

SPECIAL EDITION

The Hesperian

Descriptive
Statistical

Treats of Floyd County.

Historical
Miscellaneous

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Specially Edited by CLAUDE V. HALL.

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CONTENTS

BY WAY OF EXORDIUM.

DESCRIPTIVE.

Texas as a Whole.

Greatest of Texas—A demonstrated field—Geographical divisions—Geological formation.

The Great Plains Province.

The two divisions; the Edwards Plateau and the Llano Estacado—Kinds; built up and worn-down—Division line indicated.

The Panhandle.

The two divisions distinct—The Llano Estacado and the Breaks Country.

The Breaks Country.

Topography and natural adaptation—Sub-irrigated lands and shinneries—Kinds of timber—Wild fruits—Streams and surface water.

The Llano Estacado.

Reasons for name usually fallacious—Some popular reasons investigated—The real reason why so called—The geography of the Plains—Not the Great Plains—Llano Estacado as a geographical term—Description of country.

Floyd County.

Why named—Why named—Description—Some terms.

The Soil.

Quality and characteristics—No construction—Productiveness tested—Past, present, future.

Field Products.

First settlers not farmers—Farming a secondary matter for years—Staple products—Average yields—Early history of cotton-growing—First gin and first bale sold at Floydada—Increase in cotton-raise—Small grain crops—A survey of the future—The present a period of transition.

Truck, Gardens, and Fruits.

Unequaled for truck-growing—Gardening successful—Small fruits satisfactory grown—A garden spot.

The Plains Basins.

Saucer-like depressions—The Plains drainage system—Basic soil—Size and depth—An incident of drowning—Impediments to roads—Different grasses.

Public Lands.

Laws favorable to settlers—Two dollar act—Temporary relief obtained—Senator Goss and Judge Plemons's efforts—Educating East Texas legislators—Governor Culberson's message—Reduction of price and reclassification raised—Lands readily taken up—Homestead lands—Land prices of today.

Fuel and Timber.

Sources of supply—Custom, not law, governed the settlement—Custom changed—Philosophy a boon—Disadvantages imaginary rather than real—Native surface fuel—Writer's experience in schools—Conforming with custom.

Climates in General.

Multiformity of climates—Annual precipitations from East to West Texas—Amount necessary for successful farming—Sources of rainfall—Fort Elliott meteorological observations—Observations at Mt. Blanco—Cold waves, northers, blizzards, zoreros—Sunshine.

The Winters.

The weather sometimes cold—Duration—No place for human grasshoppers—Forms of precipitation—Latest severe weather—Coldest weather known—Severe winters precursors of bountiful crops—How to prepare against losses.

The Winds.

Winds characteristic of prairie countries—A necessity—Kind of winds—Duties—Wells and Windmills.

Water-supply inexhaustible—Cost of

equipping wells—Depths vary—Shallow and deep water wells compared.

The Loco Plant.

Effects exaggerated—Plant described—Characteristics—Effects on stock—When most prevalent—A means of ridicule.

Railroad Facilities.

Progress checked by lack of railroads—Distances to railroad points—Trading points—Local merchandise.

Railroad Prospects.

Capital can not withhold investment—Prospective railroads: 1. Texas Central; 2. Frisco from Quanah; 3. Santa Fe; 4. Rock Island; 5. Weatherford & Mineral Wells; 6. McKinney charter; 7. Dallas & New Mexico—Outlook hopeful.

Social Conditions.

Errors not overbearing—No crimes in the West—Character of people—Level country no harbor for outlaws—Elections free from fraud—Homes of churches, schools, secret orders, and so forth.

Public Schools.

Statistics and finances pertaining to the public schools of Floyd County.

Addenda.

Some notes descriptive of the country.

STATISTICAL.

Values in Counties.

A comparison of property values in Floyd County with those in surrounding counties.

County of Floyd (1880).

County of Floyd (1890).

County of Floyd (1900).

County of Floyd (1905).

Property Valuations.

Total taxable values of property in Floyd County from 1880 to 1905.

Property Assessments.

A comparison of tax rolls of Floyd County for the years of 1900 and 1905.

Floyd County Taxes.

A discussion of State, County, and district school taxes and tax rates.

Floyd County Revenues.

Amount of revenues due to the several State, County, and school funds.

HISTORICAL.

Today and Yesterday.

Spirit of the early settlers of older countries—That of Plains settlers different—Times early and recent.

HISTORICAL MUSINGS.

Periods Classified.

Classification of historians in general—Classification in this work legitimate.

I. Nomadic Period.

The bison, the coyote, the Indian first held sway—Compressions civilized people gained in the remote past.

II. Saddle and Blanket Period.

Cattle syndicates organized—The typical cowboy—His ferocity overdrawn.

III. Dugout Period.

Dugouts peculiar for several reasons—Only temporary structures—Dugouts described—A picture of dugout life.

IV. Frame House Period.

Frame House period hence beneficent on dugouts—World designed to advance.

The Canyon Settlement.

Geographical Features.

First settlers sought homes in the Canyon—Natural advantages—Burns, Water Draw—White River—Gradient.

Those Who Came.

H. C. Smith and family first settlers in Crosby County—Times then—A well-preserved man—Experiences on the frontier—Prices of provisions in the West—Buffalo slaughter—Quaker colony.

Ranches Established.

First people transients; no women; the Roosevelts mentioned—Sharp camp of Owens, Duncan, and Marselles—H. L. Ranch; M. V. Blacker Douglas—Connelley and F ranches; Charles Goodnight.

Moving Westward.

A man's connections with a country's

settlement; first family in Floyd County; experiences on the way.

The Arrival.

Established camp; trip to Clarendon.

Opposition to Settlement.

Ranch people wanted country to themselves; a bluff; determined to stay.

The Home.

A house in a bank; a crooked-necked chimney nearest neighbors.

Of Political Import.

Aspect of the election of 1884; a lonely celebration; Hogg, not Cleveland, afterwards political idol; title of 'Squire.'

More Settlers Come.

Those who came; living easy; first marriage; first births; a preacher precariously situated; a breakfast episode.

Land Litigation.

Results; Plainview's founding; exits.

Attached to Crosby County.

First attached to Donley County; movement to attach to Crosby County; opposition; successful before the Legislature.

Other Settlers.

Careers and whereabouts; a settler coming moneyless; how prosperous.

Subsequent Events.

Customs superior to laws; defiance to law; new regulations; 'bloody grand'; 'later day matter.'

THE COUNTY ORGANIZED.

Organization of the county—The first meeting—The first election—The first officers—The first schools—The first churches—The first newspapers—The first schools—The first churches—The first newspapers.

The First Officers.

First officers—Whereabouts—Much space devoted to subsequent careers of the first men honored with office in Floyd County.

The Towns in Floyd County.

Town Founding.

Town-building goes hand in hand with settlement; extinct and living towns.

DELLA PLAIN.

Drought of 1886-1887.

Effects; exodus and changing about; Plains Country not perceptibly affected.

Mr. Braidfoot's Coming.

Cattle brought; immigration Plainsward; conceives notion of founding town; section located.

Partnership Formed.

Aid sought and found; a future vision.

The Preparation.

First lumber hauled from Wichita Falls; a time for quick, decisive action.

Improvements Begun.

First building at new town; Estacado a convenient point; homes excavated.

The First People.

Personal sketches; naming of town; postoffice matters; first store at Della Plain; a blacksmith's cordial reception; an act of indignity; a dance scene depicted; a typical frontiersman.

Preparing to Organize.

The town and country growing; effort to secure requisite number of settlers; Massie interferes with elastic swearing; Crosby County commissioners obdurate; effort at manslaughter; revenge taken.

A Few Settlers.

Personal sketches; cows destroy a sod house; a man's subsequent career.

After Organization.

Result of election a disappointment; agitation that followed; final demise.

MAYSHAW.

The Founding.

Mayshaw succeeds Della Plain; Citizens Town Company; christening of town.

Accomplishments.

Enterprises put on foot; apex of growth soon reached; social and religious affairs. People of Mayshaw.

Careers and whereabouts of her citizens.

The Last Days.

Passes away by degrees; the Grammer Lightning System; a quiet, peaceful exit.

LOCKNEY.

Competition Inevitable.

The fittest survive. Loyalty modified.

A New Settlement.

People not wealthy. Shallow water. A man loses elsewhere and comes to Floyd County to begin life anew.

A New Town Born.

A slight defection. An opportune time to found a new town. New town founded. How named. Lockney's ambition. Shallow-water argument.

The First Denizens.

Personal sketches and incidents. Lockney's Decline.

Floydada affects situation. Lockney joins forces with Floydada. Decline.

The Rehabilitation.

Church school movement. Location. Baker the father of New Lockney.

The Church School.

The name. The first session. The town's growth. House-moving. Current of stream of progress. Subsequent sessions. Present status.

Lockney at Present.

As a trading point. Public enterprises. Churches and secret orders. Public school. History of school.

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DEDICATION

TO THOSE WHO LIVE THE LIFE WORTH LIVING BY PUTTING MORE INTO IT THAN THEY GET OUT OF IT; TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN, AND STRIVE FOR, HEAVEN HERE AND NOW AS WELL AS YONDER AND HEREAFTER; TO THOSE WHO ARE CALM IN THE MIST OF THE IRRITATING INFLUENCES THAT BESET THEM NOW AND THEN AND WHO RISE SUPREME AND SUPERIOR ABOVE THEM IN SPIRITUAL GRANDEUR; TO THOSE WHO ARE TRUE AND GRATEFUL TO FRIENDS AND JUST AND GENEROUS TO FOES.—THIS WORK IS DEDICATED.

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BY WAY OF EXORDIUM.

In the midst of duties, exacting and responsible, I have prepared this work. It contains more historical matter than I thought could be obtained when I began the preparation of the matter, and still there is much more of historic import than could be incorporated herein. In this work I have faithfully attempted to portray the transactions of the past, the conditions of the present, and the tendencies of the future. How well I have succeeded, perhaps the reader is more capable of determining than I am. To me it seems to be very incomplete, in view of the fact there is so much more matter I would like to have included. But as it is it mirrors my mind. Henceforth my time will be so taken up with other engagements that this will be my last attempt at local history-making, whether it be received favorably or unfavorably by the public. To the people of Floyd County I shall ever be grateful for the encouragement, moral and financial, they have lent to my efforts in the past.

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The entire mass of matter of this number of The Hesperian if put into an ordinary octavo volume would consist of about 275 or 300 pages. This is as large as the ordinary book given the public at \$1.00 or \$1.50. Yet a copy of this work sells for only 10 cents.

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C. Snodgrass, Dry Goods.

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A. C. Bowers, Dry Goods Man.

A. E. Bishop, Clothier and Grocer.

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To J. S. McLain, W. T. Montgomery, Judge Duncan, and H. C. Smith acknowledgments are made for information furnished pertaining to the early settlement of this country.

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A page or two of matter devoted to the pranks perpetrated by O. L. Molloy, R. D. Walls, John N. Farris, and other Floydadaians would have made interesting reading for the Special Edition, but lack of space forbade the attempt.

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It was the original intention to publish twelve pages of the Special Edition, but it was soon found necessary to make sixteen and later on, twenty pages. There was matter enough prepared for about twenty-four pages, but the work had to be lopped off at some place. The limit was placed at twenty pages in order to make the enterprise self-sustaining.

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Some friends have expressed a desire for the contents of this number of The Hesperian to be placed in book form. The expense of this sort of a venture would be too great to justify the risk. As a matter of information to the public, the publishers have made an arrangement whereby those who desire may have the history of Floyd County in an attractive and permanent form. The Hesperian Publishing Company can furnish a copy of this work, now 64 pages, with three gilded columns, to each subscriber of The Hesperian to be pasted in the scrap book; price for all \$1.00. The convenience of the ready-gilded scrap book is apparent to all. No mutilage or brushing required for pasting the matter. This is a good method for those who feel sufficiently interested in Floyd County's past to obtain a history in book form. Now is the time to place your orders.

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The reason the sketches of more old-settlers of Floyd County are not presented in these columns is due to the fact that there is no room for them.

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ARTHUR B. DUNCAN,

Office in Southwest Corner Court House, Floydada, Texas.

DESCRIPTIVE

Texas as a Whole.

THAT Texas is great geographically, great commercially, great historically, great sentimentally no one would have the temerity to deny. Her resources are boundless. No one will attempt to refute that. Her achievements have been phenomenal. There is no doubt about that.

Her possibilities are not wholly conjectural. The future can be largely determined by the past. The past has been a glorious one. The present attests that fact. The future is assured. But developments are still measurably for the henceforward.

In the light of the strides of the past, everybody is ready to assert unhesitatingly that Texas is a demonstrated field. There was a time in the remote erstwhile that the investor in Texas based his hopes on the future of Texas largely on blind, simple, unquestioned faith. They judged the State's capabilities and possibilities by surface indications. This faith they were prompted to attempt works, which intensified faith. The works were good, and they were successful. There are now great actualities, which render the future certain. Recent years have been noted for industrial activity. Years to come will be even more so.

Geographically, Texas is divided into four great surface regions; namely, the Trans Pecos Country, the Great Plains Province, the Coastal Plain, and the Central Region.

The Great Plains Province is the southern continuation and termination of what is known as the Great Plain of the United States. From the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico the slope is a gentle slope that descends to the sea. Geologists ascribe to this slope has been produced by the uplifting of the area now occupied by the northern half of the Great Plains Province of this State.

In later times further elevations and depressions brought the extension into Texas of one of the great northern lakes. Into this fresh water lake detritus was washed down from the neighboring highlands. This interior sea was, in time, obliterated by other changes in the surface, and thus the Great Plains were formed. It is, therefore, non-marine in its origin and structure.

The Great Plains Province.

THE Great Plains Province in Texas is composed of two divisions. One is the Northern, the Llano Estacado; the other, the Southern, the Edwards Plateau. The Great Plains Province consists of an extensive tableland, which has on three sides perpendicular edges called escarpments. These escarpments are commonly known as the Breaks of the Plains. There are two kinds of plains. One is built-up, constructional; the other, worn-down, destructional. The Llano Estacado is the former sort. Between the Llano Estacado and the Edwards Plateau there is no perceptible line of demarcation. One seems to blend with the other. However, there is a provisional boundary line fixed thru the Counties of Midland, Upton, and Crane.

The Panhandle.

FAMILIARLY known as the Panhandle is that portion of northwestern Texas which includes the Llano Estacado and the country bordering it on the east. The Great Plains Province has two divisions, and so has the Panhandle. The boundary line between the two divisions of the former are merely provisional, but that of those of the latter is perfectly distinct.

One division of the Panhandle is popularly known as the Breaks Country; and the other, as the Llano Estacado, or the

Staked Plains. The one lies on the east, and the other, on the west. These two divisions differ vastly in natural aspects and adaptabilities.

It is called the Panhandle, because it is said to resemble the handle of a frying-pan. In a certain sense, the term is inapplicable to this section of the State. A long narrow strip of country that projects like the handle of a frying-pan is usually referred to as a panhandle. In Idaho and West Virginia are projecting strips interposed between other States or Territories. These strips are referred to respectively as the Panhandle of Idaho and the Panhandle of West Virginia, just as the Panhandle of Texas is mentioned.

The Breaks Country.

MORE or less broken and irregular is the Breaks Country. It contains deep ravines, abrupt elevations, and picturesque valleys. In places it is stony; in others, sandy. It is decidedly a grazing country. It is particularly so during the winter seasons, as the range, with favorable seasons, is good. The natural protection afforded is an important item in minimizing expenses. The heavy autumn rains that sometimes visit the Panhandle do not injure the grass in the Breaks Country as they do that in other places. The drainage is perfect, and the range improved rather than injured by copious rainfalls. There is also much land in the valleys that is susceptible to cultivation.

In some places there are lands that are subirrigated. These lands never fail to produce bounteously anything the husbandman chooses to grow on them. There are in still other places celebrated shiner lands which are rated highly for agricultural purposes. The soil is composed of coarse sand with a low growth of small bushes of the oak family. These bushes do not grow larger than small sprouts and higher than a foot or two. They bear acorns, which render the shiner lands valuable for the growing of hogs. It is an easy matter to put these lands in a good state of cultivation.

The Breaks Country is known as the timbered region of the Panhandle. It contains mesquite, live-oak, cottonwood, hackberry, red and white cedars, and other timbers indigenous to the vegetable life zones of this section of the State. These timbers are not so plentiful as might be wished.

Wild grapes, wild plums, and other wild fruits grow profusely in some localities. Two varieties of plums are noticeable; namely, a small red plum and a large sort. The latter is called the wild goose plum.

In the Breaks Country, in places, is an abundance of surface water, which is afforded by springs and water courses. The springs usually issue from beneath bluffs or well up near the banks of water courses. They are more or less periodical in their flow. Roaring Springs, in Motley County, are the most noted in this section. They are so called, because a short distance below them is a waterfall of about twelve feet. The flow is large and never perceptibly relaxes. The creeks are subject to overflows in times of heavy rains and also to a great diminution of volume in dry seasons.

The Llano Estacado.

WHY the northern half of the Great Plains Province of Texas is called the Llano Estacado, or the Staked Plains, is conjectural insofar as most of the published statements go. There is a manifest disposition on the part of many writers of this country's history to dwell largely in the domains of fancy. They seem to discard reason or common sense and to substitute

therefor legends and traditions of doubtful origin. They regard it as a great mystery. They speculate rather than investigate, surmise rather than reflect.

Some who pose as authorities on the subject attribute the term Staked Plains to the numerous yucca stems that may be found thereon, as they are said to resemble stakes; others hold that it is due to the association of stake-pins with this country; and yet others contend that it is so called, because the Pueblo Indians, in early days, set stakes to guide themselves aright in making pilgrimages across the Plains in search of the Great Chief, who was to deliver their land from the clutch of the dreaded Comanches. These are examples of what many pretenders palm off on those who would like to learn the true history of this country.

There is one plain, potent, palpable reason why this country is called the Llano Estacado, or the Staked Plains. The words Llano Estacado are Spanish terms signifying palisaded, or staked, plain. It is so called, because this plain is partly surrounded on the sides by cliffs or steep escarpments. They resemble a palisade. A palisade is usually built of stakes.

The Llano Estacado embraces about thirty Counties. It is apparently very level; so smooth that in traveling over this vast expanse of treeless territory, as upon the high sea, it seems to be uphill all around; yet there is a slight dip or incline from the border of the northwest towards that of the southeast. The altitude in the northwest, in the region of Dalhart, is about 4000, and in the southeast, in the vicinity of Floydada, about 3000 feet.

The impressions that one at a distance usually gains of the Staked Plains are erroneous and misleading. Those who write text-books on geography have never known this country properly. Some have denominated it as the Great American Desert; and the students have believed it, in their bones, because they learned it from the printed pages of school books.

Among many physiographers the notion prevails that this country is too arid to be adapted to farming except by irrigation. What they teach regarding this country is true only of that bordering the Rio Grande, or of some places in Arizona. Meteorological observations flatly refute much that is taught concerning this country.

There are few scenes so attractive as that of this country to the prospector in the summer. It is then a sea of verdure; a vast expanse of fertile land covered with succulent grasses; a surprise, a wonder, a revelation. It captivates and intoxicates. It is simply a magnificent country; one of magnificent distances, of magnificent expanse, of magnificent altitude, of magnificent surprises, of magnificent productions, of magnificent promises.

Floyd County.

FLOYD COUNTY was created out of the territories of Young and Bexar. The time of the creation was August 21, 1876. The County thus brought into existence and given a definite place on the map of Texas was named in honor of one of the martyrs at the fall of the Alamo. Doniphan Floyd was one of the men who gave up his life that others might live and be free.

Mr. Floyd was one among the number of Texas soldiers who went from Gonzales to San Antonio. History records no special deeds of his at the siege of the Alamo. In common with the others who perished there he fought valiantly at a perilous time, a time that imposed the severest test to the bravery and patriotism of men. He was weighed in the balance and was

not found wanting. He was tried in the fiery furnace and was proved pure. Texans know how to prize such a man. Honor is due him.

Floyd County is situated on the eastern border of the Llano Estacado. The eastern portion of the County lies partly in the Breaks Country. The County is crossed by the draws of Quitaque, Runningwater, and Crawfish. Blanco Canyon has its origin in Floyd County.

Until 1886 Floyd County was attached to Donley County for land and judicial purposes, and from 1886 until the organization, to Crosby County for the same purposes. The organization took place May 28, 1890.

The population, according to the United States census, in 1880, 3; in 1890, 529; in 1900, 2020; increase in 1900 over 1890, 1491. At present the population is about 3500.

Floyd County contains 1036 square miles, or 663,040 acres, about 500,000 of which are arable. The County is thirty miles wide, from east to west, and about thirty-four miles long, from north to south.

Floyd County, in being compared with her sister Counties, is most always the superior. In population, in production, in valuation of property, in wise management of public affairs, in all things that people desire most and prize most in their home community. Floyd County excels her neighbors. It is not extravagant or egotistical to say that Floyd County is the banner of the Counties of the Panhandle Country.

The Soil.

THE soil is rich and deep, firm and stiff, smooth and undulating. It varies from a chocolate loam to a dark slate color. It contains just enough sand to scour a plow. When wet it is somewhat sticky. It does not remain so long after precipitation ceases, since the porosity of the soil hastens absorption and the rarity of the atmosphere promotes evaporation. It retains moisture as long as that of any other country in the great round world. It possesses all the elements of vegetable nutrition and is remarkably drought-resistant. It does not crust like the soils of many other countries. It does not blow about and form sand dunes, as is true of some of the soil of the Breaks Country.

The soil is from two to five feet deep. It rests on a dry, chalk-like stratum. There are really two layers of the top soil. The upper layer is quite pulverizable; the lower is clayey and constitutes the hard pan.

There are no obstructions to agricultural operations; no rocks, no stumps, no roots. The lands neither inundate nor wash away. Here labor-saving farm implements can be utilized to the greatest advantage.

No country in the world, unless it be the pampas of the Argentine Republic, has as large a body of arable land as that of the Staked Plains. In point of fertility and productiveness the prairie lands of Illinois do not excel the Llano Estacado of Texas. It will produce, and produce abundantly, any cereal grown in any other country of like altitude, latitude, and longitude. It has been tested, thoroughly so; corroborated, thoroly so.

Year by year this country is becoming more and more adapted to successful farming. In the past it has been noted as a great pastoral region, but it is fast becoming known as an agricultural one. It has been exclusively a stock-raising region. It is now a stock farming country. It will be decidedly an agricultural district.

Conditions in the Panhandle are changing, improving; in the past they have changed, improved; in the future they will continue to change, to improve. The

past and the present presage the future. The future is divined in the light of the past and by the tendencies of the present.

Field Products.

AS a matter of fact, the first people who came here were not tillers of the soil. They were stock-raisers. They did not want to engage in agricultural pursuits.

Only in recent years have the people followed farming with the view of realizing a livelihood from their efforts. For a number of years sorghum was the only crop that was attempted. The great drought-resistant, Milo maize and Kafir corn, were not tested for some time after the early settlement of the country.

At first, when anything was planted it was in a half-hearted, indifferent way. If it yielded a crop, it was considered well and good; if failure attended the effort, no disappointment was incurred. The one was counted a clear gain; the other, no special loss. Such farming smacked of a sort of practical optimism. But in the course of human events changes in agricultural affairs were wrought.

At present the staple crops are Indian corn, Kafir corn, Milo maize, and cotton. The small grain crops,—such as rye, millet, oats, wheat, and barley,—pay quite well most years. Other cereals adapted to this climate can be successfully grown here.

Indian corn, during years when the seasons are reasonably favorable, yields from twenty to forty bushels per acre; Kafir corn, from thirty to fifty bushels; and Milo maize, from forty to sixty bushels. Kafir corn and Milo maize, being the drought-resistant, never fail, with proper culture, to yield fairly well.

Cotton was never grown here until 1901. That year A. A. Lamer, of the Lakeview settlement, had eighteen acres of old land in cotton. He gathered ten bales of cotton. William Winter had, on the Della Plain town section, about twenty acres in the fleecy staple. A part of the land was new. His crop averaged about one-third bale per acre. These gentlemen had to haul their cotton to Dickens and to Childress to have it ginned. The result of their efforts demonstrated the possibility of growing cotton on the Plains.

In 1902 about 500 acres were planted in cotton, and that fall J. C. Molloy erected a gin at Floydada. About sixty bales were ginned. G. W. Darden sold the first bale in Floydada to I. F. Gamble and W. A. Robbins. A handsome premium was awarded the thrifty farmer.

The cotton acreage has increased at a rapid rate. This year about 6000 acres of cotton were planted in this County. The yield ranges from one-sixth to one-third bale per acre. Floydada and Lockney each put up a large double stand gin in 1904. The Floydada gin is propelled by gasoline, and the one at Lockney, by steam.

Wheat has, in many instances, yielded over twenty bushels per acre. The 1905 crop averaged about fifteen bushels per acre. Millet yields from two to four tons per acre. Oats, rye, and barley have not been grown extensively, but these cereals rarely fail to requite the efforts of the farmer who exercises diligence and discretion.

It is safe to predict that this is destined to become the great farming region of Texas. It has the soil capable of producing all the cereals abundantly. There are people coming in who will test its merits to the utmost. One of the needs of this country is farmers, farmers who plow and sow and reap as they do elsewhere. Stock-raising has been the chief dependence, and farming, only a secondary matter. The best results have not been obtained for this reason.

A better day for the country's farming interests is at hand.

At present this is a stock-farming country. Farmers have been growing such products as are best adapted to feeding their livestock, rather than for market, as they realized on their farming thru the sales of their cattle. This will undoubtedly be a farming country in a few more years, in the sense that the blackland prairies of Central Texas are. A great industrial change is now fast taking place. A new day is dawning.

Truck, Gardens, and Fruits.

WATERMELONS, musk melons, pie melons, frijoles, peas, peanuts, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, and, in fact, everything in the order of vines can be depended upon by the diligent truck grower as more than compensating him for his efforts.

As a garden country, the Plains Country is unsurpassed and unsurpassable. But vegetables do not come in for table use as early here as in other sections of the State. The advent of spring is usually a month or six weeks later on the Plains than in Central Texas; but the people in the former country have the choicest garden edibles all the spring, summer, and autumn, while elsewhere the gardens are dead and sear after the warm weather sets in. This country is well adapted to the keeping of fresh vegetables during the winter season. By a little effort in the right way at the proper time it is possible for the people here to live sumptuously upon the products of the garden during the wintry months. When railroads come, as they surely will in a short time, to this immediate country there will be nothing in the way of its becoming a great center for market gardening.

Fruits of all kinds, particularly apples, do measurably well. It is the conviction of experienced fruit-growers that this is the future apple country of the South. Many people are planting large orchards of the best adapted varieties of apples, and some are now realizing remuneratively from their faith and pluck of a few years ago in apple-planting.

Small fruits, such as grapes, berries, plums, and cherries, grow in rich profusion. Many of Floyd County's citizens have nice vineyards of choice varieties of grapes. The yield from them has been most satisfactory.

Floyd County is certainly a Texas garden spot. Big beets, big turnips, big onions, big radishes, big melons, big apples, big cabbage heads, big sweet potatoes, and many other big things grown conclusively prove the productive qualities of the soil.

The Plains Basins.

AT MANY places there are depressions. These depressions are generally called basins. More than a decade ago they were frequently referred to as hay lakes, because of the crops of hay produced then. These basins have no rugged or precipitous sides or banks. They are gently-sloping, saucer-like depressions serving as drainage-reservoirs when the seasons are wet.

The basins are just as necessary to the Plains for the purpose of drainage as the river system is to the Continent. They afford practically all the drainage the Plains Country possesses. In the absence of flowing streams of any sort nature has wisely provided for the Plains a system of drainage in the form of basins. During the year when rainfall is abundant the basins become filled with water. They are then a great boon to stockmen whose cattle and horses run at large on the range.

The soil in the basins differs somewhat from that of the arable lands. It bears a marked resemblance to the soil of the blackland prairies of Central Texas. During intervals of dry weather or

light seasons the basins cease to hold water. When the basin soil becomes quite dry the contractions are such as to produce large cracks in the soil similar to those found in the blackland farms during dry times. After protracted spells of drought in the West it requires considerable rainfall to soak the basin soil to the extent that it will hold water. When the basins once become well filled with water it is sometimes a year or two before they cease to contain an abundant supply.

The Plains basins vary in depth and magnitude. They range in depth from five to twenty five feet and in size from ten to a hundred acres. The depth of basins when filled with water is sometimes greater than the inexperienced would estimate.

A man of the name of Harley was drowned in a basin in Briscoe County in the spring of 1891. He was in a wagon and drove his horses into the water at about dusk for the purpose of getting a drink. He drove some distance and in attempting to get out was soon in swimming water. The stronger he plied his efforts to extricate himself and his team the greater became his danger, and he lost his life from strangulation.

Basins form the greatest impediments there are to the maintenance of good roads. Juries of view for all public highways have learned that in order to lay out roads that they may be of the greatest utility to the public, to avoid running thru basins as much as possible; and they do so, too.

Fifteen years ago there grew in the bottom of these basins a crop of hay that was quite valuable for winter feeding. It grew to the height of ten or twelve inches. It was locally known as basin hay, wild oats, or wild wheat. It was quite nutritious, and stock ate it ravenously. But these basins no longer produce hay, since the country has been settled and the range crowded. Basin hay was strictly a wild cereal.

In recent years another basin grass has come into existence. It is known here as basin lily or wuley grass. It grows only in water. The stems are long, white, and branchless. At the top it has a cluster of leaves that float on top of the water. The stems are very succulent. Horses prefer it to any other in the fall of the year.

Public Lands.

THE laws pertaining to the settlement and ownership of the State's public lands have been, as a whole, favorable to the home-seeker. When it encouraged railroad building by offering sixteen sections of land for every mile of road constructed, it had the lands laid off in alternate sections, and thus made it possible for the unsettled portions, like the Panhandle and other Western lands, to be developed into prosperous communities. The remaining alternate sections were set aside for public school purposes and became known as State school lands. The unassigned public domain was designated as homestead land.

Before the settlement of the Panhandle Country the school lands were placed on the market at \$2.00 per acre on forty years' time, the principal bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. At the time the Legislature fixed the price and terms they were thought to be liberal; but afterwards, when the country became peopled and the lands, occupied, the uncertainty of farming reduced the payment of the annual interest on the school land a burden that the country could not endure.

Thru the efforts of Senator D. F. Goss, of Seymour, in the Legislature in the spring of 1893, an extension of the payment of interest money on school land was obtained; but this legislation, while the best that could be obtained at that time, afforded only temporary relief

to the settlers and to the country.

Two years following land legislation more favorable to the West was attempted by Senator Goss in the State Senate and the late Judge Plemons in the House; but they could not accomplish as much as they essayed, because members of the Legislature from other sections of the State were not informed as to conditions in the West and were too conservative to receive instruction at the hands of capable teachers. About all that could be accomplished was to secure a reduction of the rate of interest on school lands from 5 to 3 per cent.

Practically no relief was obtained from this legislation, as the people in this country in general decided that \$2.00 per acre was too high a price to pay for school lands, whereupon nearly all that had been occupied was forfeited to the State. Thus the State was deprived of a large source of its revenue for the support of its public schools. But the efforts of Senator Goss and Judge Plemons in the Legislature had a salutary effect in educating law-makers as to the true status of affairs and as to the State's best interests as a whole and in crystallizing sentiment that would sound the tocsin for land laws promotive of the material development of the West. Thus their efforts were not in vain.

When the Legislature convened in January, 1897, Senator Goss was again at his post in the Senate ready and eager to renew the fight for the West. Colonel R. P. Smyth, of Plainview, had been elected to represent the Panhandle Country in the House of Representatives. Colonel Smyth had spent a number of years as a citizen of Hale County, and he was therefore no novice to the needs of this section. In the meantime Governor Callerson had visited Amarillo, and mingled with Panhandle people until his broad, penetrating mind had grasped sound, enlightened ideas pertaining to the interests of the West in particular and of the State in general. In his message to the Legislature the Governor recommended in clear, forcible language that the price of school land be reduced. The West was elated.

The Panhandle's representation in the Legislature felt encouraged to work, and they worked unobtrusively and earnestly, for the glorious consummation of a work that was begun several years anterior thereto. The price of agricultural school lands was reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.50 per acre, and a law permitting a reclassification and fixing the price of grazing lands at \$1.50 per acre was enacted. Then the work of redeeming the West was accomplished. Practically all the school lands were reclassified as grazing lands. One dollar per acre was thereafter the current price of school lands. Greatly reduced were the burdens of the settler.

Under the school land act of 1897 the settler was permitted to hold four sections classified as agricultural or eight classified as grazing land. Since it was an easy matter to prove on the testimony of creditable citizens that the lands on the Plains could not be relied on to produce with any degree of success the staple crops, the settlers experienced no difficulty in securing their lands at \$1.00 per acre with a low rate of interest. In a short time after the act went into effect, the public lands were practically all taken up.

There were some strips of homestead land in various parts of the County, most of which was filed on in the year of 1890 and 1891. Like school land it had to be occupied for a period of three years; but, unlike school land, there was no pecuniary conditions. At the expiration of the three years' occupancy proof to that effect was required, after which a patent, bearing the signature of the Governor of Texas,

would be issued. Before one could file on homestead land he had to make oath that he owned no other land. The head of a family could thus obtain a home of 160 acres, and a single person, one of eighty acres. Many settlers availed themselves of the opportunity of procuring homes in this way, and some of them are now numbered among the most prosperous citizens of the country.

Floyd County has no homestead or school lands at present. Persons coming to this country now can usually purchase school lands by paying the occupants handsome "bonuses." Patent lands owned by railway companies or by non-residents can be purchased at from \$3.00 to \$6.00 per acre. At this juncture these lands are rapidly enhancing in value.

Fuel and Timber.

AS A MATTER of fact, fuel and timber are very scarce in Floyd County. For coal as fuel the settler depends on having it hauled from the railroad, a distance of ninety miles; and for timber for fuel and fencing, from the Breaks Country, about twenty miles distant. The fuel and timber question is a serious one with the settler. The lack of them is about as great a disadvantage to the country as the absence of railroads. But this is a moot-point that will be settled, when at least one of the proposed lines which have been surveyed thru Floyd County is constructed at a time not far distant from now.

In the early settlement of this country timber for fuel and fencing was more plentiful and more easily obtained in the Breaks than now. Then it was not the custom to observe, to enforce the law against cutting timber without the consent of the owner. The lands on which timber was found belonged almost wholly to the State and to corporations. As long as there was no objection to using the timber the settler did not concern himself about law or ownership. He considered it his timber; because he needed it, and the owner did not. He felt that it was "and of right ought to be" his timber. He reasoned that the grass on the common was his, then why not the timber of the Breaks Country? The reasoning might be subtle, but the settler realized that he had to deal with a condition rather than a theory. He simply made the most of the situation.

The law was not enforced until recent years, because there were none to do so. Besides, it would have been a very unpopular thing to attempt as well as to do. But the law could not be ignored after the lands in the Breaks became the property of actual settlers. Owners of timbered land did not hesitate to invoke the protection of the law in their behalf. Prosecutions began in 1899 and 1900. Many Floyd County settlers took notice and changed their tactics when they saw that the day of judgment had come to wood-haulers, while a few others persisted in making occasional trips to the Breaks without the consent of those who owned the timbered lands. Some had to attend court at Silverton, Maud, and Dickens. Such trips grew to be irksome and nuisance; and the settlers ceased, tho' reluctantly, a custom of long-standing.

The Plains man now has to pay for the wood he hauls from the Breaks at the rate of about \$2.00 per load placed on the caprock. He does not enjoy making such payments, but it is far better than attending court in adjoining Counties. Under this change of conditions he realized that he was not to do when he made full and free use of the wood and timber of the Breaks Country in days of yore. He now realizes that his rights are not precisely the same now that they once were. The faculty of

being philosophical is indeed a boon.

While the lack of fuel and timber on the Plains is a marked disadvantage, their people do not find it as great a people at a distance might presume. It is always an easy matter for a facile tongue to exaggerate a virtue or a fault, and the Plains Country has suffered much relative to the scarcity of fuel and timber by reason of such instruments of human weal or woe. Coal is delivered at Floyd County for about \$14 per ton; wood for about \$8 per load. For the average-sized family the cost of fuel delivered for a twelve-month will amount to about \$60. Some spend more; some, less. This is a conservative estimate.

In this connection it will not be out of place to remark, that more than a half score years ago, many of the County's most highly-respected families lavishly used as fuel the dried ordure of cattle. It is commonly known as surface coal. It is sometimes called grassoline. When thoroughly evaporated it is a splendid substitute for wood as fuel. The most objectionable feature associated with its use as fuel is the abundance of ashes that result from burning it.

Recently the writer, while serving in the capacity of teacher in a district school, found such fuel quite acceptable when neither wood nor coal was forthcoming. He is not the only teacher who resorted to this expedient when artificial heat was necessary to help children along the flowery path of knowledge. Even lady teachers have used it when to have done without it would have been perilous to school work.

New comers usually find burning of surface coal a very unpalatable thing, but this is a popular fuel, and the average settler soon abate, and they would finally yield to the unwritten law of the country: If you come here to be of us, for us, among us, you must conform with our customs.

Such was, and is, the custom of the Holy Lands. As soon as the settler learned of this practice in the Land of the Bible he could see no impropriety in it. But it is fast becoming extinct. It has served its day—one of glorious memory; it has fulfilled its purpose—one of economic usefulness; it has given way to a new civilization—one of delightful welcome.

Climate in General.

TEXAS as a whole has a uniformity of climates. This is due to its large size, to its proximity to the tropics, and to its inequalities of surface. These exercise a marked influence over the rainfall and the temperature.

The eastern part of the State is humid, and the mean annual rainfall is from 50 to 60 inches. Towards the West it diminishes. In the region of the Black Prairie, from 30 to 40 inches; in that of Vernon and Abilene, from 20 to 30 inches; in that of the Great Plains, from 10 to 20 inches; and in that of El Paso, about 10 inches.

On good authority it is asserted that with an annual rainfall of less than 20 inches agriculture can not be successfully carried on without irrigation. It is also held that a country with an annual rainfall not exceeding ten inches constitutes a desert.

In Eastern Texas the greatest rainfall is during the winter months. Its source is the Gulf of Mexico. In the West the rainfall most abundantly in the summer seasons. It is chiefly supplied from the Pacific Ocean.

At Fort Elliott, in Wheeler County, near the Oklahoma line, observations of the quantity and distribution of rainfall have been made during the past several years. They are fairly typical of the Great Plains Region. They show an average annual rainfall of 29.2 inches. The month of May is shown to be the one of the greatest precipitation. The rainy

season extends from April to September. In April the rainfall is about 2 1/2 inches; in May, about 4 1/2 inches; in June, about 3 1/2 inches; in July, about 2 1/2 inches; in August, about 3 1/2 inches; and in September, about 1 1/2 inches. During this period the precipitation aggregates about 18 inches.

Since 1894 H. C. Smith of Mount Blanco, Crosby County, has been making observations for the Government. The rainfall for 1894 was 29 inches; for 1896, 26.3 inches; for 1897, 21.6 inches; for 1898, 18.5 inches; for 1899, 25.5 inches; for 1900, 29.4 inches; for 1901, 15.2 inches; for 1902, 16.7 inches; for 1903, 15.6 inches; for 1904, 18 inches. The average annual rainfall for the ten years was 21.6 inches. During the first ten months of 1905 the rainfall amounts to 36.25 inches. This is a decided increase over previous years. There is abundant proof in these figures that the Plains Country is not a desert.

The temperature varies in Texas according to locality and the various geographic causes that exist. In the Coast Region it is quite uniform, while in the Panhandle Country it is more variable. The mean annual temperature in the Coast Country is 70 to 75 degrees; in the Central Region, 65 to 70 degrees; in the Abilene District, 60 to 65 degrees; and in the Panhandle, 55 to 60 degrees.

The term "cold wave" is used to indicate a decided fall of temperature, but not the intensity of cold. During a cold wave the temperature is lowered to the extent of producing physical discomfort to mankind; of injuring growing vegetation; and of working material harm to local interests. Winds of considerable violence or velocity from the north frequently accompany these sudden falls in temperature. They are of short duration, and their effects are pent over the Gulf.

They are called "northerners" because of the direction they blow. In the Panhandle they are accompanied by "dry weather," as "dry northerners." Sometimes during "northerners" a low, dark blue or gray cloud stretches continuously over the horizon. Then they are dubbed as "blue northerners." Then local weather observers with very sensitive olfactory sense think they can detect an odor like that produced by burning paper.

Northerners of great severity in the Panhandle and coexistent with snow storms are known as blizzards. In Floyd County they are better known as "zerers." This is the word of the coining of The Esperian's founder.

Since sunshine is important in giving health and in producing growth, it can not be ignored as a climatic element. In this the Panhandle surpasses all other sections of the State. The Coast Country has 55 to 65 per cent. of the possible sunshine, while in the Panhandle it ranges from 65 to 75 per cent.

The Winters

IT WOULD be folly, as well as false, to assert that the winters in Floyd County are of less severity and of shorter duration than in Central Texas. An altitude of 3000 feet would naturally be attended by more cold weather than any country a few degrees farther south and with an altitude of only 500 or 1000 feet. The conscientious writer who attempts to present a credible description of a country will not fail to keep in mind the fact that nature's laws operate on the Plains very much as they do elsewhere. Besides, it must be borne in mind that a vast expanse of level, treeless country lies north and west of Floyd County and that northers or blizzards coming from the plains of Kansas and Nebraska or from the mountains of Colorado and New Mexico are not tempered to a marked degree by the time they sweep over the plains of Texas. But the considerate reader would not conclude from the above that the winters

here are extremely severe or almost interminable.

It is safe to estimate that the winter season in Floyd County does not exceed five months in duration. There is rarely ever a frost before the middle of October, and freezes seldom take place before the first of November. It is true there are sometimes during the months of August and September furies for the period of a day or two, which render artificial heat acceptable at night or early in the morning. There was one this year on the evening of September 18, and on the morning following the thermometer registered at thirty-seven degrees above zero—only five above the freezing point—but it was in a few hours an event of the past.

There is in a year now and then a blizzard during the month of December, but it is of only a few days' duration. The holidays are always accompanied with fair weather, and it generally continues until about January 20. After this time until about March 20 the brumal season in its most drastic form prevails. It seems at times then to rail with unceasing and merciless fury against frail humanity. It teaches the awful lesson of loss and suffering for those who have not prepared themselves to endure the blasts of Boreas. The human grasshopper is not a fit resident on the Plains. If he do not remain hence, he will go hence soon after he takes up his abode here.

The precipitation is not as great during the winter months as during those of the summer. Rains in the winter time are of rare occurrence. Most of the precipitation is in the form of snow. The snows are usually light. They are rarely more than four or five inches in depth, on an average, on the ground. Sometimes it is blown by the winds before it settles and congeals, and drifts in great heaps result. It has been known to drift a day or longer after it had ceased falling. It is drifting at its greatest intensity it is quite blinding, and the unwary traveler finds it extremely difficult to wend his weary way. The snows remain on the ground for periods ranging from a few days to two or three weeks.

During times when the snows are falling or drifting cattle and horses must have protection from the violence of the storm, else they will flee towards climes less frigid. The snows are valuable however to the Plains Country, inasmuch as they moisten the soil and thereby promote early tillage in the spring.

The latest severe snowstorm that has visited this country since the County was organized was about March 15, 1892. It continued in its severity only a few days. In this County at that time the snow was two or three inches deep, while at Amarillo it was about twelve inches in depth. This was an exceptionally violent storm for so late a period of time.

The coldest weather that was ever known to exist in this country was in the month of February, 1899, when the temperature was over ten degrees below zero. It is not often that the mercury haunts the below-zero point. The coldest weather here is not a thing to be dreaded, unless it be accompanied by a veritable harmattan.

It is noticeable however that severe winters are usually the precursors of abundant rains and of bountiful harvests in the seasons that immediately ensue. The winter of 1898-1899, which was of unusual severity, was followed by extraordinary crop yields; and that of 1904-1905, which was of extreme rigor, has made the Plains Country this year a second Egypt. The winter of 1903-1904 was quite mild and was attended with no precipitation, and the succeeding spring witnessed no rain until after the middle of June.

The only losses that stockmen sustain, so to speak, are during the cold blasts of March or April, a time when there is among some a dearth of feed. But by the stockman who has an abundance of provender, which can be provided any year if prudence and diligence be exercised, and substantial wind-breaks and shelters, which can be provided at a nominal cost, no fears of heavy losses need to be entertained. He is immune from losses, perfectly so.

The Winds

LIKE all prairie regions, the Plains Country is frequently visited by more or less high winds. At times they are indeed disagreeable; particularly so when they are strong and cold, as is oftentimes the case in the late winter or early spring months. But they always cease in their severity as soon as the spring rains begin. During the summer and autumn the winds rarely ever become high or offensive.

While the winds may be considered by some as an objectionable feature, yet they are absolutely necessary for the welfare of the country. They furnish the propelling power for the windmills. They are the means most essential and desired for supplying water, cold, fresh, and pure, for man and beast; for household, livestock, and irrigation purposes. The winds may be obnoxious during the winter and spring months; but, on the other hand, they are pleasant and exhilarating in the summer time when the denizens of the lower regions are sweltering and almost suffocating because of the lack of them.

Consider, O reader, that in the matter of the winds there are advantages as well as disadvantages; that it is far better to have even a superabundance than an insufficiency of winds; that they purify the atmosphere and promote health and happiness, stimulate the heart and mind!

The prevailing winds during the winter season are from the west. These are the winds from the cave of Aeolus that are dreaded and railed against most. They are known as the "dry weather winds", while those from the south are considered by the local weather observers as indicative of early rainfall.

One who writes history owes to the reader and student the duty of telling the truth; so does the one who prepares the reading matter for a periodical publication that purports to be descriptive of the country in which it is published; and that is what the writer of this will do at all hazards.

In this connection it is well to state that during the winter and spring that there are not many days when conditions are such as to render drives and outings pleasant or desirable. The breath of Boreas chills the pleasure-seeker thru and thru, bone and marrow. Even cattle and horses will not venture out in its wake, unless compelled by dire necessity to browse upon the range. But fortunately the season of cold wind is not of long duration. May flowers, if not April showers, come, and balmy spring succeeds. Then all is lovely, all is promising, all is glorious!

Wells and Windmills

THE Plains have no surface water, save what the basins contain after heavy rains. The water is obtained from beneath the surface.

At any point where the earth may be perforated, from a depth of 40 to 250 feet, water is obtained. The water thus procured is inexhaustible in quantity and pure and refreshing in quality. In the matter of water the Plains Country has a marked advantage over other sections of the Panhandle in point of both quantity and quality. So great is the underground supply of water that it might properly be termed a real subterranean reservoir. One well will supply any stock-farmer with a super-

abundance of water for the household, for the stock, for irrigating the garden, and for the fish pond.

The boring of a well costs about fifty cents per foot. A well 100 feet in depth and a substantial windmill outfit will cost from \$125 to \$175.

This method of securing water is preferable to a surface stream that becomes swollen with every rain and sweeps out watergaps and fences.

In Floyd County the depth to water varies according to locality. In the western part it is about 40 feet; in the vicinity of Lockney, about 60 feet; in that of Floydada, about 130 feet; and on the eastern border, about 250 feet.

Localities where the water is shallow are generally regarded as possessing a great advantage over those of deep water. But the argument thus advanced is not wholly true. Let facts be presented to a candid world.

In the deep-water belts the soil is usually deeper and more fertile than elsewhere on the Plains. Grazing is, therefore, better and crops yield more abundantly. If there be any advantage in owning a shallow-water section over a deep water one, it is very slight indeed. Prospectors should know the real facts of the relative merits of the shallow- and deep-water belts.

The Loco Plant

DOUBTLESS everyone who has ever learned of the Plains Country and its resources has heard of the loco plant, which is reputed to be poisonous. Like many other small evils or drawbacks, its deleterious effects on stock in general are greatly exaggerated. Exaggeration of the loco weed usually produces greater derangement of the human mind than that of the brain of horses that eat it. People at a distance should know the truth of the weed and the result of eating it.

The loco plant is classed as belonging to the pea family. It is a perennial; ranges from five to twelve inches in height above the ground; has an abundance of foliage springing out in a cluster from a central stem close to the ground. One main taproot penetrates the ground to the depth of about twenty inches, and it has no branch roots save near the surface of the soil. It flowers in the early spring months and the seed mature about the first of June. The flowers are pea-shaped and usually purple in color.

The plant remains green during the winter months. Animals eat it because of their proclivity for any green herbage when there is no grass. Animals with normal appetites do not eat it when the grasses are green and succulent.

Horses, cattle, and sheep are affected by loco, but it principally affects horses. Horses acquire an appetite for loco, just as humans, for alcohol or tobacco users, for tobacco in its various forms. In this respect the animal weakness of horses corresponds to that of some men.

The following extract describes the effect of eating loco:

Two stages are recognized. The first, which may last several months, is a period of defective eyesight. During this time the animal may perform all sorts of antics. After acquiring a taste for the plant it refuses all other kinds of food, and the second stage is ushered in. This is a lingering period of emaciation, characterized by sunken eyeballs, lusterless hair, and feeble movement. The animal dies as if from starvation, in periods ranging from a few months to one and two years.

Even suckling colts are affected from the milk of mothers that are affected by loco. Horses when in the first stage can be restored by absolute removal from the loco plant and by careful feeding

and close attention for several months. But it is doubtful that a horse when once strongly addicted to the habit will ever recover from its effects entirely. Horses that have been restored are usually skittish and obdurate to lead.

It is noticeable on the Plains that loco plants are most numerous during years when there is great humidity. It seems to thrive most luxuriantly on ridges where there is much sand mixed with the soil. Farmers and stockmen are generally of the opinion that it can be destroyed without great effort or outlay. Some estimate that a section can be cleared of the noxious plants at a nominal cost, not exceeding \$15 or \$20.

While it is a fact that loco is at times a drawback to the Plains Country, yet it is not fraught with such harmful consequences as people who are uninformed might presume. Its prevalence and consequences have been overdrawn. It is gradually disappearing. It will soon be known as only a thing of the past.

At times a small white worm infests the loco plant. It causes the plant to look about as pale and emaciated as the plant itself does horses when addicted to the loco-eating habit. Local scientists and observers are not agreed as to the effects the plant produces on the worm that infests it.

By way of parenthesis, it might be well to state that none of the people on the Plains are habituated to eating loco, altho it is a common expression in this country's vernacular, when a person manifests some sort of eccentricity, to pronounce him locoed. No one really enjoys having such symptoms ascribed to him. It thus serves as a powerful and effective means of ridicule.

Railroad Facilities

IN FLOYD County there are no railroads as yet. The lack of railroad facilities is the chief reason why the production is not more dense and the material of Congress, not more advanced. The hope of the future of this country will be the future of pride and most ample satisfaction. As surely as the sun continues its course in its orbit so surely will the Plains Country have its heyday of the greatest prosperity and most advanced living. It would never have grown as it has had it not possessed superior natural advantages.

Floyd County is about one hundred miles from the Fort Worth & Denver Railway on the north, one hundred fifty from the Texas & Pacific on the south, and ninety from the Pecos Valley on the northwest. The Pecos Valley was built from Amarillo to Roswell, New Mexico, in 1898.

Until 1898 Amarillo was the principal trading-point on the Denver Road for Floyd County, but Canyon has superseded Amarillo as a trading point since the building of the Pecos Valley. Childress and Quanah have commanded some trade from this country. Memphis and Glendon have not been trading points for this portion of the Plains Country, on account of the broken country and quicksand streams intervening. In recent years Estelline, on the Denver Road, has received some trade from Floyd County. But Amarillo and Canyon have virtually had all the time a monopoly on the trade of the Llano Estacado.

The citizens of this country find it to their advantage to do practically all their trading with the local merchants. The mercantile concerns carry in stock about all the necessities of life that the trade demands. Freight-ing by wagon is done at prices ranging from thirty cents to fifty cents on the one hundred pounds. Competition is close and sharp, and goods and wares of all sorts are sold at very low margins.

Railroad Prospects.

THOUGHTFUL people who have attempted to divine the future events and progress of this country have entertained the belief that it will, in a few years, be the scene of much railroad construction. Capital can not afford to be indifferent to its own interests when so remunerative a field for railroad construction as the Plains country presents itself. Besides, so fertile a country as that known as the South Central Plains can not always be ignored and kept in the background. The time has arrived when railroads are absolutely necessary. Usually when a thing must be, it can be.

There are a number of prospective routes, and this country lies in their wake. Among them might be mentioned the following:

1. The Texas Central, running from Waco to Stamford, is expected to extend thru this country. Whenever this work takes place somewhere in New Mexico will be the objective point. Charles Hamilton, the vice-president and general manager, visited this country in the summer of 1893. He has great faith in its future and has ever looked upon it with favor. At the present time there are rumors to the effect that the Texas Central has recently been absorbed by the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe. If that be true, the extension within the near future is assured, inasmuch as the Santa Fe System is desirous of a direct route from Texas to the Pacific Slope. Just now the Santa Fe trains in Texas, going to California, must first run up to Kansas, thence westward across the Continent. This route is somewhat out of the way and necessitates a loss of time to travelers. The management of the System has been for some time contemplating the opening of a route more direct for its Texas patrons. It is surmised that in the event the Texas Central is absorbed by this system, it will be extended, in New Mexico, where it is lines, a junction with one expected. At any rate, it is not destined that the route terminate at Stamford. In 1899 it was extended to Albany to Stamford. It is only natural to predict that it will be extended again some time soon. Since the Orient is on a route a few miles west of Stamford the Central will be cut off from much of its patronage on the west, and, in self defense, it will be compelled to extend towards the northwest, where the business will be more remunerative.

2. In May, 1903, a railroad route was surveyed from Vernon and Quanah to Texico, by the way of Floydada. This is known as the Ashmead survey, because of the name of the chief of the engineering corps. The Frisco System has termini at Vernon and Quanah. It is not known with certainty what company had this route surveyed, but it is generally believed that the Frisco is at the head of it. The Frisco is both progressive and aggressive. It is extending its lines into many places in the Southwest each year. In the event that a railroad is constructed on the route surveyed by Mr. Ashmead, Floydada will have direct transportation facilities with Oklahoma City, Kansas City, and St. Louis. This is a very important route. Many are expectant of early work on this route.

3. In October, 1904, a route was surveyed from Canyon to Abilene. It, too, passed thru Floydada. This year another route was surveyed from Canyon to Floydada, via Tulia and Plainview. It connects at Floydada with the route surveyed the previous year. It is currently reported that the latter route will be the one on which the proposed road will be constructed and that it will extend from Abilene to Brownwood. Since the Santa Fe owns the Pecos Valley, it is the general belief that the

Santa Fe had the surveying done on this route. In the State Department a charter has been obtained for the construction of a road from Brownwood thru Abilene and the Counties of Jones, Stonewall, Kent, Dickens, Floyd, Hale, Swisher, and Parmer. It would not be visionary to conjecture that this may be the route decided upon by the Santa Fe as a more direct one to the Pacific Coast. Should this projected road be constructed, Floydada will have direct transportation facilities with Galveston, the Texas seaport.

4. The Rock Island System has termini at Graham, Young County, and at Mangum, Oklahoma. Like the Frisco and the Santa Fe, the Rock Island is financially strong and is making extensive ramifications in all parts of the Southwest. It is out after the greatest volume of business it can command. In 1901 the Jacksboro branch was extended to Graham. It is not probable that it will always remain with its terminus at the latter place, since there is a vast area of rich and promising country lying towards the west for it to penetrate. The extension of the branch at Mangum has been under advisement for several years. Surveys for the proposed extension were made four years ago. These surveys cross the Denver Road near Childress. It is likely to seek El Paso as an objective point. Floyd County is on the route of this proposed extension.

5. The Weatherford, Mineral Wells & Northwestern Railroad has its terminus at Mineral Wells. For some time great quantities of ties and steel have been unloaded at Mineral Wells. No information as to the meaning of this is given, but it is believed by many to be an extension towards the northwestern part of the State.

6. A charter has been recently granted by the Secretary of State to some capitalists of McKinney, Collin County, for a road from that place west to Cochran County. The significance of this is not fully understood at the present time.

7. For a number of years the Dallas & New Mexico has been chartered. It provides for the construction of a railroad along the route indicated in the charter recently granted to the McKinney capitalists. The late Barnett Gibbs and other Dallas business men were at the head of the company thus chartered.

The building of railroads thru this country can not be procrastinated much longer. The day of progressive activity is dawning; the day of jubilee is to follow; a new day and a new life are to be ushered in. A country so favored by nature will undoubtedly be smiled upon by capital in the near future.

Social Conditions.

WHEN a falsehood or an erroneous impression once gains credence among the masses it is usually long lived. It enthrones fallacious reasoning. It endures and blights until truth refutes and rethrones it. It has its sway as well as its day. All may believe it for a short period of time; a few may believe it for all time; but all will not believe it all the time. There is not always a blind faith. The dark cloud of ignorant faith will not always overhang the sunny fields of God given reason. Truth is mighty. It will prevail.

Many have been the reports reflecting adversely upon Western society. Many intelligent people in the old settled country entertain the false notion that society in the West is not of a high order. They believe it, because they have heard it; because they can not conceive of conditions here as they really are; because frontier and pioneer history and literature team with the romantic, the daring, the adventurous, the singular, the ridiculous. It is simply the result of education,—wrong edu-

cation, false education, sensational education.

There is not a country on earth that has so few outlaws, thieves, and freebooters as this country has. There are many facts that attest this assertion. The most patent and conclusive of all is that there have been comparatively few crimes, felonious and misdemeanor, committed at any time. The court dockets are at all times light. The grand juries usually find little to investigate and sometimes fail to find any true bills. Circumstances on every hand denounce as basely false that the revolver and the bowie knife are the only passports to society in Floyd County.

The people in Floyd County are generally moral and intelligent. Why not? They represent the best elements of the Old States and of the older settled portions of Texas. They believe in laws, in schools, in churches. They are law abiding and law enforcing. No Negroes, no Mexicans, no mongrels, no low class foreigners of any sort infest the society of this country. Society here is decidedly Anglo-Saxon in its origin, American in its nature, Southern in its sentiment, Western in its hospitality. The worst element—the highest and the lowest, the bon-ton and the riff raff, the extremely opulent and the poverty stricken—are not here. Society as it is on the Plains is composed of the middle class, the most virtuous, the most thrifty, the most industrious, the most harmonious.

Since this is a level country the questionable characters in society do not choose it for their home. The toughs invariably seek the roughs as their abode. They know their place. They keep in it. They scorn the Plains as they would the portals of Heaven.

In elections in this country fraud, bribery, coercion, and ballot stuffing are reduced to the minimum. The yeomanry is among the most thoughtful, the most independent, the most fearless, the most conscientious, that ever grappled with the problems of self government. They are, with very few exceptions indeed, free men, men who vote their convictions without fear or favor.

Churches, Sunday schools, literary schools, and secret orders are among the moral, religious, and benevolent agencies that contribute towards the uplifting of mankind.

It would be useless, a verbiage, to say more in refutation of the belief in many quarters that ruffians and gasconades hold sway here in their work of knavery and demoralization. Gamblers, poolers, and whiskey dealers were given to understand several years ago that their absence is preferable to their presence. It is generally conceded that the laws are better enforced here than in other sections of the State. Progress here is social and moral as well as material and commercial; the tendency, onward and upward; conditions, advancing and enhancing.

Perfection, social and moral and political, is not here. But the ideal is ahead. It is being approached. The sun rises in the east. The hopeful are looking towards the east.

Public Schools.

FLOYD County derives her funds for the maintenance of her public schools from the following sources:

State apportionment, \$3837.75
County school lands, 885.60
Special district taxes, 4246.47

Total, \$8969.82

There was brought forward the past year from the several districts, outside of the independent district of Lockney, \$1563.61. There was a small balance from the fund of that independent school district of about \$100. The total school fund of Floyd County for the current year would, then, aggregate about \$9700. The scholastic population is 731; the amount of school

money per capita, about \$11.

The State school fund is derived from an ad valorem tax rate of 18 cents on the one hundred dollars valuation of property rendered; from the one dollar school poll tax paid by every male citizen between the ages of 21 and 60; and from the interest on the investment of the permanent school fund. This year the State apportionment is \$5.25 for each child within scholastic age.

The County school fund is obtained from leasing the County's school lands located in the Counties of Lamb and Bailey. The County has four leagues—17,712 acres—leased to a cattle concern at the rate of 5 cents per acre. The County apportionment is about \$1.20 per pupil.

The district school fund is acquired from the special ad valorem tax rates on the one hundred dollars valuation in the several districts of Floyd County. Just after the County was organized, when it constituted one school district, a special district school tax of 15 cents was voted. There were 26 votes for and 1 vote against the school tax. Since many new districts have been created the old rate of 15 cents prevails in some, while others have increased the tax rate to the Constitutional limit of 20 cents.

The following information pertaining to the several school districts of Floyd County for the scholastic year beginning September 1, 1905, and ending August 31, 1906, is herewith appended:

District No. 1, Irick—Pupils, 25; balance of school fund from last year, \$47.87; amount of district tax fund, \$94.56; apportionment, \$152.50; total, \$294.93.

District No. 2, Kelly-Bobbitt—Pupils, 33; balance of school fund from last year, 20 cents; amount of special district tax fund, \$231.80; total, \$371.64.

District No. 3, Mayshaw-Rose-land—Pupils, 37; balance of school fund from last year, \$33.34; amount of district tax fund, \$255.80; apportionment, \$225.70; total, \$494.84.

District No. 5, Fairview—Pupils, 25; balance of school fund from last year, \$153.36; amount of district tax fund, \$282.20; apportionment, \$152.50; total, \$588.06.

District No. 6, Starkey—Pupils, 32; balance of school fund from last year, \$112.73; amount of district tax fund, \$186.40; apportionment, \$195.20; total, \$494.33.

District No. 7, Meteor—Pupils, 32; balance of school fund from last year, \$197.24; amount of district tax fund, \$160.73; apportionment, \$195.20; total, \$553.17.

District No. 8, Sunset—Pupils, 26; balance of school fund from last year, \$214.91; amount of district tax fund, \$160.73; apportionment, \$158.60; total, \$534.24.

District No. 9, Sandhill-Harmony—Pupils, 51; balance of school fund from last year, \$135.87; amount of district tax fund, \$182.88; apportionment, \$311.10; total, \$629.85.

District No. 11, Lakeview—Pupils, 39; balance of school fund from last year, \$12.01; amount of district tax fund, \$143.88; apportionment, \$237.90; total, \$393.79.

District No. 12, Fairmount—Pupils, 23; balance of school fund from last year, \$10.58; amount of district tax fund, \$168.90; apportionment, \$140.30; total, \$319.78.

District No. 14, Lone Star—Pupils, 38; balance of school fund from last year, \$84.30; amount of district tax fund, \$143.82; apportionment, \$231.80; total, \$459.92.

District No. 15, Cedar—Pupils, 32; balance of school fund from last year, \$115.64; amount of district tax fund, \$284.58; apportionment, \$195.20; total, \$399.92.

District No. 18, Mayview Antelope—Pupils, 39; balance of school fund from last year, \$30.31; amount of district tax

fund, \$240.39; apportionment, \$239.90; total, \$508.59.

District No. 19, Baker—Pupils, 15; balance of school fund from last year, \$11.38; amount of district tax fund, \$101.94; apportionment, \$91.50; total, 204.82.

District No. 21, Lovorn—Pupils, none; balance of school fund from last year, \$176.91; amount of district tax fund, \$51.04; apportionment, none; total, \$227.95.

District No. 23, Altman—Pupils, 22; balance of school fund from last year, \$110.99; amount of district tax fund, \$93.22; apportionment, \$134.20; total, \$337.41.

Lockney Independent School District—Pupils, 145; amount of district tax fund, 413.23; apportionment, \$935.62; total, \$1348.95.

NOTE—There is a small balance of the Lockney school fund from last year, which increases the total school fund to about \$1400.

Floydada Independent School District—Pupils, 112; balance of school fund from last year, \$95.98; amount of district tax fund, \$1161.90; apportionment, \$711.28; total, \$1969.16.

In the general school fund of the County there is a balance of the school fund from last year of \$19.39 and remaining from this year's apportionment, \$165.05; total, \$204.44.

Addenda.

The turf of the soil is strong and stiff. It is usually broken with what is known as a rod plow; that is, a plow whose mole board consists of three rods instead of a sheet of solid steel. The rod plow is much better adapted to turning the turf than the common mole-board sort. The former can be easily drawn by two horses, the latter requires three horses. The rod plow is of little use after it once breaks. In many things, it has its day and then passes away.

With a little effort any person can arrange to have an abundance of fish for home use. Many people have tanks, which are kept filled with fresh water. In these they place fish. Carp and cat are the most common sorts raised.

The kinds of grasses in this country are not very numerous. The grazing capacity of the land varies according to the seasons. During years of limited precipitation forty cattle are sufficient to graze a section, but during years of much rain a section will graze a larger number. The grasses are very nutritious and of slow growth. To grow rapidly it requires much rain.

This country is known abroad as a cattle and horse country. An effort is being made by stock farmers to grade their cattle and horses. Some are breeding thoroughbred Herefords, thoroughbred Red Polls, and mixed breeds of highgrade cattle. For the raising of fine horses and mules this country is without a superior. Many are turning their attention towards breeding blooded horses and mules.

In a country where Indian corn, Kaffir corn, Milo, maize, and other cereals grow so profusely as in this country, it may be counted certain that swine raising may be pursued with a marked degree of success. Hogs can be grown here with as little trouble and as little expense as in other any country on earth. The farmer in this country who does not grow hogs enough for home consumption would be too improvident elsewhere to avail himself of an opportunity to do well. Floyd County farmers are devoting their attention to swine raising as they are to other industries. They do so, because it pays them. An effort by many is being made to improve the breeds. Full-blooded Berkshires and Poland Chinas are being grown.

STATISTICAL

Values in Counties.

BELOW is given a table of the total valuations of all property in Floyd and contiguous Counties, as shown by the tax rolls of each County for 1904, on file in the Comptroller's office at Austin:

COUNTIES	TOTAL VALUES.
Briscoe	\$ 984,331
Crosby	1,218,073
Dickens	1,373,311
Floyd	1,749,185
Hale	1,729,870
Hall	1,741,369
Lubbock	1,351,894
Motley	1,537,756
Swisher	930,120

Bonded Debts of Counties.

THERE are few Counties and cities in Texas that have no outstanding bonded indebtedness. The issuance of bonds in Counties that have been organized only a few years, like Floyd and other Plains Counties, is imperative and inevitable, as court houses, jails, office fixtures and supplies, and other public improvements must be provided. No County upon assuming the duties and responsibilities of self-government ever has any funds in its treasury. It must after organization devise ways and means of acquiring funds to meet necessary expenses for public purposes. If it have public improvements at first, it must incur a public debt by issuing bonds.

When Floyd County was organized in 1890 office supplies and fixtures had to be provided at once, or suffer the inconvenience of doing without them. To have pursued the latter course would have been the veriest

of a bonded debt of \$7,000 incurred soon after the of Mexico, managing its own northerners' records and tion they were prerequisite

important records and legal instruments was indispensable; office furniture and court house fixtures were desiderata, since a temporary court house had been provided by Mr. Gwynn; and a jail and a house for the same were essential for the maintenance of peace and order, since they served as a solemn and noteworthy warning to all disciples of Bacchus who frequented the saloon and drank freely of that which turned their heads dizzy and put snakes in their boots and demons in their bosoms.

The year following the organization times became dull and appropriations. Private improvements were on a standstill, and the spirit of public improvement seized the majority of the people of Floyd County. There was not much money among the people. A desire for a public movement that would give employment to many and put money in circulation became rife. Besides, the friends of Floydada felt that an anchor in the form of a new commodious court house would silence more speedily the agitation over moving the county seat. These were some of the reasons that prompted the commissioners' court to issue bonds for the erection of a court house. Bonds to the amount of \$10,000 were issued.

Below is presented a table showing the bonded debt of Floyd and adjacent Counties on June 30, 1904:

COUNTIES	TOTAL DEBTS.
Dickens	\$33,500
Floyd	2,000
Hale	8,000
Hall	35,000
Lubbock	18,000
Motley	33,500

On June 30, 1900, Briscoe County had a bonded indebtedness of \$1500; Crosby, \$1000; and Swisher, \$500. In their reports the treasurers of these Counties, for 1904, failed to report in regard to the bonded debts. Since their debts were small five years ago, it is

reasonable to suppose that at this juncture they have no debts. It will be gratifying to all who are interested to note that the entire bonded debt of Floyd County was extinguished the past spring.

For a number of years while Floyd County's indebtedness was large it was the policy of the County government to reduce it at the rate of \$2000 per year. This amount was about one-half of the sum expended for the support of the general County government. During recent years the annual burden of the bonded debt was reduced to \$1000. The County's bonds did not mature until February 8, 1907. For a number of years the County levied and collected a tax rate of 25 cents on the \$100 valuation for the partial extinguishment of its indebtedness each year. Later on the rate was reduced to 20 cents; later still, to 10 cents; and finally, to 5 cents on the one hundred dollars valuation. The rate of interest on the bonds averaged about 6 per cent.

The fiscal affairs of the County at all times have been well-managed. At no time has County scrip ever been below par, and this is more than many other Counties in this section of the State can assert. Withal, Floyd County has just cause to feel proud of her financial condition. It signifies the lowest possible burdens in the matter of taxation.

Total Property Valuations.

FROM 1890 to 1905, inclusive, the following shows the total taxable property assessed in Floyd County:

YEARS.	VALUES.
1890	\$ 858,236
1891	1,338,460
1892	1,455,977
1893	1,558,240
1894	1,711,200
1895	836,280
1896	952,800
1897	955,480
1898	1,055,280
1900	1,078,340
1901	1,262,720
1902	1,527,900
1903	1,743,965
1904	1,749,185
1905	1,922,420

While the tax laws of Texas expressly provide that all property subject to taxation shall be valued at its "full and true value", yet it is a well known fact that property is not, on an average, appraised at more than two-thirds of its real value. The above table will help the infelligent reader to approximate the property valuations of Floyd County. It would be a reasonable estimate to place the total valuation of all taxable property in the County for the current year, 1905, at \$3,000,000, in round numbers.

During the first five or six years after the County was organized land was valued at \$2.00 per acre. That price was the market value of school land at that time, and other lands were not on the market at a lower price. In 1896 the appraisement of land was reduced to \$1.00 per acre, and during the following year school land was placed on the market at the minimum price of \$1.00 per acre for grazing land.

Property Assessments.

THE following presents a comparison of the assessments of all taxable property in Floyd County for the year of 1900 and that of 1905, as shown by the tax rolls:

Land for 1900, total acres, 596,004; value, \$630,249. For 1905, total acres, 634,754; value, \$1,422,687. Increase in five years, acres, 38,750; value, \$792,438.

Total value of town lots for 1900, \$11,175; for 1905, \$52,093; increase in five years, \$40,918.

Horses and mules for 1900, total number, 5,561; total value,

\$48,684. For 1905, total number, 5,056; total value, \$90,846. Decrease in five years, total number, 505; increase in five years, total value, \$42,162.

Cattle for 1900, total number, 22,907; total value, \$310,325. For 1905, total number, 29,976; total value, \$187,794. Increase in five years, total number, 7,069; decrease in five years, total value, \$122,531.

Jacks and jennets for 1900, total number, 40; total value, \$820. For 1905, total number, 95; total value, \$2,790. Increase in five years, total number, 55; total value, \$1,970.

Sheep for 1900, total number, 2323; total value, \$4550. For 1905, total number, 998; total value, \$1976. Decrease in five years, total number, 1305; total value \$2574.

Hogs for 1900, total number, 567; total value, \$873. For 1905, total number, 1099; total value, \$2387. Increase in five years, total number, 532; total value, \$1514.

Carriages, wagons, etc., for 1900, total number, 316; total value, \$5,805. For 1905, total number, 733; total value, \$16,203. Increase in five years, total number, 417; total value, \$10,397.

Goods and merchandise for 1900, total value, \$15,056; for 1905, total value, \$36,940; increase in five years, \$21,884.

Manufacturing tools and implements for 1900, total value, \$2,295; for 1905, total value, \$14,348; increase in five years, total value, \$12,053.

Steam engines and boilers for 1900, none; for 1905, total value, \$240.

Moneys other than banks for 1900, \$13,422; for 1905, \$22,105; increase in five years, \$8,683.

Credits other than banks for 1900, \$16,105; for 1905, \$31,216; increase in five years, \$15,111.

National bank shares for 1900, none; for 1905, 22,500.

Miscellaneous property for 1900, total value, \$12,890; for 1905, total value, \$18,795; increase in five years, \$5,905.

Total value 1900, \$1,072,340; for 1905, \$1,922,420; increase in five years, \$850,080.

Land in Floyd County, as all over the State, is made to bear the burden of taxation. The reason for this is evident, inasmuch as real estate is more tangible than personal property. Land can not escape taxation, while much of personal property can and does.

It will be noticed that land in 1900 was valued at about \$1.00 per acre, while in 1905 the tax-valuing officials appraised it at \$2.00 per acre. In 1900 patented lands sold at \$1.25 and \$1.50 per acre, while in 1905 they sell at \$4.00 and \$6.00.

The argument in favor of placing the burden of taxation on land is that much Floyd County realty is owned by persons out of the County and that, since they are holding it primarily for the purpose of speculation, they should be made to contribute liberally towards the support of the government and public schools. While the people of Floyd County are sentimentally in favor of special district school taxes, yet the idea of taxing the non-resident land owners for the public schools is a strong one in influencing the people, in many instances, in voting more unanimously for it. The non-resident land-owner who would have the temerity to protest against being taxed to educate children that are not his is simply dubbed, and rightly, as being sordid and parsimonious.

There is something remarkable in the assessments and valuations of horses and mules for the year 1900 and that of 1905.

There were 506 less horses and mules in 1905 than in 1900. The average value per head in 1900 was about \$8.00, while in 1905 it is about 18.00 per head. Several reasons for these differences might be assigned; namely, in 1900 there were many more stock or range horses than in 1905; range horses are considered worth much less than those used on the farm; the tendency to improve the breeds of horses and mules is becoming more and more marked; the market prices for horses are higher now than five years ago.

The records show a material increase in the number of cattle rendered for taxation and a marked decrease in the valuation from 1900 to 1905. Cattle were valued five years ago at about \$13.00 per head, while they are appraised the current year at only about \$6.00 per head. The increase in number has about kept pace with the material development of the country. The reasons for these differences are obvious: Five years ago the cattle market was flush, while now it is feeble; cattle were then as well graded as now; they can not be grown as cheaply now as in the past.

The tax rolls show that the sheep industry is waning, while the raising of hogs is flourishing. Several of Floyd County's sheep men have moved to countries that are more mountainous than this section of the State and that are better adapted to wool-growing. As the farming interests are developing the raising of hogs is becoming more remunerative. Kaffir corn and Milo maize can scarcely be surpassed for feeding hogs. Hogs can be raised at a nominal cost.

Money is very intangible and can not be rendered for less than its face value. It, therefore, frequently escapes taxation. The person who owns money only has to bear a greater burden in taxation in proportion to his wealth than the man whose possessions consist of other property entirely. In the banks of Floyd County there were deposited over \$100,000, but the renditions on the tax rolls amount to only \$22,105. If the man who has money be not willing to render it, there is no way, under existing laws, to compel him. The Federal laws prohibit any County official from investigating the books of a bank. The State is powerless to remedy this abuse. It can be done only thru Federal enactment.

It would be safe to estimate Floyd County's wealth at more than \$3,000,000. It is an extremely difficult matter to secure a full and complete rendition of all property subject to taxation and a "full and true" valuation on it after it is rendered. It is not the custom among the Counties of Texas to value tax property at more than one-half or two-thirds of its full value.

There seems to be a sort of rivalry among the Counties in the matter of making valuations as low as possible. Each County defends the practice on the ground that by so doing it escapes a large obligation or burden because of the State ad valorem and the State school ad valorem tax rates. The thinkers and statesmen of Texas are now agitating reform in taxation and devising ways and means of doing away with State ad valorem tax rates entirely. When this is accomplished greater equity in taxation will be procured. May the day soon dawn when sentiments like these will be embodied in the Statutory laws of Texas.

Taxation in Floyd County.

THE following tax rates on the one hundred dollars valuation of all property subject to taxation in Texas are levied and collected:

State ad valorem	20c
State school ad valorem	18c

Total State tax rate, 38c
The following tax rates are levied and collected in Floyd County:

County ad valorem	25c
Roads and bridges	15c
Public buildings	5c

Total County tax rate, 45c
Next year the State ad valorem tax rate will be reduced to 16½ cents, and the County sinking fund tax rate of 5 cents will be lopped off. Thus the State tax rate will be 34½ cents; the County tax rate, 40 cents.

In some school districts of the County a special local or district school tax of 15 cents on the one hundred dollars valuation is levied and collected; and in other school districts the rate of 20 cents obtains. Besides, the independent school districts of Floydada and Lockney, a tax rate of 30 cents for the maintenance of the school and 20 cents for the sinking or building fund is levied in the former, and a tax rate of 25 cents for the maintenance of the school, in the latter place.

Thus the citizen in a district where the 15-cent rate prevails pays a total State, County, and District school tax rate of 98 cents on the one hundred dollars valuation; in a district where the 20 cent rate obtains, a total tax rate of 103 cents; in the Floydada Independent School District, a total tax rate of 133 cents; and in the Lockney Independent School District, a total tax rate of 108 cents.

and 60 years of age pays each year in addition to his property tax, a State poll tax of \$1.50 and a County poll tax of 25 cents, aggregating \$1.75.

As an illustration of the amount of taxes paid by a citizen whose property is valued at \$1,000 and whose residence is in a school district where the 15-cent tax rate obtains, the following is presented for the convenience of the thoughtful investigator:

Total State taxes	\$3.80
Total County taxes	4.50
Total District school tax	1.50
Total poll taxes	1.75

Grand total taxes, \$11.55
To the support of the State and County governments and the public school, the citizen whose property valuation is \$1000 and whose school district levies the 20-cent tax rate contributes annually the sum of \$12.05; of the Floydada Independent School District, \$15.05; and of the Lockney Independent School District, \$12.55.

Floyd County's Revenue.

IN THE following table is presented the amounts of revenue due the several State funds for 1905:

General State fund	\$3845.83
State school fund	3461.60
Revenue poll taxes	277.00
School poll taxes	554.00

Total State revenue, \$8138.43
The following table shows the amounts of revenue due the several County funds:

General County taxes	\$4867.30
County Special taxes	3845.84
County poll taxes	138.50
District school taxes	4250.47

Total taxes, \$13,042.11

The following table shows the total State and County taxes that the tax collector will receive for the year 1905:

Total State taxes	\$ 8,138.43
Total County taxes	13,042.11

Grand total taxes, \$21,180.54

HISTORICAL

Today and Yesterday.

IN many instances in the country's early history, those who sought an abode in the wilds of the frontier were prompted largely by a spirit of daring and adventure. In their native home they had become used to danger and hardships, and their restless spirits yearned for the daring and hazardous. Progress and repose, artificiality and conventionality, had become monotonous to them. For them the struggle for existence had far more charms than that for wealth.

But in the settlement of the Plains Country the prompting spirit was vastly different. The immigrant was induced to make this country his home, because he was desirous of owning a home or more land than was possible in the country he left; because he felt that here he could enjoy the blandishments of ideal domestic life; because he could live more prosperously and independently. He had an ideal that he longed to realize.

The first American settler in Texas came when she was a province of Mexico; when she was ruled over by the tyranny of both church and state; when the star of hope was faint and flickering. The elements were indeed unpropitious, yet these sturdy settlers could not divine the vicissitudes that would beset them. Conditions were far from what they desired, but their hopes were sanguine. They worked that conditions might improve; that order might be brought out of chaos; that peace and prosperity might prevail. These were times of peril, "times that tried men's souls", times when men had to do or die!

But now in the settling of new countries, how changed are conditions! Savage hordes no longer swoop down upon their homes, devastate their crops, steal their stock, pillage their property, murder their families. Govern-

mental tyranny and religious intolerance do not menace them now. Truly the world is moving forward and growing better.

When the first settlers came to the Plains they were envied much more favorably than were the Texans in the colonies of Austin and Burnet, of Edwards and Zavala, of De Leon and De Witt. The settler in the Panhandle had, and still has, absolute freedom of mind, heart, and hand; is not fettered now, as in days of old, hand and foot, tongue and brain. Laws, wise and benign, were framed to promote the settlement and development of the Great West. The institutional elements were all that the settler could demand at the hands of the law-maker.

Historical Musings.

HISTORIANS in the tracing of various stages of human advancement from the savage to the civilized state, and from the civilized to the enlightened, classify them into three distinct ages; namely, first, the Rough Stone Age; second, the Polished Stone Age; and, third, the Bronze Age. This arrangement is both logical and convenient. But like all other classifications that the writers of history employ the dates that are fixed for the close of one age and for the beginning of another are not absolutely accurate, for while one age is passing out by degrees another is being ushered in by degrees. The change from one stage to another is not wrought in a few days, in a few weeks, in a few months, or in a few years.

It is perfectly legitimate that historians make the above classifications. With equal congruity, the different stages of the Plains Country's development might be classified. For the convenience of the reader, the following periods are designated:

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Sometime during this period civilized people gained the idea that this country was a vast expanse of arid and unarable soil, of bleak parching climate, and of blinding and whirling sand dunes. The Indians and the lower animals that abounded here left no remains or inscriptions out of which the Occidentalists may decipher the events and tragedies of the past. As it is utterly unknown, the student of history naturally concludes that it was dull, uneventful, inglorious, inconsequential.

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With these ranches came the typical and traditional cowboy. He rode the mustang horse; he had a mammoth saddle and a costly saddle blanket; he wore high-heeled and high-topped boots, piercing spurs, and a cone-shaped, broad-brimmed hat; he sported a long lariat and was skilled in throwing it with unvarying aim and success.

In exceptional cases he may have been wild and ferocious, daring and desperate, rough and

rowdy; but they were only exceptional ones. The fancy of the novelist and romancer has portrayed him thru the ingenuity of words rather than as he was or is. That he was brave and rugged; that he was given to faults and to dissipations that characterize many in enlightened life; that he was sometimes uncouth, because of the absence of the refining and restraining influence of woman; that he did not value life and money as some do; that he did not stand in mortal dread and fright of a literal hell, that he did not concern himself over the abstruse problems of theology;—these, peradventure, can not be successfully gainsaid; but the general notion of him abroad does him a rank injustice. The good that was in him, as a rule, more than compensated for the bad. He was elementally noble, brave, and chivalrous. He was of the Knighthood of the Self-constituted Order. He asked no odds of any prince or potentate. His only preparation was that of mastering the broncho and of skillfully manipulating his asso. Just beings will think of him fondly, kindly, gratefully.

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THE DUGOUT PERIOD marks the influx of immigration, which first peopled and developed this country. It began about the year 1887 and continued in its pristine splendor for about ten years, and then gave way to the Frame House Period. During the Dugout Period it might be safely said that the majority of Floyd County's citizens occupied dugouts as dwelling places, while others had houses built of lumber. Dugouts were popular for several reasons. They were cheap and cosy. They were warm in the winter time and cool in the summer. They could be provided on short notice and with little labor.

Dugouts were only temporary structures. What the log cabin was to the early settlement of

Eastern Texas the dugout was to that of Western Texas. The first settlers of a country are not usually flush with money and means of providing themselves with modern luxuries and costly improvements. They must first resort to temporary expedients. They pave the way for a prosperous future for themselves or for those who succeed them. Out of adversity comes prosperity; out of privations, luxuries; out of persistent effort, ultimate success. Here trees could not be felled and logs, hewn and put into rude structures as human abodes. Necessity appealed to man's ingenuity, and the idea of the dugout was conceived.

Dugouts were of two kinds, dugouts proper and half-dugouts. The former were made wholly in the ground and of sticks and dirt. The latter were partly in the ground and partly above the surface. The upper part was built of lumber and covered with shingles, or planks bent over a center- or ridge-pole. In the upper part half-windows were usually placed. The floor of both kinds of dugouts were almost invariably of dirt. The walls were not high. Sometimes a tall man had occasion to bump his head soundly; but the lesson was usually so impressive that his memory became surcharged with the experience, and he rarely repeated the blunder. Frequently dugouts were provided with fireplaces, which rendered these in-ground or under-ground lodges quite cosy and inviting.

About the fireside of one of these Western homes the family circle might assemble and hold sweet communion. Here they could retrospect the past, inspect the present, and introspect the future. It was indeed pleasant to bask in the glowing heat and radiant light produced by wood which had been obtained from the Brazos Country without money and without price, or by surface coal which came from the common and was as free as the air. Halcyon hours were those in which innocent games were indulged, in which sweet strains of music drove away dull cares, in which the news of the day or the contents of a meritorious book were read aloud for the enlightenment of all, in which stories and incidents intimately associated with the old home of the erstwhile and of the far-away are related, in which the ideal of the life worth living was measurably realized. Glorious days, happy moments, were these; but days more glorious, moments more happy, can come, will come, must come.

Only a few dugouts may be seen nowadays to recall the tragedies and triumphs of the defunct past. These relics of bygone days have come into existence and have lingered upon the threshold of a more modern civilization; but they will soon be gone, gone, gone!

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THE FRAME HOUSE PERIOD has become the successor and supercessor of the Dugout Period. The former has firmly but gently said to the latter:

"Avaunt! You have been useful in preparing the way for me. You have performed, and performed well, the task of the legal requisition in holding down school and homestead lands. You have borne the country successfully thru the experimental stage. You have won imperishable fame because of your noble aims and good deeds, and on Memory's tablets they have been indelibly recorded and will be sounded down the ages. You have had your youth, your middle age, your old age; and now you must go upon the superannuated list. Avaunt!"

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rapid strides and great achievements, moral and intellectual and material. Lethargy and conservatism can no longer impede its progress.

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THE CANYON SETTLEMENT

Geographical Features.

TO SETTLE at first on the Plains seemed to the pioneer to be too great a venture. He wanted a place that would afford him natural protection against the furies and blasts of blizzards. The canyons or escarpments amply supplied this desire.

Blanco Canyon, in the south part of this County, was the place that attracted the first people who sought homes here. It is a mile wide in places and of considerable depth. Wood, water, and rock abound. Homes could be provided without expending much labor or money. In the earliest days Blanco Canyon was an ideal place in which to live.

This Canyon extends in a south easterly direction. It has its source in Runningwater Draw. This draw has its origin beyond the northwest part of Hale County. It courses thru Hale County and enters Floyd County at about the middle of the boundary line of these two Counties. It has numerous springs that burst forth after it enters Hale County. After flowing a distance of about fifteen miles the water sinks into the ground. This is why it is called Runningwater Draw. From this part to where it merges into Blanco Canyon in Floyd County it is an arroyo, and its banks are gently sloping.

Runningwater Draw becomes Blanco Canyon about seven miles southwest of Ft. Worth. Five miles south of Floydada there is a north prong of the Canyon which has its origin. This prong or tributary is about a mile long. In the Canyon there is a stream fed by some springs. It is known geographically as White River. It is a tributary of Brazos River.

In Spanish Blanco signifies White. It will thus be seen that the names of the stream and canyon mean the same. The stream does not flow rapidly, save when there are heavy rains. It is at times boggy. Numerous holes of water may be found.

The gradient of the draw and the stream is four or five hundred feet. It is sufficient to produce a swift current in times of much precipitation. They do not become swollen many times during the year.

Those Who Came First.

THE first settlements in Blanco Canyon were in that part which is in Crosby County. Some were permanent and others, temporary. It was mostly stock interests that induced people who first came here to settle in the Canyon.

H. C. Smith and family may be justly reckoned as the first bona fide settlers in Crosby County. They came from Fort Griffin, in Shackelford County, to Blanco Canyon in 1878. Here Mr. Smith still resides. His is a home of genuine hospitality. They built a two-story residence of stone. The celebrated caprock stone was used in the construction. It is a magnesian limestone. It hardens when exposed to the sunlight. As a building material, it is a fair substitute for the common limestone or sandstone rocks used elsewhere.

Two Irish stone masons of Fort Worth did the work. The lime used was made of some stone in the Canyon. The building cost about \$3300, but it was as cheap as a lumber house of the same size could have been

built at that time. Fort Worth was the nearest shipping-point then. Lumber sold at that place at \$40 per 1000 feet, and the freighting on the same would have been \$90. Thus it will be seen that 1000 feet of lumber delivered in Blanco Canyon would have cost \$130. It is not to be wondered that Mr. Smith erected a stone dwelling when he first came to this country.

At that time Crosby County was attached to Young County. Flour at Graham cost \$6 per 100 pounds, and the freight to the Canyon was \$2.50 more. It cost something in those days to live in this country.

Mr. Smith is now sixty-nine years of age, but is still strong and active. Since his boyhood he has been a Western pioneer in the strictest sense. He worked during the fifties in the gold mines in California. During the War between the States he freighted from Kansas City to New Mexico. He received \$25 per hundredweight for this service; but, on the other hand, he paid \$40 per 100 pounds for flour, 75 cents per pound for bacon, the same for dried fruit, the same for sugar, and twice as much for coffee. He freighted from Austin to Fort Concho at \$3.60 per 100 pounds.

From 1872 to 1877 he was three years at Fort Griffin. He supervised military post at that place land hay at \$22 or \$23 per acre. He was mowed principally on the prairies of that region. Near where Throckmorton now stands Mr. Smith had a contest with the Indians, in which he lost twenty-six mules. This was in 1878. Twenty years later his claim against the Government was allowed. He has a claim against the Government for some oxen stolen by Indians about thirty years ago when he was freighting for the military posts in the Rio Grande Country. This claim has not yet been allowed.

At Fort Griffin Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married. Mrs. Smith is a native of Scotland.

When Crosby County was organized, in 1886, Mr. Smith was elected tax assessor. He has since filled the office of County surveyor. Since 1878 his home has been Mount Blanco post office. When the postoffice was established the mail was carried from Fort Griffin, and the mails were received once a week. Since 1894 he has been the volunteer meteorological observer. This is a work in which he takes great pride, and still it is a gratis work. He is very methodical in his business affairs. His information is broad and general. He is a close observer, and his memory is quite retentive. He knows all of Western Texas.

Mr. Smith's life is a most interesting one. It has been one of continual activity and excitement. He thoroughly enjoyed it. He would like to live it over, but he is content to spend the evening at his home in the Canyon,—a most delightful retreat, a life close to nature, a scene painted by Nature's many-colored brush.

Charlie Hawes came here about the time Mr. Smith did. He makes his home with Mr. Smith. He was a miner of gold in California when so many were seeking the yellow metal. He and Mr. Smith first met in Arizona in 1857. They have met frequently since that time. They

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Blanco Canyon, in the south part of this County, was the place that attracted the first people who sought homes here. It is a mile wide in places and of considerable depth. Wood, water, and rock abound. Homes could be provided without expending much labor or money. In the earliest days Blanco Canyon was an ideal place in which to live.

This Canyon extends in a south easterly direction. It has its source in Runningwater Draw. This draw has its origin beyond the northwest part of Hale County. It courses thru Hale County and enters Floyd County at about the middle of the boundary line of these two Counties. It has numerous springs that burst forth after it enters Hale County. After flowing a distance of about fifteen miles the water sinks into the ground. This is why it is called Runningwater Draw. From this part to where it merges into Blanco Canyon in Floyd County it is an arroyo, and its banks are gently sloping.

Runningwater Draw becomes Blanco Canyon about seven miles south of Floydada there is a north prong of the Canyon which has its origin. This prong or tributary is about a mile long. In the Canyon there is a stream fed by some springs. It is known geographically as White River. It is a tributary of Brazos River.

In Spanish Blanco signifies White. It will thus be seen that the names of the stream and canyon mean the same. The stream does not flow rapidly, save when there are heavy rains. It is at times boggy. Numerous holes of water may be found.

The gradient of the draw and the stream is four or five hundred feet. It is sufficient to produce a swift current in times of much precipitation. They do not become swollen many times during the year.

Those Who Came First.

THE first settlements in Blanco Canyon were in that part which is in Crosby County. Some were permanent and others, temporary. It was mostly stock interests that induced people who first came here to settle in the Canyon.

H. C. Smith and family may be justly reckoned as the first bona fide settlers in Crosby County. They came from Fort Griffin, in Shackelford County, to Blanco Canyon in 1878. Here Mr. Smith still resides. His is a home of genuine hospitality. They built a two-story residence of stone. The celebrated caprock stone was used in the construction. It is a magnesian limestone. It hardens when exposed to the sunlight. As a building material, it is a fair substitute for the common limestone or sandstone rocks used elsewhere.

Two Irish stone masons of Fort Worth did the work. The lime used was made of some stone in the Canyon. The building cost about \$3300, but it was as cheap as a lumber house of the same size could have been

built at that time. Fort Worth was the nearest shipping point then. Lumber sold at that place at \$40 per 1000 feet, and the freighting on the same would have been \$90. Thus it will be seen that 1000 feet of lumber delivered in Blanco Canyon would have cost \$130. It is not to be wondered that Mr. Smith erected a stone dwelling when he first came to this country.

At that time Crosby County was attached to Young County. Flour at Graham cost \$6 per 100 pounds, and the freight to the Canyon was \$2.50 more. It cost something in those days to live in this country.

Mr. Smith is now sixty-nine years of age, but is still strong and active. Since his boyhood he has been a Western pioneer in the strictest sense. He worked during the fifties in the gold mines in California. During the War between the States he freighted from Kansas City to New Mexico. He received \$25 per hundredweight for this service; but, on the other hand, he paid \$40 per 100 pounds for flour, 75 cents per pound for bacon, the same for dried fruit, the same for sugar, and twice as much for coffee. He freighted from Austin to Fort Concho at \$3.60 per 100 pounds.

From 1872 to 1877 he was at Fort Griffin. He supplied however military posts at that place land hay at \$22 or \$23 per ton. He was mowed principally on the prairies of that region. Near where Throckmorton now stands Mr. Smith had a contest with the Indians, in which he lost twenty-six mules. This was in 1878. Twenty years later his claim against the Government was allowed. He has a claim against the Government for some oxen stolen by Indians about thirty years ago when he was freighting for the military posts in the Rio Grande Country. This claim has not yet been allowed.

At Fort Griffin Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married. Mrs. Smith is a native of Scotland.

When Crosby County was organized, in 1886, Mr. Smith was elected tax assessor. He has since filled the office of County surveyor. Since 1878 his home has been Mount Blanco post-office. When the postoffice was established the mail was carried from Fort Griffin, and the mails were received once a week. Since 1894 he has been the volunteer meteorological observer. This is a work in which he takes great pride, and still it is a gratis work. He is very methodical in his business affairs. His information is broad and general. He is a close-observer, and his memory is quite retentive. He knows all of Western Texas.

Mr. Smith's life is a most interesting one. It has been one of continual activity and excitement. He thoroughly enjoyed it. He would like to live it over, but he is content to spend the evening at his home in the Canyon,—a most delightful retreat, a life close to nature, a scene painted by Nature's many-colored brush.

Charlie Hawes came here about the time Mr. Smith did. He makes his home with Mr. Smith. He was a miner of gold in California when so many were seeking the yellow metal. He and Mr. Smith first met in Arizona in 1857. They have met frequently since that time. They

would doubtless feel lonely if apart. Together they can live over, in memory, the experiences of auld lang syne.

At the juncture of their coming to this country there were some Kiowa Indians and many buffaloes. Just about this time what was known as the great slaughter of buffaloes was taking place. Buffalo hides were in great demand in the markets. When dressed they were valuable for robes and other purposes. The undressed hides brought from one to five dollars each. Winter hides were more valuable than summer hides. The reason of this difference is manifest, after a little thought; for the former had longer hair than the latter. Thousands of these native animals were killed and divested of their skins, and no other part was used. It was too far from the markets for the meat of buffaloes to be sold. Many came here to indulge in this very fascinating sport. It did not last many years. There were many sighs and regrets with its passing.

In 1878 Paris Cox visited this country with a view of locating a colony of his brethren who were of the Quaker, or Friends, Church. His home was at Indianapolis, Indiana. He had about eighty sections of land in the northwestern portion of Crosby County. He decided to ascertain whether or not water could be obtained and whether or not anything among agricultural cereals could be grown on his lands. H. C. Smith assured him in the affirmative. A contract was made with Mr. Smith to dig a well, to fence and break some land, and to plant a crop. A well was dug, and an abundant supply of water was found at the depth of fifty-five feet. There were good seasons, and a was in each of beans, corn, and early potatoes raised. Samples were sent to the postoffice. His Indians were accomplished. It was a revelation to Indianans. He determined at once to try his fortunes in this far-away country.

In the fall of 1879 the families of Mr. Cox, Mr. Haworth, Mr. Stubbs, and Mr. Spray settled in Crosby County. They remained there until the following spring. They lived mostly in tents. The winter was severe. The time was lonely. The winds blew hard. The situation was discouraging.

Some unpleasant experiences were the lot of these settlers. They underwent much that caused them to regret their coming to this country; to long for a change of existence, for they did not feel that they were really living.

One foggy morning one of the men walked out to a basin a short distance from his home. He was out of sight of any object save the ground on which he was walking. He thought he would retrace his steps, but he failed to keep his course. Instead of traveling TOWARDS his home he wandered AWAY from it. When the mists were cleared away and the sun shone out clear and bright, not an object presented itself to the eye except terra firma and the dome of the ethereal and cerulean sky. Now and then mirages would appear in the distance, but these intensified his bewilderment. Nearly three days he thus wandered. Search for him was instituted, but the new settlers were unused to traveling upon vast prairies, and they could not avail their purpose. They called upon their earthly counselor, H. C. Smith, to find the lost man. After a time the wanderer was found on the Plains, not far south of Mount Blanco. Sadly distracted and almost famished was the man who had been lost, but was found. No such experience could befall a man in old Indiana, he doubtless remanated.

One day in the early part of the spring a heavy windstorm

swept over this country. It blew down the tents and transported tubs, buckets, and other things that were light and lodged them in Blanco Canyon. This was too much for the patience of a Job, for the fortitude of a Columbus, for the perseverance of a saint. It was useless to frigate away time in such a country. It would not be before the dawn of the Millennium when the Staked Plains would be fit for the abode of man. Thus they might have surmised. At any rate, all save Mr. Cox and family left for other parts of the Continent. Others of Mr. Cox's brethren came from the North.

Subsequently affairs moved along smoothly. A town was founded. It was called Marietta, in honor of Mrs. Paris Cox, whose christian name was Mary. At the organization of Crosby County this place was made the county seat. The county seat name was Marietta; the postoffice, Estacado; because there was a postoffice already established in Cass County of the name of the former.

Early in the spring of 1881 the first white children were born in Crosby County. The first was a girl born to Mr. and Mrs. Paris Cox; and the second, a boy, to Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Smith. The former was christened Bertha; the latter, Robert. The one is married and living in the State of Kansas; the other is married and living in Blanco Canyon.

In 1891 the county seat of Crosby County was moved from Estacado to Emma. All the Quakers are gone. Charles Holmes was the last to leave. This was in 1898.

Ranches Established.

THOSE who had their temporary abodes on the Canyon usually had herds of cattle, horses, or sheep. They were transients rather than settlers. Where they stopped were camps rather than homes, as there were no women in them. All sound thinkers will agree that at least one woman to adorn it, to direct its affairs, to make life worth living. The Roosevelts might insist, with telling force and convincing logic, that the presence of children is absolutely necessary to make a place a home; but sociology can not be discussed in these columns, and the matter will be dropped with the foregoing averment.

In 1893 a sheep camp was established in the Canyon. It was in Floyd County and about nine or ten miles above the home of H. C. Smith. The proprietors were D. W. Owens, C. W. Marsailles, and W. V. Duncan. These gentlemen remained here only about three years. The whereabouts of Mr. Owens are not known. Mr. Marsailles went to Hale County. He served as county treasurer several years. Afterwards he was engaged in the mercantile business at Plainview, and later on at Canyon, after the building of the Pecos Valley Railroad from Amarillo, Texas, to Roswell, New Mexico. He left Canyon a few years ago, and his present home is not definitely known. Mr. Duncan also became identified with the interests of Hale County. He afterwards resided at Memphis, Hull County. At present, he is in North Dakota, where he is engaged in mining and stock raising.

The same year in which the sheep ranch just mentioned was founded the H Bar L Ranch was established lower down the Canyon near the Crosby County line. The proprietors were four men of Irish birth. They were M. V. Blacker, A. J. Tisdall, Guy Orme, and R. A. Smythe. These gentlemen remained here until after the organization of the County. Both sheep and cattle were kept on their ranch. Mr. Blacker returned to Ireland where he had a large estate. Thru heirship or marriage, the rank and title of Douglas has been conferred on him. His name now is M. V. Blacker

Douglas, and his residence, Glamon Castle, Bellevue Park, Killiney, County Dublin, Ireland. He was educated in England. In many respects he was a kindly gentleman. He was, by birth and training, so indoctrinated and inculcated with English ideas and customs that he could never form much attachment for American institutions. He has, in recent years, disposed of all his lands in this County.

C. U. Connellee also established a cattle ranch where Crawfish Draw empties into Blanco Canyon. The camp was in Crosby County, but the range was partly in Floyd County. Mr. Connellee has long since returned to his former home in Eastland County. As late as 1884 there were only two cattle ranch headquarters in Floyd County; namely, those of the H Bar L and of the F, or Goodnight High Grade Cattle Company in the northeast corner of the County.

The latter has done as its name indicates. It has introduced into the country many strains of blooded cattle. The manager, Charles Goodnight, has been very diligent in improving the breeds of cattle in the Panhandle Country.

Mr. Goodnight is noted for many good qualities of character. He has assisted many a poor person to get a start in life. Near his home at Goodnight, Armstrong County, he maintains a herd of buffaloes.

Moving Westward.

IN THE history of any country the name of some one man is intimately associated with it. It is so with that of the Canyon. The name of one man is inseparably connected with its settlement. That man is Arthur B. Duncan, who is at present serving his sixteenth year as county judge of Floyd County.

The first settler with a family in Floyd County was Mr. Duncan. The family was composed only of himself and wife and a child. They came to the Canyon June 1, 1884, when they reached Blanco Canyon. They left Montague County about the first of the previous April. They traveled to Seymour and remained there about one month; then they resumed their journey to Floyd County, their destination. Mr. Duncan's brother, W. V. Duncan, had preceded him about a year in coming to this country. There were others of the Duncan family who were to follow at a later period of time. Arrangements had first to be made. All could not get ready for the change at once. Arthur B. Duncan and family were the first to join W. V. Duncan in Floyd County. The residue were to come and to bring cattle and horses a year later.

Arthur B. Duncan and family were accompanied by a boy of the name of Robert A. Prince. He was an orphan and fifteen years of age. His company was quite acceptable to the family in seeking a home in the wilds of the West at that time.

Mr. Duncan and family spent a month at Seymour as a matter of dire necessity. They left Montague County not flush with pecuniary means. Provisions were running low and money pieces, becoming scarce. They camped near the town. Mr. Duncan sought employment. He was then young and timid; it was his nature. He felt dejected; the circumstances rendered him so. He did not walk up boldly to people and make known his wants, but rather moved quietly about and listened attentively to those who might be conversing. Finally he heard a sheep man speak of needing help. Mr. Duncan mustered up courage to approach this man and engaged employment. At the end of a month he felt prepared to brave his projected home.

In Floyd County.

MR. DUNCAN, after establishing a camping place in Blanco Canyon, began his preparations to settle on a home. To file on, land he had

first to go to Clarendon. There was no road leading towards that town. He had to travel by course, and this was not an easy thing to do.

The journey was made alone and horseback. The country was unknown. When he found where he was he had traveled too far west. Then Clarendon was a small village and without a railroad. Then all the surrounding country was without settlements save a few cow camps and ranch headquarters.

Opposition to Settlement.

TO THE Canyon in Floyd County Mr. Duncan returned and began his preparations to live on the land on which he had filed while at Clarendon. The ranch people did not cordially welcome settlers with families who came to occupy the public lands. The ranch men wanted it all to themselves. They scouted the idea of the country's ever being settled. They looked upon the actual settler disdainfully and contemptuously. He was regarded as an intruder. He was dubbed a "nester", or a "squatter". They had the country, and they were bent on keeping it. It was thus Mr. Duncan was environed upon reaching Floyd County. His nerve was to be put to the test. If he stood, he had to endure the crucible. If he fell, he would go to the wall. It will be seen how he emerged.

Efforts were made to prevent him from settling on his homestead claim. He was told that the land belonged to private parties. He replied that he had filed on it; that the judiciary was the proper place to adjudicate the matter; that he was going to remain on it as long as he wished, or until he was removed by legal process. This reply was mild, but firm; but it did not still their efforts. Another was resorted to to rid the country of the noxious settler.

Three burly, daring fellows one day called him away from his camp. They proceeded to deal with him in a haughty, mandatory manner. It nettled him. He became bold and defiant. He was determined then not to be intimidated or turned from his purpose. A camp and a corral had been placed on the land. He notified them to remove these improvements within ten days' time, else he would occupy them. He did as he said he would. Other efforts were attempted, but they strengthened him to show that the spirit which actuated him was invincible.

It was a lonely place for the home of a family, the Canyon was. How long it would be so was difficult to conjecture. The time might be long, and it might be short; it was certain it would be some time. It was but natural that there should be a certain sense of dissatisfaction with conditions and surroundings; a certain longing to return to settlements and to civilization; a certain predilection to discard plans and arrangements to live in a country fraught with so many difficulties and privations.

But Mr. Duncan was averse to being driven away. He loved peace and immunity from danger, but not well enough to be a coward or a flunky. In his inmost soul he felt that he would rather "die in his boots" than to "show the dominecker". He did not leave. After a time he became resigned to his situation. The better he knew the country the better he liked it. Its fortunes were his and remained his.

The Home.

FOR six and one-half years he and his family lived in their home in the Canyon. Their home was dug back into a bank, which made three of the walls. The front wall was made of sod. The floor was of terra firma, and the roof, of timbers and dirt. It was amply commodious for two rooms of average size. These were separated by a partition of cloth. It was furnished as other small habita-

tions in this country. In the "frop" room there was an old-fashioned fireplace. It was dug out in one of the three walls of solid dirt. As a way of egress for the smoke a large hole extended upward. The hole would have been straight had it not have been for a big rock that necessitated the making of a crook. At times it would "draw", and at others it would not. In the corner of the floor space an obdurate stone protruded a few inches above. Over this was placed a bedstead. Here they lived until after the County was organized.

Their only neighbors were at Mount Blanco. Lower down the Canyon there lived a surveyor and his wife. The surveyor had been a teacher, and according to the custom of the time, was called Prof. Moore.

Of Political Import.

IN THE fall of 1884 the general election came off. The few people who were in the Counties of Floyd and Crosby did not have opportunity to vote, but they had their convictions and watched the political campaign and the result of the election with the utmost interest. A number who were engaged in the wool-growing industry, were desirous of seeing the so-called protective tariff triumphant, because it would promote their financial interests. Mr. Duncan was the solitary supporter of Cleveland and Tariff Reform. Several days after the election he rode to the postoffice at Mt. Blanco for his papers. To his great delight, he learned of Cleveland's election. At great speed he rode home, got his winchester, and made the welkin ring by repeatedly firing it until the magazine was emptied. In his immediate vicinity he was alone in supporting Cleveland's candidacy; alone in celebrating his election. Cleveland was a hero of his then, but not so now. He has been, and is now a whole-souled admirer of James

The first official of the session Mr. Duncan ever received was as presiding officer of the election precinct of Floyd County. This was early in the spring of 1888. Later on he was appointed justice of the peace of the attached County of Floyd by the commissioners' court of Crosby County. This position he filled until the County was organized. Custom then, as now in many instances, was peculiar. It gave him the title "Squire Duncan."

Because of the numerous legal disputes that came up when he first came to Floyd County, he provided himself with a copy of the Revised Statutes and one of the Acts of the Legislature. These he studied diligently. He took an active and leading part in the public affairs of this country. It was in this way that his name was thought of for county judge at the organization.

More Settlers Come.

IT WAS early in the spring of 1885 when other women than the wife of Arthur B. Duncan arrived. They were his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan, and his sister, Miss Edith. They came by railway to Abilene. At this place they were met by W. V. Duncan, who conveyed them to the sheep camp in which he had an interest.

A few months later others of the Duncan relations arrived with cattle and horses. Among them were Z. T. Maxwell and family, Pollet Smith, Ed Duncan, and Miss Eugenia Duncan. With their arrival a community in Blanco Canyon was formed, and living in the far West became more congenial.

Homes were soon provided, mostly by excavation. Living was comparatively easy, the not luxurious, natural, but not sumptuous. Colorado was the trading-point, and supplies were purchased in large lots; hence, trips to the railroad were not frequent.

Affairs progressed smoothly. The customs of the old settled

portions were not forgotten or ignored. There were courtships, marriages, births, and deaths.

The first couple to marry in the County were Mr. Poiet Smith and Miss Eugenia Duncan. The nuptials took place at the home of Arthur B. Duncan. The marriage license was obtained at Clarendon O. A. Shook, a Methodist preacher, officiated. An affair dinner was given at the home of H. C. Smith.

In the early part of the year of 1886 a male child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Z. T. Maxwell. It was the first white child born in Floyd County. In recognition of this fact it was christened Floyd. The second child born in Floyd County was to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Duncan, on April 10, 1886. It was a girl. She was named Maud Eudora.

Mrs. A. M. Mills was the first white person to die in the part of the Canyon which is in Floyd County. This occurred in April, 1890. Her remains were carried to Estacado for interment.

Occasionally there was some preaching in the Canyon. O. A. Shook, Thomas Duncan, and J. H. Stegall paid occasional visits and preached some at the homes of various settlers. They were ministers of the Methodist Church.

One cold November night Mr. Shook made his way into the Canyon. As he neared the home of Arthur B. Duncan he came in contact with the yard dog. Mr. Shook felt that he was in close quarters, and he sought refuge on the top of a corral shed. No human habitation could be espied. It was a dismal, uncomfortable, precarious situation for a preacher. After a time Mr. Duncan called the dog. The minister rejoiced to hear other than the voice of a dog. He yelled at the top of his voice, "Is that you, White Man?" He was invited into the home. Supper was prepared for the weary preacher. He had ridden all day in the cold and damp. He was prepared to relish a woman's cooking and to enjoy lodging in a home.

At the table to eat he expressed thanks in a most humble, grateful manner. At that moment he was truly a thankful man.

During the autumn of 1886 there was a few days' protracted meeting in the Canyon. A brush arbor was provided, and people for twenty miles about attended the services.

One morning during this meeting Mrs. Arthur B. Duncan met with quite an embarrassing situation. A large crowd of visitors were at her home. She prepared breakfast. Only a few of the visitors had eaten, when a portly steer deliberately walked over the roof of the kitchen, broke thru the dirt thereon, and showered down a great mass of dirt upon the table. It was a sad experience for those who had prepared the breakfast and for those who had not eaten. It is needless to say that an anathema marcapatha might have been pronounced upon the obtrusive and intrusive steer.

Ed Duncan was a sheep herder for a year or more. He found it to his interest to build monuments of buffalo bones on the Plains. These structures served to guide him aright back to the camp in the Canyon. It was an easy matter for one to get lost on the Plains then. It was not a pleasant experience to get lost in this country.

Land Litigation.

THE settlers were not wholly welcome, but the cowmen did not attempt much intimidation. Some lawsuits arose between the settlers and the ranch interests. All the settlers, except Arthur B. Duncan, who were involved in the courts, compromised by relinquishing their land claims for a consideration. Mr. Duncan won out in his litigation.

After this all the settlers, except Mr. Duncan, went to Hale County and settled on Runningwater Draw. They went there ostensibly to pursue the

stock-raising industry. But other people moved into their midst. Shallow water was the attractive force. At first Mr. Maxwell preferred not to have settlers close to him; but, as he could not persuade them to locate elsewhere, he resolved to make a town. It was in this way that Plainview was founded.

In 1892 Mr. Maxwell moved to the Indian Territory. He now resides in San Saba County. Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan died near Plainview early in the summer of 1892.

None, none, of the very first settlers at Plainview are now there. To some the nightfall has come, and others are trying their fortunes elsewhere among the walks of the living.

Attached to Crosby County.

IN 1884 and 1885 the settlers in Floyd County had to go to Clarendon to file on the land they occupied. This County was then attached to Donley County for both land and judicial purposes. This was a great inconvenience to the settler.

This was the arrangement until after the organization of Crosby County. In December, 1886, a movement was put on foot to have Floyd County attached to Crosby instead of Donley County. This change had to be accomplished thru Legislative enactment. Arthur B. Duncan took the lead in this movement in Floyd County. G. M. Swink, the county judge of Crosby County, warmly seconded it and lent valuable assistance in securing Legislative action at Austin.

Mr. Duncan prepared the following petition and secured the signatures of nineteen other citizens of Floyd County to the same:

"To the Honorable Senators and Representatives of the Twentieth Legislature, Austin, Texas.—Gentlemen: We, the undersigned resident citizens of Floyd County, State of Texas, would most respectfully request that said Floyd County be attached to Crosby County for both land and judicial purposes. Estacado, the county seat of Crosby County, is situated within five miles of the south line of this County, which makes it decidedly more accessible than any other point, both for mail facilities and business."

The following is the personnel of the signers: Arthur B. Duncan, A. M. Mills, W. B. Brown, Sam Gerrod, G. M. Rhoads, J. M. Cox, E. Cox, J. T. Cox, C. H. Johnson, H. S. Vantres, H. R. Baughn, J. A. Burriss, A. K. Latham, J. M. Standefer, John Fullingim, J. P. Brown, Foster Fullingim, M. C. Potter, R. A. Prince, and Thos. Teeling.

This movement on the part of the citizens of Floyd County to be attached to Crosby County was vigorously opposed by Clarendon people, in this contest before the Legislature the people of Floyd County won out. Thereafter until the organization the citizens of this County had greater advantages in both land and judicial matters.

The Coming of Other Settlers.

OTHER settlers filled the places of those who went away. Among those who came in were A. M. Mills and family, J. A. Burriss and family, J. J. Day and family, A. K. Latham and family, J. J. Latham and family.

Mr. Mills lived on the front all the days of his life. He was from Crosby County, where he resided several years prior to his coming to the Canyon. Here he lived until the autumn of 1890. He lingered about this country for a year or two and then went to New Mexico. He was a plain, unpretentious, well-meaning man.

Mr. Burriss has lived at various places, but most of the time he has been in Motley County since his coming to this country. He is now in Lynn County. He was originally from Montague County.

Among those who settled in the Canyon before the organization only J. J. Day remains. There were with him his wife and infant son, Melvin, and his mother, Mrs. Sarah Day. They arrived in April, 1887, from Mason County. Mr. Day's property possessions then consisted of a wagon, a team, a few householding utensils, and less than a dollar in money. He settled near where he resides at present. He worked hard and economized. He was diligent in all relations; in all appointments. At the close of each year his earthly possessions were materially greater than they were the year before. He is now one of the prosperous, well-to-do citizens of this country. At his home one of the first postoffices of Floyd County was established in 1888. It was called Starkey. This was his wife's maiden name. This postoffice was discontinued not long since. In 1894 he became a Christian minister.

A. K. Latham left this country in 1891. He located in Motley County and pursued the stock raising business. In 1897 he was killed by lightning while on the way with a herd of cattle to the railroad. His wife and children still reside in Motley County.

Thos. Teeling was a son of Erin's Isle. Like most Irishmen, he was big hearted and good natured. He worked on the H-Bar L Ranch. He put in cultivation a tract of land on the Draw south of the A. S. Latham section. He spent a year at Floydada, and then resumed work on the cattle ranches. During the first literary society at Floydada he entertained the crowds by singing Irish songs. The worst enemy he had was himself.

G. B. Johnson spent the winter of 1886 and 1887 in the Canyon. He had charge of his father's cattle. He was afterwards married in Jones County, whence he and his father, J. Q. Johnson, moved to this County in 1890. They settled on the Draw, in the Sandhill settlement. They still reside there. They are substantial, straightforward citizens.

Among those who first settled on Runningwater Draw and near Blanco Canyon were V. A. Leonard, W. A. Merrill, B. P. Merrill, L. C. Darby, M. F. Mickey, W. S. Dunn, George Mickey, and A. C. Bowers. At present Mr. Leonard resides near Mount Blanco. W. A. Merrill lives on the place B. P. Merrill first improved in the Sandhill settlement. M. F. Mickey is at present the postmaster of Mickey postoffice. George Mickey returned to Bosque County, where he died in 1895. His wife and children now reside in the Sandhill settlement. Messrs. Dunn and Bowers are Floydada merchants at present.

Subsequent Events.

FEDERAL and Statutory laws, in the early days of the settlement of this country, were not generally heeded. Perfect and absolute freedom was in vogue. Sometimes, but not often, MIGHT, rather than RIGHT, ruled.

After the organization of Crosby County and the court house was under process of construction it was the delight of some to defy law and to override order. They maintained that the law was of no avail in this country. Some even played poker on the stacks of lumber with which the court house was built. This looked like contempt for law and order. This ruffled the suavity of the Quakers and other friends of religion, morals, and social order.

At the suggestion of the sheriff, the first grand jury of Crosby County gave notice that a new regime would be instituted; that the laws would be enforced to the letter; and that it would be advisable for all to take warning. This elicited only scoffs and a greater determination to ignore law and to defy the officers of the law. The next grand

jury convened at Estacado in March, 1888. Positive and decisive action in behalf of law and order was taken. About thirty indictments were reported. The work of this grand jury was quite a surprise to those who constituted the lawless element. It was dubbed the "bloody grand jury", because of the crimes and misdemeanors it had ferreted out in dispensing even-handed justice.

This grand jury was composed of the following citizens of Crosby and attached Counties: L. T. Lester, W. L. Browning, Robert Linn, A. B. Cooper, Sam Gholson, George W. Lee, R. W. O'Keefe, Bennett Howell, Arthur

B. Duncan, J. K. Milwee, Z. T. Maxwell, and S. T. Peppers. Felix Franklin was the sheriff. Judge Kennedy, of Colorado, occupied the district judge's bench; and Xavier Ryan, of the same place, represented the State's interests as district attorney. The work accomplished by this session of the district court pleased the pious Quakers immensely.

No people now reside in that part of the Canyon which is in Floyd County. It is now used for winter pastures. For several years people have ceased to seek an abode therein. They want to live where they can see and be seen.

THE COUNTY ORGANIZES

The Settlers' Prime Desire.

FEW settlers in Floyd County there were until about 1887, when Della Plain was founded. After that time the organization of the County as an independent county government was discussed and agitated. Many were eager for the time to arrive when organization could be accomplished, while, on the other hand, there were some who did not yearn and plan for such an event. The promoters of Della Plain were especially desirous for the County to secure the requisite number of settlers to bring about its organization, inasmuch as they were confident that an election would be all that were necessary for that town to become the county seat. Vigorous efforts were made before the goal could be attained.

To secure the names of 150 legal voters to a petition, praying the commissioners' court of Crosby County to order an election for organization, was one of the prerequisites to such a step. The zeal exercised in securing the signatures to the petition sometimes overstepped perfect integrity. To hasten the matter a little fraud and chicanery were practiced. The signatures of transients were sometimes obtained. But it is not reported that the enthusiasm of those who were pushing the organization propaganda ever became so indifferent to moral probity as to lead them to attach the names of dogs and donkeys bearing the surnames of their owners, as was the case with a few Counties in the Breaks Country. After repeated efforts the requisite 150 signatures were procured, and the petition was presented before the commissioners' court of Crosby County.

On April 14, 1890, the commissioners' court of Crosby County convened in a called session at Estacado, the county seat of that County at that time. The following officers were present and presiding: W. C. Dockum, county judge; A. W. Lewis, J. E. Overhuls, J. W. Allen, and H. B. Smith, commissioners; K. E. Hoy, county clerk pro tem.; and T. H. Lewis, deputy sheriff. The court considered the prayer of the 150 petitioners of Floyd County, and an order was unanimously voted that the same be granted. Thereupon the court created four election precincts in Floyd County. The following voting places were established and presiding-officers for the same, appointed:

Precinct No. 1, Lockney; J. F. Lockney, presiding officer. Precinct No. 2, Della Plain; John Ewing, presiding officer. Precinct No. 3, residence of Arthur B. Duncan, on Blanco Canyon; J. T. Thomas, presiding officer. Precinct No. 4, residence of W. A. Merrill, on Runningwater Draw; W. A. Merrill, presiding officer.

The Organization Election.

WHEN the people of this County felt themselves numerous enough to assume the duties and responsibilities of self-government, Lockney and Floydada sprang into existence and became rivals of Della Plain for the honor and position of se-

lection as county seat. As soon as it was known that the election had been ordered the contest was on in earnest. It was of only a few weeks' duration, but the interest was intense and even exciting. Much of financial as well as personal interest was involved.

J. K. Gwynn, of Missouri, was on the scene in the thick of the contest. He represented the Price interests and was the founder of Floydada. He was a man of much energy and resolution; of tact and resources; and, withal, he was a thoro gentleman and a born leader of men. He dominated the situation. Thru his influence Lockney dropped out of the race, and only Della Plain and Floydada remained. The Lockney contingency became interested in the success of Floydada.

The battle of ballots took place on May 28, 1890. As soon as the smoke had cleared away, up went Floydada's banner, and down went that of Della Plain. Floydada was victorious; Della Plain, vanquished. Floydada was elated and confident; Della Plain, chagrined but game. Floydada appreciated beyond measure the glory of her five votes; Della Plain, for three supporters. The victory was a decisive one for Floydada; but Della Plain was still hopeful and longed for an opportunity to renew the contest. For a year or two thereafter charges and counter charges were preferred by the supporters of Della Plain and of Floydada; crimination and recrimination, indulged in by both sides. Unity of sentiment and fraternity of feeling were longed for, but not realized.

Of the four election bases of Floyd County in the election for the organization one was thrown out by the commissioners' court of Crosby County in canvassing the election returns. This, due to some irregularity in the election, but it did not materially affect the result. The following officers for Floyd County were elected:

Arthur B. Duncan, county judge; John C. Hendrix, county attorney; R. T. Miller, county and district clerk; D. W. Jenkins, sheriff and tax collector; E. C. Keeley, county treasurer; L. C. Darby, tax assessor; W. M. Messie, county surveyor; C. F. Ransay, T. B. Michael, W. R. Vanveer, and B. P. Merrill, commissioners.

First Officers' Whereabouts.

SOMETHING of the whereabouts of the first officers of Floyd County will doubtless be of interest to many readers. Insofar as it is possible, information from all available sources has been secured that the reader may be edified.

Judge Duncan has filled the county judge's office continuously since the organization of the County in 1890. During the past four years he has been conducting a real estate business in connection with his official duties.

John C. Hendrix was reelected county attorney in the general election of November, 1890, but he resigned early in the year of 1891. He was married during his incumbency to Miss Alice

Brashear and continued his residence in Floyd County only a few months thereafter. He cast his lot in Oklahoma where he pursued the practice of law for a few years. In the autumn of 1897 he and his family returned to Floyd County and resided a year at Lockney. During his residence at this place he and R. W. Jones founded and published the Lockney Ledger. He moved from Lockney to Miami, Roberts County, thence to one of the Twin Territories.

R. T. Miller continued to fill the office of county and district clerk until the general election of 1898, when he voluntarily retired from office. He still resides at Floydada. In 1898 he was granted temporary license to practice law, and during the year following he obtained permanent license. At the election of 1904 he was elected county attorney. This position he is now filling. He owns a country home about three miles northeast of Floydada. He devotes some of his attention to farming and stock-raising.

D. W. Jenkins continued in the office of sheriff and tax collector until his death in May, 1896. His remains now repose in the Floydada cemetery. Prior to his election to office he was a cowboy on the F Ranch. Soon after the election in the fall of 1890, he was married to Miss Ella Powell. The wife and children who survived him continued their residence near Floydada until the winter of 1898-1899, when they took up their residence in the Dutchman settlement in Motley County.

E. E. Keeley remained in office only during the short term from the organization of the County until the general election in November following. He continued his residence in the western part of Floyd County for about two years.

L. C. Darby filled the office of tax assessor until the election in November, 1892. He remained a citizen of the Sandhill settlement in Scurry County. In 1900 he was elected sheriff and tax collector of his adopted county. He still resides in Scurry County.

W. M. Massie was reelected county surveyor in the election in November, 1890. He came to Floyd County in 1888 and resided at Della Plain where he taught school in 1889. He entered into the real estate business before the organization of the County and has been a leading land agent ever since. Mr. Massie is a public spirited citizen and has taken an active interest in the promotion of various public enterprises. He was married to Miss Martin, of Parker County, in the summer of 1899. His residence is on the west side of the Floydada town section. He has been highly successful in business, and is now rated as one of the biggest taxpayers in the County. He owns much realty in Floyd and other Plains counties. It has all been accumulated since he came to Floyd County eighteen years ago.

Mr. Ramsey has continued to reside in Floyd County since he was commissioner. For a number of years he ran a well-drilling machine, and many of the wells in the County are the results of his craft. He is a successful farmer and stock-raiser. His farm is about four miles west of the town of Lockney.

Mr. Michael after his term as one of the first commissioners of Floyd County resided a number of years in Briscoe County, where he filled the office of sheriff and tax collector from 1894 to 1898. At the expiration of his term of office in Briscoe County he returned to Floyd County. In 1900 he was again elected county commissioner and reelected in 1902. He resigned however in the spring of 1904 in order to take up his abode in California, where he now resides. In the eastern part of the County just prior to his removal to California he owned a large farm and

ranch, which he sold for \$10,000.

W. R. Vandevor served as county commissioner until the fall of 1892. Soon after this time he moved to New Mexico. He was a typical western character. His home was in Blanco Canyon and it consisted of a rude stone structure on a 160 acre homestead. At the time of his election as county commissioner he was in the evening of life.

B. P. Merrell continues to reside in the Sandhill settlement.

His home is one mile south of the first section he occupied. His incumbency as county commissioner continued until November, 1892. In 1896 and 1897 he resided in Scurry County, but returned to Floyd County and settled the place he occupies at present. Uncle Perry, as he is familiarly called by all who know him, is a Texan of the old regime, which implies Southern hospitality and democratic sentiment. He came to Floyd

County in 1887 and has been engaged in horse raising ever since. Tho he is in years close on to three score and ten he is still hale and hearty, active and energetic. His life is one fraught with many interesting and thrilling experiences. In the War Between the States and the frontiers of Texas he has done service and endured hardships and privations that would end the life of any man of average constitution and vitality.

Affairs in Floyd County and about the new town that was founded were moving forward at a gratifying pace. Another store building was erected. It was placed on the west side of the public square. It served pretty much the same purpose that characterized the first building in its early days. A large square-topped house of several rooms was put up near the southeast corner of the square. It was for some time the most pretentious building at the place. It was occupied as a hotel by Mr. Braidfoot, the Boniface of the town. In various directions habitations were erected or excavated. The erected habitations were made chiefly of sod; the excavated abodes, mostly of dirt banks.

The first school at this town was taught during the winter of 1888-1889. Miss Emma Lewis, of Estacado, was the teacher. A. V. McCracken, T. J. Braidfoot, and J. S. McLain were the trustees. There were fifteen scholars in Floyd County that year, and the per capita apportionment was \$4.00. The total school fund for Floyd County was only \$60, as there was no special district school tax levied and collected. Miss Lewis was paid \$30 per month. The school lasted four months. The teacher's salary was supplemented by private subscriptions.

The year following W. M. Massie was chosen as the teacher of the school. That year the total scholastic population of Floyd County was twenty pupils, and the total school fund amounted to \$80. The session was four months long, and the salary of the teacher was \$40 per month. The teacher was partly compensated for his services in money and partly in cedar posts and cedar wood.

The First People.

WITH the founding of the new town only a few settlers cast their lot in the midst of its location.

Mr. Braidfoot and his family

remained at this place until a short time before the opening of the spring of 1892. He has remained continuously in that place.

J. S. McLain and family settled on a school section about a mile northwest of the new town in the fall of 1887. Mr. McLain is a nephew of Colonel McLain, who was the chief promoter of the new town founded. The former is familiarly known as "Jim". Mr. McLain and his family are originally from Randolph County, Arkansas. Upon first coming to Texas in 1853, they settled in Johnson County. They remained there only a year or two before they took up their abode in Baylor County. Here they resided until their removal to Floyd County.

Mr. McLain cast longing glances towards the Plains Country some time before he determined to make it his home. In the winter of 1886-1887, just after the organization of Crosby County, Paris Cox, the newly elected county and district clerk thereof, spent some time at Seymour, where he had to go to transcribe that part of the records of Baylor County that pertained to his home county. Mr. Cox was a man of some polish. He was enthusiastic over the Plains. He believed it to be the coming country of Texas. He talked of its greatness as he believed in it. He lost no opportunity to herald its virtues, resources, and promises. Mr. McLain was one of the great number who met and conversed with Mr. Cox. He was influenced by the information he received from Mr. Cox and, furthermore, by the fact that his kinsman, Colonel McLain, had become interested in the development of the Plains Country. It was in this way he was induced to become a citizen of Floyd County.

TOWNS IN FLOYD COUNTY

SINCE a short time prior to the organization Floyd County has not lacked for the presence of towns and for the competition between towns. If competition be the life of towns, this county has certainly not been wanting in this life-giving force to its towns. Even hostility between towns has existed. The rivalries and the hostilities between towns of the past were, at times, serious and intense; but they are, at present, regarded as trivial and grotesque. Times change. It is well that they do.

God made the country; man, the town. The country was here as the handiwork of God long before it was known to man. When man came here and beheld in sublime amazement this the fairest and most promising of lands, he was at once infatuated with the notion of founding towns, of amassing wealth, of doing the country a noble service, and of covering his name with imperishable fame.

The location of embryo county

seats was apparently a calling among some who came as pioneers in the settlement of the country. There were many sections suitable for the establishment of towns. It was an easy matter for a man to become possessed with the town-building hallucination. Conditions here had their psychic influence over him. He could see, and could see clearly, as with prophetic vision, a star of hope, a reward of wealth, a halo of power and glory. He had only to put forth the effort, and these would be his recompense. In his hand he held the magic wand. He had nothing to do but to strike, whereupon the El Dorado of his most optimistic dreams would be realized.

Floyd County has produced four towns. Two of them are extinct, and the remaining two, living. The former two are Della Plain and Mayshaw; the latter two, Lockney and Floydada. The history of these four towns is fully presented herein under the proper captions.

DELLA PLAIN

Drought of 1886-1887.

DURING the years of 1886 and 1887 a long protracted drought prevailed over Western Texas. It brought about a great scarcity of water, grass, and stock feed. Great losses were sustained by stockmen. Cattle, horses, and sheep died from thirst and hunger by thousands. Full-handed men lost much of what they had. The empty-handed were confronted with poverty in many instances. As a natural consequence, something of an exodus took place. Many who lost heavily went elsewhere to begin life anew. Some sought relief in the agricultural regions.

But during all the time the drought prevailed the Staked Plains Country was not perceptibly affected. Its peculiar situation rendered it more seasonable than was true of other sections of the West. Besides, the wells were never-failing, the inhabitants were not numerous, and the range was not crowded. The people of the Plains were scarcely aware of the drought and calamities of the Breaks Country. Emerson knew of the existence of evil in the human race thru hearsay only. In this way only did the people of the Plains know of the disasters of the West. They were comparatively prosperous, contented, hopeful.

Mr. Braidfoot Comes.

IT WAS in the midst of these perilous times for the West that T. J. Braidfoot, of the Seymour County, brought his cattle to the Plains. Here better range conditions prevailed than in the country whence he came. This was during the early part of the summer of 1886. He passed the following winter with his stock in the vicinity where S. C. Studer resides at present.

The tide of immigration to the Plains Country was beginning to flow. Crosby County organized that year. People abroad were getting an inkling of the great Llano Estacado and its resources. They had begun to think and to look westward. Thinking and seeing augur decision and action. A man did not need to "have the gift of

prophecy and understand all mysteries" to foretell the immediate future of the Plains Country. As the scene of a great settlement, it was already in its inception. That Floyd County would be sufficiently populous to organize in a few years was manifest to all who were conversant with conditions in the Panhandle. Hale County was then the center of a marked settlement and was preparing for the ordeal of an early organization.

Mr. Braidfoot conceived the notion that it was an opportune time to found a town to become the seat of government upon Floyd County's organization. He located a school section in what was thought to be the center of the County. It was imperfectly surveyed. Robert Lion and a Mr. Roberts of Crosby County drilled a well on it. It was intended to be put in the center of the section, but a later survey by District Surveyor H. C. Knight, of Crosby County, showed the well to be on the west border of the section. In this well no water was obtained. It was in a strip of country that has never been known to produce subterranean water.

Partnerships Formed.

EARLY in the summer of 1887 Mr. Braidfoot realized that he did not have the finances to conduct to a successful consummation an undertaking fraught with so much importance and responsibility as the founding and promoting of an embryo county seat involved and imposed. He sought some one to aid him in the enterprise and to share with him the fame that would eventuate and the wealth that would accrue. Such a man in the person of Colonel J. R. McLain, of Seymour, was found.

Colonel McLain was a man of means and experience. He was energetic and aggressive. His fancy led him to behold, as with oracular prescience, a future metropolis on the Llano Estacado. Here he would spend the evening of his active life amid the luxuries and blandishments of a beautiful city bearing the stamp of his personality. Here would be realized the proverbial City on the Hill,—a city of mar-

vellous beauty, of effulgent splendor, of dazzling magnificence. Here he would, at last, experience the life worth attaining, worth living, worth dying.

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At a later period Mr. Braidfoot found that he was still financially unable to cope with his part of the undertaking of building a town. He sold all his interest in the enterprise, except a few blocks, to Dr. Wilson and Judge I. R. Darnell, both of whom lived at Seymour. Afterwards Mr. Braidfoot made a deal by which he bought back a large interest in the town.

Colonel McLain, Dr. Wilson, and Mr. Braidfoot squandered several thousand dollars in their effort to found a town. Harmony did not at all times exist. Mistakes were made. Most of the efforts to promote it seemed to have a reactionary effect.

The Preparation.

PREPARATIONS at once began for the founding of the town conceived and contrived by Mr. Braidfoot and Colonel McLain. At that time the Fort Worth & Denver Railroad had not been completed to Childress, and the Wichita Valley had not been built from Wichita Falls to Seymour. But the initiative of the new town could not be postponed. The Denver Road was building rapidly towards the west. Immi-

grants were pouring in thick and fast. The West was on the verge of a great boom. Time had to be taken by the forelock. The work of starting the new town in Floyd County had to be pushed forward, else it would be pushed aside. Stirring times, hustling times, progressing times, these were.

To give an impetus to the new town movement a building was erected on the site chosen. Lumber and other materials for building purposes were hauled in the early part of the autumn of 1887 from Wichita Falls. The wagons were drawn by oxen. They journey was long, toilsome, expensive. The distance traveled from Wichita Falls to the place of destination was about 175 miles. With the freight of these wagons the first house in the projected town was built.

Improvements Begun.

THE public square had been located. On the north side the first building was constructed. It was a store building, but it was some time before it was used for that purpose. At first there was no lumber to floor it, and not enough shingles to complete the roof near the cone. It remained in this unfinished state for several months. It was used some of the time as a temporary dwelling place by different families, as a place for public assemblies, and as a place of protection from the elements for both persons and wares.

In the meantime the Denver Road had reached Childress. That town then became the railroad point at which the few citizens of Floyd County did their trading. Estacado, then the county seat of Crosby County, was considered tolerably convenient for mail facilities, for land and legal business, for trading in small wares. This town was only about thirty miles distant, which was short for that day and time.

Mr. McLain was not flush with means, but he did not mind to put forth the utmost efforts to gain a competence. He expected to undergo hardships, but he did not mind them; he had had them before. He was impelled with the desire to own a home; to get in on the ground floor, so to speak; to reap the very obvious advantages to be gained thereby.

It was in honor of his daughter, Della, that the town was named. It was known as Della Plain. She was married to E. C. Fullington, in April, 1890. They reside in the Harmony settlement.

After the organization of the County Mr. McLain served as county commissioner for a part of a two years' term. In 1891 he settled on a section in the Sandhill community. At this place he still resides. From 1896 to 1900 he served as tax assessor of Floyd County.

Better people than Mr. McLain and his family do not call Floyd County their home. They are good people because it is their nature to be so. Mr. and Mrs. McLain have five children; one son and four daughters. Their home is a pleasant one; one of genuine, old-time hospitality.

Mr. McLain is known favorably by all who have resided in Floyd County up to the present time. He is honest, genial, big-hearted; open and frank in his convictions, religious and political; enterprising and public spirited in all that pertains to the common weal. People like Mr. and Mrs. McLain make the world better by having their being in it.

R. E. L. McLain, a son of Colonel J. R. McLain, was a citizen of Della Plain from the rise to the fall of the same. He and his family resided in a dugout on the town section. He was the factotum of the town. He was the general agent of the

promoters of the aspiring village. As a real estate agent, he was regarded in regard to lands and town property. He was gifted with a glib tongue. He could talk fluently of the country's resources and possibilities; of what it was and what it would be; of its advantages and the disadvantages of adjacent places. In his zeal to advance the interests of his home town and county he indiscreetly berated the merits of neighboring towns and counties. This was not good policy, but he was not aware of it.

As Mr. McLain was generally known, also represented the majesty and dignity of the Federal Government as assistant postmaster under his father. His duties in the reception and distribution of the mails were not very onerous. The mails were never voluminous and of greater frequency than once a week.

A special postoffice for Della Plain was established in the spring of 1888. It was supplied from Estacado, which was about thirty miles southwest of Della Plain. J. S. McLain served as mail carrier most of the time that Della Plain was a special postoffice.

Later on a regular postoffice at Della Plain was substituted for the special one. A mail route from Amarillo to Estacado by the way of Plainview, and Della Plain, was created. The mails were still received once a week, but more expeditiously than before.

Then there were few roads across Floyd County. Much traveling for some time was by course. Generally, but not always, this method of travel was satisfactory. Generally, but not always, the destination could be reached easily and speedily. To facilitate travel from Plainview to Della Plain, a route was marked with the aid of a pocket compass and by means of a large cedar log attached to a wagon by means of a rope and dragging on the ground. The mark was

made across the County to the line of Hale County and on towards Plainview. This was a mile or two south of where Lockney now stands. The town of Lockney then neither existed in reality nor in fancy.

In order that Della Plain and Floyd County might become better known to the home-seekers, a local weekly newspaper was founded by Mr. McLain at about the time of the ringing out of the old year of 1888 and of the ringing in of the new year of 1889. Of its life more will be said elsewhere.

When Della Plain ceased to exist as a town of proportions, existing or prospective, Mr. McLain retraced his steps eastward and began life anew. In 1892 he assumed charge of the Benjamin Reporter. He has since published newspapers in the Indian Territory.

Dock Wilson and his brother Britt performed a conspicuous part in the settlement of the Della Plain Country. In the winter of 1888-1889 Dock put in a small stock of merchandise in the store that was erected on the north side of the public square. The capital invested would not have amounted to much more than one hundred dollars. The stock consisted chiefly of tobacco, canned goods, and small wares. The wants of the modest and infrequent customers were not difficult to satiate.

In the spring of 1889 Mr. Wilson disposed of his stock of goods and was succeeded by the Davis brothers. The latter kept a larger and more general stock of merchandise. The trade increased by reason of the fact that more settlers came into the country. In the autumn of 1889 the Davis brothers left Della Plain and cast their lot in the new town of Lockney, which was started up at that time.

The Davis brothers were succeeded in the mercantile business at Della Plain, and at the

old stand on the north side of the public square by A. J. Sams. Mr. Sams remained here as a business man until the founding of Mayshaw in the early part of the year 1892, whither he moved and continued merchandising until the demise of Mayshaw, whereupon he became a resident of the town of Lockney. A few years ago he moved to Dalhart, but he has since returned to Floyd County. He now resides about two miles west of Lockney. His wife, Mrs. Addie Sams, did run a millinery store at Lockney for several years.

The old store building on the north side of the Della Plain square was occupied in 1892 by A. D. White as a store, post-office, and dwelling. The whereabouts of this old building can not be traced with certainty at the present time, so many have been the changes that have taken place.

Seg Bradford located on what was known as the "Homestead Strip" which lay north of the Della Plain town section. He and his family were numbered among those who came from the Seymour Country to Floyd County in 1887 and 1888. He erected a place of abode out of cedar posts. It was built after the fashion of a stockade or a picket fence. The posts were placed close together in an upright position. The covering was of timbers and sod dirt. The picketed walls were lined on the interior with wagon sheets.

This structure was both rude and crude, but it formed a fairly cosy place of habitation. It possessed some advantages over the excavated sort. Here Mr. Bradford and his family resided a year or two with the independence of a feudal lord of old. At about the time Hale County was organized he took up his residence on a place about one mile southeast of Plainview. He resided at this place until about the year of 1898. At that time

he found he was in the throes of the dreaded disease, tuberculosis. As a means of possible relief he sought a change of climate in New Mexico, where he shortly succumbed to the ravages of his ailment.

Mr. Bradford was a high-tobed, well-informed gentleman. He was a surveyor by calling. It was he who located the Floyd County school lands in the counties of Lamb and Bailey.

J. C. White and family located at Della Plain in 1888. He was a blacksmith by trade. The people of the town cordially welcomed him and his family; a blacksmith shop was an important adjunct to its enterprises; besides, he had three grown daughters, and they lent life and interest to its social circles.

As an expression of welcome and appreciation, the people who were pushing the interests of Della Plain erected, as a gracious gift to Mr. White, a blacksmith shop built of sod and timbers from the Breaks Country. For nearly a year he occupied this structure and wielded the tools of the village smithy in the strong and sinewy way that individualizes all men of this calling. Here he plied, day by day, his trade.

"Toiling,—rejoicing,—sorrowing," and taught to all who chanced to observe him the lesson that Longfellow draws:

"Thus at the flaming forge of life
Our fortunes must be wrought;
Thus on its sounding anvil shaped
Each burning deed and thought?"

Mr. White remained at Della Plain until the founding of the town of Lockney late in the year of 1889, when he became identified with the interests of the latter place. His son-in-law, R. M. Emerson, had located in the Lockney settlement, and there were other agencies that influenced Mr. White to abandon Della Plain and embrace Lockney as a home and place of business.

Upon his removal to Lockney he tore down the sod shop that had been donated him at Della Plain and conveyed the timbers of the same therefrom. The Della Plain people did not look with favor upon Mr. White's removal. Moreover, the act of his part of destroying the shop building that had been erected for his use was regarded as an indignity towards them and their town. They, as a matter of fact, could not feel the most kindly towards the rival town that was springing into existence. This feeling led to their denominating Lockney as "Pull-tight".

Mr. White remained at Lockney until 1893, when he went to New Mexico. Two of his daughters were married in this county. Mr. White was one of the typical characters of this country.

The mention of his residence in Floyd County recalls the first dance that was ever had at Della Plain. The time was on Christmas eve night, 1888; the place, the old store building on the north side of the square. Few, if any, of the settlers of the country had any scruples against attending a dancing party. Mr. White and one of his daughters furnished music for the occasion. The instruments manipulated were two fiddles, the handiwork of Mr. White. They were rough in finish, but they had the true ring of fiddle music. The music on this occasion was highly satisfactory to all attending upon the exercises. It was Christmas times in a new country. The fiddlers made the catgut ring with Arkansas Traveler. Old Dan Tucker, Cotton-Eyed Joe, Billie in the Lowground, and Devil's Dream. It was with them,

"On with the dance,
Let joy be unconfined."

No such strains as Fidelio, Tannhauser, Cavalleria Rusticana, and Wedding of Camacho were heard, and here they would have been very much out of place.

It was a joyous time while it

lasted. The tunes were short, quick, full of life, impelling to the dance. There were no red-tape, no social distinctions, no charges for the privilege of dancing. Here all who wanted to could dance,—dance round and round; dance to the call, "Honor your partners!" How long this would have continued—no telling, perhaps until the dawn of morning—had it not have been for a quarrel between a green, gawky, over-grown boy and a threatening, domineering, loud-mouthed fellow. This escapade broke up the fun and frolic in the old store building.

But did the Christmas eve celebration cease with the dance? Not entirely. To the Braidfoot hotel the crowd in part retired and began a play party. Such pastime sports as Hog Drivers, Marching Round the Levy, and Little Brass Wagon were engaged in for a short while until a proud, sensitive father became miffed because his daughters did not come first in being sought as partners in the games. His indignation was manifested by taking his daughters away. Thus the festivities ended for the time being.

The McCracken brothers,—E. R. and A. V., Ras and Amos,—figured conspicuously in the building of the Della Plain settlement. They were "plain, blunt" men. They were inured to the privations of frontier life. They liked to hunt, to tend cattle, to construct rude improvements, to inaugurate movements for the good of the country. They were enthusiastic supporters of Della Plain. They remained in Floyd County until the early nineties. Amos moved to New Mexico. Ras was married to a sister of J. E. Burns, now of Lockney, and took up his home in the Clarendon Country. In 1902 he died. His widow and children now reside at Lockney.

Charlie Vince spent a year or two in the vicinity of Della Plain. He was soon attracted to Plainview where he followed the mercantile business for a few years. In 1890 he was elected county treasurer of Hale County and served two years. He has since taken up his abode in New Mexico.

A more typical frontiersman never set foot in this country than Mr. Van Winkle. He was just as nature made him. As Topsy, in Uncle Tom's Cabin, would say of herself, he "jis grewed". Insofar as anyone is informed, he never attempted to make any improvement upon the work of nature in his being.

He was a well-built, average-sized man. He wore long, shaggy hair and grizzled, tangled beard. The clothes he wore would not indicate that he was a man whom the tailor had made. Who were his ancestors no one could surmise. That he was a descendant of the immortal Rip Van Winkle is not established, but he might have been.

It is certain that he was not a real estate boomer or a town builder. He doted upon living close to nature and "far from the madding throng". He was one of nature's freaks. The arts, the luxuries, the refinements of enlightened life he shunned and spurned.

At the dance on Christmas eve night Van Winkle was a conspicuous figure. He wore a long, greasy, ragged overcoat of brown duck. As a belt round this overcoat he wore a frazzled looking rope. His garb did not far excel in elegance that of Rip just after arising from his sleep of twenty years. He did not really dance as the others did; but he directed the exercises, issued mandates, encouraged the flagging, scolded the lagging. His language was not wholly as soft and gentle as that of a Sunday school teacher, wholly as

pleading and persuasive as that of a lover, wholly as elegant and polished as that of parlor confabulation.

As settlers increased in number, Mr. Van Winkle became oppressed, and he resolved to seek a home more secluded. All the bridges were burned behind him. He and his family fled for New Mexico. No one here at present knows of their whereabouts.

Preparing to Organize.

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The prime object was to get the County to organize as soon as possible. Before this could take place a petition bearing the signatures of 150 resident voters in the County had to be presented to the commissioners' court of Crosby County. A strong pull was made for settlers. Every immigrant and every prospector who chanced to pass thru Della Plain was earnestly prevailed upon to make Floyd County his home. Inducements, striking and dazzling, were held up before him. The pleas were pleasing and patriotic. He was sometimes, but not at all times, informed that great enterprises of one sort and another would soon be launched at Della Plain; that she would be the future railroad center of the Panhandle; that organization would be effected forthwith; that only a few more settlers were necessary to meet the requirements for organization. If this method of procedure failed to locate him, another was resorted to. He was sometimes, but not at all times, warned that, in the country to the west, the soil was sterile; the weather, the climate, entirely rainless; the population, a set of luddites. If he were too headstrong to be influenced by this course of reasoning, he was sometimes, but not at all times, prevailed upon to sign the petition for organization to be presented to the commissioners' court of Crosby County.

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In August, 1889, a large delegation of Floyd County citizens visited the commissioners' court and made a vigorous plea for their demand. An investigation of the claims of the petitioners was made. Competent witnesses were put on oath to testify. One witness was making splendid headway in swearing, but his testimony was not regarded by some as "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth". W. M. Massie was one among the crowd of Floyd County citizens who was seeking an order permitting the County to organize, but he had scruples against perpetrating, or conniving in, frauds. He mounted the witness stand and told the truth. His testimony completely shattered and refuted that of the expert witness with an elastic conscience. The result was that the court postponed the matter of passing the order for the organization election.

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Mr. McLain was not flush with means, but he did not mind to put forth the utmost efforts to gain a competence. He expected to undergo hardships, but he did not mind them: he had had them before. He was impelled with the desire to own a home; to get in on the ground floor, so to speak; to reap the very obvious advantages to be gained thereby.

It was in honor of his daughter, Della, that the town was named. It was known as Della Plain. She was married to E. C. Fullington, in April, 1890. They reside in the Harmony settlement.

After the organization of the County Mr. McLain served as county commissioner for a part of a two years' term. In 1891 he settled on a section in the Sandhill community. At this place he still resides. From 1896 to 1900 he served as tax assessor of Floyd County.

Better people than Mr. McLain and his family do not call Floyd County their home. They are good people because it is their nature to be so. Mr. and Mrs. McLain have five children; one son and four daughters. Their home is a pleasant one; one of genuine, old-time hospitality.

Mr. McLain is known favorably by all who have resided in Floyd County up to the present time. He is honest, genial, big-hearted; open and frank in his convictions, religious and political; enterprising and public spirited in all that pertains to the common weal. People like Mr. and Mrs. McLain make the world better by having their being in it.

R. E. L. McLain, a son of Colonel J. R. McLain, was a citizen of Della Plain from the rise to the fall of the same. He and his family resided in a dugout on the town section. He was the factotum of the town. He was the general agent of the

promoters of the aspiring village. As a real estate agent, he was consulted in regard to lands and town property. He was gifted with a glib tongue. He could talk fluently of the country's resources and possibilities; of what it was and what it would be; of its advantages and the disadvantages of adjacent places. In his zeal to advance the interests of his home town and county he indiscreetly berated the merits of neighboring towns and counties. This was not good policy, but he was not aware of it.

Lee, as Mr. McLain was generally known, also represented the majesty and dignity of the Federal Government as assistant postmaster under his father. His duties in the reception and distribution of the mails were not very onerous. The mails were never voluminous and of greater frequency than once a week.

A special postoffice for Della Plain was established in the spring of 1888. It was supplied from Estacado, which was about thirty miles southwest of Della Plain. J. S. McLain served as mail carrier most of the time that Della Plain was a special postoffice.

Later on a regular postoffice at Della Plain was substituted for the special one. A mail route from Amarillo to Estacado by the way of Plainview, and Della Plain, was created. The mails were still received once a week, but more expeditiously than before.

Then there were few roads across Floyd County. Much traveling for some time was by course. Generally, but not always, this method of travel was satisfactory. Generally, but not always, the destination could be reached easily and speedily. To facilitate travel from Plainview to Della Plain, a route was marked with the aid of a pocket compass and by means of a large cedar log attached to a wagon by means of a rope and dragging on the ground. The mark was

made across the County to the line of Hale County and on towards Plainview. This was a mile or two south of where Lockney now stands. The town of Lockney then neither existed in reality nor in fancy.

In order that Della Plain and Floyd County might become better known to the home-seekers, a local weekly newspaper was founded by Mr. McLain at about the time of the ringing out of the old year of 1888 and of the ringing in of the new year of 1889. Of its life more will be said elsewhere.

When Della Plain ceased to exist as a town of proportions, existing or prospective, Mr. McLain retraced his steps eastward and began life anew. In 1892 he assumed charge of the Benjamin Reporter. He has since published newspapers in the Indian Territory.

Dock Wilson and his brother Britt performed a conspicuous part in the settlement of the Della Plain Country. In the winter of 1888-1889 Dock put in a small stock of merchandise in the store that was erected on the north side of the public square. The capital invested would not have amounted to much more than one hundred dollars. The stock consisted chiefly of tobacco, canned goods, and small wares. The wants of the modest and infrequent customers were not difficult to satiate.

In the spring of 1889 Mr. Wilson disposed of his stock of goods and was succeeded by the Davis brothers. The latter kept a larger and more general stock of merchandise. The trade increased by reason of the fact that more settlers came into the country. In the autumn of 1889 the Davis brothers left Della Plain and cast their lot in the new town of Lockney, which was started up at that time.

The Davis brothers were succeeded in the mercantile business at Della Plain, and at the

old stand on the north side of the public square by A. J. Sams. Mr. Sams remained here as a business man until the founding of Mayshaw in the early part of the year 1892, whither he moved and continued merchandising until the demise of Mayshaw, whereupon he became a resident of the town of Lockney. A few years ago he moved to Dalhart, but he has since returned to Floyd County. He now resides about two miles west of Lockney. His wife, Mrs. Addie Sams, did run a millinery store at Lockney for several years.

The old store building on the north side of the Della Plain square was occupied in 1892 by A. D. White as a store, post-office, and dwelling. The whereabouts of this old building can not be traced with certainty at the present time, so many have been the changes that have taken place.

Seg Bradford located on what was known as the "Homestead Strip" which lay north of the Della Plain town section. He and his family were numbered among those who came from the Seymour Country to Floyd County in 1887 and 1888. He erected a place of abode out of cedar posts. It was built after the fashion of a stockade or a picket fence. The posts were placed close together in an upright position. The covering was of timbers and sod dirt. The picketed walls were lined on the interior with wagon sheets.

This structure was both rude and crude, but it formed a fairly cosy place of habitation. It possessed some advantages over the excavated sort. Here Mr. Bradford and his family resided a year or two with the independence of a feudal lord of old. At about the time Hale County was organized he took up his residence on a place about one mile southeast of Plainview. He resided at this place until about the year of 1898. At that time

he found he was in the throes of the dreaded disease, tuberculosis. As a means of possible relief he sought a change of climate in New Mexico, where he shortly succumbed to the ravages of his ailment.

Mr. Bradford was a high-toned, well-informed gentleman. He was a surveyor by calling. It was he who located the Floyd County school lands in the counties of Lamb and Bailey.

J. C. White and family located at Della Plain in 1888. He was a blacksmith by trade. The people of the town cordially welcomed him and his family: a blacksmith shop was an important adjunct to its enterprises; besides, he had three grown daughters, and they lent life and interest to its social circles.

As an expression of welcome and appreciation, the people who were pushing the interests of Della Plain erected, as a gracious gift to Mr. White, a blacksmith shop built of sod and timbers from the Breaks Country. For nearly a year he occupied this structure and wielded the tools of the village smithy in the strong and sinewy way that individualizes all men of this calling. Here he plied, day by day, his trade.

"Toiling,—rejoicing,—sorrowing," and taught to all who chanced to observe him the lesson that Longfellow draws:

"Thus at the flaming forge of life
Our fortunes must be wrought;
Thus on its sounding anvil shaped
Each burning deed and thought?"

Mr. White remained at Della Plain until the founding of the town of Lockney late in the year of 1889, when he became identified with the interests of the latter place. His son-in-law, R. M. Emerson, had located in the Lockney settlement, and there were other agencies that influenced Mr. White to abandon Della Plain and to embrace Lockney as a home and place of business. Upon his removal to Lockney he tore down the sod shop that had been donated him at Della Plain and conveyed the timbers of the same therefrom. The Della Plain people did not look with favor upon Mr. White's removal. Moreover, the act on his part of destroying the shop building that had been erected for his use was regarded as an indignity towards them and their town. They, as a matter of fact, could not feel the most kindly towards the rival town that was springing into existence. This feeling led to their denominating Lockney as "Pull-tight".

Mr. White remained at Lockney until 1893, when he went to New Mexico. Two of his daughters were married in this county. Mr. White was one of the typical characters of this country. The mention of his residence in Floyd County recalls the first dance that was ever had at Della Plain. The time was on Christmas eve night, 1888; the place, the old store building on the north side of the square. Few, if any, of the settlers of the country had any scruples against attending a dancing party. Mr. White and one of his daughters furnished music for the occasion. The instruments manipulated were two fiddles, the handwork of Mr. White. They were rough in finish, but they had the true ring of fiddle music. The music on this occasion was highly satisfactory to all attending upon the exercises. It was Christmas times in a new country. The fiddlers made the catgut ring with Arkansas Traveler, Old Dan Tucker, Cotton Eyed Joe, Billie in the Lowground, and Devil's Dream. It was with them,

"On with the dance,
Let joy be unconfined."

No such strains as Fidelio, Tanhauser, Cavalleria Rusticana, and Wedding of Camacho were heard, and here they would have been very much out of place. It was a joyous time while it lasted. The tunes were short, quick, full of life, impelling to the dance. There were no red-tape, no social distinctions, no charges for the privilege of dancing. Here all who wanted to could dance,—dance round and round; dance to the call, "Honor your partners!" How long this would have continued—no telling, perhaps until the dawn of morning—had it not been for a quarrel between a green, gawky, over-grown boy and a threatening, domineering, loud-mouthed fellow. This escapade broke up the fun and frolic in the old store building.

But did the Christmas eve celebration cease with the dance? Not entirely. To the Braidfoot hotel the crowd in part retired and began a play party. Such pastime sports as Hog Drivers, Marching Round the Levy, and Little Brass Wagon were engaged in for a short while until a proud, sensitive father became miffed because his daughters did not come first in being sought as partners in the games. His indignation was manifested by taking his daughters away. Thus the festivities ended for the time being.

The McCracken brothers,—E. R. and A. V., Ras and Amos,—figured conspicuously in the building of the Della Plain settlement. They were "plain, blunt" men. They were inured to the privations of frontier life. They liked to hunt, to tend cattle, to construct rude improvements, to inaugurate movements for the good of the country. They were enthusiastic supporters of Della Plain. They remained in Floyd County until the early nineties. Amos moved to New Mexico. Ras was married to a sister of J. E. Burns, now of Lockney, and took up his home in the Clarendon Country. In 1902 he died. His widow and children now reside at Lockney.

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Charlie Vince spent a year or two in the vicinity of Della Plain. He was soon attracted to Plainview where he followed the mercantile business for a few years. In 1890 he was elected county treasurer of Hale County and served two years. He has since taken up his abode in New Mexico.

A more typical frontiersman never set foot in this country than Mr. Van Winkle. He was just as nature made him. As Popsy, in Uncle Tom's Cabin, would say of herself, he "jis growed". Insofar as anyone is informed, he never attempted to make any improvement upon the work of nature in his being.

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Floyd County to organize. Meanwhile district court convened at Estacado. Some of Floyd County's citizens were on the grand jury. An effort was made to mandamus the commissioners' court, and thereby effect the organization of the County; but this could not be done. The Floyd County grand jurors resolved upon punishing the commissioners if possible. An investigation of their official acts was instituted. It was found that three of the commissioners had not made reports on the condition of the roads in their respective precincts, as the law provided. There were no public roads laid out; but the neglect of the commissioners to make their reports constituted an offense against the laws of Texas and furnished a splendid pretext for the Floyd County people to get revenge; revenge, which was to them a sweet morsel. The three commissioners were indicted for the non-performance of their official duties.

Occasionally there was preaching in the Della Plain settlement. Sometimes the services were in the store building or the west side of the public square, and at other times there was public worship in the dugouts of families. O. A. Shook, Thomas Duncan, and J. H. Stegall, the men who preached in the Canyon, preached at Della Plain also. These may be reckoned as the pioneer preachers of the Plains Country. Anson Cox, a Friends preacher of Estacado, preached at Della Plain occasionally.

Prior to the organization of the County a Sunday school was organized. R. T. Miller was elected the superintendent before his removal to Della Plain. Interest was good. There were some young men who went to Sunday school ten miles and back. The first people who were not aristocratic. Their singing was not the most classical. They had a good social time, these first people of the Della Plain settlement did—until others who possessed more of this world's goods and who were more pretentious in their manners and customs came. These people were aristocratic, so the old-timers thought. The stylish people would make light of the common people's methods. This was exasperating to those who came first.

A Few Settlers.

B. F. FARMER, C. D. Farmer, A. J. Byars, H. Terry, W. M. Ewen, J. A. Ewing, R. T. Miller, C. H. George, W. M. Bailey, C. P. Ramsey and A. D. White might be mentioned among the many settlers who came to Floyd County during the years of 1888 and 1889. A number of others could be mentioned, but some regard to the limitations of space must be given and the importance of other subjects than personal affairs should be considered.

Mr. Byars still resides in the vicinity of Cedar school house. He was one among the number of settlers who came from Wilbarger County. He placed some substantial improvements on his place and began farming on a large scale.

The Farmers came from McCulloch County to this country. They remained in this country until about 1894, when they moved near Woodward, Oklahoma.

H. Terry came from Wilbarger County in the autumn of 1889 and settled about three miles southwest of Della Plain. He was a man of much energy and enterprise. He began at once to convert much of the virgin soil into farms. He worked unceasingly to develop the material interests of the County. If any

man succeeded in farming and trucking it was Mr. Terry. In his lines of work he was progressive. He possessed much inventive and mechanical ingenuity. Financially he might fall, but he would rise again. He was a man of pronounced convictions. His ideal was the right in everything as he saw it. Truth he sought earnestly, and he followed what he conceived to be its banners. Whatever he believed in, he stood for; stood for strong, with all his might. He was open, frank, and bold. He and the writer differed widely on many questions. But Mr. Terry was a foeman worthy of any man's steel; therefore, he and the writer were warm personal friends. Mr. Terry remained a citizen of Floyd County until 1902, when he became a resident of Deaf Smith County.

W. M. Ewen and J. A. Ewing were brothers by consanguinity, but they spelled their surnames differently. They came to Floyd County from Wilbarger County in the autumn of 1889. They were full-measure, dyed-in-the-wool Democrats. They were Missourians originally. They took an active part in the affairs of Floyd County. In the winter of 1896-1897 W. M. Ewen moved to Hall County, in the vicinity of Newlin, and a year or two later J. A. Ewing became a citizen of the Estelline Country.

R. T. Miller first visited Floyd County in the spring of 1888 in company with a brother, a physician. The former was pleased with the Plains as a future home; the latter was not. The one settled on a school section lying two or three miles southeast of Della Plain. He erected the walls of a sod house on the same and had the structure in readiness for the roof to be put on. Like the walls, the covering was to be of sod. J. S. McLain was to assist in this work, as he was working in the vicinity of Della Plain in those days. But on the morning Mr. Miller and Mr. McLain went to put the finishing touches to the house, they found that the walls were not standing. On the night before some range cattle manifested their hostility to human settlements and to human civilization by "horning" down what there was of Mr. Miller's sod house. The destruction thus wrought was utter and complete. The proprietor changed his mind as to the improvements he would place on his section as evidence that he was a bona fide settler thereon. Instead of erecting a house, he fenced a small patch of ground. This improvement sufficed to "hold down" the section, or in "complying" with the law. In those days land-jumping was not a very healthful occupation in this country.

Mr. Miller never moved his family from Johnson County to Della Plain until the fall of 1889. They resided in town to avail themselves of the school. Mr. Miller had been a surveyor and did some work in that line in Floyd County before the organization.

Mr. Miller took his school course in the college at Mansfield, Tarrant County. For many years he taught in the public schools in Johnson and in the adjoining counties. He has at all times taken an active part in church and Sunday school work.

Among the men who took a very active part in the progress of local affairs one in particular was W. M. Bailey. Mr. Bailey lived in Wilbarger County just prior to his removal to Floyd County. He was a teacher. He received his schooling in his native State, Missouri. He is a man of more than ordinary ability and culture. He is a progressive man. He keeps abreast of the times in whatever calling he plies. In short, he was in advance of the times that prevailed here while he called

Floyd County his home. While here Mr. Bailey rendered several of the county officers some invaluable services, particularly in educational matters. But he soon realized that he was in a country where conditions were not most favorable to him in an effort to build up and prosper as he could elsewhere. He, therefore, resolved to change his location.

Late in the year 1891 he went to Harris County where he taught for two years. Upon securing a position in the Sixth Auditor's Office of the Postoffice Department he took up his residence in Washington. He still holds a position there. At first he received a salary of \$700 a year. He proved to be both apt and diligent in his duties, and his compensation has been materially increased from time to time. Three years ago he was receiving \$1600 a year.

A. D. White came to Floyd County in 1889. He was reared in Randolph County, Arkansas. He is a half-brother of J. S. McLain. When the latter came to Texas the former traveled as far as Fort Smith and remained a few years. While at Fort Smith he was married. He served as county commissioner of the Della Plain precinct in 1892. He afterwards moved to the Sandhill settlement, where he resided until the fall of 1898, when he moved to Floydada. He was justice of the peace of the Floydada precinct. In 1901 he became associated with the dry goods firm of McMannis, Buckley & White. In 1903 he became the manager of the A. D. White Drug Company at Floydada. He is also manager of the local telephone exchange of Floydada.

Dean, as Mr. White is familiarly known by the old settlers of Floyd County and the genial sweaters of Floydada, is famous in Floyd County because of the posture he assumes when occupying a chair. In these attitudes he performs some peculiar contortions that border upon the marvelous. In these postures of his he does not pose for the photographer's camera. It is generally known as the "Dean White attitude", the posture of Mr. White is. Some wag of Floydada is responsible for this appellation. It is considered that Dean has a copyright on his attitude and that it is an infringement on his privilege for anyone else to imitate it. Such an infringement in Floydada is considered a grave offense, a punishable offense.

After Organization.

THE defeat of Della Plain in the county seat election was, as a matter of fact, a great disappointment to those who had felt so sure of her success. At first they could not surrender unconditionally. They entertained strong hopes that the county seat would ultimately change to their town. Efforts to this end were set on foot.

A strong attempt was made to found a big school. B. F. Fronabarger visited Della Plain in the interest of founding a great school. The idea took well with those who wanted to make Della Plain successful in the town race for life. A large two-story building was erected in the summer of 1890. It was thought this improvement would attract many citizens.

Mr. Fronabarger was nominally known as the president. The principal was C. W. Hutchinson and the assistant principal, Miss Anna Bedecarrax. Mr. Hutchinson remained as principal for only a short while. He was succeeded by Fayette Copeland. The school was in session only a few months.

It was lavishly advertised. It was known as the Della Plain Male and Female Institute. It was reputed to have primary, preparatory, and collegiate departments. In the collegiate department the following was the

list of subjects taught: General history, composition and rhetoric, metaphysics and logic, higher algebra, geometry, trigonometry, surveying, Greek, Latin, French, German, Hebrew, Spanish, natural science, and commercial law.

A letter to the public set forth the merits of the school. In places a climax was reached as it heralded forth the school's excellence. In one place it said:

"Come to the beautiful little Della Plain, in the County of Floyd. Send your children. They will find board cheap, but good; tuition reasonable; instruction thorough; discipline kind, but rigid. Send your sons that they may get the advantage of a college course without having to leave their homes to get it. Send your daughters that they may become skilled in the finer arts, as well as being equipped for the sterner duties of life."

The concluding paragraph was a Scriptural paraphrase. It said:

"The settlers that are already here say come; those that are coming say come. Let everyone that will come and enjoy these advantages for yourselves and your posterity."

The Della Plain Review had a feeble existence during its last days. Its founder, R. E. L. McLain, retired from its helm in the spring of 1891. He was succeeded by T. J. Briscoe. Under his management the town could not be turned from its downward course.

The Review had been game in its youth. It had lampooned the commissioners of Crosby County and the people of other counties. After the organization it ran

amuck the heels of The Texas Kicker, the first newspaper at Floydada. The Review gave blows and received blows. When Mr. Briscoe assumed charge of it he soon found himself involved in a controversy with J. F. Lockney of The Floyd County Times.

"It was dying slow but sure," just as Della Plain was. It did die in August, 1891. It was revived nevermore.

A strenuous effort was made to annul the organization election. An injunction proceeding against Floydada as the county seat was instituted. The county clerk, Mr. Miller, was urged to move the county records from Floydada to Della Plain, but he could not be turned from the course he conceived to be right by either persuasion or intimidation.

All these failed; failed completely, ingloriously, disastrously. The promoters finally lost heart and yielded to the inevitable. The town was a victim of its own folly.

Della Plain is now only a matter of history. The section on which the town was located is the property of G. W. Grabau.

Four years ago the virtue of the soil of this section was the first to be tested for cotton-growing. The experiment was highly successful. The yield was about one-third bale per acre.

Thus the section has at last contributed materially towards the development of Floyd County. It has failed to sustain a town, but it can produce that which is essential to the sustenance of life. It has failed in one way, but it has succeeded in another.

MAYSHAW

The Founding.

MAYSHAW came into existence when Della Plain went into extinction. The

The motives of the citizens who formulated the new town enterprise were presumably lofty and patriotic. They hoped to har-

Della Plain contingency had lost hope in the future of the town. The animosity that had been aroused between Della Plain and Floydada had not perceptibly abated.

It was, in some respects, like a young folks' quarrel, this contention between Della Plain and Floydada was. It was silly; it was childish; it was useless. The Della Plain was perishing, perishing slowly but surely, her citizens were not in a frame of mind to relinquish their efforts to bring upon Floydada the same fate.

To further this desire a new town movement in the early part of the year of 1892 was inaugurated. What was styled The Citizens Town Company was organized and incorporated. The capital stock was \$10,000; the value of each share, \$5. The shares were advertised as being "worth more than their par value" and "becoming more valuable every day". As a precaution against one man control arising at any time, each stockholder was limited to "one vote and no more". At the head of this venture were A. J. Shaw, of Galesburg, Illinois; and A. F. Dodson, B. F. Farmer, and others, of this county.

The Citizens' Town Company was the outgrowth of mass meetings that were held in the days of Della Plain's decadence. The citizens who participated in these meetings averred that they were "tired of the ceaseless warfare being waged between the various towns of Floyd County". They "determined to build a town of their own". A committee of seven citizens was chosen to select a location for the proposed town. Every part of the County was given an equal representation. Two miles west of the town of Della Plain one of the Shaw sections was selected as the location of the new town. It was christened Mayshaw in honor of Mrs. May Shaw, the wife of A. J. Shaw.

bring order out of chaos, to establish confidence. The location selected was conceived to be ideal. It was well drained, as it had basins hard by to receive the surplus water that fell. It commanded a splendid view. It was the agricultural center of the County. Moreover, it had shallow water, water that could be found at a depth of about seventy feet. A town with such natural advantages could not fail to draw recruits and to expand rapidly. These were some of the thoughts that coursed thru the brains of its founders and promoters.

Accomplishments.

FOR a few months after the founding and christening Mayshaw prospered. It built a few houses and high hopes. A postoffice was established. A few of the houses at Della Plain were moved to Mayshaw, while others were taken to Briscoe County. The erection of some buildings was projected, but they never materialized. The Mayshaw Library was founded and provided with a limited, tho well selected collection of books.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw felt a personal interest in the new town. They encouraged its various enterprises,—social, benevolent, commercial. They never did reside at Mayshaw. A few years ago Mr. Shaw passed into the Great Beyond. His wife survives him. She resides at Galesburg, Illinois, where she conducts the land business of her deceased husband.

A weekly newspaper, The Mayshaw Zephyr, was brought into existence. It was owned by the Citizens' Town Company and edited by J. H. Dodson. The Zephyr was a clean, newsy local newspaper. It was sent free to every citizen whose name could be obtained, and want ads and reading notices were inserted free of charge. The Zephyr had a chequered existence. After Mr. Dodson's retirement it

1893, the plant was not used for some time. In 1904 W. C. Hawkins resuscitated the business. Mr. Hawkins took no interest in politics and declared himself an Independent. This attitude drew some criticisms from Mr. Lockney of the Floyd County Times. Mr. Hawkins preferred journalistic peace and domestic tranquility, but it was Mr. Lockney's delight to tantalize the peace loving and peace-seeking. In 1895 the printing plant fell into the hands of G. W. Grammer, who published for a time The Western Star. In the spring of 1898 the Mayshaw printing plant was moved to Lockney, where it has done service in publishing The Lockney Ledger, The Llano Estacado, and The Lockney Beacon.

But Mayshaw was unfortunately situated. She reached the apex of her growth and glory the year of her founding. Droughts and grasshoppers came in 1892 and 1893. These frustrated the plans and purposes, hopes and aspirations, of the most enthusiastic of town promoters. Fate or luck was against them. Conditions or environments would not, could not, sustain them. "Like the bird with the broken pinion", Mayshaw could "never soar so high again".

In the days of her prime Mayshaw enjoyed some social advantages. A Sunday school was maintained, and there was preaching nearly every Sunday by ministers of the various religious organizations of the County. The literati of that place for some time planned to organize a society to be known as The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, but the organization was never effectuated.

The promoters had peace and amity for their object. Their course towards others was conciliatory. They steadfastly adhered to their original purpose.

Some Mayshaw People.

MANY of the people who located at Mayshaw were formerly of Della Plain. Mention of only a few of Mayshaw people will be made in these columns.

The only hotel maintained at Mayshaw was conducted by Mrs. T. Cromartie. Previous to her removal to Mayshaw she conducted what was known as the Winsor Hotel at Della Plain. After Mayshaw had begun to pass to Davy Jones's locker Mrs. Cromartie and her son Jim and two daughters, Misses Irna and Mabel, returned to their early home in Limestone County.

A. F. Dodson and J. H. Dodson were brothers. They were among the first legal luminaries of Floyd County. They were identified with the fortunes, or rather the misfortunes, of Della Plain; likewise of Mayshaw. They were leading spirits in the founding of Mayshaw. They were ambitious and public-spirited, but their efforts were unrewarded. The former became a victim to ill-health. The latter went to California.

I. R. Voorhees was a mechanic and windmill expert. He lived first at Della Plain and then at Mayshaw. After Mayshaw was hopelessly on the wane and Lockney, hopefully on the mend, Mr. Voorhees resided at the latter place for a year or two and then moved towards the land of the setting sun.

Mayshaw had a loyal friend and supporter in the person of S. M. Brown, the blacksmith and wheelwright of the town. Mr. Brown remained on the ground until there was no one left. He was the postmaster and the justice of the peace during the days of the town's decline and demise. In 1898 he moved his family and earthly possessions to Lockney, where he resided and plied his trade until the fall of 1900 when he moved to the North Plains Country. Politically he was a Populist, dyed-in-the-wool. On

all questions, specific and general, great and small, he had pronounced views, and he proclaimed them while he worked at the forge.

In the advertising columns of The Mayshaw Zephyr could be found the name of E. P. Thompson as a windmill expert, who was "prepared to put up or repair all kinds of windmills on short notice". He was married to Miss Rosa Ewing, a daughter of J. A. Ewing. She taught the first school in Mayshaw in 1892 and 1893. Mr. Thompson has since resided in the north part of the County. He is a substantial citizen.

John McCrary was a well-known character about Mayshaw. He and his wife lived in the counties of Ellis and Dallas in their younger life. Prior to their coming to Floyd County they lived near Seymour a few years. Their eldest son, Oliver, was the first printer's devil The Hesperian ever had. He served in the Third Texas Regiment under Colonel R. P. Smyth during the Spanish-American War. From 1899 to 1901 he served in the Philippine Islands. He was a member of the squad that captured Aguinaldo's baby. He was married last September to Miss Maude Hamilton, a most worthy young lady of this county. He is at present publishing The Courier at Custer, Oklahoma.

John McCrary has recently sold his place in this county and will try his fortune elsewhere. He has been at all times prompt in his attendance of the meetings of the Democratic Party in Floyd County. He has always taken an active, good-natured interest in the political affairs of the County.

These personal references would not be complete were the name of G. W. Farnsworth omitted. Mr. Farnsworth came

to Floyd County in 1891 and became at once identified with the new-town movement that led to the founding of Mayshaw. He resided on a section north of the town. Here he remained until 1898, when he settled on a section seven miles northwest of Lockney. At all times he has manifested a great interest in local affairs. In 1900 he and the writer had a lively discussion thru the press on the subject of local taxation.

The Last Days.

MAYSHAW did not pass out of existence all at once; it was by degrees, like Della Plain's ending. Visitation of droughts and plagues of grasshoppers contributed towards the fall of the successor of the first town founded in Floyd County. The rehabilitation of the town of Lockney hastened the disintegration of the village of Mayshaw.

Sad, sad were the years of 1894 and 1895 for Mayshaw. The solemnity of the event was assuaged by a few sessions of music normal schools. G. W. Grammer was the conductor. He was assisted by his sister-in-law, Miss Ellen Kyle. They taught a new system of music. It was known as the Grammer Lightning System. It was devised by Mr. Grammer.

Mr. Grammer was a singular personage. He wore long hair and a full beard of auburn. He advertised himself as an instructor in music, stenography, and phonology. In one of his advertising circulars it was stated that he was believed to be the greatest living musical genius. He possessed unbounded self-confidence. He concocted great schemes. He hoped for great rewards. He needed financial assistance in his projects, and he sought it incessantly, indiscriminately. He could plead vigorously for his cause, but he could not always convince.

Like others of Mayshaw, he went to Lockney. His reception was not the most cordial. His

talents, his claims, his efforts, were not appreciated. During his sojourn in Floyd County he was assailed violently by the different editors of The Floyd County Times. In the spring of 1896 he left for another country in

L O C K N E Y

Competition Inevitable.

DELLA PLAIN was here first. Her hopes were high; her anticipations, great; her prospects, bright. For about two years she had held full and undisputed sway. She had no competitor; she did not invite competition. But human nature in Floyd County did not differ radically from that of any other locality. The promoters of Della Plain were not the only people who wanted to experience the glory, to reap the reward, and to obtain the emoluments of town-building. There were others who would not spurn the opportunity. They believed first in being the fittest, and then in the survival of the fittest.

In the early days of Della Plain's existence nearly all who sought homes in Floyd County settled on lands as close as possible to the town. But as the immigrants increased in numbers the settlement became more extensive and remote from town. It was but natural that those who were near Della Plain to feel a greater personal and financial interest in her success than those who were more remote therefrom; for the ardor of the former to be more strenuous than that of the latter; for the one to be more loyal than the other.

A New Settlement.

IN THE spring and summer of 1889 the nucleus of a settlement was formed in the homestead lands situated about seven miles northwest of Della Plain. The people who came here at that time were plain and unpretentious. They were not rich and they did not intend to be rich and powerful. They came ostensibly to obtain homes, — homes that were cheap, homes that their limited means would permit them to hold. To them the rise or fall, the progress or poverty, of Della Plain was a matter of little consequence. To them a livelihood was of more importance than the building of a town.

The first men and their families that formed the new settlement included J. E. F. Koger, T. B. Stewart, S. B. Mills, R. M. Emerson, W. L. Covey, J. H. Lockney, and J. F. Lockney. At this place water was found to be shallow and abundant. This was an advantage over Della Plain. The scenery and surface indications were apparently the same as other places on the Plains. These Della Plain could not outvie.

J. F. Lockney was a man of native shrewdness. He was quick to see an opportunity, and quick to embrace it. He had been a man of means at Abilene and at Haskell. He owned large livestock and mercantile interests. His financial condition was prosperous until the drought 1886 and 1887 came on in its most distressing and aggravated form. Then loss, misfortune, and indigence, in turn, befell him. He was saddened, but not disheartened. He came to Floyd County to begin life anew.

A New Town Born.

THE management of the affairs at Della Plain was not wholly satisfactory to all. A few, but not many, were ready to lend encouragement to the germination of a new town movement. A few, but not many, were ready to abandon Della Plain and to join in such an effort. A slight defection was inevitable.

Mr. Lockney could not divine the future with the interpenetration of a seer; but he could see, and see clearly, that Della Plain would, in all probability, have a competitor before the County would get ready to organize. An opportune time presented itself, and he seized it. It was

which to try the realities of life.

The passing of Mayshaw was quiet and peaceful. Gone, gone are all that were of the past. There are no configurations of the defunct town, save the remains of erstwhile dugouts.

one of the opportunities of his life, and he made the most of it.

Mr. Lockney was joined by W. L. Covey, W. R. Davis, and R. M. Emerson in bringing the new town into existence. These four men had homestead claims of 160 acres each. All four of the tracts cornered and formed a square section. On the section thus arranged was the new town. District Surveyor H. C. Knight laid off the town. He was requested to choose a name for it. He called it Lockney, in honor of Grandpa Lockney, the father of J. F. Lockney.

The town thus founded and christened was ambitious. She wished, she hoped, to tower above her rival, above her senior, Della Plain. Lockney believed she had a fighting chance to win in the county seat contest that was to ensue. Towards this end she was determined to work, to push, to pull, to fight. The shallow-water argument was whooped for all it was worth. Della Plain looked upon the efforts of her rival with a tincture of scorn, envy, and contempt. She maintained her old-time buoyancy of spirits and self-confidence. She did not expect Lockney to amount to anything, but still her entry was not desired or welcomed. Vested interests were being assailed. Della Plain wanted to be let alone. The two rival towns, Della Plain and Lockney, did not therefore possess the greatest intercommunion of interests or enjoy the fullest inter-reciprocity of relations. Human nature was such that they could not.

Lockney's First Settlers.

WL. COVEY came to this country from Haskell County. He was a brother-in-law of J. F. Lockney. He remained in Floyd County three years. He is now a dentist by profession. He has resided at Memphis, Childress, and other places.

J. E. F. Koger was originally from the good old State of Arkansas. He located nearly a mile northeast of the present site of Lockney. He was a hard worker and a good farmer. He was one among the first settlers in Floyd County to test the agricultural qualities of the soil. He demonstrated that this was not wholly a grazing country. On the place he first settled he remained until 1898, and then he moved to the North Plains Country, which lies north of Amarillo.

Mr. Koger is a man of pronounced views. He served as a Union soldier in the War Between the States. In politics he was a Republican; in religion, a Methodist.

T. B. Stewart and his wife came from the central part of the State. They had a wagon, a span of horses, some household goods, and thirty-five cents in money when they settled on their homestead claim. They had stout hearts and willing hands. They made themselves a habitation wholly in the ground. This was the only sort their limited means would permit them to own. By hard work, good management, and close economy they soon gathered some property about them. In a few years they were independent and prosperous.

Mr. Stewart was a genial, big-hearted man; and Mrs. Stewart, one of the noblest of women. Unfortunately for him and for her, Mr. Stewart got into some serious trouble and was charged in the courts with murder. This

was in the early part of the summer of 1897. He was tried and acquitted in the district court of Swisher County in March, 1899. It required about all they had accumulated in eight years to get out of the trouble.

Usually when a sad experience befalls people at a place they feel that THAT PLACE is no longer home to them; that they will find environments more congenial elsewhere; and that new associates will possess more of the milk of human kindness than the old ones. Perhaps Mr. and Mrs. Stewart did not feel that Floyd County would be the place for them to build up and gain a competence, as they had once done. Therefore, they took up their abode in Roberts County. Here they began life anew. They strove as they did in Floyd County.

In 1902 Mr. Stewart was elected sheriff and tax collector of his adopted county. He was beginning to realize his old-time prosperity until the past winter. While discharging some official duties, a disagreement arose, an altercation ensued, and Mr. Stewart shot his antagonist. After the deed was committed Mr. Stewart went home and related the affair to his wife. He supposed his victim would not survive the wound that had been inflicted. He had experienced serious trouble before; he did not want a repetition of it. To end suddenly and eternally the agony that was upon him, he ended his own life with a pistol shot from his own hand.

Among the sturdy, industrious men who settled in the vicinity of Lockney was S. B. Mills. He and his family came from Coryell County. This was in 1889. For several years they lived near Lockney. At present they reside in the Sandhill settlement. Much of the time during their early residence in this county, Mr. Mills was one of the County's "well-saver" men.

One of the whole-souled men who made his home in Floyd County in the early days of her settlement was R. M. Emerson. In the general election of November, 1890, he was elected county treasurer. During his incumbency he resided at Floydada. He was associated with W. E. Brogdon in the livery business.

Mr. Emerson was honest, liberal, and neighborly. Few things he had were too good for his friends and neighbors. At the close of his term of office a slight shortage in his accounts with the County was discovered. He could not account for it; but there was one thing he could do: that was to settle it in an honorable way and thus relieve his bondsman, and this he DID do. Soon after the expiration of his term of office he left the County. He and his family now reside in Oklahoma.

J. H. Lockney was the father of J. F. Lockney. He was a Virginian by birth and a Texan by adoption. He served in the Confederate armies, and incidents of the War were interesting topics of conversation to him. During his residence in Floyd County he was growing quite decrepit.

Mr. Lockney took much interest in entertaining new-comers and prospectors. He also closely noted the current gossip of the country. While the high winds in the early springs were raging it was urged by some boomers of the country that eventually the winds would cease to blow so hard, as much fencing would be done. Mr. Lockney would scout the argument thus advanced. He would exclaim: "It is mighty poor logic, if I know anything about it. I would like to know what effect two or three small barb-wires could have in checking the Plains winds?"

Mr. Lockney and his wife spent their declining days with their son. The old gentleman

died at Memphis in the early part of 1901. He was a Deist in religious belief, but he went no farther in expostulating his religious views.

W. O. Harrell was one among the first to settle in the Lockney Country before the County was organized. He served as justice of the peace of the Lockney Precinct until the general election in 1890, when he became county commissioner. At the expiration of his term of office in 1892 he moved to Oklahoma Territory. He officiated in the first marriage in Floyd County after the organization.

A. Thames resided near Lockney until the spring of 1897, when he moved to Jackson County. He afterwards lived in Hill County, where his wife died. Three years ago he was living in Oklahoma City. While a citizen of Floyd County he served four years as county commissioner. He was a capable, public-spirited citizen.

E. E. Davis and sons were identified with Old Lockney, but they moved to the Twin Territories before New Lockney was founded. For several years W. E. Davis & Company owned the only store at Lockney. In their store was the postoffice. The Davises took much interest in the affairs of the County.

One among the thrifty, energetic citizens of the Lockney Country was J. G. Barnes. Mr. Barnes came from Collin County before the organization of Floyd County. He put forth his best efforts in developing the country's material resources. He took a leading part in enterprises that pertained to the community's well-being. In 1901 he moved westward. At present he resides near Portales, N. M.

J. H. McGehee is one of the old residents of the Lockney settlement. He lived in Bell County until 1889, when he and his family moved to Stonewall County; but they did not remain there more than a year before they were allured to the Plains Country where good water, good grass, good soil, and good environments could be found together. Mr. McGehee squandered much means in testing the virtue of the soil for farming. Like others who came here then, he met with reverses and disappointments, but he has learned how to adapt himself to the Plains Country. He is one of the County's most worthy citizens.

One of the remaining nesters of the Lockney settlement is A. B. Best, who resides two miles west of the town. He has made various places in Texas his home. He came from San Saba County to this country in 1889. He is one of the few old settlers who have remained here thru the varying and trying scenes of the past one and one-half decades. He has at all times taken an active and unselfish part in all that pertained to the country's welfare. He has had something of a struggle with the wolf at the door, but he has always succeeded pretty well in getting the better of the old beast. He has at all times stood up frankly and boldly for the right as he conceived it. He contends "earnestly for the faith" that is in him. He is not a wealthy man, but his intrinsic worth as a citizen is far more valuable than that of many of affluence. He is a friend that may be depended on; a friend without bitterness towards the foes of his confidants; a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. He is genial and generous, upright and sincere, sympathetic and patriotic. He is an untitled gentleman.

Lockney's Decline.

WHEN the county seat contest came on in the spring of 1890, Floydada sprang into existence. Della Plain was still impatient over the obduracy of the commissioners' court in permitting Floyd County to organize. Floydada was looming up as a very important factor, and Della Plain realized it. The latter wanted to bring on the election for organization at once, the promoters of the latter were organizing their forces with remarkable ability and facility and gaining ground with phenomenal rapidity. These movements did not augur favorably to Della Plain's future.

Lockney soon realized that her chances of success were hopeless. The feeling that existed between her and Della Plain was not the most kindly, not the most friendly. It did not require much persuasion to get Lockney to join hands with Floydada for the latter's success. Lockney did not ally herself with Floydada wholly because of pure love and friendship for Floydada; it was solely because she disliked Floydada less than Della Plain. Floydada was too young for any bitter enmities to exist between her and Lockney.

After the organization Lockney, as a town, was nothing more than a postoffice, a small store, and a school house. Until 1894 she seemed to be going the way of Della Plain and Mayshaw. Thus she was until her rehabilitation and refounding.

The Rehabilitation.

IN THE autumn of 1894 the Christian people,—or Disciples of Christ, as they prefer to term themselves,—inaugurated a movement for the establishment of a church school. It was conducted under the auspices of the Church of Christ. This enterprise was led by two Christian preachers; namely, S. W. Smith, of Lubbock County, and

These gentlemen were so more related by blood than any other two of the living sons of Adam and Eve. They were zealous workers for the religious cause; they stood for and loyal supporters of its institutions.

C. W. Smith contributed much towards the material growth of New Lockney and the success of the church school. He came to Floyd County early in the year of 1890 in company with T. G. Hill. They were from Bosque County. Then Floydada had not been located on the present site. They wanted to locate as near as possible to Della Plain, which was conceded to be the future county seat of Floyd County. They settled on school sections south and southeast of that town. Afterwards they found themselves in close range of Floydada, the town that was successful in the county seat contest. In 1894 Mr. Smith moved to Lockney. He has taught school and followed the mercantile business. He has lost and accumulated much property in Floyd County. He now resides in the Sandhill settlement. He commands the confidence of the people in general. He is therefore, a man of great influence.

Mr. Hill resided on his place one mile east of Floydada until his death in August, 1897. He came here with only a few cattle and some other unpretentious belongings. He had nothing to lose, so to speak, as others had; therefore he gained instead of losing. At the time of his death he was in independent circumstances. He was one of the best of men. His wife and children managed successfully the affairs of the home. Mrs. Hill was married to J. H. Fisher in the spring of 1902.

S. W. Smith was a remarkable character. He was not a cultured or educated man; but he possessed considerable brain

power. He preached with great force, and sometimes with much vehemence. His great force of character and aggressiveness of purpose made him a man of considerable influence. He remained at Lockney until 1901, when he went to Bethel, New Mexico and started a new church school thru his influence a goodly number of people located at Lockney.

The establishment of this school at Lockney was the means of the town's rehabilitation. The town of Lockney was refounded by J. A. Baker. It was located on the 160 acre tract formerly owned by I. E. Davis and N. B. Davis. This tract lies nearly a mile west of the old town site.

Mr. Baker is justly entitled to the honor of being termed the Father of New Lockney. In 1890 he and his family came from Hamilton County and located on a school section about five miles south of Lockney. Here they "complicated", as the term is provincially used, until 1894, when they cast their fortunes with Lockney. Mr. Baker was postmaster at that place until the summer of 1901. All the while he has been engaged in running a general store. His wife has largely managed the business, and she has managed it most successfully. Mr. Baker is a man of the best of morals. He is clever and diligent. Mrs. Baker is one of the best of women. She has great common sense and business sagacity.

The Church School.

THE school established by the people of the Church of Christ was denominated the Lockney Christian College. Its first session opened on the first Monday in October, 1894, with J. D. Burleson as principal and his wife, Mrs. Sadie Burleson, as assistant. The enrollment the first day was sixteen pupils. The school was temporarily conducted in a small, two-room dwelling house. In a short time the building was so that it could be used for school purposes, and the small house was abandoned.

The building was at first a two-story structure. It was twenty-four feet wide, forty-eight long, and eighteen high; and the roof was hipped. During the first year the lower room only was occupied. The seats and desks were home-made, and they are still so. The blackboard space was not very extensive. The structure was built wholly upon donations.

The school progressed. In the meantime the public school at the old town site closed, and some of its pupils entered the church school. The enrollment towards the close ran up to about fifty pupils. It was advertised abroad by the preachers in their evangelistic travels, by circulars, and thru the columns of the religious publications. Even the local newspapers, in respective of church preferences, assisted in making known the claims of the school.

New Lockney, like her predecessor, became the center of quite a settlement, mostly of the membership of the church that founded the school. The ties of church are a strong force in attracting settlers. The membership of the church, far and near, flocked to the town of Lockney, the site of the new church school. Even the remnant of the Della Plain and Mayshaw benchmen joined in swelling the population of Lockney.

Lockney grew, and grew fast. In great demand were houses. Floydada had some that were unoccupied. Some Lockney people took great pleasure in buying houses at Floydada and moving them to Lockney. Some Floydada people could not look cheerfully and complacently on such proceedings. The stream of progress was flowing from Floydada as its source and emp-

tying into Lockney as its debouchure.

In 1895 the church school gave up its identity. Its building for a part of the school year was used for public school purposes and was under the control of the trustees of the Lockney school district. The teachers of the church school of the previous year were employed. The total enrollment of pupils reached ninety five.

The year following the same arrangement prevailed. J. D. Burleson, P. B. Johnson, and Miss Eula Barber were the teachers. The next year G. H. P. Showalter, S. Poyner, and C. W. Smith were the teachers, and subject to the supervision of the public school trustees. Miss Ivy Thornton assisted in the teaching a part of the session.

In the autumn of 1898 the church school building ceased to be used for public school purposes. The school building of the old town site was moved to that of the new town, and was enlarged. The church school building was reconsecrated to a school to be so operated that it would conform with the ideas of the founders. Mr. Showalter and Mrs. Ivy Poyner, nee Miss Thornton, were the teachers. This was the first year that the study of the Bible was made a part of the course of study.

W. L. Swinney joined Mr. Showalter as teacher in 1899, and in 1900 the names of P. B. Johnson and Miss Naomi Hamblen were added to the list of teachers. In 1901 Mr. Showalter was the only teacher of the former year to remain in the school. A. S. Kennamer assisted in the teaching.

In 1902 Mr. Showalter retired from the work as teacher. The building became the property of N. L. Clark, W. O. Hines, and A. S. Kennamer. Under this management the school was known simply as the Lockney College. The next year it ceased again to be a church or private school. In 1903 the building returned and assumed the old name, Lockney Christian College, was restored.

At the present time Mr. Showalter is assisted by his brother, M. V. Showalter. The school is in a fairly prosperous condition. Like all undertakings of the sort, it has not worked under the most favorable conditions.

Lockney at Present.

LOCKNEY has been an important trade center the past few years. Between her and Floydada a friendly business rivalry exists. She is well advertised abroad. She has had both immigrants and emigrants galore. She might be compared to the trunk of a tree with roots and branches. Lockney represents the trunk; Della Plain and Mayshaw, the roots; the North Plains Country and New Mexico, the branches. The roots constitute the feeders or nourishers; the branches, the loss or waste.

Lockney has three daily mail lines. One is the Lockney Estelline; another, the Lockney Lubbock; and another, the Floydada-Lockney Plain view mail line. The line to Estelline has a splendid passenger and express traffic.

Recently a telephone exchange has been put in. The town has telephonic connections with most all Panhandle points.

The Woodmen of the World and the Masonic orders have good memberships. Church services are held at the church school building every Sunday. There are also divine services held at the public school building.

Lockney's Practical Business School is a new educational enterprise at that place. A. F. Reagan is the founder. It will open the first of the year 1906. The instructors are A. F. Reagan and L. E. Weathers. These gentlemen are graduates of the Draughon schools. The course

of these schools will be used in the business school at Lockney. This school conducted a special session the past summer. It expects to continue its work uninterruptedly in the future.

The first school at Lockney was taught by D. F. Davis. It began in 1890. At that time the District had a scholastic enrollment of 31. The State apportionment was \$127.72; the special district tax, \$212.27; the total school fund, \$339.99. Mr. Davis taught for \$50 per month. The trustees were J. N. Smith, J. C. McFarland, and R. E. Davis.

The next session was taught by Sam H. Kelsey; the next, by M. G. Bryant; the one following, by W. R. Silvey; and the one of the next year, by Sam H. Kelsey. These sessions were all on the site of Old Lockney. After this the school was moved to New Lockney, and the church school building was used for public school purposes until 1898, when a separate public school building was provided. In this building the first session was taught by M. G. Bryant and S. Poyner, and the next, by J. W. Reed as principal and P. W. Henderson as assistant. Early in the latter session Mr. Reed resigned and was succeeded to the principalship by Mr. Henderson, and Mrs. Reed became the assistant. The session following T. L. Brecheen was principal and Mrs. Reed, assistant. The next year two corps of teachers were employed. The first was composed of T. L. Brecheen, Miss Lora Rucker, and Mrs. Reed. They were succeeded by Horace Thomas, S. H. Adams, and B. F. Moore. In 1902-1903 the teachers were Horace Thomas, Miss Lillian McRee, and Mrs. Louisa Kennamer. The year following J. D. Burleson, W. O. Hines, W. B. Clark, and Mrs. Kennamer were the teachers. The past year the teachers were Mr. Burleson, Miss Lillian Rucker, and Miss Mary Smith.

In 1902 an independent school district in the town was organized. It embraces twenty-five square miles. A tax of twenty-five cents on the one hundred dollars valuation is levied and collected for the purpose of maintaining the school. The school building, like that of Floydada, is rather unsightly and uncomfortable. The public spirit of Lockney will not tolerate such a public school building much longer,—surely it will not.

Lockney has not lacked for newspapers since she has grown large enough to support them. In the spring of 1895 she felt that she needed a newspaper. The Lockney Ledger was founded. Jno. C. Hedrick was the editor, and Romulus Jones, the associate editor. In the following autumn Mr. Hedrick retired, and Mr. Jones assumed sole management of The Ledger. Mr. Jones had worked as compositor in The Times office at Floydada, and afterwards, in The Hesperian office. He was a genial fellow. He conducted his business along lines of least resistance. He antagonized no institutions and spoke a kind word for all whenever he could consistently and conscientiously do so. He retired from the newspaper business in the fall of 1900. For a year or two he was associated with his father in the photograph business at Lockney. He was married to Miss Willie Pinkerton in the fall of 1900. At present he resides at Bethel, New Mexico.

In the early part of 1900 P. W. Henderson established The Llano Estacado, which he published until the following November. Mr. Henderson made his paper a sort of journal of protest. He and the writer locked horns in an extensive journalistic controversy on the subject of local taxation. Mr. Henderson was a man of ability. He

was a teacher by calling. From 1896 to 1898 he represented Red River County in the Lower House of the State Legislature. At about the same time The Llano Estacado and The Ledger went into voluntary oblivion. Both existed contemporaneously and retired from the field simultaneously. Mr. Henderson cast his lot in Hutchinson County.

The Ledger was resuscitated in 1901 and was superseded by The Lockney Beacon in 1902. F. N. Oliver has been at the helm of The Beacon ever since. Recently he was joined by his son, Coke Oliver, in its management.

The former's experience in the newspaper business covers a period of nearly forty years. In 1871 he was connected with The Journal of Florence, Alabama. At Lewisville, Denton County, in this State, he published The Headlight from 1880 to 1886, and at Pilot Point he published The New Era for one year. In 1887 he established The Sunday Weekly at Oak Cliff, and in 1897 he and C. M. Bolles founded at Dallas Texas Industries, a monthly publication devoted to the manufacturing interests of the State. In 1887 Governor Ross appointed Mr. Oliver a member of the committee to choose a location for the State Orphans' Home. He was also the first mayor of Oak Cliff. In 1901 he came to the Plains and resided in the southeast part of the County until the spring of 1902, when he founded The Beacon.

In April, 1890, a man of the name of Roberts was killed by W. R. Weems. Mr. Roberts was buried where the present burying-ground is found. His were the first remains to be interred there. It is sometimes jestingly remarked that a man had to be killed at that place before a graveyard could be started.

Mr. Weems's trials was at Estacado. He was acquitted.

BELOW is briefly presented a catalog of the principal trade, mercantile, and professional concerns:

- J. A. Baker, Dry Goods and Groceries.
- Cowart & Livingston, Druggists.
- P. V. Stern, Jeweler.
- Ben Rigdon, Barber.
- C. M. Hunt, Real Estate Agent.
- H. C. Randolph & Son, Dry Goods.
- J. S. Baxter, Hardware and Implements.
- City Hotel, C. M. Alford, Proprietor.
- Brewster & Oliver, Real Estate Agents.
- C. R. McCollum, Hardware and Implements.
- Broyles & Riley Lumber Company, Lumber.
- Lockney Gin, C. R. McCollum, Proprietor.
- O. J. King, Blacksmith.
- Joe Ramsey & Bro., Millers.
- J. E. Burns, Blacksmith and Wheelwright.
- Alford & Alford, Livery Stable.
- J. W. Hanna, Photographer.
- J. M. Crawford, Sr., Racket Store.
- Lockney Bank, James P. Posey, Cashier.
- J. R. Vandergriff, Barber.
- Lockney Drug Co., Drugs.
- J. C. Dial, Physician.
- D. Griffith & Bro., Groceries and Meat Market.
- E. L. Ayers & Co., Dry Goods.
- Geo. S. Wilson, Livery Stable.
- The Lockney Beacon, F. N. Oliver and Coke Oliver, Publishers.
- Walling & Malone, Real Estate Agents.
- Wofford & Hughes, Real Estate Agents.
- C. J. White, Physician.
- Vining & Livesay, Real Estate Agents.
- W. H. Freeman, Physician.
- J. N. Stalbird, Attorney at Law.
- D. J. Muncy, Nurseryman.
- J. Q. Burton, Physician.
- S. L. Boone, Nurseryman.

Lockney, like Floydada, can

truthfully boast of a strong moral sentiment in her midst. Her people look upward. They move forward.

As a whole, Lockney is enjoy-

ing a healthful growth. Her people are alert, thrifty, energetic, public spirited. Her present is bright; her future, promising.

FLOYDADA

Pre-Existence.

FLOYDADA existed as an ideality about three years before she was here as a reality. Few people know this to be a fact. They only know of the place as they see it, or have seen it. All people know common table salt when they see it or taste it, yet only a few are aware that it is composed of two elements that are deadly poisons. A person who would not know a rose when he sees it would be ignorant indeed, but there are few who know its constituent parts. Why is it so? Because they do not know all there is to be learned about a rose. Just so it is with reference to many people's knowledge of Floydada and of Floyd County. They know, and yet they do not know. Mrs. Caroline V. Price, of Jefferson City, Missouri, owned much land in Floyd County. As a matter of course, she desired it to be valuable and stood ready to encourage any movement tending to its enhancement. Early in the year of 1887 Della Plain was being projected. Mrs. Price and her husband, James B. Price, determined upon the matter of founding a town as the embryo county seat of Floyd County. The section just south of the Terry place, and two miles north of Floydada as she now stands, was platted for a town. The plat and the following instrument is of record:

STATE OF MISSOURI,)
County of Cole. { Know all men by these presents,

That I, Caroline V. Price and James B. Price, her husband, of the County of Cole, and State aforesaid, have granted and conveyed, and by these presents do grant and convey unto Floyd County, for the use of the public, the following described property, to-wit:

All the streets, alleys, parks, and Court House Square in the town of Floyd City, as shown by the above plat, the same being situated in Floyd County, Texas, and being the 640 acre survey, Survey No. 33, Abstract No. 15, Certificate No. 350.

To have and to hold the above described premises as long as the public uses the same, and, on failure to use the same, to revert back to said Caroline V. Price, her heirs and assigns.

Witness our hands this 12th day of March, 1887.

CAROLINE V. PRICE.
JAMES B. PRICE.

Thus it will be seen that Floydada existed on paper three years before the County was organized; on paper three years before she was actually put on land. In theory or fancy it is an easy matter to found a town on a map, but in practice or in fact it is another thing to build it on the spot chosen. All sections on the Plains may look very much alike to the casual observer, but to the close inspector they differ materially. It is not every section whose relief is naturally suitable for a town site.

An Inspection Tour.

IN THE month of February a party of persons left Childress with the intention to found a town in Lubbock County. Among them were W. T. Montgomery, J. J. Harrison, M. C. Williams, J. A. Reed, G. H. Chipman, J. H. Henderson, and James Broyles. The names of the other two cannot be recalled. It never occurred to them to found a town in Floyd County, as Della Plain and Lockney already existed. They were searching for a new County in which no town had been established.

The party from Childress passed thru Floyd County and

stopped in the vicinity of Singer's store, which was near the place on which the town of Lubbock was afterwards founded. The country in Lubbock County was more undulating than Floyd County. Besides, there was a heavy growth of mesquite bushes. These were features to which they objected. Their objections threw them into a state of dissatisfaction and indecision. They retraced their steps and spent a short time at Estacado. While there a copy of The Della Plain Review was seen and perused. This publication was heaping anathemas upon the commissioners' court of Crosby County for its reluctance to permit Floyd County to organize. In this way The Review had aroused among people at Estacado considerable opposition to Della Plain. The prospectors from Childress were quick to see the possibility of starting a new town in Floyd County. At this juncture they were shown the plat of the town which Mr. and Mrs. Price had laid out three years before.

This put the prospectors to thinking and planning. They saw a probable opening to them in Floyd County. It was given a closer inspection. They saw the section which the Prices had chosen as a town site was not wholly suited to their wishes. They wanted school lands for themselves to occupy and they wanted the lands to be adjoining the town to be founded. The school sections adjoining the one chosen for the town were occupied by H. Terry and his sons. The Childress party looked elsewhere for a section of the Price lands that would meet their demands for a town. The one on which Floydada now stands was pointed out and considered, but not definitely decided upon.

The prospective town builders left Estacado and prospected in Floyd County. Mr. Chipman was a surveyor by calling. A line was run from Mr. Terry's place to the section which had been presumably chosen for the town while the prospectors were at Estacado. They regarded it favorably, but not seriously.

At this time there was a lull in the activities of the matter. Perfect harmony did not prevail among the leaders of the movement. Some were disposed to "rule or ruin". Selfishness in some was predominant, as it was among some at Della Plain. Enthusiasm waned. Interest was succeeded by indifference. The party failing to agree upon any definite plans separated. But activities on the part of some did not cease entirely.

Schemes Incubating.

IN THE meantime M. C. Williams returned to Childress and wrote the Prices in regard to the situation in Floyd County. They immediately sent J. K. Gwynn as their agent. Mr. Williams returned to Floyd County. Mr. Gwynn visited Floyd County in company with one of the men who composed the town prospectors and visited Lubbock County. Mr. Gwynn found himself between two factions in the new town movement. At the time Mr. Williams was entertaining some notion of founding a town on his own account in the event that he could not make a satisfactory arrangement with the Prices, and Mr. Gwynn was not long in ascertaining this fact. He thereupon cooperated with Mr. Williams.

An effort was made to build the town on the Price section cornering on the northeast with the section that was finally chosen; but it was found to contain a basin near the center.

This feature rendered it unsuited for the location of a town. Another site was selected. It was the section on which Floydada now stands.

Plans were perfected for the new town. It was platted precisely as the one Mr. and Mrs. Price had laid out in their deed to the public of March 12, 1887. The business lots were 25 feet wide and 150 feet long. The business blocks contained, on an average, thirty two lots each, and the residence blocks, sixteen lots each. The four principal streets leading from the court house square were 100 feet wide; all the other streets, seventy five feet wide. Two blocks were laid aside for public parks, and two half blocks, for school and church purposes. The park northeast of the public square was named Washington Park, and the one southwest, Napoleon Park. The streets running east and west were designated from the north side of the section in the following order: Price, Ross, Grover, Lee, Jackson, Virginia, Missouri, California, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Houston, and Crockett; those from the west side, as follows: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, Main, Wall, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th. The alleys were each twenty-five feet wide. There were 143 blocks. This was Floydada when she was without people, without homes, without enclosures, without improvements of any sort.

Synchronous Events.

THE appearance of Mr. Gwynn upon the scene was a great impetus to the new town movement. He was from a distant state; this within itself made his cause strong and popular. He was the reputed representative of great financial interests; this alone gave him great prestige. He had a good knowledge of human nature; this enabled him to charm and magnetize those with whom he came in contact.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Montgomery, who were already here, J. J. Harrison, M. P. Rountree, W. J. Westmoreland, J. D. Starks, and others from Childress came. Mr. Williams filed on the school section south of the Floydada town section; Mr. Harrison, on the one west; Mr. Starks, on the west half and Mr. Westmoreland, on the east half of the one north; and Mr. Rountree, on the one east. Lumber was soon placed on the ground for substantial improvements. Mr. Starks was the first to erect a house on his land. It was one room of the residence on his place at the present time.

The first man to "strike a lick of work" on the town section was Mr. Montgomery. It was the removal of a mesquite grub on the public square near where Will W. Nelson's grocery store stands. This was the beginning of the substantial improvements that have been placed at Floydada.

Early in the spring the first building was begun on the town section. Was it a residence? No. A store house? Yes, a saloon! It was twenty-two feet wide, thirty feet long, and a story and a half high. It was on the southwest corner of the public square where J. W. Pruitt's hardware store now stands. It was used first for retailing spirituous liquors. It was called the Exchange Saloon. In January, 1893, Johnson Bros. & Ainsworth occupied it with their stock of general merchandise and the Floyd County Bank. In 1896 this firm retired and was succeeded by that of McMannis & Posey. Early in the spring of 1898 this firm dissolved. James B. Posey continued business as banker and dry goods merchant. From 1900 to 1903 it was successively occupied for the retailing of merchandise by Walter S. Posey, Montague & Posey, Mrs. Fannie Montague, and A. C. Bowers. The building was enlarged first

by Johnson Bros. & Ainsworth, and later on by Montague & Posey. The upper story was, from time to time, used for various purposes; namely, as a gambling den, a printing office, a residence, a store room, and a lodge for secret orders. It was no respecter of persons. It received, entertained, and dismissed all alike. The building was destroyed by fire in February, 1903.

After the Exchange Saloon building was begun two rooms of the Hardy Hotel were commenced, and it was completed before the former was. It stood near where G. R. Griggs's store is at present. During the summer of that year two more rooms were put up as additional space for accommodating the guests of the Hardy Hotel. In the spring of 1896 this building was moved to Lockney. Across California Street south of the Exchange Saloon a small office building was erected by Westmoreland, Harrison & Company, real estate agents.

In the midst of these improvements the organization election and county seat contest were on in full force. Lockney had been induced to rally to the standard of Floydada, and thus Della Plain was confronted with the combined opposition of both Floydada and Lockney.

In the outset Floydada did not desire the election for organization so early in the year, but Della Plain did not want the matter delayed. She felt that the sooner the election came, off the better it would be for her success. But the commissioners' court of Crosby County was in a bad humor with Della Plain. It was not quick to consider favorably her petitions or demands. What Della Plain sought was regarded as nought. She collected her best wits and began to scheme. Lockney had all the time opposed an early organization of the County, and was still in this mood. She was laboring under the delusion that all that was in the way of her becoming the county seat was an order by the commissioners' court of Crosby County permitting Floyd County to organize. How to procure this order was the tug of war. Finally it was represented to the commissioners' court of Crosby County that the town of Lockney was also demanding the order for Floyd County to organize, and the order was promptly passed. Thus Della Plain secured what she had been yearning for so long.

The issue was forced upon Floydada and Lockney. It stood these places in hand to better themselves, and they did so. They made a practical application of the motto, "United we stand, divided we fall." They stood together, pulled together, worked together, and Floydada became the county seat of Floyd County, the victor over Della Plain, the town of permanent existence.

Floydada did not feel prepared to win in the county seat contest when Della Plain brought on the election for organization; but it was, after all, a blessing in disguise to Floydada. Had the election been postponed indefinitely Floydada might have suffered from the same remedy that preyed on Della Plain; that is, selfishness among her own promoters. Those who were concerned about the prosperity of Floydada did not have time to develop antagonisms and animosities. When unity was needed Floydada had it, and Della Plain had it not. When help was welcome Floydada had it, and Della Plain had it not.

Much depends upon the time in which a thing is done to insure success. Many a battle is won, because of the time in which it is fought. Had Houston ordered an attack upon the Mexicans some time before or some time after the twenty-first day of April, 1836, it is very doubtful

that a San Jacinto victory would have been achieved. By Della Plain's securing the election for organization on May 28, 1890, it was, in all probability, a blessing in disguise, the unintentional part of the former and unforeseen on that of the latter. Wondrous and mysterious are the workings of human events.

Post-Election Events.

FLOYDADA as a town was merely begun at the time Floyd County was organized. The distance to the railroad was so great and the time preceding the election of May 28, so short that it was impossible for the new town to make much of a visible and tangible show. More than that, those who founded Floydada had no absolute assurance of her success in the county seat contest, and they were therefore timid about making lavish investments just before the election and before her immediate future was definitely determined.

But after the election and after her victory Floydada became known far and wide as the "future great city of the Plains" and the "commercial metropolis of the country". Suddenly Floydada town lots became valuable. Suddenly a multitude of enterprises were thought of and talked of. Those who were interested, financially or sentimentally, had unbounded confidence in her future,—her future wealth, progress, and greatness. It was believed, and believed firmly, that the people who were at the back of the town movement possessed immense wealth and that they would make the town a great railroad city in only a few years. This was a time when the imagination was pined for great flights into the ethereal regions of boundless possibilities and unending probabilities. It was an easy matter to see a specter on the horizon to become a mountain.

It was generally rumored that a mammoth ore building would be built, that it would be filled with an immense stock of general merchandise; and that anything from a knitting needle to a threshing machine could be found in it. This was believed by those who felt an interest in Floydada and doubted by only those who did not want to believe it. Even the molding and kilning of brick in the Breaks were discussed as probable, and the products of this manufacture were to be used for building and paving purposes at the "Queen of the Plains". These serve as examples of the enterprises conceived in the minds of settlers and town promoters.

It was realized that a school house is prerequisite to a town that was to be a social and cultured center. Early in the summer a school house 22 feet in length, 30 feet in width, and 12 feet in height was erected. It now constitutes the north room of the present school building. It was built by the town's promoters.

On the west side of the public square a grocery store building was erected early in the summer. The business was conducted by B. Chadwick. Mr. Chadwick was a splendid salesman, but he was too liberal and sympathetic to make a financial success of a mercantile business. In this store building W. O. Menefee carried a stock of dry goods. It was also used a while by Judge Duncan as his office and by Masie & Menefee as real estate agents. This building had an upper half story which was used by the Masonic Lodge instituted in the spring of 1891. On the morning of June 26, of that year, it was destroyed by fire. It was replaced by another, and used for both mercantile and Masonic Lodge purposes until destroyed by fire in February, 1903. On this lot Gound Bros' present store building stands.

On the west side of the square A. Whitney & Co. erected the first hardware building in Floy-

dada. It is now the rear of the postoffice building owned and occupied by J. D. Starks. On the north side of the public square I. H. Siddens and G. A. Johnson built a store. The year following Mr. Johnson retired and Mr. Siddens moved the building to a better business stand on the west side. It is now the rear part of the building occupied by the Floyd Mercantile Co.

The public well which is south of the court house was placed there early in the summer of 1890. It afforded water at first for man and beast for several miles around. It was a popular point for the water haulers to meet and exchange greetings and gossip.

At this time rolling water kegs and barrels came into general use. They were ingeniously arranged. In both ends blocks of wood with protruding iron spikes were placed. These spikes served as axles on which the holes of straps or the loops of ropes were placed. The outer ends of these spikes had swelled heads or nuts to prevent the straps or ropes attached thereto from slipping off. The straps or ropes were used for pulling the keg or barrel. It rolled on the ground as a roller would. On hard ground it pulled easily, but in mud it did not roll so well.

This recalls how J. D. Starks supplied his home a half mile away from the public well. He had a large dog he called Quanah. A collar was placed around his neck. The straps of a rolling water barrel were attached to the collar. Quanah would pull the empty barrel from the house to the well. Mr. Starks would fill the barrel and start the dog home, and straightway he would draw his load. Quanah made the trips from the house to the well and from the well to the house without being accompanied by anyone. This dog was a favorite in Mr. Starks's home. A few years ago Quanah died, and in his death the family justly felt genuine regret.

During the spring and summer of 1890 J. R. Keene lived about two miles west of Floydada. Like others near Floydada, he depended on the public well at that place for his water-supply. His small boys performed this errand. The boys broke a yoke of yearling calves to work to a slide. On the slide a barrel was placed for hauling water. In this way the water-supply was obtained at the Keene home.

Many and varied were the ways that people here in those days managed to get along. It was a time when people had to MANAGE; rely upon their own resources; scheme to keep soul and body from severing. But it was a time of high educational value to people; it developed the best that was in them. This is no place for the propagation of weaklings.

During the summer of 1890 a number of families lived in tents. In the month of August a prairie fire swept over that portion of the County on which Floydada now stands. All the grass about the town was destroyed. J. D. Arnold and family were making a tent their temporary abode. Their canvassed residence and housekeeping goods were consumed in flames in a few minutes. The fire wrought something of a hardship on the people about town, but their spirit was such that they could not be daunted. They held on to their claims and continued to declare with much emphasis that that this is unquestionably the greatest country in the world and that Floydada would undoubtedly be one of the great cities of the State. Great was faith and the hope of the people.

Among the residences that were erected in the summer and autumn of 1890 were those of Dr. R. C. Andrews, Max R. Andrews, W. O. Menefee, J. J. Harrison, M. C. Williams, Judge Duncan, D.

W. Jenkins. Later on in the winter following R. T. Miller, S. B. Chadwick, J. F. Lockney, and others built houses. Sam A. Kelsey, Ole T. Nyslie, Frank Slack, J. D. Arnold, J. M. Pywell and others excavated their places of abode. Mr. Powell's dugout was covered with cloth.

On the south side of the square Mr. Gwynn had a two-story building erected. The lower part was occupied by the firm of Johnson Bros. & Ainsworth. There was a room in the rear used as the county and district clerk's office. The upper story was used as a temporary court house. This building was partly finished just in time to be used for court purposes at the first term of District court in November. This building has since been reduced in size and is now Wili W. Nelson's grocery store.

Mr. Gwynn also had erected the hotel building now occupied by W. Y. Crain. J. P. Drace was the first landlord thereof. It was then known as the Drace Hotel. Since then it has been called the Llano Hotel, the Harkey Hotel and the Baker Hotel.

C. A. Tomme erected the store building now occupied by J. G. Rant as a store and residence. A few paces east of this building M. M. Day erected a livery and feed stable. Farther east from the square Thomas Teeling had a butcher shop. Near where G. R. Griggs's store is J. H. Henderson had a house in which he and his family lived and kept the postoffice. J. J. Carter erected a store building of corrugated iron and put in the first stock of drugs. His store was just south of the Drace Hotel.

Dr. V. Andrews, a son of Dr. R. C. Andrews, was the first physician to locate at Floydada. J. B. Bartley arrived in the year of 1891 and decided to practice law here. W. Q. Henderson was appointed district attorney and took up his residence here at about the same time Mr. Bartley came. Henry Snodgrass lived on a place five miles west of town and pursued the practice of law at Floydada. Later on his brother, Sam D. Snodgrass, came here and practiced law. Dr. R. C. Andrews, upon first coming here, was the senior partner in the real estate firm of Andrews, Tilson & Co. He did not lend the practice of medicine his undivided attention.

Mr. Gwynn paid occasional visits to Floydada. He was looked upon as the father of Floydada, and his appearance was always hailed with delight. He always spoke optimistically of the town and county's future. His coming to this place was, for a long time, looked upon as the precursor of immediate railway building. The title Prof. was applied to his name because in years gone by he had been a school teacher.

On June 24 of that year, Floydada had her first picnic and barbecue. It was a great event for the people of Floydada and of Floyd County. For a year or longer thereafter Floydada's chronology was reckoned from the twenty fourth day of June. The day was a very quiet one, with the exception of the sheriff's having some trouble in quelling a cowboy who had patronized the Exchange too frequently.

In those days dancing was a favorite amusement for the belles and gallants of the town and country. On one occasion a preacher had to call in his appointment to conduct religious services on account of a dancing party. Dances have been known a few times to take place at the close of church worship by those who were not professed church members.

Gambling was a common sport for a year or two, but this business was greatly thwarted by the courts and officers of the law,

Even public sentiment was so transformed as to frown upon the custom. Gradually, but perceptibly, a wonderful change has come over the habits and usages of society in Floyd County.

Verily the world, at least this part of it, is growing better. It is always refreshing to look towards the east. There is where the sun rises.

As a means of disseminating intelligence and of apprising the public of Floyd County's resources and Floydada's possibilities a newspaper of the name of The Texas Kicker was founded in August, 1890, by J. F. Lockney and John C. Hendrix. This publication was sustained only until the general election in November.

On the last day of the last month of the year 1890 a heavy windstorm swept over the Plains Country. It was dry, hard, and straight from the west and southwest. It arose at noon and continued to blow all the afternoon and the fore part of the night. It blew down the front of the store house of S. B. Chadwick & Company, unroofed the temporary court house building, and partly wrecked the C. A. Tomme store and the M. M. Day livery stable. That night dugouts were popular resorts. Many hats, tubs, and other wares and wearables were swept towards the Breaks.

It was a squally time for newcomers, that time was. It taxed the wits of those who were booming the country to explain the cause of the windstorm. The scientific men of the town dwelt luminously on the aversment that cyclones were also lately impossible in this country.

The day following the windstorm was still and clear, warm and balmy. It turned all to thinking upon the merits of the country. The demerits were soon forgotten. The latter were overshadowed by the former.

During the winter it was reported that the Comanche Indians had become hostile towards the Whites and were pressing this way from Clarendon. There were many things told; many occurrences related. Rumors filled the air. Some considered the matter lightly, and others, seriously. In a few days the excitement abated. It was found to be a hoax.

One night while the Indian excitement was on a Norwegian of the name of Ole T. Nyslie while sleeping near his hay stacks accidentally discharged his Winchester. The report of the gun created some alarm among the Floydada populace. It was thought the Indians had arrived and had begun their work of murder, rapine, and spoliation. Mr. Nyslie had been captured by Indians when he was a small boy. The tortures he had suffered were great. He was sleeping near his haystacks in order to protect his dugout in the event the Indians did come.

No graveyard was started a Floydada until the summer of 1891. A ten-acre tract of land was laid out for that purpose in the northeast corner of the school section lying on the north side of the town. The first person's remains interred there were those of Jehu McMannis, the aged father of S. A. McMannis. The body of a Mr. Morgan, who died near Floydada in the spring of 1891, was carried to Estacado for interment. This event bestirred the people of Floydada to prepare an appropriate burying-place for her dead.

Confusion in Names.

WHEN the section on which Floydada was planned, the new town was christened Floyd City. After the County was organized application was made to the Postoffice Department for the establishment of a postoffice bearing the name

of Floyd City; but it was rejected for the reason that there already existed a postoffice in Hunt County, in this State, called Floyd. The similarity of names was too marked for the application to create a new postoffice of the name of Floyd City to be considered favorably by the postoffice establishing authorities at Washington. The promoters of the new town were not to be daunted because of this failure. Application was then made for a postoffice under the designation of Floydalia. The Postoffice Department considered this application favorably, but the name submitted was misunderstood and recognized as Floydada.

The foregoing refutes the popular belief and illusion that Floydada is a combination of the word Floyd and the christian name Ada. The name Floydada is purely a mistake, not a design. It is an easy matter for people to draw conclusions that are palpably illusive.

According to the Plains vernacular, Floydada is properly pronounced with the long sound on the a's in the two last syllables. Many people persist in giving the two a's the short sound, but to do so makes the pronunciation rather unepophonious, and to persist in it knowingly is considered an affront. Floydadaians resent such temerity with the vehemence that characterize the people of San Antonio when their beloved city is carelessly or purposely called "Santone".

In matters of record, as connected with the County's government, the county seat is known as Floyd City; but otherwise the county seat town of Floyd County is simply and truly Floydada. The cognomen Floydada was given to stand until the Day of Doom, however long it may be. Frequently the name Floydada is contracted to Floyd. Such a contraction is never well taken by those who feel a pride in Floydada. Whether it be due to ignorance, lassitude, or perversity, the abbreviation is indefensible, inexcusable, and unbecoming.

Let the purport of these lines impress you, kind reader, that bad habits are baneful. Be careful to avoid that of contracting or mispronouncing the name Floydada. You are hereby given kindly warning, lest you become addicted to the habit of misusing your vocal organs in a manner that will arouse the elemental wrath of the human nature that is in the being of proud Floydadaians!

During Dull Times.

DURING 1890 and 1891 a great many people settled in this County. They brought some means with them, and times were fairly prosperous for a year or two; but when all the surplus money was spent a reaction set in. Many of the settlers had lived on the frontier and were not thrifty farmers. They had come here to "make a stake" in holding down school land and selling it for a large bonus when a railroad was built, as they had expected. They did not care to convert many acres of the virgin soil to farming purposes. To do so required work, and that was the way the people in the East were doing. West Texas wanted to live more easily than East Texans. Those who attempted to till the soil did not meet with the greatest success. Sorghum had been the staple crop. It was still so. The lands were new and untried. The consequence was, there was little revenue to be derived from farming. The newcomers had not prepared for stock-raising, and there was not much money brought into the country from the sales of stock. Expenses were heavy. The interest and taxes on the school lands aggregated an annual outlay of about \$30,000 from the few people who were in the County. People in general did not think of this when they first settled here. Upon their first coming here they were so dazzled with the splendor of the present that they could not

penetrate the clouds in the vistas of the future.

Many of those who were displeased with the result of the county seat election continued to agitate the matter. It was thought by the friends of Floydada that this agitation tended to prevent people from settling in Floyd County, and the friends of Della Plain viewed the matter in the same light. Both sides wanted the disturbance to cease and confidence to exist, but they did not agree in their panaceas. Della Plain wanted to settle the matter by moving the county seat. Floydada wanted Della Plain to quit talking about changing the seat of County government.

In view of the efforts that were being made to move the county seat the Floydadaians conceived the notion of securing an anchor for the county seat at Floydada. To accomplish this purpose the building of a fine stone court house was advocated. A building of this sort would furnish employment to many, render money more plentiful, and hold the county seat at Floydada. Those in the County who were not friendly to Floydada as the county seat were bitterly opposed to this scheme. Their interests, their sentiments, were radically different.

The matter was brought to an issue before the commissioners' court at the August term of 1891. On investigation it was found that bonds for more than about \$15,000 for Floyd County could not be issued. A pull then was made for the erection of an \$8,000 court house. The vote was taken before the commissioners' court. Two were for and two, against the building of the court house. The county judge cast the deciding vote in favor of it. The court house was completed early in the spring of 1892.

The same affliction that preyed upon Mayshaw and Lockney bore upon Floydada in 1893. The country did not prosper; therefore, the towns did not grow. The dry weather and the grasshoppers caused the country to dwindle and the towns dwindle, but Floydada suffered the least of all.

Mayshaw absorbed Della Plain; Lockney consumed Mayshaw and reduced Floydada. Floydada's loss was temporary, not permanent. In recent years she has gained her second wind, as turfmen might say. She is positively in the march of progress.

First Floydadaians.

M. C. WILLIAMS, one of the original founders of Floydada, spent only three years at this place. Early in the year of 1891 he was married to Miss Bonnie Bowers, a daughter of A. C. Bowers. Mr. Williams and family now reside in the Indian Territory.

W. T. Montgomery is a part of Floydada. He was reared near Austin. Prior to his coming to Floyd County he stayed at Childress where his parents resided. For a few years he was a carpenter and plied his trade. Most of the first buildings are wholly or partly the products of his handi-craft.

He has done much work in several of the offices at the court house. On County affairs he is a walking encyclopaedia. He is a close observer. His memory is quite retentive. He has at all times taken a deep interest in the affairs of the County. With the court house his familiar face is intimately associated.

After the founding of Floydada there was one day in May when there was only one soul on the town section, and that was Mr. Montgomery. He filed on what is now known as the Taffinder section. He put twenty cedar posts thereon to hold it until he could make other arrangements. Later on he abandoned it for something that suited him better. Before he took the section-holders, the posts, away they were destroyed by a prairie fire.

He has been a servant for his friends rather than for himself. In this his own financial interests have suffered. He is quite familiar with the lands of Floyd County, but he never began to make any use of this knowledge and experience until recently, when he engaged in the real estate business with E. C. Henry and Tom P. Steen under the firm name of Floyd County Land Company. To him the writer is indebted for much of the information pertaining to the founding of Floydada.

In the early days of Floydada D. Y. Rainey and brother, J. W. Rainey, were familiar figures on her streets. Like others, they "held down school land" and "sold for bonuses". The former, was noted for his wit and affability. Few people when in his company could feel sad or dejected. Many stories of his good humor are related. Only one is herewith reproduced:

During the summer an elderly gentleman of much mechanical ingenuity was working on a wagon to be propelled by the wind. Few of the people would entertain the possibility of the invention seriously. But one day the inventor met a new-comer. The inventor found a ready and attentive listener. The machinery was described and the minutest details were set forth. The wagon would be rigged to run, like a ship, almost in the "teeth of the wind". The new-comer was credulous and believed the idea to be feasible. He got to thinking and asking questions. Finally he inquired: "What if a man should be on the road, and a still day should occur; then what would he do about traveling?"

Before the inventor could respond Mr. Rainey, who was a bystander, interrupted by replying in his droll manner:

"That'll make no difference; the old man can furnish the wind in that case".

The new-comer saw the point of Mr. Rainey's remark, and so did the inventor. The former walked away, and so did the latter. The inventor went one way, and the other, another.

B. W. Ainsworth, of the firm of Johnson Bros. & Ainsworth, was a resident of Floydada from 1890 to 1896. While here he conducted the largest business in the County. He was a New Yorker. His boyhood home was Watertown. He came from Haskell to Floydada. In the autumn of 1891 he was married to Miss Della Moses, a sister of Mrs. W. S. Dunn. Mr. Ainsworth went first to Marlin, Falls County, and then to Riesel, McLennan County, where he resides at present. His wife died in the early part of the year of 1898.

When Floydada was granted a postoffice in October, 1890, J. H. Henderson received the commission as postmaster. He had spent much of his early days in leading the strenuous life. He was a Union soldier during the War Between the States. Much of his early life was spent in fighting Indians on the prairies west of the Mississippi River. He served under General Custer, who lost his life at the battle of Big Horn. Mr. Henderson served as postmaster at Floydada until Cleveland's installation in 1893, when he removed to Oklahoma.

From the fall of 1890 to that of 1895 W. O. Menefee, the father of C. J. Menefee, was identified with the interests and the aspirations of Floydada. All the while he was here he was engaged in the mercantile business. He succeeded Mr. Henderson as postmaster. This place he filled until his removal from Floydada.

Mr. Menefee was born in Texas in an early day. He is of the family of Menefees who resided in the region of the Brazos River and whose names are conspicuous in the history of

Texas. He and his wife settled in Johnson County when lands were cheap and settlements, sparse. Here they resided until they came to Floydada. At present they are making their home at Cleburne. They had an issue of ten children, all of whom are married.

Mr. Menefee has been a minister of the Methodist Church since early manhood, and for many years a Mason. He was a soldier during the War Between the States. He is a man of pronounced views. To him Stone-wall Jackson, Robert E. Lee, and Jefferson Davis are Southern deities. He has been plain and positive in all his transactions.

During all the days of his life he has been the consistent champion of all movements that tended to the betterment of his fellowmen. He was the first Worshipful Master of the Floydada Blue Lodge. He is held in kindly and grateful remembrance by those who knew him best at Floydada.

Before Floydada existed more than in name J. D. Starks was here demonstrating his faith in her future. He is still manifesting his faith. He had spent many years of his life without getting much ahead "for a rainy day". He came to Floydada to begin life anew.

Mr. Starks was reared in Kentucky. About twenty five years ago he began work as a cowboy on the Matador Ranch under Judge H. H. Campbell as manager. It was on this ranch that he met Miss Ella Harrison, to whom he was married. They lived at Childress just prior to their coming to Floydada. They have only one child, a girl, whose name is Kath. She was the second child born at Floydada. Her birth took place June 26, 1890.

Among the young men who came here and "held down" school land was R. C. Scott. He is a Louisianaian by birth. He came here in quest of health, and his aim was realized. He clerked for Johnson Bros. & Ainsworth while this firm was in business at Floydada. Upon its retirement he entered the drug business. In this he continued until 1903 when he sold his stock to the A. D. White Drug Company. In April, 1898, he was married to Miss Ruby Reeves. They make their home at Floydada. They have three children. By energy and frugality Mr. Scott gained a fair competence. What he has accomplished will serve as an object lesson for other young men coming to this country.

One of the biggest hearted men that ever walked the streets of Floydada was S. B. Chadwick. He was reared an orphan. For many years he worked on the Matador Ranch. For a while he and his family lived in the Matador Country when neighbors were few and many miles apart. His wife had a little girl by a former marriage. Her name was Floyd Nelson. One day when Mr. Chadwick was away from home and upon the range his wife took very ill and died. Upon his return there was no one but his little stepchild, who was too small to be able to tell much about her mother's illness and death.

To this stepchild Mr. Chadwick was a father. She and her grandmother, Grandma Daugherty, lived with him at Floydada. In December, 1891, Miss Nelson was married to W. T. Cloyd. Four years ago she died at Matador. She left a husband and five children. Two years ago Mr. Cloyd died. From 1896 to 1900 he was sheriff of Motley County.

In the winter of 1893-1894 Mr. Chadwick was married to Miss Minnie Nidever. They resided in this county until the fall of 1900, when they moved to Don-

ley County. They now live near Tucumcari, New Mexico.

When he was a candidate for tax assessor in 1892 there were a number of candidates for this office. At times his friends, because of the complications, expressed fears that he would fail of success. To such expressions he would confidently reply:

"Gentlemen, I tell you the people are not going back on Sam Chadwick; he has been too good to them in times of need for them to forget him in this election. I tell you, a majority of the people of Floyd County have some gratitude, and they can not vote against Sam!"

He was elected. It was just what he expected. His friends were gratified, and so was he.

At that time there were a few, but only a few pig-headed people in this county. They hated Floydada. They could not be just towards those who lived there.

One day while Mr. Chadwick was assessing property for taxation he met in town a man who lived about twenty miles north of Floydada. Mr. Chadwick proposed to take this man's rendition. The man declined to render his property and informed Mr. Chadwick that the tax assessor would have to call at his home. Mr. Chadwick heeded his curtness and authority as a citizen. He mounted his horse and rode swiftly to the perverse man's house; but the owner was not at home, as he had not had time to return from town. The officer posted a notice on the door bidding him to go to Floydada to render his property for taxes. Mr. Chadwick had performed his duty as an officer by calling on the property-holder. It then devolved on the property holder to go to Floydada to render his taxable property. Mr. Chadwick paid the man in full measure for being insolent and bumptious. He was not an ill-natured man, but he knew how to deal with ill nature in others when it was necessary.

J. J. Harrison was a native of Arkansas. He lived in Della County, Texas, prior to his coming to the Panhandle. He lived in this county until 1897, and in Motley County until 1900. Since then he has resided at Clarendon and Wichita Falls. At present he is living at Tucumcari, New Mexico. He was a county commissioner of the Floydada Precinct from 1892 to 1894. He took much interest in public affairs while here. W. M. Massie lives on the place he had on the west side of town.

M. F. Rountree was from Delta County. He remained here from the spring of 1890 to the early part of the year of 1891. He moved to Medina County, and thence to his old home county in Northeast Texas. His son, John T. Rountree, is at present county clerk of Delta County. To Mr. and Mrs. Rountree was born the first child at Floydada.

J. I. Carter came to Floydada late in the year of 1890. He and his wife were the first druggists of the town. Mr. Carter was deputy district surveyor under H. C. Knight.

Mr. Carter was a man of more than ordinary business ability and shrewdness. Above all, he was a characteristic man. The following story is told of him:

One day a traveler passed thru town and called at the drug store to have a prescription compounded. Mr. Carter politely waited upon him. The traveler was hard of hearing. He asked the price of the prescription. Mr. Carter answered him in a conversational tone: "A dollar and ten cents". The traveler did not hear the reply and repeated, "How much did you say?" "A dollar and ten cents," he replied in a louder tone. The traveler heard only the ten cents part, and he handed Mr. Carter that much. Mr. Carter told the traveler:

"Go on, then! I've made more than one hundred per cent. any way."

From 1890 to 1895 C. J. Menefee was associated with W. M. Massie in the real estate business. In 1894 he felt that it was his duty to become a minister of the Good News. He preached his first sermon at Floydada. He afterwards went to New Mexico where he did evangelistic work. In 1899 he was married to Miss Siddle Adair in Johnson County. She had been actively engaged in missionary and educational work in Mexico. In 1901 they took up their abode at Floydada, where they reside at present.

For several years Mr. Menefee has been aligned with the Holiness movement. He is at present engaged in evangelistic work in this and other counties. To all outward appearances he has lived the upright life. No one would question his piety or sincerity.

Soon after the County was organized Dr. V. Andrews came from Anson, Jones County, and located at Floydada. He was Floydada's first physician. At that time he occasionally had calls for forty or fifty miles away. He was married in the latter part of the year to Miss Josie Pickens in Jones County. In 1894 he moved to Valley View, Cooke County, where he still resides. His brother, Max R. Andrews, came to Floydada in August, 1890, and was associated with the firm of Andrews, Tilson & Company in the real estate business. The land business grew dull, and in the spring of 1892 he and his family moved to Merkel, Taylor County, and afterwards to Abilene. At the latter place he has been connected with The Taylor County News.

These sketches would be far from complete if the names of Dr. and Mrs. R. G. Andrews were omitted. They came to Floydada in August, in 1890, and they are still here. The Doctor will have reached his three score and ten years in a few more weeks. Mrs. Andrews has passed sixty-eight of the mile-posts of life. They are on the shady side of life in years, but they are still cheerful and buoyant in spirits. They are young old people.

The Doctor was reared in Tennessee, and Mrs. Andrews, in Kentucky. The one was eighteen and the other, sixteen years of age when they were married. Their first meeting was a rather singular, if not romantic, affair.

One afternoon in Kentucky a young man from Tennessee was hunting horses. The rural school had dismissed, and the pupils were wending their way homeward. The horse-hunter met some school children in the road. Among them was a maiden of sixteen summers. She was gay and fair. She caught his eyes. He inquired about horses, but he directed his remarks to this young lady. As she responded he-listened? Not much! He gazed into her countenance. He was awe struck. He was translated into another kingdom than that of this world. He rode on the way he was traveling, and the school children trudged their way. He was no longer looking for brands on horses. In fact he could not see as before. He did not halt between two opinions. He was not then, and has not been since, hesitating and vacillating. He determined forthwith to spend the night at the home where the damsel he had met was living. He rode to that place. He was an unexpected guest.

In those days shoes were valuable. They were worn principally on special occasions. A young lady was fortunate if she could get more than one pair a year. This young lady had returned home from school. To

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No trouble to answer questions.

save her shoes from wearing out before the allotted time, she had pulled them off. The first glimpse the young man gained of her or his arrival was when she had espied him. She did not stand still; she was barefooted, and she shied away. He spent the night there. He could not have been turned away; he had a superabundance of gall. She had made an impression on his heart. It devolved upon him to make one upon hers.

Doubtless if some fairy could have heard the young man repeat his story of love to her as sincerely as it was ever chanted in the Valley of Vaucluse, it would have heard the maiden's reply: "Why, you surprise me. I never thought that you cared for me more than as a friend." It is but natural and human for this to be the response to proffers of love and matrimony.

It would not be necessary to explain who these young people were. It was not many months before they were wedded. Perhaps they reasoned that the course of true love, if the engagement be long, does not run smooth. To avoid difficulties their courtship was speedily consummated in a happy marriage.

In early life they cast their fortunes in the Lone Star State. They lived in Grayson County for a few years. They were in Delta County when Cooper was a very well placed and the country sparsely settled. In 1883 they moved to Floydada to spend the evening of life. Here they have an elegant home. Here they celebrated their golden wedding two years ago. Here they are rounding a useful life in deeds of kindness. Here they shall peacefully await the summons of world transference.

Dr. Andrews has always been a man of great energy and experience. In the War Between the States he was an aid-de-camp under General Sam Bell Maxey. He has met personally many prominent men of Texas since the early part of her history.

Dr. Andrews formed the acquaintance of General Sam Houston when the latter was in quite a predicament in traveling in Grayson County in his campaign for Governor. The General had spoken at Sherman and was due at McKinney the next day. He was making the rounds in a one-horse buggy. When he was about midway between Sherman and McKinney the singletree to the buggy was broken. He could not go any farther. Dr. Andrews overtook him and found him very much perplexed. The Doctor cut a hickory stick of the proper length with a pocket knife and attached it to the shafts by means of a rope. This arrangement made it possible for the General to continue his journey, and he never dispensed of it until he reached his home at Huntsville.

Dr. Andrews has been, and is still, one of the leading spirits of Floydada. When anything pertaining to the public good is

demand he is always put in the lead to push it. If there be any adverse criticisms, he gets his share of them. While others talk, he does. Whatever he undertakes he rarely fails to accomplish.

Once upon a time a man remarked: "I wonder if Stonewall Jackson will go to heaven, since he has wrought so much havoc and destroyed the lives of so many men on the Union side in the War." One of Jackson's men was present. The old time fire flashed in his eyes. He felt the same unbounded confidence in him that was felt when he followed him in the War. He was forgetful of the power of the Almighty over the destinies of the future life. He quickly and sharply replied: "I'll tell ye, if Jackson ever takes it in his head to go there, there's nothin' that can keep 'im from it!"

This was an exaggerated way of illustrating Jackson's ability and determination. In this respect the character of Dr. Andrews very much resembles that of Stonewall Jackson.

In his friendships Dr. Andrews is whole-souled and full-hearted. He could hate those who "despitefully use" him, but against this tendency he studiously cultivates. In whatever he becomes interested he is intensely earnest.

To his violin the Doctor is very much devoted. It affords him unspeakable pleasure to express in sound the music that is in his soul. He plays by ear; but how he can make the fiddle ring with Bonaparte's Retreat, Big Taters in the Sand, Land, and Artisan's Thicket!

Let a bevy of young people gather about him and Dr. Andrews is in his element; his joy is inexpressible and irrepresible. He loves to be in the midst of bright faces. He delights in giving pleasure to others.

In his character may be a mixed sunlight and shadow. Those who know the Doctor truly, intimately, do know that there is a vast deal of the sunlight in his being. Those who know him casually, superficially, by hearsay merely, can see in him, as in all men, flaws, foibles, follies. But, withal, he is as nearly deserving of unmixed affection and admiration as most of the sons of Adam. Generous souls will not fail to appreciate his character and services.

J. H. Angel came here from Kentucky in 1890. He served as deputy county and district clerk when that office was in need of assistance. He was something of a local humorist.

Early in the year of 1891 there was a literary society in connection with the public school at Floydada. Mr. Angel participated in the exercises by preparing and reading a paper which he called The Ephraim Messenger. The establishment of a new town in Floyd County at that time was being agitated, as has been shown in other places in these columns. Mr. Angel represented himself as a progressive negro, whose name was Ike Ephraim. He organized

a citizens' meeting. He dominated its proceedings, put the town on his own section, christened it Ephraim, and established The Messenger. It was an interesting piece of fiction. The editor made free use of burnt cork just before reading the contents of The Messenger to the gatherings at the literary society. It contained many humorous local news items, ridiculous advertisements, and amusing notices of various and sundry sorts.

The town of Ephraim sprang up as if by magic, assumed the proportions of a great city, and completely absorbed Floydada. It had Dr. R. C. Andrews and R. T. Miller engaging in the saloon business, Judge Duncan running a popcorn stand, and J. A. Whitney conducting religious revivals. All Floydadans were prominently mentioned in the pages of The Messenger. It was a fine work of burlesque.

In 1892 Mr. Angel obtained license to practice law. This profession he pursued until 1895, when he became a Methodist minister. He went to New Mexico and has been evangelizing there and elsewhere. In the early part of 1899 he visited Floydada and preached a few sermons.

Other names might be included in these personal sketches, but there must be a limit. With the mention of M. M. Day's name there must be a conclusion.

Mr. Day was one of the remarkable characters of Floydada. He has an individuality that is strikingly and peculiarly his own. Whatever thoughts he had he blurted out in a phraseology that was decidedly original.

At the election in November, 1896, he was elected justice of the peace of the Floydada Precinct. Before the election no one had offered to become a candidate for that position. In fact, it was one that no one would touch. Mr. Day and J. H. Angel then threw up to determine which of the two should make the race for justice of the peace. In this Mr. Henderson was successful, inasmuch as it devolved on Mr. Day to make the race.

Mr. Day was elected. He was honor bound to qualify, and he did so. The sessions of his court afforded much amusement for spectators.

On one occasion a lawyer was contending for a point. Mr. Day listened for a short while and commanded: "Sit down! I've heard enough of your gab." The lawyer was persistent. He continued: "Your honor, I would like to read you what the law says on this point." At this juncture the court became impatient and rejoined: "Ah, d—n the law! It's just like the Bible: you can prove anything in the world by it. I believe in justice. Sit down," he stormed out, "or I'll fine you." The lawyer meekly obeyed.

Late in the year of 1891 he was married to Miss Polly Johnson, a daughter of John Q. Johnson of the Sanhill settlement. He is now living near Woodward, Oklahoma.

Institutions.

THE first school at Floydada opened in November, 1890. Sam H. Kelsey was the teacher. It opened with about twenty pupils, but the enrollment increased to about fifty before the close. The writer was an "advanced pupil" of that session. The year following, Mrs. Mary G. Snodgrass was the teacher. Before the close she resigned and was succeeded by T. M. Bartley. For a while during the session Claude V. Hall assisted in teaching. The next two years Sam H. Kelsey taught the school. In 1894-1895 H. C. Atchison was principal and Miss Jessie Bruner assisted. The next session the principal was Claude V. Hall and the assistant, Mrs. Zueada Pruitt. The enrollment was 102 pupils. The

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two years following Frank Elston was the principal. The assistant of the first session was Mrs. Alpha Johnston and of the second, Miss Jessie Bruner. From 1898 to 1901 J. D. Burleson was principal. Miss Sue Ross assisted the first two sessions, and Miss Pansy Green and Miss Allie Miller were assistants the third session. The next year T. M. Bartley and Miss Stella Fletcher were the teachers. Following this session W. M. Martin was principal; D. T. Scott, first assistant; and Miss Lula Miller, second assistant. During the session of 1903-1904 Edgar Allen was principal; W. P. Weaver, first assistant; Mrs. Alma Allen, second assistant. The next year the teachers were Edgar Allen, principal; H. S. Crawford, first assistant; and Terrell Haymes, second assistant. The present year L. E. Crutcher is principal; Miss Jetty Jones, first assistant; and Terrell W. Haymes, second assistant.

In the spring of 1904 an independent school district was organized at Floydada. The former district could not levy and collect a special district school tax of more than twenty cents on the one hundred dollars' valuation. The amount of funds that could thus be obtained were inadequate. The only way to provide more funds was to organize an independent school district. But under the law it could be made to contain only twenty-five sections. By special act of the Legislature an independent district of forty-nine square miles was created. By

tax rate of thirty cents on the one hundred dollars' valuation was voted; also a special tax rate of twenty cents for building purposes.

Floydada's present school building is only a makeshift; but next year in all probability, bonds will be issued for the erection of an artistic and commodious edifice for public school purposes. The town fathers will also see to the establishing of a school library. Conditions are matured for these improvements.

Several secret benevolent orders are represented at Floydada. The Blue Lodge of the Masonic Order was given a dispensation at Floydada in April, 1891, with W. O. Menefee, W. M. At present it has about sixty members. The Order of the Eastern Star was instituted in the Spring of 1898, and the Royal Arch Chapter, in the summer of 1901. Each of these orders has a strong membership. The Masonic Order has a fine lodge building on the northwest corner of the public square.

The Woodmen of the World have a camp and the Odd Fellows, a lodge at Floydada. The one was instituted in 1901, and the other, in 1902. In 1903 a Rebekah Lodge was instituted. The Woodmen and Odd Fellows have a commodious camp and lodge room on the southeast corner of the square. The Fraternal Union of America has recently organized a lodge and uses this hall.

The Methodists, the Baptists, the Holiness people, and the

Christians, or Disciples of Christ, are well represented at Floydada. A commodious church building was erected in 1901. It is owned by the Methodist Church, but other churches are permitted to use it.

The town has never lacked for a bank since the fall of 1890. At that time the Floyd County Bank was established by Johnson Bros. & Ainsworth. Under this management it continued in business until 1896, when McManis & Posey became the bankers of Floydada. In 1898 James B. Posey succeeded this firm, and in 1900 Mr. Posey was joined by L. T. Lester in organizing the Floyd County Bank. Its business made a splendid growth. This institution was Nationalized in the winter of 1903-1904 with a capital stock of \$100,000. L. T. Lester is president; C. Surginer, vice president; James B. Posey, cashier, and James K. Green, assistant-cashier. The deposits are about \$110,000.

Mr. Posey is one of the successful bankers in the State. He is the life of an orphan in Williams County. In starting out his capital was nothing save his brain and brawn, energy and determination. He was given a good literary and business education. For several years he resided in Callahan County, where he worked assiduously as a farmer and stock raiser. By application, diligence and frugality he gained a competence. In 1891 he came to Floyd County and engaged in the cattle business.

His good use of opportunities and accumulation of property to sustain old age. He has two sons running banks elsewhere. Walter is at Lubbock and Parum, at Lockney.

Floydada has two physicians, four lawyers, eight land agents, one tin shop, two blacksmith shops, two hotels, two livery stables, one two-stand gin, two grist mills, one bank, one printing and newspaper plant, one telephone exchange with long distance connections to all important points, one millinery establishment, one barber shop, one drug store, three hardware stores, one racket and confection store, two grocery stores, three dry goods stores, three dry goods and grocery stores.

A directory of the business concerns and professional practitioners at Floydada appears on the second cover page of this publication.

The court house is in the center of the public square. Two public wells are maintained. There are trees growing in the enclosure of the court house yard.

Three daily mail lines radiate from Floydada; namely, Floydada-Matador-Childress, Floydada-Lockney-Plainview, and Floydada-Emma. Floydada is a distributing point for Ball and Hillcrest postoffices.

Floydada has no saloons, no beer joints, no blind tigers, no pool rooms, and no concomitant evils. A strong moral sentiment prevails. Her people are looking eastward, onward, upward.

L. T. LESTER, PRESIDENT, Canyon City, Texas. C. SURGINER, VICE PRES., Floydada, Texas. JAS. B. POSEY, CASHIER, Floydada, Texas.

The First National Bank OF FLOYDADA.

CAPITAL STOCK 30,000. We Want Your Business. FLOYDADA, TEXAS.

The LLANO ESTACADO NURSERIES, LOCKNEY and PLAINVIEW.

have bought the entire nursery stock of the Llano Estacado Nursery from D. J. Murray, and all of the Horlicher stock in Hale County. I believe the Plains country is destined to be the principal fruit and truck growing region of the West. My faith is attested by my works. I am running the biggest nursery business of ALL HOME-GROWN TREES in this section. It will pay you to see me before selecting your fruit, shade, and forest trees, vines and shrubbery. S. L. BOONE, PROP. Headquarters at Lockney, Texas.

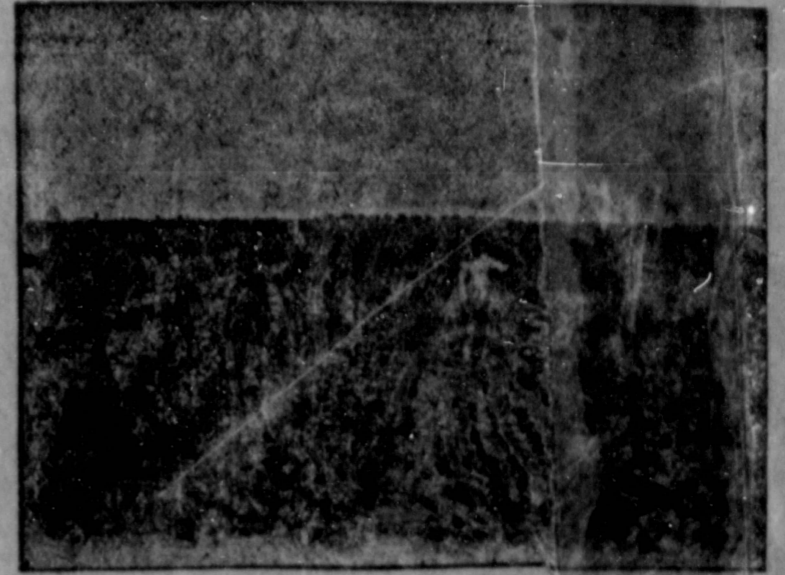
MISCELLANEOUS

THE MUNCY NURSERIES, LOCKNEY, TEXAS.
D. J. MUNCY, Prop. Originator of all the Nursery Business in Floyd County.



1. Jager Grape.
2. Lombard Plum.
3. Big Extra Grape.
4. Alton Peach.
5. Branch of Juicy Plum.
6. Cluster Apple.
7. Missouri Pippin Apple.
8. Dish of Golden Plums.
9. Whittaker Plum.
10. Perma Grape.
11. Limbs of Pool's Pride Plum.
12. Valuable New Grape.
13. Jar of Wickson Plums.

"Muncy's Trees Bear Fruits Like These."



Above is a block of Extra Fine One Year Apples. Photo Made on My Grounds.

Photo made on my grounds, August 7, 1903.

15 Years' Experience

Floyd County has taught me what varieties of fruit succeed and I have them at prices named here. This is not a complete list, but will give an idea what my trees will do for you. These prices are for trees delivered to your town this fall. My trees are sent by test. I had the best plum exhibit in Texas this summer at our State Nurserymen's Association. If you want to grow the best fruit, get my tested varieties. I work no agents. Write me quick for prices on your want list.

Brief Price List.

Pears—Large trees 25c each or \$20 per 100; small trees 15c each or \$12.50 per 100. Varieties: Koonce, Bartlett, Duchess, Kieffer. **Cherries** on "French stocks." 2 year trees 30c each, \$25 per 100. Varieties: Early Richmond, Paldwin, Dyehouse, Montmorency, English Morelo. **Berries**—Austin Dewberries, 50c per doz. \$2 per 100; Snyder and Early Harvest Black Berries 50c doz. \$3 per 100; Downing & Houghton Gooseberries, 10c each. **Grapes**—One year, No. 1, 10c each, \$1 doz. \$6.50 per 100; Varieties: Agawam, Worden, Concord, Niagara, Clinton, Black Spanish, Ca-

tawba; New Grapes at 25c each, \$20 per 100; Carrman, Brilliant, Rommel, Moor's Early, Big Extra and Jager. **Forest Tree Seedlings**, 200,000 of my own growing at low prices at \$1.50 to \$5 per 1000. Why pay \$5 per 1000 for Locust seedlings when you can buy them from me at \$1? **Special New Peaches**—Extra large trees 35c, 5 for \$1; medium trees 25c, 5 for \$1. Varieties: Alton, Pool's Choice, Snow Cling, Krumme's October. **Best Plums**—Extra large trees 35c, 3 for \$1; large trees 25c, small trees 20c. Varieties, numbered in order of ripening: Earliest of All, Milton, McCartney, Red June, Wilder, Eagle, Wonder, Pool's Pride, Golden, New America, Juicy, Wyatt Free, Parsons, Golden Beauty, Red October. **Apples**—Best tested varieties, 1 and 2 year trees, No 1, 5 to 7 ft., well branched, 15c

each, 12.50 per 100; No. 2, 4 to 5 ft., well branched, 12c each, \$10 per 100; No. 3, 3 to 4 ft., 10c each, 8 per 100; One year trees 2 to 3 ft., at 10c each, \$1 per doz. \$6.50 per 100. Summer and Fall Varieties: Yellow Transparent, Early Harvest, Duchess, Maiden Bush, Jonathan, Fall Pippin. Winter Varieties: Missouri Pippin, Vinasap, Mammoth Black Twig, Arkansas Black. **Apples**—Large trees 35c, 3 for \$1; medium trees 25c, 5 for \$1. Varieties: Biedsoe Fall, Cluster Summer, Ward's Choice Winter. **Peaches**—Tested varieties, named in order of ripening: Large trees 25c each, \$15 per 100; medium trees 15c each, \$12.50 per 100; small trees 10c, \$7 per 100. Varieties: Sweet Alexander, Triumph, Champion, Carman, Florida, Golden, Indian Cling, Heath Cling, November Heath.

Some readers may think of occurrences in early days that are mentioned in this publication. But so, they have no advantage in the writer of these sketches. He knows of scores of incidents he would like to have included. To all things there must some time be a limit.

The educated citizen should know the County in which he lives. This is an aphorism worthy of serious consideration. In a country where the people enjoy the blessings of self-government the duty of knowing their responsibilities as citizens devolves upon them. The person who learns all there is in this number will be a capable citizen of the County.

If any reader or critic of this publication should be constrained to find fault with what appears herein, let him remember that he and the writer see things differently because their minds are different; that while the paintings on the optical retina of both are doubtless the same, each sees what the eye brings means of seeing; that to Newton and his dog Diamond are two universes entirely different. The critic is besought to try to see some things in the light and from the standpoint of the writer. "Which, from the moral point of view, is the virtue of being humanly, of being kindly."

In some of the West the water contains much alkali that renders it unwholesome and bad-tasting. In this respect the Plains Country is far superior to other sections of the State.

If you want a home in Floyd County, see or write Arthur B. Duncan, Floydada, Texas. He has great bargains in school and patented lands.

There are scarcely any prairie dogs in the Plains. They do not seem to thrive here. But they exist in great numbers in that part of the West which is not on the Plains. The absence of these animals gives the Plains a decided advantage over the Breaks Country.

As an illustration of the fact that the winds from the west or southwest are regarded with despair by those who long for rain, the following is told of a minister of the Good News, who in times gone traveled over the Panhandle Country and imparted spiritual truth to dying men:

In the year of 1893, during the Plains Country's darkest and most unpropitious days, there was a drought that excited some unfavorable forebodings in the minds of many people. The aged preacher, who was revered for his piety and ability and respected for his common sense and sound judgment, was prevailed upon by some of the more zealous members of the congregation for which he was conducting a meeting to try the efficacy of special prayer service as a means of securing rain forthwith. He was too practical and philosophical to struggle against the southwest winds, as King Canute of Norse fame is reputed to have done against the encroaching waves of the sea. The minister twitched his beard and thoughtfully responded substantially as follows: "Well, brethren, I can pray for rain, but it will never rain as long as the wind continues to blow from the southwest."

The reverend gentleman evidently knew when not to pray.

An article on the flora and fauna of this country in this work would doubtless have made interesting reading to those seeking the broadest information pertaining to the Plains Country; but the lack of space and time renders the insertion of many articles of interest an absolute impossibility.

BUY A HOME FOR YOURSELF. Don't wait until you are advanced in years so that you may have the "old man's" home for a home. See me or phone me before buying. Long distance phone in office and at residence. Arthur B. Duncan, Floydada, Texas.

This is not, in a sense, a regular issue of The Hesperian. It contains no regular news or editorial matter or regular advertisements. It is simply a descriptive, statistical, historical, and miscellaneous treatise of Floyd County, in particular and of the Llano Estacado in general. It is edited solely and specially by The Hesperian's founder, who retired from the newspaper business nearly three years ago.

For the best results and quick sales list your lands with Arthur B. Duncan, Floydada, Texas.

In the early days here there was not much money in circulation among the settlers. They were confronted with a financial problem or a money question of their own. Sorghum, bush hog, and cedar wood were the country's principal media of exchange. Sorghum especially was regarded as legal tender. There was no surreptitious legislation against, or in favor of, any of these products.

640 acres of rich Plains land, about 13 miles northeast of Lockney, Floyd County, price, \$2,000.—W. M. Massie.

This number of The Hesperian has been in preparation since the middle of last September.

I have an extensive volume of real estate, improved and unimproved, for sale at bottom figures. Also pay taxes and run a business who wish by advertising in the Hesperian.

Pasture lands to lease, some fenced and some unfenced; one pasture of several sections, with a water tank, or any other thing you want. M. Massie.

FOR SALE OR TRADE—One or more nice young horses, broke to ride; might also let go a span of good horses or mules, broke to work. I will take land or cattle. If any difference from me, I will pay cash.—W. M. Massie, office west side Public Square, Floydada, Texas.

There are only small mesquite bushes in the timber that grows spontaneously on the Plains. These bushes never grow large. They were as large fifteen years ago as they are now. Mesquite is of a dwarfish growth in even the most sandy soils. In the Abilene Country this timber grows large and make good fence posts. It admits of a polish in cabinet work almost equal to those timbers that are quite popular for this purpose. Mesquite and live-oak are indigenous to the West.

An improved ranch of 33,000 acres of patented land in Cochran County at \$2.00 per acre. Terms on \$35,000. Address Buckley & Houghton, Floydada, Texas.

Many are the stories about the constancy and contumacity of the Plains winds that are related for the amusement of old-settlers and for the amazement of the newcomers.

It is told that a new-comer on one occasion, when the wind was blowing in a most aggressive and unsparing manner, asked an old-timer:

"Sir, does the wind always blow this way?"

"No, sir; not always. Sometimes it turns and blows the other way to beat forty," replied the old timer.

Of course, the old-timer was partly jesting in his reply. He desired to impress the new-comer with the necessity and philosophy of taking things by the smooth handle.

None of us can afford to lose the time constantly looking back and to what might have been. To do so is a wasting of strength. We should confine our efforts to looking forward to what may be done. It is our business to do, not to deplore.

The scholastic population of Floyd County for the first year after the organization, 1890-1891, was 97, and the State apportionment, \$436.50, or about \$4.12 per child within scholastic age. The total special district school taxes collected for the year amounted to \$1163.92. The total school fund was \$1600.42. The amount per per pupil was about \$16.50.

Ranch of 30,000 acres all patented in Crosby County. Any part from 1 section up to 50 sections at \$5.25 per acre, \$1.25 per acre cash, balance in 1, 2, 3, and 4 years, 8 per cent. Address Buckley & Houghton, Floydada, Texas.

Orders for copies of the Special Edition are coming in thick and fast this week. The people in general seem to know a good thing that is to be.

If you desire to buy or sell lands, or wish abstracts prepared or titles investigated and perfected, see or write Arthur B. Duncan, who has had 20 years' experience with Floyd County lands.

320 acres of rich Plains land, about 9 miles northwest of Lockney, Floyd County; price, reasonable.—W. M. Massie.

If you wish to buy or lease land, come to me. I am the real and acting agent for more than two hundred thousand acres of land.—W. M. Massie.

The writer of this publication has earnestly attempted to tell the truth in every subject treated. To build up this country on false representation would be building upon a false foundation, the sand! Carlyle has truly observed that "The first of all gospels is this, that a lie cannot endure forever."

Will W. Nelson, of Floydada, has pure ribbon cane molasses.

Some people in Floyd County may know all that this issue of The Hesperian contains. If so, they are indeed fortunate, and they are to be congratulated on their vigilance and receptiveness. For these people the Special Edition is not published; it is for those who do not know, but would like to know, the County in which they live and which they are helping to develop.

NAT G. WALLER, THE BIG FOUR

ABSTRACT AND REAL ESTATE AGENCY,

Land bought and sold on commission. Render lands for taxes, lease lands and pay taxes for non-residents. Notary Public. Thirteen years' experience in surveying and locating West Texas lands. Business placed in my hands will receive prompt attention. Persons desiring to locate for school purposes will do well to correspond with me. LOCKNEY, TEXAS.

W. T. MORTON, Notary Public. E. C. HENRY, County Clerk. TOM P. STERN, County Clerk.

The Floyd County Land Company,

LANDS BOUGHT, SOLD, LEASED, OR EXCHANGED.

On commission. Abstracts of title, prepared. Titles investigated and perfected. Non-residents represented in rendering for and paying taxes. We have had a number of years' experience with Floyd County lands, and respectfully solicit a part of your business. List your lands with us if for sale or lease.

Address: **Floyd County Land Co.** FLOYDADA, TEXAS.