

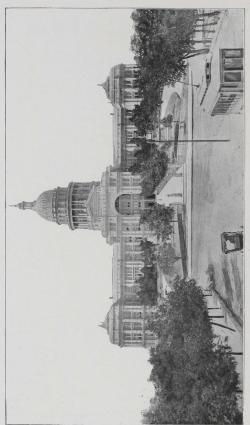
SOUTHWEST COLLECTION Texas Tech University LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409 20.5 \$727s

## SOUTHWEST TEXAS

FROM SAN ANTONIO
TO EL PASO



ISSUED BY
PASSENGER DEPARTMENT SUNSET ROUTE
HOUSTON, TEXAS



State Capitol, Austin, Texas

## **TEXAS**

The State of Texas today offers possibly the best field for investment of brawn and capital of any State of the growing South. This statement is not based upon any predilection for Texas, particularly from a sentimental point of view, but is made with a due and correct consideration of actual facts in a general comparison made between Texas and her sister States East and North. The phenomenal growth in population and values alone is sufficient justification for this assertion were it not made absolutely so by the wonderful resources and facilities for expansion existing within the limits of a territory whose people claim, with pride, to be an Empire.

Texas is not only an Empire in size, but it is also an Empire in its ability to provide for its own needs. Should every other source of supply for the necessities or luxuries of life be cut off from the State, its people could go on supplying their wants by their own efforts. They would not suffer, but the people of the other States, and of the world at large, would find themselves deprived of many things for which they now depend on the Lone

Star State

Recently the Governor of Texas wrote, over his signature, as

follows

"The boundless resources of Texas were little known to the outside world twenty-five years ago. That this State was an Empire in domain was understood, and the mistaken idea that Texas was only suited for a home for long-horn cattle and picturesque cowboys who were handy in the use of their guns was about the sum and substance of Texas's reputation in many parts of the United States a quarter of a century ago. The changes that have been wrought during that period almost sur-

pass belief

"In the development of her material resources Texas is leaping forward at a marvelously rapid rate. The population of the State twenty-five years ago was less than 2,000,000; it is estimated today to be more than 4,000,000. The State had only about 5,000 miles of railroad twenty-five years ago. Today there are more than 15,000 miles of road, including main track and sidings. The individual deposits in the chartered banks of Texas a quarter of a century ago amounted to less than 89,000,-000; now these deposits aggregate more than \$170,000,000. It was not known twenty-five years ago that rice could be grown in Texas; today the State leads all others in amount of rice production. Texas is rapidly becoming one of the largest wheat producing States. The vast region where it can now be grown successfully and is being rapidly placed in cultivation was a trackless plain, considered hardly fit for grazing, twenty-five years ago.

"Less than twenty-five years ago Texas was dependent upon the East for money to move her crops; today Texas is a lender of money. The taxable values of the State twenty-five years ago were about \$600,000,000; today they amount to \$1,507,615,458, and the tax rate has been lowered from twenty-five cents on the \$100 valuation to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents, and it is probable that the rate can be reduced next year to not exceeding 6 cents on the \$100 valuation."

### NOTE

The fame of the Gulf Coast section of Texas is now widely known in the great world of garden trucking and fruit growing. and the magnificent inducements offered to settlers in the fertile alluvial valleys of the Trinity, Brazos, Colorado and Guadalupe Rivers have been advertised extensively. The large profits obtained by farmers, rice growers, sugar producers and truckers have raised the price of lands in the great coastal plains region, and there is a constant inquiry by prospectors for literature descriptive of the vast unoccupied territory farther west in Texas, where cheaper land is still available, and where the immense cattle pastures are now being successively colonized by industrious farmers from other parts of Texas and outside States. As the older sections of the State become settled up homeseekers and investors are rapidly pushing south and west in Texas, and there is a great demand for reliable information in regard to the agricultural conditions and industrial opportunities of the vast region between San Antonio and the Rio Grande, and farther west in the so-called semi-arid section of the State.

It is the object of this booklet to furnish the desired information to those who are interested in the territory referred to, and particularly in the counties along the line of the Sunset Route. The matter contained in this publication was compiled chiefly from the writings and statements of responsible citizens

now living in the respective localities.

For further information address

T. J. ANDERSON, Gen. Pass. Agt., Houston, Texas.

## SOUTHWEST TEXAS

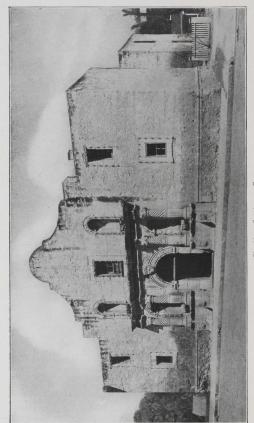
The country tributary to San Antonio, extending south to the Coast and westward to the Rio Grande, is generally referred to as Southwest Texas, and nowhere in the United States is the diversity of the soil so great and the ground so rich and fertile. Nowhere are the climatic conditions, summer and winter, more favorable, and in no other section of the world is there such a surprising and unexpected development in new directions. At the present time in no other State or country are there better or more opportunities open to men of average means and intelligence than on the great mesquite prairies of Southwest Texas.

On account of the favorable weather conditions generally prevailing, crops can be saved after being made. The drought-resisting qualities of the soil are remarkable. Plowing and planting go on practically the year round, and as many as three crops are frequently raised in a season on the same land. The increase in rainfall during recent years, combined with the introduction of improved methods of soil preparation and cultivation, is making it an ideal country for general farming, and on account of the low price of land it has not been an uncommon thing for a

farmer to pay for his farm in one year.

This great region is also the natural home of honey bees. They stored their honey in the crevices of the rocks, the canyon caves and hollow trees. The wild honey plants of West Texas have a reputation among botanists all over the world. Bee keeping in the counties along the Sunset Route is assuming great proportions, and enormous quantities of honey are being marketed. It is one of the most profitable and fascinating industries, with unlimited possibilities in Southwest Texas. The dairy industry is beginning to attract attention, and several creameries are now being successfully operated with favorable opportunities for others at different points in this territory.

While it is primarily an agricultural region, Southwest Texas is also rich in natural products and valuable resources. Large areas are covered with a thrifty growth of timber, providing an inexhaustible supply of firewood, fence posts, etc. Next to the oak the mesquite tree is more generally found in Southwest Texas than any other. It has spread rapidly over the prairies within the last twenty years and now furnishes fire wood in many localities where fuel used to be scarce. Its economic uses are many. It yields a gum almost identical with gum arabic. It is a wood of great durability and resists decay in a remarkable degree, making it valuable for posts, pickets, rails, etc. It shrinks but little in drying, which adapts it for furniture, etc. It yields a crop of beans which are rich and nourishing; horses, hogs and cattle being very fond of and rapidly fatten on them. The wood



The Alamo, San Antonio, Texas

is also extensively used in paving and the roots and bark are valuable materials for tannery purposes.

The wild plants and vegetable products of this particular region known to have useful properties or to be of value to commerce or industries are of special importance. Besides the trees of medium or larger size which are used in construction and for fuel, fencing, posts, etc., the country supports a growth of smaller trees of many varieties, with a hard, rich colored, close-grained wood, suitable for cabinet making, furniture, etc. Some of them furnish edible fruit, nuts, etc. Many of them produce valuable gums and dves, while others vield alcoholic sap and costly oils and perfumes. There are flax plants, hemp plants, tannin plants, paper, soap, pepper, spice, tea and coffee plants, and an endless variety of medicinal plants and those which contain antidotes against poison and the bites of poisonous animals. Then there are numerous ornamental and hedge shrubs; also pasture and hav grasses and forage plants. Some of the commonest weeds which grow wild on thousands of acres produce valuable commercial fibres. Some of the rare plants and flowers to be seen in the Northern hothouses and European conservatories grow wild in profusion, and during some months of the year paint the landscape red, white and blue before being trampled under foot by cattle and horses.

Besides the vegetable products the undeveloped resources of this region include much other raw material of more or less value and importance. In the upper Rio Grande region rich silver mines are now being worked and gold has been discovered recently in paying quantities. Other valuable minerals are to be found to which as vet very little attention has been given. In some localities there is coal. Inexhaustible supplies of the finest white flint sand are found, for the manufacture of glass, and great deposits of kaolin exist for making china and crockery ware of the finest quality. There are immense beds of clay suitable for brick, sewer pipe, pottery and earthenware; also limestone and cement rock and mountains of marble, sandstone, granite and building stone. In some counties great deposits of asphalt are now being developed and beds of ochre and other valuable mineral paints have been discovered. Sulphur and other flowing wells of mineral waters are constantly being obtained and the whole region seems to be underlaid with artesian water which comes very near the surface in many localities.

Combined with these favorable conditions are the advantages of a healthy climate, mild winters, pure drinking water, good roads, modern conveniences, schools, churches, good society and splendid hunting and fishing. With big crops, good prices, home markets and abundant railroad transportation facilities, the intending settler will readily understand why it is that Southwest Texas presents a location with more advantages and less disadvantages than many other sections, and he will realize that while there is still an abundance of cheap land to be had



River Scene, Southwest Texas -Sunset Route

it will undoubtedly increase in value as the possibilities and opportunities of this favored land become advertised and better known.

### SUTHERLAND SPRINGS

Foremost among the famous "beauty spots" of the San Antonio country is Sutherland Springs, located in Wilson Country, thirty miles southeast from San Antonio, on the line of the Victoria Division of the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway, on the banks of the Cibolo River, in the center of one of the most thickly settled and highly prosperous agricultural communities in the State. It is here that nature has run riot and left a spot which presents more different features—topographical, horticultural and mineral—than can be found in many a day's journey, making it an ideal spot for summer and winter homes, a place for recreation and the natural goal of the health seeker, and giving to it all of the essentials for the birth and rapid growth of a highly prosperous town and health resort.

Upon this land there are medicinal springs of four or five varieties, from which flow waters impregnated with almost every known mineral of any medicinal value. The wonderful curative properties of these springs have been known for centuries; and long before the foot of the white man trod the soil of this region the springs were the resort of Indians of every tribe, who came from far and near to get relief from the ills to which flesh is heir. So wonderful were the cures wrought by these springs that there is an old Indian legend based upon the idea that they have their origin in the "Happy Hunting Grounds." Nor did these waters lose their usefulness when the red man was crowded farther westward, for his less picturesque but more intelligent brother was quick to learn of the great curative properties, and from that time to this the woods around these springs and the banks of the river have been crowded with the tents and cots of those who are willing to undergo the inconveniences of camp life in order that they may bathe, drink and become well.

Nature has befittingly ornamented these springs, her most useful work, by covering the three or four hundred acres of land immediately surrounding them with giant live oaks, tall and stately elms, pecan groves and other trees, from which she has hung Spanish and other varieties of moss in the greatest profusion—thus making a magnificent park through which she allows to flow one of the beautiful streams for which Texas is proted.

A short time ago one thousand acres of this land, including the springs, park and depot, passed into the hands of the Sutherland Springs Development Company, a corporation organized for the purpose of building a health resort and a town in conjunction therewith.



The Moss Covered Oaks at Sutherland Springs-Sunset Route

### THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

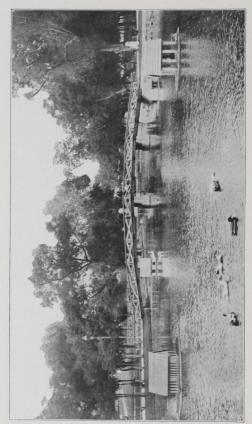
San Antonio, with a population of over 90,000, is frequently referred to as the largest city, in the wealthiest county, in the greatest State, in the grandest country in the world. It is one of the oldest cities of the New World and was the capital of the ancient Spanish Province of Bexar. It is now the capital of Bexar County, Texas, and is said to be the most beautiful city in the State and the healthiest city in the United States.

Nature, with a bounteous hand, has fitted San Antonio to be the tourist city of the Great Southwest, and her matchless advantages of climate, scenery, waters and health-giving air will eventually place her in the foremost position as a summer and winter resort. The city offers many splendid opportunities for investments. It is in the center of a rich agricultural territory and without a rival within 200 miles. It is one of the greatest live stock centers in the West, and the residence center for the wealthy stockmen and cattle kings who own ranches in Southwest Texas and Mexico. San Antonio is a great cotton, cattle, mohair, wool and hide market, and fast becoming a manufacturing city. It is also the shipping point for large quantities of truck, watermelons, cabbage, potatoes, onions, etc., being the center of a great irrigation area extending from the city limits hundreds of miles to the West and Southwest. San Antonio, with her numerous public and private schools and colleges, is one of the leading educational centers in the South. One of the chief attractions is Fort Sam Houston, perhaps the finest military post in America.

. San Antonio has a complete and modern waterworks system (owned by a private corporation), using 128 miles of water mains. The supply is obtained from artesian wells, having a capacity of 40,000,000 gallons per day. The water is second to that of no other city in point of purity. There are other artesian wells in the city, ranging in depth from 700 to 2,000 feet, with a joint capacity per day of 42,000,000 gallons.

San Antonio is the point from which many hunters and sportsmen start on their camping trips. Game abounds in all the country tributary to San Antonio, where is said to be the finest quail hunting on the continent. The other kinds of game in this region include wild turkey, doves, plover, ducks, squirrel, deer, bears and wild hogs. The streams are full of fish and the celebrated tarpon fishing and water fowl resorts on the Gulf Coast are within easy reach.

With these advantages and its splendid system of electric street railways, its miles of splendidly paved streets and macadamized drives, her cathedral, churches and fine hotels, her wonderful springs, her beautiful natural parks and plazas, combined with historic associations and many other attractions and advantages, San Antonio will rapidly increase in population and importance until it becomes the most notable city in the South.



San Pedro Springs, San Antonio, Texas

San Antonio welcomes the newcomer and homeseeker, and presents exceedingly favorable chances to all good classes of citizens.

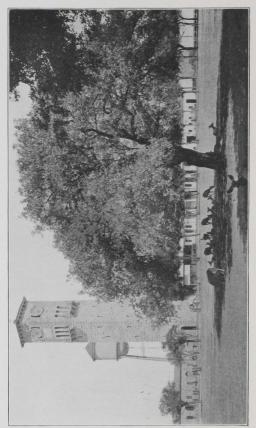
Persons desiring further information and particulars about San Antonio should write to the Secretary of the Business Men's Club for their splendid illustrated literature.

# AGRICULTURE IN THE SAN ANTONIO COUNTRY

Bexar County, of which San Antonio is the county seat, is situated about 150 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico and has an area of 762,688 acres. The average height of the county above sea level is from 600 to 1,100 feet, the highest elevations in the northern portion of the county reaching 1,500 feet, presenting a view of lofty hills and gentle slopes, dotted with live oaks and cedar, with valleys of meadow land and prairie; oak, elm, walnut, pecan and hackberry trees along the streams. To the southward the country is gently undulating, with stretches of level ground covered with mesquite, and along the river and creek bottoms with pecan, cottonwood, hackberry, oak, cypress and sycamore.

The San Antonio, Medina and Cibolo Rivers flow through the county, the first named stream winding through the city of San Antonio. Besides these rivers there are a number of creeks affording water for irrigation and domestic purposes. There are also springs in many places, and pure, wholesome water is to be had from wells generally at a moderate depth. There is a well defined subterranean water basin extending from the northeastern boundary of Bexar County to the southwestern limits, in which have been developed many flowing wells

The prevailing soil is a friable black earth, very deep, with a limestone foundation, interspersed with sandy loam, and the celebrated chocolate land, and in the bottoms a rich, dark loam. These lands are fertile and are especially adapted to the cultivation of cotton, corn, hay, sorghum, millet, sweet potatoes, melons, fruit and vegetables of all kinds. Cotton is the great money crop of Texas, and there are thousands of acres of uncultivated land in this county that will produce from three-quarters to a bale per acre in favorable seasons. Corn raised in Bexar County always attracts attention and takes prizes at the annual fairs. Reports state that the corn crop this season is especially good and will average from thirty-five to forty bushels per acre, and that on some farms as much as sixty bushels will be raised. It is one of the best counties in the state for fine stock and hogs, horses, mules and polo ponies.



Park, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas

Poultry raising is one of the important industries of this section and large quantities of turkeys, chickens, geese, ducks and pigeons are raised for market. Bee keeping is another paying occupation. Bees do well on account of many favorable conditions, and the great variety of wild honey plants enable them to work every month in the year. During the watermelon season many wagon loads of melons are sold in San Antonio daily. Some of the finest pecan groves in the State are situated in Bexar County, and in the fall of the year pecan gathering furnishes employment to many people, young and old. City of San Antonio always furnishes an excellent market for all kinds of produce, fruit, dairy and poultry products. There are opportunities in all these lines for many industrious settlers with energy and small capital. Good, cheap, unimproved land can be had in this and adjoining counties, and small improved farms can be purchased at reasonable prices.

Among the fruits that are grown successfully in this county without irrigation are peaches, plums, pears, persimmons, blackberries, figs, dewberries, mulberries and grapes. If varieties of peaches, grapes, etc., are selected with care and intelligence and properly planted and cultivated they produce good crops. No State grows so many varieties of plums successfully as does Texas, and probably more bushels of plums are produced to the acre in Bexar County than in any other section of the State. Plums are brought to the San Antonio market from the surrounding country every season by the wagon load. The Japanese varieties of plums do especially well here. There are many thrifty orchards of Le Conte and Keiffer pears paying their owners handsomely where they are given proper attention. The dewberry growers of San Antonio have recently organized an association and through it propose to promote that particular industry. Over \$2,000.00 worth of dewberries were sold from nine and one-half acres. They were grown on sandy loam land without irrigation but by intelligent cultivation. Many fig orchards are now being planted, and San Antonio will undoubtedly become an important location for fig preserving plants.

At the United States Agricultural Experiment Farms, located in this county, near San Antonio, many valuable experiments are being made with growing farm crops, forage, fruits, etc., that will be of the greatest importance in connection with the future agricultural and horticultural development of this region.

Bexar County contains inexhaustible supplies of building stands and limestone, cement rock, glass sand, other and building sand. There are immense beds of clay for brick, pottery and sewer pipe. Lignite coal abounds in the southwestern portion of the county and profitable oil fields are being developed with several good producing wells already brought in. The crops, soil, water, good roads and other conditions in the adjoining counties are similar in character to those of Bexar County.

Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, Texas

The average annual rainfall at San Antonio for the past eighteen years has been 28.4 inches. The total amount for the driest year for the same period was 15.9 inches and the total for the wettest year 40.5 inches. The average monthly temperature for the same period was as follows:

January													52
February													55
March													62
April													
May													75
June													81
July													
August													83
September													
October													
November													
December.													55

#### ADDRESS

Delivered by H. E. Hildebrand, President of the Business Men's Club of San Antonio, at a Convention of the Fruit and Vegetable Growers in San Antonio, Texas. August 1, 1904

Gentlemen of the Convention: The agricultural advantages possessed by territory tributary to San Antonio command special attention. The question is frequently asked why Texas, especially Southwest Texas, has until recently been overlooked so persistently by the great Westward rush of immigration which has been going on for twenty-five years? The demand for information on these lines is more earnestly desired after the inquiring mind has made itself familiar with the fact that the most interesting, the most salubrious and the most productive section in our country is found in the State of Texas, particularly in the

Southwestern portion.

Years ago, when here was a boom in railroad construction, rival lines raced with each other to reach extreme Western points, resulting in several mammoth systems paralleling each other, with the Pacific coast as an ultimate terminal. After crossing the Mississippi River, and particularly after crossing the Mississippi River, and particularly after crossing the Mississouri, virgin territory was invaded and the necessity for its speedy development, in order to originate paying tonnage, caused lines at interest to set aside large amounts of money for the purpose of influencing, not only inhabitants of the East, but a desirable element abroad, to settle in the territory tributary to these lines of railway, with remote Western terminals. So persistent were efforts in this direction that it is on record that ticket agents in the East, as well as passenger representatives abroad, were paid from \$4.00 to \$10.00 commission on each ticket sold west of the Missouri River.



An Irrigated Farm in Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

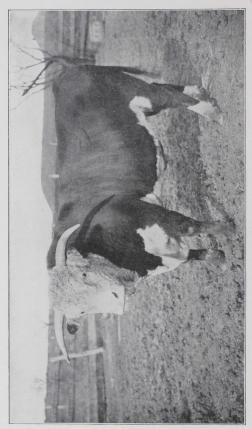
By this system every ticket agent, in the East particularly, became a most persistent immigration agent, and the wisdom of the policy pursued by railroads is apparent when today we look over the sections in the West and Northwest that were undeveloped twenty-five years ago and are now inhabited by an extensive population, with great centers, rivaling those in the East, liberally distributed.

At that time no railroad system, with lines in Texas, recognized the Texas terminals as its long haul; consequently representatives of those lines were instructed to work all their business via their longest haul, which meant to and beyond the Missouri River. Texas, preeminently a cattle country, was so recognized; and it was only after railroads began to cross our prairies, reach our gulf, extend to and across the Rio Grande into Mexico, that those interested in railroad traffic became familiar with the facts that territory thus developed, from an agricultural standpoint, could not be duplicated in the United States, if any place in the world.

At that time lands were selling from 50 cents to \$1.00 per acre. In fact, many hundred thousands of acres of agricultural lands in the State at that time changed hands at 50 cents and 75 cents per acre, which lands, in many instances, now command from \$25.00 to \$75.00 per acre. The railroads, realizing the opportunities presented in Texas, began to assume a policy designed to quickly people this great commonwealth to the limit. Their representatives worked earnestly in all sections of the East, and one system established agencies abroad. Difficulties about that time originated from the fact that the owners of large tracts of land, who were engaged in the cattle business, refused to subdivide their tracts for agricultural purposes, and did all in their power to prevent the influx of immigrants.

A few live men, however, located themselves in different parts of the State, and co-operating with the railroads interested in developing the State, finally caused the tide of immigration to be turned to the State of Texas. Their efforts were materially aided by the rapid advancement in prices of agricultural lands in the North and West to the extent that prices per acre in those States were prohibitory among that class of immigration whose means were limited. Following the co-operation of the land agents and railroads referred to, the State rapidly developed.

Phenomenal yields of Texas fields materially increased the value of lands beyond that point when cattlemen could afford to devote their fields exclusively to cattle raising. It is understood that it requires not less than ten acres of land for each head of stock, and when land is \$1.00 or \$2.00 per acre, stock raising is considered profitable; but when those lands are worth from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and more an acre a novice would readily see that no man in the cattle business could afford to devote his lands, valued at such figures, exclusively to raising cattle. Thus the immense tracts were cut up into smaller tracts, immigrants con-



Registered Hereford in Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

tinued to pour into the State, with the result that today Texas, with only 17,133,641 acres in cultivation, stands fifth in the list of agricultural States.

It is readily conceded by all those who know anything at all about Texas that the most prolife agricultural section is that which recognizes San Antonio as its logical center, particularly that portion directly south of San Antonio, with the Gulf of Mexico bordering on the southeast and the Rio Grande bordering on the south and west.

Within the last four or five years, in the territory named, special attention has been given to growing vegetables, they maturing at a time when they secure the maximum prices on Northern markets, which markets they invade without a competitor. The profit of growing vegetables in this territory will be seen by an examination of the following figures, secured from reliable sources, showing net earnings per acre. Watermelons from \$75.00 to \$200.00 per acre; cantaloupes from \$40.00 to \$75.00 per acre; cabbage from \$125.00 to \$225.00 per acre; cauliflower from \$75.00 to \$200.00 per acre; beans and peas from \$100.00 to \$125.00 per acre; onions from \$150.00 to \$800.00 per acre; tabaseo peppers from \$500.00 to \$900.00 to \$9

As an evidence of the value of these crops to Southwest Texas, and that the present acreage scarcely makes any impression whatever on the market, the Business Men's Club has on file evidences that the onion crop of 1904 embraced 815 acres, secured net returns exceeding over \$200,000.00, and the growers were not able to supply one-twentieth part of the demand.

One great advantage of Southwest Texas is that artesian wells, as a rule, are easily secured, the whole territory, with a few exceptions, being recognized as being within the artesian belt.

The phenomenal yield of vegetables, particularly onions and Irish potatoes, is credited to facilities for supplying water when needed. Surface wells can be secured anywhere and, with the aid of windmills, enable farmers to irrigate extensively. Those who are able to put down artesian wells, which cost from \$700.00 to \$3,000.00, as a rule secure a flow limited only by the size of the casing. F. F. Collins, for instance, has an artesian well on his farm near San Antonio, with a ten-inch casing, which irrigates, with water to spare, 160 acres.

Superior opportunities for land investments are without doubt presented in South and West Texas along the lines of the new roads recently constructed, terminating at Brownsville, near the mouth of the Rio Grande, as well as along the San Antonio & Gulf Railroad, the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway, San Antonio & Aransas Pass Railroad, the International & Great Northern Railroad and the Southern Pacific Railway, in the southern parts of the State, which lands are famed the



Hogs and Cattle in Southwest Texas—Sunset Route

world over on account of their yields of cereals, fruits and vegetables, and it is with confidence that the Business Men's Club of San Antonio invites a careful inspection by those who are seeking such investments.

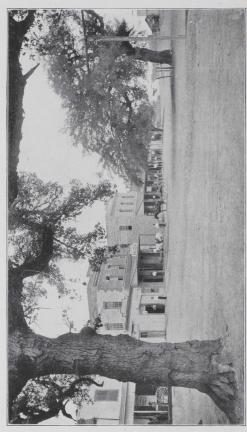
### MEDINA COUNTY

Medina County joins Bexar County on the west, Frio County on the south and Uvalde County on the east. It takes its name from the Medina River, which flows through the northeastern portion of the county. The county contains 834,560 acres, the greater portion of which is used as pasture for cattle, horses, mules, goats and hogs. There are many fine farms in this county. Most of the settlers are of German descent and practice diversified farming, raising large crops of cotton, corn, oats, wheat, broom corn, hav and other crops as well as fruits and vegetables. Cotton is the principal money crop and in good seasons produces a bale to the acre; corn, 40 to 50 bushels, and oats 50 to 70 bushels. Sorghum hay yields five tons per acre and is the principal feed crop. Eggs, chickens, turkeys, watermelons and onions are shipped in large quantities; also mesquite fire wood and cedar fence posts, poles, mining props, charcoal, etc. Large quantities of pecans are gathered along the streams and marketed annually, and considerable bat guano is also shipped from the caves in this county. This is one of the famous bee counties of this section, and great quantities of honey are produced from the wild shrubs, such as catclaw, guajillo (wahia), mesquite, whitebrush and mint. There is an inviting field here for the dairy industry, several creameries already being operated in the stone and sand. Good lignite coal is mined in the county and petroleum oil has been discovered in several localities.

The general surface of the country is broken and mountainous, with many rich and fertile valleys on the water courses, some lands being rolling prairie. There are some lofty hills and mountains. The soil varies from a sandy loam to a black waxy, the latter predominating and produces almost anything. The timber in the county chiefly consists of oak, cedar and mesquite, with pecan trees, elm, etc., along the river and creeks. The Medina River is an important stream and there is permanent water in the Hondo, Verde, Quihi, Seco, and San Geronimo Creeks. Surface wells at from twenty to eighty feet deep supply water for domestic purposes, and deeper wells at Hondo, D'Hanis and Lacoste supply these towns with inexhaustible water by pumping. As a rule the rains are sufficient for ordinary farm crops, the average rangel at Hondo, U. S. gauge, being 29

inches per vear since 1899.

Among the wild fruits growing in the county are dewberries, plums and grapes. A fine claret wine is made from the native



Street Scene in D'Hanis, Texas-Sunset Route

Mustang grape. Game is still plentiful in this county and there is fine fishing and hunting.

Speaking of what Judge Haass, of Hondo, has accomplished in the way of fruit growing, a late press dispatch to the Express says: "In his orchard this horticulturist grows fifty different kinds of plums, eight varieties of pears, three varieties of apples and two varieties of apricots, and in the garden around his residence he has besides about one hundred varieties of roses, Black Spanish, Thompson's Seedless and White Niagara grapes, Japanese persimmons, the sweet kind of bearing pomegranates, Bismarck apples, several kinds of berries and eight varieties of figs." Hon. H. E. Haass, County Judge, was born and raised in Medina County. He is an enthusiastic horticulturist and one of the best known and respected citizens in the county. When necessary to do so he can irrigate his garden, orchard and vineyard from a well operated by wind-mill power.

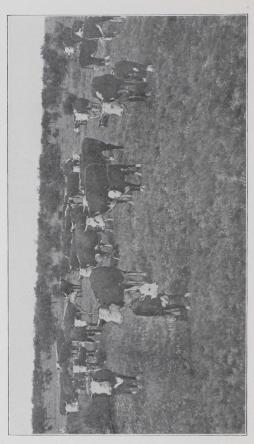
The locality is healthy, the death rate small and the dry air good for pulmonary troubles. Mineral and sulphur wells at D'Hanis and Castroville are highly recommended for various diseases. The population of Medina County is about 12,000, and property assessment (in 1908) estimated at \$9,000,000. The tax rate last year, 1907, was thirty cents on the \$100 valuation, the lowest rate of any in the State of Texas. Total indebtedness is \$40,000. There are forty good schools and \$30,000 invested in the permanent school fund. Telephone connection extends throughout the county. There is a good court house, four good steel bridges and plenty of good roads. The jail, as a rule, is empty, crime of any kind being seldom committed. The residents are progressive, liberal and hospitable, and welcome all good people seeking a new location.

Improved land sells at from \$5.00 to \$50.00 an acre, according to improvements and closeness to markets; unimproved land at from \$2.00 to \$6.00. About one-third of the county is held in large bodies for pasturage, but lately has been placed on the market. There is no State school land for sale in the county.

Hondo, the county seat and principal town, has a population of about 2,500, and is situated on the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway (Sunset Route) fifty miles west of San Antonio. It is a live business place and notable shipping point for queen bees and bee-keepers' supplies.

D'Hanis, a thrifty, growing town of 800 inhabitants, about ten miles west of Hondo, is noted for the fine quality of the brick manufactured there.

Castroville, the old county seat, situated on the Medina River about thirteen miles from the town of Lacoste, on the railroad, is the business center of a thickly settled and prosperous community. At this place the Sisters of Divine Providence conduct a large academy for girls. A roller mill, operated by water power from the Medina River, is also located here.



Cattle Scene Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

### FRIO COUNTY

(From San Antonio Express)

Frio County joins Medina County on the south, about twenty miles from the line of the Sunset Railroad.

Rather a startling set of statistics is given herein concerning conditions as they existed in 1906 in Frio County. It shows admirably the prosperity of the new Southwest and the magnifi-

cent possibilities of the farms when properly tended.

During the year there were shipped 358 cars of watermelons at an average of \$75.00 per car, which netted the farmers \$27,600. There were shipped 650 cars of live stock, valued at \$600 per car, which netted \$390,000. There were shipped 15,000 bales of cotton, which brought in \$750,000, or an average of \$50 per bale. The seed netted \$90,000.

There were 695 votes polled. This means that there was distributed from the sale of three products the sum of \$1,824 for each qualified voter in the county. This includes the people in the towns who were not producers, and probably means that every working adult farmer recieved from cotton, watermelons and live stock nearly \$3,000. This does not take into consideration the onions, vegetables, pecans, fruit, poultry and many other things that are raised on the farms of Southwest Texas.

Estimating the population on the basis of five people for every qualified voter, there are 3,475 people. The revenue from the three products mentioned meant the sum of \$8362 to every man, woman, boy, girl and baby in the county for that year. The rarity of the population shows that there is much land there yet for the homesecker.

### UVALDE COUNTY

(From San Antonio Express)

Uvalde County is situated in the central part of that famous and delightful territory known as Southwest Texas. It lies about ninety miles (to the county seat) almost due west of the City of San Antonio, and about seventy miles east of the Rio Grande River. In extent, it is approximately forty miles square, and is traversed from east to west by the main line of the Sunset Railroad. Its altitude is about 800 feet above sea level in the southern part of the county, and about 1,200 feet in the northern part. In the northern part are mountains, some of which rise four to six hundred feet above the country surrounding them.

It is traversed from north to south by the Nueces, the Leona, the Frio and Sabinal Rivers, into which a number of smaller streams flow.





These rivers rise in the mountains north of the county and are fed by mountain springs. The water is so perfectly clear and transparent that the fish may be seen at any time basking in its limpid beauty, ten feet beneath the surface. With their rapids and miniature falls, embellished by a dozen varieties of ferns; with their beautiful valleys framed in by modest mountain ranges, covered with a hundred varieties of shrubs and trees, they present landscape scenery which art can not portray.

In the southern part of the county the country is sufficiently level to render it susceptible of cultivation, and yet undulating enough to give it a perfect drainage. There are no starnant

pools of water.

Seventy-five per cent of the land in the southern half is fine farming land. The soil in some places is of that character known as black waxy land, while in other places it is lighter and mixed

with sand.

In the northern part the country is broken and mountainous, and only a small percentage of the land is tillable. However, along the many streams are beautiful valleys, varying in width from a few hundred yards to two and three miles. These valleys are level and the soil exceptionally fertile. The rough mountain lands afford excellent pasturage for the herds of cattle, goats and other live stock.

In the southern part excellent, healthful well-water may be obtained anywhere at a depth of thirty to one hundred feet. In the northern part well-water is not so easily obtained, except in the valleys, but may be gotten in many places at a depth of one to four hundred feet.

The climate is unsurpassed when considered as a whole; that is, for an all-year abode. It would be difficult indeed to find a place where the whole year could be more agreeably spent.

The nights are cool, bracing and refreshing and serve to reinvigorate and recuperate the system made tired and depressed by the labors of the day. This is one of the efficient causes of

the healthfulness of this country

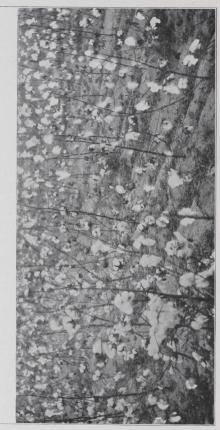
The winters are usually the dry seasons of the year and always mild. The thermometer rarely falls to the freezing point. It is not uncommon to see the grass green and flowers in bloom during Christmas week. The ranchmen expect when there is rain in the fall and early winter to have green grass all winter for their stock.

The healthfulness of the winter is one of its most marked characteristics. There is absolutely no malaria in the atmosphere, and there is no type of disease incident to the country.

All Southwest Texas is known as a health resort, and no part of it is better to preserve health than Uvalde County.

Its population is about 14,000, eighty per cent of which is American. There are a few Germans, who are among the best citizenship; a small percentage of Mexicans and a few negroes.

The people are intelligent, moral and progressive. The country schools are on a basis of seven grades, and most of them



A Field of Cotton, Southwest Texas—Sunset Route

are taught in comfortable houses, well furnished with modern

school furniture

There are three high schools maintained by the county with a course of study which prepares students for entrance into the Freshman class of most of the best colleges. The Uvalde High School is correlated with the University of Texas and with several of the denominational universities of the State, so that its graduates may enter such universities without examination.

Nearly every school district, by vote of its people, has levied a tax of twenty cents on the \$100 worth of property for maintenance purposes. All children between seven and seventeen years of age are entitled to attend school free of tuition.

In addition to school funds raised by local taxation the State this year contributes \$6.00 per capita for every child of

free school age.

In every neighborhood church buildings and church organizations are maintained. In the towns church facilities are equal to those of many large cities.

The moral tone of the citizens is up to the highest plane.

In the City of Uvalde one may retire at night leaving every door and window of the house open with no fear of burglary or other mischievous consequences; in fact, such is almost the universal custom here.

The tax rate for State, county and school purposes in most

districts is twenty cent

The products are perhaps more varied than those of any county in Texas. Among the most important may be mentioned cattle, horses, mules, sheep, hogs, Angora goats, farm products of all kinds, honey and pecans.

With the mild winters, cattle, horses, mules, sheep, goats and hogs may be raised and developed to perfection without any

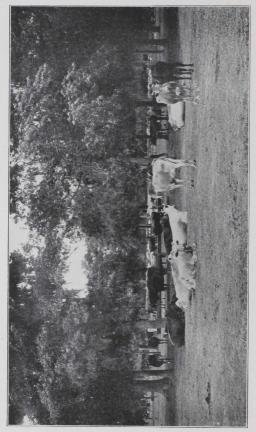
shelter other than such as nature furnishes.

Fat cattle are shipped to market at all times of the year, even in winter and early spring, having run at large in the pastures and fed upon the native grasses. Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of fat cattle have been shipped to market during the present year. The county is now well stocked with fine, blooded

cattle and the grade is being improved each year.

The bee industry is a very important factor in the material resources. They feed upon and gather their rich harvest from the native shrubs that grow in profusion on every hillside, and produce honey, than which there is none better. The finest grade is as white and clear as perfectly pure water: a pin may be seen at the bottom of a gallon jar filled with it. A farmer or ranchman may have upon his place a hundred colonies of bees and they will not require any of his time or attention except to take and care for the rich harvest which they bring him. One hundred colonies of bees, when the honey flow is bountiful, will produce \$1,000 to \$1,500 worth of honey.

There have been exported from this county during the present year about 3,000,000 pounds, which brings in the market



Jersey Cattle, Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

from seven to fifteen cents per pound, according to quality and manner of packing.

The Angora goat has found in this county conditions as favorable to his development as those of his native mountains of Western Asia or South Africa. It has been less than twenty years since the first were brought to the county, as an experiment. Now there are thousands, and it has been demonstrated that this climate and other conditions develop them to perfection and produce the best mohair. Several thoroughbred goats have been imported into this county direct from South Africa at a cost of from \$1,200 to \$1,600 each. They experienced no difficulty in becoming acclimated and thrived to the satisfaction of those interested. This year's clip of mohair is estimated to have brought to the goat raisers something like \$200,000. It sells in the market at twenty-five to forty cents per pound.

Pecans grow without care or culture all along the streams of water. This year's crop has not been gathered and marketed, but it is estimated that this county will ship \$75,000 worth of pecans this season.

Fruits of various kinds, such as peaches, apples, plums, pears and grapes, has been raised here successfully.

The farms produce corn, cotton, oats, millet, wheat, sorghum cane and other produce.

Only a small percentage of the tillable lands have as yet been put in cultivation. There are thousands of acres yet with the sod unturned that with proper working may be made to produce thirty to fifty bushels of corn or a bale of cotton per acre. These lands five years ago could have been bought for \$2.00 and \$3.00 per acre. They are now selling at \$10.00 to \$20.00 per acre and it is confidently believed that in a year or two they will command \$50.00 to \$75.00 per acre. Lands in other States and in other parts of Texas that are no richer, no more productive, are selling now at \$75.00 to \$100.00 per acre. Present conditions justify the belief that this county is rich in mineral deposits of various kinds.

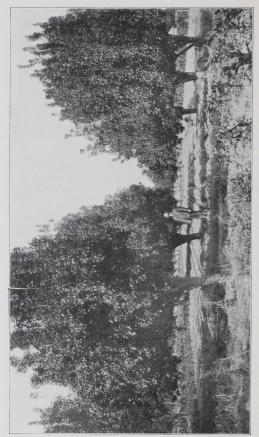
It is a known fact that there exists on the northern border one of the largest and purest beds of kaolin in the world. Plans are now matured and preparations being made to build a railroad to this mine for the purpose of developing and utilizing it.

As phalt has been found in the western part in inexhaustible quantities.

Outcroppings of coal have been found in several parts.

Surface indications point almost conclusively to the fact that oil lies hidden somewhere in this vicinity and only awaits discovery to return a rich reward to him who locates it.

Gold, silver, lead, copper and aluminum have been found. No well-directed, intelligent search has ever been made here to locate these mineral deposits, but it is confidently believed that



Farm Scene in Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

they, or some of them at least, are there in paying quantities

and only await development.

The City of Uvalde is the county seat. It has a population of 5,000, is beautifully located on the Leona River and its inhabitants are moral, intelligent, progressive American people. It is growing rapidly, having doubled in population and taxable values within the last four years. It has now three banks, an electric-light plant, waterworks, a steam laundry, a fine public school system, two newspapers, good churches and a number of mercantile houses of various kinds.

To those who are seeking new homes; to those who are wearied of toiling on barren and worn-out hills; to those who are seeking relief from the chilly blasts and icy homes of zeroclimate: to those who are seeking a new location for a home where health, happiness and prosperity may be enjoyed among an intelligent, moral and thrifty people: If you are honest, industrious, peaceable and law-abiding and are possessed of enough of this world's goods to prevent your becoming a burden to the community in which you live, this rich soil invites you; the unexcelled school system for your children invites you; the church houses in every town, village and neighborhood invite you: the hospitable, moral, intelligent and progressive citizenship invites you to Uvalde County. And when you arrive, you will be made welcome, and enthusiastically join in the effort to make of it what it is destined to be-one of the best countries in the world.

Note.—The foregoing statements have been prepared and are sent out under the auspices and by the authority of—

F. A. Piper, Merchant.

· I. L. Martin, Ex-District Judge.

W. D. Love, County Judge. L. Schwartz, Merchant.

I. L. Zachry, Merchant.

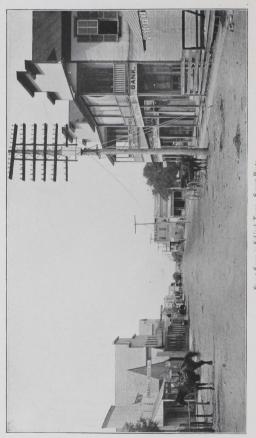
C. R. Myrick, Physician.

F. J. Rheiner, Cashier Uvalde National Bank.

Executive Committee of Business Men's Club of Uvalde.

### THE SABINAL COUNTRY

The development of the section of Uvalde County known as the "Sabinal Country" during the past few years has been wonderful, and few parts of Texas can boast of a more rapid and substantial growth. This district is famous for its agricultural, live stock, apiary, kaolin, cedar and other industries; the diversity of soil, fine timber; the mineral prospects; the growth of the bee culture; the fine crops, goats, cattle, horses, hogs, poultry and other industries of great importance. Thousands of tons of fine hay are produced and shipped annually. In fact, the Sabinal Country is now fully sustaining all the good things which have made it famous.



Street Scene in Sabinal, Texas-Sunset Route

The lands range in price from \$15.00 to \$30.00 per acre, according to the nature of the soil, distance from town, whether improved or unimproved, and other considerations. Unimproved ranch lands sell from \$3.50 per acre up. The average rainfall is from twenty-five to thirty inches annually.

Sabinal is the main shipping point for the kaolin from the celebrated mines at Leakey in Edwards County, near the Uvalde County line, now being worked by the United Kaolin Properties Company. The quality in this deposit is said to be the finest known, and chinaware made from it equals the famous Dresden.

No city west of San Antonio has made equal progress and material development. It has more than doubled in population in the past two years. Over two hundred new dwellings have been erected within the past year. Sabinal has educational facilities of the best class, embracing splendid graded schools and colleges, good hotels, churches, streets, waterworks, fire department and other modern improvements. Population over 2,000.

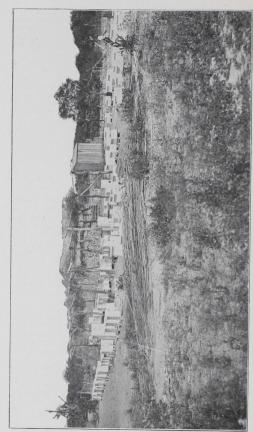
#### BEE-KEEPING INDUSTRY

Texas is the greatest honey-producing State and Uvalde County leads all other counties in this product. The output in Texas last year was 4,968,000 pounds. California came next with an output of 3,667,000 pounds, and New York third, with an annual output of 3,442,000 pounds. Missouri was fourth with an output of 3,918,929 pounds. Texas also stands first in the number of colonies of bees, 417,000. The crop brings an annual revenue of approximately \$500,000, the price for which it sells ranging from 8 to 10 cents a pound. In addition many thousand dollars' worth of bees are sold each year. These colonies are shipped to all parts of the United States and to foreign countries. A few months ago a shipment of queen bees was made from Uvalde to Australia.

The annual honey production in Uvalde County is more than 1,500,000 pounds, practically all of which is marketed at top prices. There are more than 15,000 colonies and the number is steadily increasing. The industry is so profitable that many men are engaged in it exclusively. The bees require comparatively little attention, the extracting of the honey being the

principal work involved in the business.

There is a large section of Southwest Texas that is peculiarly adapted to the apiary business. The ranch lands are covered with a thick growth of shrubs and plants which bloom profusely from February to December. The principal honey-producing blossoms are those of the guajilho, cat-claw, California sage, Mexican persimmon, guyacan, white chaparral, broomwood, mesquite, huisache and buffalo clover. These wild blossoms are fragrant and in the spring the air is permeated with the odor of them. The bees are able to gather honey during at least nine



A Southwest Texas Apiary—Sunset Route

months of the year. The honey which is produced from these wild blossoms has a delicious flavor and the demand for it in the

markets of the country is greater than the supply.

Fortunes are being made in the bee industry in Uvalde County and in other favored localities of Southwest Texas, where the wild flora is specially suited for the production of honey. A number of men who started into the business on limited capital a few years ago now have an annual net income of much more than \$10,000. One man can look after 1,000 colonies of bees, except during the harvesting period, when an assistant is needed. This assistant does not need to be an experienced hand. The average yield for each colony of bees is 100 pounds, worth from \$8.00 to \$10.00. Honey is one crop that seldom fails.

## HUNTING AND FISHING

The Uvalde Country is celebrated for its fine hunting and fishing. It is the center of a great region which is an ideal range for deer, and many hunting parties come here from great distances. President Roosevelt, when Governor of New York, visited Uvalde for the sole purpose of hunting the "Haverline," or wild hog, which inhabits the dense thickets which are common in some parts of this country. Bears, panthers, wild cats and wolves are to be found in the cedar brakes and caves, and coons, 'possums, squirrels and rabbits are common. Wild turkeys are to be found in some localities and quail and doves are numerous. In the fall, winter and spring wild ducks are plentiful on the rivers, ponds and lakes.

A good mess of fish can generally be caught on the river by the unskilled fisherman. Bass have been caught lately weighing over seven pounds, and catfish from twenty-five to forty pounds. The clear, sparkling waters of the Nueces and other streams in this region enable the angler to see many feet beneath the surface, and excellent sport is afforded by snaring buffalo and other fish. Among the varieties to be found in these rivers are bass or trout, channel and mud cat, perch, gaspergoo and garfish. Within easy distance of points on the railroad are a number of streams which afford plenty of sport and camping

places for recreation

The Sunset Railroad, which crosses Uvalde County, is the only railroad in this section of the State.

# ZAVALA AND DIMMIT COUNTIES

These two counties lie directly south of Uvalde County and the soil, timber, climate and other conditions are similar to those given in the description of the Uvalde Country. The



A Southwest Texas Thoroughbred, Uvalde County-Sunset Route

area embraced is tributary to the Sunset Railroad, Uvalde being the chief shipping point. During the past few years many large stock ranches and great cattle pastures have been opened for settlement in Zavala and Dimmit Counties and a number of successful colonies started.

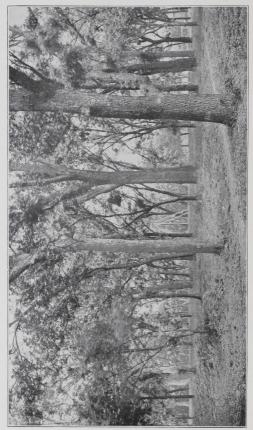
daily on trips to look at that country and to become acquainted with the agricultural and other conditions of that section, and where only immense herds of cattle formerly roamed the traveler now sees comfortable homes surrounded by cultivated fields and orchards. In that section of the State intelligent methods of farming are overcoming the disadvantages caused by the uncertainty of the rainfall and other drawbacks. In many parts of the world successful farming is carried on with far less annual moisture and under much less favorable conditions than those which exist in the great country west of the Nueces River and along the Rio Grande. Most of the new settlers are now practicing a different system to the old "Mexican and Mule" method under which farming operations in that region have been carried on until quite recently. The real difficulty connected with farming in what is sometimes referred to as the semi-arid belt of the Western States is not always the lack of rainfall, but the loss of so much moisture by evaporation, and it is now known that this can largely be controlled by proper cultivation and the simple, intelligent methods connected with so-called "dry land farming," which has produced such wonderful changes and results in many sections of the West.

With improved methods and a good class of farmers, great crops of cotton and other staple crops will be produced in the near future, and the development of the large artesian water areas will result in a rapid increase in the farming population and land values. These counties are situated in the great Southest Texas onion-growing district where such large profits have been made by those engaged in this industry with irrigation facilities.

It is predicted that this section will eventually become the best part of Texas for diversified farming. The best farming lands can still be bought for about \$10.00 per acre, and less than this price in large tracts, but this opportunity will not last always. NOW is the time to buy.

## KINNEY COUNTY

Kinney County, 130 miles from San Antonio, is the next west of Uvalde, and one of the famous sheep and stock counties of the State. Brackettville, the county seat, nine miles from Spofford Junction on the Sunset Railroad, is situated on the north side of Los Moras Creek, across which is Fort Clark, said to be one of the most healthful army posts in the United States.



Pecan Grove in Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

Spofford Junction is an important shipping point on the main line of the Sunset, from which a branch line leads to Eagle

Pass and Mexico.

The surface of the county is undulating, and comprises \$49,143 acres. For eighteen miles on the southwest it borders on the Rio Grande, and for eighteen miles on the west it borders on Sycamore Creek. With these two and several other waterways there are 150 miles of constantly running water and numerous lakes and water holes. Fine wells are to be had at from twenty-five to sixty feet in the level parts, and at from 250 to 500 feet in the hilly regions.

On account of its location and size Kinney is a county of diversified occupations, but chief of these is stock raising. In that it ranks among the best. The pastures are among the finest in West Texas and are always stocked with cattle of good grades. In the past two years over 600 carloads have been shipped out at

standard prices.

Kinney County can boast of some fine horses, numbers of them ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 a pair, being raised on the

Woodhull Ranch. A great many mules are also raised.

The Angora goat business is rapidly increasing and is profitable. About fifteen carloads of goats and five carloads of mohair, at an average of thirty-three cents a pound, have been shipped this year.

There are about 42,000 sheep in the county, averaging fourteen carloads of wool a year. About ten carloads of sheep have

been shipped this year

Bee culture is a leading occupation, fully 200,000 pounds of honey being sent out annually at from six cents to ten cents a

pound

The average rainfall is twenty-three and one-half inches. Of the 10,000 acres under cultivation only about 4,000 are irrigated. The chief farm products are hay, corn, and cane. The annual supply of hay at Fort Clark, about 1,000 tons, being supplied by this county.

The wood supply of both Brackettville and Fort Clark—3,500 cords or more a year—is cut in the county. About five

carloads of charcoal are shipped yearly

Around Brackettville are several splendid truck farms which, besides shipping locally, furnish the towns and Fort Clark with all the vegetables and fruits in season.

Another resource is its pecan crop, which though not very

heavy, is of good quality.

Cotton raising is in its infancy and only about 450 acres have been cultivated, but the acreage will be increased next year.

The mineral resources are rich and varied, but the lack of sufficient capital has hindered their development. Gold, silver, coal and kaolin have been discovered—gold within a mile of Brackettville.

Land is still to be bought cheap, the following being a general estimate of values: Pasturage, from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per



Scenery in Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

acre; farming lands, from \$6.00 to \$12.00 per acre; in Brackettville the residence lots are valued at from \$25.00 to \$100.00, but these prices will continue to increase. During the past year over 100,000 acres have changed hands, thus showing that Kinney County is coming to the front.

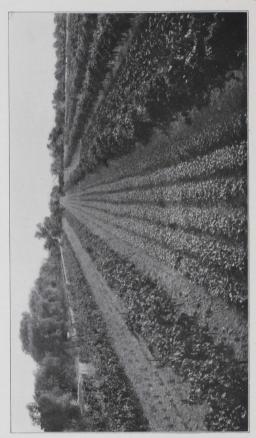
## MAVERICK COUNTY

Maverick County is located on the east side of the Rio Grande River on the Mexican border, directly south of Kinney County. The surface is gently rolling, except near the Rio Grande, where the plain breaks into rough hills that overlook a valley one-half to a mile wide, bordering the river. The general character of the soil is a sandy loam with a rich alluvium in the valley. The rainfall is of doubtful quantity, making farming without irrigation an uncertain proposition, and for this reason most of the land is classed as grazing land, or non-agricultural, for lack of reliable water supply. Cattle, sheep and goat raising are leading and profitable industries, and immense crops are raised on the irrigated lands along the river.

The successful products include corn, cotton, alfalfa, hay, sugar cane, beans, Irish potatoes and other vegetables. Some extraordinary yields of onions have been made. Pecans, olives, figs, grapes and other fruits thrive with irrigation, and there are hundreds of acres of irrigable land that will produce wealth for the industrious farmer.

. Several coal mines are being operated and the importance of the bituminous coal measures of Maverick County are now attracting the attention they deserve.

Eagle Pass, the county seat, is a well-planned city of about 3,500 inhabitants. It is built on ground ranging from fifty to one hundred feet above the river and 720 feet above the sea level. It has a splendid water supply and a reputation for health and cleanliness among the cities bordering on Mexico. A large trade is done with Mexico, and commercially and financially Eagle Pass occupies an important and assured position. There are a number of fine modern stores, churches and public buildings substantially built of brick and stone. The residential portion of the city, with its comfortable homes surrounded by lawns, shrubbery and shade trees, equals in elegance and appearance that of any other city in the State. The warm summers are tempered by the Gulf breezes, making the nights cool and sleep refreshing. Sunstrokes never occur here. The winters are mild and pleasant. Education is well provided for in both public schools and private academies. Many improvements are being made and new buildings erected. There are many opportunities in Eagle Pass and Maverick County for men with capital who know how to DO things.



Vineyard and Truck Farm in Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

### VAL VERDE COUNTY

Val Verde County is one of the largest in this State. It stretches for a distance of approximately eighty miles in either direction and has within its confines an area of 2,067,840 acres. The taxable values for the present year total the handsome sum of \$7,000,000, and this of itself is conclusive proof of the marvelous development and rapid growth which has characterized this particular section.

The distinguishing feature of Val Verde County is its inexhaustible supply of pure water. The Rio Grande forms the entire southern boundary, and into its banks is poured a vast volume of water from the many perennial streams, which in the main have their origin within the county's limits. San Felipe Springs are a marvel and Devil's River is, perhaps, the most picturesque and fascinating stream in this or any other country.

The surface of the county is generally hilly, except the Rio Grande Valley and the numerous mesquite flats which are found scattered all over the county. The soil ranges from black to a dark, sandy, chocolate loam and is capable of producing all kinds of semi-tropical vegetation with sufficient moisture. Cedar, pecan and mesquite timber is plentiful in many sections.

Several thousand acres are now in cultivation and watered from adjacent streams. There are many more thousand acres of irrigable land only waiting to be developed. The area in cultivation is gradually being extended and ere long many thousands of acres will be vielded over to the tillers of the soil.

Nearly the whole of the county is admirably adapted to the raising of live stock. The hills and valleys are covered with native grasses and a greater variety of grazing vegetation than can be found elsewhere in Texas. Hundreds of thousands of horses, cattle, sheep, goats and hogs graze over the pastures and water at the streams. It claims the distinction of being the "banner sheep county" of the State. The grass fed mutton commands the highest prices in the northern markets, and the wool is regarded as the best that goes to the eastern factories.

Val Verde County is blessed with a wealth of irrigated farms, gardens, orchards, and vineyards. More than 8000 acres are now under ditch on which are growing corn, cotton, alfalfa, sugar cane, oats, watermelons, cantaloupes, onions, cabbage, sweet and Irish potatoes, and all varieties of vegetables known to truck farming. Failure is unknown, as an abundant supply of water is always available for the preparation of the soil for planting. The bulk of this water is obtained from San Felipe Springs. Orchards are to be found whose trees in season are laden with peaches, pears, apples, plums, quinces, apricots, pomegranates and figs. Figs are prolific, three crops a year being the average yield. Val Verde County is the natural home of the Mission grape and its vineyards produce hundreds of thousands of pounds



Goat Ranch in Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

which are largely consumed in the manufacture of wine. Its quality is of the best and hundreds of barrels are shipped annually.

Poultry and hog raising are profitable industries.

A few persons in this county have embarked in the bee culture and are now producing honey for the market. The honey made is of the best quality, owing to comparatively dry weather and abundant growth of flowers, shrubs and blossoms on which the bees feed.

During the past year there were shipped from Del Rio, the county seat, approximately 150 cars of hay and 300 cars of live stock. Several cars of ribbon cane syrup were also shipped.

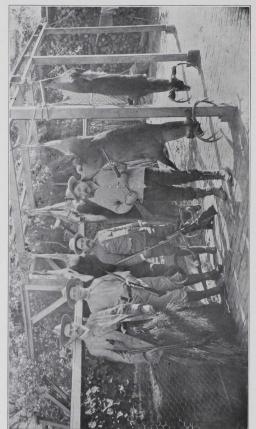
### HUNTING AND FISHING

No place on earth is more nearly a "Sportsman's Paradise" than is the country adjacent to Del Rio. Being situated near the Mexican border gives the lovers of sport opportunities for hunting not found elsewhere, as Mexico abounds in game of all kinds, none of which is protected at any season of the year. Across the Rio Grande are as fine streams as can be found on the continent. They are fed by large springs, the same as are the streams on this side, and are all clear water. Here you will find the finest bass fishing in the South. Devil's River is but a short distance west from Del Rio. Its waters are clear as crystal and abound in bass, in fact, fish of all kinds. Here the fisherman can enjoy life to the fullest extent. Its banks are skirted by a dense growth of pecan trees, affording abundant shade for the enjoyment of camp life. Climatic conditions are ideal for out-door life, and the person who is "run-down" from too arduous work, by spending a few weeks in camping, fishing and hunting on this beautiful stream, will be entirely rejuvenated and return to his labors feeling that Devil's River, with its delightful climate, has made a "new man" of him, and he leaves

Game abounds on both sides of the Rio Grande and the huntsman can take his choice. Small game consists of turkey, duck, snipe, plover, squirrel, quail and doves; bear and deer are also plentiful. On the Mexican side, all species of game may be killed at any time and this affords to the sportsman

advantages found in but few places.

The many truck farms, gardens and orchards skirting the edge of the city make it an ideal place for the location of a CANNING FACTORY. Owing to the large dairy interests and their close proximity to abundant pastures a CREAMERY would be a profitable investment. Del Rio being the center of the great wool-producing section of the State, marketing approximately 2,000,000 pounds of wool annually, is suitably situated for the establishment of a WOOLEN MILL. The mildness of climate, evenness of temperature, dryness of atmosphere and



Hunting is Good in Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

abundance of pure water cause it to be admirably adapted to the erection of a SANITARIUM. Clays near the edge of town are especially adapted to the manufacture of a high grade of brick and a BRICK PLANT would become a profitable industry.

There is an abundance of limestone and building stone; also some large deposits of red and yellow ochre and important oil

indications in several parts of the county.

## TAXATION AND VALUES

The taxable values of Val Verde County aggregate \$4,000,000 The rate for all purposes is \$1.03 on the \$100 valuation. Lands range in price from \$1.50 to \$5.00 per acre for grazing and from \$50.00 to \$300.00 per acre for irrigated lands.

Val Verde County offers particularly favorable inducements

to homeseekers and investors.

#### **DEL RIO**

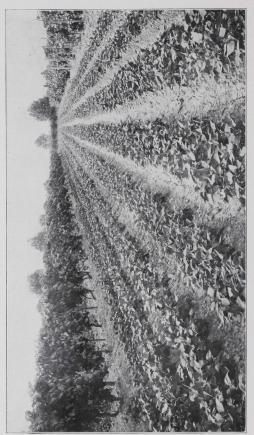
Del Rio is the county seat of Val Verde County and is situated on the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway, 170 miles west of San Antonio and but two miles from the Mexican border. The present population is 7,500 as against 1,200 some seven or eight years ago. It has eighteen miles of well graded and macadamized streets, many of which are lined with a luxu-

right growth of over-hanging shade trees

Three large stocks of general merchandise, aggregating over \$80,000, besides more than fifty other stores and enterprises, supply not only the local demand, but also a section tributary to Del Rio of over 100 miles in every direction. Del Rio has two National banks with a capital stock and surplus of \$170,000 and deposits of \$372,000; has a \$40,000 waterworks plant; a \$20,000 telephone exchange; two weekly newspapers; nine churches; a splendid public school system; a Catholic academy and other private schools, and being the division point on the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway has the benefit of a monthly pay roll ranging from \$25,000 to \$35,000. But Del Rio still has room for every enterprise that would be good for a progressive people.

# **SCHOOLS**

The student population of Del Rio is 2,000 and is constantly increasing. Thirty thousand dollars will be expended in the erection of new buildings and additional funds provided for the maintenance of the schools. The best is none too good for the people of Del Rio and the citizens are determined that the High School shall rank second to none in the State.



Winter Garden in Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

#### CLIMATE

The climate is ideal, owing to the moderate elevation (969 feet above sea level), comparative dryness of the atmosphere and evenness of temperature, which ranges from 40 to 60 degrees in winter and from 75 to 95 degrees in summer. Rainfall is moderate, varying from twenty to thirty inches annually and is well distributed throughout the year. As a health resort this section has long since established its reputation.

### CUSTOMS AND COURTS

Del Rio is a port of entry of the first class from Old Mexico, and is also a port for bonded goods in transit to Mexico. A full corps of custom officials and immigration inspectors is maintained here at all times. Del Rio is also the meeting place of the Federal Court for the Western District of Texas.

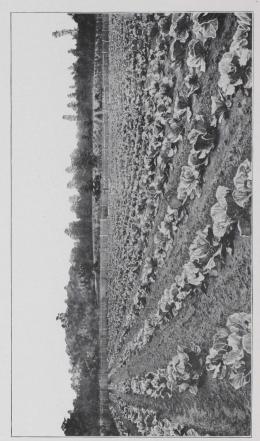
Comstock and Langtry are important shipping points in Val Verde County and headquarters for sheep men and stock men.

## SHEEP AND GOAT RAISING INDUSTRIES

In connection with the industries of this particular portion of the Sunset territory importance must be given the sheep and goat industries and the growing and marketing of wool and mohair. These are important branches of the great live stock business of the State and play a considerable part in the production of revenues. The sheep business is claimed by sheepmen to be one of the best paving pursuits that a person can engage in, and that the business can be handled with less capital and produces a larger percentage of profit for the money invested than almost any other business or any other branch of the live stock industry, except possibly that of goats. Certainly it is very profitable and the products are almost the equivalent of cash, as the sheepman finds a ready sale for his wool and his mutton. Texas is an especially favorable State for sheep. The winters are mild, necessitating little or no shelter. There is an abundance of water, land for lease at low prices, plenty of cheap labor and good local markets for wool and muttons.

Most of the sheep in Texas came originally from Mexican ewes, bred up and improved by the use of Merino bucks.

Texas wool is classed as "fine," as a rule, and is greatly sought after in the northern markets. It has less defects, less dirt and grease than wools from almost any other State. The spring clip forms two-thirds to three-fourths of the entire year's clip in Texas. This is occasioned by the majority of the sheepmen shearing in the spring, while those who shear in the fall clip



Cabbage field in Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

but lightly in order that the sheep may have sufficient protection

through the winter.

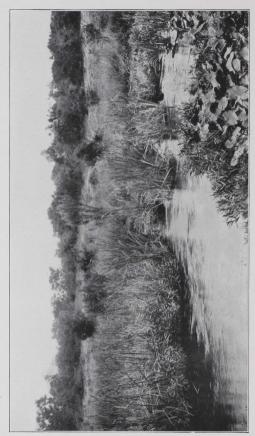
The sheep business is one of the few industries in which a person can commence with a small capital and by economy and close attention to the details acquire a competency. Instances are numerous in Texas of young men starting in with a few head of sheep or with a flock of sheep belonging to other people, for the care of which they obtained a share of the increase, and in

a few years becoming wealthy.

The importance of the goat industry in Texas may be appreciated when it is noted that Texas leads all the States in the Union in the number of goats and the production of mohair. the browse and grasses of this State, particularly in the western and southwestern portions, are especially favorable. There is much land in Texas especially adapted to the goat business. In the western and southwestern parts of Texas there is land which is not suitable for cattle or sheep and is yet the most suitable for goats. Goats thrive best on brushy land, rocky and hilly, and this may be purchased at a low figure or leased at a low rental. This industry, therefore, presents exceptional opportunities for the man with small capital who may start on a modest scale and with close attention and economy may watch his flocks grow, until in a few years he is independent. This industry is growing. Many cattlemen are running them with cattle and combining the two profitably. Goats are especially serviceable to the cattleman in clearing land of brush and rendering it suitable for grazing of cattle, and they enrich the land at the same time. There are many exclusive goat ranches and the proprietors are enthusiastic advocates of this industry and assert that it is far more profitable than cattle or sheep raising. There are many flocks of the pure blood or nearly pure bred Angora in Texas, but most are bred up from Mexican does with Angora bucks, although comparatively little of the original stock remains and the present flocks are nearly all of Angora blood.

There is a strong demand for mohair and it finds a ready sale. Texas mohair brings from twenty-five to forty cents a pound for the good quality. Hair from the common or Mexican goat brings eighteen to twenty cents a pound. The flesh of the Angora is preferred by many people to mutton. The skins make beautiful rugs, and there is always a ready sale for these undressed at \$1.00 to \$2.00 each. There are a number of tanners in this State who do a thriving and profitable business in tanning

these skins.-Galveston News.



San Felipe Springs, Del Rio, Texas-Sunset Route

# THE TRANS-PECOS REGION

## TERRELL AND PECOS COUNTIES

Pecos County, formerly one of the largest in Texas, has recently been divided, the southern part being cut off and called Terrell County. The greater part of Terrell is composed of wide table lands and rough "divides," with numerous canyons and rocky hills of limestone formation in the Rio Grande section, which river is the southern boundary of the county, with part of Brewster County. The soil generally is light loam and where water can be used it is very fertile. While crops are sometimes raised in this section under natural conditions the lack of sufficient rainfall makes ordinary farming an uncertain proposition. It is good grazing land and chiefly occupied by stockmen and sheep and goat raisers. The decrease in moisture and difference in soil texture and other conditions causes a gradual change in the character of the vegetation of this region, from that in the counties further east, which first becomes noticeable about Devil's River. This new plant growth, which thrives and flourishes under the changed conditions, includes several varieties of coarse grasses, shrubs, plants cacti, agaves and vuccas, including the celebrated Sotol, or Bear grass, which is so much valued by cattlemen and which covers immense areas in these counties, providing splendid feed for sheep, goats and stock of all kinds. Another important and valuable plant of this section is the lechuguilla, an agave from which the well known ixtle fibre of commerce is produced. In a bulletin issued by the Texas University it is estimated that the area covered by lechuguilla in the Trans-Pecos region exceeds 20,000 square miles. The utilization of this and other fibre plants of commercial value which grow here will be important features in connection with the development of the natural products and industries of this part of the Sunset ter-

The northern portion of Pecos County consists of broad valleys and low ranges of hills, with fertile soil and shallow water. Along the streams and creeks there is much land under irrigation, and fine crops of corn, cotton, alfalfa, vegetables and fruits are produced. The cotton raised in this section is of exceedingly fine quality and famous for its extra long staple. Heretofore there has been little farming without irrigation in Pecos County, owing to the fact that in the north central part which is most thickly settled, there is an abundance of water from the various creeks and artesian wells. However, reports



Pecos Viaduct-Sunset Route

state that "dry-land farmers" have recently moved into that part of the county, where they have taken up land, and by intelligent cultivation produced good crops. The Pecos River is a wonderful stream and drains and irrigates a vast scope of country. The climate is fine and healthy; there is good fishing and hunting, magnificent scenery and pure atmosphere. In boring wells for water many evidences of mineral wealth have been found. These counties have never been properly explored for minerals, and it is the opinion of experienced miners that careful investigations will result in important discoveries.

Fort Stockton, the county seat, distance seventy-two miles from Sanderson, is situated near Comanche Creek, which has its source in several large and beautiful springs in the middle of the county. Sanderson, the county seat of Terrell, is a division point on the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway (Sunset Route), with a population of about 1,000. It is the business center and trading point for a large territory; head-quarters for wool buyers and shipping point for cattle, sheep, goats, wool, etc. Prospectors and visitors to Southwest Texas should stop off at Sanderson, where they will find much to interest them and be able to obtain reliable information in regard to the future possibilities of this great region.

## **DRY-LAND FARMING**

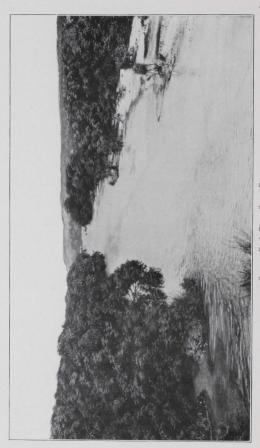
The Possibilities of Dry-Land Farming in the Trans-Pecos Country

The rich soil of West Texas, with a climate unsurpassed for health and innumerable other blessings and advantages, and which has been lying idle for years, is now coming to the front.

The soil of these valleys is a rich humus, sometimes almost black, in other places reddish with the iron from the hills that promises strength to the stalk of growing grain and body and firmness to the kernel. In places there is considerable sand in the soil; it will compact nicely under pressure and shows to be fertile and easily worked.

It is hard to tell what these soils will not do—accumulated from the rain-washed mountain slopes, enriched by the tall grasses and wealth of plant life that ripened and rotted as the seasons rolled around through the long centuries before the white man came to this then far-off land.

Times change and we change with them. With the change of seasons customs change. We can profit by the experience of others. The same class of men inhabit this country today as years ago pronounced the Austin country, the Fort Worth prairies and the plains of Central Texas barren, because they did not try to cultivate them. Look at those fruitful lands



Scene on Devils River-Sunset Route

today, and remember that in the memory of many those lands were offered for one-tenth what they are worth today.

Experiments in so-called "dry-land farming" have proven incontestibly that paying crops can be raised with far less rainfall than was thought necessary.

The principle which underlies this system is one that has been proven practical and accepted by the farmers in the West, namely that water enough falls on the land, but not always at the right time for the growth and maturing of a crop, hence the water that otherwise would go to waste must be conserved.

By plowing the land the run-off is arrested and the waters sink into the soil. By stirring the surface, evaporation, or drying out of the land below, is retarded if not entirely prevented.

For instance, in Central Texas in the early eighties the rainfall on the rolling prairies ran off into the streams and water courses and floods occurred in April and September. Later on the farmers tore up the surface of the valley lands along the creeks and the floods were lessened. These waters stopped in the fields where they would do most good. Soon the farmers who at first could count on not more than one good crop in three years were assured of a fair return each year for the labor spent on the farm, because the subsoil was saturated by the run-off retained in their fields by the furrows their energy and foresight had made. Today Central Texas, once listed in the semi-arid regions, is now accounted among the certain and most fruitful of the farming districts of the State. There thoughtful, observant, working men have made a grand success of garden, farm and orchard and their experience MAY be repeated here.

History repeats itself and the chances are that the plains of Southwest Texas, with their fertile soil and marvelous climate, will some day be recognized as one of the most productive regions

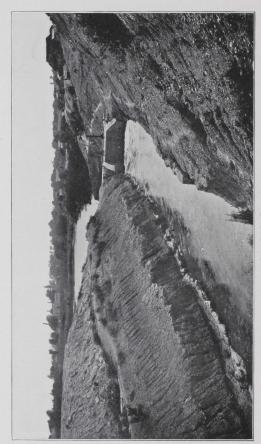
of the great Southwest

These lands can be bought today at from \$1.50 to \$3.50 an acre and will more than double in value when farming shall

have proven a success in this new and untried field.

The method of "dry-land farming," which has proven so wonderful a factor in the utilization of these western lands, is well set forth in an article in the Century Magazine for July, 1906:

"After the land has been deeply plowed, the under-soil packed by the subsoil packer, and the surface harrowed and pulverized, a full year should elapse before the first crop is planted in order to obtain the best results. This season is needed for the collecting and storing of waters. Instead of draining off the surface or evaporating, as they have done for ages, these waters sink into the reservoir prepared for their reception. As soon as the surface is dry enough the ground is harrowed over again and again to place the soil mulch in proper condition. This is repeated after each rain until seeding time arrives. The seed is then drilled in just deep enough to place it below the soil



Irrigation Canal, Del Rio Texas-Sunset Route

mulch in the moist, compacted soil beneath, causing germination

in the quickest possible time.

"After planting, the dry farmer does not trust to luck and Providence to do the rest, and blame it all on the weather if the final result is failure; but he continues to harrow over the ground after each rainfall until the growing crop is too far advanced to permit of this without causing destruction. By this time it covers the ground fairly well, protecting to some extent from the sun and hot winds, and making the constant loosening of the soil mulch less imperative. No matter how long a time must elapse before the planting of the next crop, the ground is harrowed over after every rain, but never when it is dry.

"It has been thoroughly demonstrated that rational dry farming methods, as above outlined, will produce from three to five times the results of ordinary farming methods on the

same lands.

"The United States Department of Agriculture, the governments of the various States in which vacant public lands are located, and the great trans-continental railroads owning land grants, have awakened to a realization of the importance of 'dry-land farming,' or scientific soil culture, which means more to the people of the United States than do all of the costly irrigation projects now under way or projected for the future.

"It has been demonstrated on half a score of experiment stations, on as many more model farms maintained by western railroads, and on hundreds of private farms, that all that is necessary on the plains and in the inter-mountain parks and valleys is intelligently to make the most of the rains and snows that fall in order to grow as good crops as can be raised anywhere. In other words, farming methods must be adapted to

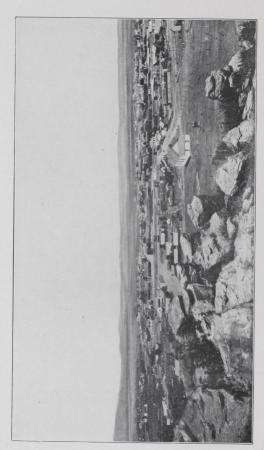
natural conditions.

"Probably there is no exaggeration in the statement made by one writer that the region between the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, bounded on the south by the Rio Grande and on the north by the Canadian border, is capable of producing fruits, cereals, vegetables and live stock sufficient for the support of the entire present population of the globe. This vast area of fertile, and as yet almost unutilized land, is the foundation upon which the American people must build for a continuance of

their prosperity for at least a century to come.

"Among the crops proved to be particularly adapted to cultivation on the high, dry plains are dwarf milo maize, alfalfa, Kaffir corn, proso, emmer, Swedish oats, beardless barley, and several native grasses. More important than any of these, however, is durum, or macaroni wheat. It will not thrive in humid regions, requiring for its most perfect development a dry climate and semi-arid land. Experiments conducted by the Colorado State Agricultural College last year, at Littleton, in El Paso County, resulted in an average yield of forty-seven bushels to the acre, without irrigation.

"Hundreds of striking instances of successful farming by



Alpine, Brewster County, Texas-Sunset Route

the methods of the Campbell system of soil culture might be cited."

This is certainly a most interesting matter and well worthy of investigation by the farmer and the landowner. The few facts quoted above show how energy properly applied, under the guidance of observation and experience, has won a foremost place in the ranks of richly producing farmlands for the once despised and neglected valleys, parks and prairies of this western land.

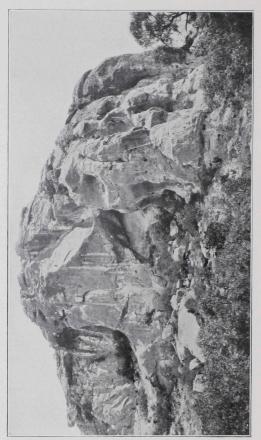
#### BREWSTER COUNTY

After crossing the south corner of Pecos County the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway (Sunset Route) enters Brewster County which, with Presidio on the west, comprises a considerable area of the United States, which is bounded on three sides by Old Mexico. Brewster dips from the latitude of Austin down into the Republic of Mexico, to a latitude south of Galveston. It is a region totally unlike all the others of Texas

and in size is equal to the average of other States.

Mountain ranges, separated by broad, fertile valleys, cover nearly the entire county. These mountains are of volcanic formation and a number of craters, very young, as geology counts, are left as reminders of the ages gone by. Many of these elevations range from 5,000 to 8,000 feet high, and one group, the Chisos, has peaks 9,000 feet above sea level. In some sections the older lime rock caps the uneven surface, in others the mountains are of porphyritic formation and in others, notably the southern end of the county, there is a grand, wild mixture of different periods. In this last region particularly is there vast wealth of minerals. Gold, silver, iron, quicksilver, lead, zinc, copper and other valuables are in paying quantities. Great fields of splendid bituminous coal lie near the Rio Grande, cropping out on the surface. In mineral development the only mines of consequence now being worked are the Cinnabar at Terlingua, Big Bend, and in that section. These mines are operated on a considerable scale and they are shipping out large quantities of quicksilver. Granite and marble of various colors and excellent quality are found in various parts of the county. About fifteen miles southwest of Alpine is a solid mountain of marble, now being developed. This varies in color from black to pure white, and is said by experts to be equal to the product of the celebrated Carrara quarries in Italy, which some of it closely resembles.

The valleys are all exceedingly fertile, with a deep, rich soil where almost any crop will grow well with irrigation. In some localities where the moisture comes near the surface ordinary farm crops are produced during favorable seasons without irrigation. The soil and climate are peculiarly well adapted to fruit growing, and the products of this valley have long been noted for their size and delicious flavor. Apples from the famous irri-



Mountain near Marfa, Texas-Sunset Route

gated orchards in this region have taken first prizes at State fairs on different occasions and premiums have also been awarded to Brewster County onions, Irish potatoes, pumpkins, etc. The principal crops grown are prairie hay, corn, sorghum, Kaffir corn and alfalfa. Watermelons and vegetables thrive and truck gardeners in the Alpine Valley are uniformly successful.

Very little has been attempted in the way of farming. This is largely due to the fact that the lands have been held by lease and otherwise in big ranches. Since the school lands have been coming on the market the country is settling up. Stock-raising is the principal industry, the entire county being especially well adapted to the purpose. There is excellent grazing throughout the greater portion. Cattle keep fat here during the winter months and the grade of stock raised is as high as that in any country. Brewster will always be a stock country, even though the valley regions in the northern part are converted into farms.

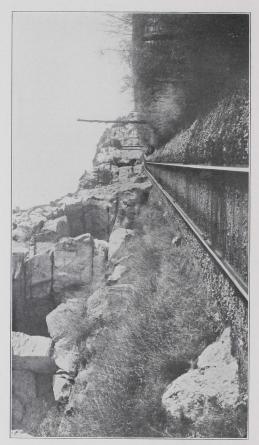
The timber consists of mountain oak, pinion, cedar and mesquite, with some ash.

Alpine is a beautiful town of about 2,000 people, the county seat of Brewster. It is situated on the Sunset Route, 400 miles west of San Antonio and 222 miles east of El Paso. No town in Texas has a more beautiful natural location. It rests in a level, circular valley, surrounded by tall mountains of picturesque grandeur. The altitude of the valley is 4,476 feet above sea level, while some of the surrounding mountains rise to a height of 8,000 feet. The atmosphere is dry and absolutely pure, and séems charged with magnetic currents that lend a bracing and invigorating influence to the system. The scenery is magnificent. The mean annual temperature is 60 degrees, 75 degrees in summer and 44 degrees in winter. There are no extremes, and no more perfect health resort could be imagined.

Owing to the abundance of water near the surface, beautiful flower yards are rather the rule than the exception in Alpine, and nearly every home has its own orchard of select fruit. Fine springs gush out of the sides of the mountains to the southwest of the town.

Alpine has good schools, churches, handsome public buildings, wide streets, electric lights and other modern improvements. The society is excellent and a number of social clubs add to the attractiveness of the town as a place of residence and a summer and winter resort.

One of the new industries in this section is the manufacture of rubber from the Guayule, a plant which abounds in some parts of this and adjoining counties. Much of the future greatness of Brewster County will undoubtedly come from the development of its mining industries. The minerals of this region constitute a rich and valuable resource. What Brewster County most needs is good people to help develop the many resources of this abundantly favored region.



Scene in Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

Lands in Brewster County sell at from \$1.00 to \$3.00 an acre as a rule. Close to the railroad towns, and notably about Alpine, the rich valleys bring much more. As high as \$15.00 an acre has recently been paid for a valley section near Alpine, and much of it is held at \$20.00. The general range of prices is from \$1.50 to \$2.50 an acre. The State sells school lands, eight sections to the settler, at from \$1.50 to \$5.00 on forty years' time, three per cent interest.

Next to Alpine, Marathon is the largest town in the county, with about 500 people. It is located on the Sunset Route thirtytwo miles east of Alpine. A large Guayule, or rubber, factory has been established there, and a company has just been organized to develop a recent discovery of oil which promises rich

results.

In the Marathon country there are great areas of fine, level land with rich soil on which the right kind of farmers are producing fine crops, fruits and vegetables, with little irrigation. In especially favorable seasons very little water is necessary on account of the composition of the soil. In this connection the following extract from a letter dated August 13, 1908, received from Mr. H. F. Straw, who lives at Taber, about twenty miles

east of Marathon, is of particular interest:

"This year I planted cantaloupes which are now maturing with fine vines and excellent fruit, which average in weight from ten to twelve pounds each. I also raised a small patch of corn, which grew to a height of eight feet and produced three fine ears to the stalk. Also put in a patch of sorghum and Kaffir corn which is doing nicely. By planting with the rain so as to give the seed a start, almost any vegetation will grow here to great advantage with but little irrigation."

# PRESIDIO COUNTY

Presidio County is directly west of Brewster, the Rio Grande River forming the southern and western boundaries, with Jeff Davis County on the north. The surface of the northern and central parts consists of alternate hills and broad valleys. The valley soil is rich and fertile, and while it contains remarkable drought-resisting qualities, the conditions at the present time in regard to agriculture and horticulture are similar to those which exist in Brewster and other counties in the Trans-Pecos region, where the rainfall is too irregular to ensure crops without irrigation. The rains generally come from June to October, and during this period great washing rainfalls often deluge the country. This county is noted as a stock-raising country, but the introduction of "dry-land farming" methods and the establishment of the proposed agricultural experiment stations and demonstration farms in the near future will undoubtedly develop wonderful results for this section. In nearly all parts of the level



Scene Along the Rio Grande-Sunset Route

country water can be obtained by digging from 25 to 200 feet and windmills bring the water to the surface. Some of the owners of the big ranches are now cutting up their pastures and offering them to settlers on reasonable terms, and much school land has recently been placed on the market by the State. It is predicted that when the actual settlers come to this country thousands of acres of valley land will be placed under irrigation. Kaffir corn, beans, etc., on cultivated land which is subject to overflow during the summer rains. Live stock of all kinds portion of this county is broken and mountainous. The Rio Grande Valley in Presidio County covers many thousands of acres of exceedingly rich land. Here two crops a year are procane, sorghum, peanuts, watermelons, sweet potatoes and all crops. There is considerable timber in the mountains, chiefly consisting of oak and cedar, sufficient for fuel and farm purposes, and mesquite and cottonwood on the Rio Grande. The mountainous districts are rich in minerals, principally gold, silver, zinc, lead and copper. Numerous claims have been located and mining is being carried on successfully. The development of the mineral sections in this county is still in its infancy, but the future possibilities of the mining industries are great and their magnitude and importance can hardly be estimated. Geologists of national reputation have said that no State has larger or more varied mineral resources awaiting their development.

Marfa, the county seat of Presidio County, an important business center, health resort and shipping point on the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway (Sunset Route), with a population of over 2,000, is a posperous little city with all modern improvements and the distributing point for an immense territory. Supplies are hauled by wagon trains from Marfa to Fort Davis on the north, south and southeast to Shafter and the Terlingua mining districts and to Presidio, an important town on the Rio Grande. Shafter and Fort Davis are also reached by daily stage lines. The elevation of Marfa is 4,696 feet. It has good water, a climate unsurpassed for health seekers and tourists; the roads for a hundred miles in most directions being especially favorable and suited for automobile traveling, for which Marfa is famous. It has one of the finest court houses in the State, broad streets, good hotels, opera house, department stores, clubs, schools, churches and society.

The importance of climate in its relation to health is a recognized fact by the medical fraternity, and climatology is becoming a scientific study; but climate alone does not establish a health resort. The place so offering must be of easy access, having good accommodations, and pleasant, comfortable envi-



Onion Field in Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

ronments, and above all it must have two essentials—PURE AIR and PURE WATER. Marfa has these.

There are plenty of deer and other game in the mountains for hunters and sportsmen. Formerly the antelope in great herds roamed the plains hereabout, and they are still frequently seen, being protected by the game laws of the State.

Shafter, a busy mining town, is situated about fifty miles southwest. A rich silver mine being worked there has been a fine producer for twenty-five years and furnishes employment for

a large number of people.

The people of María extend a hearty welcome to strangers and always take pleasure in presenting the opportunities and advantages of that section to prospectors and investors.

The best quality of land can be bought for \$2.00 to \$5.00

per acre.

#### **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**

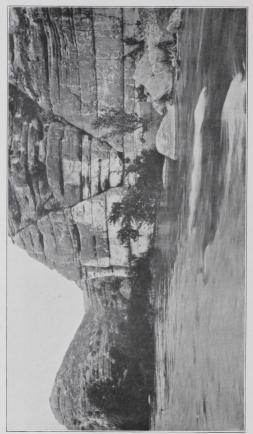
Jeff Davis County joins Brewster and Presidio on the north, the Sunset Route crossing the southwest corner of the county.

The surface of the north half is mountainous. The southern part is mostly level. Mount Livermore, in the northern portion, is over 10,000 feet above the lea sevel. The soil in the level portion is deep brown loam, and in the creek bottoms black land. It has about 14,000 acres of timbered land, consisting of cedar, oak, pine, pecan, juniper, cherry, ash and walnut. It is watered by Limpia, Musquis, Saw Mill and Toyah Creeks. Water is reached by digging or drilling at from thirty to 150 feet, is free from alkali, and in bottom lands is almost as soft as rain water. There are extensive tracts of subirrigated land which will grow crops of all kinds whether the season be wet or dry. Irrigated ditches are taken from Limpia Creek, by which 1,000 acres or more are watered. The average farm production per acre is: Alfalfa, five tons; corn, thirty bushels. Other crops about same as in other portions of the State.

While sorghum cane, Kaffir corn, hay, beans, etc., are often grown without irrigation, during the dry season crops are only produced on irrigated lands. On these irrigated farms the finest quality of fruit is produced, consisting of peaches, apples, plums, pears, grapes, quinces, apricots, nectarines and other small fruits. This county is celebrated for its fine apples and was awarded first prize for pears at the St. Louis World's Fair. In the mountains there are some fine mineral prospects. Silver and copper have been found in some localities, but little progress has been

made toward development.

Fort Davis, the county seat of Jeff Davis, is the site of a former United States military post. It is at the foot of the Davis Mountains, 5,200 feet above the sea level. Surrounding mountains are 6,000 to 9,000 feet above the sea. It is twenty-two miles north of Marfa on the Sunset Route, and has daily stage over an excellent road. Alpine, in Brewster County,



Devil's River, Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

about thirty miles distant, is also easily reached by conveyance. The soil is gravelly and exceedingly porous, hence there is good drainage, and no mud, even after heavy rains. The rainy season is from July to October—not continuous rains and cloudy days, but occasional showers that cool the atmosphere, which makes it the ideal summer resort. The town is so well protected on the north and west by mountains that it does not suffer from northers and high west winds that prevail during the months of February and March. The water is as good as can be found in Texas, being supplied by wells at from forty to eighty feet deep, and from springs. The summers are exceedingly pleasant, the nights being delightfully cool. There are no mosquitoes and absolutely no malaria. The atmosphere is so pure and dry that the bodies of dead animals do not decompose in the usual way, but dry up on the plains.

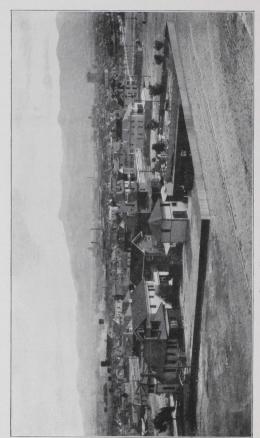
Fort Davis is a favorite location for visitors from all parts of the State and its reputation as a health resort is well known far beyond the borders of Texas. The town is beautifully situated, the scenery magnificent and the climate ideal for invalids. It has churches, large stores, fine private residences, splendid

#### NOTE

Parties desiring further particulars in regard to the advantages of Fort Davis as a health and tourist resort should send for the Sunset tourist illustrated guide, which contains much information regarding the summer and winter temperatures, relative humidity, etc., as compared with notable health resorts in other parts of the United States. This publication, which also contains articles by eminent doctors and physicians on the climate of El Paso, Alpine and Marfa, can be obtained by writing to T. J. Anderson, General Passenger Agent, Houston, Texas. There are good openings for building and conducting sanitariums and tourist hotels at the places mentioned and other points on or near the railroad in the Trans-Pecos country. Responsible parties with sufficient capital at their command and with reasonable and bona fide propositions will be endorsed and supported by the citizens and widely advertised by the "Sunset."

#### THE VALENTINE COUNTRY

Valentine, in Jeff Davis County, is a live growing town of several hundred inhabitants, located on the Sunset Route, thirty-five miles west of Marfa and surrounded by a magnificent stock country. It is situated near the center of the beautiful Van Horn Valley, a country of inexhaustible fertility, its rich soil varying from two to six feet deep, and ranging from dark red to chocolate, with an abundance of good water at a depth



Birdseye View of El Paso, Texas-Sunset Route

of from 200 to 300 feet. As yet little farming has been tried. the country until quite recently being chiefly owned or leased by large ranch men. There is undoubtedly a great agricultural future for the rich lands of this vast territory and it is reasonable to suppose that "dry-land farmers" who have made farming a success in other parts of the semi-arid West under far less favorable conditions than those which exist here, and with much less rainfall, will win out in the Valentine country. The agricultural experiment stations that will be located in this particular section will be the means of demonstrating the forage and other crops best suited to the soil, climate and other conditions of this part of the country, and of furnishing valuable information to the settlers in regard to selection of the right kind of varieties to plant, proper methods of cultivation, conserving moisture, storing the surplus rain water, etc. The Valentine people have won with cattle and there is no reason why the right kind of men will not win with the farm. Land purposes at low prices and on reasonable terms.

Referring to the future possibilities of this section of the State, the El Paso Herald in a recent issue has the following

leading editorial:

"Western Texas is a land of surprises. It has proved every man a liar who ever undertook to tell what it would and wouldn't do. West Texas was arid—and look at the floods. West Texas couldn't raise cotton—and look at the gins. West Texas was worthless for fruit and garden truck—and look at Barstow, Pecos, Grandfalls and Toyah Creek. West Texas couldn't support a home population—and look at the new towns springing up by the dozen. West Texas would always be desert and open range—and look at the scores of live newspapers, the electric lights, the ice factories and the telephone lines. West Texas could never find water, for the crust between us and the stokehole was too thin—and look at the windmills.

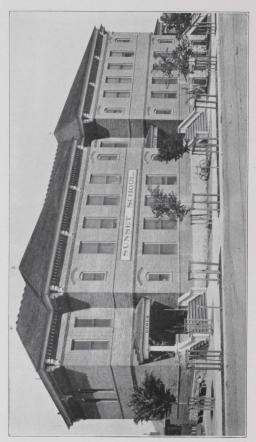
"The wave of population and progress is steadily surging this way. Eastern New Mexico has felt the strongest impulse, but the overflow from there and from the Panhandle will inevitably drift down into this far corner of Texas, if we, as a State and as a community, give the movement any encourage-

ment

### THE EL PASO COUNTRY

El Paso, Texas, is a city of 45,000 inhabitants, situated in the extreme western part of the State on the Rio Grande, which here separates Texas from Mexico and New Mexico.

Commercially it occupies a unique strategic position. There is no other city so large, so important, or so well supplied with natural and artificial advantages within a radius of 600 miles in any direction. The nearest commercial cities of note are:



Sunset School, El Paso, Texas-Sunset Route

On the east, San Antonio and Fort Worth; on the north, Denver and Kansas City; on the west, Los Angeles; on the south, the

City of Mexico.

In the order of their importance as wealth producers for the population of El Paso and tributary territory, the principal occupations, resources, and assets of this community are: First, mining; second, trade; third, transportation; fourth, live stock; fifth, agriculture; sixth, manufacturing.

Agriculture is at present of comparatively little importance, but the possibilities of development in this industry are greater

than in any other, as will be shown presently.

#### MINING

Mining dominates El Paso's trade development, industry and life. It, above all other considerations, makes the basis of El Paso's wealth and prosperity permanent and certain to increase in value.

El Paso is at the center of a vast mineral zone, whose de-

velopment has as vet barely begun.

The mines in El Paso's circle of commercial influence pro-

duce annually \$150,000,000 in mineral wealth.

The custom smelters in El Paso's trade territory pay \$100,000,000 annually for the ores brought to them for reduction; much of this money naturally flows into El Paso's trade channels, directly or indirectly, and represents a constant influx of ready cash from the great purchasing and manufacturing markets of the North and East and Europe, into the Great Southwest.

Ores come to the smelter from as much as five or six hundred miles distant, and El Paso is the primary distributing point for mining machinery, hardware and supplies for a district

larger than the State of Texas

The distribution of mineral wealth about the city is interesting to note. North and northeast, the dominant product is coal; east, quicksilver is the best known product; southeast, iron controls; south, silver; southwest, gold; west and northwest

copper

The coal deposits are the greatest west of the Mississippi River; the quicksilver mines are almost the only ones in the United States operated commercially; the iron deposits are among the most extensive on the continent; the silver district contains some of the world's greatest producers; the gold of northern Mexico is famous; the copper region, taken as a whole, is the greatest in the world.

#### TRADE

To the casual visitor the most prominent feature of the city's life is the extraordinary commercial activity. El Paso,



Sanitarium, El Paso, Texas-Sunset Route

the city itself, is a city of trade. El Paso is always spoken of by visitors as the busiest city of its size in the United States.

The jobbing territory, the country actually covered by its traveling salesmen and dominated by El Paso commercially, extends over a region more than 500 miles in diameter.

The jobbing trade is all the time increasing. El Paso has the advantages of cheap rates in and fair rates out. This city being an important terminal point, with a number of competing lines stretching in every direction, gets the benefit of rates usually accorded only to towns with a much larger original traffic. Aside from the question of rates, there is the even more important consideration, in some classes of business, of quick delivery. This factor is particularly important in the mining industry.

Outside of El Paso's actual jobbing territory there is a zone where there are hundreds of mines and prospects dependent on the El Paso smelter to purchase and reduce their ores. The cash received by these mines from the smelter is largely spent in El Paso for supplies. The miners often visit the city and do their buying in person, thus adding to the city's retail trade. The same is true of the live stock interests.

The retail stores derive considerable advantage from the fact that there is no other city within 600 miles that carries such costly and complete stocks of goods.

Owing to its high altitude and wonderful climate, it is gaining merited recognition as a summer resort as well as a winter resort. The travel through here is always large, and the retail trade benefits from it throughout the year.

#### TRANSPORTATION

The transportation interests of El Paso and the Great Southwest are of enormous importance, commercially.

Nine railroads have terminals in El Paso, six of which are great trunk lines. All the roads have numerous branches which are helping to develop the mining, stock and agricultural country tributary to the city.

The freight movement is steady and perennial, being made up mainly of fuel, provisions, machinery and other staples always in demand, together with ores and other products of mining and live stock. Through traffic, both passenger and freight is heavy, all the year, and El Paso takes toll of it all.

The railroad payrolls in El Paso form one of the most important sources of income, amounting to upwards of \$1,500,000 annually.

A magnificent union passenger depot has recently been completed at a cost of \$400,000.



Mission at Ysleta in Southwest, Texas-Sunset Route

#### LIVE STOCK

Large cattle ranches are found in all directions from El Paso both in the United States and in Mexico, and the grazing industry is one of the most extensive and valuable resources of the city. Some of the lands hereabouts formerly occupied as cattle ranches have been or will be turned into farms, but stock growing will always be a leading industry in this part of the Great Southwest.

El Paso has all the necessary advantages for making one of the country's greatest cattle markets. Many wealthy stockmen make their homes as well as their business headquarters here. The Union Stock Yards are connected with all the railroads, and last year took care of nearly 300,000 head of live stock. Much of the movement was from Mexico to Canada and the Northern United States, but the greater part of the traffic was made up of stock moving from Texas and New Mexico ranges to California, Oregon and the feeding grounds of the Missouri Valley.

#### AGRICULTURE

The Rio Grande Valley, both above and below El Paso, has been cultivated since the first Spanish explorers entered the country, and no doubt the ancient Pueblos had prior to that utilized other portions of the valley besides the northern part where Coronado discovered them. The earliest Spanish chroniclers record the presence in the valley of domestic Indians, who farmed by means of irrigation dams and ditches, and well understood the extraordinary richness of the alluvial bottom lands.

It was not until the coming of the railroads and the large indux of new settlers some twenty years ago that Americans began to farm the valley on any considerable scale, or that modern methods began to be introduced. Now scores of pumping plants are at work in the valley watering thousands of acres of land

The Mesilla and El Paso Valleys are famous for their tree fruits, grapes, melons and early vegetables. Immense quantities of alfalfa are produced, but still not nearly enough to supply the home demand. This deficiency in product is true also of grain, garden truck, and some fruits, as well as poultry and fresh and canned food products generally.

Outside of El Paso there is a vast territory that would be naturally supplied from this valley if the product of food stuffs were sufficient. It is safe to say that it does not now provide for over ten per cent of this natural market. Yet from a point fifty miles north to a point fifty miles south of El Paso, there are 150,000 acres of cultivable land which ought to be and will eventually be brought into cultivation by modern methods of integration.



Irrigated Plantation, Juarez, Mexico-Sunset Route

There is no other opening in the United States for the farmerirrigator so promising as this. Climate, soil, market, and all other conditions for successful farming and pleasant living are here unsurpassed. Under intensive farming ten or twenty acres will support a family. It is plain that this Rio Grande Valley would easily support 50,000 people engaged in tilling the soil.

Thus, while agriculture is not now among the most important local industries, its possibilities are greater than those of any other. There is room for more people in this industry without a chance of overcrowding than in any other branch of activity. There is a steady and increasing home market for the bulk of the product, and a demand impossible to satisfy, on the part of the Northern and Eastern markets, for our early fruits and vegetables.

#### MANUFACTURING

El Paso's manufacturing industries are largely devoted to supplying home demands. The most conspicuous exception, however, is its most important single industry—smelting.

The principal El Paso smelter has a pay roll of \$60,000 a month, and maintains a community of 3,500 people in a suburb. IT REDUCES A TON OF ORE EVERY MINUTE IN THE YEAR, running twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week.

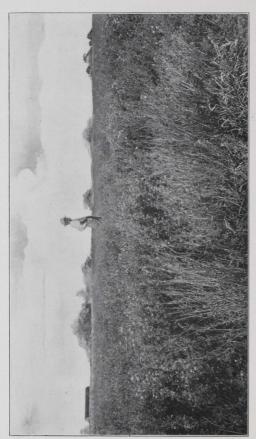
One of the largest industrial enterprises is a dairy which is described by Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, as the biggest dairy in the world dealing directly with the consumer. This concern milks 350 to 400 cows regularly, and delivers milk and cream to its own customers in iced sterilized bottles several times a day; it also does an extensive business in beef and dairy cattle and runs one of the most extensive alfalfa ranches in the valley. It has an important export and railroad trade.

Among the manufacturing concerns which ship goods out of the city are factories for the manufacture of office fixtures, blank books, boots and shoes, candy, carriages and wagons, brick, beer, cigars, clothing, Mexican curios, engines, boilers and mining machinery, ice, soap, lime, saddles and harness, trunks and valises, vincera and cider.

As in agriculture, manufacturing in this locality has the vast advantage of enjoying a steady and always expanding home market, while the distances from which competing products must be brought mean heavy freight charges that would amount to a protective tariff for local industries. Steam coal is not expensive and other forms of power are readily available. Fine water for boiler use can be had at no great outlay.

Labor conditions generally in El Paso are satisfactory to an extraordinary degree. El Paso has never had a strike of any

consequence



Alfalfa Field in Southwest Texas-Sunset Route

Among the important new industries organized in 1907 were a large canning factory for preserving fruits, vegetables and meat products, a Portland cement manufacturing company for utilizing the inexhaustible supplies of superior cement material, and a factory for the manufacture of denatured alcohol out of the various wild plants growing on the plains and in the mountains, such as the sotal, lechuguilla, agave, Spanish bayonet or yucca, and the many varieties of cactus.

#### ADVANTAGES TO HOME-SEEKERS

El Paso is a city that quickly becomes home to the newcomer. It is supplied with every modern convenience and advantage. The public schools are kept at the highest standard. and a certificate from them admits without examination to many of the great universities. Every important religious denomination is represented among the churches. There are scores of lodges of all varieties. The social life of the city is cosmopolitan and elevated. There are all kinds of social and educational clubs for men and women, boys and girls. El Paso has a free public library and plenty of facilities for amusement. There are three daily newspapers with the telegraphic news service of the Associated Press. Nearly every family possesses its own home. The spirit of the people is intensely progressive, thoroughly Western. Altogether there is no pleasanter place to be found than El Paso, in which to make one's home and do one's work.

For further information, apply to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, El Paso, Texas,

#### CLIMATE

The climate of El Paso is unequaled in the world for its invigorating and curative qualities, and for its perpetual sunshine under conditions of altitude, drvness and continual breezes that prevent any relaxation of physical energy. There is no such thing as general humidity. No one ever was prostrated from the effects of the heat, and there is no city in the United States more comfortable in the warm months. The real winter is short and it is a delightful place in which to spend a few weeks or months of the winter season, away from the rigors of the North or East. The thermometer rarely falls below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. The medical fraternity has apparently come to the conclusion, in the treatment of pulmonary complaints, that Nature herself is the best physician, and medicine but an accessory. Here Nature has conspired, as if in the service of humanity, to produce every element whereby the invalid may be restored to perfect health. Among the notable institutions of El Paso is the Albert Baldwin Sanitarium, situated at the foot of Mount

Franklin, overlooking the city and Rio Grande Valley, 3,760 feet above sea level. This is a modern and thoroughly equipped institution for the treatment of pulmonary and laryngeal tuberculosis, in a commodious structure with splendid accommodations and rapidly gaining a national reputation.

#### NOTE

The following is a list of progressive, growing towns situated in territory tributary to the Sunset Route in the counties

mentioned between San Antonio and El Paso.

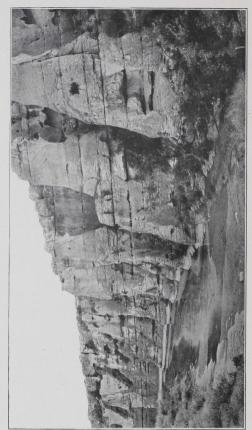
These towns are all surrounded by a region as yet only partially developed, but rich in valuable natural resources and raw materials of great commercial value, simply waiting the magic touch of capital and industry to develop great enterprises. All are backed by great agricultural, stock-raising or mineral districts, and offer exceptional advantages and opportunities for the investment of capital in different industries. Parties interested who desire further information in regard to favorable chances for homeseekers and investors in the towns or counties mentioned should address communications to the Secretary of the Business Men's Club at any of the places, or to

# T. J. ANDERSON, General Passenger Agent, G., H. & S. A. Ry., Houston, Texas.

San AntonioB	exar County.
Lacoste	Iedina County.
Castroville	Iedina County
Dunlay	Iedina County.
Hondo	
D'Hanis	Iedina County.
SabinalU	valde County.
KnippaU	valde County.
UvaldeU	valde County.
NuecesU	
ClineU	
SpoffordK	Jinney County.
BrackettvilleK	Sinney County.
Standart	inney County.
Eagle Pass	Iaverick County.
Del RioV	
ComstockV	
LangtryV	al Verde County.
SandersonT	
LongfellowP	ecos County.

Marathon Brewster County.
AlpineBrewster County.
Marfa Presidio County.
Fort Davis Jeff Davis County.
ValentineJeff Davis County.
Sierra Blanca
Finlay El Paso County.
Fort Hancock El Paso County.
Fahens
San Elizario
Ysleta El Paso County.
El Paso

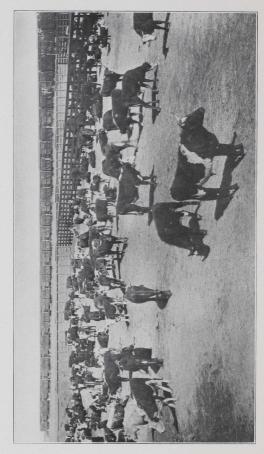




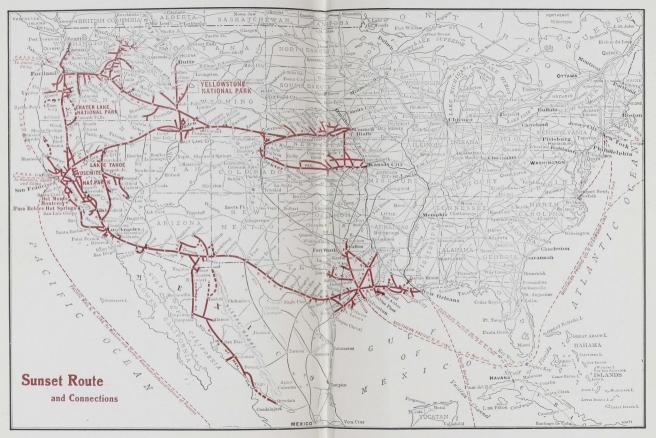
Scene in Southwest Texas—Sunset Route

## Population of Towns, Cities and Counties Along the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway from San Antonio to El Paso

TOWN	POPULATION OF TOWN	COUNTY	POPULATION OF COUNTY
San Antonio	93,137	Bexar	110,000
Macdona	40	Bexar	110,000
La Costa	125	Medina	12,000
Castroville	500	Medina	12,000
Dunlay	75	Medina	12,000
Hondo	1,800	Median	12,000
D'Hanis	720	Medina	12,000
Sabinal	2,500	Uvalde	9,000
Knippa	117	Uvalde	9,000
Uvalde	5,500	Uvalde	9,000
Sansom	500	Uvalde	9,000
Cline		Uvalde	9,000
Spofford	40	Kinney	3,500
Standart	4	Kinney	3,500
Eagle Pass		Mayerick	4,500
Del Rio	8,000	Val Verde	10,000
Comstock	315	Val Verde	
Langtry		Val Verde	10,000
Samuels		Terrell	
Dryden		Terrell	
Sanderson		Terrell	
Longfellow		Pecos	
Tabor	201	Brewster	
Raymond		Brewster	
Marathon (Manor)		Brewster	
Strobel		Brewster	
Alpine		Brewster	
Marfa		Presidio	
Valentine		Jeff Davis	
Wendell		Jeff Davis	
Lobo		El Paso	
Chocar		El Paso	
Sierra Blanca		El Paso	
Finlay		El Paso	
Fort Hancock		El Paso	
Fabens		El Paso	
San Elizario		El Paso	
Ysleta		El Paso	
El Paso		El Paso	



Shipping Pens, Southwest, Texas-Sunset Route



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