

REPORT  
OF THE  
GOVERNOR OF OKLAHOMA.

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TERRITORY OF OKLAHOMA,  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
*Guthrie, Okla., September 15, 1901.*

SIR: In response to your letter of June 22, 1901, I have the honor to transmit herewith a report as governor of Oklahoma Territory for the year ending June 30, 1901, fully believing that it depicts conditions of general prosperity and development not to be found in any other American Commonwealth, and presents an unanswerable argument in favor of the early admission of the Territory to the full rights and privileges of a State of the Union.

Very respectfully,

WM. M. JENKINS, *Governor.*

Hon. E. A. HITCHCOCK,  
*Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.*

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THE PAST.

Historically considered, Oklahoma as a Territory is of recent origin, but as a small portion of the great tract of Southwestern country, known at various times and under various circumstances as Louisiana, Mandan Territory, the great American desert, uninhabitable lands, and the Indian Territory, it has a place in the history of the nation dating back to the days of the Spanish explorers, who sought in the great Southwest unknown empires and their reputed fabulous wealth.

Following the course of travel described in many early Spanish manuscripts and books, one is readily convinced that the original Oklahoma boomers were the little army of adventurous spirits who traversed the Southwest under the leadership of De Soto, and that they were followed by Jesuits and others who sought wealth in the mineral veins of the mountains and hills of the Territory, there are unmistakable signs in lately discovered ruins of mines and places of early abode.

Lewis and Clarke visited the Territory in one of their early exploring expeditions, and the prairies and valleys of the Territory were the hunting grounds of the early tribes of Indians, from the earliest time of which there is record of the movements of the aboriginal Americans.

When the Indian Territory was created as a home for all of the