

NOTABLE MEN  
INDIAN TERRITORY



*At the Beginning of the  
20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY*

NOTABLE MEN  
OF  
INDIAN TERRITORY

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE  
TWENTIETH CENTURY

1904 - 1905

Prominent in Business, Fraternal, Religious and Political Circles,  
who are making the History of the last new Country.  
A Pictorial Collection of Interesting Personalities

---

EDITED BY  
PAUL W. H. DEWITZ.

PUBLISHERS:  
SOUTHWESTERN HISTORICAL CO.  
P. W. H. DEWITZ, Mgr.  
MUSKOGEE, INDIAN TERRITORY

AL5303 677379



Truly Yours  
J. W. Sewitz

## INTRODUCTION.

---

ONE of America's most distinguished citizens, referring to this work, declared it invaluable to him because it brings into view, in compact shape, the faces of hundreds of his intimate friends and acquaintances, the contemplation of which affords him unbounded pleasure and gratification, besides including, as it does, an aggregation of Indian Territory men who have in their respective fields or spheres earned a share of public notice by reason of their intellectual talents and business ability.

Men come upon the stage of life, play their respective parts in the great drama of time and events, and then pass away. Some, by reason of the impress which they make upon those of their time and generation, live on in history while others—the greater number—die and are forgotten. The love of posthumous fame is inherent in most men. Those who attain to distinction in life are solicitous that such distinction be transmitted as a legacy to their descendants, and to posterity outside the bands of consanguinity. This is a noble instinct—one which prompts men to higher aims and deeds, and brings out of each his best and utmost endeavors to deserve the approbation of his fellow men.

We love to contemplate the success of friends in their respective vocations, and to dwell upon their virtues after they have gone off the stage of life. In no way can we obtain such a comprehensive and pleasurable view of them, their just fame, their virtues and accomplishments, as in a work like this.

The scope of the work and the time allotted rendered it impossible to include every man prominent in his respective vocation, but we have, we feel assured, presented within these pages a very great number of the men who have made their mark, in various ways, and have been active in the upbuilding of the Indian Territory, and of their home towns of which they are a part.

On account of the great space it would have required, the titles and explanations are not lengthy. In every instance they have been condensed to between four and seven lines. This brevity was rendered necessary in order to prevent the work assuming a size too voluminous. In addition to the portraits, their titles and classifications, there is in this volume an index containing the names of subjects therein.

At a first glance this might appear to be a plain, simple compilation, but the preparation of these 181 pages required nearly thirteen months of patient

49532

STATE LIBRARY

labor, and the work will, we feel assured, receive the approbation of all who take an interest in biography. The title, "Notable Men of Indian Territory," is used in its broadest sense. It has been interpreted to mean those who, whether born within the limits of the Commonwealth or not, represent interests or connections within its borders, or who have served to illustrate or illumine the progress of the future State. That the work is not complete nor perfect is admitted. It is hoped, however, that, as a whole, it will receive general approval, because of the fact that it brings together, at one view as it were, the faces of so many who are worthy representatives of their fellowmen in the several walks of life.

The uses of a work of this kind are unlimited. Aside from the personal satisfaction or pleasure it affords, it will prove invaluable as a reference book for libraries, newspaper offices, counting rooms and generally in the homes and places of business of people everywhere. During the compilation of the work some of its subjects have passed away, both young and middle-aged. As the years slip by others will go, and the steady procession to the grave will go on until all whose faces appear within these pages shall have paid the last great debt of nature. Future generations will then pick up the book, and contemplate with renewed interest the faces of those on the pages within it. Looking backward as they gaze, will rise into view those who, in their day and generation, illustrated the genius and business effort of their time, and who, by their merits and accomplishments, were entitled to be preserved within the pages of "Notable Men of Indian Territory."

### PRINTING.

The printing of a book like this, aside from the great amount of labor bestowed in the collection of its subjects, and their arrangements, is a notable undertaking for any publishing house. Each sheet impression is from a form of sixteen pages, containing sixty-four portraits, everyone of which must be shown up to its full value. The press work must be A-1, or this value, or acme of excellence, cannot be satisfactorily set out to the eye. The ordinary high speed press of the newspaper can rush its forms through. But where there are artistic features to be sought, or produced, the matter of time and speed are minor considerations.

In fine book-making, the most perfect register and impression are absolutely necessary; else the end sought will fail of materialization. Hence only the finest and most perfect presses are used.

This volume of but ten different forms—30,000 30x40-inch sheets—on which a modern press has been engaged for several months, will afford some idea of the difference between book and newspaper work. The printing was done by the Combe Printing Co., St. Joseph, Mo. The style of its execution speaks for itself, and will bear the inspection of the most critical connoisseur on the art of book-making.

### PHOTOGRAPHS AND ENGRAVING.

Over five hundred portraits, made by the skilled engravers of the Barnes-Crosby Co., St. Louis, Mo., make this the most comprehensive collection of true likenesses ever published for any state except New York.



These portraits are all exact reproductions of photographs from life, made by such eminent artists as

Wilcox	Hanly	Drum	Redmon
Webb	Baldwin	Holtwick	Hughes
Smith	Wenkle	Cole	Gannaway

More than five hundred of such original photographs were made for this collection, and in order to make a reasonably satisfactory selection, it was found necessary to accumulate nearly one thousand photographs. The pictures have been classified into groups, affording at a glance a coterie of those who have been, or are, conspicuous in any particular vocation.

THE EDITOR.

# INDIAN TERRITORY

---

## STATISTICAL AND HISTORICAL

---

BY

COL. CLARENCE B. DOUGLAS

Editor Muskogee Daily Phoenix

---

At a time when the foundation stones of the New Commonwealth are being laid on the crumbling ruins of the governments of the Five Civilized Tribes, it seems entirely fitting that some record should be kept of the men who have in the past, and are now, making the history of what will become a part or all of one of the greatest states of the Union. With this thought in mind the publisher of this volume conceived the idea of leaving to posterity a likeness of the individuals who have made the history of this country, and who are pounding into shape an organized form of government to take the place of the chaotic conditions which have heretofore prevailed in the Indian Territory.

Most of those mentioned herein belong to that tireless, restless class of American pioneers who have pushed civilization ever towards the setting sun, not satisfied to wait for place and position where it is inherited and handed down from father to son, and where a man's ability brings no reward except that it can be descended from generation to generation. It is of the class of men who believe in a free-for-all race in the battle of life on a broad, open track where there are no handicaps, and where each one shows his own ability, that this volume has to do; and when the history of the transition period through which we are now passing has been written, the imprint of many of the characters herein portrayed will be found in indelible letters.

That the competition here is keen and sharp is a well known fact, and that to keep up with the human procession requires energy, integrity and a large degree of individuality, is also true.

In this country it has not been so much a question of who your father was, or your grandfather, but the supreme point has been, **who and what are you?**

The population of the Indian Territory is very cosmopolitan, the sons of California rubbing elbows with those of the Carolinas, and the man from Maine is the business associate of the brawny Texan. As the American citizen, a composite of all the nations of the world, is the greatest of all citizens, so is it also true that

the rising generation of this Territory, a composite of all the states of the Union, will be the greatest of American citizens. In the days yet to come it will be a pleasant task to review the lives and characters of the dominating spirits of the present time, and much will be said and written of those whose faces in this volume will have become familiar.

The Indian Territory is the young man's last land left for settlement in the domain of the United States. It is becoming the home of the best blood and brain and brawn of the Union and will, in time, be developed into one of the richest sections over which the Flag floats. Situated as it is, south of the blizzard belt and north of the hot winds, it is safe from the rigors of the Nebraska winter and free from the devastating heat of Texas. West of the flood lands of the Mississippi valley and east of the droughts of the great American plains, it knows no excess of rainfall and is a stranger to the hot winds of the Arizona plains. Nature, in her lavish mood, showers her blessings on this section of the United States, and intended that it should be a garden spot, not only for things created and things produced, but for intellectual giants and for the highest type of the human family.

Thinking that some statistical information regarding the Indian Territory will be of interest, the following data have been compiled by the editor from the most reliable sources, and are submitted for the consideration of the reader:

### STATISTICAL.

“Indian Territory is situated in the south-central part of the United States, between latitudes  $33^{\circ} 25'$  and  $37^{\circ} 00'$  and between longitudes  $94^{\circ} 25'$  and  $98^{\circ} 00'$ . It is bounded on the north by Kansas, on the east by Arkansas, on the south by Texas, and on the west by Oklahoma.

The north boundary is the thirty-seventh parallel; the east boundary, commencing on the south at Red River, in approximate longitude  $94^{\circ} 29'$ , follows a meridian north to Arkansas river, and thence runs in a direct line to the southwest corner of Missouri, thence it follows the west line of Missouri, which is a meridian through the mouth of the Kansas river, north to the thirty-seventh parallel. The south boundary is the mid-channel of the Red river. The west boundary commences in Red river at its intersection with the ninety-eighth meridian and follows this meridian north to Canadian river, thence southeastward along the mid-channel of Canadian river to a point in approximate longitude  $96^{\circ} 46'$ , where the river intersects the middle line of range five east. The line then runs north along the range line to its intersection with the North Fork of Canadian river, which it follows eastward to its intersection with the range line between ranges six and seven east; thence it follows the range line north to its intersection with the township line between townships nineteen and

twenty north, thence eastward along this township line to the ninety-sixth meridian, which it follows north to the thirty-seventh parallel. The area of the Territory is 31,400 square miles.

The surface presents considerable variation of relief, ranging from rugged hills to level or rolling prairie. The northern part, including the western part of what is known as the Cherokee Nation, is almost a rolling prairie. The eastern part of this Nation, however, lying north of Arkansas river and east of Neosho river, is hilly and broken, containing a part of the Ozark Plateau, which is deeply dissected with streams flowing in canyons.

The region between the Arkansas and Canadian is mostly a rolling plain. South of the Canadian, in the part of the Territory known as the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, much of the land is hilly and mountainous, being occupied by the Ozark hills. These consist mainly of narrow winding ridges, with a general east-west trend, separated by narrow fertile valleys. These hills extend into the Territory from western Kansas and stretch nearly across it, fading out to the westward in the Chickasaw Nation. North of the Ozark hills the country slopes to the Arkansas and the Canadian, and south of them to the Red River.

The lowest part of the Territory, which is the southeast corner on Red river, is about 300 feet above sea level, while its greatest altitude is approximately 3,000 feet.

The principal rivers of the Territory are the Canadian, Arkansas, Red, Verdigris, Washita and the Blue. The Arkansas crosses it in the northern part, flowing in a southeasterly direction. From the north it receives three large branches, the Verdigris, the Neosho and the Illinois, and from the south the Canadian. Red river forms the southern boundary and receives in its course along the border the waters of Mud Creek, Washita and Blue rivers, Boggy creek and Kiamichi river. Little river joins Red river outside the Territory in Arkansas, and drains a considerable area in the southeastern part of the Territory.

About 62 per cent. of the area of the Territory is wooded. The chief wooded areas, which lie in the east and southeast, consist of the Ozark Plateau in eastern Cherokee Nation and the Ozark hills, mostly in Choctaw Nation. Besides these areas, timber is found more or less scattered in all parts of the Territory. The timber is of great variety; the mountain forests in the eastern and southeastern parts contain considerable amounts of pine, mixed with hard woods; elsewhere the forests are everywhere composed of hard woods, comprising oaks, black walnut, ash, pecan, cottonwood, sycamore, elm, hackberry, maple and many other species.

The climate of the Territory is that of the transition region between the forested lands of the Mississippi valley and the Great Plains. It is that of the prairie region. The mean annual temperature of much the larger part of the Territory

ranges between 60° and 65° F., but in the northern part, including most of the Cherokee country, and in the mountains of the southeast, in the Choctaw Nation, the mean annual temperature is somewhat lower, ranging from 55° to 60°.

The distribution of mean annual rainfall follows meridians rather than parallels. The eastern part of the Territory is abundantly watered, receiving from 40 to 50 inches annually. The western part of the Territory is not so well watered, but still receives a sufficient amount for all agricultural requirements, the precipitation being from 30 to 40 inches annually.

Almost the entire area of Indian Territory is floored with carboniferous rocks; only in the southern part of the Territory, along Red river, is any considerable area in other formations found. Here there is a belt of cretaceous beds extending over from central Texas, overlain in a small area in the southeast corner by tertiary rocks.

The western part of the Chickasaw Nation, in the southwestern part of the Territory, contains an area of jurassic rocks. In the eastern part of the Nation is a small area of igneous rocks, whose eruption has brought to the surface silurian beds, extending northwestward across the carboniferous and jurassic, belts into Oklahoma. It is probably a continuation of the uplift which forms the Wichita mountains in southeastern Oklahoma.

At various places in the Choctaw Nation coal has been discovered and is being mined in large quantities. The most important of these localities are just east of McAlester and in the vicinity of Coalgate. It is an excellent bituminous coal of carboniferous age. In the year 1902 there were mined 2,518,452 tons.

The great body of the Territory is divided among five tribes—the Cherokee, whose reservation is in the northern part; the Creek in the central part; the Seminole just west of them; the Choctaw in the southeast and the Chickasaw in the southwest. Besides these there are a number of small tribes who have reservations grouped in the northeast corner of the Territory. These are:

Quapaw, Peoria, Modoc, Ottawa, Wyandot and Shawnee. The Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw and Chickasaw were removed from the south to this Territory about 1833. The Seminoles, who came from Florida, were, after a costly war, removed to their present reservation in 1845. On these reservations the people have developed a considerable degree of civilization, and have been long known as the Five Civilized Tribes. Each tribe has its own system of government, which is patterned in many ways after our state governments, with a governor, a legislature and a judiciary of their own. The lands were until recently held in common and occupation gave all the title that was needed. There was an abundance of good land for all and no occasion for the clashing of interests.

The total population of the Territory in 1900 was 392,060, of which not less

than 302,680 were whites, 52,500 were Indians, and 36,853 were negroes, either former slaves of the Indians or their descendants.

The following table shows the number of whites, Indians and negroes in each of the Nations and reservations:

	White	Indian	Negro
Cherokee Nation .....	66,591	25,639	9,162
Chickasaw Nation .....	124,306	5,872	9,066
Choctaw Nation .....	79,332	10,321	10,123
Creek Nation .....	25,187	7,963	7,520
Seminole .....	1,143	1,662	981
Modoc Reservation .....	96	44	.....
Ottawa Reservation .....	2,029	176	.....
Peoria Reservation .....	995	184	.....
Seneca Reservation .....	799	171	.....
Shawnee Reservation .....	239	58	.....
Wyandot Reservation .....	992	221	.....
Quapaw .....	611	189	.....

Of the total population the males formed 53.3 per cent and the females 46.7 per cent. The population was almost entirely of native origin, the persons born in the United States forming 98.8 per cent and the foreign born 1.2 per cent. The whites constituted 77.2 per cent of the total population, the Indians 13.4 per cent, and the negroes 9.4 per cent.

The chief industries of Indian Territory are farming and cattle raising. The rainfall is ample and the soil rich, and nearly every crop produced within the limits of the United States can be raised in the Territory. The prairies of the Cherokee Nation have been in large part leased to cattlemen and enormous herds range over them.

In 1900 the number of farms in the Territory was 45,505. Of these 35,451 were occupied by white farmers, 5,957 by Indian farmers, and 4,097 by negro farmers. Only 25.1 per cent of these farms were said to be owned by the occupants, by which was meant probably that they were occupied by Indians or squaw-men under communal rights; 19.5 per cent were rented for a money rental, and 55.4 per cent were rented for a share in the products.

The total area included within the farms of the Territory was 7,269,081 acres, of which 3,062,193 acres were improved. Of the entire area of the Territory 15.4 per cent was under cultivation. The average size of the farms was 160 acres, considerably larger than the average in the United States.

The following table itemizes the value of farms:

**VALUE OF FARMS, ETC., OF INDIAN TERRITORY IN 1900.**

Land .....	\$39,188,250
Buildings .....	7,675,190
Implements and machines .....	3,838,480
Live stock .....	41,378,695
<b>Total value .....</b>	<b>\$92,080,615</b>
Average value per farm.....	2,026
Value of products .....	27,602,002
Average annual value per farm.....	608

The following table shows the products of Indian Territory in 1899:

**PRINCIPAL FARM PRODUCTS OF INDIAN TERRITORY IN 1899.**

Corn .....	bushels..	30,709,420
Wheat .....	do....	2,203,780
Oats .....	do....	4,423,810
Hay .....	tons...	400,393
Cotton .....	bales..	143,608

The following table shows the number of live stock:

**STATISTICS OF LIVE STOCK OF INDIAN TERRITORY IN 1900.**

	Number.
Neat cattle .....	1,499,364
Horses .....	217,699
Mules .....	56,858
Sheep .....	17,005
Swine .....	650,255
Value of animals sold in 1900.....	\$ 6,415,707

Railroad mileage in recent years has been greatly increased; in 1902, there were 1,800 miles within the Territory.

Manufactures are not extensive; the country is too young and too little developed for this branch of industry to have much importance. In 1900 manufacturing establishments with a product of over \$500 each numbered only 789, and the capital employed in them was \$2,624,265. There were 1,849 employees and the net product, after deducting the value of the raw material was \$3,892,181. The chief industries were cotton ginning, with 187 gins; flour milling, with 61 mills, and lumber making, with 6 sawmills.

The entire Territory, with the exception of the small reservations in the north-east corner, has been surveyed and mapped on the scale of 1:125,000 by the United States Geological Survey in connection with the subdivision of the lands, which was executed by that organization.

The total of non-taxable lands is as follows: Seminoles, 110,160 acres; Cherokees, 1,400,000 acres; Creeks, 596,960 acres; Choctaws and Chickasaws, 500,000 acres; total, 2,112,120 acres. The Quapaw reservation in the northeast part of the Cherokee Nation is omitted. It contained 25,000 acres and has all been allotted.

The total acreage in the Cherokee Nation is in the neighborhood of 5,031,351;

reserved for townsites, 6,887.65 acres; reserved for schools and churches, 1,000 acres; reserved for railroads, 10,000 acres; total, 18,000. The total amount of acres subject to allotment in the Cherokee Nation is 5,013,351.

There are approximately 36,000 allottees in the Cherokee Nation and about 1,500,000 acres of land is non-taxable. The following property in the Nation will be subject to taxation: Allotments, 3,631,315 acres; townsites, 6,887 acres; railroad right of way 615 miles.

The total acreage of land in the Seminole Nation is 365,851.57 acres; reserved for townsites, schools, railroads and churches, 2,272.65 acres; subject to allotment, 363,578.92 acres; already allotted, 244,948.28 acres, or nearly all of it; a surplus is left of 18,630.64 acres which have not been allotted. The homesteads of the allottees are free from taxation, and consist of forty acres each. There are 2,754 allottees, so that the total number acres reserved from taxation aggregate 110,160, leaving subject to taxation in this Nation: Farm lands, 253,418.92 acres; Wewoka townsite 625.70 acres; Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf Railroad and St. Louis, Oklahoma & Southern Railroad, 25 miles.

Total acreage in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations is approximately 11,338,935 acres. Reserved from allotment: Townsites, 32,843.57 acres; railroads, 20,000 acres; schools, churches, etc., 5,000 acres; coal and asphalt, 500,000 acres; total, 558,000 acres; leaving subject to allotment, 10,780,935 acres. None of the allotments are exempt from taxation, and the following property of these Nations will be subject to taxation soon as allotments are completed: Allotted lands, 10,780,935 acres; mineral lands to be sold by the Interior department, 500,000 acres; railroads, 1,360 miles.

The total acreage of the Creek Nation is 3,172,813.77 acres; reserved for townsites, schools, churches, etc., estimated, 15,000 acres; subject to allotment, 3,157,813.15 acres; allotted, 277,262.44 acres; not allotted, 980,550.72 acres. Homesteads are free from taxation, and are estimated at 40 acres to the allottee, or land equal in value to 40 acres of the average allottable land. There are 14,824 allottees, making the total acreage exempt from taxation about 596,000 acres, and leaving the following property in this Nation subject to taxation: Allotments, 2,560,853.19 acres; townsites, 10,546.79 acres; railroad mileage, 400 miles.

A revolution has been effected in the Indian Territory in regard to the government and policy of the United States towards and concerning the Indians in particular, and the whole population in general, and a total and radical change has been made as to the land titles and tenures of the Indians. The great transformations which have been accomplished in these respects in the last ten years, and those which are proposed and are pending, have attracted general attention towards the Territory. So much so that newspaper offices, postoffices and private individuals

are the recipients of constant and increasing requests for all manner of information in regard to the Territory. For the purpose of answering these inquiries, in a measure, this article was prepared and published in an edition of the Muskogee Phoenix.

### HISTORICAL.

Up to the early part of this century the history of the country now known as the Indian Territory is obscure and unimportant. It was a part and parcel of the wild west, the habitat of the buffalo, antelope, deer, bear and other wild game and animals. Occasional bands of roving Osages, Pawnees and Plains Indians came to it to hunt and fish, and French and American hunters and trappers sometimes passed through and over it. It is quite possible that the Spaniard, Cabeza de Baca and his companions, the ill-fated Narvaez expedition to Florida, who were finally shipwrecked and cast upon the Texas coast in 1538, came within the Territory, and if so, they were the first white men ever within its borders. It is very probable, almost certain, that Coronado, with his exploring expedition from New Mexico, traversed the noble forests and grass-covered plains of the Indian Territory as early as 1541 in search of the fabulous city of Quivira. This is conjectural history, but it is certain that in 1803 Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States, and the first expansionist, bought from Napoleon Bonaparte, first Consul of the Republic of France, this Territory as a part of the Louisiana Purchase. In 1806 he sent Lieut. Zebulon Pike of the United States Army with a detachment of twenty-two soldiers to explore and locate Red River, from its source to its mouth, as the generally considered boundary between the United States and the Spanish possessions in North America. But the Spanish claimed the Arkansas river, and were on the outlook to guard their frontier. Lieut. Melgares of the Spanish army was dispatched from Santa Fe, New Mexico, with a troop of 100 dragoons and 500 militia to intercept Pike and drive him back. Melgares, with his army, followed Red River down from its source on the Staked Plains to where Denison, Texas, is now located, and failing to find the Americans turned to the north, and unquestionably marched across the Indian Territory to the Pawnee country, now the state of Kansas. Pike continued his journey to the Rocky Mountains on the west, unmolested, and discovered the famous peak which has ever since borne his name.

But the real history of the Indian Territory began when the civilized Indians migrated hither from the southern states. Fort Gibson was established about 1828, then on the extreme frontier of the United States, as a protection to the Indians and an advance guard against the Spanish aggressions on the south and west. The famous Sam Houston of Tennessee and Texas resided there for awhile, and still the more famous Washington Irving in 1832 made his trip from that post to the west-

ern plains, which he has so graphically described in his "Tour of the Prairies." The first prairie he ever saw is where Wagoner is now situated. The "Bee Hunter" exploit was in the Choska bottoms, on the Arkansas river, and the adventure of "Ring-ing the Wild Horses" occurred on the north bank of the Canadian river about north of where Purcell is now situated. Fort Gibson was the most famous of west-ern frontier posts. At one time or another nearly all the officers of the old regular army who rose to fame in the civil war on one side or the other were stationed there. Zachariah Taylor was there, and the ruins of the old log house where his famous son-in-law, Jefferson Davis, lived is still pointed out. Wolf hunting along the streams between Fort Gibson and Tahlequah was an enjoyable pastime for the young officers of the post in early days. Those early times were the days of romance and adventure, as well as of hardship and endurance.

### ORIGINAL POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The Indian Territory was on the extreme western frontier of the United States at that time, but it was destined to be occupied and settled much sooner than any other portion of the country west of the Mississippi river. The hardy American frontiersmen who in the early part of this century were pushing across the Allegheny Mountains to Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi, clearing the lands and opening these new territories to settlement, and fitting them to become future states, were not to be the pioneers of this country. It was set apart for the Indians, to be settled and occupied by them as a home forever, "as long as the grass grows and water runs." The white settlers were rapidly intruding upon the Indian country in the southern states east of the Mississippi, and difficulties and conflicts between the races were engendered by this contact. It soon became manifest that they could not dwell together in peace and harmony, but the Indians would be overwhelmed, swallowed up and lost as tribes in the ever increasing tide of white immigration to those states. It was evident that in order to preserve their rights and tribal organizations the Indians must be removed and isolated from the white settlements. The United States then concluded to try a gigantic experiment. It formulated the plan to remove the Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws and Seminoles bodily, as tribes, from their old homes east of the Mississippi river and transplant them in this new territory, where it was anticipated they would take root and flourish, forever free from white intrusion. This Territory was the "ultima thule" of the United States, its most extreme western possession available for settlement. It was thought that it would be many decades before the whites would encroach upon the Territory or come in serious contact with its borders; and that in the far distant future, by the time the white settlements had reached it, the Indians would be so far advanced in the arts of civilization, the ways of peace and the

science of government that they would be amply able to take care of themselves, and the Territory could then be erected into a great and homogeneous Indian state of the American Union.

The declared policy and plan was to reserve the Indian Territory for the Indians, and when this determination was settled the government went to work to carry it out vigorously and in good faith. The Western, or Old Settler Cherokees, came first, about 1810, of their own volition, and settled in western Arkansas and the eastern border of the present Cherokee Nation. Between 1830 and 1840, by much persuasion, treaties, conferences, pow-wows, some trouble and bad blood, grievous hardships and a show of military force under General Scott, the remaining Cherokees and the other four civilized tribes were removed from their country east of the Mississippi and safely domiciled in the Indian Territory.

For fifty years the government tried by every means to enforce and carry out the policy above outlined. It sought to make it effective by the most stringent legislation and regulations of the Interior Department. Only certain classes of white people, such as preachers, teachers, agents of the government and attaches of the army, were allowed in the Territory. All others were excluded and had no rights here, except by permit of the Indians. A white man, a free born citizen of the United States, coming here, had but few privileges, and what he did enjoy were simply by sufferance. He could not legally own or occupy land, or raise stock, or own houses. He was subject to be ejected at any time on complaint made to the authorities, and heavy penalties were pronounced against him if he returned to the Territory. He could not vote or hold office, or sit on juries, or participate in politics or conventions. By coming here he simply expatriated himself, and renounced for the time his birthright and his freedom, and the government said that must be so, because he was out of his proper place and had no business to be here. He only had the right to live, breathe and labor, if he behaved himself, and that for no longer than a year at a time, by written permission. Trade and intercourse with the Indians were regulated by law and were confined to bonded traders. Everything was done which could be done to fence the whites out, but unforeseen conditions and unanticipated circumstances have simply broken down the barriers and rendered the good purposes of the government nugatory. The rising tide of western immigration filled Arkansas to the brim, swept over the plains of Kansas and Texas, occupied the great northwest, the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific slope. Small streams of white population began to percolate through the barriers surrounding the Indian Territory; they grew rapidly in size and force until the dams were about down and the flood gates opened. The government had recognized the inevitable and had yielded to uncontrollable circumstances. It cannot do the impossible and create and

preserve a vacuum forever. Necessity has forced the adoption of a new purpose and policy which will be more fully explained hereafter.

### LAND AND LAND TITLES.

There is no government land in the Indian Territory. The Indians were the owners of all of it; that is, the United States granted and patented the land to the various tribes or nations of Indians, and the fee simple title to the land (barring a reversion to the United States in case the Indians become extinct), was vested in the different nations of Indians for the use of their citizens. Thus, for instance, the Cherokee Nation, as a nation and municipal corporation, was the owner of the legal title to all the lands of the Cherokee Nation. The use of this land by the individual Indian citizen has heretofore been regulated and controlled by the various Indian governments, and has generally been on the plan to allow an Indian citizen to take up any unoccupied land and have the use of all he could fence and cultivate by himself or tenants. The land thus taken up and marked as his he had the right to occupy and possess and use all of his life; and all the right he had in the land descended to his heirs. He had the right to sell and dispose of it to any other citizen of the same nation as himself. But if he abandoned it for a certain length of time it was considered as vacant and liable to be taken up by any other citizen. The right of an individual Indian to sell or lease the land he occupied to a citizen of the United States had been heretofore prohibited by the laws of Congress; but in spite of prohibitory legislation a system of renting had grown up and prevailed all over the Territory. Under the Indian laws an individual Indian citizen was allowed to employ a white man as a laborer by taking out a permit for him for a stipulated fee paid to the Indian treasury. The permit gave the white man the right to reside in the country with his family and work for the Indian for a year. He cultivated the Indian's lands and paid him with a share of the crop. This permissive system, at first sparingly exercised, grew to great proportions, after Texas, Kansas and the northwest territories became settled up, and year by year white people steadily came to the Indian Territory and engaged in farming Indian lands on these short rent terms. Leases could not be legally made and enforced in the courts, but still, simply on the good faith of the parties, leases for terms of years were made and executed, and many are now in process of execution. A white man would agree with an Indian to clear, break and put in cultivation a certain tract of land, provided he was allowed to have the entire produce from it for five or ten years, as the case might be, the Indian to have possession of the land and improvements at the end of the period. There was no law to enforce such a contract, but they were usually carried out in letter and spirit, and by this means the white man, as actual tenant to the Indian, put into cultivation thousands of acres of valuable and productive lands in

the Territory, and the white population has become largely the most numerous throughout the Territory.

This system of land tenure proved vicious in many ways. It enabled the enterprising and forehanded Indian citizen to use more than his share of the lands, and to take up and occupy by means of white tenants large tracts and many farms of the best agricultural lands. Great bodies of grass lands were likewise enclosed with wire fence, and by one subterfuge or another filled annually with Texas cattle. This was good for the few, but it was an unequal use of common property, and failed to benefit the mass of Indian citizens. It also discouraged good farming and good husbandry. The renter had no interest in the land. The improvements he made were of the most temporary nature, and the land was tilled in the manner best calculated to get the most out of it for the present. The worst features of all, however, was the introduction into the Territory of a quarter of million of white people, deprived of all school privileges for their children except the poor device of an occasional neighborhood subscription school. The Indian nations had school funds and schools for their own children, but white children had no right to attend the Indian schools thus provided, and out upon the prairies and along the river bottoms in the country districts were thousands of white children dwelling in small, temporary, paintless, board houses, growing up in a state of nature, without schools or any opportunity to acquire the rudiments of education. Of course in the towns of any size this great want was supplied, in a measure, by schools established by various religious denominations. Thus, unless this condition could be speedily remedied, the Indian Territory would become in a short time a breeding ground for barbarians right in the center of the United States, and Indian civilization be obliterated by association rather than being advanced.

### **THE NEW PLAN AND CURTIS BILL.**

The new policy of the United States in dealing with the Indians of the five civilized tribes was foreshadowed by the legislation of the past ten years, and events have moved rapidly since that time. Several acts of Congress have resulted in the practical abolishment of the tribal courts and the adoption of a complete code of laws, civil and criminal, for the Territory, and which are made applicable to all classes of inhabitants, white, red and black. The Territory has been divided into four judicial districts, judges are appointed by the President of the United States for terms of four years to enforce these laws in the several districts. Each judge is authorized to appoint a certain number of United States commissioners for his district, who exercise like powers as justices of the peace in Arkansas; and also appoints constables for each of the commissioners' courts. An appellate court has been created to hear and determine appeals from the trial courts. The President also appoints a marshal and attorney for each district, and the judges appoint

their own clerks. These courts have complete civil and criminal jurisdiction over all persons in the Territory. Thus, for some purposes, a territorial government, applicable to all alike, is in successful operation in the Indian Territory. It is unlike other and regular territorial governments, in that it has no governor, territorial legislature or county organizations; but the President of the United States stands in the place of a governor in many respects, and the judges of the several districts are given some of the powers of an executive. Congress makes the laws for the Territory, instead of a local legislature, and the United States marshals and their deputies perform all the duties which devolve upon sheriffs in the counties of states or other territories. It is a most virile and potential government; the laws are complete in all respects and are enforced with great vigor and even-handed justice. Life is as safe, and liberty and property rights are as secure as in any part of the United States. The abolition of the tribal courts, and the conferring of full jurisdiction in all matters upon the United States courts, was effected by the Curtis bill, adopted as a law of Congress on the 2nd day of June, 1898. This bill has not only revolutionized the government of the Territory, but it resulted in the speedy allotment of all the tribal lands among the Indians in severalty. This work is being completed by a commissioner, who is the successor to the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes.

This commission was created by act of Congress twelve years ago, and was sent to the Territory for the purpose of bringing order out of chaos, recasting the political conditions found to exist here, and moulding the whole social and political fabric into a form suited to the changed policy of the government.

The task which they had in hand was Herculean in nature, and what would have been thirty years ago a very simple matter became a tangled web of conflicting interests and rights which, year by year, increased in intricacy and confusion. It is a Gordian knot which can hardly now be untied, but it will have to be severed as Alexander cut the Gordian knot of old. The commission worked patiently and perseveringly against many discouragements, and a great work has been accomplished. An arduous and trying preliminary work was accomplished in the determination and settlement of the intruder question, or the rights of claimants to citizenship. It was a source of much bitter feeling, some criticism of the commission, a great disappointment to very many and a real hardship to some claimants. It is true many were called and few chosen. Yet it is much the best for all concerned that a final determination has been reached and every man knows where he stands. If he cannot do one thing he can do another, and the opportunities are great in the Indian Territory. It was necessary to be done in order to make complete rolls of citizens of the various tribes preparatory to the greater work of the allotment of land in severalty.

The commission sought diligently and earnestly during its existence to make

treaties with the various tribes whereby allotment of land could be agreed upon, and thereby vest in the allottee at once full title in fee simple to his share of the common lands. Treaties with all the nations have been approved, and all citizens will now be given their lands absolutely in fee simple.

### **OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE.**

The outlook for the future of the Territory is bright. It will be settled up rapidly and with a good class of people, because good people will come where they have a right to be, and not include such a large element of that class of people which comes and occupies a country without a right. Of course it will be difficult for all to realize the full extent of the revolution. Even officials will insist for a time on enforcing ancient restrictions and retroactive methods, not understanding that they are blocking the wheels of real progress, but such things will inevitably yield to the inevitable, and retard but little a steady advancement. Those who think this new order of things will be hurtful to the Indian are mistaken; it is the old order which is harmful. The Indian of the five civilized tribes is an American in all respects. He has been associated with them all his life. He has been bred in their company and educated in their schools; his manner of thinking is the same; he has imbibed their spirits from his youth up, and all he needs is a chance to be a full-fledged American citizen. It may take a few years to work it all out, but the sooner the better. The Indians will at first own all the lands. After allotment a portion of it is for sale, and the most of it for rent. Both will bring money and population. It may be expected that every quarter section available for farming or pasture will soon be occupied and put to profitable use. Good farm houses and improvements will dot the landscape, the towns will grow in wealth and population; an era of lasting prosperity will set in, and the Indian will reap the lion's share of it. He will be the landlord and the white man the tenant, and he will have dollars where he now has cents. He will live among a growing and advancing population, surrounded by schools and churches, educated by association and example. Civilization will be about him and permeate him. With equal rights before the law for all he will no longer be a ward of the government, but will be a man among men in spirit and in truth. He will not be sending delegations to Washington begging for annuities, but he will stand upon his own resources, his property rights and landed estates, the peer of the best and a living witness to the glory of his country.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

In the present political condition local government by the people is very limited. Congress makes the laws and the courts execute them. It will be only when a full-fledged state is created that the voice of the people will become potential in making the laws that govern them. Now we take what Congress gives us. It is rather an

anomalous condition for a United States citizen who takes delight in exercising the right of suffrage to be thus shorn of his sovereignty and be placed upon the level of a Filipino, but it cannot be avoided. It is a part of the situation; but a short time, the rapid march of events and appropriate legislation may be confidently relied upon to speedily correct it.

The incorporated towns, however, have the right to regulate all town affairs by ordinance, create public schools and provide for taxation for their maintenance. This gives a little vent to the true born American penchant for voting; and if he cannot vote for Congressman or President he at least has a right to express a choice by his ballot for mayor and town councilmen.

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The Indian Territory proper includes the lands belonging to the five civilized tribes of Indians—the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminole Nations, and the lands pertaining to the Quapaw Agency in the northeast. The Osage Nation is not a part of the Indian Territory, as is generally erroneously supposed by some, but belongs to Oklahoma on the west.

It is a beautiful territory of wonderful resources, with a salubrious climate and a great variety of soil and productions. It has mountains and prairies, valleys and woodlands. The southern boundary is the Red River of Texas, and many fine streams of water flow through it, generally from the west to the east. The bottom lands of these rivers are generally extensive, usually covered with a heavy growth of timber, and the soil is extremely rich and productive when put in cultivation. The uplands comprise every variety of country, from timbered mountains to grass-covered prairies. The eastern part of the Cherokee Nation, east of the Grand river, appears to be an extension of the Ozark Mountains pushed across the Arkansas border, rough and ragged in places, but on top stretching out generally in rolling, timbered plateaus, with a good strong soil as a basis to support the abundant vegetation. In this section sparkling springs of pure water abound, and the valley courses are of great fertility. The north and west part of the Cherokee Nation, west of the Grand river is high, rolling prairie, with belts of timber along the streams. The soil is good, and as it is underlaid with limestone it is particularly well adapted to raising wheat. That portion of the Nation has a large white population.

The Chickasaw Nation is well timbered and has much fine tillable land, particularly in the eastern portion, with more prairie between the streams in the west. A range of low mountains known as the Arbuckle Mountains occupy the center of the Nation, and through which the Washita river cuts its way in a picturesque and fertile valley. The amount of good land possessed by the Chickasaws, and the smallness of the tribe to occupy it have been the inducement for the immigration of a

large white population into this Nation, particularly from the adjoining state of Texas.

The general elevation of the country can be better understood from the following table, taken mostly from points along the line of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad, which runs centrally through the Territory:

Feet above sea level:

Adair .....	636
Fort Arbuckle .....	1000
Atoka .....	556
Blue Jacket .....	779
Caddo .....	705
Caney .....	530
Catoosa .....	623
Checotah .....	587
Chelsea .....	718
Chouteau .....	624
Claremore .....	606
Durant .....	639
Eufaula .....	617
Fort Gibson .....	510
Honey Springs .....	568
Lilietta .....	592
McAlester .....	684
Muskogee .....	500
South Canadian .....	657
Vinita .....	698
White Oaks .....	792

#### **TIMBER.**

The timber of the Territory is generally of the hard wood varieties—oak, hickory, pecan, walnut, elm, ash, hackberry, maple, etc. In the eastern part of the Choctaw Nation are considerable bodies of pine timber suitable for commercial purposes. Also in the eastern part of the Cherokee Nation scattering pine timber and cedar are found among the mountain ridges and breaks. A large amount of walnut timber has existed in the Territory, but much of it has been culled and sold in spite of the laws against this traffic. The Bois d'Arc is indigenous to the Territory and grows prolifically and to a large size in the southern part of the Choctaw Nation. The pecan is also native in the Territory and grows abundantly. Large crops of pecan nuts are gathered annually by the inhabitants. The public land surveys, recently completed, show that the timber of the Territory is much more extensive

and valuable than has generally been supposed. Wild fruits abound in all parts of the Territory—wild plums, wild grapes and berries of all varieties.

### COAL AND MINERAL.

Until recently there have been no geological surveys of the Territory, and in consequence anything like exact statistics in reference to the minerals existing are not at this time obtainable. Likewise the restrictions heretofore placed upon the ownership of land and the right to acquire title to and work mineral deposits have operated against prospecting for mineral and the development of it when found. Nevertheless, the natural mineral wealth of the Territory is known to be very great.

The coal measures of the Indian Territory are known to cover about 1,200 square miles. Large areas of the northern and western part of the Choctaw Nation are underlaid with thick beds of coal. These coal fields extend north through the eastern part of the Creek Nation, not in such thick veins, however, as exist in the south. No systematic development or work has been done for the purpose of supplying the markets outside of the Territory, excepting in the Choctaw Nation, where large mines have been opened and operated at many points. The Choctaw Coal and Railway Company's railroad, extending westward from Howe through Wister Junction and South McAlester, runs through a coal mining region, and mines are operated at nearly all the towns along the road. On the road are the coal mines at Howe, Hartshorne, Alderson and Krebs. On the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad running north and south, and spurs of that road, are Savannah, Atoka, Lehigh and Coalgate. These mines supply coal to the local railroads, and also to the Gould system and other railroads in Texas. The coal beds worked are from four to five feet in thickness. The coal is bituminous and of very fine quality. It is said to be the best gas and coke coal west of Pittsburg.

#### Analysis of coking coal from McAlester:

Water .....	2.10
Volatile matter .....	29.71
Fixed carbon .....	62.67
Ash .....	5.52

#### Analysis of coal from Atoka:

Water .....	4.61
Volatile matter .....	39.16
Fixed carbon .....	45.74
Ash .....	10.49

These mines are worked by companies which have secured leases on them for a term of years from the Choctaw Nation. A large number of miners are employed.

In the Creek and Cherokee Nations but little has been done in the way of mining coal or opening mines. Farmers work some banks to supply themselves with coal during the winter, and haul some to town in wagons to sell. A good quality of coal has been found and worked on a small scale on all sides of Muskogee. Also beds have been opened and worked to supply the demands in various parts of the Cherokee Nation. The Indian Territory has enough good coal to supply itself and surrounding states with good coal for many ages to come.

### OTHER MINERALS.

The Territory is known to be rich in mineral resources, but except as to coal, nothing has ever been done in the way of development on any extended scale, and but little real prospecting. Lead ores are found in various parts of the Territory, particularly in the Cherokee and Creek Nations; silver ores are known to exist, and gold has been found in several places in the Cherokee Nation, likewise in the Arbuckle mountains in the Chickasaw Nation. The writer of this article has seen some very fine placer gold ore taken from veins, which was vouched for by the owners as coming from certain parts of the Cherokee Nation. It is hardly to be expected, however, that the precious metals will be found in sufficient quantities to pay for mining, but there is no doubt that there is plenty of zinc, and large deposits of excellent zinc ore discovered in the Creek and Cherokee Nations. Sufficient prospecting for this mineral has already been done to demonstrate that it exists in abundance, and will eventually prove a great and valuable resource of the Territory. Vast beds of an excellent quality of marble have been located along the Salisaw creek in the Cherokee Nation. It is a beautiful stone, solid and fine grained and susceptible of a very high polish. Granite and limestone are found in various parts of the Territory, and good building stone exists everywhere. Enough is known of the minerals of the Territory to justify the conclusion that the future development of the Territory will not be wholly confined to agriculture and stock raising, but that the minerals will prove a great and wonderful source of wealth.

### AREA.

The area of the land owned by the several tribes in the Indian Territory, is as follows:

Tribes	Square Miles
Cherokees .....	7,861
Chickasaws .....	7,262.
Choctaws .....	10,450
Creeks .....	4,750.75
Seminoles .....	586
Quapaw Agency .....	331.41
Total .....	<u>31,441.16</u>

There are no statistics by which the value of the property, real or personal, in the Territory can be determined or even estimated. The Indian governments have heretofore been supported by interest on trust funds and no property has ever been assessed in the Territory for taxation or other purposes.

The trust funds owned by the several tribes, in the United States Treasury, are the proceeds of tribal lands heretofore sold to the government. Annual interest is paid upon these funds by the government as follows:

Tribes	Amt. of principal	Amt. of Int.
Cherokee .....	\$2,625,842.37	\$137,469.33
Chickasaw .....	1,308,695.65	68,404.95
Choctaw .....	549,594.74	32,344.73
Creek .....	2,000,000.00	100,000.00
Seminole .....	1,500,00.00	75,000.00
Total .....	\$7,984,132.76	\$413,219.01

In addition to the income from this source the several tribes also collect fees from licensed traders and taxes for permits.

#### THE CLIMATE.

The climate of the Indian Territory is temperate and salubrious, corresponding closely to that of Virginia and Kentucky. As a rule winters are mild and pleasant; the summers are long, and while the sun shines with considerable warmth during the day, the nights are always cool and refreshing, owing in a measure to a breeze from the gulf. The prevailing winds are from the south during the summer months, and they are usually pleasant and are but very rarely of that dry character known as "hot winds," which afflict western Texas and Kansas and wither and destroy vegetation. The rainfall is seasonable and abundant and the country is no more subject to droughts than Missouri, Iowa and Illinois, and it is even doubtful if there are as many failures of crops as in those states.

The Territory lies midway between the extremes of the north and south, east and west, and which fortunate situation insures it a most temperate and delightful climate. While it does not have the over-abundant rainfall of Louisiana and Arkansas it escapes the arid climate of the farther west. The temperature in winter is occasionally influenced by the contiguous territory on the northwest, that vast extent of plain stretching, without interruption, through Kansas and Nebraska, seemingly boundless and endless, to Wyoming and the Dakotas. Once in a while in the winter season a great blizzard, starting from the distant northwest, will sweep down across the plains and reach to the Territory, but in a greatly modified form, usually broken of its force and shorn of its intensity. The tail end of the "norther" only reaches here.

### STOCK RAISING.

The Territory is exceedingly well adapted for raising stock of all kinds. The long summers, mild and short winters, luxuriant grass on the prairies and glades and the abundant mast of the forests are all favorable to this industry. Cattle, sheep and hogs all grow thriftily and multiply rapidly.

### COTTON.

Cotton is a leading crop in the Territory. It is of good quality and the yield per acre is above the average of most of the states. It is not cultivated to any great extent in the north part of the Cherokee Nation, but from the Creek Nation south to Red river it is grown extensively, and every town and center of trade has one or more cotton gins to gin the cotton raised by the neighboring farmers. It is picked and usually hauled to the gin in a loose state in wagon beds with sideboards and sold by weight as seed cotton. The picking commences in September and lasts until December, or even later some years, thus affording employment to a large number of people for several months in the year. In recent years the price of cotton has only been a little above its cost of production, and while it may not be of great profit to the producer, nevertheless, it is a valuable crop to the community where grown. It is cash in hand at the gin, and affords living wages to the farmer and his employees and the gin hands. The value per acre of the crop to the community is the value of the lint cotton produced, plus the value of the seed. Thus if a thousand acres of land in a neighborhood produces a bale of lint cotton per acre which sells at \$50 per bale, that community is enriched to the extent of \$50,000, and in addition, the value of the seed, which is no inconsiderable amount. No other crop affords so much profitable employment or pays so much to the acre of ground, and that is why it is raised in such large quantity, in spite of the fact that the cost of raising and the price realized so nearly balance. It is a source of employment at reasonable cash wages.

### CORN AND WHEAT.

Corn is an important crop of the Territory, and on the bottom lands the yield is prolific. Much of the upland likewise constitutes good corn ground and produces abundantly. The Territory is not so exclusively a corn country as Iowa and Nebraska, but owing to the diversity of crops here, cotton growing and cattle raising, the home demand for corn is good and the average price realized is much better than in the northwestern states.

Wheat also yields well and the uplands in many parts of the Territory seem well adapted to its growth. The rich limestone lands in the western and north-

ern part of the Cherokee Nation make it a fine wheat growing section, as good as can be found in the west.

Oats, rye, buckwheat, barley, sugar cane, Kaffir corn and millet are raised and yield as well as in the adjoining states. Alfalfa has been tried and has been reported to be a successful crop. All the common vegetables known to Kansas and Arkansas grow prolifically. The sweet potatoes grown are of particularly fine quality and flavor. Melons of all kinds and of fine quality are raised without much trouble. Peanuts can also be successfully grown.

### **FRUITS, FLOWERS AND SINGING BIRDS.**

The Indian Territory is a wonderfully fine fruit country. The climate, the soil and the sunshine all conspire to its prolific production. Apples, peaches, plums, grapes and every variety of fruit known to the temperate zone thrive here and attain to great perfection. In recent years attention has been directed to this industry and many large young orchards of choice varieties of nursery stock have been planted. The older orchards of common kinds have produced such good results that much may be expected from well selected trees. Like all new countries, there are some local, adverse conditions which have to be studied by trial and overcome by experience.

Small fruits and berries, wild and tame, grow in rich profusion. The cultivation of strawberries is becoming an important and successful industry. In the vicinity of Salisaw, on the Arkansas river bottom, large fields of strawberries are cultivated and thousands of dollars' worth of the luscious fruit are shipped to northern markets every spring.

This is a land of flowers. The plain and the woodland, hill and vale are covered with them from March to October, and their variety and beauty is astonishing to one who will take the trouble to observe them closely. There are many handsome flowering trees and shrubs growing naturally in the woods. The redbud—and its buds are crimson red—puts forth its blossoms early, and it is soon followed by the milk white hawthorn, the thickly flowering wild plum and the fragrant wild crabapple. The locust and catalpa, half domestic and half wild, follow closely and fill the woodland with the fragrance of their blossoms. But the prairie flowers are a wonder. From early spring to late fall, in every variety of color, form and fashion, they bloom continually. The first spring blossoms of delicate white and pink give place in summer to those of stronger growth, the petals of which are more deeply dyed in red and brown, blue, violet and carnation by the virile rays of the summer sun. These in turn are supplanted by the gorgeous yellow and deeper red and brown of early autumn, the leaders of which, the goldenrod and sun flower, covering the hill and running up the shoulders of the hills, billow into golden waves before the passing breeze like a yellow sea. The

waving grass bedecked by flowers and flaunting plumes and backed by the dark green and abundant foliage of the bordering woodland, make a picture to delight the eye of any person, be he or she savage or civilized.

But sight and smell are not the only senses pleased by an Indian Territory landscape. Hearing is equally as well gratified, and the ear is greeted with enjoyable sounds. The woods and groves are filled with feathered songsters which render the mornings glorious with inspiring music from a thousand throats.

“Hark, hark, the lark to Heaven’s gate sings.”

The lark is here and while his merits are recognized, and his aspiring flights to the blue vault above are admired, he is not our chief song bird. We have many. The prairie chickens drum and crow in the early spring morning; the quail long before harvest, is heard whistling his favorite song, “Bob White, is your wheat most ripe;” the mocking bird, the red bird, the cat bird and a host of kinds of lesser note making the welkin ring with their songs of rejoicing. The mocking bird is the principal chief, the head and front of all the tribe. He is a handsome and graceful fellow, alert and vivacious. He will perch upon a tree, the comb of a building or a high pole and seemingly filled with restless energy and the ecstasy of living, he will every once in a while spring upward a few feet with partly outstretched wings, turn a series of somersaults, flip-flaps and graceful curves and re-light upon his perch, all the time pouring forth a volume of trills, quavers and bird songs, wondrous to hear and unmatched by any other bird on earth. He reproduces every note of music ever made by any warbler of the woodland. The red bird is likewise a well appreciated songster and he is, withal, a beauty. He frequents the deep foliage of heavy forests and his red coat glints brightly in the sunlight as he pursues his rapid flight from tree to tree.

### FISH AND GAME.

The streams of the Territory abound in fine fish. The chief varieties are perch, bass, trout and catfish. The last named variety grow to immense size in the larger rivers. An effort, attended by considerable success, has been made by the government to stock the streams with fine food fishes from the hatchery at Neosho, Missouri. This purpose is encouraged by the protection which the courts give the fish by a vigorous enforcement of the law against their needless and wanton destruction. Heretofore it has been an ancient and time honored custom with the Indians to have great fish fries at certain seasons of the year. At these festivals, in order to obtain the fish in the quantities desired to feed the multitude they poison the streams with buckeye, coffee bean, poke root or other deleterious vegetable, pounded up and put into the stream in large quantities, thereby killing an immense number of fish, many more than can possibly be consumed at one time. The poison does not affect the fish as food, but it destroys all that come within the

influence of the poisoned water, big and little, young and old. Then in more recent years it has become a practice to explode dynamite or giant powder in the water in order to kill the fish. Judge John R. Thomas called attention to this wanton method of killing fish at a term of the United States Court at Tahlequah several years ago, and vigorously instructed the grand jury to indict every person found poisoning or dynamiting the streams. This new policy was viewed with amazement by some for a time as being against usage, but its advantages were soon understood, and as the attention of the grand jury has been called to it at every term of court since, this destructive manner of killing fish has about become obsolete and a thing of the past. Thus we may be assured that hereafter an abundance of the choicest food fishes will always exist in our numerous rivers, and that the sport of angling, made classic by Isaac Walton, will ever be a source of recreation and profit to the people of Indian Territory.

In regard to the so-called poisoning of streams, it is due to the old timers, who contend for the custom, to claim that the effect is not nearly so destructive as is usually represented. The area of the water impregnated by the vegetable is limited, and the influence only lasts a couple of hours. The fish are not really poisoned, but only stupefied, the larger ones reviving if allowed to remain in the water. They do not revive, however, after dynamite is used.

In times past the Territory has been a great country for game, large and small, but in the past ten years the larger kinds have been so vigorously hunted and killed that they are becoming scarce. Many years past the buffalo was common, but now the oldest inhabitant can hardly recollect him. The antelope disappeared a long time ago, and the deer are becoming few in number, but still some are found in the isolated sections of the Territory. A few black bear exist, but not many. Wild turkeys are rather numerous in the mountainous regions, but there is yet an abundance of quail, squirrel and rabbits. The prairie chickens once so numerous, can now be found only in small and scattering coveys. Some general legislation is badly needed to protect the wild game. The Indian Nations all have some regulations on the subject applicable to their own citizens, and the Indian Intercourse laws have heretofore afforded considerable protection, but in the present demoralized condition of local government the wild game is likely to fare badly. A stringent and effective game law will be one of the first necessary acts of a state legislature, when organized.

Under the treaties now in force with the five tribes, it is possible to purchase land from allottees in the five nations who are adopted, inter-married or Freedmen citizens, and in the Creek Nation under certain rules and regulations prescribed by the Interior Department, land can be purchased of allottees who are of Indian blood. In addition to the land thus thrown on the market, citizens of

all the tribes, can, by making a proper showing, have their restrictions removed and sell all of their allotment excepting the homestead. The result of all this has been that a large per cent of the best land in the Territory has been sold to thrifty farmers, and the development of the past year exceeds that of any five preceding years.

Oil and natural gas has been discovered in paying quantities in the Cherokee and Creek Nations, and this business is now one of the leading industries of the Territory. Substantial towns and cities have sprung into existence, the largest being Muskogee, with a population of 20,000, having paved streets, electric car lines, water and sewer systems, and all the ear marks of a city. It is doubtful if such a general era of prosperity prevails anywhere in the United States, as in the Indian Territory and with statehood which must come within a short time, a tide of emigration will set in which will increase the population from the present estimated figure of 750,000 to more than a million people within the next two years.

That this volume may have a permanent place in the library is the hope of the publisher, who, confident that the gentlemen named herein will largely dominate the new state, submits it as a contribution to the literature of this Territory.

*Garrett B. Hughes*

