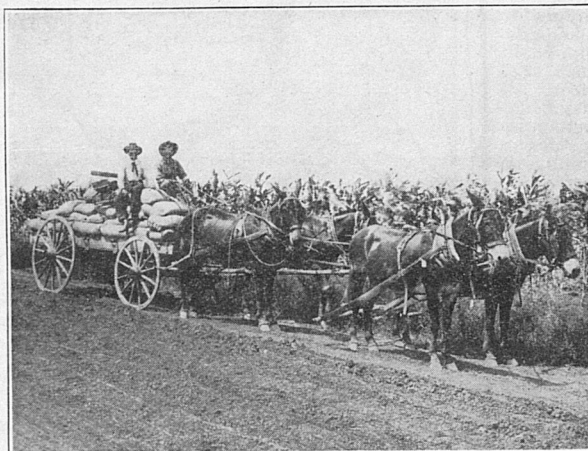
The soil of the farming land is a sandy loam of excellent quality, and there are many thriving vegetable gardens and orchards with rows of berry bushes planted between the trees. The chief source of wealth, however, is the cotton crop, which ranges from one-half a bale to a bale per acre. Corn, Irish and sweet potatoes and sorghum have been most successfully grown, and ribbon cane flourishes on the bottom lands.

At the time of the Paris Exposition prizes were offered for specimens of soils that were especially adapted to general agriculture. Almost all of the important nations were represented in this competition and exhibits came from those famous fertile valleys of the Nile, the Ganges, the Danube and the Amazon. Yet it was not to one of these that the gold medal was finally awarded, but to McLennan County, in Central Texas. It divides the great "Black Land Belt" in two almost equal sections. The Brazos River flows through the center of the county from northwest to southeast. And the soil of the river valley is a rich alluvial which is unsurpassed in fertility. Farther back from the river are the prairie uplands and there the soil is second to none in the State, not only for wheat and corn, but for all farm products.

Northeast of Austin lies the county of Milam, which sends to the markets in the capital large supplies of fruit and vegetables, for in many sections of this county is found a dark, mellow soil, which is especially adapted to fruit growing and truck gardening. The famous Elberta peach originated near the towns of Cameron and Rockdale. Apples, plums, grapes and cantaloupes are raised most successfully. The soil of Milam County generally is a black, sandy loam, which gives fine returns in vegetables of all kinds. It is quite a common thing to have two excellent crops of sweet and Irish potatoes in the same year, with the yield varying from 200 to 500 bushels per acre.

The soil of the river bottoms is a dark chocolate, and in these sections cotton yields more than a bale per acre and corn seventy-five bushels. Nearly 100,000 acres of the bottom lands have been devoted to rice, and the yield has been extremely good.

These counties are good examples of the entire region of Central Texas, and they speak most eloquently for this part of the State. Surely no ambitious, energetic man need be without a home and income when such a land of promise is within his reach.

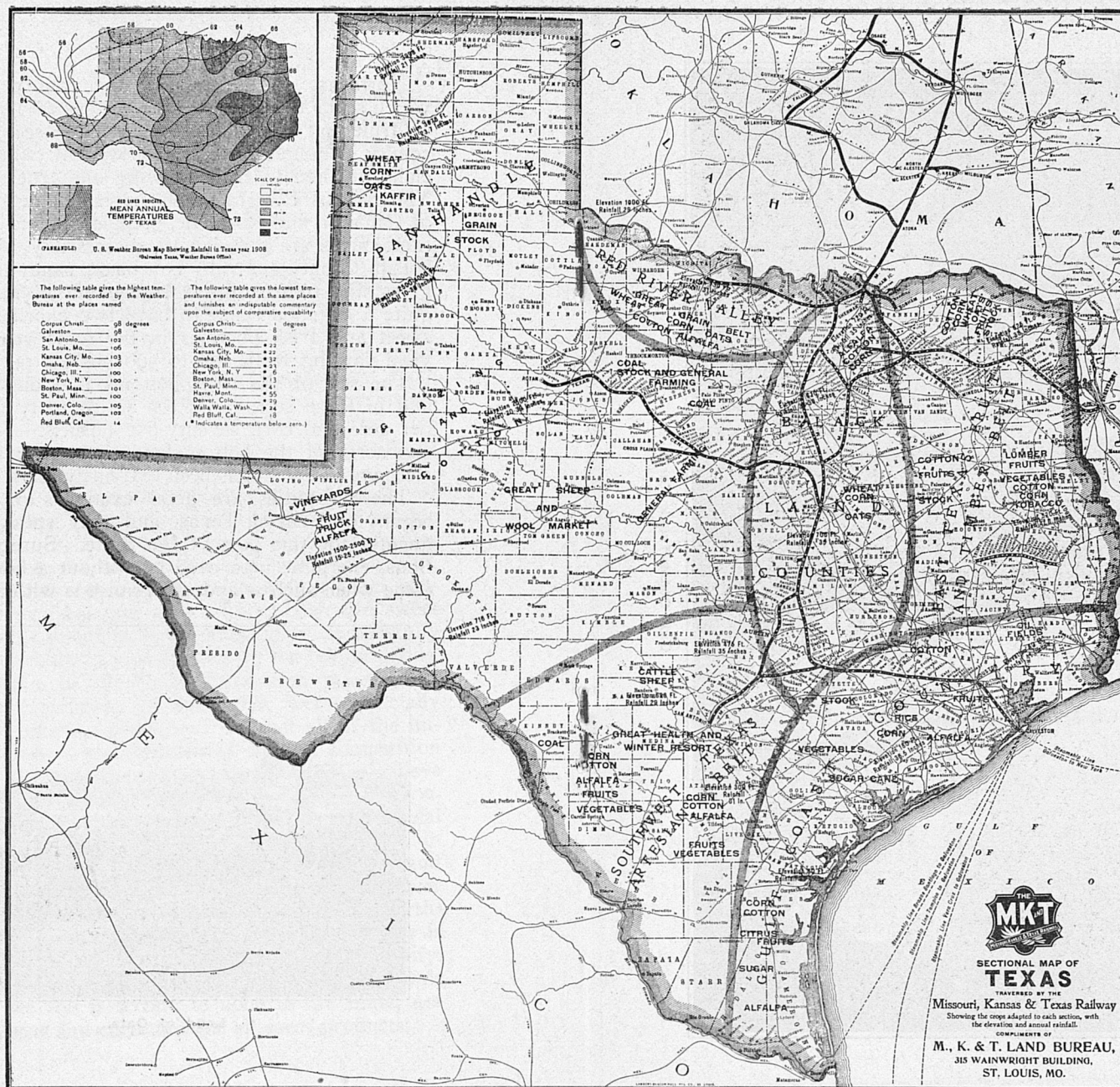


Load of Oats.

COUNTIES.

Anderson.
Andrews.
Angelina.
Aransas.
Archer.
Armstrong.
Atascosa.
Austin.
Bailey.
Bandera.
Bastrop.
Baylor.
Bee.
Bell.
Bexar.
Blanco.
Borden.
Bosque.
Bowie.
Brazoria.
Brazos.
Brewster.
Briscoe.
Brown.
Burleson.
Burnet.
Caldwell.
Calhoun.
Callahan.
Cameron.
Camp.
Carson.
Cass.
Castro.
Chambers.
Cherokee.
Childress.
Clay.
Cochran.
Coke.
Coleman.
Collin.
Collingsworth.
Colorado.
Comal.
Comanche.
Concho.
Cooke.
Coryell.
Cottle.
Crane.
Crockett.
Crosby.
Dallam.
Dallas.
Dawson.
Deaf Smith.
Delta.
Denton.
DeWitt.
Dickens.

Dimmit.
Donley.
Duval.
Eastland.
Ector.
Edwards.
Ellis.
El Paso.
Erath.
Falls.
Fannin.
Fayette.
Fisher.
Floyd.
Foard.
Fort Bend.
Franklin.
Freestone.
Frio.
Gaines.
Galveston.
Garza.
Gillespie.
Glasscock.
Goliad.
Gonzales.
Gray.
Grayson.
Gregg.
Grimes.
Guadalupe.
Hale.
Hall.
Hamilton.
Hansford.
Hardeman.
Hardin.
Harris.
Harrison.
Hartley.
Haskell.
Hays.
Hemphill.
Henderson.
Hidalgo.
Hill.
Hockley.
Hood.
Hopkins.
Houston.
Howard.
Hunt.
Hutchinson.
Irion.
Jack.
Jackson.
Jasper.
Jeff Davis.
Jefferson.
Johnson.
Jones.



COUNTIES.

Karnes.
Kaufman.
Kendall.
Kent.
Kerr.
Kimble.
King.
Kinney.
Knox.
Lamar.
Lamb.
Lampasas.
Lasalle.
Lavaca.
Lee.
Leon.
Liberty.
Limestone.
Lipscomb.
Live Oak.
Llano.
Loving.
Lubbock.
Lynn.
McCulloch.
McLennan.
McMullen.
Madison.
Marion.
Martin.
Mason.
Matagorda.
Maverick.
Medina.
Menard.
Midland.
Milam.
Mills.
Mitchell.
Montague.
Montgomery.
Moore.
Morris.
Motley.
Nacogdoches.
Navarro.
Newton.
Nolan.
Nueces.
Ochiltree.
Oldham.
Orange.
Palo Pinto.
Panola.
Parker.
Parmer.
Pecos.
Polk.
Potter.
Presidio.
Rains.

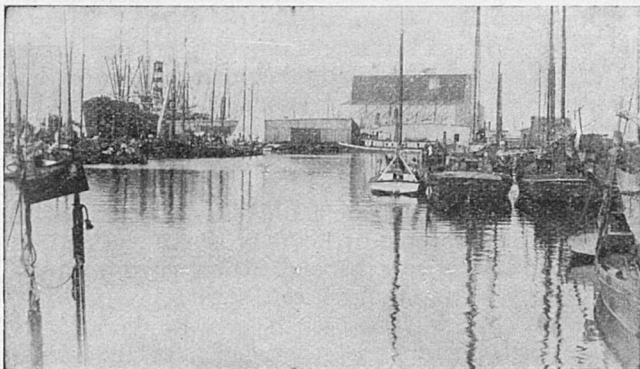
Randall.
Reagan.
Red River.
Reeves.
Refugio.
Roberts.
Robertson.
Rockwall.
Runnels.
Rusk.
Sabine.
San Augustine.
San Jacinto.
San Patricio.
San Saba.
Schleicher.
Scurry.
Shackelford.
Shelby.
Sherman.
Smith.
Somervell.
Starr.
Stephens.
Sterline.
Stonewall.
Sutton.
Swisher.
Tarrant.
Taylor.
Terrell.
Terry.
Throckmorton.
Titus.
Tom Green.
Travis.
Trinity.
Tyler.
Upshur.
Upton.
Uvalde.
Valverde.
Van Zandt.
Victoria.
Walker.
Waller.
Ward.
Washington.
Webb.
Wharton.
Wheeler.
Wichita.
Wilbarger.
Williamson.
Wilson.
Winkler.
Wise.
Wood.
Yoakum.
Zapata.
Zavalla.



A Gulf Coast Truck Farm.

THE GULF COAST COUNTRY.

WHILE Texas is at present attracting settlers from all parts of the country, the people who are attracted in largest numbers to that State, and more especially to the southwestern portion of it, are, strange to say, the people who are to all appearances most comfortable in their present locations—the farmers of the Middle West—men of means, men of intelligence, men of family.



Harbor at Galveston.

To say that these people are discontented with their present lot, or that they are abandoning their old homes cheerfully, would be an untruth. They are not going to Texas because they are restless, because they are adventurous, or because they are filled with a desire for new and novel environment, but simply for the identical reason which impelled their fathers to plunge into the wilderness beyond the Alleghenies, the Ohio, the Mississippi, and the Missouri. They are looking for the future of their sons and daughters.

A small farm in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, or any of the older States of the Mississippi Valley, will sell today for enough to purchase a large farm in the rich Texas districts tributary to the cities of Houston and San Antonio, and leave a handsome surplus with which to meet such necessities as may

arise until the new farm begins to produce a revenue. In a few years the Middle Western farmer who has not land enough to divide among his children, who sees no prospect ahead save that his boys and girls must be scattered, is able in Texas to give each of them a better start in life than he had, while reserving for himself and wife enough to maintain them independently and comfortably in their old age.

He goes to South Texas, too, without any of the insecurity as to the future that weighed upon his ancestors when they began life in the West. Texas is not a wilderness; settlement there is not an experiment. None of the conditions that existed a half century ago beyond the Missouri will confront him there. The least populous of Texas counties today are as orderly as the most populous counties in his own State. No matter how small the number of settlers, the school house is to be found in their midst. He will meet there people of his own class, educated, industrious, enterprising people, impregnated with and impelled by the true American spirit.

Best of all he will not be hampered by the rigors of climate that even in the most genial of the Middle Western States have got to be taken into serious account. He is not going into a land where there are "nine months of winter and three months late in the fall." He will not have to work his hands off for one quarter of the year in order that he may exist through the other three. In South Texas he will be able to look forward on every New Year's day to twelve months of "open weather"—twelve months in which he may plow, and plant, and reap. He may make his choice as regards crops. Practically everything that grows anywhere grows in South Texas, and grows luxuriantly. Every plant that flourishes in any part of the earth, with the exception of the few that are peculiar to the tropics and to the extreme altitude, responds to the soil and sunshine of the country lying along the Gulf Coast.

The Texas Gulf Coast Country is a most interesting region. It occupies the triangle between the Gulf of

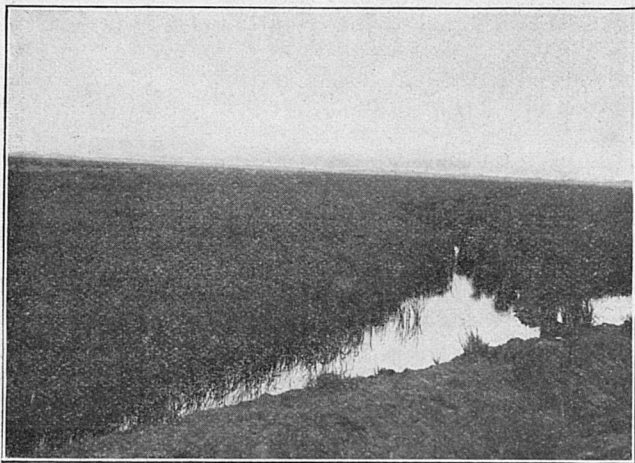
Mexico and the Rio Grande. The open front of this splendid section of country insures an exhilarating Gulf breeze throughout the summer, while its extreme southerly location affords mild and inviting winters, where work is carried on outdoors often without coat or wrap. Two crops of vegetables during mid-winter



Gulf Coast Figs.

and early spring are invariable, while the same soil has by thrift yielded three crops. Only three times during the seventeen years that records have been kept has the mercury registered below twenty degrees, but during the winter sufficient cold is experienced to destroy the germs of decomposed matter. This is purely a semi-tropic climate, one where most tropical fruits can be raised and where the soil is particularly adapted to raising watermelons and berries. Lands are about half in price to what they will be in the near future, and living is very cheap. It is the richest basin of alluvial deposits perhaps in the world, and with unsurpassed railroad and seaboard facilities, with a country teeming with prosperity, towns and cities alive with activity, it could be no perversion of the

truth to predict that it will be, in a short time, one of the wealthiest regions of Texas. The counties of South Texas, beginning at Houston and Galveston on the north and extending to the Rio Grande on the south, offer greater, more varied and richer possibilities for the homeseeker and investor than almost any similar territory.



Rice Field.

This Gulf Coast Country is swept by the Gulf breezes, which dispense life to vegetation and health to the inhabitants. They are the prevailing winds and come fresh and pure laden with ozone and vigor from nature's great storehouse, the Gulf of Mexico. The long summers characteristic of this latitude are by them rendered not only endurable but enjoyable. So marked is the influence of the Gulf winds on the State that the average temperature along the Gulf Coast, and for many miles inland, is much lower during the summer months than it is in the higher latitudes of the north. The same influence neutralizes the cold of winter, and makes the winters of the Gulf Coast Country the mildest and most delightful of any section of the Union.

The most desirable lands of Texas are those in the district in which all that is best in climatic and soil conditions are combined. Nowhere in the State are these conditions more perfect than in the Gulf Coast Country. It is in general a beautiful plateau of level prairie land that seems to have been designed to meet not only all the needs but all the ideals of the agriculturist.

The entire range of agriculture lies before the husbandman. When the prime crops are in, or before



Poultry Raising is Profitable.

they are in, and in fact while they are in, he may be carrying on, as extensively as the size of his plantation will allow, the cultivation of every kind of fruit and vegetable, alfalfa, berries and watermelons, nuts of all varieties, and raising live stock—and everything he produces finds a ready and profitable market—because of the coöperation of the railroads, which in Texas, more than in any other State perhaps, take a constant and a deep interest in the welfare of the settler.

In this section of South Texas, because of the level contour of the land and the adaptability of the soil,

rice culture is proving a prominent and paying feature of agriculture. Fifteen years ago scarcely a barrel of rice was raised for commercial purposes in the section now known as the "Rice Belt." Today, the four hundred mile stretch of country along the "Gulf Coast," from Beaumont to Victoria, is the center of the rice industry of this country. Great rice mills and rice elevators are to be found in many of the "Gulf Coast" cities, such as Beaumont, Houston, Katy,



A Satsuma Orange Orchard.

Wharton, El Campo and others. The demand for rice as a food product in this country alone is fast increasing. The rice production in other countries can not increase for the reason that every available acre of rice land is now under cultivation. This would indicate a constant increase in acreage to be planted from year to year.

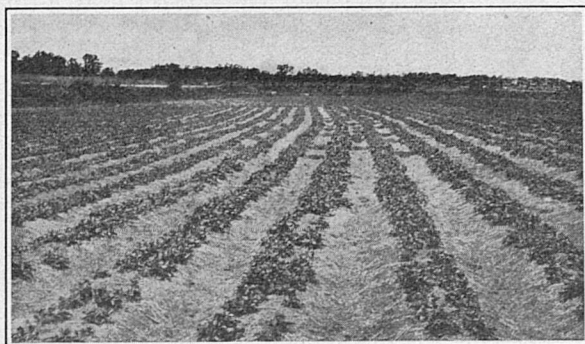
Corn, alfalfa, cotton, rice and sugar cane are staple crops for which no substitutes have yet been found.

Figs, pears, plums, peaches, grapes, oranges, lemons and all varieties of berries and small fruits are grown profitably in the Gulf Coast Country.

Figs, oranges and lemons grow to perfection, and experience shows that an orchard will bear from \$90 to \$125 of fruit per acre the third year, \$150 to \$250 the sixth year and the profits of a 10-year orchard will run from \$500 to \$1,000 per acre for 50 years.

Berries and all kinds of small fruits make remarkable yields throughout a long season and though rarely cultivated commercially the home gardener and truck grower has shown the possibilities, and the returns in all cases have far exceeded their expectations.

The Houston-Galveston district is today the recognized early strawberry field of the United States. More than a hundred cars are shipped each season from three points in this region. The returns per acre for



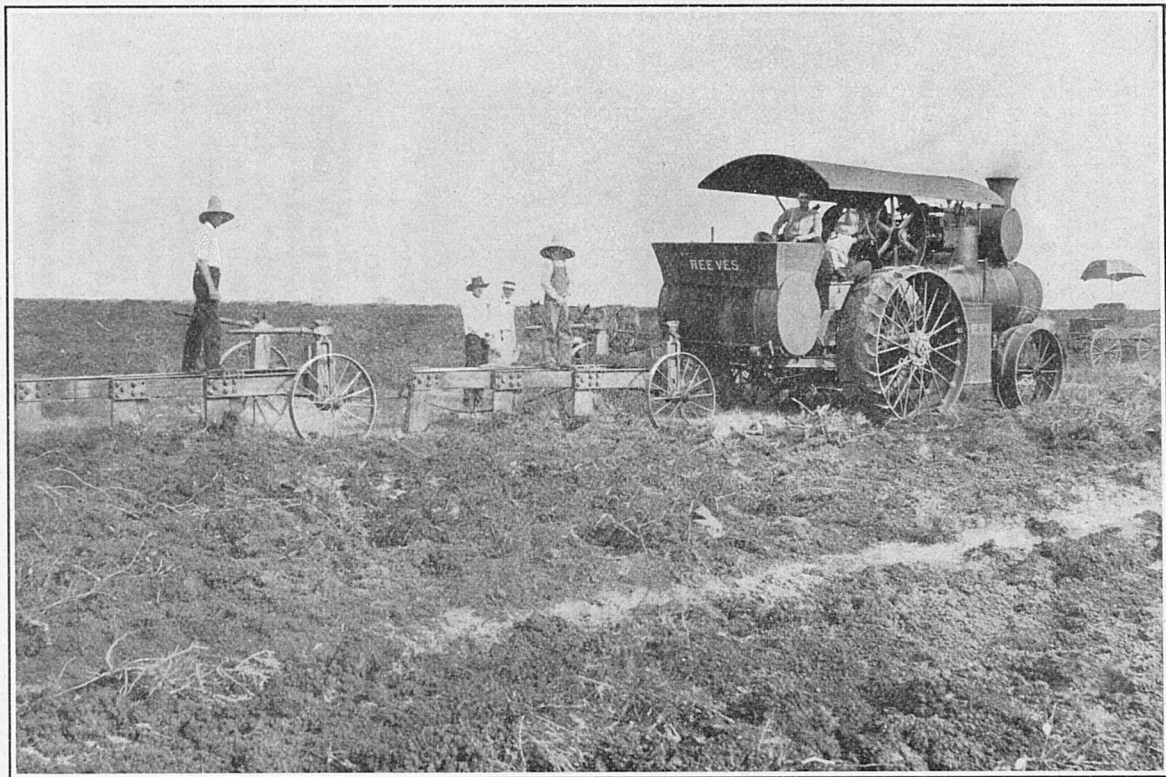
Strawberry Field in Houston District.

strawberries are large, and a few acres furnish an income ample for a large family. The expenses of growing are not heavy, the main item being the labor during the picking season. Strawberry fields yield a cash income from December or January till May.

Strawberry growing offers a fine field for profitable employment of all the members of a large family.

Further, strawberries are always sold for cash to buyers who are on the grounds ready to take the berries as fast as they are ready for market.

Many of the American varieties of grapes as well as the choice European varieties bear enormous crops and find ready markets at top prices.



Gang Plow Turning the Sod in Nueces County.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS.

THE term "Southwest Texas" always has had, and still has, a somewhat vague meaning. There are no very defined lines to permit any other than arbitrary demarkation. Some even argue that there really is no such thing as Southwest Texas and that South Texas would be the proper name for all territory lying south of the thirtieth degree of latitude. Such a line, however, would include a great deal of East and West Texas and would make considerable inroads on what is generally accepted as Central Texas. For this reason the term Southwest Texas has been found to be the most convenient.



Early Vegetables at Falfurrias.

Roughly speaking, Southwest Texas is composed of the trade territory of San Antonio and all of Texas south of this. The following counties are included in it: Val Verde, Edwards, Kerr, Bandera, Gillespie, Kendall, Blanco, Hays, Comal, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, Wilson, Bexar, Medina, Uvalde, Kinney, Maverick, Zavalla, Victoria, Calhoun, Aransas, Refugio, Goliad, Bee, Live Oak, McMullen, La Salle, Dimmitt, Webb, Duval, Nueces, San Patricio, Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo and Cameron.

While as yet only 11.22 per cent of the arable land of Southwest Texas is under cultivation, there is no doubt that within a few years this percentage will be doubled, if not trebled.

The day when this country will be as thickly settled as Kansas, for example, is still far off, but it will come. Southwest Texas today has a population of about one million, but will have twice that number in five years. The population has increased at a rapid



Artesian Well in Dimmitt County.

rate during the past five years, immigration from Northern States being unusually large during that period.

The towns in Southwestern Texas are developing at a remarkable rate, and there is every prospect of significant growth in industries and factories in the next few years.

Industrially, Southwest Texas has hardly begun its existence. Though the country offers a very fine and active market, there are few factory products which originate at home. As yet its commerce is a matter of the export of raw material and import of the

manufactured article. Although Southwest Texas produced in 1909 about 7,000,000 pounds of wool and mohair, there is not a single woolen mill to be found in the territory. The same applies to cotton. But a change for the better is promised. Commercial organi-



Plums.

zations everywhere are beginning to busy themselves with these matters, and it will now be only a question of a few years before the country will be economically self-contained.

The truck industry, already great, is only in its swaddling clothes; it is growing with every season. Ten years ago there was but little, if any, truck or fruit growing anywhere in this section. Today thousands of acres of the land are under cultivation, and the wealth of the country has been more than doubled. There is plenty of room for more truck farms. There is splendid opportunity in this line of agriculture for the sober, industrious and intelligent husbandman of the North, East, South and West, who desires to make

a home for himself and children in a land where total crop failures in truck, or, in fact, any product are almost unknown.

Cotton is still the principal crop in Southwest Texas, as, indeed, it is all over Texas, as this State produces about one-sixth of the entire cotton crop of the United States. Cotton is not an expensive crop to grow. Cotton pickers are paid from 40c to 75c a hundred pounds. The price of cotton, of course, varies, but ten cents a pound, to a bale of 500 pounds, is valued at \$50.

Corn produces from twenty-five to fifty bushels an acre. It is planted very early in the spring in dry land farming and is cultivated throughout the year on irrigated lands. The supply of corn is not equal to the demand of the country and the prices are equal to the best obtainable elsewhere.

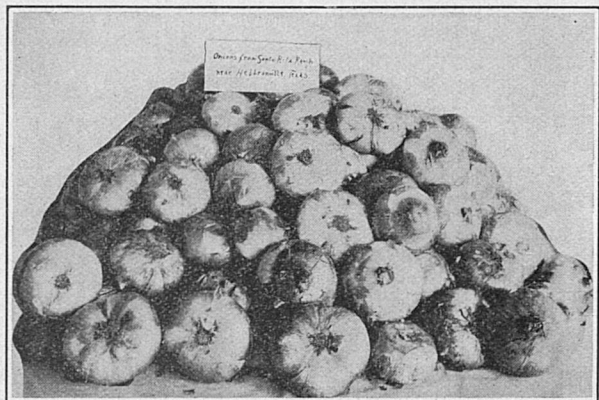
Kaffir corn and milo maize, which are being grown extensively by dry farming, give a good yield and make fine feed for hogs, poultry and other stock.

Durham and Macaroni wheat is grown in Uvalde and Kinney Counties, and other varieties are grown in the hill country to the north and northwest of San Antonio. Oats and rye are also grown in the hill country, though not very extensively. They are generally cut green and fed to the cattle and horses.

Broom corn, flax and hemp have also been demonstrated with, but are not raised extensively as yet, owing to the lack of a good market.

Southwest Texas is the coming fruit country of America. Any of the semi-tropical fruits, if given proper attention and care, will flourish and produce profitable returns for the grower. Oranges, lemons, citrus fruit, bananas, limes, peaches, pears, apricots and all kinds of berries can be raised with profit and shipped to market much earlier than from any other section, not excepting Florida or California. The profits from these crops are large ones; the fruit is always in demand, and the prices to be obtained for the early product are exceedingly high.

Texas, wide, diversified and rich, is getting her share of brains and brawn in the work of development. Forty years ago she could not give away her lands, thirty years ago she sold them at six cents an acre. Last year such lands sold for fifteen dollars an acre.



Bermuda Onions are a Very Profitable Crop.

In Southwest Texas, where vast transformation enterprises are going briskly forward, lands with the wall of mesquite and cactus torn from them bring under the ditch \$30, \$50, \$100 an acre. A new country has been discovered by industry, if not by history. It is one in which all old values and earlier estimates are wiped out.

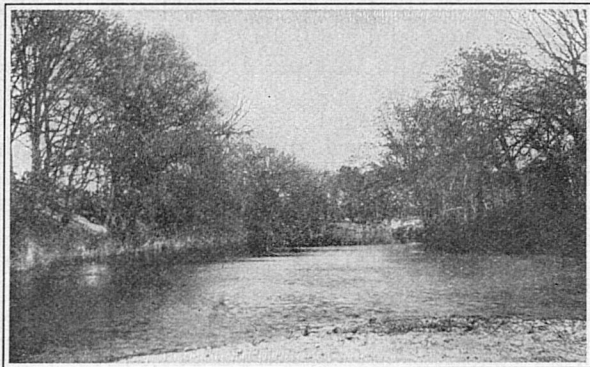


Cotton Still the Most Important Crop of Texas.

WESTERN TEXAS.

AS recently as five years ago by far the greater portion of the San Angelo Country—familiarily called “Concholand”—was controlled by large cattle and sheep interests, ranches of 64,000 acres, and in many instances larger, being common.

The prosperous cattlemen, depending almost wholly upon the rich native grasses, planted no crops and made no harvests. The extension of the State laws, the sale and lease of lands, the coming of a few small farmers, and the advent of the barbed-wire fence, changed the condition. Land began to have a staple value. Thrifty homeseekers from the thickly populated portions of this and other States, realizing the value of these lands, made such pressing demand for



The North Concho River.

homes that a few of the large land owners were induced to cut their holdings into small tracts and sell them. The newcomers put in some winter forage crops, planted fruit trees and a few varieties of vegetables. The natives smiled and said that the San Angelo Country was a cattle country, a pasture, and the only way to get on was to own a big herd. But the newcomers made good crops; their fruit trees flourished; their small fruits, vegetables and grapes

yielded generously. At this the cattlemen were astonished. The wonderful success of these pioneer farmers caused other tracts to be opened up, and farming is now no longer an experiment in the San Angelo Country.

The cattlemen followed the example set by the farmers, and began to plant feed crops to supplement the native pasturage. It paid, and today there is no grain, grass or fruit that will thrive in similar latitude that is not now successfully raised in this country. The large land bodies are rapidly being opened for settlement, and everywhere there are splendid opportunities. The soil, season and climatic conditions are well adapted for cotton, wheat, millet, milo maize, kaffir corn, sorghum, oats, alfalfa, Colorado grass, etc. Peaches, apples, pears, plums, apricots, berries, grapes and melons grow to perfection. Vegetables of all kinds are grown successfully. Celery is grown that compares favorably with that of Michigan, and if enterprising growers take hold of it a profitable industry can readily be established.

Another great natural source of revenue to this country is the pecan crop. In the fall when they begin to mature, large numbers of people make a business of gathering pecans. Besides home consumption, there is shipped from San Angelo annually \$75,000 worth of nuts.

While this section has always been a great stock country, it is only of late years that stockmen have seen the advantage of improving the breeds for Northern markets. Now the country is full of white-faced Herefords and other well-known breeds. The days of the old long-horn Texas steer have passed. The same change is being wrought in the horse, sheep, hog and goat business. By applying scientific methods to their business stockmen have realized greater profits than under the old methods. The mixing of thoroughbred cattle and hog raising with that of general farming has been found so profitable that most of the settlers are combining the two. Prize winners at the St. Louis, Ft. Worth and San Antonio stock shows were raised on

a ranch within twelve miles of San Angelo. The shipment of beef cattle alone from this point reaches the enormous sum of \$2,250,000 annually. Over 15,000 head of horses and mules are shipped each year.

San Angelo is the largest interior wool market in the United States, more wool being concentrated and sold here than at any other point. Although the sheep industry has materially changed within the last few years, since the flock owners were compelled to own or control their range, it has proven extremely profitable to everyone engaged in the business, because of the high prices of wool and mutton. In common with cattle and all other live stock the breed of sheep in this section has been very much improved. There is no safer or surer income as a side issue on a farm in this country than a small flock of graded sheep. Angora goats are also raised with profit.

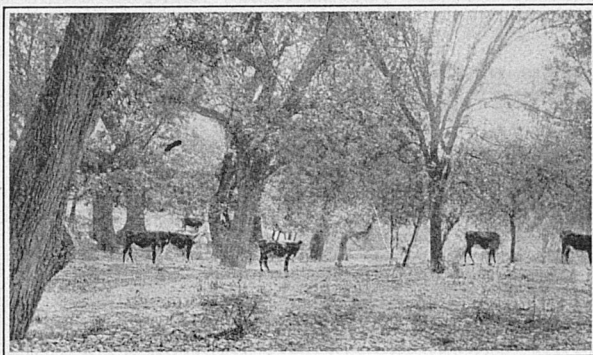
Hog raising, too, is coming to be considered one of the more profitable adjuncts of general farming. Profits are largely enhanced by reason of the fact that along the river bottoms alfalfa grows luxuriantly. Ft. Worth is the principal market for live stock shippers from this section, and the prices paid are on a par with St. Louis and Kansas City markets.

San Angelo, with a population of 16,000, is the trade center of Concholand, and is the largest and richest city in Western Texas. It is near the geographical center of the state and draws trade from an area as large as the State of Massachusetts.

The government reports show that the hours of sunshine in San Angelo exceed those of Denver. This, with the low relative humidity of the atmosphere, make a climate highly beneficial for those suffering from lung or throat troubles. The altitude and the perfect drainage make malaria practically unknown. The mild winters, with the sunshiny days, make it possible to carry on farm work practically the year round.

The San Angelo country possesses a great variety of soils—black, red, chocolate and sandy. The soil of the valleys and prairies is of a soft loam, varying in depth from three to twenty feet. There are some sections

where the soil is black and waxy, the most productive soil in Texas. The sandy lands are equal in all respects to those of older settled sections and produce quite as well. Seventy-five per cent of the country is fertile, tillable land, while at present only about twenty per cent is being utilized for farming.



Pecan Grove in Concho County.

The rainfall is about 28 inches per annum, being slightly higher during the past six years. This is probably on account of increased amount of land under cultivation. About 80 per cent of the rainfall comes during the growing season, from early spring to fall. Along the river valleys are to be found farms cultivated under irrigation with admirable success, and at small expense. Irrigation, however, is not essential to successful farming. The San Angelo country is exceptionally well supplied with running water. Beginning with the Colorado on the north, the North Concho, Middle Concho, Spring Creek, Dove Creek, South Concho, Lipan Creek, Kickapoo Creek and others, follow in succession, all good sized streams of constant running water, entirely free from gyp, alkali or salt. Underground water is to be had in abundance by drilling a depth of forty to one hundred and fifty feet.

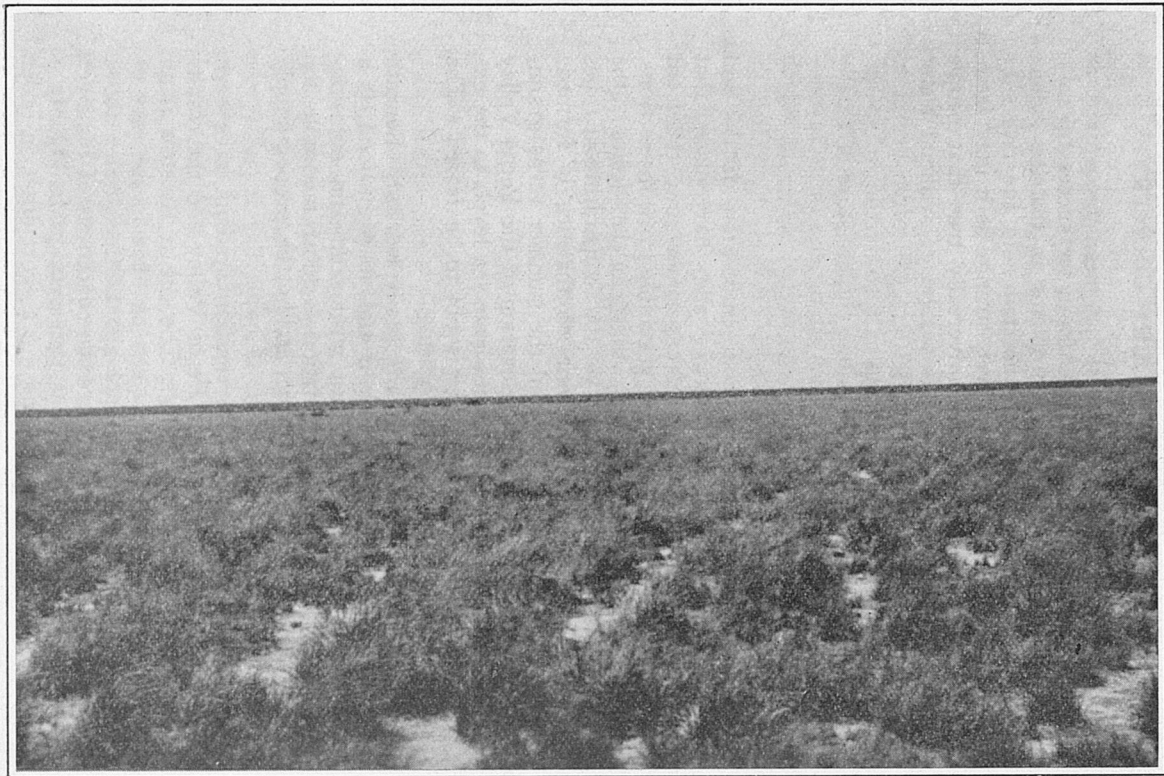
THE PECOS VALLEY COUNTRY.

FOR centuries irrigation has been recognized as one of the greatest factors in the successful solving of agricultural problems in districts where the rainfall is scanty or uncertain and the rivers or creeks few and far apart; yet, strange as it may seem, it is nevertheless almost universally true that people are very slow to apply this system of artificial water supply to new territory. Settlers will often prefer to take land which is not one-half so fertile or so advantageously located, but where the moisture is usually ample, to land which has everything else in its favor—fertility, fine location, and variety of soil—but which lacks a natural water supply.

The results obtained from cultivation of the soil under irrigation in the Pecos Valley have placed that region beyond the stage of experiment into the front rank of desirable fruit and vegetable growing sections. The climate is everything that can be desired, the winters are very mild and yet the temperature at times drops to the freezing point, so that ice is formed; the spring comes early, and the summer turns gradually into a late fall. The elevation of the Pecos Valley is about 2,700 to 3,000 feet above sea level, so the excessive heat of the summer is not to be feared. The air is clear, dry and invigorating.

The soil is very fertile and easily worked. Beneath the alluvial deposit, which is rich in plant food, is a subsoil of clay, alternating with sand and occasionally gravel. This combination is most favorable for agricultural purposes, when it has the proper supply of moisture.

Already a number of irrigation systems have been put into operation in the Pecos Valley and the results have been most gratifying. The one at Barstow is an excellent example of what can be done in the way of scientific irrigation. A spot about fifteen miles above the city was selected, where the conditions of the river bed were such that it was necessary to build only a small, inexpensive dam and dig a short ditch, in order



Scene In the Texas Panhandle.

to take the water out on the west side, from whence it is flumed over to the lands surrounding Barstow. The place where the water is brought back to the river lies about twelve miles south of the city. There are in all about 30,000 acres of good, tillable land under the ditch, and the reports of the Federal government, obtained from accurate observations of the river gauge, which was placed by the authorities at the station located at the flume, proved beyond any doubt that the supply of water is more than sufficient to irrigate the entire tract, although only about 9,000 acres are under cultivation at the present time.

That the Pecos Valley has a great future before it as a fruit growing section there can no longer be the least shadow of a doubt, for all experiments along these lines have met with the most marvelous success. The famous Rocky Ford cantaloupes, grown in the section near Barstow, rival those from Colorado in richness and delicacy of flavor; in fact, they have been pronounced by some experts to be superior to the Colorado product. The yield is abundant and the profit ranges from \$50 to \$100 per acre. Barstow has direct railroad communication with the Eastern markets, so the melons and all other products can be shipped without delay and without exorbitant freight charges.

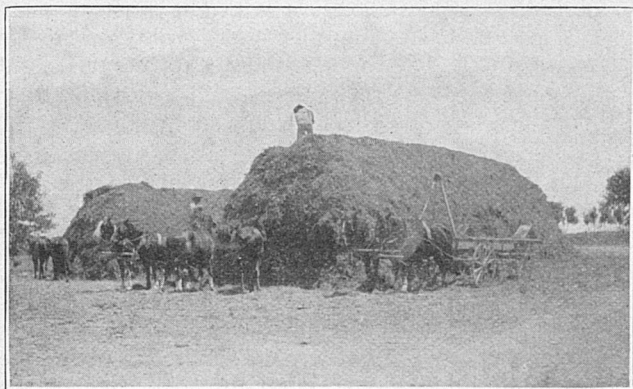
Phenomenal success has also been attained in the growth of fine grapes, such as the tokay, muscat, malaga and cornishon. The largest vineyard in this district contains 100 acres of bearing vines, and the average yield is 15,000 crates, which bring about \$1.25 per crate.

Besides its already well-established reputation as a fruit section, the Pecos Valley is becoming noted for its splendid crops of alfalfa. The quality is above the average and the yield exceptionally good, five or six cuttings being the average yield. The plant grows luxuriously and requires but little attention. The opportunity for an extensive industry in the handling of alfalfa hay on a commercial scale is exceptionally good

at the present time. The outlay for storage barns would be comparatively small and insignificant in comparison to the prospective profit to be gained. This hay will bring from \$10 to \$11 a ton f. o. b. at Pecos, and at some seasons of the year even more.

Alfalfa fields easily pay their owners for all work of planting, watering, cutting, baling and hauling the hay, and a net revenue (land rental, we may call it) of \$30 to \$40 an acre. Land that will do this is worth \$300 to \$400 an acre, where high interest rates prevail, and double that, \$600 to \$800, with interest rates at 5 per cent or less.

The immigration into the Pecos Valley and also into the Toyah Valley, which is similar in many ways, is increasing steadily. Most of the newcomers are Northern and Eastern farmers who understand the business and are prepared to put that practical experience to the test here. So far the results have been most gratifying, and in consequence there is a steady stream of relatives and acquaintances constantly being added to the Northern colony.



Stacking Alfalfa Along the Orient, Pecos County, Texas.

THE PANHANDLE COUNTRY.

THE section of Texas known as the Panhandle has long been recognized as one of the finest cattle regions in the whole country. Long before the pioneer ranchmen went there its fine grasses made it one of the favorite haunts of the buffalo, and the wild antelopes and mustangs were also to be found in large numbers. Of the nutritious grasses growing in abundance there are three varieties, which are considered the most valuable of all as food—the true buffalo grass, the curly mesquite, and the grama grass.

The buffalo grass grows to five or six inches in height, and when the dry season comes on it cures on its roots, just as perfectly as hay, thus forming forage in the winter, as well as an endless supply of grazing during the rest of the year.

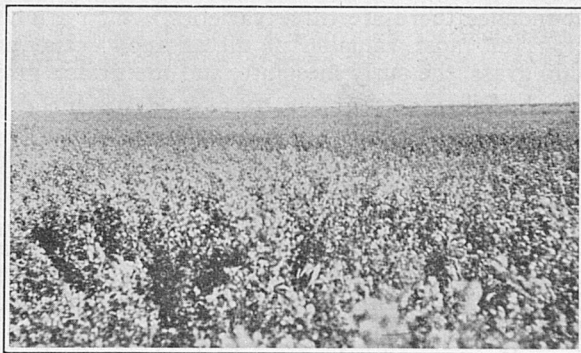
The curly mesquite is almost equally abundant throughout the Panhandle, and is very similar to the buffalo grass, growing to about the same height and with the same habit of forming perfect hay on its roots. It seems to have remarkable rejuvenating powers, for after a long dry season, or even a bad drought, it will become green in the space of a very few hours when washed by warm rain.

Two varieties of the grama grass, the blue and the white, are especially fine for grazing purposes and winter forage. They will both withstand the trampling of the cattle unusually well.

In 1874 the first ranch was located in the Panhandle, about forty miles southeast of the present town of Amarillo, the county seat of Porter County. From that time on the ranchmen drifted gradually into this section, and it came to be recognized as exclusively a cattle country. The ranches were of enormous acreage, but they were not fenced in, and the cattle roamed at will over the seemingly endless pastures. The usual allowance was ten acres of pasturage for each steer. The greatest drawback was the scarcity of water in many regions, for these early ranchmen never realized that beneath the surface of these rolling prairies was

an inexhaustible supply, which needed only to be tapped to yield abundantly for the needs of even the largest herds. Periodically the cattle were rounded up by the ranchmen, who scoured the plains for miles around to gather in all of the scattered groups.

Since the day when the fencing of the ranches with barbed wire began, indicating as it did the increasing value of the land, the vast ranches have been gradually



Alfalfa Field In Ward County.

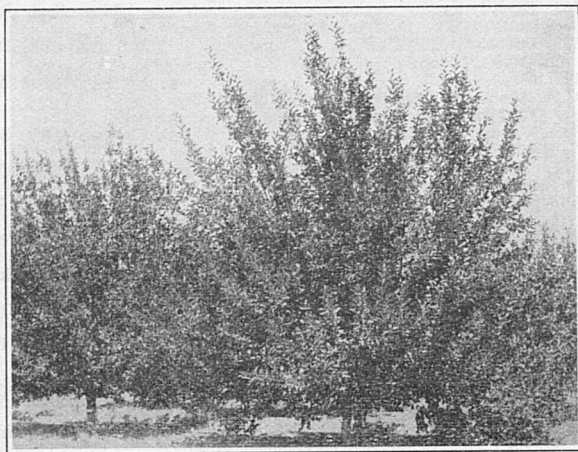
disintegrating, and in a few years, when the old leases expire, they will have disappeared entirely. However, what seems a small acreage to a Texan accustomed to the size of earlier holdings seems enormous to people of the older States, where a few hundred acres is considered a large amount of farming and pasture land. Ranches of two or three thousand acres are commonly found in the Panhandle and other sections of Texas today, though, of course, there are many holdings much smaller. The famous X. I. T. ranch covers five counties in the northwestern part of the Panhandle and is the tract that was given by the State to the syndicate which built the magnificent capitol building at Austin, costing \$3,000,000. This ranch contains three millions of acres. On the great staked plains lies the largest ranch owned by a single individual. It covers 1870 square miles and contains about 1,400,000 acres. In the Panhandle there are now only about a hundred

ranches, each of which approximates twenty-five miles square.

The citizen of Fort Worth proudly alludes to his town as the Cattle and Grain Center of the Southwest. Certain it is that these are the items which contribute largest to the business of this progressive city.

In the Panhandle thousands of head of cattle are bred annually and sold to the dealers of the country, and the packing houses at Ft. Worth have been a priceless boon to this industry.

Previous to their beginning business at Fort Worth, hogs were practically a foreign feature to the Texas stockman. After several years of solicitation on the part of the packing house industries, the farmers and cattle-raisers of the Panhandle were interested in the growth of hogs, and though everyone could not see of what benefit it would be to grow or raise them, there were some wise enough to give them a trial. Within a very short time the industry has grown to enormous proportions.



Apple Orchard in the Panhandle Country.

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