

BRISCOE COUNTY.

IT IS THE BANNER COUNTY OF THE PANHANDLE.

The Eden of Texas, the Abiding Place of Enterprise, and the Paradise of the Homeseeker.

Five years ago the territory now comprising Briscoe county was a wide uninhabited expanse of prairie with nothing to break the reigning quiet of the primeval plains save, now and then, the howl of a hungry coyote, the hiss of a rattlesnake, or the gloomy, oft repeated call of the lonesome curlew.

The coyote's howl and the curlew's call have been succeeded by the low of cattle, the "gee, haw" of the sturdy farmer and the glad shout of the schoolboy. The ring of the hammer and the hum of the saw are heard in the land, windmills dot the country everywhere, houses of worship have sprung up as if by magic and religion and civilization here, as elsewhere, go hand in hand.

"The Plains" is a vast undulating prairie averaging 3,000 feet above sea level. The banks that surround the plains rise precipitously and at intervals are broken by canyons that wind their circuitous way back into the interior. In one of these wonderful and awe-inspiring works of nature, the fierce and once powerful tribe of Comanche Indians made their last great struggle against the relentless march of a civilization that was ruthlessly wrest from the ill-starred red man his possessions in the new world.

Balzac's exquisite wild-flower, "Le Lys dans la Vallée," contains a somewhat perplexing reference to a certain herb, the name and description of which do not agree. The explanation, however, does not lay the novelist open to the charge of carelessness, but, on the contrary, shows how painstaking he was in seeking his "material." His first desire, he says, was to learn the names of all the little herbs we tread upon in country places, along the roadsides, in the meadows, everywhere, says Warrent Magazine. He began by asking his own gardener.

"Oh, monsieur," said the gardener, "nothing easier to know than that." "What is this, then, since it is so easy?" "Well, some is Luzerne; this is clover, this is sainfoin."

The county was organized in 1892 and by wise management of the financial affairs of the county we are in the best financial condition of any county in the Panhandle. No heavy taxes, no burdensome loads to carry, no big courthouse debt to carry on

the other hand, low tax, good people, good land, public spirit and universal enterprise.

Silverton, the county site, was laid out in 1892. Now we have stores, hotels, blacksmith shops, drug stores, physicians, livery stables and lawyers; also a six-column newspaper, published every Saturday, subscription price \$1 a year. Don't take it if you don't want to keep posted on everything. We have daily mails, lodges of the different secret orders and, in fact, everything that goes to make up a progressive, thriving town. We have strictly a cosmopolitan population. We have people from everywhere. Here the small truck farmer from the north meets on a common level the big cotton planter from Dixie. Here the fruit man from north Arkansas clasps hands with the big ranchman of the Panhandle. Here the genial, jovial Irishman converses with the matter-of-fact German about Gladstone's home rule policy; here the conventional Englishman greets the hardy emigrant from the land of the ill-fated Mary Stuart and asks him what is the news across the "gloomy sea;" here the dreamy eyed and ever chivalrous Spanish knight tells of his adventures in his ancestral hills of Andalusia, and here in fact all meet on a common level and work for the upbuilding of the town and county. Capital finds safe investment and labor has sure reward. The soil will produce anything that will grow in the temperate zone and responsive to the plowshare may now be seen all over Briscoe county fields of waving grain, such as wheat, oats, millet and everything that satisfies the temporal wants of God's creatures. Aladdin has thrown the rays of his wonderful lamp across our "Garden of the Gods," and civilization has sprung up as if by magic. The wand of the magician has swept over us and truly the spirits that hover o'er this favored county seem to possess the whistle carried by the Danish boy with Jason in his celebrated trip in the Argo in search of the Golden Fleece.

A cordial invitation is extended to homeseekers to come; the land is inviting to the man who wants to live in peace and plenty; the people say come, the county says come, the newspaper says come and who-soever will let him come and share in the healthy development of a country that has attracted the attention of the continents and must at last be divided where the lion and the lamb shall lie down together. Come! come! The very birds will meet you and in their sweetest notes bid you welcome, thrice welcome, to the land of hospitality, generosity and enterprise.

"The fact is," he returned, after a few minutes' examination, "I don't know any flora but that of Malabar. If we were in India now I could tell you the names of countless little plants; but here—"

"Here you are just as ignorant as I am." The next day I went to the Jardin des Plantes and questioned one of the most learned professors there.

"Oh, M. de Balzac," he said, "what a thing to ask me! Here we are busy with the larch, tamarisk and other such families. Life is too short to come down to these little herbs. Where are you going to put your story?"

"In Touraine," "Very good; then the first peasant you meet in Touraine can tell you more than the most learned of us here."

Down I went into Touraine, but there I found the peasants just as ignorant as the rest; and so it became a melancholy foregone conclusion that I should have given me such happiness to venture into the blue-

A WHITE BABOON.

He is a Rara Avis and is in Captivity in England.

A white baboon, declared to be the only one ever heard of, has arrived in Bedford, England, from South Africa. Two years ago some trek Boers came upon this baboon and his mother in the Marchisa range in the district of Johannesburg. After a fierce fight the mother was killed and the young male was led away to captivity. He has been brought up in Africa, and has just been taken to England.

He is now full grown, between three and four feet in height. He is pure white in color. His photograph was taken with great difficulty, owing to the baboon's restless disposition. He was finally induced to remain still and in a suitable position by a bottle of milk held between the bars of his cage.

He is a very heavy, well grown baboon and excites attention by his ceaseless activity. He has a remarkably powerful voice, resembling the bark of a dog, but harsher and further reaching. Rest and quiet are not possible in his neighborhood. The baboon is possibly a member of a white variety of the chaema family, or possibly a case of albinism, which is found occasionally in most races of animals.

The chaema, or pig-faced baboon, is a native of South Africa, where he is very frequently found, and is the largest of the baboon family. He ordinarily grows to be as large as a mastiff, but is much heavier. It is the custom of his species to travel about in troops. These would be very formidable parties for men to encounter if the baboons were not in the habit of running away. When angered, however, or pressed for hunger, they occasionally attack men and human dwellings. They are very noisy and playful and generally not bad tempered. The fur is usually brown in color.

The baboon is not easily domesticated, but he has been occasionally tamed. There are reports of a famous baboon who used to sit in a chair at Exotic Gardens, in London, smoke a pipe and drink gin and water. A fondness for these habits is frequent in the monkey family.

The baboon is among the most attractive of monkeys, although his position is closely contested by the orang outang. Probably the mandrill baboon, whose swollen cheeks are striped with blue, scarlet and purple, would capture the prize for ugliness. In fact, this particular baboon is said to put to flight the fiercest beasts of the forests by his personal appearance.

The baboon feeds principally on vegetables and eggs, of which he can conceal eight at once in his capacious cheek pouches.

NATURE'S CRUELTY.

The Ichneumon Fly Makes the Fly's Natural Enemy Serve its Purpose. The Ichneumon fly of Caylon is the natural enemy of the spider. This insect is green in color, and in form resembles a wasp, with a marvelously thin waist. It makes its nest of well worked clay, and then goes on a hunting expedition. Its victims are invariably spiders of various kinds, but all are subject to the same mode of treatment. A scientific sting injects some poison, which effectually paralyzes the luckless spider, which is then carried off to the nest, and there fastened with a dab of moist clay. Another and another victim is brought to this chamber of horrors. Then the present mother Ichneumon fly proceeds to deposit her eggs, one in the body of each spider, which can just move its legs, in a vague, aimless manner but can offer no resistance.

This done, the fly returns to her work as a mason. She prepares more clay, and builds up the entrance to this ghastly cell. Then she commences a new cell, which she finishes in like manner, and then closes; then she adds yet another cell, and so proceeds until her store of eggs are all provided for, and her task in life being accomplished she dies, leaving her evil brood to hatch at leisure. In due time these horrid little maggots come to life, and find themselves cradled in a larder of fresh meat. Each poor spider is still alive, and his juices afford nutriment for the Ichneumon grub till it is ready to pass into the chrysalis stage, thence to emerge as a winged fly, fully prepared to carry out the traditions of its ancestors with regard to spiders.

A Delicate Burden. The expressman had just picked up an elaborately packed article. Excelsior fluttered from between the slats and the admonition "Handle with care" was painted in big letters. "I wonder what's in here?" he exclaimed. "Something that he's mighty particular about." "Yes," replied a fellow-workman. "Here it says 'fragile' and just under it 'breakable' and on the other side is the warnin' 'lift gently.'"

A Useful Canal.

Some of the people of Pittsburg are endeavoring to build a ship canal from Lake Erie to the Ohio river near that city, and a committee has been appointed to push the matter and make the necessary estimates. Engineers say that the water supply would be abundant, and it is calculated that the canal could be constructed for about \$25,000,000. It would have a capacity of 15,000,000 tons per annum as much as the railroads that cover the same territory. Probably congress will be asked soon to put up some of the cash for the canal. What public purpose can be served by it it would be hard to show, for however large ships it might bring from Lake Erie to the Ohio river, there is scarcely a month in the year when they could get down the river to the gulf.

Morgantown, N. C., thinks that it has one of the characteristics of the celestial city. It has streets of gold. The other day a Mr. Hinton was crossing Union street in that town when something glittering caught his eye. He picked it up and found it to be a lump of yellow metal of irregular shape. He took it to a jeweler, who pronounced it to be a nugget of almost pure gold, worth several dollars. The streets of Morgantown were macadamized with stone from placer gold mines just outside the city limits. The mines were worked in so crude a fashion that it is believed by many that they still contain valuable deposits of gold, though Mr. Hinton is the first one to strike it rich on the street.

She Caught Him.

Mrs. McLaughlin in Washingtonville, N. J., has demonstrated the utility of bicycles for policemen. A few days ago a negro burglar entered her house and stole her jewelry. She missed it immediately and being an expert bicyclist she pocketed a revolver, got out her wheel and gave chase. She took the robber about a mile before she was overtaken, and she revolver made no objections to restoring the property on the spot.

An Arabian Horse.

A thoroughbred Arabian horse on an ordinary course can be easily distanced by a European racer, but for endurance of fatigue, docility and for speed maintained at long distances, so long as to appear incredible, a good Nejedee will outstrip for twenty-four hours in summer and forty-eight in winter without requiring drink.

Number of Tunnels. The world's tunnels are estimated to number about 1142, with a total length of 14 miles. There are about 1000 broad tunnels, ninety canal tunnels, forty conduit tunnels, and two subaqueous tunnels, having an aggregate length of about 350 miles, or 56 miles, eighty-five miles and nine miles respectively.

A Septuple Star.

In the constellation of Orion there is a star known as Theta Orionis, which when viewed through a powerful telescope appears as a septuple star, thus presenting magnificent panoramas of seven suns, revolving about each other. It is to be supposed that each of these suns is encircled by planets and these again by moons.

A New Kid.

A new form of delirium tremens has attacked a New York toper. While under the influence of a lively jag he was shocked by an electric wire. Now, when he has taken too much whisky, he fancies he sees spitting electric wires and writhing snakes, which shower him with sparks.

Napoleon's Shirts.

One of the three shirts possessed by Napoleon at St. Helena and divided at his death among his companions, has been sold at auction for 150 francs.

Russia, Roumania and Servia are the most illiterate countries in Europe, 80 per cent of the population being unable to read and write.

It doesn't cost a man anything to have opinions. It's ventilating them that is expensive.

Hall's Catarrh Cure.

Is a constitutional cure. Price, 75c. Men change their character in nothing more surely than in what they think laughable.

PIERCE'S GREAT CURE

The woman who is tired, and has heavy, dragging-down sensations, pain in the back, and headache, should take warning in time. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the best tonic and nerve at this time. It is a positive remedy for all irregularities, weakness and derangement of the female system.

Advertisement for Pierce's Great Cure, featuring a portrait of a woman and text describing the medicine's benefits for various ailments.

Advertisement for U. S. Government Chemists, reporting on the purity and strength of ROYAL Baking Powder.

It Hurts Their Religion.

A Toronto paper thinks that sojourning in the United States does no good. Commenting on the fact that some 40,000 of these people, who have been making a longer or shorter stay in this country, have lately returned to their homes in the dominion, it says: "Their wanderings will scarcely have made them more dutiful children of the church. Having been so long beyond the reach of their spiritual guides and superiors, they are likely to be somewhat unregularly submissive, even before they went away; for one reason assigned, for their migration was the heavy tribute they had to render to the church. Now they will probably be more restive under these exactions and the poisonous example may leave the whole mass."

A New Instrument.

Luigi Gamba, a piano tuner and repairer of Constantinople, has invented a new musical instrument, which has the appearance of a miniature upright piano. The hammers, however, which the keys set in motion are not felt or leather bound, but metal-tipped, and strike, instead of strings, thin plates or tongues of steel. The sound produced is very pure and delicate, though not very powerful. He calls it the "Angelic Voice."

The Invincible Indians.

It appears that Mexico is now engaged in exterminating the Aztec Indians, and with the usual success. Cortez tried his hand at it in vain, and ever since his day the various governments of Mexico have been engaged in periodic attempts of the same sort, and with the same success. The troublesome fellows won't exterminate. Secure in their mountain strongholds, they maintain their own independence, and sooner or later repulse with great loss any force sent against them. They have lately met the Mexican troops, greatly to the discouragement of the latter.

Richard Hennig concludes that a great food was contemporaneous with the ice age, converting countries in milder latitudes into a swamp and sea and leaving only isolated lands—Egypt, for instance—free from inundation.

Reduced the Record.

In ten years American cyclists have reduced the mile record from 2:43 to less than 2:00, a feat once supposed to be impossible. The improvement has been gained by better machines and tracks and pneumatic tires, as well as general skill and muscle among riders.

Notice.

I want every man and woman in the United States who are interested in the opium and whisky habits to have one of my books on these diseases. Address, R. M. Woolley, Atlanta, Ga., box 377, and one will be sent you free.

For Impure or Thin Blood, Weakness, Malaria, Neuralgia, Indigestion and Biliousness, take Brown's Iron Bitters—it gives strength, making old persons feel young, and young persons strong, pleasant to take.

To have in general but little feeling seems to be the only security against feeling too much on any particular occasion.

The Modern Beauty.

Thrives on good food and sunshine, with plenty of exercise in the open air. Modern gives with.

Karl's Clover Root Tea.

The great blood purifier, gives freedom and clearance to the complexion and cures Constipation. 25c. per bottle.

Hansen's Magic Corn Salve.

Warranted to cure all corns, bunions, blisters, etc. Buy at all drug stores.

For Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Stomach Disorders, use Brown's Iron Bitters—the Best Tonic. It rebuilds the system, cleans the blood and strengthens the muscles. A splendid medicine for weak and debilitated persons.

If the Baby is Cutting Teeth.

Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children's Teething.

When a woman announces to her husband that she wants to have a plain talk with him, it means she wants him to confess.

Large advertisement for CLAIRETTE SOAP, featuring an illustration of a woman washing her face and text stating "No Soap will do the work half so well as CLAIRETTE SOAP."

Advertisement for MORPHINE and OPIUM Habit Cured in 24 Hours, No Money Required until cure is made.

Advertisement for McELREES' WINE OF CARDUI, For Female Diseases, featuring an illustration of a woman.

Advertisement for MAILED FREE "UP TO DATE DAIRYING" containing full instruction, how to secure Higher Grade Products, more.

Advertisement for MORE BUTTER with LESS LABOR and MORE MONEY, featuring the NORMANDY (Patented) System, DANISH DAIRY SYSTEM and ELGIN SEPARATOR SYSTEM.

Advertisement for PILES, HEMORRHOIDS, and VARICOCELE, featuring an illustration of a man and text describing the treatment.

