## The South

Plains

## -BY HON. T. J. O'DONNELL.

When the early Spanish explorers first set foot on the great Plains of Texas, led by the in-
trepid Coronade, tradition tell trepid Coronade, tradition tells
us that he caused stakes to be set up at short intervals, showing his course across the country, and should he lose his way they
would use the stakes to retrace would use the stakes
their steps to the starting point. their steps to the starting point.
No doubt with the primitive means of travei at such an early day the precaution was wisely taken, as the almost endless expanse of prairie that greeted the
eye on every hand was enough to eye on every hand was enough
excite the fear and addairation of one of the boldest explorers that ever set foot on American
soil. What the dauntless Coronado thought of the great plains of the Western Contiuent, he has
left to posterity but a meager left to posterity but a meager
account, but suffice to say, he no donbt was charmed with the delightful climate, the magnificence
of the broad, Jevel prairies, covof the broad, level prairies, cov-
ered with a rich coat of luxuriour grasses that were spread over the Plains like a blanket, kiving life and sustenance to the countless
herds of buffalo, deer, antelope and wild animals of different varieties indigenous to the Southwet, nearly all of which have given way to the onward march of
evvlization. In the former hauntof the buffalo, deer, antelope and
other wild animals in this other wild animats in this animal
paratie of an early day, may be seen the peaceful homes of the American farmer.
The seflement of the Plains Texas has been handicapped various wast. A princely gift
three million acces was given Eastern parties to build the State capitol building a merous large grants of land on the Plains were given to railroad
companies to construct railroads in the eastern part of the state. Large slices of
with a lavish , band to county
schools in eastern counties, fur schools in eastern counties, far re-
moved from the Plains, moved from the Plain
county school fund county school fund. Cattlemen
with a jealous eye. have regarded the settlement of the Plains as a step by step fought the encroach ment of the man with the hoe, and
when compelled to give up their when compelled to give up their
liease boldings to the soil civilizer and subjugators, have gracefully yielded with American spit.
are now found fighting front ranks of agricultural progress and home building.
The description of one county on the Plains, covers in a general
way the description of every con?$\boldsymbol{y}$, and the description of Dawson Eounty given below is applicabie to uny of the other Plains counties
viz: L,ynn, Lubbock, Cochran Sailey, Lamb, Terry, Yoakum
Hale, Floyd, Crosby, Andrews -0enGaines and Martain
Dawson county Dawson county is situated
thout 300 miles west of For est ${ }_{\text {Warce from and about the same dis }}^{\text {Wor }}$ ance from EI Paso,
Lonit niles south of Amarillo, aret, nown as West Central Texas
city rhe soil of che roil of Dawson county can nough sand to make it work good ITI sa reservoir to retain the mois 1 ure that falls. The soil by prope n abundant crop every year of maize, kaffir
cotton, mille orn, cotton, millet, sweet and Potatoes; fruits, such a s, apples, apricots, cherries,
and plums; different plums; different kind oo do well, while the
of melons and canta
loupe ean be produced with little
or no effort tesides the planting.
This, as well as all the other coun- tiss, is w arntry, as the tich bative grasses become cured on the ground, and thousands of fat cattle have teen
shipped every year off the ranges and command the best prices western cattle on the markets of
Kaneas City. St. Iotuis and Chi

Dawson county and the Plain is underlaid with an inexhaustible supply of pure sheet witer at depth of from 60 to 120 feet, and except in rare cases is free from ties. Thousands of busy wind mills fanned by gentle breezes, are constantly hoisting the water to me surface to be made use of by
Dawsor county, as well as the entire State of Texas, offers ex eptional educational advantage With the twenty one schoo organized, Dawson county pre ents to the youth an opportunity
to get an education, comparing favorably with older and more thickly settled counties. Different
denominations of the Christian denominations of the Christian
religion are represented by organi rations and places of worship. Dawson county has an area 900 square miles, or 576,000 acres.
The surface is generally level with an surface is generally level with are no ruming streams, Ninety per cent of the county is sus is a dark red loam, with enoug qualities. The winters are mild The sumpeople are prozressive and enter
hearty welcome to a vew comer
Land can te had from twent
depending upon the distance fron
Plains is no longer an experiment
but is a demonstrated fact, an
with the adyent of the
our town, a new era of progres
and development will take place
which will put Dawson
the front rank of Texas countie The great Santa Fe Railwa and development in the Sout west, are now busily engaged and
have almost completed a line fro Plainview to Lubbock; they a greatest pieces of railrood work that has evertaken place in the
State of Texas. Active con struction on the Coleman Texic
cut-off has been cartied forwar for the past four months, and whe the same has been completed, it wiructive ability of the presen chief officers. Surveyors are now
in the field running a line from in the field running a line from
the above cnt-off through the town of Tahoka, the county seat county seat of Dawson count and already these thriving little towns are feeling the touch of
prosperity that comes from the surety of getting a railroad. I map that with the lises of the Santa Fe in operation, and the they are alive to the importance of the future development of the road has evar been a constructiv company, reaching out into new ability to select new territory ha
seldom, if ever, been at fault whe it comes to figuring future tonnage
and passenger business.
The develorment of the Country may best be illustratel Conting the development of L.y

## DRUMMER JOE.

## MRS. NELELIE G. JOHNSON

There had been a midnigh skirmish 'Twas a sudden, swift surprise, the enemy had waited Until slumber sealed our eyes: Then with fierce and eager fury They had roused us from our slee And at once we fled before them Like a flock of frightened sheep.
But we quickly stopped and rallied, With our colors at the front;
And we faced our foemen bravely As had ever been our wont. en their numbers overwhelmed us, For they counted three to one they drove us on before them, And they thought the fight was won
Sword in hand our Captain led us, And his gallant little son
Who had been our petted drummer,
Dropped his drum to grasp a gu
But to stem the tide of battle All our efforts were in vain
And again we fled in terror
From that deadly leaden rain.
Even then our brave young Captain With his little son beside Strove to rouse our failing courage, And to stay our footsteps, trie
But we listened not his pleading; at length we saw him falling With a bullet in his breast.
Then, above the din of battlo Clear a boyish voice outrang 'twixt him and our pursuers, Quick the little drummer spran comrades! brothers! Will you leave him To be taken by the foe
Save yourselves, and leave him lying Wounded, dying, while ye
There beside his fallen father With that father's sword
acing to the rushing soldiers, Did our little drummer stand the sight our fears were banished, And we faced about again Vith a cheer we charged upon them,
And they scattered o'er the plain. 'Round our Chatain then we gathered Where upon the turf he lay; For we saw the break of day Ere the rising of the sun, d we held the ground as That the foe had nearly
$\qquad$ We knew our brave young drummer Who had made such gallant stand ere beside his dying father With that gleaming sword in hand, Though he saved us all from When he made us win the battle That we all had counted lost.

For his comrades gazing on him Saw him waver, reel, and fall
ight across his father's body, Dying there before us all.
Dysos hat he fell his father whispered. (And our eyes with tears were filled, Then death's hag go togeth Then death's hand his pulses stilled.
Strong brown hands, grown strangely gentie Lifted little Drummer Joe
Tried to stanch his life-blood's flow
But his sweet blue eyes were glazing. As we sad'y hent above him,

When we saw he wished to speak,
"Boys," his white lips slowly faltered As we knelt beside him there; For your your constant kindness That have smoothed the path of duty Till it seemed an cas ,

## Our Austin News Letter

A REQULAR WEEKLY REPORT

Austin, Texas, October 4, 1909. When it is rememberd that complaints of short crops in all this year in all parts of the state it is gratifying to know that the shortage by comparison the what might have lisen on!y with What might have been and not by comparion with the past. The

new year book soon to be issued by the Department of Agriculture will show a wonderfull dẹvelopwill show a wonderfull delvelop.
ment of the resources of the state. As an instance it will be shown that in 1885 the entire corn crop of Texas amounted to $45,000,000$ while in 1908 it reached to 202,-
ooo,000 bushels. In this connection Falls county is shown to be remarkable as a corn growing county, the entire crop of 1008 in that one county being $1,300,000$,
four times what was raised twelve years before. Similar development is shown in cotton, wheat and Wher grains and a much more re truck raising. The crop this year is far below last year's cr)p, perfur ahead of former crop
It appears possible for national banks to accept the bonding system
of the bank guaranty law, but the Couptroller of Currency, at Wash-
Ington, has ruled, that national Ington, has ruled, that national
banks may not operate under the banks may not operate Ther Semi-
guaranty fund plan. The Seminole National Bank, of Sutminole. Texas, has anked petmission to
adopt the bonding systemand the department will grant it

A plan has been proposed by the

gether and establish its own steamship line between New York and Texas ports in order to conconfmission is in favor of the plan.

The steamship companies now in. crease their rates when the commis-
sion reluces rates in Texas to off
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
demestic rcience and agriculupon the state for the equal of the sum expended in not less than
8500 and not more than $\$ 2,000$ Van Alstyne installed a fine de$\$ 2,000$ of her own money and then \$3,000,000 which were practically supreme court in the Baird case
ment voted on August, according
sary with regard to them, and
State Treasurer Sparks has been
advised that he may accept them
from depositories as security for
state funds.
$\qquad$ suit against J. W. Cole, a dealer
of Dallas, to test the constitutionpation or gross receipts tax of 50 per cent on the gross receipts of
dealers in pistols in Texas Mr dealers in pistols in Texas. Mr.
Cole has certified to the comptroller the sale by him of a pistol the state will likely take action in


## WE RE <br> HOME

 From
## MARKET

and will have Goods arriving all the time and we got the best the Dallas, St. Louis, Chicago, and New York markets afforded and we got in on the ground floor and Got'em Down Right


Have You Seen ?
The New Curlees ? ---they're in town--at our store---the dandiest lot of men's pants your eyes ever gazed on.
$\qquad$
---the designers and manufacturers of these pants exidently tried to remove every possibility of competition.
---and they succeeded, too.
---beautiful cloths fashioned on the latest approved models with touches of individuality here and there which add materially to the attractiveness of CURLEE pants. ---and the prices

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Celebrated Steel Dust Strain

 to come and see them
rahoka Saddle Shop the Cowan bvilding on the West side square. Shoe and Harnes
pairing a specialty if you need any thing in our line you ar TAHOKA SADDLE SHOP. ELLIOTT BROS. prop.

WE GIVE

Our tanks, ple
give satis
See us if you need a
M.MILIIKIEN \& SON

DRUMMER JOE.
mrs. nellie g. johnson

Now, good-bye." His voice grew feebler
Fainter still his fluttering breath,
Till at last, beside his father
Side by side we left them lying,
With our flag above them laid,
Till amid the fragrant shadows,
Tender hands a grave had made.
Side by side we laid them in it,
And the earth upon them pressed,
Ine by side we left them tying,
In their last long peaceful rest
Then the rough and hardened soldier
Who had loved them both so well,
Knew that one must write the letter
at Be suidy.
"Boys it might as well be me
For our wives at home are neighbors.
Mary'll tell her best, you see."
So the Sergeant wrote the letter, And it bore the news away, Home to that poor wife and mother.
Of the deadly midnight fray
And petitions that Our Father
Be hould, when it had reached her there,
Fell support and comfort,
Fell from lips unused to prayer.
Many years since then have vanished.
But their memory lingers $y$
While our eyes with tears are wet
How at midnight we were wakened
By the yelling of the foe;
How we buried them together-


TAHOHAREALESTATEGO.

> City Bakery ${ }^{\text {\& Cold }}$ Drinks
> xzrp races meat aluyry on mand

mar rema Dimes scast stagit
7000 Pounds of Ice Received
Weekly, Sold at 3cts straigh it
the kersuner land company Commission Agts.
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Your Old Sewing Machiue $\mathrm{F}_{0}$
NEW SINGER MACHINE
himans brime
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Weeisly Record together, jou get both papers one year for $\$ 1.8$. The Fort Worth Seari-Weekiy Fpcord alon one year, 81.00 , six ee months 25 cents.

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Tahoka to Gail s2; round trip \$3.50: Tahoks to Big Springs
\&.50; round trip 87.50 . The other way same prices, Gail to Big Springs $\$ 2.50$; round trip $\$$. Same both ways.
Grip bagzage carried free. Courteous treatment assured Grip baggage carried free. Courteous treatment assured.
HALE 8 HALE Proprietors Gail, Texas

NOTICE, METHODISTS. It has been my habit for some on the controverted doctrines of Christianity. I do so, without the controvertial spirit, and with the people called Methodists. However, any who care to, may at tend these services, and may res assured that no intentional wound will be inflicted. Sunday, the ${ }^{1} 7$ th inst., I shall talk on the mode of Baptism. Let me urge all Methodists to be present.
b. T. Howell, Pastor.
J. W. Ward, superintendent of the Rio Grand division of the Texas \& Pacific road at Big Springs, while here Thursday night stated
that with but one exception, his that with but one excendangered
division was vot endal through a scarcity of water for opthrough a scarcity of water for op-
enting purposes. In speaking of erating purposes. In speat
the matter Mr. Ward said:
"The road several years ago anticipated dry seasons such as we
have experienced this year, and

## AB--STRACT

"Ab" means away from, "Traho" means to drag. You can "Abstract" any thing from our Store which you may fancy, provided you will let us drag the equivalent coin out of your pocket. The operation is easy after you see the goods and get the prices.
Big Line of School Supplies just in Noby line fall hats for young men, soon to arrive. 12 doz.pairs mens \& boys pants,dress \& work,bargain arocriiss of all rinds. quantity, quality, priczs mate it easy for the purchaser, yours to please
The Fair

## Come In For

## Here's The Best

Deeds, Notes, Listing Contracts, Legal Blanks, Statements, Note and Letter Heads,Cards and Blanks

On The Plains
Lynn ount News


You Must Have. A Hat
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The Millinery Parlor at Post City will have the best the stion market aforids. Patterns hats to please the most fastidious wer \% Trimed hats a Specialty. Mesdames Rump \& Kelly, Post $C_{i}$
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