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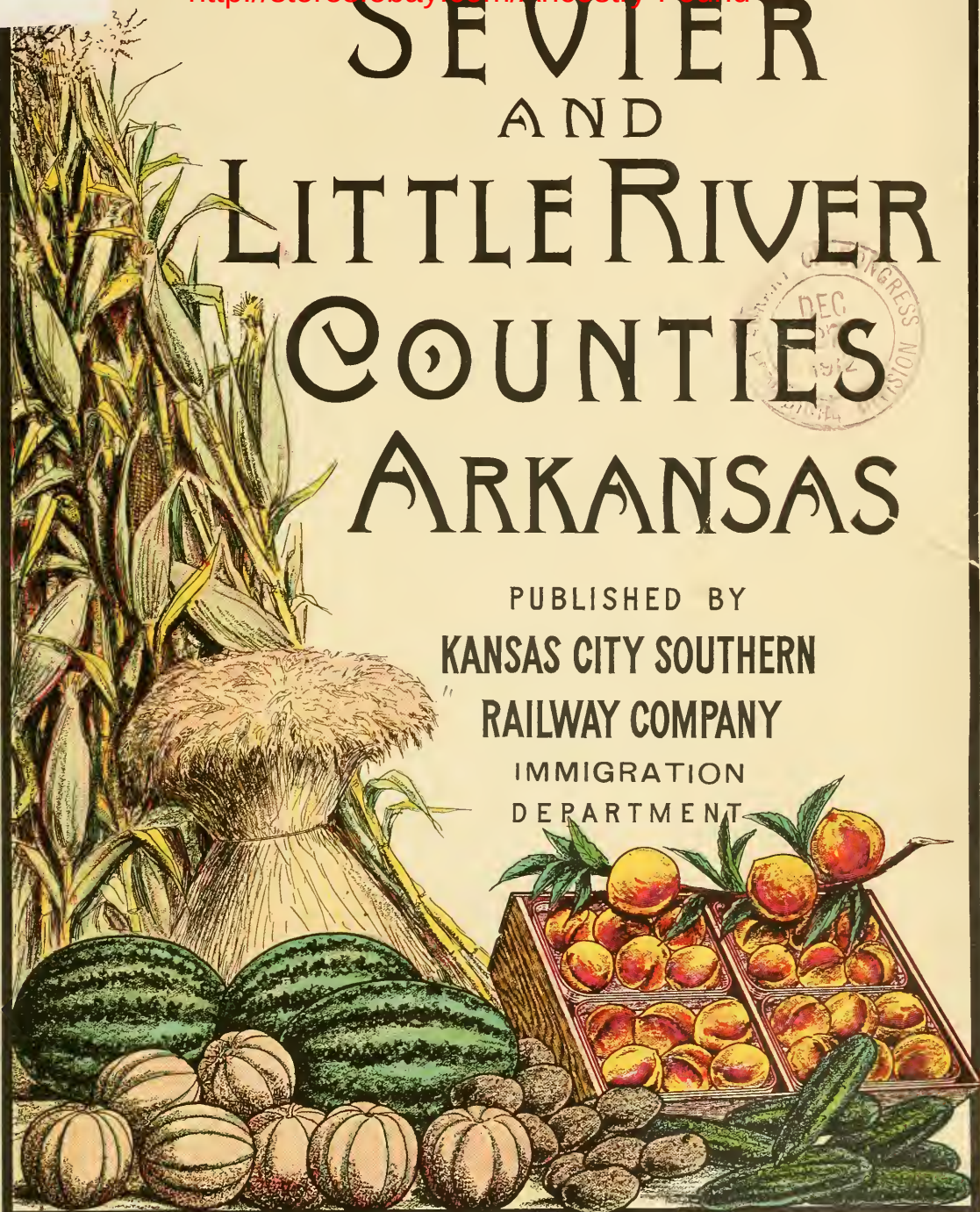
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SEVIER AND LITTLE RIVER COUNTIES ARKANSAS



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AN OLD PEACH ORCHARD, NEAR LOCKESBURG, ARK.

Sevier County, Arkansas

Sevier County lies almost in the southwest corner of the state and in the most western tier of counties. It borders on Oklahoma for 17 miles and extends southward to within 20 miles of Red River and the Texas line.

This county is in the southern foothills of the Ozark Mountains and its general slope is south and southeast. It is well watered and well drained. It is bounded on the east by the Saline River and on the south by the Little River. The Cossatot and Rolling Fork rivers cross the county from north to south, emptying into Little River. Numerous tributaries, fed principally by perpetual springs, flow into all four of these rivers. Sevier County embraces about 600 square miles, or 384,000 acres. Eighty per cent of its area will be tillable when the timber has been cleared away.

About half the soil in the county is red. The color is due to the presence of considerable quantities of iron, which guarantees a rich color and flavor to peaches and other fruits. Some of the red land is gravelly and some is sandy. Both kinds have a subsoil of red clay. There are two kinds of black land in the county. One is a black sandy loam, found principally in the river and creek bottoms and very productive. The other is known as black lime land, found mostly in the lower Cossatot valley in the southeastern part of the county. It is especially adapted to the cultivation of alfalfa.

The climate of Sevier County is one of the best found anywhere in the United States. It is remarkably healthful and is free from extremes and sudden changes. Lying in the southern foothills of the Ozarks, Sevier County is protected by those mountains from the icy blizzards of the North. From the southern boundary of the county an almost unbroken plain slopes gently to the Gulf of Mexico, allowing the gulf breeze to sweep inland and temper the enervating heat of summer. Even in the hottest weather the heat in the day-time is but little greater than in the North Central states. The nights are always cool enough for one to get plenty of refreshing sleep.

Protected by wooded hills for many miles in every direction except southward, Sevier County has little to fear from either drouths or storms. The homeseeker from any section where climatic extremes prevail will find a pleasing change on coming to Sevier County.

Agriculture has succeeded lumbering as the leading industry in Sevier County and

is destined to become still more so when more of the land is cleared. Cotton is grown extensively and yields from half a bale to a bale per acre. Heretofore it has been the leading cash crop grown in Sevier County. The cotton output is from 10,000 to 12,000 bales each year, which at usual prices brings into the county from \$60,000 to \$75,000.

Next in importance is the corn crop. The uplands yield about 25 bushels per acre and the bottom lands about 40 bushels. Oats and millet do well and are grown extensively. Wheat, rye and kaffir corn are grown in small quantities. Sugar cane yields as high as 700 gallons per acre. Sorghum is grown extensively both for molasses and for hay. Cowpeas are grown for hay and to store nitrogen in the soil. Peanuts yield abundantly and are used for hay as well as other purposes.

Timothy, clover and red top have been grown in small quantities and do well in most parts of the county. Alfalfa produces four crops each season on the black lime lands of the southeastern part of the county. Bermuda grass thrives here and is excellent for lawns, pasturage and hay. It also prevents erosion and soil waste. Among other crops grown in smaller quantities are broom corn and tobacco.

Two crops of Irish potatoes can be grown each season on the same soil, the first crop being ready for the market by the latter part of May. The red Triumph is the favorite and shipments are made in car lots. Tomatoes are grown for shipment in car lots and for canning at the local cannery. Sevier County tomatoes are noted for their size, color, flavor and shipping qualities. Seventy-five acres are being grown this season in the vicinity of De Queen for the local cannery. Rocky Ford cantaloupes are shipped extensively. Melons do equally well, but have not been shipped on a large scale. Lettuce, onions, spinach, radishes, cabbage, turnips, beets, carrots, okra and other kinds of garden truck are easily grown and yield abundantly.

The soil of Sevier County is especially adapted to peach culture. All varieties do well here. The Early Wheeler, the Sneed and the Elberta are the varieties most grown.

The largest commercial peach orchard in the world is in Sevier County, between De Queen and Horatio. It is operated by the Southern Orchard Planting Company and contains about 3,000 acres of bearing trees.

Early varieties of apples do equally as well. Plums are shipped extensively. Apri-



SOUTHERN ORCHARD PLANTING COMPANY'S ORCHARD, HORATIO, ARK.

cots, cherries, figs, grapes and pears are grown. The strawberries that are grown on the uplands are of fine color and flavor. Blackberries, dewberries and raspberries are beginning to receive attention and give very satisfactory results.

Pecans are indigenous in the river and creek bottoms and never fail to produce. The soft-shelled varieties bear well when grafted on the native stock. The chestnut does well on the uplands and can be grown from seed or grafted into the native chinquapin. The Japanese persimmon yields abundantly and produces fine fruit.

Because the county is of comparatively recent development, stock raising has not received very much attention. Horses, mules, cows and hogs are being raised in increasing numbers and the grade is being improved all the time. Sheep and goats thrive on the uplands. Poultry of all kinds do well and increasing attention is being given to standard breeds of poultry. Eggs are shipped and there are good openings in this county for persons wishing to produce poultry and eggs for the markets. Chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks and guineas thrive. Good honey is made from the native flowers, but not much attention has been given as yet to bee-keeping on a commercial scale.

Most of the large game has been killed or driven away, but small game is yet abundant and the streams are full of fish.

The great mineral wealth of Sevier County is as yet undeveloped. Enough prospecting has been done, however, by expert mineralogists to demonstrate the fact that this county is well supplied with minerals of various kinds.

Vast deposits of antimony have been found at several places in the northern part of the county, covering more than 27 square

miles. Just south of the antimony deposits is a belt of lead and zinc, covering 50 square miles and stretching east and west clear across the county. In one 200-foot shaft several distinct levels of lead and rosin zinc have been found.

A well defined vein of quartz has been found in large quantities in a shaft about four miles north of De Queen. On being assayed this quartz was found to contain 120 ounces of silver and 210 pounds of copper to each ton, with a trace of gold. At present prices of ore this percentage of silver and copper is worth \$100 a ton.

A considerable deposit of manganese of high grade has been found about five miles south of De Queen. Iron exists in considerable quantities in the red lands of the county, giving an especially rich color and flavor to peaches and other fruit. Iron, sulphur and calcium are found in solution in the sheet of excellent artesian water that is found in abundance at a depth of from 200 to 400 feet in various parts of the county. Besides the artesian water there are numerous flowing streams fed by perennial springs, and plenty of water for domestic purposes can be had all over the county at depths ranging from 20 to 40 feet.

Chalk of the kind used in making Portland cement has been found on the southeastern border of the county. A half-mile belt of lime-stone extends east and west clear across the county.

Official reports include Sevier County in the geological area embraced in the Caddo oil and gas field. It is on a line between the oil and gas fields of Oklahoma and those of Louisiana. A test well is now being drilled in the southeastern part of the county at an expense of several thousand dollars. Both oil and gas have been found, but the supply is insufficient owing to the shallow depth

of the well. It is confidently expected that oil in large quantity will be found at a greater depth. Leases have been taken on 1,200 acres near Lockesburg and on 4,000 acres a few miles west of De Queen. More test wells are to be put down soon. The famous Trenton rock crops out by upheaval at several points near De Queen. Lignite and coal indications have been found at several places in the county and expert mineralogists say all surface indications give promise of coal, oil and gas in immense quantities.

A deposit of asphaltum has been found about twelve miles southeast of De Queen. Umber of very durable grade and of three distinct colors has been found at points ranging from four to twelve miles east of De Queen. Shale suitable for pressed brick and tile is found six miles north. Sand and gravel suitable for building purposes is widely distributed in the county. Salt is found, though probably not in such quantities as to be commercially profitable. A sparkling white brilliant, approximating the diamond in luster, though not in value, is found in many places in the county, as a result of geological upheaval. Some granite has been found, though it has not been determined whether it is here as a result of glacial action or geological upheaval.

Sevier County was heavily timbered until quite recently and still exports large quantities of lumber and other timber products, including cross-ties and telegraph poles. The timber industry in this county now ranks second, as agriculture has advanced to first place. But for many years to come there will be enough timber in this county for local use and plenty of timber for fuel and general farm use. Most of the timber of commercial value is yellow pine, but there are still considerable quan-

tities of red oak, white oak, hickory, cypress, sweet gum, red cedar, sycamore, ash, elm and holly.

Except for the lumber industry, manufacturing in Sevier County is yet in its infancy. Heretofore lumbering has been one of the leading industries of this county, second only to farming in importance. Numerous saw mills and planing mills are at work converting the forests of yellow pine into building material and the oak and hickory into stock for wagons and farming implements. Oak and gum cross-ties are shipped extensively. Cypress is used for lumber, shingles and telegraph poles. The cedar brakes yield large quantities of telephone poles.

The ice factory at De Queen has a capacity of 25 tons a day, and in connection with it has a bottling works with a daily capacity of 500 dozen bottles. The same company that operates the ice factory supplies the people of De Queen with electric lights and with power for operating small electric motors.

The canning factory at De Queen now takes care of considerable quantities of fruit and truck and is to be enlarged to meet the increasing demand. Many of the fruit growers have installed home canneries to take care of such fruit as cannot be shipped advantageously. A box factory operated in connection with one of the local planing mills supplies boxes and crates for the shippers and will be enlarged as occasion may require.

Several cotton gins and grist mills in various parts of the county gin the cotton crop and grind part of the corn crop into meal and chops.

The possibilities in the way of industrial expansion in Sevier County are great. The natural resources have not at all been devel-



HAULING PEACHES TO PACKING SHEDS, SOUTHERN ORCHARD PLANTING CO.

SEVIER AND LITTLE RIVER COUNTIES, ARK.

oped, yet they are present in such variety, that their exploitation in course of time may become one of the most important industries of this county. There are great possibilities in the chalk, clay, shale, asphalt, oil, lead and zinc, antimony, manganese and other indications found in so many places. Water power is abundant in the county and a good many thousand horse power can be developed when the need for the same comes.

The county already has good railway facilities. The Kansas City Southern Railway crosses the county from north to south with a total mileage of 29.88 miles in the county. A direct freight and express service to Kansas City, Port Arthur and all intermediate points is regularly maintained. The De Queen & Eastern Railway has a mileage of 21.63 miles in the county and extends on eastward into Howard County. The Memphis, Paris & Gulf Railway cuts across the southeastern part of Sevier County with a mileage of five miles.

Fairly good public roads now connect all parts of the county. The more important ones are being graded and graveled at the rate of five or six miles a year. There are now 25 miles of graveled roads in the county and more are being built each year. There are in the county about forty bridges, of which nine are of steel and concrete construction, costing \$40,000. The wooden bridges are being replaced with steel construction as rapidly as practicable. All graveled roads are on easy grades and all culverts are being built of concrete.

There are sixty-eight school districts in the county and a school population of 6,222. In the larger towns good graded schools are maintained, with a nine-months course. All the larger towns have local telephone ex-

changes and all parts of the county are reached by rural lines. The railway mail service on three lines, fourteen post offices, five star routes and six rural free delivery routes, provide the necessary postal facilities. The financial dealings are transacted through seven banks. The various public buildings, worth about \$40,000, are new and in good condition.

The present population of Sevier County is 22,000, of whom about 4,000 reside in De Queen, the county seat, about 1,500 at Lockesburg, and from 500 to 1,000 each at Gillham, Horatio and other points.

As has been shown in the foregoing paragraphs, Sevier County has vast natural resources only partially developed. Soil, climate, mineral resources, transportation facilities, citizenship and social institutions unite to make this an ideal location in which to make a home and rear a family.

Immigration from the older states to Sevier County has been steady if not very large. Sevier County had no great bodies of land which could be bought by colonizers and be sold to farmers, in tracts to suit. The lands are owned by hundreds of individuals and a few lumber companies and are sold by their owners at their worth. Deeded land can be bought at prices ranging from \$5 to \$50 an acre, according to the quality, location and improvements made thereon, and in the parts of the county farthest away from the railroads some public land can still be homesteaded. On these deeded lands, which are as cheap as lands can be had anywhere, there are most excellent opportunities for those who desire to engage in general farming, stock raising, commercial trucking, fruit growing, dairying and poultry raising.



GATHERING THE PEACH CROP, LOCKESBURG, ARK.

Gillham, Sevier County, Arkansas

Gillham, Sevier County, Arkansas, is a town of 400 people, situated on the Kansas City Southern Railway, 421 miles south of Kansas City and twelve miles north of De Queen, the county seat. It is a brisk little business point, drawing trade from an extensive territory, extending far into Oklahoma. There are in Gillham three large general merchandise establishments which carry stocks valued from \$15,000 to \$25,000 each, and the town transacts a gross annual business of \$150,000 to \$200,000. The town has also a well equipped drug store, a furniture store, a large warehouse, two grocery stores, two good hotels, two blacksmith shops, barber shop, telephone exchange office, restaurant, three churches, a good school, the Bank of Gillham and the Gillham Real Estate Company.

Gillham is situated in a rich mineral belt, which is about seven miles wide and some forty odd miles long, extending from the Saline River, in the eastern part of Sevier County, far into Oklahoma. The general direction is from northeast to southwest, nearly all of the belt being in the north quarter of the county. The minerals found in this region are lead, zinc, copper, antimony, iron ore and some manganese. Lead, zinc and antimony ores have been shipped from Gillham in considerable quantity, but mining activity in this region has always been spasmodic. Six miles southeast of Gillham is the Bellah Mine, which has shipped lead, zinc and antimony; four miles northwest, the Davis Mine, producing lead and zinc; six miles west, the Copper King, partially developed and producing copper, lead and zinc; three miles west, the Balcom Mines, lead and zinc; two miles south, the Valley Mine, producing antimony; three miles east, the Wolfon Mine, antimony, and eight miles east, the Antimony Mines. All of these have shipped ores. Besides there are numerous prospects in various stages of development, all with good indications of mineral. The ore is found in five or six parallel mineral veins from three to twenty feet wide, extending across the northern part of the county.

As stated, there has been no systematic continuous mining, as mining is conducted in other localities, but the showings made have been good enough to warrant a thorough exploration of the field and this may be expected in the near future.

Of the adjacent country, say the lands

within a radius of five miles, about 65 per cent is tillable, and half of this is taken up in farms. On the average farm from fifteen to twenty-five per cent is in actual cultivation. The average production is about 30 bushels of corn, or one-third bale of cotton to the acre. The cotton shipments from Gillham amount to about 2,000 bales per annum. The corn and other forage crops are consumed at home and are shipped in the form of hogs and cattle. About 200 acres are devoted to the cultivation of fruits and truck, and a large acreage is splendidly adapted for this purpose. Strawberries yield fine crops and if produced in commercial quantity would yield handsome profits. Potatoes are grown twice a year and from two to three crops are grown of most vegetables. Cannery stock of all kinds can be had very cheaply, and broom corn, sorghum, timothy, blue grass, clover, millet, etc., do very well. The natural pasturage is good, and as land is very cheap, there are fine openings for goat and sheep ranches and for raising cattle on a large scale. We are far enough south to produce an income from the farm nearly every month of the year, if we farmed with that end in view. Poultry eggs, butter, etc., we can sell and produce every month in the year. In March we ship green onions, radishes, etc.; in April, strawberries and vegetables; in May, potatoes, beans, lettuce, etc.; June, early peaches, early apples, spring chickens, etc.; July, peaches, etc.; August and September, peaches, all sorts of vegetables, potatoes; October, corn, grain, hay, peaches; November, December and January, poultry, eggs, live stock, cotton, sweet potatoes, etc., etc. The natural pasturage will be good nine months in the year, and during the winter months live stock is easily carried through, because the weather is mild and but little feed and shelter, as compared with Northern localities, are required. There is a large production of railroad ties, staves, etc.

Land good for general farming, for raising live stock, for fruit and commercial truck, can be had on easy terms at prices ranging from \$5 per acre to \$10 per acre, unimproved land, and for \$10 to \$30 per acre for improved land. Land is generally cleared at a cost of \$6 to \$10 per acre. During the past year about forty farms have been cleared at an average cost of \$7.50 per acre. Fifteen new families have recently settled in this neighborhood.

Horatio, Sevier County, Arkansas

Horatio, Ark., is 441 miles south of Kansas City, and 47 miles north of Texarkana, Tex., and about 8 miles from De Queen, the county seat. It has a population of 1,600 and is one

of the old towns of the county, in fact, it was the first town in Sevier County to be supplied with railroad facilities. It has been a trading point for a large scope of country

for many years. It has a bank, with \$50,000 deposits, ten or twelve large mercantile establishments and handles from 1,500 to 2,500 bales of cotton per year. Among its shipments during 1910 were 500 car loads of peaches, 800 crates of cantaloupes, 450 crates of strawberries, 2,000 pounds of poultry, 20 car loads of cattle, 2,000 cases of eggs, 10 car loads of hogs, 200 car loads of hardwood lumber, 325 car loads of railroad ties and 500 car loads of pine lumber. Car load shipments of Irish potatoes are frequently made. In town and within two miles are three large saw mills, a shingle mill, quarries, gravel washing plant and minor industries.

The largest enterprise at Horatio and the largest of its kind in the United States is the great peach orchard of the Southern Orchard Planting Company, which contains over three thousand acres all planted to Elberta peaches. Not all the trees in this orchard are yet bearing, and the year 1910 was not a good peach year, but the total shipments from this orchard and one or two small orchards in the vicinity amounted to 500 car loads. Peaches were unusually high

in price, as the crop was scant almost everywhere.

Horatio has been growing steadily, adding one or two hundred people yearly to its population, opening up new lines of business and gradually replacing its older buildings with modern brick and stone structures.

The soil and other conditions are similar to those of De Queen and Lockesburg, with the difference perhaps that more land is available for new farms right here than at the other points. There has been a regular increase in the rural population from year to year, and during the year 1910 one hundred new families settled in the vicinity, and of these, fifteen opened up new farms, clearing one hundred acres of new land and making improvements valued at \$2,500.

The total acreage in cultivation within five miles of Horatio is 20,000 acres, of which 4,100 acres are planted in fruits, 3,000 acres in corn, 1,500 acres in oats and small grain, 3,000 in cotton, 250 in commercial truck and 350 acres in hay and forage.

Land values are very low, ranging from \$5 per acre to \$15 or \$20 for unimproved, and from \$10 per acre to \$100 per acre for improved land.

Lockesburg, Sevier County, Arkansas

Lockesburg is one of the oldest towns in Arkansas and, until a few years ago, was the county seat of Sevier County. It is a good little business town, and at the present time has a population of 1,250, a high school, a graded school, several handsome churches, a bank, two or three hotels, several saw mills, grist mills and cotton gins. Some twenty-five or more large mercantile stocks are carried and from five to six thousand bales of cotton are marketed here annually. A large business is done in the shipping of live stock and hardwood timbers in the form of railroad ties, barrel staves, fence posts and mine timbers. The fruit and truck growing industry has developed into a profitable business and car load lots of peaches, berries, potatoes, eggs and poultry are shipped from this station. The adjacent country has in part been farmed for over seventy-five years, but Sevier County remained thinly settled until the Kansas City Southern Railway was built, when several new prosperous towns came into existence. Since then the De Queen & Eastern Railroad was built to Lockesburg, making available for cultivation a large acreage of tillable lands and causing a rapid increase in population and improvements.

The town lies about the center of a smooth ridge about fifteen miles wide, running southward from the Ozark Mountains. On the western edge of this ridge is the Cossatot and on the eastern side the Saline River, both clear, beautiful streams full of fine

game fishes. Numerous smaller streams flowing easterly and westerly from the backbone of the ridge empty into these rivers. Most of the country near Lockesburg was originally heavily timbered. Large tracts were cleared fifty and sixty years ago and many farms have been that long in cultivation. Between these old farms and plantations there were considerable areas of unoccupied land, which are now being brought under tillage.

There is much diversity in these lands, some being timber lands, some uplands, some rich river bottoms, suited for various purposes. A large acreage is highly improved, while on other lands the improvements have yet to be made. The bottom lands along the Rolling Fork, Cossatot and Saline rivers are exceptionally rich cotton and corn lands, capable of producing a bale to a bale and a half of cotton and from 50 to 75 bushels of corn per acre. Alfalfa and other forage crops yield wonderfully well on these lands. The larger proportion of bottom lands is south of Lockesburg, and these are unusually heavy black loams. North of the town the soils vary from black loams to reddish gravelly soils. These lands are capable of a wonderful range of production, and by many are preferred for fruit and truck crops to any other land in the state. The uplands produce from 25 to 40 bushels of corn and from two-fifths to three-fourths of a bale of cotton to the acre. The ratio of production of forage, owing to the

long growing season, is probably a crop and a half as compared with a full crop grown in the Northern states.

Cotton was at one time the only export or money-crop. In the last few years the farmers have gone largely into fruit and truck growing for the market. Year before last 300 cars of peaches were shipped from this county. During 1909 a severe freeze reduced the crop, but 100 cars of very fine peaches, bringing \$3 per bushel, were shipped from Horatio. Lockesburg will ship this year 6 cars, while from the county there will be 500 cars shipped and a considerable quantity canned.

Being on the south slope of the Ozark Mountains it is possible to get a peach crop almost every season. Potato growing on a commercial scale was begun in 1908 and since then the annual shipments amount to about twenty to twenty-five car loads. Most of the growers plant sweet potatoes after the Irish potato crop is removed. Sorghum cane for syrup, broom corn, cowpea hay are extensively grown and are profitable. Wheat produces from 10 to 30 bushels to the acre. Unimproved lands, in the vicinity of highly improved farms, range in price from \$5 to \$30 per acre.

The City of De Queen, Sevier County, Arkansas

De Queen was laid out as a town in 1897 and was made a city of the second class and county seat of Sevier County in 1904. It is now a modern, up-to-date city of beautiful homes, substantial brick business structures, granitoid walks and graded streets, with all the advantages and conveniences usually found in much larger cities. With a population approximating 4,800 it is the best business point for a distance of 100 miles north of Texarkana, and for fifty to seventy-five miles east and west. It is on the main line of the Kansas City Southern Railway at its intersection with the De Queen & Eastern Railroad. The De Queen & Eastern Railroad is in operation for a distance of 35 miles eastward of De Queen, and is now extending its line 50 miles westward to Valliant, Oklahoma.

The retail trade territory of De Queen extends about twenty miles both north and south, 30 miles east and 40 miles west. Cotton is hauled here on wagons for market from points 25 to 40 miles away. Seven passenger trains enter and leave De Queen daily. The Kansas City Southern Railway is making an important railway division point of De Queen, and has now under construction a roundhouse, machine shops and over fifteen miles of yard tracks, involving an outlay of \$250,000. This, with the completion of the De Queen & Eastern Railroad from Valliant, Okla., through De Queen to Hot Springs, Ark., will open up splendid possibilities.

The Prairie Oil and Gas Company of Oklahoma have their pipe line running through De Queen from Oklahoma oil fields to the Gulf and have completed the construction of an immense pumping station at De Queen, insuring cheap fuel for manufacturing and other purposes. De Queen has just completed a splendid waterworks system, with water supply from artesian wells of exceptional purity. De Queen has electric light plant, ice plant, telephone system, bottling works, and several canning factories of various ca-

pacities to handle the immense fruit and tomato crop. De Queen has over five miles of granitoid walks, and a saw mill employing eight hundred men. Industrial establishments of city employ twelve hundred men, with monthly pay-roll of over \$50,000. Nearly all the public buildings and business houses are substantial structures of brick. Among the large brick structures are the Court House, High School Building, the Bee Opera House, the De Queen & Eastern shops, costing \$50,000, and the new \$20,000 passenger station of the Kansas City Southern Railway; the Electric Light Plant, \$30,000; the Prairie Oil and Gas Pumping Station with adjacent improvements, \$150,000; the County Jail; City Lockup; Ice Plant, Bottling Works and others. Most of the residences are substantial frame buildings of modern design. De Queen is surrounded and supported by an area of splendid valley, fruit and truck lands, the productiveness of which is phenomenal. Rural telephones and free mail delivery are no longer novelties in Sevier County.

There are five well organized churches in De Queen that hold regular services. Besides there are a number of representatives of other churches not yet organized here. Named in the order in which they were organized, the churches of De Queen are: Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Christian and the Cumberland Presbyterian. A Catholic church will soon be established. Church people of nearly all denominations have places of worship in the country. The schools of Sevier County, Arkansas, are good. De Queen has excellent graded schools and a corps of competent teachers. Forty thousand dollars has been appropriated for building three ward schools equaling in construction and capacity the present high school building. The school district extends beyond the present city limits, including about two square miles of territory. The scholastic year last thirty-six weeks; the attendance is about 1,000. An able

superintendent and fifteen skilled teachers are employed, special instruction being provided in music and expression. Under the present efficient administration the entire course of study covers eleven years. It is carefully graded according to the latest and most approved standard and the text-books have been chosen with especial reference to the needs of such a course. The high school course covers three years, and is the standard high school course. Graduates are admitted on diploma to the leading colleges

of the state and the State University. The country schools average well with those of any other rural district.

The mercantile branches are well represented in De Queen, there being from twenty to thirty establishments, some of them carrying very large stocks. The financial institutions of De Queen are the First National Bank of De Queen, the Bank of De Queen and the Farmers and Merchants Bank and Trust Company.

Little River County, Arkansas

Little River County is the southwestern county of Arkansas, bordering on Oklahoma on the west and Texas on the south. It lies between Little River and Red River, both streams having some of the richest bottom lands in the state of Arkansas. Ashdown, a thrifty little city of 2,000 people, is the county seat, and among the other towns in the county along the Kansas City Southern Railway are Wilton, Allene and Winthrop. Ashdown is the junction point of the Kansas City Southern, St. Louis & San Francisco, and the Memphis, Dallas & Gulf railways. It is quite a busy place, having a large cotton oil mill, two banks, good hotels, a number of large mercantile establishments and minor industries. It recently erected a court house costing \$30,000, and a school building which cost \$5,000. Allene has about 300 inhabitants, a saw mill and planer, two stores, and a good school. Wilton has about 500 people, several churches, a good school, one bank, and depends largely on its agricultural resources. Winthrop is the northernmost town in the county and has 600 people. It is 449 miles from Kansas City and 39 miles north of Texarkana. It has a good high school where the higher branches are taught, several well established business houses, two churches, etc., etc.

All of these towns are surrounded by a good farming country, which produces abundantly of corn, oats, Kaffir corn, cotton, alfalfa, hay, millet, cowpeas and fruits.

Two crops of Irish potatoes can be raised each year. By planting oats early, after cutting the same, a corn and cowpea crop can be grown. The soils adapted to alfalfa, which is always in demand in this state, will make from three to five tons per acre. The branch, creek or river bottoms are the soils for alfalfa. They are alluvial soils and the subsoil is usually deep and as fertile as the top soil. These bottoms are ideal for alfalfa, and with proper sowing, mowing and grazing, will make a continuous meadow, and one that produces the earliest as well as the latest hay, and from four to six cuttings and three to five tons per acre. For hog pasture there is nothing to equal it. In the cotton producing part of the

United States it is practically green all the year round.

Little River bottom lands produce from fifty to seventy-five bushels of corn, and from one-half to one and one-half bales of cotton to the acre. The uplands usually produce from 20 to 40 bushels of corn, and from one-third to one bale of cotton per acre. Proportionate crops of other kinds are grown and profitably marketed. The fruit and truck growing industry has not yet been organized on a commercial basis, but the results of individual efforts show a good future for this branch of farming. The soils in Little River County are more particularly described as follows:

North of Winthrop about three miles is Little River, a stream about 150 yards wide, full of fish and noted for its fertile bottom lands. The lands on both sides are rich, producing fine corn, cotton, alfalfa, etc. These lands are worth from \$6 to \$20 per acres. Eight miles west of Winthrop we come to Oklahoma. In going out this way we pass over light and dark sandy loamy soil, and red and black gravelly soil, all high and dry and practically level. In going northwest of Winthrop we cross two streams, the first, Hurricane Creek, three-fourths miles out, a small creek with some fine bottom lands, worth from \$5 to \$10 per acre. After passing out of the small bottom the uplands are light and dark sandy loam, well adapted to the growth of corn, cotton, fruit, vegetables, etc. Five miles further is Caney Creek, a larger stream running through the northwestern corner of the county. Its bottoms are from one-half to one mile wide. The larger part of the land on this creek is dark sandy loam, worth from \$5 to \$10 per acre. After passing out of the bottoms the soil is principally red gravelly sandy soil to Cerro Gordo, Arkansas. South of town about three-fourths mile we come to Cypress Creek, named Cypress because it has so many cypress trees along its banks. It is a small stream with bottoms about 200 yards wide, dark sandy soil. Further in that direction we have light and dark sandy soil, but little gravelly lands out this way. South of Winthrop one and one-

half miles is Flat Creek, which runs through the county. Its bottoms are about one mile wide, fine, fertile, dark sandy loam. Beyond this the lands are about the same. Traveling over the public road from Winthrop to Foreman, nine miles southeast of Winthrop, we cross Colton and Flat creeks, soil as above described. The land along this road is light and dark sandy, red and black gravelly soil. East of Winthrop about three miles we again arrive at Little River where the lands are fine. Cane grows tall, trees large, and stock stays fat through the winter on cane. The river and creek lands are called bottom land, and some of it overflows and some does not. The other we call upland, none of which overflows. The land that overflows on these small streams can be easily controlled, usually by cleaning out the creek, getting the brush and logs cut so the water can run off. In traveling over this land we come to what we call little swags or low places. These are usually five or ten acres, and too low for corn or cotton, but are usually the very finest of land for red top or timothy, and by ditching can be used for corn and cotton. We practically have no waste lands here. It is all land and valuable. In coming this way from the north, after you cross Little River, which is the northeastern boundary line of Little River County, you see no more large hills, rocks or mountains. We have small mounds which scientists claim are caused by gas pushing the land upward, and which oil people say are indications of oil. Near Foreman we have the black and gray land belt. The soil on this black land is usually from two to five feet deep. We do not believe it is surpassed by any lands in the Southwest. The gray lands are not so good for alfalfa, but just as good for cotton and corn. This section is covered with clam shells, which shows it was once the bottom of the sea and was made by upheavals of past ages. Further on to the south we have the famous Red River valley lands, which are unsurpassed by any land for corn, alfalfa, etc. Southwest of Foreman about seven miles is a deep black loamy soil which is very fertile and productive, and especially adapted to the growth of alfalfa, and will grow from three-fourths to one and one-half bales of cotton, 40 to 75 bushels of corn, 5 to 6 tons of alfalfa per acre. The surface of this land is practically level, with just enough slope to drain well. There has recently been established near this land Drainage District No. 1, which will furnish a perfect system of drainage for about 25,000 acres of fine land, of which about 10,000 acres are now in cultivation. None of the land in this district could be called swamp land, but in a very wet year some of it is unfit for cultivation, on account of surface water. As soon as this ditch is completed this land will be a bargain at \$50 per acre. It is now very cheap. No hard pan lands in

this country. North of Foreman is dark and light sandy loamy soil, and red and black gravelly, sandy soil. Two miles south of Foreman we strike the black land formation found on the west. This black land forms a semi-circular belt from two to four miles wide, and about fifteen miles of this circle is in Little River County, extending west into McCurtain County, Oklahoma. South of this, four miles from Foreman, we come to Walnut Bayou, having a wide bottom, whose lands are unsurpassed for fertility and are especially adapted to the growth of alfalfa, corn and cotton. These bottom lands have a deep, rich soil, from five to ten feet deep. They also unite with the large Red River Valley lands.

We have some of the richest soil, finest climate and best advantages in the Southwest, and is still undeveloped when compared with older settlements. In the early days a number of large timber companies, the Central Coal & Coke Co., M. K. & T. Trust Co., and others, came into this county and bought up the lands and held them for their timber, which is worth from \$5 to \$15 per acre. About twelve years ago, when the Kansas City Southern Railway, and six years later, when the Frisco Railroad was completed, large sawmills were put in and much of the timber cut and removed. The above named companies have now sold their lands or have opened them up for sale to individual purchasers for cultivation and homes. Several thousand acres of these lands are now offered in small tracts for \$6 to \$10 per acre. Lumber rough at the saw mills is worth \$10 per thousand feet; pine dressed lumber, \$14 to \$20; heart cypress shingles, \$3.25 for one thousand. Plenty of good oak timber on almost any tract of land you might buy, to fence with. Comfortable houses can be built very cheaply. By doing the work yourself, you can fence one-fourth mile of picket fence for \$7.50, cost of wire and nails. Where you find free government homestead lands now, the same are practically worthless. Common cows are worth from \$15 to \$20; ponies, \$40 to \$50; horses, from \$75 to \$100; mules, from \$100 to \$150. Very little blooded stock in this section of the country. Roads are rough, houses are cheap, no rural routes or telephones out in the country. This county needs new people who are enterprising and progressive, to develop its resources.

The altitude of Little River County is in the average about 379 feet above sea level, lying as it does at the southern base of the Ozark Mountains, which protect it against the blizzards from the North in winter. The winters are usually very mild and ice and snow are rarely seen. Good, soft freestone well and spring water is abundant in the larger part of the county. In the black land belt, lime water is usually found. The annual rainfall, one year with another, is about 46 inches. A complete failure of crops has

never occurred in the history of this county. For a good all around farming country, Little River County, while far from being developed, is as good as the best.

The uncultivated acreage in Little River County is still quite large, but within the last three or four years there has been a large immigration of energetic farmers from the older states east of the Mississippi River, and more permanent improvements have been made than in the ten preceding years. The farms range in area from 80 to 200 acres or more and old-fashioned general farming, like the production of small grain, oats, wheat, corn, cotton, alfalfa and forage crops, and the raising of live stock, are the engrossing agricultural pursuits. Fruits and berries as well as commercial truck yield good crops, but the tendency among the farmers is to engage in general farming rather than in special crops. The production of live stock on a larger scale is receiving much attention and the country is splendidly adapted for this purpose. It is only a question of time when this section

will become famous for its stock feeding facilities and its shipments of fat hogs, poultry and dairy products.

As to industrial possibilities, there is available an abundant timber supply, which in part is being manufactured. A cotton seed oil mill, already in operation, could enlarge and manufacture fertilizers. Oil and gas indications are numerous and it is only a question of time when they will be developed. The raw material for Portland cement is present in such quantity that the largest mill in the United States could not work it up in 500 years.

As soon as cheap gas or oil fuel is developed, and borings are now being made in several places, the valuable clay deposits suitable for brick, tile and pottery can be utilized to advantage. The hardwood timber supply is very large and of such quality that furniture factories, cooperage plants, wagon timber factories, box, crate and basket factories would have sufficient raw material at hand to operate for many years.

Some Towns in Little River County

Winthrop, Arkansas

Winthrop, Ark., is 449 miles south of Kansas City, Mo., and has a population of 900, showing an increase of 100 over the preceding year. It is a good local trading point and handles about 500 to 1,000 bales of cotton per year, and ships annually some peaches, strawberries, potatoes in car load lots, eggs and poultry. Considerable numbers of live stock are also raised, the principal crops being corn, cotton, potatoes and various kinds of forage, alfalfa being grown more or less extensively. The local manufactures consist of a saw and planing mill, two cotton gins, a grist mill, and the smaller industries incident to a town of its dimensions.

The adjacent country is being rapidly settled. Over one hundred farms have been cleared in the last two or three years. The lands, as a rule, are of excellent quality, and are sold at very low prices. There are at Winthrop a bank, hotel and about a dozen mercantile houses. Lands can be purchased for \$10 to \$25 per acre. The shipments from Winthrop for 1910 amounted to 200 bales of cotton, 1 car load Irish potatoes, 4 car loads of cattle, 1 of horses and mules, 1 of hogs, 18 of railroad ties and 9 of pine lumber.

Wilton, Arkansas

Wilton, Ark., has 645 inhabitants, has an altitude of 334 feet and is 462 miles south of Kansas City. Its general resources are farming and stock raising, and the principal crops grown are cotton, corn, melons,

potatoes, etc. Its industrial enterprises consist of a saw mill and two cotton gins. There are in the town two churches, and recently a new school building costing \$3,000 was completed.

The adjacent lands are cheap and of good quality, well suited for corn, cotton, alfalfa and forage crops generally. The ordinary price of farm lands is from \$7 to \$15 per acre. Wilton shipped in 1910: Cotton, 150 bales; poultry, 5,000 pounds; hogs, 6 cars; cattle, 5 cars; hardwood lumber, 10 cars; railroad ties, 40 cars, and pine lumber, 41 cars. During 1910 fifty new people, settled upon adjacent lands, purchased 700 acres and cleared for cultivation 400 acres of new land, at a cost of \$2,500.

Ogden, Arkansas

Ogden, Ark., 476 miles south of Kansas City, Mo., has 750 inhabitants, most of whom are engaged in agricultural pursuits. There are two sawmills, a school, church and several stores. Land values run from \$10 to \$35 per acre. The country adjacent to Ogden has been growing rapidly during the past year. Two hundred and fifty new people have settled upon farms. Twenty new farms were cleared and 1,000 acres put in cultivation. One hundred and forty acres of this land was planted to commercial truck and fruits.

The increase of population in the town was 169 for the year, during which there were erected 15 new dwellings, costing \$7,000; 5 new business buildings, costing \$27,500; a new hotel, \$1,250; a public school, \$1,700, and a lodge building costing \$500. A new park was laid out at a cost of \$5,000.

Allene, Arkansas

Allene has about 350 inhabitants, mostly engaged in farming. There are in operation a sawmill, cotton gin and grist mill. The adjacent country had an influx of 15 families during the past year, who improved three hundred acres at a cost of \$6,000. Lands are valued at \$6.50 to \$12.00 per acre.

White Cliffs

At White Cliffs (Folmina P. O.), are situated enormous deposits of chalk and clay suitable for the manufacture of cement. A factory has been in operation for some years. It is now being rebuilt and is to be operated in the near future. It is estimated that a cement mill could operate 700 years on the available raw material, turning out 1,000 barrels of cement per day.

Ashdown, Little River County, Arkansas

Ashdown, the county seat of Little River County, is 468 miles south of Kansas City, Mo., and 20 miles from Texarkana, Tex. It is an important industrial town, situated in a fine farming country and has been making a steady growth from year to year. Its population is about 3,000. The quantity of cotton handled in Ashdown is annually from 15,000 to 20,000 bales in a good year, and the ordinary shipments of farm products amount to from 15-20 car loads of corn, 7 car loads of potatoes, 20-30 cars of cattle, 2 to 10 cars of horses and mules, 6 to 10 of hogs, and smaller quantities of early vegetables, berries, cantaloupes, etc.

Nearly all the business buildings in Ashdown have been replaced with stone and brick structures within the last three or four years, and the town generally presents an attractive appearance. There are in Ashdown three banks, some thirty mercantile houses, a high school, hotel, cotton seed oil mill, fertilizer works, three or four sawmills and planing mills, a handle factory, bottling works, brick plant, three or four cotton gins and grist mills, newspapers, restaurants, a trust company, lodge rooms, and small local manufacturing enterprises. During the past two years there were erected in Ashdown sixty new dwellings, costing \$70,000; sixteen new business buildings, costing \$103,000; one factory building, costing \$25,000. A new hotel building costing \$30,000 is now under construction. The street and park improvements cost \$3,000. The Prairie Gas and Oil Company has built a pipe line through the town, the same being 26 miles long and costing \$10,000 per mile.

The transportation facilities of Ashdown are excellent, consisting of the Kansas City Southern Railway, running north and south, the St. Louis & San Francisco Railway, east and west, and the Memphis, Dallas & Gulf, running northeast and southwest.

The country surrounding Ashdown is rich in valuable hard woods, and wood working establishments of every kind would do well here, particularly a furniture factory, box factory, stave mill, etc. As the town is steadily growing there would be a good opening for an ice and electric light plant, a steam laundry, bakery and more general stores. As this is an excellent fruit and truck country, there is a good opening also for a cannery, pickling works, etc.

The lands adjacent to Ashdown are being rapidly settled. Lands ranging in price from \$5 to \$20 for unimproved lands, and from \$25 to \$50 for improved lands.

During 1909 and 1910 ninety new families have settled and have cleared two thousand acres of land, at a cost of \$38,000. There are in cultivation within five miles of Ashdown, fifteen thousand acres, of which 300 acres have been planted in fruits, 5,000 in corn, 1,000 in small grain, 8,500 in cotton, 50 in commercial truck, and 500 in alfalfa.

The shipments from Ashdown in 1910 amounted to 50 car loads of corn, 7,500 bales of cotton, 500 crates of cantaloupes, 6 car loads of Irish potatoes, 20 cars of cattle, 20 of horses and mules, 6 of hogs, 100 cars of hardwood lumber, 500 cars of railroad ties, 150 cars of pine lumber and 15,000 pounds of hides and furs.

Homeseekers' Round-Trip Tickets

To points in Arkansas, and return, limited to twenty-five days, are on sale at very low rates, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from points in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri, while from points east of Illinois, the rates

are slightly higher.

Stop-overs, on round-trip homeseekers' tickets to points south of Ashdown, Arkansas, will be allowed at Ashdown on both going and return trip.

For rates, address S. G. Warner, G. P. A., Kansas City, Mo.

Household Goods and Emigrant Movables

The term "Household Goods and Emigrant Movables" will apply to property of an intending settler only, and will include tools and implements of calling (including hand and foot power machines, but not including machinery driven by steam, electricity, gas, gasoline, compressed air or water, other than agricultural implements); second-hand store fixtures of merchants; second-hand vehicles (not including self-propelling vehicles, hearses and similar vehicles); livestock, not to exceed ten (10) head (subject to declared valuations and premium charges);

trees and shrubbery; lumber and shingles; fence posts; one portable house; seeds for planting purposes; feed for live stock while in transit, and household goods, but does not include general merchandise, nor any articles which are intended for sale or speculation. Shipments of emigrant movables must contain a sufficient quantity of furniture to make the intention of a permanent residence at destination evident.

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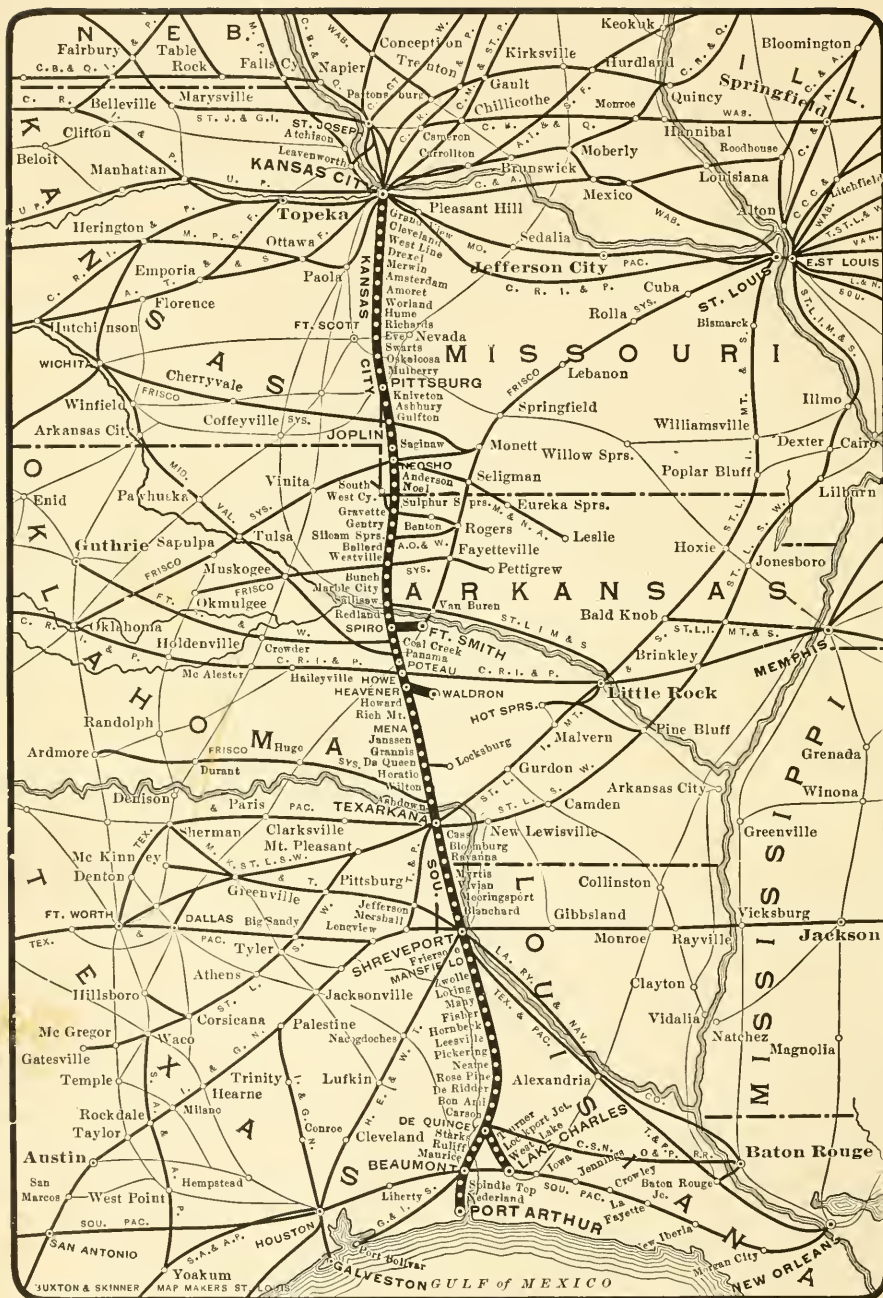
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