



Gc  
976.602  
Ok46k  
v.1  
1726997

M. L.

<http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found>

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

Allen County Public Library



3 1833 02293 5081

<http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found>





048  
C-222



W. F. KERR



The Story  
of  
Oklahoma City  
Oklahoma

---

*"The Biggest Little City in the World"*

---

Written and Edited by  
W. F. KERR  
Of the Oklahoma Historical Society  
AND  
INA GAINER  
Of The Oklahoma City Times Editorial Force

---

VOLUME I

---

1922  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
CHICAGO

F92764.4

1726997

## CONTENTS

## PART I

## RELEVANT APPROACHES

	PAGE
Them Halcyon Days, Dr. A. C. Scott.....	13
Introductory .....	15
A Cottage for Two .....	33
The Founding of Oklahoma City.....	61

## PART II

## THE SPREAD OF THE YEARS

The Lot Jumpers.....	81
Government Established .....	99
The Second Opening.....	121
Boomers Active Again.....	133
Dream of a Commonwealth.....	141
The Active Ten Thousand.....	151
Choctaw Railroad Enters .....	161
Fusion and Free Silver.....	169
The Seekers of Pie.....	179
On Trail of the Volunteers.....	189
Council Versus Congress .....	201
Franchises and Bond Sales.....	211
Oil and Another Opening.....	221
More Business, Less Society.....	229
In Earnest About Statehood.....	241
In Bib and Tucker at St. Louis.....	253
Sidestepping an Issue.....	263
A Gold Pen and a Quill.....	273
Politics, Prejudices and Victory.....	283
New Jerusalem Approved.....	303
Coming of the Packers.....	313
The Capital Achieved.....	329
A Charter Adopted .....	345
A Fight Against Expenses.....	359
A Preacher's Farewell.....	373
The Central Hundred.....	389
Passing of Pioneers .....	403
The Food Strikers.....	415
The City Goes to War.....	427
Helping to Win the War.....	445
Prosperity and High Prices.....	465
The Results of War.....	479
Tiding Over .....	491



## PART III

## RESUMES, REVIEWS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

	PAGE
The Old Home Town.....	509
Development of Social and Club Life, by Irene Bowers Sells.....	523
The Fight for the Capital.....	547
Schools of Eighty-Nine and Their Development, by Mrs. Fred Sutton.....	559
Vision, Leadership and Faith, by William M. Jenkins.....	569
Oklahoma City's Part in the World War, by Gen. Roy V. Hoffman.....	573
A Tribute to Oklahoma, by Sidney Clarke.....	583
Making Beauty Spots, by C. A. McNabb.....	587
Captain Couch, First Mayor, by H. C. Evans.....	601
Character of C. G. Jones, by O. P. Sturm.....	605
Character of Henry Overholser, by Elmer E. Brown.....	615
Seminoles and Colonists, by J. L. Brown.....	625
Articles of Confederation.....	635
Milling and Grain.....	641
Business Women's Club.....	647
City an Oil Center.....	651
Gas and Electricity.....	667
The Telephone Business.....	669
Lot Titles Investigated.....	675

## PART IV

## IN MEN'S MEMORIES

A Propitious Monday.....	679
In Camp Oklahoma.....	687
A Pioneer's Recollections.....	689
The Oklahoma City Club.....	699
Bill Starts a Graveyard.....	703
Colcord Has an Idea.....	709
Pioneering in Journalism.....	711
Hanging Pants and Song Pants.....	713
A Rushing Bread Business.....	715
"A Bad Man from Texas".....	717
A Lot Jumper Wins.....	719
Snaking Houses at Night.....	721
For Better or Worst.....	723
"Tails Up" Wins a Bride.....	725
Medical Society Formed.....	727
The First Newspaper.....	729
The Post Trader's House.....	731

## PART V

## MISCELLANEOUS

The City's Constitution.....	735
The Organic Act.....	781
First Opening Proclamation.....	823
Oklahoma Enabling Act.....	831





# ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
W. F. Kerr.....	<i>Frontispiece</i>
Former Presidents of the Chamber of Commerce.....	17
Residence of E. H. Cooke.....	25
Residential Street.....	25
Oklahoma City's First Settlers.....	35
Original Site of Oklahoma City.....	41
A Group of Pioneers.....	47
Two and a Beauty Spot.....	55
Where the Ranch Stock Watered.....	55
Group of Pioneers.....	63
Early Settlers.....	67
Captain W. L. Couch.....	71
First Post Office of Oklahoma.....	75
Oklahoma City in 1889, Before the Run.....	83
Oklahoma City on April 24, 1889.....	83
Dr. A. J. Beale.....	89
View of Oklahoma City in 1889.....	95
Captain A. B. Hammer.....	101
Present Site of Culbertson Building, Broadway and Grand Avenue..	109
D. W. Gibbs.....	117
American National Bank Building.....	123
Home of the Daily Oklahoman.....	123
W. J. Gault.....	135
O. A. Mitscher.....	139
Leslie P. Ross.....	145
Frauk McMaster.....	150
Nelson Button.....	153
Main Street, Oklahoma City, 1889.....	157
Captain E. H. DeFord.....	163
Charles G. Jones.....	171
J. P. Allen.....	181
Richard Caffrey.....	191
Wheeler Park.....	197
Lee VanWinkle.....	203
Clifton George.....	207
First National Bank Building.....	215
Sectional View of St. Anthony's Hospital.....	225
State University Hospital.....	225
The Baum Building.....	235



	PAGE
The Continental Building.....	235
Farmers National Bank.....	245
First Methodist Church.....	255
Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club.....	255
Dr. J. F. Messenbaugh.....	265
Oklahoma County Courthouse and Jail.....	275
Henry M. Scales.....	285
St. Luke's M. E. Church, South.....	291
Federal Building.....	297
View at State Fair Park.....	297
First Presbyterian Church.....	305
Former Occupants of the Coleord Building Site.....	305
Entrance to the Oklahoma National Stock Yards.....	315
Pens at the Oklahoma National Stock Yards.....	315
Temple B'nai Israel.....	323
Packing Plant of Morris & Company.....	323
Daniel V. Lackey.....	331
Main Street of the Buggy Days.....	335
Broadway, Looking North, 1910.....	341
Whit M. Grant.....	347
Central High School.....	351
Carnegie Library.....	355
Huckins Hotel.....	355
Maywood Presbyterian Church.....	361
First Baptist Church.....	367
Residence of W. R. Ramsey.....	367
First English Lutheran Church.....	375
First Christian Church.....	375
Skirvin Hotel.....	381
Oklahoma State Capitol.....	388
First Week between California and Grand Avenues.....	391
View of Skyscrapers from the Wholesale District.....	395
Residence of C. F. Coleord.....	399
Residence of H. Overholser.....	399
Edward Overholser.....	405
Epworth Methodist Church (Originally Epworth University).....	411
Residence of C. P. Sizer.....	417
Mercantile Building.....	429
Security Building.....	429
Catholic Church.....	429
Byron D. Shear.....	447
View on Grand Avenue Looking East from Terminal Building.....	453
Lakeside Golf and Country Club.....	459
J. C. Walton.....	467
Salvation Army Home.....	473
Broadway, Looking North, in 1921.....	481
Y. M. C. A. Building.....	487



## ILLUSTRATIONS

ix -x

	PAGE
Home of Oklahoma City Club (Erection begun in 1922).....	493
Main Street of an Early Day.....	511
Business District from an Airplane.....	517
Cheyennes and Arapahos Counseling for Cherokee Outlet.....	525
Chiefs of Cheyennes and Arapahos.....	533
Tradesmen's National Bank Building.....	543
Gloyd-Halliburton Building.....	553
Liberty National Bank Building.....	563
The Guaranty Bank.....	563
Gen. Roy V. Hoffman.....	575
O'Neil Park.....	589
Stiles Park.....	593
Residence of Gen. Roy V. Hoffman.....	593
Entrance to Wheeler Park.....	597
St. Paul's Episcopal Church.....	607
Patterson Building.....	617
Santa Fe Depot the Morning after the Run.....	627
An Early Day View.....	627
Grain Exchange Building.....	640
Plant of Oklahoma City Mill and Elevator Company.....	643
Plant of the Plansifter Milling Company.....	643
Magnolia Petroleum Company Building.....	653
Scene in Oil Refining District.....	659
Section of Refining Plant of Choate Oil Corporation.....	659
Home of the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company.....	666
Home of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.....	671
The Morning before the Run.....	681
Captain D. F. Stiles.....	686
H. C. Watton.....	695
Plant of Liberty Cotton Oil Company.....	705
West Main Maternity Sanitarium.....	737
Terminal Building of the Oklahoma Railway Company.....	745
Masonic Temple.....	755
The Coliseum.....	755
Home of Hahn Undertaking Company.....	765
Mount Saint Mary's Academy.....	775
Classen Junior High School.....	775
Security National Bank.....	785
Empress Theater.....	795
Orpheum Theater.....	795
Second Presbyterian Church.....	805
Christian Science Church.....	805
Monument to Soldier Dead, Fairlawn Cemetery.....	813
Coleord Building.....	825
Herskowitz Building.....	825
Southwest National Bank Building.....	833
Liberty Theater.....	843



# PART I

## RELEVANT APPROACHES





# The Story of Oklahoma City

---

## "THEM HALYCON DAYS"

· BY A. C. SCOTT

When'er I think of '89, its haleyon days around me shine; its days of spring divinely fair, its days when sand drifts filled the air; its days so hot the hair they'd curl, its days so cold the snow would whirl, stinging against the window panes, and freezing on the icy plains; days when the sand filled Main street full, and days when Main street was a pool; days and days of every kind, that nowhere else on earth you'd find.

But what did we for weather care? We all were young, the world was fair; something would happen every day, and not in just the usual way. What booted it that lots were jumped, and in the fracas some one bumped; that Seminole and Kickapoo kept hell a-poppin' all night through? Throughout it all we sang and danced, and Sundays to the Weaver pranced, ostensibly of course to dine, but in reality to shine, in raiment exquisitely new, to let the proletariat view—the ladies decked from top to toe (much more than they are now, I trow), in silks and satins, unseen hose, the men all moulded in their clothes.

To ice cream socials, too, we went, to that extreme on pleasure bent; though chaperoned with eagle eyes, love "carried on" with small disguise, and many a marriage altar fine, was just a dream of Eighty-Nine. And who'll forget those autumn days, all shrouded in their purple haze, as if all nature's course stood still, to put away the coming ill? But when grim winter came at last, fast riding on his borean blast, our flimsy shacks shook in the gale, the howling winds drove sleet and hail. But did we whine, or knock, or wail? We took the hammer and the nail, and boarded up the shrieking cracks, and papered the inside with tacks.

And while the winter ripped and roared, we served upon



our festal board such dainties and such viands rare that lords might envy us our fare. Oh, who'll forget those wondrous eats—the market places on our streets with long festoons of luscious quail, or prairie chicks and cotton tail, of squirrels gray and squirrels red, of mallards dropped from overhead; of pinioned deer with spreading fronds, of turkey gobblers bathed in bronze—not them that strutted barnyard floors, but lived in nature's out-of-doors? Oh, well. I reckon it is best, that we've outgrown that far-off West; but sometimes when I'm tired and bored, run down by auto and by Ford, I take a backward look and say, as one did say who's gone his way, "Of all the times I've ever seed, them was the halycon days indeed."



## INTRODUCTORY

A conclusion that organized effort is ninety-nine per cent responsible for the present stage of maturity of Oklahoma City is inescapable after one has made a detailed study of outstanding events of these thirty and two years. This statement may bear a shade of triteness; it may exhibit the earmarks of the prime principle of city building written into books on that subject; it may be casually dismissed as a foregone conclusion reached by regimes and generations of constructionists since the peopling of the Middle West began; but, in this instance, it is re-enlivened and re-envisaged for a purpose of comparison. It is a notable fact that some heavily peopled communities of the Southwest have attained levels of municipal supremacy directly and almost solely as a result of the endeavors of a few superior men associated for business purposes. Their number is small to be sure and their accomplishments are marvelous exceptions to the well-established rule of organization. Nearly every prosperous community has had its foundation laid by a few men associated for business purposes, but eventually masterful things have been accomplished by a combination of several of such associations whose purpose was beyond immediate individual profit and involved the common weal. This is the fundamental principle, of course, of society, of cooperative education, of religious enterprises, and of free government.

The mental largeness of a few men, the money-making capacity of a few men, the dickering and negotiating instinct of a few men, and the promotion predilection of a few men,—ungrouped, unorganized, established in shacks and shanties, unrestricted by conventions, squatted on a windswept sage-grassed plain,—ran in grooves cut with their own picks and shovels; and, when there was increased light upon possibilities, these grooves diverged and merged into channels and channels conflued into streams and streams emptied by their own predestined bent into this sea of business, religious,



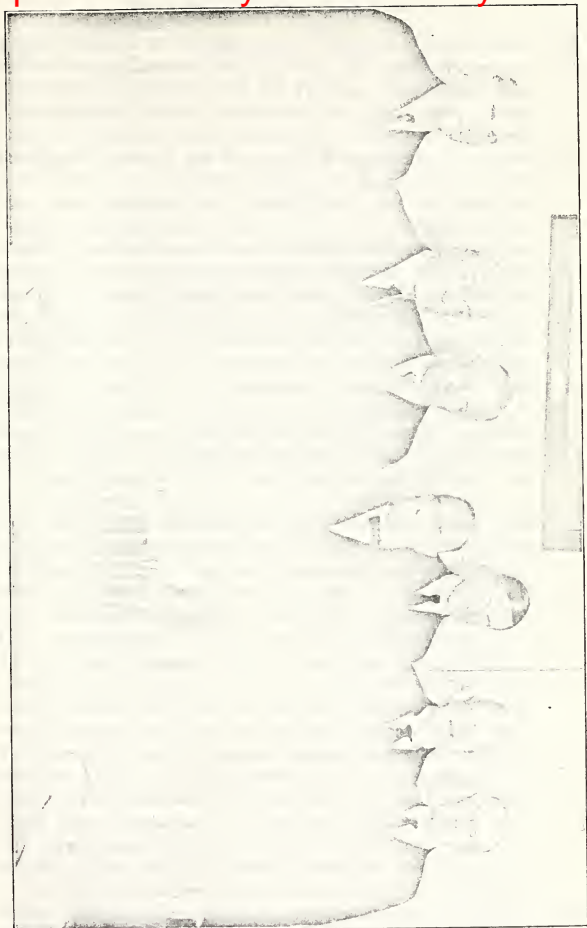
social, educational and political metropolitanism. That, in short, is the history of Oklahoma City. And it teaches that divergences and confluences are essential to the filling of the sea and the replenishment and maintenance of its waters. Individual efforts of pioneers produced gratifying results, each separately as a business enterprise. We are pleased to reflect the honor that is due them, and frequently we are constrained to assert that but for them the entire history of the city's twenty latest years might have been so different that perhaps a competitor would have outshone it in glory. Individual efforts were substructure material. A few of them could have brought the hundred thousand here; it is not likely that they would have. Inevitably the drawing power lay in concentration, and the hundred thousand came when the drawing power was created. The drawing power was the Chamber of Commerce, and to that body this work is dedicated.

Oklahoma city originally was nature favored. Perhaps the thought entered the minds of none, or if any but a few, in the first raw, undisciplined years, that the lines of commonwealths would be so manipulated that the city would lie within five miles of the geographical center of a state. It was within a five-hour horse trot of the border of Indian Territory and therefore far to one side and close to a river-arched corner of what everybody predicted would become the eventual Oklahoma Territory; that is, the territory as geographies pictured it after all the Indian reservations west of Indian Territory had been opened for settlement. But Nature and the eighty-niners were not in cahoots, because the eighty-niners were ignorant of the politics of the future. If Oklahoma Territory had become a separate state, Oklahoma City, geographically considered, would have had small call for the capital, which Congress already had located at Guthrie; nor would Guthrie have been secure in that honor. This very fact accounts in part for a majority of the residents of Oklahoma City in later years, disregarding political alliances on the capital issue and standing unitedly in favor of a single state to be formed out of Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory. Nature revealed itself in consideration of that issue.

In view of its geographical location, and in disregard of political eventualities, it was destined to become the inter-







FORMER PRESIDENTS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

S. M. Lloyd, Anton H. Glasse, Ed S. Vaughn, G. B. Stone, George Fredrickson, T. D. Turner, C. F. Colcord



section point of two trunk lines of railroad. Several years before the opening in 1889 the Santa Fe had constructed a line north and south through the Territory that entered near Arkansas City, Kansas, and passed into Texas near Gainesville. This line lay twenty-five to thirty miles east of the one hundredth meridian and in general it separated the prairies of the west from the timber lands of the east. It was a division mark between the "short-grass" country and the "sticks." Settlement of the west side of the original Indian Territory, or the Unorganized Territory as it was later designated, of course demanded railroad facilities from the east as well as from the north and south. Probable connections with Texas Panhandle points were in early years not a matter of vital concern, for the wind-stripped Plains were yet climatically discredited. One of the first organized industrial efforts of the city resulted in its securing a line of the Rock Island railroad that built eventually from Memphis, Tennessee, to Amarillo, Texas, and split the two territories wide open from east to west as the Santa Fe had done from north to south. The Rock Island, originally called the Choctaw, did not come in a night, nor did it come gracefully and with facility. It came after much dickering and much bickering, after fights between ambitious communities, one of which was Guthrie, Oklahoma City's earliest, most formidable and longest-lived commercial and political rival, and after the travail of hard work and sleepless nights. But when it came, Oklahoma City's commercial position was for the time being secure. It was of debatable tenure, however, for a trunk line of the Rock Island system had paralleled the Santa Fe through the State, passing within thirty miles of the city on the west, and on it, nearly due west of the city, was founded the town of El Reno. This town early gave evidences of rivalry with Oklahoma City and those evidences were enhanced many fold when the Memphis-Amarillo line was made to intersect the Rock Island trunk line at that point. And this incipient rivalry, more menacing than any the city had faced, explains why the city's big men in the '90s so vigorously celebrated the entrance of the Frisco from the northeast. The entrance of the Frisco, indeed, was the most important event of a decade, if not the one clinching and determining event in all the city's history.



Sedate, silent and unobtrusive Nature, perhaps better identified by the term Geography, again favored a city wavering and debating in insecurity. In this instance the favor was doubly purposeful, for the railroad builders foresaw the opening to settlement of the big Kiowa and Comanche Indian country, situated in the southwestern part of the territory, and Oklahoma City lay on a direct route between Sapulpa, the Frisco terminus, and the central section of the Kiowa and Comanche reservation.

In a sense, political subdivisions were of secondary concern, in the view of the eighty-miners, for the city was located in the center of a fertile agricultural section that embraced contiguous territory of part of the new Oklahoma and of nations of Indian Territory and other Indian reservations soon to be opened. They entertained a mild trust in the Santa Fe, expecting active cooperation of its immigration and colonization departments. The Santa Fe, however, could scarcely be a respecter of municipalities on its line, and the eighty-miners early learned that self-dependence, self-assertiveness and the boldest sort of influential preponderance of effort would get results.

When the coming of the Frisco eliminated El Reno and Shawnee as contenders for municipal supremacy, only Guthrie remained an antagonist. She was a formidable antagonist, because she was the political pot boiler of the Territory, the capital, and the receiver and dispenser of information that came out of Washington where lay the converged ends of the strings of government. She was influential in Congress and in the Governmental departments. During the greater part of Oklahoma City's creative era the republicans were in control of the National Government and Guthrie remained rock-ribbed republican, whereas normally Oklahoma City was democratic. It was the seat of democratic organization in the Territory, the chief convention center and the home of several of the party's most astute leaders. Here was published the leading democratic newspaper, The Daily Oklahoman, while in Guthrie Frank Greer ramrodded the official mouth-piece of the republican party, The Oklahoma State Capital. Political enmity ever was perceptible. Almost equally as formidable as Guthrie's political influence was its power to command



railroad investment. During the years that Oklahoma City was pulling tooth and nail for two strategical lines Guthrie was making itself the snug center of a web of no less strategical but less influential and less competitive lines. Six short branches were laid into the capital from as many points along the Santa Fe, Rock Island and Frisco trunks. It looked definitely and permanently secure. Its population grew to over fifteen thousand and always for many years it was a hubbub of business and political commotion.

These skeleton facts will assist the reader to more fully appreciate how extraordinary were the accomplishments of Oklahoma City in that period between the entrance of the Frisco and the removal of the state capital. To secure the capital Oklahoma City knew that Statehood first was essential. Although an attempt was made in the early '90s to have the Legislature declare Oklahoma City the capital, the matter was permitted to remain in abeyance while the overshadowing issue of statehood was given supreme attention. Had Guthrie been given an opportunity to vote on the question of statehood, doubtless a considerable majority would have favored two states. On the other hand a preponderating majority in Oklahoma City would have favored a single state. The creation of a single state was the greatest boon that Congress could confer upon the people of the Territories, and it was the one act necessary to assure supremacy to Oklahoma City.

Whether one is a political partisan, affiliated this way or that, does not alter a majority opinion here existing that the city's leanings toward the faith of the democratic party counted for an almost incalculable lot in the capital controversy. The conjoining of Indian Territory with Oklahoma Territory gave the democrats of the state a majority of about twenty-five thousand. Political leaders in that party naturally were considerate of the claims of a democratic stronghold for capital honors. This consideration was intensified during the first campaign when Charles N. Haskell, the democratic nominee for governor, most bitterly denounced the Guthrie oligarchy and several individual members thereof; and, in advocating a "Jim Crow" law, with characteristic sarcasm and invective, accused republican leaders of Guthrie of harboring a large negro population for political purposes. Un-





questionably exaggerations and unqualified falsehoods gained currency during the campaign, and these are not condoned in this screed, but the burden and the bulk of events tended toward both political and commercial repudiation of Guthrie, and that fact the most partisan reader is entitled to know. With the democrats in control of the state government it was virtually a foregone conclusion that the huge democratic majority in the state would, when opportunity was presented, take the capital away from Guthrie.

There was more of the South in Oklahoma City than in Guthrie and there was more tolerance among persons from widely separated sections of the United States. Kansas and Texas met on common ground, fought out their differences in a week or a month, and became neighbors and friends. Michigan locked horns with Massachusetts and in a magical amalgamation the one abbreviated the stretch of his r's and the other interjected that letter into his alphabet. Here the best ideas and ideals of North, South, East and West were cast into the mill hopper and that which was best came out as acceptable food and that which was chaff was not even fed to swine. To some extent socially a similar milling process operated in Guthrie, but the politicians would have none of it. The politicians were in control of the destinies of the city and they countenanced no forgiveness, compromise or retreat. Oklahoma City's characteristic and widely advertised spirit of business and social communion was an asset of incalculable value not only in enterprises of municipal or state concern but in modifying and mollifying notions about it in faroff places of the Nation, and from hundreds of these faroff places came no small percentage of the hundred thousand.

After searching through the more or less browned and frazzled-edged records of these thirty-one years the author finds himself in possession of some opinions not previously entertained regarding both policies and men, and of more well-defined opinions about divers things than he formed when transpirings were current. We look upon an event more generously and more charitably after its recession into fifteen or twenty years of history than when the heat and the labor and the turmoil of the day were upon it. By the same yardstick we measure men and organizations. We sift out the



faults of leaders, which usually we find were of minor degree, and laud and extol their virtues. We forget their passions and even condone the law infractions of a few in consideration of their genuine worthiness as building and boosting citizens. We are penitent that we made unrighteous charges against associations of men. There are residents of the city today who speak unkindly of these associations out of a thimbleful of tattled information who twenty years from today will regret the speech and wonder how it came about that they permitted the progress train to go by without their taking passage.

The Chamber of Commerce reared Oklahoma City after it reached its teens. A small and unorganized group of men presented it for adoption when it was time to discard sailor collars and knee breeches, when its vocal organs were changing and it had had some scattered and smattered conceptions of a career. Trained directorship was required. In short, if the metaphor may be changed, business prophets saw a long and steep hill to be ascended and they knew that even the first rest level could not be reached unless the team was recruited and every puller pulled his prorated share of the load.

A history of Oklahoma City, touching commercial and industrial activities, during the last twenty years is a history in major part of the Chamber of Commerce. The author admits that this is a revelation to him. It was Mr. Charles G. Jones and Mr. Henry Overholser whose initiative induced the Frisco to build hither, but their efforts might have been fruitless had not the commercial organization of that day helped them to execute the contract. It was the Chamber of Commerce that secured the two great packing plants. It was the Chamber of Commerce that put brains and energy and money into the campaign that won the state capital. And that body during the World war divested itself of virtually all other purposes and sent its membership into the several war-work enterprises. The Chamber of Commerce did not win the war, nor did any other single organization win it, but its services were of such magnificent proportions, directly and through unnumbered ramifications, that what it accomplished may be candidly classified as the third of its three greatest endeavors during the last twenty years.

The commercial appetites of the pioneers were insatiable.



This singular characteristic was no more extraordinary than their appraisal of the size of the bites they could chew or the capacity of their stomachs. They were in an unpeopled outdoors with everything under the sun to ask for and 10,000 acres on which to place all they received. But the number of things they received was so small compared to the number they asked for that it would be infinitesimal if it were not so consequential. As one frolics back over the years to form the acquaintance of men and to envision little spots of progress and wide acres of mediocrity, he is drawn now into a group of sober-minded men asking for a great portion of the fulness of the earth and then into another group of hurrahing men who appear to have even a greater portion than the other group sought. Railroads was an obsession. During a period of ten years no less than fifteen paper railroads were laid through Oklahoma City, and the wonder is that there was practically as much enthusiasm over one scrap of paper as another. The policy of the pioneers was to let nothing slip, to take a shot at everything that had a face of silver even if it lacked a heart of gold and didn't cost in excess of a million dollars. They were liberal-hearted if sometimes flat-pocketed, given to the sport of voting bonds and to the setting of corner-lot posts ten miles into the country! They foresaw a city of a quarter of a million by such and such a year and made praise and rejoicing over the suspected jealousy of St. Louis, Kansas City and Denver.

Optimism probably was an equal of ideas in the kit of construction tools. You were made a believer whether you willed it or not. A large party of editors of the country came this way once and held their meeting in Guthrie, after which they were taken over an arch of the western part of the Territory. Oklahoma City was the terminus of the tour. As they entered the city, Charles G. Jones walked with heroic tread through the long line of coaches and announced in his homespun English that the visitors were now entering an honest-to-goodness city. "We have showed you the towns of the Territory," he said, "and now take pleasure in presenting the metropolis of the Territory." At that time census-takers doubtless would have had to pad the returns to make a total of 12,000 souls. But the population disported itself with cosmopolitan grace





RESIDENCE OF E. H. COOKE



RESIDENTIAL STREET





and Delmar Garden never put on airs to a better advantage. No editor who wrote of his experiences upon returning home was so ungracious as to omit a paragraph of praise for this wonderful spot, and the Chamber of Commerce was kept busy for weeks sorting its press clippings. It was a few years later, when paving was extended beyond Thirteenth Street and motor-cars fell into the hands of real estate dealers, that a gentleman from Kentucky, having had it proven to him that Fortieth Street was but five minutes out, paid a fine figure for a raw corner lot and then discovered that the property was four miles from Main and Broadway. But the Kentuckian, remembering the speed possibilities of gasoline and its deception in distances, took the "skinning" with good grace and awaited an opportunity to heap coals of fire. When, yet a little later, there were populated streets beyond the sixties he pocketed his 700 per cent of profit, reenacted the clauses of his wrath against Oklahoma realty men and spread the news of good fortune throughout the Blue Grass country. Some persons hold that this accounts for Oklahoma's large number of ex-Kentuckians!

In the early formative years the city had a railroad today and a bursted balloon tomorrow, a million-dollar cotton mill today and an untouched industrial addition tomorrow, a gushing gas well at its door today and an extinct crater tomorrow. On the other hand, it had a postage stamp and the price of a telegram today and six million dollars invested in meat packeries tomorrow, a committee seeking a few funds today and a Frisco railroad tomorrow, a little political wire-pulling today and a state capital tomorrow, a little more effort, a little more pep, a little more brain, a little more cash today and a 100,000 population tomorrow.

What outcomes these late years reveal! A black-haired young man who once carried the pistol of a deputy marshal and swapped town lots on dusty corners of dull days to terrify the wolf erects a million-dollar office building, hobnobs with the leading captains of industry of the country and is called Colonel Colecord. The proprietor of a livery stable, who hauled homesteaders, homeseekers, contestants, lawyers, squatters, speculators and probably outlaws over the hills and hollows of a roadless landscape and outfitted young men in spotless



clothes for Sunday afternoon buggy rides with their sweet-hearts and friends, builds the city's first big hotel and one of its first Main Street office buildings, accumulates a fortune otherwise and moves up to Kansas City where they respectfully prefix a mister to the once plain Osear Lee. A cow-puncher from the sandy lands and sapoaks of Grayson County, Texas, who, contrary to all habits and traits of his kind, acquires the Spencian art and passes it on to others, becomes an accountant of parts and is promoted to the office of treasurer of his state—introducing the honorable William L. Alexander. Somehow it was expected that Henry Overholser would accumulate a fortune; he was gifted in such fashion. But it would have required uncommon prophecy to picture him in a palatial home set upon a long verdured ridge that once tempered the sting of the "northers," and more than a mile away from Main Street! Thither also went Edward Cooke, the banker, and topped the ridge with a brick residence of English persuasion that furnished a topic for conversation intervals at many an afternoon tea. Some eight or ten years later Edith Johnson discovered that the ridge had become the pick of the exclusive rich and in their midst flowered culture and social fantasies, dwelt period furniture and reading lamps and servants and lions on guard at the gates. Some day every conscientious and consistent promoter will sit on the beach and witness the arrival of his ship. Some such a proverbial notion was entertained by the contemporaries of C. G. Jones and they praised him in a spirit of realized anticipation when he more than once saw the gang plank inclined from the bow. And through the interlocking years run the careers of J. M. Owen and A. L. Welch and Ed Overholser and Dr. A. C. Scott and George Cooke, and a score of others, who wrestled with a mediocrity that prevailed on Main Street in '89 and conquered it in piecemeal before frost formed upon their temples. No feats were extraordinary. The city isn't set apart and billboarded with announcements that it, of all middle west cities, stands alone as a veritable wonder of the age. But the men that sledge-hammered the spikes into the sills, raised the walls, stretched the joists, elevated the rafters, nailed on the shingles and painted and furnished the house are entitled to have their names written on the box that the post-

<http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found>

man uses; indeed, if it so gratifies them, to have their initials carved into the very sides of the gate-guarding lions. It has become an honor for one to say he is an eighty-niner, as much so in pleasant memories and mental apartness as if one were descended from a Mayflower passenger or a hero of the American Revolution. Graver responsibilities were upon those that came after them. Their numbers waxed smaller and smaller as the tides of the '90s ascended and so much smaller in the next three decades that their outstanding ones were the first scattered stars of evening.

The researcher heartily regrets their demise, but no sooner are the tears wiped away than their successors greet him. The names of Overholser, Brown, Scott, Owen, Cooke, Alexander, Wilkin, Clarke, Colcord, Lee, Welch and Pettee go streaking through the years like super-huntsmen of a chase traversing a thousand miles of mountain crags. But ere many miles are left at rear new names are flashed upon the peaks—Classen, Shartel, Ames, Stone, Bass, Heyman, Brock, Frederickson, Warren, Gaylord, Workman, these and many others, brief accounts of whose endeavors are found in these modest and possibly mediocre pages. Sitting in judgment from the vantage point of the historian one glimpses new angles of character and appraises some of them in the fullness of their careers as these lay indited upon the spread of the years. One reaches an inevitable conclusion that a man cannot occupy an exalted position in business or the professions for twenty years or thirty years, with his name gold-lettered upon the paramount transactions of the times, save and except his virtues vastly outweigh his vices. Equally inevitable is the conclusion that a display of selfishness now and then, which may inure to considerable profit, is insignificant when one views a paramount transaction completed and observes the measure of its public benefaction. One is tempted to set up in the literature of the years little monuments of cheer built over the buried smallness of evil and dedicated to the mountain-size bignesses of good.

The pleasurable task of jotting down a few paragraphs of upstanding things in the history of Oklahoma City has had its disappointments. They are based on the potent fact of incompleteness. For instance, one could have written a vol-



ume relating to litigation affecting the several individual tracts of land that now comprise the entity of the city, and it would have been replete with the atmosphere of tragedy, strategy, deception and romance; but an attempt has been made to introduce the reader to the subject, to relate only important facts and dismiss it out of regard to the pressing call of another subject equally interesting and equally important. Some excellent themes have been cruelly deserted as they hung suspended over the precipice of a chapter end. Others have been grounded for lack of substantial facts to bear them farther. But in nearly every case the reader's reasoning will fill the gaps and afford satisfactory conclusions. The author has sought to tell in essential detail of important enterprises that were accomplished—such as the securing of railroads, the achievement of the capital and the establishment of the packeries—and to minimize even the glamorous enthusiasm over enterprises that failed. There was a Putnam City bubble. There was a cotton mill bubble. There were railroad bubbles in amazing numbers. There were oil and gas bubbles that spent as much gas before they burst as the average Oklahoma gas well produces. A hundred important things were started and never finished, such as a newspaper railroad into the northwestern part of the state. Most of our failures have no virtue as guides to posterity and therefore have been scantily touched in these narratives. Similar disposition has been made of crime and scandal, the muchness of which in an early decade stained the Territory's reputation abroad.

Oklahoma City is an example for nearly all other cities and towns of the State. As such its influence cannot be measured in the realm of commerce, education, society or religion. Demonstration of its leadership was never more marked than during the World war. It is doubtful if more than a few of its business leaders appreciate its position, doubtful if they have given a serious thought to the fact that chronicles of their daily doings are carried by the newspapers into tens of thousands of homes out in the state and that these chronicles and the personality of the individuals mentioned in them are topics of street-corner, community-house and fireside discussions. It is remarked often that one goes out into the state to learn details of what is going on at home. It is of vital concern to





the State, therefore, that what Oklahoma City does should be done cautiously, properly and with due regard to its effect upon what we may appropriately call her constituency. The character of a city should be as sacred as that of an individual. Disillusionments frequently are fatal to reputation.



## A COTTAGE FOR TWO

On the barkless white trunk of a veteran oak, long since superannuated to the service of the weary, sat Mary Lake. An October day was departing. Long shadows covered the open spaces of the little forest at the edge of the prairie. Her blue sunbonnet hung below the broad white collar of a blue waist and her brown curls dropped carelessly into little tangles under the ripples of lazy breezes. She looked with lowered eyes into miniature excavations in the loose soil where two shoe tips aimlessly carried on a process of engineering. On her mind was a problem as old as the ages. In her heart was an experience more precious than great riches. The mind and the heart were in controversy, and the subject was as ancient as the beginnings of the sex and as modern as the mighty moment.

"It's desperately hard, Louis, but I feel it imperative to say it. About your people, your ancestry. I know nothing of them. What were your beginnings, how were you reared, where have you been, what have you done?"

She spoke it quickly, almost in a breath, and when it was out at last, the marks of intense seriousness left her face. She turned toward the lad sitting on the root of an ash two yards distant. Tears slipped out timidly and arrayed themselves like silver beads upon her cheeks. A smile disarranged them and they fell playfully into her lap. Something suggesting a new dawn was warped into that smile, something emblematical of infinite relief.

The lad at the foot of the tree received the message into a mind full of trouble, a gnawing, blighting, insidious sort of trouble, deep and penetrating and calculated to thwart ambition and drive a poor fellow to the mad house. But it was an ameliorating message, a revivifying, soul satisfying sort of a message. It was an interrogation affirmative. It answered yes to the paramount question of the centuries.



Louis Mason burst into laughter. He leaped from the root of the tree, twirled his soft hat into a mass of brown sage grass, cast a couple of triangles with his hands upon his hips, looked triumphantly upon the girl, and the melodies of his laughter floated vibrantly upon the breeze.

She welcomed him. She divined his answer. Yet unspoken, it removed all her doubt. And when he sat beside her, enfolded her in his arms and kissed her warm desirous lips world peace was a reality, nation became nation's neighbor, armaments were sunk in the waters of the seas, brotherly love prevailed everywhere, and heaven came down to earth and blessed it.

Close beside her in the accumulating dusk of the delightful autumn day, unmindful of the hour, unheeding of the supper bell at the ranch house a quarter of a mile away, forgetful of the mooing cows and the neighing of hungry horses, Louis Mason told her this story:

"I am a sixteenth-blood Choctaw Indian. Aboriginal ancestry exists in both my parents. My mother is the granddaughter of the first missionary that came among the Choctaws. Her grandmother was the daughter of a great chieftain who was a friend of presidents and a commissioner of his tribe who sat in the councils of statesmen that framed the early treaties. The missionary she married was a college man of New Jersey, a descendent of passengers on the Mayflower. He was beloved of all the Indians, and I believe his influence for uprightness would have been marked in the race to this day had not white men without scruples taught his generation and the one before it that lying and stealing and murder were essentials to getting on well in the world.

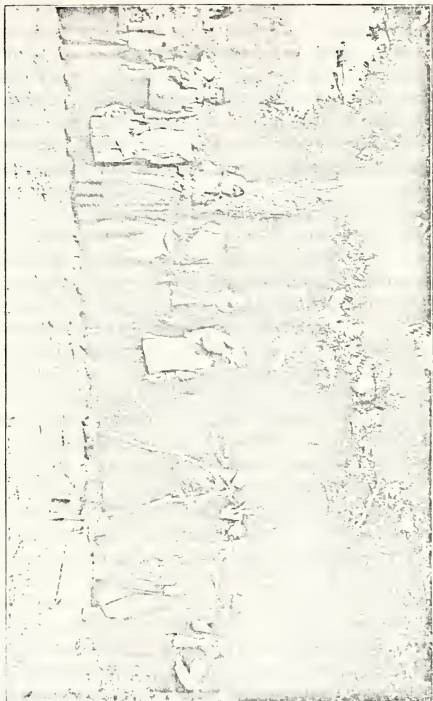
"It was this teaching that brought community troubles and open warfare into the Choctaw country many years before you and I were born. It led to the organization of a band of fullbloods, called Snakes, who imagined that the intermixture of Caucasian blood with Indian blood in the race drove out veneration for fullblood ancestry and caused a departure from the ideals of the forefathers of the race.

"The Snakes listed every mixed-blood as their enemy. They made him an outcast from their society. Continued intermarriage intensified their hatred, and the gradual growth



1726997

OKLAHOMA CITY'S FIRST SETTLERS







in the population of mix-bloods and whites drove the Snakes into more secret hiding places and strengthened the bond of their union. At length the Snakes resolved to drive their enemies from the nation. Armed with bows and arrows, butcher knives and hatchets and a few rifles and revolvers they swept in small armies out of the Kiamichi Mountains down upon the settlements of the mixed-bloods in the valleys of Little River and the Red. They massacred men, women and children, burned their homes and their barns and put to flight those fortunate enough to escape their ferocities. Then they returned to the mountains and held a thanksgiving pow wow and ended the evil day with a dance in which braves jig jigged round the 'sacred' fire, holding upright sharp-pointed slender poles topped with bloody scalp.

"This was the beginning of an extended warfare which was ended by United States troops and the execution of a treaty of peace between the United States Government and the leader of the Snakes. That was the only time the Government ever made a treaty with an individual.

"My grandfather was among the mixed-bloods who escaped the wrath of the Snakes. He crossed with his family into Texas and there remained as a peaceful farmer until the troubles were all fully ended and Indians were given allotments. He returned to the Choctaw country, selected allotments for all members of the family and settled down to a useful life in a rich and rapidly developing region. Mixed-bloods soon became predominant in affairs of the nation and the decimating band of Snakes maintained a secret but publicly inactive organization back in the fastness of the mountains. Their organization exists to this day and the oldest members of it still believe that one day the Great White Father will restore unto them their happy hunting grounds.

"My father became a judge among his people, and tradition says that he was a good and wise judge. And this must have been true, for in time he was elevated to the station of supreme judge of the nation. His advice and counsel frequently were sought in Washington by members of Congress and the heads of departments, and considerable of the last twenty years of his life was spent in the capital.

"My mother was a native of Virginia, a relative of Gen-



eral Lee, a descendent of a hero of the American Revolution, and a member of the society of Colonial Dames. Her mother was the wife of a Choctaw Indian of ambition whom the early missionaries sent back to Virginia to school and who after graduation from the University of Virginia practised law in Richmond. A desire to learn more of her father's people and to be of service to the tribe brought her West. She came by boat up the Mississippi and Red rivers and landed in the vicinity of the present site of Colbert. After a few years she became the wife of Judge Mason and they lived at the old trading post near Fort Towson.

"Modesty hardly warrants my saying more about my mother. Histories of the Choctaw people, some of which I will one day present to you in commemoration of this day's event in my own life, credit her with exceptional grace and charm, with unusual talent and tact, and with being among the founders of social, educational and religious movements that have eradicated prejudice against those of aboriginal ancestry and established for the Indians an imperishable place among the exalted races of undoubted Americanism.

"My land inheritance in the Choctaw country is intact. It is a homestead of rich grasses, fragrant flowers, perpetually running spring waters, a fertile valley of brown soil, and a horizon of western hills wherein abound wild turkey and deer. In a bit of white oak woodland stands the house, a nobby little log and chink affair with a chimney of white stone, a wide hall that leads to the rock-rimmed well that is sheltered by a vine-covered roof connecting with the dining room and kitchen in the rear, and a garden of roses which my mother planted before the front porch. Some day we'll journey thither and I'll tell you a tribal legend plotted near a little waterfall hid away in my mountains.

"It was a coalition of the instincts of the two races that gave me life that led me to abandon the homestead and travel outward and upward, toward the prairies and the plains, the expansive horizons and the setting sun. It's the instinct of the explorer, the purposeful man, rather than that of the idle wanderer. The Indian blood directs a search for a new happy hunting ground; the Caucasian blood commands its adaptation to usefulness.



"Again, ranch life appealed to me. How many times as a small boy have I sat during long evening hours and listened to stories of adventure. Our Indian lads of seventeen and upward went out green and ungainly and came back veteran cowboys, and the experiences they related of life on the ranges, of roundups, of chuck wagons, of following the herds into distant States, of cutting and branding, of wild stampedes, and of farflung social life, were so impelling that only the boy at the apron-string could resist the call for like adventure.

"At nineteen I started on the great adventure. On these pleasant prairies and in these grassy fertile valleys I found it. I have had three years of it now. I have learned nearly all there is to know about operating a cattle ranch. The teachings of your father have made me skillful, expert, alert. And I enjoy his fullest confidence. He trusts me absolutely. I am the boss of his ranch, the puncher in chief of half a hundred cattle hands. Disposition of his ten thousand cattle is a matter for my own judgment.

"I think the thoughts of the West. I speak the language of the West. I am of and for the West. If I were the great white father in Washington I would command that it never be changed. It has a civilization of its own, and it's good enough to endure. This doctrine of the advance of civilization westward is puerile bunk. These prairies were created to support this life of the ranch, the woods to support that other kind of life that is described to us as civilization.

"But the great white father, whatever may be his attitude toward us of the ranch country, is powerless to perpetuate the ranches. Kings of the cattle country have made vain appeals in Washington. The ranches must go. Their days are numbered. We are told that we must move farther to the west with our herds or lay down the saddle and the spurs and take up the plow and the hoe. Hordes shortly will be overrunning our pastures and real estate dealers hanging their signs on our fence posts. And we may not speculate randomly if we close our eyes and draw a mental picture of the establishment on this spot of a great metropolis, 'the commercial center of the great Southwest.' "

---

Louis Mason discoursed calmly, as if love and the winning of a heart were of less consequence than biography. But



he spoke eloquently, courageously. Perhaps it was the eloquence and the courage of the bridegroom leading his chosen into the unfolding pleasures of the honeymoon cottage.

---

An eavesdropping moon peeped reticently out of the Potawatomi Country. The colors of sunset melted into the last faint glow of a departing luminary. A coyote cried plaintively in the dusky distance. Hand in hand the lovers walked slowly along the narrow path to the ranch house.

---

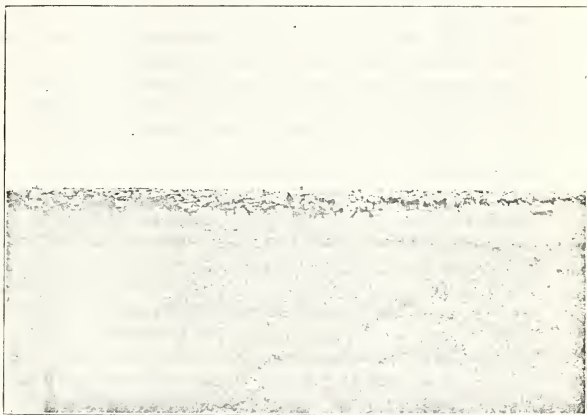
For a long time a sort of impersonal friendship existed between Mary and Louis. She had spent only part of each year on the ranch, the remainder attending school in Massachusetts. Her graduation was an event of the previous spring and she was now entering an autumn of respite, a part of which she expected to devote to assembling material for a book. Teachers, students and other friends in the East during the past four years through numberless queries about her life in the West had inspired her to write the tales she told them.

But her plans were maturing reluctantly. Louis Mason, her father's ranch boss, had come dominantly into her life these last few months. Not Louis Mason of the saddle and spurs and not the handsome young chief of the roundup, but an invisible Louis Mason. The influence came to her unbidden. It was a friendship that came not from intimate association. Mason conceived that his employer had better things in mind for his daughter than marrying her to a halfbreed boss of a few happy-go-lucky cowpunchers. Nor did Mary Lake venture more overtures than a pair of pretty talkative blue eyes. She had never accompanied him on the roundup nor dined with him at the chuck wagon far over toward the Comanche Country. She appropriated all the best elements of frontier life without emulating ranch girls of atmospheric western books. Horseback riding was neither a diversion nor a hobby. Rather was she given to making flower beds and cultivating plants.

Their meeting in the wood was not prearranged; it was purely accidental. They chanced to meet as she walked for pleasure and as he inspected the back fence of the small horse pasture. Inevitably a few things theretofore unspoken slipped







ORIGINAL SITE OF OKLAHOMA CITY



over two pairs of unsteady lips. There were no equivocations when the ice was broken. They talked frankly and freely and unrandomly, and when it was all told and words were scarce and intervals of silence grew steadily longer and more impressive, Louis asked her to become his wife.

It was the day after the next that Mary abandoned convention. At sunrise she climbed blithely into the seat of the buckboard with Mason and they set off for Shawnee Town, where Louis was to dicker for a herd of Texas loughorns. Shawnee Town was a village of the Pottawotomie Country adjoining the Unassigned Territory on the east. The pair of sportive bay steeds, sleek and fat and trimly curried, leaped eagerly to the collars and bounded out into the pasture road.

Robert Lake waved them an adios from the doorstep and returned to the dining room to finish his breakfast.

"Whatever can have happened?" asked Mrs. Lake. "Mary has never done things like that. Do you think ranch life is making a tomboy out of her?"

"I don't know what has happened," answered her husband, his amusement unconcealed, "but the girl's acting like a regular fellow. It pleases me a lot, too, for I feared that she'd find the life monotonous and want to go away to the friends she's been accustomed to in the East."

"Well, Louis will take good care of her, we can count on that," said Mrs. Lake. "He is an excellent young man and must have come from a very superior Indian family. I'd as leave trust her with Louis as with her own brother."

They lingered at the table. The feeding season had not yet begun, for the pastures of luxuriant grass were yet palatable. Contracts had been negotiated for a winter's supply of cottonseed meal, which came from settlements in the Chickasaw Country and the rich black land cotton belt of North-eastern Texas, and the labor of repairing windbreaks and fences in advance of the first chilling "norther" of the season was well under way.

Robert Lake, a grey-haired man of fifty, whom the tonic of the frontier had kept physically superb during twenty-five years of his life upon it, faced the gravest problem of his business career. Singularly for one of his kind, his concern was less over the possibility of a financial loss than the



virtual certainty of his surrendering a business for which he was specially talented, to which he had devoted a quarter century of his maturity, and in which he found pleasure, to his own way of thinking, incomparable in any other avocation of the West.

It was certainly a matter of only a few years until the cattlemen occupying the Unassigned Territory of what men were now calling Oklahoma would have to move out. Fertility of the soil had been discovered. That it was more valuable for agricultural than grazing purposes had been impressed upon officials in Washington. And not the least consequential of those who everlastingly stressed the fact were officials of the two railroads that had been permitted to enter the Indian Territory. The railroads maintained a powerful lobby in the capital. A lobby of almost equal influence was maintained there also by an organization of cattlemen whose herds ranged over the Cherokee Outlet, the Cheyenne and Arapahoe and the Kiowa and Comanche reservations. It was evident that eventually the cattlemen would lose. Boomers were attempting to colonize the territory. Time and again their little bands had been driven out by Government officials and regulars of the United States army, and each time Washington was more nearly convinced that the territory should be divided into homesteads and sold to farmers.

As a matter of fact, Robert Lake himself had settled here with a view of acquiring a fortune out of the cattle industry and enjoying it in later years as a resident of a modern community. The lands he grazed were leased from Indian nations and he paid for grazing rights by the head rather than by the number of acres covered by the herds. But he had become enamored of the business. The abstract thing of the business itself was not represented by the thousands of dollars, net and clean, that lay to his credit in banks of the States. The life of the ranch was the life for Robert Lake. Suggestions of a revival of the purpose for which he came originally were unwelcome. These suggestions were coming more frequently now and Lake found it imperative that he begin making plans for an entirely different sort of a life.

"We are here by every right of law," said Lake, "and by honest effort we have built up a little fortune. But talk of



ejection is becoming general in Kansas and Texas. An order to move is likely to come any day now. Do you recall the big swarthy stranger from Texas that came up the Arbuckle Trail last spring and camped in the pasture down on Lightning Creek? He was an emissary of the enemies of the cattlemen, in fact a personal representative of Colonel Carpenter."

"Colonel Carpenter?" exclaimed Mrs. Lake. "Why, I thought Carpenter was put in jail, that we had heard the last of the man."

"Not in jail," replied her husband, "but at liberty and again very active. Using the same tactics that he used in the Black Hills colonization scheme."

It was Col. C. C. Carpenter who induced Lake to enter the cattle business in the Unassigned Territory. They had met as very young men in Chicago, while Lake was yet a student in the University of Illinois, and Lake had promised to make the adventure after graduation. They met frequently during the succeeding few years but whatever of friendship they formed Lake severed when he learned of the character of Carpenter.

"Here's the latest about Carpenter," said Lake. He returned to the breakfast table with a late copy of a St. Louis newspaper. It contained excerpts from an Indian service inspector's report to Washington, and was written in Coffeyville, Kan.

"Carpenter is here," wrote the inspector. "He is the same bragging, lying nuisance that I knew him to be seventeen years ago, when he infested Fremont's quarters. He will not put his head in danger by entering the Territory. It is a pity that the law could not hold him as a conspirator against the public peace. \* \* \* He came to Independence, some twenty miles from here, at the end of a little spur of the railroad. The merchants agreed to give him \$500 when his first party came and \$1,000 more when 1,000 emigrants had been moved into the Territory by him. He could not satisfy the parties that he had a party at all. They refused to pay the first instalment and he left that place for this, saying the Independence people had gone back on him."

"And last week," continued Lake, "I was again reminded of the insecurity of our position by the presence on the range





of a party of men, women and children, who traveled out here by ox wagon from the Kickapoo Country. They made camp on Deep Fork and when I asked them their mission a spokesman replied that they had come to select homesteads and do some farming. I reported their presence to Washington and President Hayes issued a proclamation warning all persons to desist from intruding on Indian lands. But they swore they had come to stay when I told them of the proclamation, and added that others of their kind were to follow.

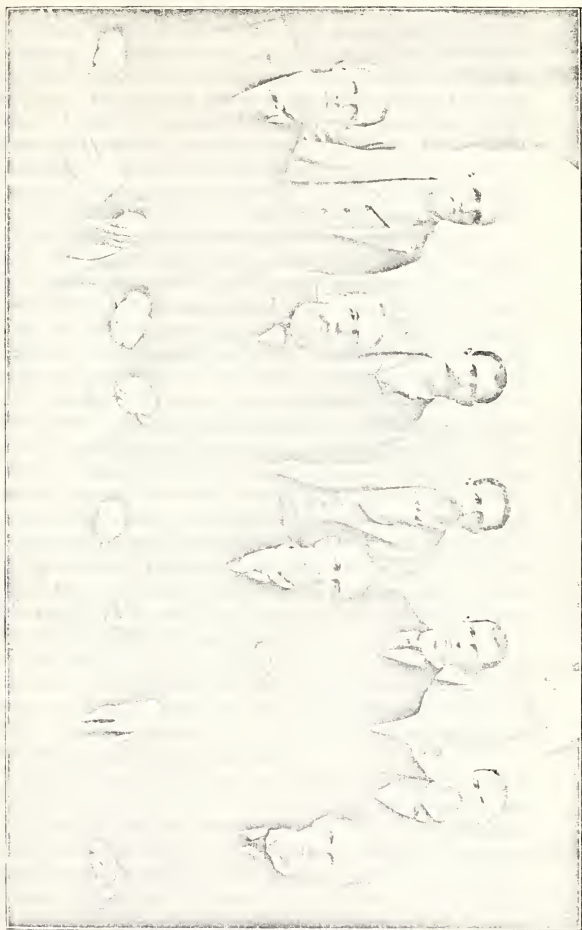
"This Oklahoma War Chief also is causing embarrassment to the cattlemen. It is a little newspaper that insists upon the country being opened to settlement by farmers."

He read from a recent number of the War Chief: "The Secretary of the Interior complains to the President of the United States that 'intruders' and 'trespassers' are settling on Indian lands. The President thereupon (without inquiry as to whether such alleged settlement be within the limits of a regularly established Indian reservation or merely on the unappropriated public domain) orders the Secretary of the Interior to use the army in removing intruders. \* \* \* Cattlemen can pass unmolested, but settlers are all removed. Implements are destroyed, provisions confiscated, men sometimes temporarily placed under arrest, but never tried. \* \* \* No question was ever asked as to the propriety of such policy. The President relies implicitly on representations of the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of War has no choice but to carry out instructions of constituted authority. \* \* \* The suffering settlers have no redress."

Lake was not comforted by military movements or repeated pronouncements of policy from Washington. He could foresee dismemberment of this empire much more clearly than any man who simply theorized on abstract principles of right or justice or policy.

Through the Lake ranch, sometimes known as the Circle Bar, the North Canadian River made a crooked thread. Over the western prairies it cut a relatively even course, but when it touched the outposts of a cross-timbers region, which rimmed the western slope of the great anticlinal Pennsylvania structure, it wriggled itself into knots and zigzagged its channel, thereby creating irregularly arched sections of valleys.





A GROUP OF PIONEERS

Top Row—Henry Overholser, J. M. Owen, L. A. Stewart, Fred Dublin, F. M. Riley. Bottom Row—C. G. Jones, Henry Will, T. M. Richardson, Sidney Clarke



In one of these sections Robert Lake had established his branding pen. Back of the pen and fringing the red bank of the stream thrived a little forest of small ash, oak, cottonwood and elm. In the early years of his occupation of the ranch Robert Lake often imagined it a place of retreat for the children and the weary of a great city. If thirty years later he had returned, the joyous offspring of a new population doubtless would have proffered granddad a slide for life down the incline of a shoot-the-shoots that had been dedicated to juvenile recreation in this identical little wood by the river.

On the upper side of the cross-timbers pasture and about four miles north of the ranch house three small streams with insignificant sources somewhere out in the old buffalo lands came into confluence, and a few hundred feet east of this point Lake had constructed a small dam. Upstream was a long and narrow excavation made to receive and retain waters equal to the ability of the dam to hold in check. These streams furnished clear water that was quite superior to the muddy liquid of the Canadian, and here the horses and the young spring calves quenched their thirst. Robert Lake pictured landscaping possibilities here—a great lake with long, narrow, meandering inlets, furnishing shady retreats and picturesque nooks and little wooded islands created by canals cut from one inlet to another. Could he have returned a quarter of a century later and looked upon this Belle Isle, perhaps he would have sincerely repented that his once genuine devotion to progress departed with the passing years.

On this ranch the last buffalo of the midlands of the West was slain. The animal had strayed away from a herd driven out of the Wichita Mountains and sought refuge in the Keechi Hills. A cowboy dressed the hide and it became a rug in the big living room of the Lake home.

Rainfall was regular and of sufficient quantity to make vegetation in glorious abundance. In midsummer sage grass in the valleys and the lower slopes of the rolling hills grew nearly as high as the knee of a man in the saddle. On prairie eminences and in shallower soil mesquite grass thrived. Wild flowers of a hundred shades and forms smiled in early spring, splashing the hillsides with a million fragrant bouquets. Out-



spread landscapes of trees and streams and hills and valleys and grass and flowers were clothed with beauty into the dim blue of the distant horizon. Westward from the ranch house the eye detected no sign or symbol of artificiality. It looked upon the big outdoors of God's country, a land of perpetual splendor, sufficiently varied in topography to furnish inspiration to the elect of the painters' craft. No suggestion of the desert, so illustrative of the West. East of the land of the cactus and the haggard, drouth-blighted mesquite. East of the monotony of unending levels. Backward from the regions of gyp, backward into the everlasting sources of crystal pure water.

"It's a wonderful country," said Robert Lake.

"And it's our country," spoke his wife. She loved this West. She entered it protesting as a bride. But it wooed her into adoration. The flowers and the hills were hers, the trees and the rippling water, the mellow sunsets and even the spectacularly dramatic electrical storms of April and November. She was unforgiving of intruders. Their motives she interpreted as ulterior. An idea of the greater good she could not entertain with this deep-seated prejudice against them.

"Not our country but God's country," her husband mildly corrected her. They had sat long in thought and discussion. Mid morning slipped quickly upon them.

"We won't leave it," he concluded. "Whatever happens, we'll stay. If it is opened to settlers we'll bid them welcome and divide the sunshine and the flowers with them. We'll be big-hearted, liberal-handed—and, Georgiana, don't you think we'd enjoy having some neighbors again?"

Georgiana Lake refound her girlhood and the good and loyal friends of other years. She suddenly recollected that she had been lonesome many, many times, that she had endured adversities, that she had surrendered many of the finer things of life to live this string of years in the West with the man she loved. So she found some joy in tears and she wept them unabashed. And Memory was her pensive Ruth that went "gleaning the silent fields of childhood" to find the "shattered grain still golden and the morning sunlight fresh and fair."





Shawnee Town, Louis and Mary found a scene of unusual activity. Its sandy little streets were trod by men of foreign habitation. They were strong men, with sunbrowned faces and bared forearms. They wore wide-rimmed hats, such as most men wore in Arkansas, and stoggy crashing boots with pantaloons crammed inside, as was the fashion in the blacklands of Texas. They carried murderous looking revolvers in scabbards at their hips and the stocks of long peppery whips in their hands. They came out of wagons covered with sheets that were weather stained and muddy and that wilted like soiled linens over the saggy bows at the rear. Their wagons were drawn by oxen. Some most heavily loaded were hitched to two or three teams of oxen. In the wagons were all manner of beds and boxes and implements, and above them, their bonneted heads protruding into the sunshine, scores of tired-looking women and dirty-faced children.

Fifty such outfits were halted in the sandy streets of old Shawnee Town. They had halted for provisions, to rest the teams, to get directions for traveling, to find a convenient camping place, and to give the men an opportunity to reconnoiter.

The faces of the men were not displeasing, yet one could easily imagine they carried a distrustful cast of sternness. Undoubtedly they were purposeful faces. But they were not the purposeful faces, for instance, of marshals of the Territory who traveled in groups with like firearms and carried Winchesters on their saddles. They were not pleasure-seekers; they were movers. Their equipment differed decidedly from that of the average covered wagon of that day, which carried summer tourists who had laid by crops and were bound for the home of dad or to visit "wife's kinfolks."

"Like as not they're goin' to take the old man's ranch," the trading-post proprietor said in answer to Louis' interrogation. "They're headed for Oklahoma or bust, they tell me. They say there's a million acres of gov'ment land out there and that it belongs to the people of the country and not to a few cattle kings."

"That's a big country," said Mason. "Did they indicate where they calculated to stop?"

"They have had a scout over the country and he picked



'em a likely place. This scout met 'em here, and one of 'em said he told 'em about some fine land on the Canadian River near the Lake ranch."

"Damnation!" exploded Louis Mason. "Who's the captain of the bunch?"

The merchant indicated the man to whom the scout had reported.

"You wait here in the store, dear," he said to Mary. "I'll see what these galoots are up to."

"So you're the messenger of the cattle kings, are you?" smiled a big bullying sort of an Arkansan after Mason had introduced himself. "I 'lowed as how the sharks'd be sendin' a delegation out to meet us."

"No delegation at all," Mason hastened to assure him. "We didn't know you were coming, or we'd have killed the fatted calf."

Mason knew their kind. He spoke their language on occasion. He knew their manner of living, their habits. They were not greatly unlike the whites and halfbreeds of his own nation, for the whites of his nation had come principally from the land of red apples, sassafras tea, and lumber camps.

"We didn't expect no reception this fur out," big Bill Bryant laughed in return, "and neither did we look fur a Injun to head the reception committee. But now that we have met, what can we do fur you, how are all the folks and what's the chance to get a gallon o' moonshine?"

"Where do you expect to stop in Oklahoma?" Mason asked, driving at once to the issue.

"That depends on the grass and water and the lay of the land," answered Bryant. "You see we are advised by our lawyers that the whole country is subject to settlement and that the early birds may have their choice. We calculate to take the best we can find."

"I fear your legal advice is unsound," argued Mason, good naturedly, "but that's not here nor there. Other people in Oklahoma have rights that must be respected. You certainly do not expect to trespass upon lands occupied by others, for if you have rights, they undoubtedly have the same rights."

"We don't allow as how we'll have to do any shootin'," the



brawny one replied, "but we come prepared. Wild Injuns might be abroad, you know."

Bryant laughed coarsely. He was sagely if indelicately evasive. Mason perceived that he could make no progress in an exchange of provincial half-serious pleasantries. He wished Bryant and his crowd luck and turned toward the buckboard and the waiting girl with apparent good humor.

They drove hurriedly westward out of the village, Louis silent and thoughtful. Unmindful of the seriousness of events rapidly approaching and suppressing an alert curiosity, Mary permitted the silence to continue until Louis ended it suddenly as if a conclusion had been reached.

"We're going to have serious trouble," he told the girl.

"Trouble!" she exclaimed. "You don't mean that those movers are thieves or outlaws?"

"Worse than that," he replied; "they are highwaymen who take your possessions in broad daylight."

Then he told her a story of the long fight by heads of colonization schemes and railroad lobbies against the cattlemen of the Unassigned Territory. He told of the powerful influences brought to bear in Washington, of the building of a mountain of prejudice against grazing lessees, of expeditions of land seekers and their ejection by United States soldiers; in short, of a succession of events that had transpired during the recent few years on the frontier. This information the parents of Miss Lake had concealed from her.

"The days of the cattlemen are numbered," he concluded. "This gang at Shawnee Town probably will not trouble us, for I know how to deal with them peaceably; but the effort they make, which is likely to end in failure, will only add another link to the chain of events that eventually will induce Congress to let the farmers in."

Conversation on the return journey was hedgy. It had a tone of depression and was sporadic. Whatever there was of it interrupted the building of two castles in the air. Brown and gold veneered the shaggy timber. The winding narrow road, of red clay on the long slopes and brown-sugar sand in the endless succession of parallel depressions, unobstructed by fences, fringed by brown grasses and shaded here and there by frowsy tree tops, was the principal highway between the



reservations of the Five Civilized Tribes and the Unassigned Territory. It was a country fit to grow fruits and vegetables, peanuts and watermelons, and its wrinkled surface, the character of its stone and the dip of its depressions indicated hidden pools of natural gas.

Louis Mason reached the ranch without a definite light, for the gray haze of the future. Mary Lake, mindful of an increasing devotion to Louis, envisioned contentment beyond the horizon, but found only tangles of briars in the mental landscape of the day.

"We'll find a way, little girl," he whispered to her in the starlight by the yard gate. "I love you beyond words and that love shall be my guide, my inspiration, my comfort, until the storm clouds are passed and my joy and my life when the fair days come again."

"It's good to love," breathed Mary. She snuggled momentarily in his arms and her rubicund lips welcomed the warm touch of his. "You'll find a way, Louis," she said. "Good night."

Events of the succeeding months are chapters of the dramatic history of the Unassigned Territory just prior to the passage by congress of a bill providing for the opening of the Territory to homestead settlement. They included the migration of the cattle kings, dispossession of the ranges, removal of property, stationing of soldiers along the borders, ejection of persons who were called "sooners," and eventually the firing of military guns that signaled the beginning of the greatest rush for land in all history.

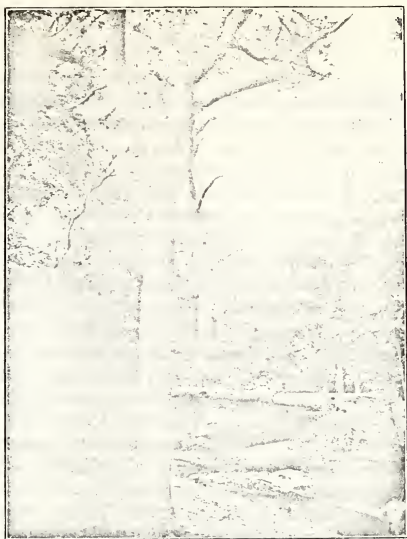
Robert Lake was among the first to pull stake. He sold his cattle, delivered his home temporarily into possession of the Government and moved his family and household goods into the Pottawotomic Country.

"Whether in the future it may be called an honor or a dishonor for one to be known as a sooner," he said, "we shall at least be immune from the charge of being obstructionists."

Louis Mason accompanied them, counting this the last service to his employer. And when they were settled in an Indian-country log-cabin at Shawnee Town and the morning of a third day was dawning, he rode away through the open forest in the direction of his Indian home.







TWO AND A BEAUTY SPOT



WHERE THE DANCE SPOKE WATCHES



Robert Lake participated in the run for lands, an event transpiring within a year after his departure from the ranch. He rode his swiftest horse and was equipped with camp paraphernalia and bisenits and bacon. Every day for three weeks before the run he had exercised himself and his horse in preparation for an endurance test that not even the most experienced cow punchers ever had had to undergo.

He waited with the hundred thousand at the eastern line of the promised land and when the cannon boomed, his spirited mount charged majestically through the quickly disarranged lines of horsemen. The country was familiar to Lake. He knew the short-cut routes of the timberland, and the crossable fording places of the large streams. He traveled many miles alone over a southward swing, correct in the assumption that the hordes would center fire to the west or shoot diagonally to the northward. He conserved horseflesh and human strength, a precaution that never entered the minds of thousands of eager riders. He rode at a moderate speed over the middle section of the route, stopping occasionally to let his steed blow and cool. He rode at last triumphantly upon the old ranch. South of the river he staked a claim, with not a man to contest him. When he was fully established, with mount habiliments, a frying pan and a few victuals as wherewithal of settlement proof, he peered through the trees to the northward. He beheld the cloth and pine beginnings of a city, outspread over the near environs of the ranch house.

The relative quietude of his virgin homestead lasted for but a few minutes, for out of the Chickasaw Country came a horde of mad men racing northward. Tree high rose the creamy clouds of dust beaten out of the grass-carpeted lands by the steeled hoofs of ten thousand snorting, panting, sweating steeds. Heavy thunders rose out of the mighty cavalcade. The vanguard burst out of a lower line of timber upon the prairie valley of the Lake homestead.

Lake watched their approach eagerly. He sensed as an observer the almost savage wildness of their protagonistic desires. Suddenly they were upon him. Their dust enveloped him so that he was hid from the sight of the rear divisions. He fled to a large elm tree twenty rods away for protection.



Out of the ontstripping rank a man dropped and dismounted by the tree. They faced each other half blinded.

"No competition here, sir," said the arrival. It was a familiar voice to Lake.

"And none here," replied Lake.

"Holy hemlocks!" exclaimed Louis Mason. "We meet again and on the old ranch."

"And a mighty welcome chap you are," laughed Lake. "What are you after?"

"Town lots," replied Mason.

The heavy cavalcade approached the river.

"I'll be back and bunk with you," Mason said at parting. He remounted and his respited horse plunged spiritedly into the sand and then into the water of the stream.

Reaching the boundary of the embryo city Mason turned his horse into a public corral of barbed wire, received from the keeper an identification card and hurried toward the registration booth. Before the booth stood a line of waiting men and women hundreds of yards long. It was at this booth that applicants for town lots stated their qualifications to purchase.

Mason made another link in the waving and weaving human chain. The advance was a few inches at a time. After two hours he was within ten yards of the booth. The line here was on the main street of the tent city. Gamblers, highwaymen, confidence men, contest attorneys, claim jumpers, traders, real estate dealers, the marks of whose professions were writ unmistakably upon their faces, mingled and milled along the line, each awaiting his human prospect.

"How much for your place in line?" yelled a coarse voice out of the din of the jumble. Mason's face veered toward the sound. "Hello, kid, I want to trade with you," called Bill Bryant.

"I'll trade with you after the show," laughed Mason.

"Give you a thousand," roared Bryant.

Mason edged forward, urged by the toes of boots at his heels, toe nudging the heels before him. Now visible before him, printed in large black letters, was a sign above the registration window containing rules made and posted by the Secretary of the Interior. Mason read it. Out of his face went the enthusiasm of the quest. Castles tumbled, crashed and were



wrecks in a maelstrom of darkness. He suddenly collected himself, deliberated for a dozen seconds, envisioned the sweet and smiling face of Mary Lake, turned half about and called to Bill Bryant.

"Bring along your thousand," he said, "I've had enough of this."

Bryant hastened to him, counted out the thousand dollars in dirty currency, and took Mason's place in the line. "Got a bad foot," said Bryant. "Couldn't 'a' stood it all day."

Robert Lake and his wife and daughter in due time settled on their homestead beside the river, just outside the city limits. Early came Mason to visit them.

"How's the locating business?" asked Lake.

"More than I can do," answered Mason. "Wish I had a dozen of our old cow punchers to help me. I know the trails; the new-comers don't. I can place five men to their one. Never saw such opportunity to make money."

---

It was a season of sociability in the Lake cottage. They forgot business and the newness and roughness and downright crudeness of things and harked back to the days before dust, almost impassable streets of mud, assaults, robberies, killings and the hundred and one minor inconveniences and travesties. In the late evening Louis and Mary spoke quietly and alone on an old white log in the pasture. They discoursed on momentous nothings until the subject melted into moonbeams, and then proceeded to settle once and for all that more practical but equally momentous question of a cottage for two.

The Daily News thirty days later announced the organization of the Commerce National Bank, of which Robert Lake, "former cattle king," was chosen president, and Louis Mason, "one of the city's most excellent young business men," was chosen cashier.

Sixty days later the Daily News reported at column length the wedding of Mr. Louis Mason and Miss Mary Lake, the latter "the beautiful and accomplished daughter of Mr. Robert Lake and one of the fairest flowers of the land of the fair god."

In the cottage for two one balmy evening of the honeymoon





they were taking an inventory of recent events. "You never told me," said Mary, "why you didn't get that coveted Main Street lot of which you talked before the run."

"Oh, I had forgotten that," Louis laughed. "The truth is, my conscience wouldn't let me take the risk. A sign over the registration window said: 'No person of Indian blood shall be permitted to register.' That's why I sold my place in the line, a place I held in all good faith until I neared the window, and a place sold in all good faith to an Arkansawyer with a disabled foot."

---

Among the early callers at the bank was Bill Bryant. He came, he said, to express good wishes for the new institution and incidentally to borrow a couple of hundred for thirty or sixty days.

"That'll be all right, Mr. Bryant," said the accommodating cashier. "I take it that you can give us a mortgage on the lot you drew."

"No, I can't," replied Bryant sadly. "You see, I didn't get to keep the lot. Went to court and all that, but the contestant won and I was put off."

"On what grounds?" asked Mason.

"They proved that I was a sooner," replied Bryant, "and sooner are in bad repute hereabouts."



## THE FOUNDING OF OKLAHOMA CITY

BY DR. A. C. SCOTT

Monday, April 22, 1889, was a perfect day in the Oklahoma Country. Not a cloud flecked the sky all day long. Scarcely the whisper of a breeze could be noted, or the bending of a blade of grass. The wine of spring was in the air, and the freshness of spring was evident to all the senses. A certain area upon which today stands a city of 100,000 people was, on the morning of that day, an unbroken prairie, low and level in the loop of the North Canadian River to the South, but rising and more rolling to the North. The land had been burned clear, and the soft new grass of spring, sprinkled with multitudinous wild flowers, made the view a peaceful and a charming one. But this was in the morning, and up to noon. By evening the grass and flowers were crushed beneath the feet of thousands of hurrying and excited men, and the deeper sears of horses' hoofs and wheels of innumerable vehicles. In six hours the natural beauty of the scene was completely obliterated—beyond recognition or hope of repair.

For Oklahoma City was born that day. The Romans reckoned time for many centuries from the founding of the city. The 22d of April, 1921, was for Oklahoma City, A. U. C. 32. Many cities, it is to be presumed, had their start on a certain day; but few, if any, have started with such a rush and so dramatically. On the morning of April 22, 1889, Oklahoma City had a name but no inhabitants; in the evening it had a population of 10,000 persons, and was permanently on the map. To one looking over it that evening, as this writer had the privilege of doing, it was a bizarre and motley sight; a city of tents; tents as far as the eye could see; some old and soiled, but for the most part new and very white, and giving forth a spectral aspect as the twilight fell. A very transient and fleeting appearance it had, too, as if it might

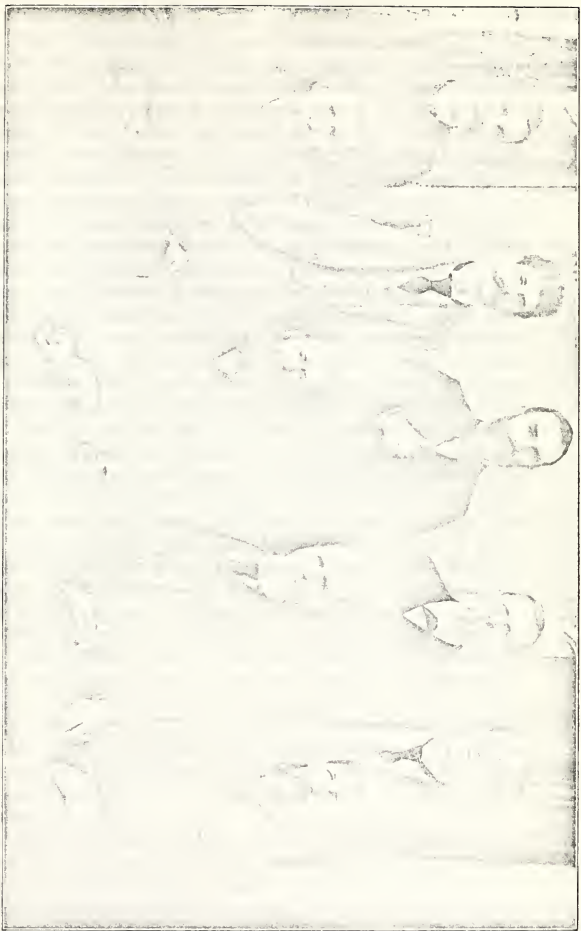


break camp and move on in the morning. But it was in reality by no means transient. It is interesting to reflect that these slight canvas tenements rooted their owners to the soil and gave them titles which no man could take away. The tents were soon replaced by wooden structures, and these in turn gave way to brick, granite, concrete and steel.

And this was the way it happened: On March 3, 1889, by a "rider" on the Indian Appropriation bill, Oklahoma had been declared open to settlement. President Harrison had announced April 22d as the opening day, and 12 o'clock noon the earliest at which one could legally enter the land. And it was in fact just the "land." It was not a territory; it was not a state; it was just "the Oklahoma country." It had no organization, no government, and no laws except such as were generally applicable to Federal territory. It is important to remember this in reading the story of the founding of Oklahoma City, since there were no laws providing for the organization of municipalities and no power to make them. There was not even any legal authority to lay out streets and alleys, blocks and lots. There was one Federal law, however, applicable to the case and that was that if a certain number of people went upon a subdivision of public homestead land with the purpose of forming a town or city, that act segregated the land in question from the ordinary homestead land and made of it homestead lots—which means that any man could enter upon a certain number of lots and hold them, providing he was the first to "settle." In other words, the lots were to be had for the taking; and since there was a very general impression that Oklahoma City was to be the chief city of the coming State, getting in on the ground floor seemed to offer a rare opportunity of obtaining something for nothing.

And that was why 10,000 people rushed to this particular spot—a mere station on the Santa Fe Railroad—as soon after noon of April 22d as they could get there. Some even rushed to it sooner—more stealthily, however; and that explains how the word "sooner" came into instant and universal vogue in Oklahoma, and even got into the dictionaries. There were "trenches" in those days as well as in these, and when the hour of twelve arrived these trenches discharged many a man who made swift tracks for the choicest lots.





GROUP OF PIONEERS

C. W. Price, Colo. W. H. Eley, Kan. John A. Blackburn, Mo. A. L. Mendick, Wis. A. C. Scott, Kan. O. H. Violet, Cal. M. T. Hartney, Ill.  
J. B. Wheeler, Mich. B. N. Woodson, Texas.





The first legal settlers came, probably, from the nearest point on the South Canadian River, about eleven miles distant. They came tumultuously, on horseback and in wagons, reaching the townsite 20 minutes before 1 o'clock. On their heels followed other multitudes from points of entrance slightly more distant. Then came the avalanche, trainloads upon trainloads, by the Santa Fe from North and South. Every coach was filled to suffocation, and the roof of every car was packed with men. The passengers began to fall off or out of the cars long before the trains came to a stop. Every man carried stakes and an axe, because, however little he knew about the law in the case, he knew that the way to get lots was to "stake" them, and to stake them first. And every man hit the ground running, for he knew there was a possibility of staking a lot that would be worth \$5,000 within a week. As a matter of fact, many a man did stake property that afternoon which has since sold for a more than comfortable fortune.

That was a long and strenuous afternoon. It seemed as if some thousands of human beings had gone mad. All over the townsite men were furiously driving stakes and setting up tents. Not that a man could hold all the lots he could stake. There was a limit under the Federal law, but few knew what it was, and many staked, or "settled," all they could in the hope that they would get all the law allowed in the final outcome. This went on until about 7 o'clock, when it seemed to occur to everybody at once that it was supper time. A truce to rivalry seemed to be declared by common consent, and activities suddenly ceased. The odor of frying bacon and brewing coffee rose in the air most delectably from thousands of camp-fires or rudely improvised camp-stoves. Then was the city of tents seen at its best and most dramatic moment; and as the night came on and innumerable camp-fires and lanterns gave fitful illumination to the scene, one might well have fancied that this was a military encampment or the setting of some huge frolic.

Not a few worked on through the night, but for the most part the weary multitude slept with such measure of comfort as they could command. About midnight a loud, slow call floated over the townsite from the North: "Oh, Joe, here's your mule!" It was taken up by voice after voice, and the



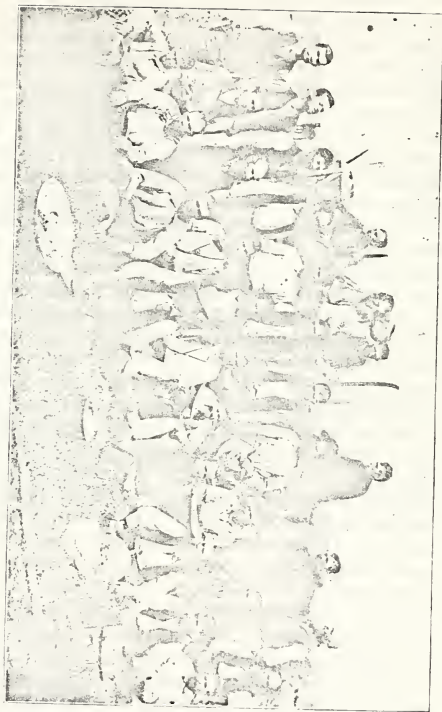
multiplied cries passed over the town and on like a flock of migratory birds. It afterwards developed that this homely call resounded over a great part of Oklahoma Country that night, and there are many who aver that it arose in the north-west portion as a bona fide piece of information to a man who had lost his mule, and was taken up by man after man in the densely populated region—though peopled in a single afternoon—and thus traversed the course of nearly a hundred miles. At any rate, utterly insignificant as this incident is, it is easily the most universally remembered event of the first-day history of Oklahoma.

The next morning operations were renewed with vigor. Some wooden "shacks" began to appear, hastily thrown together from lumber or ready-framed parts of houses previously shipped in. But the question began to rise very insistently to every lip, "Where are we getting with all this struggle?" Every man was after lots, but the trouble was, there were no lots. The town was not laid off in lots and blocks. Every stake driven represented a gamble. It might be on a lot, when lots should be established, and it might with almost equal chance prove to be in a street or an alley. So about noon a small group of men, strangers to one another, but thrown together in the common confusion, decided that the best way, and indeed, the only way, to get things headed toward some sort of solution was to call a mass meeting. This was no sooner thought of than done. Half a dozen boys were found, placed on ponies, provided with bells, and instructed to ride all over the townsite calling the people to a meeting at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Nobody stayed away from that meeting. Men gathered by thousands and by acres. The writer of this sketch was elected chairman; and to have this part over, he presided also over the second great mass meeting, held the next Saturday, to which reference will be made. This fact is mentioned to give assurance that these incidents are narrated by one who had them sharply impressed upon his memory. He had one indispensable asset, as it proved—a strong and carrying voice.

Well, this Tuesday afternoon meeting raged for three hours, and at the end the chairman's voice suddenly went out





EARLY SETTLERS



in a whisper. It was not a riotous meeting, but it was a tumultuous one. At the beginning a very large and long box was found and placed on end, and the chairman hoisted to the top of it. A secretary was elected and lifted to the top of a similar box beside the chairman. Then the big talk began. There were some warm words for the "sooners" and for a certain town company which had made a pre-opening plat of the town and was trying to sell lot locations; but chiefly the question was how we should lay out the town when there was no law for it. It was finally determined to elect a committee of fourteen men; with power to divide the townsite into streets, alleys, blocks, and lots, beginning at a certain designated spot, and to name the streets. The committee was instructed to proceed to its task at once. The manner of electing these fourteen men was curious, to say the least, and probably unique in the history of election. It is to be remembered that these thousands of men, coming from every part of the country, were almost universally strangers to one another. Therefore when the first man was nominated, the instant cry was, "Let's see him." So he was hustled through the crowd to the boxes where the chairman and secretary stood, then boosted from below by those on the ground and pulled from above by the two officers on the boxes until he, too, stood exposed to the gaze of the multitude. And this proceeding was followed in the case of every man placed in nomination. If the crowd liked his looks they voted him up; if not, they voted him down—and this without the slightest compunction. It was tough to be voted down just on one's looks. But several were thus rejected. Among those voted out was Gen. James B. Weaver, once a candidate for President of the United States. But it wasn't on account of his looks, since he was a notably fine-looking man. It was by reason of some passing prejudice against him, the nature of which the writer has forgotten if he ever knew. There was no possibility of taking a "division" on contesting votes; the chairman had to judge as best he could by the size of the roars for the different sides, for the crowd voted altogether by roars. But there was another limitation upon eligibility to this committee besides looks, and that was that no two men should hail from the same State. So when this most strenuous and personal





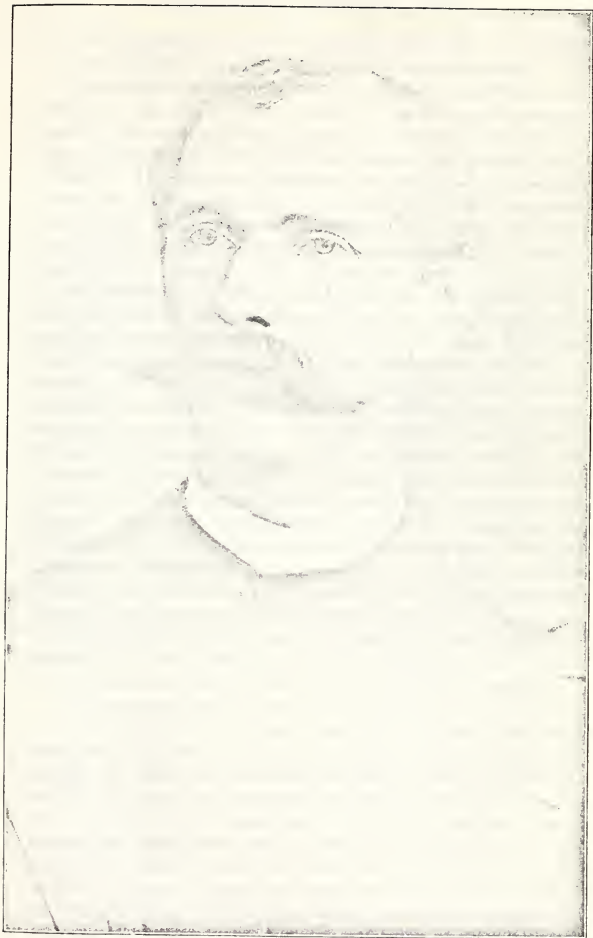
election was over, the Committee of Fourteen represented fourteen states of the Union.

The committee went to work that very night and continued its labors until far beyond midnight. It met in a large, flapping tent—for the April breeze had awakened—and its proceedings were conducted by the light of lanterns and torches. It laid off Oklahoma City exactly as it stands now, except for one important correction rendered necessary by the force of circumstances within the week, the story of which is a story of near-tragedy that will be told in its place. Of course, however, the land then laid off is but a small fraction of the area occupied by Oklahoma City today, and is now almost wholly covered by business structures. The committee employed a surveyor, and he, with his party, was instructed to begin surveying and measuring off the lots and blocks the next morning. This was the thing that would reveal who had drawn prizes and who had drawn blanks. This work was energetically undertaken on Wednesday morning.

Also, at its session that Tuesday night, the Committee of Fourteen appointed a sub-committee of five to follow the surveyors, and hear and determine the rights of contesting claimants to the lots: for in many cases there were from two to half a dozen settlers on a single lot, and the question was, who legally got there first? As soon as the surveyors got fairly under way, marking off the lots as they went, this sub-committee began its work, passing from lot to lot, hearing the evidence of the parties, and summarily deciding the cases on the spot. An immense crowd attended the committee, and the press of the throng soon became so great that it was found necessary to nail three long boards together, thus forming a triangle within which the committee could be protected from the crowd. This triangle the inner circle of the spectators and litigants good-naturedly bore along, and thus the peripatetic tribunal went more or less comfortably on its way.

Of course, there was no legal warrant for this procedure, and many who were ousted subsequently presented their claims to a commission appointed by the President under an act of Congress passed about a year later. But for the most part the contestants accepted the decisions of the sub-committee. Those who found their stakes and tents to be in streets





CAPTAIN W. L. COUCH



and alleys packed up their belongings and left, and within two or three days the streets began to be clearly defined.

But trouble was brewing for the Committee of Fourteen. Reference has already been made to a town company which came to the opening with a prearranged plat of Oklahoma City. This was the Seminole Town Company of Topeka, Kan. While the Committee of Fourteen was strenuously pushing its survey up from the South, the Seminole Town Company was urging people to settle according to its plat on Main Street and to the North. And it was succeeding. Friday came, and the citizen's survey had reached Grand Avenue, the street just south of Main. And then the "situation" suddenly developed. The Seminole Town Company's plat had been made with reference to the course of the Santa Fe Railroad—that is, its streets ran at right angles to the Santa Fe tracks—and that road did not run exactly North and South through the townsite. Therefore the citizen's survey, made in accordance with the Government township lines, did not fit into the Seminole survey. To go forward would be to dislocate the settlements made on Main Street and to deprive many men of "possessory rights" already worth thousands of dollars. The Main Street settlers warned the Committee of Fourteen that it must not prosecute its survey farther. The committee telegraphed to General Noble, Secretary of the Interior, and received a reply to the effect that the Seminole Town Company had no rights whatever in the townsite. A meeting of the committee was held that night, and after long discussion it was determined on the strength of the Washington telegram to proceed with the survey in the morning.

The surveying party went to work bright and early Saturday morning, but it had not gone far when a group of quiet men from Main Street, with Winchesters in their hands, appeared upon the scene and suggested that it would be just as well for the party to discontinue its work then and there. This was reported to the Committee of Fourteen, and that body immediately went into session. Its decision was that it was high time to call another mass meeting. Boys were procured as before, placed on horses and sent scurrying over the townsite with bells in their hands, calling a general meeting for 2 o'clock. The same huge crowd assembled. There were two



factions now, and a good chance for a clash. The meeting was not so tumultuous, however, as that on Tuesday; but there was a tenseness of feeling which suggested that trouble would come unless wise counsels prevailed. The right of the matter was plainly with the Committee of Fourteen, but expediency suggested compromise. The moderates prevailed. There was a north-side party and a south-side party, and it was voted that a committee of ten should be selected, equally divided between these parties, to try to patch up a peace. Each party withdrew to itself and nominated its five men, and then the two parties came together to ratify the action. It was directed that a report should be made at dusk of the same day.

The committee went immediately to work, with General Weaver as its chairman. A civil engineer was called in, the two plats were carefully compared, and it was found that by creating and throwing in certain irregular lots between Grand Avenue and Main Street, much as a mason throws fillers into a stone wall, the two surveys could be welded together and the breach be healed. This sounds easy, but it took hours of weary work.

And it left its mark on Oklahoma City. Not only were the irregular lots created, but the North and South-going streets at Grand Avenue did not "fit," and harsh jogs, or notches, were produced. Strangers wonder, as they travel down a street running from North to South, how it is that they come against a solid street face at Grand Avenue and must turn sharply to the left before they can go on. If they knew it, these irregularities are very literally the scars of a bloodless conflict.

Well, at dusk the great crowd met again, at a point where a magnificent hotel now stands. Flaring torches and smoky lanterns produced a weird effect. The secretary of the committee mounted a box and read the report. It seemed to please everybody, for a great hoarse shout of approval went up. And then pulling himself out like a telescope, uprose from the rude stool upon which he had been sitting a Southern Methodist preacher, Shaw by name, long-haired and bearded like a prophet, six feet and seven inches tall, with a mouth like the crater of Vesuvius and a voice like the thunders of Sinai, and said, or rather roared, "Let us sing, 'Praise God







FIRST POST OFFICE OF OKLAHOMA



from Whom All Blessings Flow!" " And this writer has never before or since heard the old doxology sung with so great impressiveness.

Thus ended the first week in Oklahoma City, and this its first great trouble. In the year that followed, while it was governing itself with no law except self-made law, it had other troubles and other stirring and dramatic scenes; but they do not belong to this story.



## PART II

### THE SPREAD OF THE YEARS



## 1889—THE LOT JUMPERS

Two temporary municipal governments were set up when the tempest of the rush had subsided and men's thoughts shifted to enterprise of permanency. One of them attempted to direct public policies of the area originally platted and the other of an area adjoining it on the south. This latter the settlers called South Oklahoma. It consisted of 320 acres and Reno Avenue was its northern boundary. Apparently the rivalry between the two governments was not discordant.

Stories have been told by Dr. A. C. Scott and others whose experiences are related in another subdivision of this history of the earliest attempts at maintaining order and the establishment of a government, of the controversy between the Seminoles and the Kickapoos and their conflicting methods and the overlapping of their boundaries, and of the lights and shadows of pioneer life.

Five days after the opening South Oklahoma, with a population of over two thousand, held an election, in which 500 votes were cast. G. W. Patrick was elected mayor, W. T. Bodine, recorder; Leslie P. Ross, attorney; N. C. Helburn, marshal; John Cochran, treasurer, and J. P. McKinnis, S. E. Steele, E. W. Sweeney, E. S. Hughes and W. L. Killibrew, members of the council. This administration appears to have been short lived, for within a few months a directory in the Daily Times showed the government to be in control of T. F. Fagan as mayor; J. M. Vance, recorder; J. H. Beatty, attorney; B. F. Waller, treasurer; R. A. Sullins, engineer; D. F. McKay, marshal, and W. S. Barnes, W. A. Robertson, W. A. Barker, T. J. Head, G. W. R. Chinn and H. F. Quinn, members of the council. Marshal McKay resigned shortly and was succeeded by W. J. Fuller. Mayor Fagan resigned on November 27th and at a special election on December 7th, James Milton was elected to succeed him.





Locations for business houses were in demand principally along California and Grand avenues and Main Street, and the tendency of business and residential sections was toward the north. It was toward uplands and the choice rangy hills and away from the bottoms and their skirting low levels along the Canadian River. South town, however, developed a business section of its own and spread its residential area down to the river bank. It developed a society peculiar unto itself and had its churches and schools and lodges, and real estate dealers verbally dressed it up with industrial possibilities. One of its chief social and intellectual diversions of the year was debating. This was carried on by what was misnamed the South Oklahoma Election Club—misnamed because of its frequent departure from a purpose indicated by the title. One of the most enthusiastic of these debates was on the subject of a herd law for Oklahoma. The chief affirmative speaker, who advocated the adoption of such a law, was J. F. Winans, and the negative side was captained by S. E. Steel.

Political issues that developed during the summer in Oklahoma City proper centered upon a charter that had been prepared and presented for adoption on September 20th by a board chosen out of the Seminole group. It was defeated and out of the defeat the first regular campaign for mayor developed, with Dr. A. J. Beale the nominee of the Kickapoos and Henry Overholser the choice of the Seminoles. While political alliances were little considered in the nominating conventions and political differences were of secondary importance in the campaign, ambitious politicians made capital of the fact that Doctor Beale was a democrat and Mr. Overholser a republican. The election was held on November 27th and Beale was elected by a majority of fourteen. Less than seven hundred votes were cast.

The September charter election was the more exciting of the two. As has been related elsewhere, it was a serious question who was entitled to vote, and the paramount debatable issue of the day—who were entitled to retain town lots—was ineradicable. Capt. D. F. Stiles, commanding officer of Government troops that were stationed east of the Santa Fe tracks, had instructions to interfere in election disturbances. His interference resulted in the arrest of Judge





OKLAHOMA CITY IN 1889 BEFORE THE RUN



OKLAHOMA CITY ON APRIL 21, 1889



Brown, Capt. A. B. Hammer, R. Glasgow, M. L. Bixler, H. W. Sawyer, J. B. George, L. W. Stewart, J. H. Barry and W. L. Pendleton, who were charged with obstructing the military in enforcement of orders. The bond of each was fixed at \$1,000 and some of the men, failing to make bond, were sent to jail. It appears that at least one deputy United States marshal, George E. Thornton, was in sympathy with the defendants and others of their clan, for he was accused by Captain Stiles of "unwarranted interference with myself and the United States commissioners and is the cause of much trouble." Captain Stiles made complaint against Thornton to Thomas B. Needles, United States marshal, at Muskogee, and R. L. Walker, United States marshal, at Topeka, Kansas.

"The presence here of Deputy United States Marshal George E. Thornton cannot be tolerated any longer," said the Stiles complaint. "I have had to put one of his possemen out of town as a thug and another was arrested Saturday after an election riot and is now under bond. Thornton's conduct today is unaccountable. I refer you to Commissioners Sommer, Harney and Cramer and to Deputy Marshals Bickford and East. He sides with the disturbing element in this city and should be removed at once."

An order of removal came in due time from Marshal Walker at Topeka. It was a mere brief sentence that was preceded and superseded by praise of Thornton's service in general in which his "honesty and integrity were not questioned" and in which he was "counted a good and efficient officer." It seems not to have been definitely determined whether a government marshal in Oklahoma was under jurisdiction of the district of Indian Territory or the district of Kansas, which accounts for Captain Stiles sending his complaint to the marshal of each district. Probably the records show that Marshal Needles at Muskogee also issued an order of dismissal of Thornton.

During the Beale-Overholser campaign a petition was circulated and liberally signed asking the Government to keep the troops here until a Territorial government had been set up. It appears that the language of the petition contained an endorsement, openly or by inference, of the administration of Captain Stiles. Whether this was true or not, a belief that



it was true caused a few signers to demand that their names be erased from the instrument, and this was made an issue in the mayoralty campaign. Opponents of Overholser called Captain Stiles the "autocrat of the Seminoles," and strong charges were made against Sidney Clarke of the Seminole Townsite Company and Captain Couch who had on November 12th resigned as mayor, both of whom were ardent Overholser supporters. The Gazette, a daily newspaper edited by Doctor Scott, was the editorial mouthpiece of the Overholser organization.

Doctor Beale was endorsed on November 13th by what was called the Kickapoo council, the call for which was issued by D. M. Ross, chairman of a Territorial executive committee. Among requests made by the candidate was that the nominating convention should be held in the day time.

"I will never call the military down upon our people to bayonet them in the streets," he said in his speech of acceptance. He pledged himself to protect the interests of lot holders and to discourage and prevent lot jumping. He opposed a second attempt to adopt the charter that had been defeated. "I know neither Seminole nor Kickapoo as such," he said dramatically, "but with an eye to justice and the right, and quailing before no wrong however well supported, I will be mayor if elected."

Officials of the Choctaw Railway Company looked the town over this summer with a view of selecting an objective on the Santa Fe railroad for a western outlet. As a consequence the first railroad mass meeting was held on September 7th. It was called jointly by Mayor W. L. Couch and Mayor T. J. Fagan of south town. It was presided over by Mayor Fagan, and J. K. Fisher was secretary. Right of way and terminal facilities in the city were demanded principally by the Choctaw officials, and a committee was appointed to confer with these officials to get more definite information. This committee consisted of Doctor Beale, J. H. Woods, A. B. Hammer, W. L. Couch and T. J. Fagan.

One of the chief obstacles to progress the early settlers had to overcome was a quite widely current belief that the Territory was out of the rainfall belt and that it was similar elementally to the then unprofitable Panhandle of Texas.





This belief no doubt was responsible for an uncommonly large percentage of speculative driftwood in the towns and a small percentage of actual farmers on the homesteads. The serious-minded and determined few who came to stay permanently therefore sought opportunities to tell the world the truth about the new country. A great opportunity was afforded in September when a party of congressmen, who were scouting for ideas and wild meats, spent a day here. Undeniably it was a day they should not forget and if they were mindful of the hospitality of their hosts to a degree commensurate with that hospitality, they became deliberate and prolific Oklahoma propagandists. They had a barbecue at midday, a banquet at evening, and none was better trained to manage the former than M. R. Glasgow. And at the banquet Sidney Clarke presided—a former congressman who was acquainted with the little frills and niceties and figures of speech of a social republic. Between the hour of the barbecue and the hour of the banquet there were hours and hours of space and the congressmen occupied much of it at speech making.

The leading member of this party was Representative William M. Springer of Illinois whose influence was a big factor in the passage of the act opening the Territory to settlement. His was the leading speech of the afternoon and it was complimentary and prophetic and the hundreds who listened gave it vigorous applause. Other members of the party were Allen of Mississippi, Baker of New York, Mansur of Missouri and Perkins and Peters of Kansas. Nearly every member of the party found here former constituents.

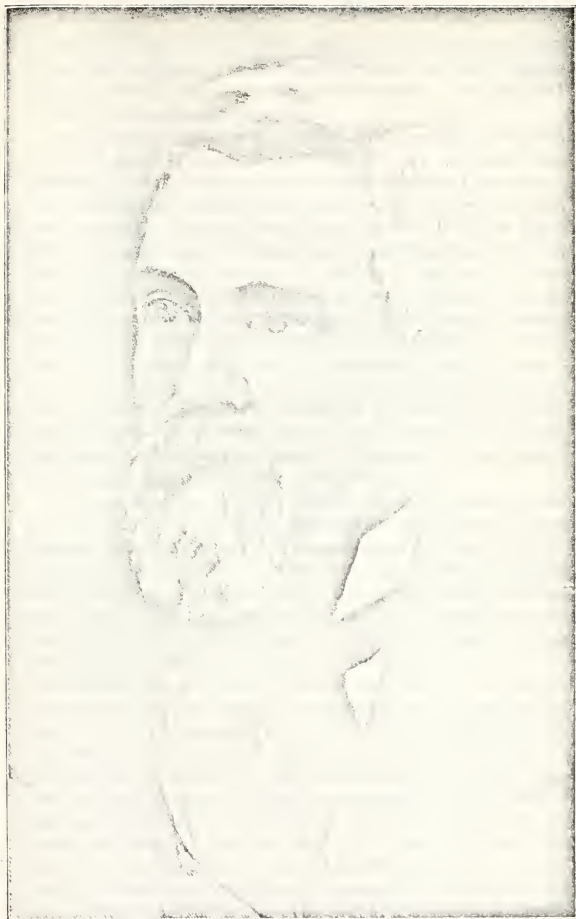
It may be said with approximate certainty that the men who made arrangements for the reception and entertainment of these visitors constituted the first organized band of Oklahoma City boosters. They conceived and first gave public expression to a spirit, which their successors inherited and so admirably employed, that advertised to the world the resources and opportunities of Oklahoma and made of this city the metropolis of the future state. Words, they said among themselves in the early meetings, would be insufficiently impressive when the visitors came, and the board buildings and the board walks and the modest homes and the flapping dirty tents certainly would be no proof that the settlers could or would do



better than this. There must be evidence of possibilities and opportunities. There must be proof that early impressions relative to agricultural possibilities were incorrect. That proof must be indisputable and the congressmen, if they were disposed to reciprocity, certainly would put some advertising for the city into the Congressional Record! More than that, these people before long would be asking for statehood, and the influence of the visitors, who know, might pass an enabling act.

So they resolved to gather up and display the widest possible variety of field and pasture products. The settlement date was seasonable for the planting of nearly all crops suitable to this climate and hundreds of homesteaders who had brought their teams and plows with them in the run pitched right into crop making. Rainfall and sunshine had been well proportioned and by September even the most sanguine of the ambitious ones marveled in the presence of the bounteous harvest. Col. Samuel Crocker was chairman of the committee appointed to assemble the products. S. Countryman, M. F. Waller, S. F. Cramer, G. W. Patrick and A. D. Marble were the other members of the committee. They were instructed by the club to collect "specimens of ores, minerals, fossils and natural curiosities and samples of grasses, grains, fruits, vegetables, et cetera." J. E. Sawyer was delegated to superintend the placing of exhibits. Having heard of this enterprise and fearing that the committee would be unable to make a creditable showing, some representative men of Purcell, an Indian Territory town situated in a region that had been cultivated for a number of years, offered to send up some of the best of their farm products to supplement the exhibit. The offer was not accepted, but to this day there are eighty-miners who are not certain that some Indian Territory products were not surreptitiously placed in the exhibit hall. Colonel Crocker brought in melons and pumpkins of his own, some of which weighed sixty pounds. A former Iowan deposited a beet that was twenty-eight inches long. An onion was thirteen inches in circumference. A bean vine was 200 feet long. Some corn stalks were nine feet high and had been produced without cultivation. There was a tumble weed six feet tall and forty feet in circumference and a sunflower plant





DR. A. J. BEALE



twelve feet high, which made the Kansas congressmen feel thoroughly at home. A Kentuckian, who had been experimenting with tobacco, brought in a sample of the long leaf variety of exceptionally fine fibre.

Seventeen persons contested the entries of the three men who laid claim to the land on which the city originally was established and a heated and somewhat technical controversy was warming up in land office circles by the end of the year. The land office records showed that Louis O. Dick, on April 22d, filed application for entry on the southeast quarter and the south half of the northeast quarter of section 33, township 12 north, range 3 west, and on the north half of the northeast quarter of section 4, township 11 north, range 3 west; that on April 24th, James Murray filed application for entry upon the east half of section 33, township 12 north, range 3 west; and that on May 2d, G. W. Patriek made application to enter upon the north half of section 4, township 11 north, range 3 west. The records showed proof that all tracts were embraced within the boundaries of Oklahoma City and apparently were being used for townsite purposes.

The contestants of the rights of these applicants were Samuel Crocker, F. M. Gault, Randall Fuller, Fred R. Fuller, Stephen Crocker, Henry C. Cowan, George E. Thornton, Edward DeFar, Mesheck Couch, Kate E. May, Thomas Wright, Frank S. Phillips, Edward Orne, Willis Peel, James Patterson, Anson Wall and Eugene Fuller. The register and receiver of the land office at Guthrie denied the prayer of the contestants that the applications for entry be rejected and the contestants appealed to the general land office. An important reason for the denial was an apparent overlapping of claims. The commissioner of the general land office said that undoubtedly the applicants meant to enter upon "different parts of the same town." Affidavits made by Dick and Patriek were in the record stating that the lands had been settled upon as towns and were actually occupied for the purpose of trade and business and not for agricultural purposes, that they were populated by bonafide inhabitants and were not in any reservation not subject to operation of the homestead laws. These affidavits made a favorable impression upon the commissioner but he reserved final judgment until further





investigation should be made. He instructed the land office officials to determine whether there was more than one town on the tracts, whether they were actually settled and occupied as towns or townsites, to ascertain the number of inhabitants and the character, value and location of all municipal improvements, and to determine whether the appellants had made settlements upon the tracts. That was the status of the controversy at the end of the year.

The position of United States commissioner was a rather lucrative one in the early years and appears not to have been affected by a strict code of ethics. At any rate, Commissioner F. L. Cramer advertised for clients. "Come to Cramer," read his ad in a daily paper. He bore the title of general and held the office of commissioner of deeds in Kansas.

"The editor goes to jail," announced H. W. Sawyer, editor of the Daily Times, and the records disclose that he was among the number arrested by Captain Stiles' men during election disturbances. Mr. Sawyer was a forceful writer with a goodly store of impressive adjectives. Perhaps explosive or dynamic would be a better word. Like a frontier peace officer he fired from the hip and always in the open. The wonder is that his inky epithets against the Seminoles did not involve him in more serious trouble than a brief incarceration in jail. His associate editor, Mort L. Bixler, was among the pioneer advocates of statehood and occasionally for want of a more useful employment of time he lapsed into intimacy with the muse and delivered a select bit of poetry through a few sticks of editorial space not devoted to Sawyer's scintillating paragraphs. Bixler was chairman of the first temporary organization of members of the Knights of Pythias lodge and Tazewell M. Upshaw was secretary. The Oklahoma Lodge No. 1 was organized during the year with Bixler as chancellor commander and W. H. Donnough as vice chancellor. The first lodge of Odd Fellows also was organized during the year. The committee that applied for a charter from the grand lodge consisted of G. W. McClelland, Doctor Higgins, E. J. Keller, Doctor Jordan, O. A. Mitscher and William Turner.

From out of the Chickasaw Nation came a rumor that a Methodist preacher had been legally advised that under the laws governing the Territory a minister of the gospel was



without authority to perform a marriage ceremony, and this preacher was suspected of having passed the word to other preachers of his conference. Whether he did or didn't is not vital, but it is certain that the Rev. A. G. Murray, pastor of the Methodist Church in Oklahoma City, entertained grave doubts. He was the marrying parson of the village. He had a pleasant manner of reassurance that appealed to contracting parties, his ceremony was orthodoxically and impressively beautiful, and he tied many a knot. The Chickasaw report blossomed into a street topic. It reached the ears of scores of newlyweds and these, in spite of assurances of sufficiency of the common law, doubled back upon the parson. He at length set at rest all uneasiness when he had published in the newspapers a letter from William Nelson, clerk of the United States Court at Muskogee, which said: "Send along your marriage certificates and your two dollars for each and they will be duly placed of record." Doubtless the Rev. W. S. Miller, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, also was relieved of a similar embarrassment.

Some other events of the year were these: Maj. J. A. Pickler was sent here from Washington by Secretary Noble of the Interior Department for an investigation of conditions relating to land entries and contests; on October 15th D. F. McKay resigned as city marshal of South Oklahoma, Mayor Fagan called a special election for November 2d to fill the vacancy and W. J. Fuller was elected; a committee of fifty was formed to make plans for appealing to Congress for governmental relief and this committee sent W. W. Witten, A. B. Hammer and J. L. Brown to Guthrie for a conference with other representative men relative to a Territorial convention; the first Young Men's Christian Association was organized and the nucleus of its library was a history of Chicago in three volumes presented by Mrs. W. H. Harper.

Miss Jessie Hammer appears to have been the first public stenographer in the city.

#### CALL FOR MASS CONVENTION

Oklahoma City, April 26, 1889.

We, citizens of the City of Oklahoma, request the meeting in mass convention of all citizens of the city for the purpose



of nominating a temporary mayor and city recorder to hold their offices until such time as there may be elected by ballot their successors, which election shall be held within five days from and after the election of said temporary mayor and recorder. Such mass meeting to be held April 27, 1889, at the hour of 6:30 o'clock P. M., and every citizen of said city shall be entitled to a voice. The election of said temporary mayor and recorder shall be by the voice, and shall vest in them the power to appoint police to preserve the order of said city, and the power to call said election for permanent mayor, recorder and prescribe the manner of holding said election. Said mass meeting to be held at the corner of Main and Broadway.

Signed: Ledru Guthrie, J. B. Weaver (not a citizen of the city but living near the same), John B. Banks, S. Lum Biedler, W. P. Easton, J. E. Carson, J. D. Drake, T. B. Riley, G. A. Biedler, p. m., O. H. Violet, Sidney Clarke, Bluford Wilson, D. A. Harvey, W. P. Shaw.

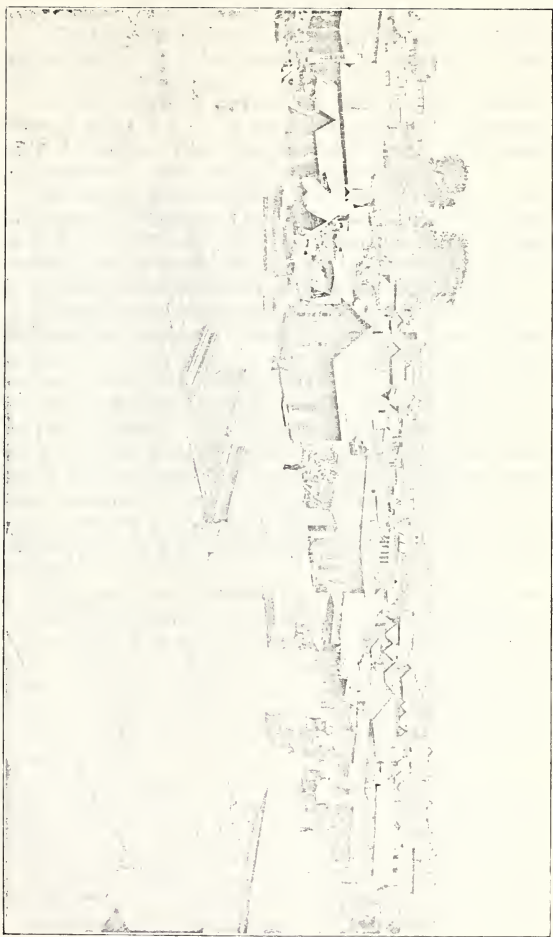
Captain Forbush on July 29th reported to headquarters:

"I desire to be informed as to whether the city of Oklahoma have the right to extend the jurisdiction of their police beyond the city limits proper for sanitary purposes only. There are quite a number of dead cattle lying in the vicinity of the city, having been afflicted with Texas fever, and it is purposed to have the decaying bodies disposed of by the city within the radius of five miles and require the owners of the cattle to dispose of the bodies themselves in case of future deaths." (The sanitary jurisdiction of the city was confirmed.)

"On the night of the 28th inst., a young Englishman arrived in Oklahoma who was to join a settlement of his people between Oklahoma and Fort Reno. He was introduced to a gambling den by 'bunco-steerers,' and fleeced of about \$540. The prevailing opinion among the better people seemed to be that the young fellow had been robbed, and they advised him to report the facts to the provost-marshal, Captain Stiles, Tenth Infantry, who at once informed me about it, and at the same time telling me that a man had been 'saud-bagged' in the same place but a short time since, robbed, put on the train and sent to Texas.



VIEW OF OKLAHOMA CITY IN 1889







"There is no local law to prevent gambling, and the city authorities, as well as the United States marshals, fail to take cognizance of these cases.

"In the interests of peace and good order, I directed Captain Stiles . . . to break this gambling den up and see to it personally that the occupant left the city. They have all departed." (This action was commended.)

The enterprising individual who took possession of the only pump in Oklahoma City at the opening and sold water at so much a drink until he was ousted from his profitable "graft" was the central figure of an incident that is related in a report of Captain Stiles to Inspector General Sanger:

"I have the honor to report that on April 23, 1889, the day following the opening of Oklahoma, a gambler from Chicago named G. W. Cole, took possession of the only pump in town and sold water at five cents a drink. The man sat near the pump, and was armed with a revolver, which he kept in his lap part of the time. He collected the money himself, and had a man pump the water. There were over 12,000 people camped on the site of Oklahoma at the time, and besides this pump there were only two other places where water could be had—one a well with a bucket where there was but little water, and the other at the railroad tank, and here the supply was limited.

"The people were suffering for water and appealed to me to remove Cole, saying if I did not do so they would hang him. Upon inquiry I found that Cole had no right to the pump or water, and at once removed him and placed a guard over the pump with orders to allow each person to have one bucket of water. My action in this case was at once reported to the commanding officer, Col. J. F. Wade, Fifth Cavalry, and approved by him."

The first president of the Commercial Club was H. Overholser; James Geary, vice president; J. P. McKinnis, second vice president; W. H. Ebey, secretary; T. M. Richardson, treasurer. The membership of the various committees were:

Executive—John A. Blackburn, O. H. Violet, B. N. Woodson, W. L. Couch, C. W. Price, W. C. Wells.

Railroads—J. A. Blackburn, C. W. Price, W. H. Ebey, T.



M. Richardson, Gen. J. B. Weaver, J. E. Jones, W. L. Couch, H. Overholser, James Geary.

Manufacturing—C. P. Walker, John Wand, W. L. Killbrew, W. L. Harvey, E. W. Sweeney, F. L. Bone.

Transportation and Freights—J. P. McKinnis, A. L. Woodford, J. P. Darling, John Brogan, A. L. Frick, W. J. Pettee.

Advertising—O. H. Violet, R. Q. Blakeney, W. H. Ebey, H. W. Winn, J. W. Beard.

Legislation—Gen. J. B. Weaver, O. H. Violet, Capt. A. B. Hammer, Ledru Guthrie, Sidney Clarke, W. L. Couch, A. C. Scott, B. N. Woodson, David A. Harvey.

Finance—James Geary, W. C. Wells, Ledru Guthrie, T. M. Richardson, Maj. W. A. Monroe.

Education—A. C. Scott, R. R. Connella, C. A. Galbraith, G. A. Beidler, W. W. Witten.

Emigration—Victor Sherman, G. W. Massey, W. H. Darrough, G. W. Adams, H. W. Sawyer.

Directors—O. H. Violet, C. P. Walker, James Geary, W. A. Monroe, C. A. Galbraith, J. A. Blackburn, A. C. Scott, W. L. Couch, Victor Sherman, A. L. Woodford, W. H. Ebey, J. W. Beard, B. N. Woodson, C. W. Price, W. J. Pettee, A. B. Hammer, W. McGlinchey, J. L. Brown, W. L. Harvey, E. W. Sweeney, J. P. McKinnis.



## 1890—GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED

President Harrison on May 2d of this year approved what was known as the Organic Act, and the Territory, after being suspended for nearly a year in a state of insecurity, was invested with a local government. George W. Steele, who had been a member of Congress from Indiana, was appointed governor. Robert Martin of Wichita, Kansas, was named secretary. President Harrison selected Matt Reynolds of Missouri for attorney general but shortly before the names of appointees were sent to the Senate influences back of Horace Speed did their work effectively and Speed was nominated.

The first Territorial election was held on August 5th and at that time a Legislature was chosen. Fourteen republicans were elected to the House of Representatives, eight democrats and four of the alliance party. The council, or upper house, consisted of six republicans, five democrats and one of the alliance party. The second council district, which embraced Oklahoma County, elected James L. Brown of Oklahoma City, John W. Howard and Leander G. Pitman. Members of the lower house from the second legislative district were Moses Neal, C. G. Jones, Samuel D. Pack, Daniel W. Peery and Hugh G. Trosper. Oklahoma County in that election cast about thirty-five hundred votes. The Legislature convened on August 29. In view of the ambition of Oklahoma City to become the capital of the Territory, that matter was made an issue at the outset of organization activities and the Oklahoma City delegates supported N. A. Daniels of El Reno, an alliance member, for speaker, presumably in return for a promise of at least fair consideration of Oklahoma City's claim. Councilman Brown in September introduced in the upper house the first bill providing for removal of the capital to Oklahoma City. This was council bill No. 7. A complete history of the fight for the capital, written by the late Frederick S. Barde



and appearing in another department of this history, contains details of early overtures and adventures in the fight.

Among early arrivals in Washington this year in behalf of an organized government for the Territory were Charles B. Stuart of Gainesville, Texas, and W. A. Ledbetter of Ardmore, the former interested in having a Federal court established at Ardmore as a consequence of an organic act and the latter seeking the designation of Ardmore as a Federal court seat. Washington, then supporting a republican administration, heard the noisy clamor of democrats in Oklahoma and their convention, held in Oklahoma City on March 11th, and attended by 250 delegates, sent billows of thunder in dramatic English down Washington way.

Organization of the Territory easily could have been deferred too long. As a matter of fact, it doubtless was deferred too long. License was virtually unrestrained and the wonder is that life and safety were enjoyed in such considerable measure. Everywhere it was believed that this small area would not long remain the area of the Territory of Oklahoma, that other Indian reservations soon would be opened to settlement. This belief produced mischief and mischief makers scouted freely about in large and growing numbers. Many of them were of the original boomer type. They demanded the opening of the Cherokee Strip, the Sac and Fox and Pottawotomie country and the Cheyenne and Arapaho reservations. In their idleness and impatience and anger they cut the wire fences of the cattlemen in the Cherokee Strip and became so notoriously inimical that President Harrison sent troops under General Merritt to protect property and preserve order. The establishment of a local government did not at once bring unrest and disorder to an end; it was not empowered to do that; but it had a salutary and stabilizing effect. In view of the probable opening of these reservations and of more and more insistent demands from Oklahoma City residents, a land office was established in Oklahoma City this year and that institution became a magnet in the path of the adventurer. The year probably would have been prosaic but for this, for development was retarded by uncertainty. The pioneers continued to build homes, most of them inexpensive affairs, and new lines of business were established, and there was a mod-







CAPTAIN A. B. HAMMER



erate growth. Correspondents for newspapers of Kansas City, St. Louis and Dallas appraised news largely from the sensational viewpoint. They reveled in accounts of murders, the capture of outlaws, the chasing of train robbers and reported Indian uprisings.

Disregard for even the common law, not to speak of that of the Federal Government which necessarily was in force, was magnified by the extravagant freedom exercised by saloon keepers all over the Territory. This became so notorious and so productive of crime that the President ordered United States Marshal Walker of Kansas to raid them. Raids took place in Oklahoma City, Guthrie and Kingfisher but their effect was little more than momentary. Ten days later forty saloons were doing business as usual in Oklahoma City, whereupon the President ordered that all saloons be closed until the organic act was in effect.

In the November election D. A. Harvey of Oklahoma City was elected as the Territory's first delegate to Congress. On December 13th Governor Steele issued a call for an election to be held December 30th, under an act of the Legislature, to create public school districts and establish schools. Women were allowed to vote in this election. Prior to this Governor Steele had had a poll taken of the qualified voters. This was the cause of many amusing incidents. Not a few adventurers refused to disclose their political affiliations and many others declared they belonged to no political party. A few democratic politicians took advantage of the occasion to charge that the republicans were taking steps to build up a machine that would guarantee the control of the Legislature and probably of the government of a majority of the counties.

Generally speaking crops were poor this year, so extremely poor, in fact, in some sections that homesteaders became destitute. They appealed to the President for assistance and the President sent Captain Burbank of the War Department here to make an investigation. He reported that conditions had been exaggerated but that he found a few cases of actual destitution. For these he recommended financial aid and also that the Government assist in the construction of roads and bridges and furnish seed. Appeals for aid went also to the railroads and these agreed to furnish seed to farmers at cost.



In Oklahoma County cotton had been found to be a more dependable crop than the small grains and the yield this year was sufficient to warrant the erection of two cotton gins in Oklahoma City.

Negroes in such considerable number acquired homesteads in Logan and Oklahoma counties as to become a menace to society, in the opinion of whites whose sentiments were thus bent on the race question, and these whites organized a sort of anti-African ku klux klan. Whether their numbers were exaggerated is not known, although they probably were, leaders announced that in April the organization had 2,000 members in forty local organizations in the Territory. Negroes of the eastern part of Oklahoma County, where they lived in largest numbers, were thrown into consternation by a warning that they must desert their homesteads by April 22d or suffer the consequences. They gathered in Choctaw City for defensive organization, but forcible ejection never materialized, due probably to the departure of a few negroes and the sufficiency of the Government in protection measures.

Captain Stiles' soldiers performed many a duty. The memoirs of any one of them would make a chapter of frontier history more interesting than the fiction of Zane Grey. A new duty devolved upon them one April day of this year: they were called upon to prevent the robbery of the Citizens Bank. The Dalton band of outlaws had been operating for some time in the Territories. It consisted of fearless desperadoes who were reputed to have frightened off their trails all Government and Indian tribe officials save a few who drove them often into seclusion. From an unidentified source came a rumor that the Daltons or some other band had planned to rob the bank at noon on April 7th. It was dispatched to the military headquarters and a detail of soldiers was assigned to guard the bank. The news traveled quickly over the city and the countryside. The excited populace never questioned the authenticity of the rumor. That was seldom done in these days when anything was likely to happen. Some of them went into seclusion, others behind makeshift breastworks and others into the open bearing arms. Promptly at noon a stranger of suspicious appearance riding a horse and leading two others dismounted near the bank. He made a hasty visual



survey of the surroundings, then remounted and rode away. Who the stranger was, where he came from and whither he went nobody seemed bent on ascertaining.

Governor Steele on June 7th appointed temporary officers in each of the counties. Those for "Second" (Oklahoma) County were inducted into office on June 17th. A. B. Hammer, the probate judge, having been given the oath of office by the Territorial secretary, administered the oath to the other county officials. The other officials were: John M. Martin, clerk; H. H. Howard, attorney; C. H. DeFord, sheriff; Levi Bixler, treasurer; M. D. Rust, surveyor; and W. T. Higgins (who was elected chairman), Franklin Springer and J. A. Hartzell, commissioners. During the first session of the Commissioners' Court bids for furnishing a building for a temporary county courthouse were submitted by W. J. Pettee and Henry Overholser, the former offering a building at Main and Broadway and the latter a building at Grand and Robinson. The contract was awarded to Mr. Overholser.

J. H. Woods and others on July 1st filed with the commissioners an application for an order incorporating the village of Oklahoma City. Owing to contests on some of the tracts having been filed in the land office, the commissioners declined to take action. At a meeting on July 12th they reconsidered that action but deferred further consideration of the matter. Meantime, D. C. Lewis and others filed a petition asking that a tract of land described as the southwest quarter of section 33, township 12 north, range 3 west, be stricken from the list of tracts mentioned in the Woods' petition. At a subsequent meeting the board took judicial notice of George E. Thornton's having secured from the District Court an order restraining the commissioners from including in any corporation the northeast quarter of section 4, township 11 north, range 3 west. This order a few days later was dissolved and on July 15th the board promulgated its incorporation order, providing that the village of Oklahoma City should embrace the south half of the northeast quarter of section 33, the southwest quarter of section 33 and the northeast quarter of section 4.

In the same order the commissioners appointed a board of trustees for the town government, consisting of D. W.





Gibbs, T. J. Watson, N. Button, Samuel Frost and Henry Overholser. Gibbs was elected president of the board and in that capacity exercised the duties of mayor. J. M. Martin, county clerk, administered the oath of office. Tazwell M. Upshaw was chosen clerk. The first meeting was held on July 22d. The first communication read was from County Attorney H. H. Howard who asked permission to meet with the board to give advice as to procedure. The first resolution placed of record called for an election to be held in August to submit the matter of converting the village into a city of the second class and dividing it into four wards and electing officers. One of the first contracts entered into by the officials authorized the law firms of Blue & Douglas and Hammer & Woods to represent the town government in contests pending in the United States land office involving the entries of Louis O. Dick, James Murray and G. W. Patrick.

In the August election W. J. Gault was elected mayor; T. M. Upshaw, clerk; W. W. Witten, police judge; M. S. Miller, treasurer; and Dr. C. A. Peyton, J. R. Barrows, J. W. Boles, J. A. Ryan, John Rowick, F. V. Brandon, John Brogan and N. N. Miller, aldermen. Doctor Peyton was elected president of the council. Charles F. Coleord was appointed marshal and T. C. Smith, street commissioner. Necessary ordinances were enacted with rapidity. One of them made the state of intoxication a misdemeanor, another prohibited disturbance of the peace and another regulated the sale of intoxicating liquors. Another fixed the salary of the mayor at \$250 a year and the salary of the marshal at \$50 a month. On November 26th the council granted a franchise to the Oklahoma City Light & Power Company and this company installed the first electric lighting system. A franchise was granted to the Choctaw Coal & Railway Company which authorized the company to use First Street as a right of way. It granted a water franchise to W. A. Calhoun and J. H. Wheeler.

David A. Harvey was born at Stewiacke, Nova Scotia, March 20, 1845. His parents emigrated from Canada when he was six weeks old, settling in Ohio. At the age of sixteen, he enlisted in the Fourth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry and was discharged from the military service at the end of the war, after having served continuously for three and one-half years.



After attending the sessions of Miami University for a time, he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1869. Moving westward, he settled at Topeka, Kansas, where he engaged in the practice of law, served as city attorney and as probate judge. He became interested in the Oklahoma movement and was active in the agitation for the opening of the Oklahoma country to settlement. He was among the pioneers who came into the country on the day of the opening, locating at Oklahoma City, April 22, 1889. He was nominated for delegate to Congress by the Territorial republican convention, at Guthrie, October 18, 1890, and, on November 4th, he was elected to serve both the long and short terms, taking his seat when the Fifty-first Congress reconvened, in December, 1890, and serving until the final adjournment of the Fifty-second Congress, March 3, 1893. Mr. Harvey subsequently located at Wyandotte, where he died, May 23, 1916.—Thoburn.

Latest developments in the contests touching three tracts occupied as a town are shown in this abstract of land office proceedings: Sections 3 and 4 of township 11 north, range 3 west, and the southeast quarter of section 33 and the southwest quarter of section 34, township 12 north, range 3 west, are bottom land, but the north half of sections 33 and 34 are rolling uplands, with a gradual slope to the south. The beginning of this elevation is about one thousand feet south of the south line of the north half of those sections. There is a small ravine on the line dividing sections 33 and 34, each section having a gradual slope thereto.

Prior to noon, April 22, 1889, there had been constructed and was in operation a railroad, known as the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, running in a southwesterly direction down the ravine, and on the line dividing the sections mentioned. At a point about 800 feet north of the point where the sections corner was located the station, freight and passenger depot, side tracks and water tank. Near the depot was the post office.

At noon on that day about thirty people were at the station and from one hundred to one hundred and fifty in that vicinity. At noon, Charles Chamberlain, a civil engineer and a resident of Great Bend, Kan., was at the station with a plat which he had previously made, of a proposed town to be known as Oklahoma City, to embrace the north half of the northeast



quarter of section 4, the southeast quarter of section 33 and the south half of the northeast quarter of section 33. He was at the station to survey the ground into lots, blocks, streets and alleys at the instance of a private citizen, whose name he refused to disclose in this case. At two minutes past noon he, with six assistants, began the survey about 1,728 feet north of the south line of section 33, and ran the south line of Main Street west and at right angles with the railroad a distance of two blocks. He then returned and ran the east line of Broadway south from Main one block and a half. Then he ran the east line to the north line of the south half of the northeast quarter of section 33, this line being run at 1 o'clock, and small stakes one inch square were driven on the lines of the survey. Returning to Main Street he extended the south line to the west line of the east half of section 33. Broadway was located at right angles with Main Street about four hundred feet west of the east line of section 33.

At once, after the survey was begun, the people present began to stake lots on Main and Broadway, and on the commons on the southeast quarter of section 33. About one hundred and fifty people settled upon this southeast quarter before 2 o'clock and 10 minutes P. M. of that day.

Several hundred of the thousands of people who had congregated at Purcell before the opening day had decided to locate at Oklahoma station, and to establish a town to be known as Oklahoma City on the east half of section 33. The train on the Santa Fe left Purcell at noon, and before it arrived at Oklahoma station it was arranged that one of their number, Peter G. Burnes, a civil engineer, should survey the townsite. The train arrived at 2:10 P. M., and 2,000 of the people thereon left the train and went in various directions to locate lots, but the greater number went west and north of the depot and settled upon the southeast quarter of section 33. After the arrival of the train Peter G. Burnes made preparations to survey the townsite and devoted the remainder of the day to finding the township line, from which he intended to start. He first surveyed Reno Avenue, located on the township line, then California Avenue, then Grand Avenue. He was about three weeks doing this work. About the middle of May he began to survey the north half of the northeast





PRESENT SITE OF CULBERTSON BUILDING, BROADWAY AND GRAND AVENUE





quarter and was prevented from doing so by force. The differences between the Chamberlain and Burnes surveys were subsequently adjusted, which surveys locate Oklahoma City on the east half of section 33, but the north half of the northeast quarter was never surveyed.

The application for the townsite, filed by Louis O. Dick as trustee, on the opening day, named the south half of the northeast quarter and southeast quarter of section 33, and the north half of the northeast quarter of section 4.

At the time this case was tried in the land office, in the latter half of 1890, the population located on the east half of section 33 numbered about two thousand three hundred and seventy-eight persons; most of the business district and the greater part of the population in the southeast quarter.

The contest which originated this suit in the land office was over the northeast quarter of section 33, which was included in the original townsite and was also sought as a homestead. The following description found in the findings is a part of history:

Samuel Crocker, as a member of the Payne colony, was in Oklahoma in the year 1885, and at several times subsequent to that date, during which time he resided in Kansas. He came to Oklahoma station March 2, 1889, and established a residence at that place. Immediately after 12 o'clock noon, April 22, he settled upon the north half of the northeast quarter of section 33 and established a residence where he lived up to the date of this suit. Soon after he went upon the land he dug a hole in the ground, had some plowing done, and erected a tent in which to live. By the 26th of April he had three or four acres broken, and subsequently had thirty-three acres broken. He erected a frame house 12 by 16 feet in size, with one addition 16 by 24 feet in size, and another 8 by 16 feet. He erected a stable and dug a cistern and well and built a chicken house. He fenced six or seven acres near the house and put up 350 rods of wire fence. He set out an orchard of two acres, seventy-five shade trees, planted two acres of watermelons and cantaloupes, one acre of buckwheat and two acres of turnips. On the 24th of April he made homestead entry No. 33 of the north half of the northeast quarter.

All this happened, according to the findings of the land



office, on land now covered by business and residence houses near the heart of Oklahoma City.

But at noon on April 22, Frank M. Gault, who had lived twelve miles east of the east line of Oklahoma Territory, started from that line and arrived at and settled upon the northeast quarter of section 33 at 1 o'clock and 10 minutes past noon. On the following day he had the land surveyed, and put up a tent, and later did some plowing and made improvements of various kinds. When, on May 17, he made application to enter the tract for a homestead his application was rejected as being in conflict with the entry of Crocker on the north half of the quarter and with the townsite application of Dick.

Three men named Fuller had each made application for entry of this quarter for homestead purposes. Besides the claimants who contested for this particular quarter section as a homestead, a man named George E. Thornton, who had been a government freighter previous to the opening and resided in a house on the northeast quarter of section 4, laid claim to this quarter section for homestead purposes. In the findings is other evidence regarding the settlement of Edward DeTar, Meshack Couch and Thomas Wright, who had been in government service in the country prior to the opening and had located on lands immediately after noon of the opening day.

Besides the matters of history involved in these findings, the register and receiver of the land office, in summing up the evidence, gave their decision on the rights of the homesteader as against the townsite claimant, and that decision is an important review of this subject.

"At one o'clock and ten minutes p. m. of day Frank M. Gault, a qualified homesteader, settled upon the northeast quarter of said section as a homestead, and has since resided thereon and maintained his settlement rights, and that at the time of his said settlement no settlement had been made thereon for the purpose of trade and business.

"It is insisted by the townsite claimants that Oklahoma station was a prospective townsite; that persons at Purcell and elsewhere had decided to locate a town on the said half section as soon after noon of said day as it could be reached:



that persons settled upon the southeast quarter at once after said hour; that the survey of the town was begun at that time; that by law such townsite settlers were entitled to enter 320 acres of land; that a settlement upon any portion of it segregated the whole 320 acres; that the settlement upon the southeast quarter segregated the northeast quarter also, and that homestead claimants were bound to take notice of these facts.

"It is settled by an unbroken line of decisions that settlers for homestead and townsite purposes are governed by the same rules of law, acquire their rights in the same way—by actual selection and settlement—and that such rights date from the first initial act. Speaking on this subject, in the case of *Kingfisher vs. Wood, et al.*, the honorable assistant commissioner says, 'A body of people coming together with a common purpose of locating a town upon public land, have no greater rights under the law than a homestead settler, they are upon the same footing, and, as in this case, their rights must be determined according to the priority of their initial acts.'

"Gault's first initial act as a homestead claimant was his actual settlement upon the northeast quarter at one o'clock and ten minutes p. m. of said day and the real question is: Was the land at that time subject to homestead entry? All lands in Oklahoma were subject to homestead entry unless they had been selected or settled upon and occupied for purposes of trade and business. At that time, had this quarter section been selected?

"It is true that the proposed settlers at Purcell had decided to locate the town on this half section, but they were not settlers nor occupants of the land or any portion of the same and were prohibited from making such settlement prior to noon. The land department has always distinguished between a settlement and an intention to settle. The declarations of the settlers while at Purcell show an intention to settle, but such an intention did not segregate the land from homestead entry. In *Keith vs. Townsite of Grand Junction*, 3 L. D., 431, Secretary Teller uses this language: 'I had no intention to, nor did I, rule that a townsite could not be selected by a few persons; but I found as a fact that the persons who made this selection were not settlers on the land, and that they did not go upon it for the purpose of then be-



coming settlers; and I ruled, as a matter of law, that such persons were not competent to make a legal selection.' In *Kingfisher vs. Wood, et al.*, the honorable assistant commissioner says: 'Undoubtedly the first act in locating a town under the public land laws, is the selection of its site, and without defining just what acts constitute a selection it is sufficient to say that there can be no legal selection for such purpose without a personal inspection and examination of the land by some of the people locating thereon or their agent. The theory that the people assembled at Buffalo Springs, I. T., April 22, 1889, legally selected the north half of the section in question as the townsite of Kingfisher, cannot for a moment be entertained. At that time, these people had never seen the land, and by the act of Congress and the President's proclamation, above referred to, they were prohibited from examining the same, either in person or through agent.'

"The evidence shows that at noon there were about one hundred and fifty persons in the vicinity of Oklahoma station, and that between that hour and one o'clock they settled upon said southeast quarter, but the preponderance of evidence is against such settlement having been made. The evidence does not show that any of such persons selected any particular half section for the townsite. Besides, they were in the territory at noon and made selection of lots immediately after that hour. Having at once made selections and being in the territory at a time when they could not have come from the line after noon, the fair presumption is that they were there illegally for the purpose of taking lands. It is true that Charles Chamberlain, the civil engineer, had a plat of the town which covered half of said quarter section, and was there for the purpose of laying the same off into lots, blocks, streets and alleys, but he had done but little surveying before Gault's settlement, and that which he did do was upon the southeast quarter, except the running of one line of a street to the center of said northeast quarter. While we found that such line had been run at that time, the evidence is very conflicting upon that question. Such line did not of itself show for what purpose it was run or that it was the line of a street. Chamberlain himself was non-resident, had come into the territory illegally, and could not make the selection for him-





self or any one else, had he attempted to do so. It does not appear that the person who procured his services was at that time or ever since has been a settler upon the land or a person competent to make a selection or settlement. It does not appear that Chamberlain represented or was acting for the settlers present, nor does it affirmatively appear that there was a single settler upon said half section who had come from the line after noon of said day. The burden of proof is upon the townsite claimants to show a legal and valid selection and settlement of the land to segregate it from homestead entry.

"It is true that a reasonable number of persons may settle upon the public domain for the purpose of trade or business and that they may embrace in the townsite entry three hundred and twenty acres, even though their actual settlement is all upon one quarter, but to hold the other quarter section as against a homestead claimant such settlers must make a selection of such quarter before the initiation of the homestead right. 'To select is to choose, to set apart, to designate.' C. P. L. L., page 1297. No townsite settler had at the time of Gault's settlement, selected, set apart or designated the northeast quarter as a part of the townsite. It may be true that Gault was bound to know that the town was entitled to enter three hundred and twenty acres, but he was not bound to know that such settlers were going to claim this tract of land. How was he to know but that the quarter section east, west or south might be selected? He was bound only to initiate his homestead right to prevent the lands from being taken as a townsite and townsite claimants were bound to initiate their claim to segregate the lands from homestead entry. The fact that Gault settled near a proposed townsite cannot be accepted as evidence of bad faith. The following language, used by the commissioner in *Plummer vs. Jackson* (10 C. L. O. 71), is quoted with approval by Secretary Teller: 'The statutes cannot be construed to mean that persons going to the frontiers or along the lines of projected railways, and anticipating centers of population, shall not enjoy the benefits of their enterprise and foresight, though they believe their claims would be of great value on account of their proximity to cities or villages, or that villages or cities would even be built upon



such claims, and thereby enable them ultimately to realize large prices for such land." 3 L. D. page 434.

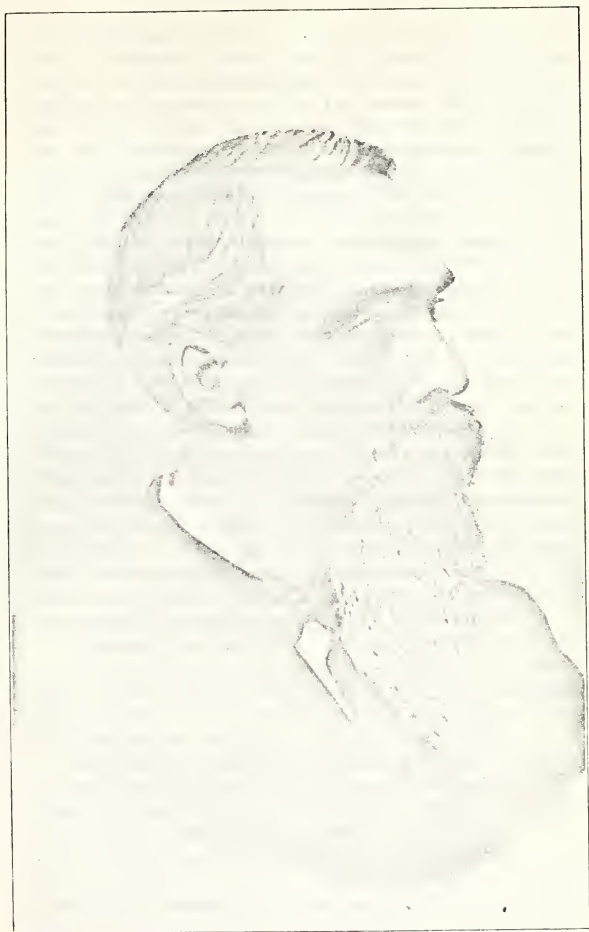
"The evidence shows that just after the arrival of the first train a large number of persons settled upon the northeast quarter of said section four for purposes of trade and business and have continuously so occupied the same until the present time, and that at this time there are twelve hundred people occupying said tract and have improvements of the value of \$94,413. It also appears that George E. Thornton was a deputy United States marshal and government freighter, and had been stationed and living on said land since and prior to the passage of the act of Congress of March 2, 1889, had made improvements on said land and claimed the same as a homestead immediately after noon, April 22, 1889, and is now making such claim.

"Section thirteen of the act of March 2, 1889, provides: 'Until said lands are open for settlement, by the proclamation of the president, no person shall be permitted to enter upon and occupy the same, and no person violating this provision shall be permitted to enter any of said lands or acquire any right thereto.' It is insisted by counsel for Thornton that he is not disqualified from taking a homestead by said act, because he was in the territory lawfully and lived here prior to and at the time of its passage.

"In the general land office decision in the case of Blanchard vs. White and Cook the honorable assistant commissioner, in discussing this statute, says: 'The clause of the statute under consideration has reference to only one class of persons, viz. "All persons who, from and after the approval of the act aforesaid and prior to 12 o'clock noon of April 22, 1889, should enter upon and occupy any portion of the territory with the intent to make selection," settle upon or enter any of the lands therein. All others are not within the prohibitory clause.'"

"George E. Thornton was lawfully within the territory and began his residence upon the quarter section claimed by him prior to the purchase of said lands by the government from the Indians, and prior to the passage of the act of March 2, 1889. It is admitted by the counsel for the townsites claimants that he claimed the tract in controversy as a homestead,





D. W. GIBBS



for the first time, after 12 o'clock noon of April 22, 1889, and that in pursuance of said claim he followed up the initial acts of his claim by establishing a residence, cultivating, etc., and has so continued to do to the present time, and that said claim was made prior to the time that any portion of the same was claimed by any person or persons as a townsite by any settlement or entry thereon. In the case of the City of Kingfisher vs. John H. Wood and William D. Fossett it appeared from the evidence that Wood was within the territory included in the president's proclamation, dated March 23, 1889, prior to 12 o'clock noon of April 22, 1889; that he was at the time of the passage of the act within the limits of said territory by proper authority. It was held by the local office that in accordance with the views expressed by the honorable ex-commissioner, Mr. Stockslager, in a letter to Senator Ingalls, under date of April 12, 1889, that Mr. Wood was on April 22, 1889, a legally qualified entryman. In considering this case the honorable assistant commissioner says: 'I agree with your first conclusion that the fact that John H. Wood has for a number of years prior to April 22, 1889, been a resident within the Oklahoma country did not operate to preclude him from making a homestead entry in Oklahoma on said date.' The same construction of the law is again made by the honorable assistant commissioner in considering the appeal of John C. Chapin from the rejection by the Kingfisher office of his application to make a homestead entry.

"Thornton was as lawfully and as properly within the territory at the time of the passage of the act of March 2, 1889, as either Wood or Chapin, and in view of the foregoing decisions Thornton has lawfully acquired a prior right to all other claimants to the quarter section claimed by him.

"We therefore conclude that Frank M. Gault initiated a homestead right to the northeast quarter of said section thirty-three (33) and that George E. Thornton initiated a homestead right to the northeast quarter of said section four before the same had been settled upon or occupied for the purposes of business and trade. That Edward DeTar, Samuel Crocker and Meshack Couch are disqualified from making homestead entry; that the southeast quarter of said section





thirty-three is occupied by people for the purposes of trade and business and there are no valid adverse claims thereto.

"We recommend that each of said homestead entries be canceled; that the occupants of the southeast quarter of said section thirty-three be allowed to enter the same as a townsite under the act of May 14, 1890, and that a hearing be ordered to determine the rights of the several homestead claimants to said other several tracts of land.

"JOHN I. DILLE, Register.

"C. M. BARNES, Receiver."

"Register Dille:

"I concur in the above conclusions as to the qualifications of George E. Thornton to make homestead entry because it seems to have been so decided by the honorable assistant commissioner of the general land office. It is by no means certain, however, that the above language used by him should govern us in this case."



## 1891—THE SECOND OPENING

Main Street ran through a quiet six months, after which assurances that another big land opening was approaching revived business and also was an incentive to building. Speaking comparatively, only a little land was put in cultivation during the previous year in the territory tributary to the city and business depended to a great degree upon expenditures of outside money, some of which visitors, who were always coming in a steady stream, spent for the necessities and for pleasure. Establishment of a land office here contributed considerably to the uptrend of business.

The reservations of the Sac and Fox and Pottawotamie Indians, which adjoined the Territory on the East, were thrown open to settlement, under proclamation of President Harrison, in September. These comprised over eight hundred and sixty-five thousand acres and much of the land was fertile and lay within what was known as the rain belt. The opening attracted tens of thousands of persons from all parts of the United States, and many thousands of them detrained or headquartered in Oklahoma City, the land office here having been authorized to receive applications for entry for a part of the new territory. During a period of two or three days before the opening day officials found it difficult to maintain order. Soldiers, county officials and policemen joined in the task. The real test of their ability came the last day before the opening and until noon of the opening day. Applicants were required to take turns at entering the land office and impatience and petty quarrels led to much disorder in the line. Gun plays were frequent and fist fights common. As a last resort the enforcement authorities went along the line, removing arms from those that bore them. By noon of the opening day the town was nearly deserted, for local men as well as visitors bankered for the excitement and the profit of another great race for homesteads and town lots. The



largest assemblage of land seekers on the western side of the reservations was at Choctaw City which was near the western line. It was at Choctaw City that the pistol was fired at noon as a signal that the last barrier against the entry was removed.

This opening was one of the early potent influences to growth of the city. It not only brought here thousands of substantial men looking for investment in else than homesteads and who foresaw the eventual creation of homesteads out of all the Indian reservations of the Southwest, but men of an industrial turn whose thought was of railroads and factories and the establishment of a metropolis. On the other hand it brought thousands of speculators and gamblers. Among the former were men who made a business of dealing in what was known as "soldiers' declaratories." The act authorizing the opening of the Indian reservations provided that soldiers who had fought for the Union might employ agents to file with the land office their declarations of intention to file on homesteads and these declarations had a right of way. Agents holding soldiers' declarations, some of them with pockets full, caused more indignation among other applicants for entry than any other character of men, and it was due largely to their activities that serious trouble was near at hand in Oklahoma City many times before the hour of the opening.

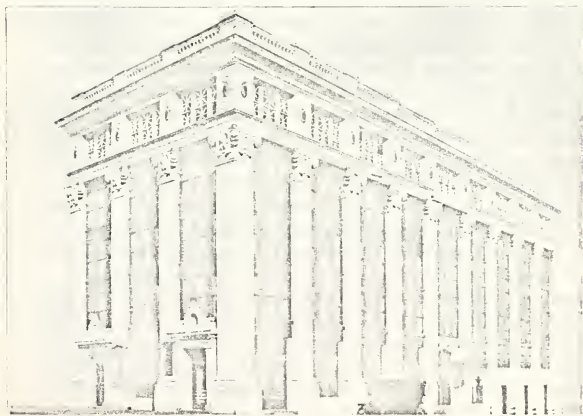
The city on August 25 entertained a Territorial meeting of the Farmers Alliance, which was then an influential organization and which had an important part in political activities. A resolution was adopted calling upon the President to order removal of cattlemen from the Cherokee Strip, which at that time was being raided by boomers. The resolutions favored construction of a highway with Government funds from Duluth, Minn., to Galveston across Oklahoma. A. D. Hickok of Moore was elected president and A. J. Ellington of Kingfisher, secretary.

George E. Thornton, the deputy United States marshal with whom Captain Stiles had had a controversy in 1889, was killed on October 30 of this year in the Creek Indian nation while searching for Captain Willie and Micholee, full-blood Creek outlaws. The latter is said to have fired the fatal shot. Thornton, with an officer's commission, had been chas-





AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK BUILDING



HOME OF THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN





ing the outlaws over the roadless woodlands of the Creek country for some days and rode suddenly upon them in a rendezvous. Thornton had made a commendable record as an officer in Indian Territory, Texas and New Mexico.

The capital fight of the previous year, in which Oklahoma City, Guthrie and Kingfisher were entered and which produced a series of sensational happenings, was in some measure responsible for the resignation this year of Governor Steele. His successor was Judge A. J. Seay of Kingfisher.

A memorial to Congress demanding an act creating a State of Oklahoma and Indian Territory was contained in a resolution passed by a Statehood convention held here on December 15. Temporary officers of the convention were Ledru Guthrie, chairman, and T. M. Upshaw, secretary. Permanent officers were the Rev. J. H. Lane of Kingfisher, chairman, and A. F. Ferguson of El Reno, secretary.

A message from Washington this year announced the intention of the Government of permitting the sale of the military reservation for townsite purposes. This reservation, still occupied by soldiers, lay east of the Santa Fe Railroad and after the sale of lots in a subsequent year became known as Maywood Addition.

"In the spring of 1891 the work of constructing the line from Fort Reno to Oklahoma City was begun," says Joseph B. Thoburn in his History of Oklahoma, relative to the Choctaw Railroad enterprise. "The right of way and leases of the road were mortgaged for approximately \$10,000 per mile. When the track had been laid from Reno to Yukon, the bondholders refused to furnish more funds. Messrs. Edwin D. Chaddick and E. C. Sears, the active promoters of the Choctaw Coal & Railway Company, asked for appointment of receivers. The court appointed Francis I. Gowan and Edwin D. Chaddick as receivers, the former representing the bondholders and the latter representing the promoters.

"Finding that the section of the road extending from Fort Reno to Yukon could be operated only at a loss, the receivers applied to the court to compel the line from Oklahoma City to Yukon to pay for the cost of such construction in receiver's certificates. This course was taken in order to preserve the property and was classed by the court and the receivers under



the guise of necessary repairs, thus giving the certificates so issued priority over the Philadelphia syndicate's mortgage.

"The line as originally surveyed in 1888 intersected that of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway at the site upon which Oklahoma City was afterwards built. The right of way and reservation for depot and side tracks was 200 feet wide and upon April 22, 1889, the limits thereto were plainly marked by tin signs which were conspicuously posted. The settlers, however, paid no attention to these signs or the right of way thus claimed. When the road was built in 1891 a compromise between the conflicting claims of the railway company and those who had settled on the townsite was effected, whereby the alley in the row of blocks between First and Second streets was vacated, with forty feet off the lots on either side, at a cost of \$16,000, which sum was paid in city scrip, to be payable when validated by an act of Congress. Afterward, the city raised the rate charged for saloon license and authorized the city treasurer to receive scrip in payment of the same, the ultimate redemption costing the city 75 cents on the dollar.

"In 1894 Francis I. Gowan, receiver, was made chairman of the reorganization committee. One of the first steps of this reorganization committee was to secure the passage of an act of Congress authorizing the reorganization of the company. Under the terms of this act, the incorporators were required to file a certificate with the secretary of the interior, specifying name, capitalization, date of organization and directors. It was given independent corporate powers in perpetuity in addition to those heretofore held by the Choctaw Coal & Railway Company. After the passage and the approval of this act the property of the Choctaw Coal & Railway Company was sold at foreclosure sale under final decrees rendered by the United States Court at South McAlester and the District Court of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, and was purchased by the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf Railway."

The second election of city officials was held on April 8. W. J. Gault was reelected mayor and T. M. Upshaw, clerk. B. H. Miller was elected police judge, Robert J. Ray, attorney; Harvey Blair, assessor, and J. P. Boyle, treasurer. Aldermen elected were Charles W. Meacham, Nelson Button, John



H. Roller, J. W. Gibbs, N. D. Taylor, John Brogan and N. N. Miller, who was chosen president of the council. H. S. Butler and C. D. Millinger were elected justices of the peace, and D. W. Phillips and Samuel Bartel, constables.

Among franchises granted during the year were one to J. F. Thompson and L. W. Fouts to install a gas system and one to H. Wilkerson to install a telephone system.

The appointed county officials served only until the first election held under the new Territorial law. At that election the following officials were chosen: W. R. Taylor, county attorney; D. A. Stewart, probate judge; Charles F. Coleord, sheriff; W. J. Donovan, treasurer; Will L. Bradford, clerk; J. A. J. Baugus, superintendent of public instruction, and Harry Bacon (elected chairman), L. N. Deweese and John L. Robertson, commissioners. Will H. Clark was the first clerk of the Federal District Court appointed in this district. Dr. W. R. Thompson was the first county physician under the popular government.

Dennis T. Flynn was born at Phoenixville, Pa., in 1861. He was educated at Buffalo, N. Y., where he studied law. After his admission to the bar, he settled at Riverside, Iowa, where he resided for a short time. In 1882, he again migrated, locating at Kiowa, Kan., where, in addition to practicing law, he established and successfully conducted the Kiowa Herald and also acted as postmaster. When Oklahoma was opened to settlement, in 1889, he settled at Guthrie, where he served as the first postmaster. In 1890, he received a strong vote in the Republican Territorial Convention for the nomination for delegate to Congress. In 1892 he was nominated and elected as territorial delegate to Congress. In 1894 he was renominated and reelected. In 1896 he was renominated but was defeated as the result of the union of the opposition forces. Although his own party was hopelessly in the minority, he ran far ahead of his own ticket, largely on the free homes issue. In 1898 and again in 1900, he was renominated and reelected as delegate to Congress. During the last mentioned year, he secured the passage of the free homestead bill. In 1902 Mr. Flynn declined to be a candidate for reelection as delegate to Congress. Since 1903 he has



been engaged in the practice of law in Oklahoma City.—Thoburn.

When W. D. Gault became mayor by regular election C. F. Colcord continued in service as chief of police until the autumn of 1891, when he was elected the first sheriff of the newly organized Oklahoma County, an office of which he continued the fearless and efficient incumbent for the ensuing two years. Concerning local conditions and his administration the following interesting statements have been made: "The two years during which Mr. Colcord served as sheriff of Oklahoma county are notable in the records of the county and the territory, for at that time the forces of law and order found themselves confronted with the most formidable of obstacles in their endeavors to restrain and drive off the cohorts of vice that beset the new Territory and constituted a constant menace to the law-abiding citizens who had come to the new country in such large numbers. It is certain that never since has there been in Oklahoma a condition of affairs demanding such vigorous and courageous work on the part of official entrusted with the maintenance of law and order, and it is altogether probable that at no previous period had so great a task been imposed. In bringing to an end the reign of outlawry in Oklahoma, one of the criminal officers who deserves unqualified credit and honor for thorough efficiency and straightforward service, untainted by corruption or deviation from the strictest ideals of duty, is Charles F. Colcord, whose record as a public official may perhaps be forgotten in the light of his latter-day activities, which have been of great magnitude and importance. After his retirement from the position of sheriff Mr. Colcord held for five years the United States prison contract at Guthrie, the territorial capital."

At the opening of the Cherokee Strip, in 1893, Mr. Colcord secured large land holdings in the district and entered business at Perry. In 1898 he returned to Oklahoma City, which has since continued to be his place of residence.

The first grand jury that sat in the United States side of the Territorial Court in January, 1891, brought in seventy-five indictments for perjury. The foreman of the grand jury was a "sooner," but belonged to the class that believed that





he was violating no law as long as he did not go upon the tract of land he sought, before the hour of opening, and spurned the thought of committing the crime of perjury. His name was John A. Blackburn.

These indictments were followed rapidly by other indictments and the most vigorous prosecutions ever known in a western court. After being indicted, the accused persons defied prosecution, and boldly told the officers that they could never get convictions, no matter what the Government proved. Threats of assassination were frequent and oftentimes above board, but those charged with the duty of breaking up the hotbed of perjury relentlessly pursued the prosecutions.

John G. Clark, formerly of Lancaster, Wis., was the presiding judge, with Will H. Clark as clerk of court, while Hon. Horace Speed, of Guthrie, United States attorney for Oklahoma, and W. F. Harn, special agent, of Oklahoma City, acted for the United States Government. Assistant United States Attorney John F. Stone and Special Agent John W. Scothorn rendered material assistance, although the work of the two latter was confined mostly to prosecutions in the vicinity of Guthrie, where similar "sooner" and perjury combinations, but on a much smaller scale, had been formed and maintained.

The first few trials consumed as much as four weeks each, day and night, and were fought desperately by the several defendants and their attorneys. A conspiracy was unearthed, in which it was planned to dynamite the courthouse for the purpose of killing Judge Clark, United States Attorney Speed and Special Agent Harn, but the plans of the assassins were thwarted by the early discovery of the details through a confession of one of the accused, who subsequently served time in prison for murder. A bomb was thrown under the house of Special Agent Harn, but the fuse was put out by the bomb striking some bushes. At another time Deputy United States Marshal Frank Cochran stayed the hand of a defendant perjurer's son-in-law, as the latter was about to plunge a dirk into the back of Special Agent Harn, as the latter was leaving the court room. Other instances of this kind, never publicly made known, were numerous and frequent.



These acts of intimidation, however, failed to stop the monotonous and incessant grind of the court. Conviction followed conviction as rapidly as the cases were submitted to the juries. Many defendants left the country as soon as they heard that their cases were under investigation by a grand jury, which they could pretty well figure out by the names of the witnesses before that body, while many of those indicted jumped their bonds, and never again appeared in the territory. The officers were deluged with offers from defendants to turn state's evidence, and many detailed confessions were had that were never used. Although the guilt of the defendants was established by untainted testimony, in all cases, yet usually the prosecution was able and did use the evidence of several accomplices for the main purpose of showing the secret methods of the organizations.

After the backbone of perjury had been broken, it was no unusual sight for defendants to appear in court and enter pleas of guilty with a request for immediate sentence. On one morning, in single file, no less than eleven defendants appeared before Judge Clark and asked that they be permitted to change their former pleas of not guilty to pleas of guilty as charged in the indictments.

There was little else than perjury tried at Oklahoma City in the year 1891, yet the docket was far from cleared of cases charging that crime as the end of the last term of court drew near. The Bohemians were notified that in a few days their indictments at Guthrie would be tried. But a trial was not what they were looking for, and some sixteen or more hurried to Wichita, where they were under bond and asked the United States marshal to lock them up, in order that their bondsmen might be exonerated. This was done, and when it was discovered that their voluntary return to prison was merely a ruse to get the defendants out of the jurisdiction of the Guthrie court, the Kansas officers volunteered to return the accused to Guthrie for trial. Inasmuch as the defendants and their attorneys seemed to prefer the Kansas jurisdiction, all of the cases were set down for immediate trial in that court before United States Judge Williams.

A desperate effort was made by the defendants' attorneys to avoid trial. Messrs. Speed and Harn were charged with



having Oklahoma terrorized by their prosecutions, and it was claimed that the defendants could not get a fair trial, because of the fear of their witnesses to testify. After being forced into trial, however, the same old gang of witnesses was on hand for the defense with the same old brazen stories. The prosecution examined nearly one hundred witnesses on behalf of the Government, hammering to pieces every material statement made by a perjury witness. A jury returned verdicts of guilty against fifteen defendants in three days. Since the convicting jury came from every part of the State of Kansas and had little or no acquaintance with conditions in Oklahoma, the verdicts were a complete vindication of the Oklahoma officers. When prominent defendants went upon the stand and made a full confession of perjury and subornation, the hitherto almost impregnable defense wasted away like a mist before the rising sun. One defendant escaped. His indictment was dismissed on the motion of the United States attorney for a defect in the copying.

Joseph W. Ady, United States attorney of Kansas; Hon. Pliny Soper, assistant United States attorney, and W. F. Harn prosecuted, while Stanley, of Wichita, later governor of the state, defended. Judge Williams was so greatly impressed with the completeness of the Government's prosecution to the minutest detail, that he voluntarily remarked that it was the most remarkable series of prosecutions that ever came to his attention on account of the preparedness of the prosecution to meet every point in law or evidence that might possibly have been raised by the defense.

These fifteen defendants were sentenced to the penitentiary for terms of from a year and a day to four years at Leavenworth.

There were other trials of perjury cases, but the crime had been stamped out, and the later prosecutions were of a desultory character. Numerous cases, also, were tried that involved perjury on matters other than the "sooner" question, but they were few when compared to the whole number tried.



## 1892—BOOMERS ACTIVE AGAIN

The city again this year was a mecca for boomers. The Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indian reservations were opened to settlement on April 19, and because of the fact that the Department of the Interior had designated the Oklahoma City land office as one of the offices of entry, thousands of homeseekers and speculators assembled here prior to the opening. They began coming early in the year and their numbers increased with the passing of the weeks. Disorders were so frequent and law violations so flagrant along the eastern border of the reservation that Governor Seay was compelled to call for military assistance in preserving order. In Oklahoma City disorders were no less frequent. These were caused in many instances by the traffic in soldiers' declaratories. Such traffic had its inception the previous year and had been developed profitably by scores of men. Some small riots took place here. In none of them was serious personal injury done, and the town-builders had their first organized experience in denying exaggerated reports. Commissioner of Indian Affairs Carter allayed feeling against the traffickers to an extent and virtually put an end to their activities by issuing an order prohibiting an agent from representing more than two soldiers. The order was issued after the Commissioner had received resolutions of protest from organizations at Oklahoma City and Kingfisher. The opening of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe reservations further increased the population of the city and was the last official act necessary to guarantee construction of the Choctaw Railroad across the Territory from East to West. A branch of the Choctaw had been completed from Oklahoma City to El Reno, and over this were transported thousands who came into the city over the Santa Fe. A newspaper account of the preopening activities said that special trains bore 300 filled coaches into the city in one day.





The early part of the year was notable for the activities of the boomers. Not only had they overrun the Cheyenne and Arapahoe reservations but they continued more or less lawless activities in what was known as the Cherokee Strip, the demand for the opening of which was even stronger than that for the opening of the other reservation. The boomer movements had their origin principally in adjoining states and in other parts of the Territory but Oklahoma City was the headquarters of a few. Indirectly the boomer movement in its bulk contributed to the growth of business here.

On January 25 of this year Delegate David A. Harvey introduced a bill in Congress providing for the creation of a State out of the two Territories. The Committee on Territories on February 11 began a series of hearings on the bill and the chief advocates of it were Sidney Clarke of Oklahoma City and W. P. Hackney and Horace Speed of Guthrie, all representing the single statehood executive committee. Other members of the committee were: Samuel H. Harris of Cleveland County, William J. Grant of Canadian County, J. P. Cummins of Kingfisher County, Frank J. Wikoff of Paine County, George F. Payne of Beaver County, William A. Allison of "A" County, J. H. Woods of "B" County, and H. C. Potterf of Chickasaw County.

Dennis T. Flynn, who had been postmaster at Guthrie, this year defeated Mr. Harvey for the republican nomination for Delegate to Congress and in the November election defeated O. H. Travers of Oklahoma City, the democratic nominee.

Canadian River floods in the early summer of this year inflicted much damage to property in what had been South Oklahoma. This was the first experience the settlers had had with high waters of the river and they initiated plans for straightening the channel. These plans developed more or less half-heartedly and more or less loosely during the next few years and culminated in the digging of a canal for a river cut-off. The canal project ended in failure but to this day sections of a red-clay scar are visible on undeveloped parcels of town lots.

A census of the Territory taken under direction of the Interior Department this year showed it to have a population of 133,000. Oklahoma County's population was 21,000 and





W. J. GAULT



the town boosters claimed that 8,000 of these lived in Oklahoma City. A traveling correspondent of a Texas newspaper called it 8,000 and complimented the city of having "a brick jail, a grist mill, an ice factory and several churches."

County officials elected this year were S. A. Stewart, judge; Will L. Bradford, clerk; J. H. Woods, attorney; J. O. Williams, register of deeds; J. M. Brogan, assessor; J. M. Fightmaster, sheriff; R. B. Potts, surveyor, and H. A. Bolinger, superintendent of public instruction.

O. A. Mitscher defeated L. F. Kramer for mayor in the spring election. J. T. Martin was reelected clerk and J. B. Boyle, treasurer. R. G. Hays defeated R. J. Edwards for attorney and G. W. McClelland defeated Bent Miller for police judge. C. A. Compton was elected assessor and J. H. Wheeler, treasurer of the board of education. Members of the city council elected were Dr. C. E. Dunn, L. Mendlick, C. G. Jones and George Ross. New justices of the peace were J. W. Davis and G. W. Stephenson.

The council granted a gas franchise to T. A. Bailey and received an application for a street railway franchise from Augustus N. Spencer. It accepted a water system installed by D. H. Scott & Company. It adopted a resolution that asked President Cleveland to proclaim the military reservation subject to sale for townsite purposes. A bill containing such a provision had failed of passage in Congress and the council was advised by lawyers that the President had authority to act without an act of Congress. The resolution recited that the city was becoming congested, that it was in need of more territory, and that limitation on tracts forbade spreading in all other directions.

William H. Ebey, who had been the first secretary of the Oklahoma City Commercial Club and a few years later of the Chamber of Commerce, this year was appointed by President Cleveland clerk of the United States Court of the Third Judicial District of Oklahoma Territory, with headquarters at Oklahoma City. Prior to coming to Oklahoma Mr. Ebey had been for a time engaged in the newspaper business, and he was one of the early representatives of the Associated Press in Oklahoma, being succeeded in this position by Frank McMaster, a pioneer newspaper man of Oklahoma

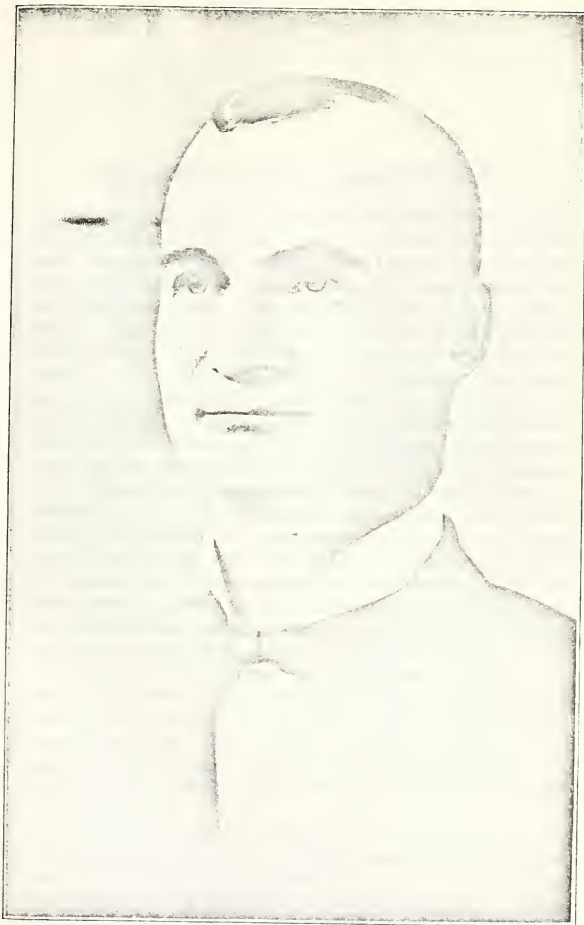


City. After maintaining his residence in Oklahoma City for a period of seven years Mr. Ebey passed a few years at Terrell, Texas. He then returned to Oklahoma and established his residence at Lawton, the present judicial center of Comanche County, being virtually one of the founders of the town, shortly after the opening to settlement of the Kiowa and Comanche Indian country. He afterward spent a year in California and upon his return to Oklahoma he established his permanent home at Ada.

He was once owner of the *Oklahoman*, which is now the leading daily newspaper of that state. It was not a paying proposition and the business was not to his liking, and he finally traded the plant and business to R. Q. Blakeney for a town lot and other consideration. His interest in political affairs made Mr. Ebey one of the democratic leaders during the entire period of his residence in Oklahoma City. He was a delegate to many county and state conventions and frequently was chairman or secretary of the same. He was a member of the notable state convention, at Enid, that nominated William Cross for Congress. In this convention Thomas P. Gore, of Lawton, now United States senator, was a conspicuous figure, and his name was once placed before the convention as that of a candidate for Congress. Later it was withdrawn and Mr. Ebey changed the vote of the Comanche County delegation from Gore to Cross. This change marked the beginning of a new wave of sentiment in the convention and resulted in the nomination of Cross.







O. A. MITSCHER



## 1893—DREAM OF A COMMONWEALTH

Oklahoma City never settled into the unpretentious routine of a Main Street town, but that level of a million of her peers might have been approximated this year had not her far-seeing captains of industry found politics, immigration and Statehood topics to engage them. But for these Main Street would have been prosaic indeed, for it was the year of the panic. Trade was slack and there were some business failures. There were long dull days of summer when hammers were hushed and Gulf winds spread clouds of dust over the scenery and along the beaten and bare thoroughfares, and dust was an unbidden and unwelcome visitor in the home of every woman. There were tempestuous gray days of spring, days of heavy precipitation, soil soakers, and capitalists and laborers alike sank their boots into the gummy slush of Main Street and transported innumerable portions of it to their divers destinations. In spite of this, homesteaders pursued the business of house building and crop making, which required much teaming of materials and provisions, and their thoughts touching highways were of bridges and the slanting of precipitous banks of creeks and ravines. The art of scientific road building had not been introduced: the motor age was a decade away. The flowered prairies were gorgeous and growing crops were convincing of the fertility of the soil, and homeseekers came, saw and were conquered in spite of the panic. The inhabitants boasted to them of the completion of a water system, the city's very first and undoubtedly its most truly appreciated.

It was the year of the World's Fair in Chicago and Oklahoma City put its bundle of products into baskets and shipped them away to the Oklahoma building at the exposition. The Territory is said to have made a creditable display. Among those who took a conspicuous part in the city's showing of exhibits were Dr. A. C. Scott and Mrs. Gilbert.



Democrats came into control of the Territorial Government this year by virtue of the election of Grover Cleveland as President, and Oklahoma City, which had a majority of votes inclined to the democratic party, found itself more favored by the new administration than towns of a republican bent. Leslie P. Ross, one of the first officials and most influential residents of South Oklahoma City, was credited with having more influence in Washington than any other man in the Territory. The "sawbuck leader" he was called by the republicans of Guthrie. A coworker in the party with Ross was Edward L. Dunn, then secretary of the Democratic central committee of the Territory, and these two party stalwarts exercised a great influence in the distribution of party patronage. William C. Renfrow was appointed governor and C. A. Galbraith, a young lawyer of Oklahoma City, attorney general, and later in the year Ross was appointed receiver of the land office at Oklahoma City. It is said that he could have been governor had he expressed a desire for it. B. M. Dilley was named register of the land office, and E. G. Spilman, who later became a resident of the city, was named register of the land office at Kingfisher. Frank Dale of Guthrie was appointed chief justice of the Territorial Supreme Court and Henry W. Scott, a young Oklahoma City barrister, whom some politicians called the "kid of the Canadian," was appointed associate justice. Ross succeeded Capt. J. C. Delaney, who was accounted a useful citizen of the early years, and who returned immediately to his former home in Pennsylvania. United States Marshal Nix of Kingfisher named as his deputies in Oklahoma City, J. W. Jones, John Quinby, Charles F. Coleord, Samuel Bartel and John Hubatka. The Department of Justice delayed for several months the appointment of a United States attorney and in that time J. W. Johnson of Oklahoma City and Matthew J. Kane of Kingfisher, who many years later was a justice of the State Supreme Court and a resident of the city, applicants for the place, waged a battle of wits in Washington.

Rivalry between Oklahoma City and Guthrie, which had been largely commercial, took a decided political turn this year, and Frank H. Greer, editor of the State Capital at Guthrie, delighted in administering various shades and



degrees of serious and facetious political chastisement. Democratic leadership, of course, was divided. Captains of democracy lived in Guthrie and El Reno and Kingfisher, and in Perry and Enid after the opening of the Cherokee Strip, which took place in September of this year. Well founded rumors were narrated to the effect that the land office might be moved from Oklahoma City to El Reno. It was the most disquieting piece of political news of the year. Guthrie democrats were accused of being in league with El Reno democrats to bring about the removal, a punishment in part, the tale-bearers said, of Oklahoma City's reputed efforts in earlier years to rob Guthrie of land office honors by having the office established at some place farther removed from Oklahoma City. The scheme was visionary; indeed, it may never have been whipped into concrete form; but it furnished ammunition for caucus and stump rifle practice wherever a vestige of it protruded into daylight.

With the democrats in control of the long-range Washington Government, the demand for Statehood, which had been increasing for a couple of years, was not lessened. A Statehood convention was held in El Reno on August 8, attended by about one hundred delegates, and Sidney Clarke was elected permanent chairman of the executive committee. He appointed a committee consisting of Frank McMaster of Oklahoma City (who that year founded the Oklahoma Magazine), Frank H. Greer of Guthrie, L. N. Hornbeek of Minco, J. W. Admire of Kingfisher and R. W. McAdams of Ardmore to collect statistics relating to population, industries, etc., of Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory and prepare a memorial to Congress asking for the creation of a single State. The executive committee was called to meet in Oklahoma City on August 26 to receive a report of the special committee. On the latter date a call was issued for another convention, to be held in Purcell on September 30, and to consist of delegates from both Territories. The Oklahoma County delegates to this convention were Frank McMaster, J. H. Woods, C. G. Jones, W. J. Donovan, John H. Beatty, O. H. Violet, D. C. Lewis, Charles Reddick, J. S. Lindsay, B. F. Williams, Samuel Crocker, J. M. Fightmaster, J. W. Johnson, Leslie P.





Ross, J. W. McCartney, Dr. A. G. Gunn, Maj. D. D. Leach and J. J. Burke.

Frank McMaster was named chairman of the resolutions committee of the Purcell convention and Samuel Crocker chairman of the organization committee. It had a gratifying attendance of enthusiastic men and the resolutions adopted apprised members of Congress of the serious intentions of these pioneers and their brethren of the lands of the Five Tribes. James E. Humphreys of Purcell was president of the convention, W. A. Ledbetter of Ardmore was vice president, M. L. Bixler of Oklahoma City, secretary, and L. N. Hornbeck of Minco, assistant secretary. The resolutions favored what was known as the Carey bill then pending in Congress, providing for the creation of one State, and they approved of the efforts of Delegate Dennis Flynn to secure the making of treaties with Indian tribes of Oklahoma Territory as a preliminary step toward the opening to settlement of other reservations. Before adjournment the executive committee, which was determined to hammer the iron while it was hot, fixed a meeting date for October 10, in Oklahoma City, and called upon the Five Civilized Tribes of Indian Territory to send representatives to sit in this meeting.

The October 10 meeting was held in the Grand Avenue Hotel and it was presided over by Sidney Clarke. Mr. Humphreys represented the Five Tribes as a secretary and Henry Asp, a Guthrie lawyer, Oklahoma Territory. Plans for creating a larger organization and for securing additional representation in Washington were discussed principally. The committee upon adjournment announced that its next meeting would be held here on November 3. On this date the committee was gratified to report that the Purcell convention had accomplished the result of impressing Delegate Flynn with the growing earnestness of the people, and that he had introduced a bill embodying the ideas expressed in that convention. That Mr. Flynn should have all support the organization could muster was a unanimous sentiment, and to that end the committee put out a call for still another convention, the date of which was November 28, and the place Kingfisher. This convention was more largely attended than that at Purcell and manifested a more heightened degree of enthusiasm.







It elected Mr. Clarke to the station of committeeman at large and A. J. Seay of Kingfisher, secretary. Frank McMaster was elected as Oklahoma County's representative on the committee.

On November 15 of this year a court-martial was convened at Fort Reno to try Capt. D. F. Stiles, then retired, on the charge of having committed a fraud in the sale of buildings on the Government reservation at Oklahoma City to a fair association, the charge specifying that there were eight buildings sold and only five reported sold by Captain Stiles. Capt. E. H. Crowder, acting judge advocate of the United States Army, was judge advocate at the trial, and Captain Stiles was represented by Lieut. Charles J. T. Clark of the Tenth Infantry. The charge proved unfounded and Captain Stiles returned to Oklahoma City and remained, a useful citizen, until his death in 1900. Part of the court-martial proceedings were witnessed by Gen. Nelson A. Miles who, at the conclusion of a western hunting expedition with Col. William F. Cody, had come to Fort Reno for an inspection of the post, Colonel Cody accompanying him.

In his first annual report to Secretary of the Interior Hoke Smith, Governor Renfrow included some detailed statistics relative to Oklahoma County. These showed that in 1890 the population of the county was 12,794; in 1892, 21,000; and in 1893, 25,363. Taxable property in 1892 had a valuation of \$2,661,000 and in 1893 of \$3,084,000. The scholastic population in 1891 was 4,263 and in 1893, 5,367.

William M. Stone, who had twice been governor of Iowa and, under the administration of President Harrison, commissioner of the general land office, died at his home near Oklahoma City on July 18. Governor Stone had bought a tract of land near the city and erected upon it what was then known as a very fine home and had entered upon the practice of law.

Among charters granted by the Secretary of the Territory during the year was one to the Press-Gazette Printing Company, that had a capital stock of \$10,000 and of which W. J. Donovan, T. M. Upshaw, L. G. Pitman, C. A. Galbraith and J. L. Harralson were incorporators.

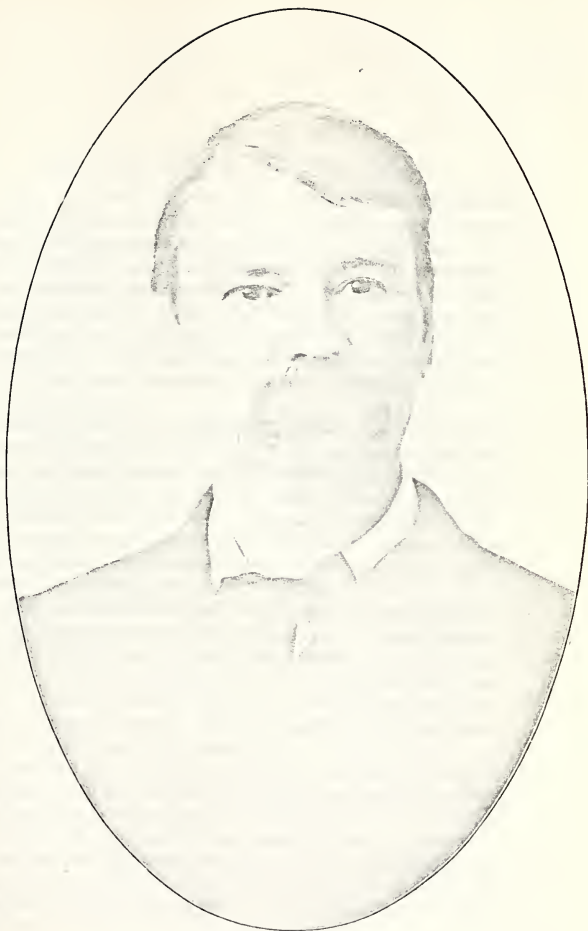
New members of the city council elected this year were



F. M. Riley, C. E. Dunn, J. R. McIlvane, who defeated C. G. Jones, and H. F. Butler. Oscar G. Lee, who in the previous year had been appointed city marshal, resigned on April 12 and E. F. Cochran was appointed as his successor. An ordinance was passed providing that members of the police force should wear a uniform. The council this year applied to the District Court for permission to fund a city indebtedness of about \$30,000. Another of its acts was a resolution addressed to the Secretary of the Interior asking that the Kickapoo Indian reservation be opened to settlement. Bonds were voted this year for installation of the original system of sanitary sewers.







FRANK McMASTER



## 1894—THE ACTIVE TEN THOUSAND

While the annals of this year contain numerous echoes of outlawry, which existed before the opening, and was enlivened and intensified with the increase in population and the careless and indifferent character of a large percentage of the population, they portray some of the important beginnings of permanency. An active interest in agriculture and minerals was manifest. Social life achieved first-page space in newspapers. An industrious commercial club, boasting that the city had 10,000 population, entered vigorously into progressive enterprises.

A right of way from Oklahoma City to a terminus of the Choctaw Railroad to the East was being secured and the city was on the eve of getting its second trunk line, the Santa Fe having been laid through the Territory several years before the opening. This gave zest to the town's ambitions to become a commercial center and metropolis. Being at the border of the big western prairie, the matter of fuel demanded attention if ambitions were to be realized.

Some geological work had been done in the new country, both by private and probably adventurous "rock hounds" and, in a limited way, by the United States Geological Survey. A collection of reports came into possession of the Commercial Club and these brought about the first organized movement to explore for gas. The club called an outdoors mass meeting to discuss the suggestion that a well be drilled. It was attended by several hundred men and women and so enthusiastic did they become, after speeches, that several hundred dollars was subscribed to a drilling fund. A committee to solicit funds and make other preparations for furthering the project was appointed by Henry Will, president of the club. It consisted of F. M. Riley, W. M. Pyles, C. G. Jones, Henry Overholser, Henry Will, T. M. Richardson and B. F. Burwell.



More geologists were attracted to the Territory by virtue of the publicity given this enterprise and the community soon was infected by a genuine case of oil fever, the first it had had and the first in the Territory of Oklahoma. New surveys were made and at a later meeting of the Commercial Club the leaders were urged to arrange for a well to be drilled in every township of Oklahoma County. Interest was intensified by geological reports from other sections of the Territory and adventurers began to investigate the possibilities of asphalt to the south and rumors about gold and copper in the Wichita Mountains.

Eventually the oil and gas committee created the Oklahoma City Oil, Coal & Gas Company, of which Henry Overholser was elected president. It had a capital stock of \$50,000 and the board of directors consisted of Mr. Overholser, Henry Will, F. M. Riley, Edward H. Cooke, O. A. Mitscher, W. M. Pyles and T. H. Group. The company erected what was then a modern derrick on Military Hill, a tract of land situated north of the Choctaw right of way and east of the Santa Fe.

The most sensational event of the year was the sentencing to jail of Frank McMaster by District Judge Henry W. Scott. McMaster was a lawyer, scholar, orator and editor. Probably he had no superiors at that time in Oklahoma in intellect and brilliance. It is certain that none surpassed him in sarcasm and invective. Physically unattractive, of slightly stooped shoulders, and wearing a rectangular and irregularly trimmed suit of whiskers, he belied first impressions. He was a profound student and a masterful speaker, and he was accustomed to speaking his thoughts irrespective of the occasion of the expectations of his auditors. This was more than once the cause of his mental and personal discomfiture.

McMaster was angered by some statement or ruling of the district judge and proceeded to put into his characteristic English his opinion of that dignitary. Judge Scott had him brought into court and, in the absence of a retraction or apologies, fined him \$500 and sentenced him to serve six months in the county jail. McMaster accepted the sentence stoically and was placed in jail. Some days later he repented and wrote a note of apology to Judge Scott, thereby procuring his release. It has been said that poison was found in his cell





NELSON BUTTON





and that he contemplated ending his life. That he had such intention was denied by some of his friends. During his incarceration he was permitted once to leave the jail, under guard, that he might cast a vote in the city election.

The incarceration of McMaster produced a sensation in other towns of the Territory. He was one of the founders of the democratic party organization after the opening and he wielded an influence as great as any other man in Territorial politics. Sentiment in his favor was therefore colored considerably by politics. Resolutions condemning the action of Judge Scott were passed by political and other organizations in all the principal towns and some of these were sent to President Cleveland who is said to have considered seriously calling for the resignation of the judge. McMaster remained in Oklahoma City until the opening of the Kiowa and Comanche Indian country in 1901 when he established a law office in Lawton. There he died a few years later.

Statehood this year was receiving serious attention by Congress, and the new Territory, already ambitious for self-government, maintained delegations in Washington to lobby for the passage of a bill. Leaders of political thought were not a unit in the matter, however, some demanding that a single state be created of the two Territories and others holding fast to the two-state idea. Among those representing Oklahoma City in Washington that year were Sidney Clarke and Col. J. W. Johnson, but during the year the city sent a special delegation out on a statehood expedition. It consisted of C. G. Jones, O. A. Mitscher and Seymour Price. They were commissioned to represent the city at the Trans Mississippi Congress in St. Louis but the purpose principally was to acquaint men from other states with the desires of the Oklahomans. A special commissioner of the city to Washington this year was Edward L. Dunn.

Sidney Clarke, who was chairman of the Statehood Executive Committee, reported near the end of the year that conditions in Indian Territory were an injury to the cause of single Statehood and that this was the big problem the Oklahomans had to deal with. Washington, he said, heard almost daily reports of banditry and paralyzed business conditions



in Indian Territory and of scenes that were a disgrace to civilization and to the Government of the United States.

Sam W. Small, the well known brilliant platform speaker and evangelist of the South, early in the year became editor of The Daily Oklahoman. His editorials on current events created an original sort of snappy literature that was in perfect accord with the ideals of the day, and his human-interest contributions touching on such subjects as battles with outlaws, murders and street brawls, sensational divorce cases and political conventions of the enemy were masterful in the same degree as his sermons on the feast of Belshazzar and the downfall of the devil.

He was succeeded after a few months by Charles Barrett, who popularized the newspaper with long lists of personals and page-one resumes of events in other towns of the Territory, and who labored zealously to promote all legitimate interests of the city. Barrett was succeeded by R. Q. Blakeney, who already had earned his spurs as a cavalier for the democratic party and who carried on valorously in defeat and out. Blakeney dignified social items by giving them a place on the first column of the first page. He filled his editorial columns with intelligently built and weighty paragraphs, maintained a correspondent in Washington, and gave the paper a dress suggestive of cosmopolitanism. Under his direction The Daily Oklahoman became a constructive and constructing enterprise, and this year was in reality the beginning of its long period of usefulness as probably the most determinative factor in the erection of the metropolis of today.

In the municipal election this spring Nelson Button succeeded O. A. Mitscher as mayor, and the ticket that Button captioned defeated one nominated by a citizens' committee and headed by D. C. Lewis.

The republicans were victorious in the autumn elections, both in Oklahoma County and the Territory, and Dennis Flynn, afterward a lawyer in Oklahoma City and Washington, but formerly postmaster at Guthrie, was elected Delegate to Congress. Henry Overholser was elected County Commissioner and made chairman of the board. Other county officers elected were W. P. Harper, judge; G. A. Beidler, register of deeds; S. H. Miller, clerk; C. H. DeFord, sheriff; J. L. Brown,





MAIN STREET, OKLAHOMA CITY, 1889



attorney; John Carson, treasurer, and F. H. Umholtz, superintendent of public instruction.

During that year Samuel Murphy resigned as Territorial Treasurer and Governor Renfrow filled the vacancy by appointing M. L. Turner, then an official of the Capital National Bank of Guthrie, and who later moved to Oklahoma City and founded the Western National Bank and was for twenty years one of the city's leading citizens. He died in 1921.

Among enterprises set going that year by the Commercial Club was an effort to secure title for the city to the southwest quarter of section 34-12n-3w. Part of the tract was claimed by Ben Miller who was classed as a Sooner, and that cognomen was given him by the club in a memorial sent to Congress asking for legislation making transfer of the tract. The memorial was signed by Henry Will, president, and Walter Jehnison, secretary.

In 1894 George Sohlberg came down from Kansas and organized the Acme Milling Company which erected in Oklahoma City the first large manufactory of flour, an enterprise that was frequently lauded by the newspapers and received encouragement of the commercial club.

That year John A. Flattery was appointed postmaster and Dr. Delos Walker was elected president of the Territorial Medical Association.





## 1895—CHOCTAW RAILROAD ENTERS

Perhaps the most important event of the year 1895 was the completion of the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf Railroad into Oklahoma City. Later this road was extended westward to Amarillo, Texas. Its eastern terminus was Memphis, Tenn. Later it became known officially as a trunk line of the Rock Island System. It put the new city in direct communication with the principal coal district of Indian Territory and with the wheat and grazing districts of Western Oklahoma and the Panhandle of Texas.

Selection of the route of this road into Oklahoma City from the East was attended by not a few ordinary difficulties and some of major importance. A fight developed among towns in the former Pottawotamie and Kickapoo reservations, with Tecumseh as a point around which rotated many heated controversies. Tecumseh went so far as to employ an attorney, Horace Speed of Guthrie, who afterwards was United States District Attorney. His employment was one of the incidents of those early years that tended to develop a flame of modest hatred out of a small fire of commercial and social rivalry between Oklahoma City and Guthrie. Speed was credited with being a strong Guthrie partisan and Oklahoma City citizens interpreted his employment by Tecumseh as an effort on the part of the capital to divert the Choctaw road from the original survey to a diagonal route to Guthrie.

The route controversy terminated temporarily in the United States Court which granted an injunction against the road being laid across the Kickapoo Indian reservation. The dismissal of this injunction after a few months was the last determining factor in the choice of routes and soon rails were being laid to Oklahoma City, and from Shawnee rather than from Tecumseh. Oklahoma City then proceeded in an effort to have this city made general headquarters of the railroad company and shops established here. In this it was unsuc-



cessful, but the decision to locate the shops at Shawnee left no bitterness and the city builders of the metropolis, now assured of rail facilities that would attract manufacturers and wholesalers, turned their attention to other industrial enterprises.

But the spirit of railroad building, present in all ambitious communities of the Territory was kept alive. It was evident that the Frisco had in mind an extension from Sapulpa into the new country. That Oklahoma City should be its southwestern objective was the ambition of all citizens. The first step toward securing the extension was taken when the Oklahoma Central Railway Company was formed here. Of this company C. G. Jones was elected president, O. A. Mitscher, vice president; S. A. Steward, secretary, and Henry Overholser, treasurer. "We'll have this road completed into Oklahoma City within eighteen months," President Jones told citizens in a mass meeting.

Railroad promoters came from every direction. Their projects contemplated lines from Kansas, Missouri and Texas, and Oklahoma City and all other growing centers of the Territory were entertained with speeches of enterprising industrial adventurers. In after years only a small few of these enterprises materialized. Oklahoma City men themselves were not averse to such promotions. When the route of the Choctaw road had been determined and Tecumseh had lost its fight against Shawnee, there was formed in Oklahoma City the Tecumseh & Shawnee Railway Company. It had a capital stock of \$150,000, it purposed to lay a line between those two towns, and its incorporators were J. T. Martin, F. M. Riley, J. S. Jenkins, C. A. McNabb, D. C. Pryor and R. G. Hays.

Before the completion of the Choctaw road passengers were carried by stage between Oklahoma City and Shawnee, the latter having become the chief commercial place of the Pottawotannie and Kickapoo countries. For a long time this stage was operated by J. P. Atkisson, who kept his time table in the newspapers conspicuously before the public. Time tables in those days were far more essential than hotel or restaurant menus, for the nearly unlimited possibilities of the new country were attracting attention throughout the entire





CAPTAIN E. H. DEFORD



country. At the end of a blustery day in April, Atkisson drove a battered and top-shredded coach into the Oklahoma City terminal. "The wind upset her three times between here and Choctaw City," he announced to an inquisitive crowd that awaited his arrival. Nobody was injured, he said, and the crowd added laughter and jest to the reception babble.

Three mass meetings were held during the year to advance the cause of Statehood. In the first of these a resolution was passed memorializing Delegate Dennis Flynn to support the Sidney Clarke bill. This resolution was framed by D. D. Leach, Ledru Guthrie and B. Treadwell. The second was of the nature of a convention that was called to order by C. G. Jones and of which F. E. Gillette of El Reno was elected chairman, and L. N. Hornbeck, editor of the *Minco Minstrel* at Minco, I. T., secretary. The committee on resolutions consisted of C. H. Carswell of El Reno, J. W. Hooker of Purcell, Frank McMaster of Oklahoma City, Frank H. Greer of Guthrie, Selwyn Douglas of Oklahoma City, W. E. Asher of Tecumseh and Amos Hays of the Chickasaw Nation. The resolution demanded an early passage of a Statehood bill and petitioned the opening to settlement of the reservations of the Kickapoo and the Kiowa and Comanche Indians.

At the third meeting, held November 30, delegates were elected to attend a Statehood convention of the Territory to be held at Shawnee December 4. Resolutions adopted demanded a single State of the two Territories. The delegates were Samuel Crocker, J. T. Griffith, C. G. Jones, C. H. DeFord, R. Q. Blakeney and D. C. Lewis. At the Shawnee convention Sidney Clarke was reelected chairman of the Statehood Executive Committee. Blakeney was secretary of the convention. Before the convention adjourned it provided for the holding of another one in Oklahoma City on January 8. It was during this convention that the slogan "Let the People Rule" was first used, and singularly enough it was employed by individuals and editors of newspapers irrespective of political party affiliation. The slogan was revived as part of a political creed some years later when Statehood had been achieved and the Democrats, long deprived of office, entered the first campaign for the election of state officials.

What became popularly known as the Scott-McMaster





feud, which began the previous year when McMaster was placed in jail for contempt of court, was revived, and a considerable portion of the population became partisan. McMaster succeeded in getting the subject again before President Cleveland, this time by a more direct route and with substantial political backing, but the President found no cause for dismissal of Judge Scott. That virtually terminated the bitterness and it gradually waned into insignificance. But the people were to hear more, much more, of McMaster.

An event of this year that, at the time, had no relationship with affairs of this city but which later became an issue in the affairs of State, was the killing of Edward Jennings by Temple Houston at Woodward. This resulted from an open street battle, October 9, with Jack Love and Temple Houston on one side and Edward and John Jennings on the other. John Jennings received a flesh wound in the arm. Temple Houston was a descendant of Gen. Sam Houston, hero of the Battle of San Jacinto. Jack Love, at statehood, was elected a member of the Corporation Commission and was its chairman until his death in Oklahoma City a few years later. John Jennings was an early resident of Oklahoma City and a political leader for some years. A brother, Al, who asserted in a record of his deeds twenty years later that he was driven to outlawry by the Woodward tragedy, lived here after his release from prison and was the democratic nominee for County Attorney in one biennial campaign and two years later made an unsuccessful campaign for the nomination for governor.

Mayor Nelson Button's administration met with favor, in spite of the gradually widening breach of partisanship, and in the spring election the democrats elected all their candidates for aldermen but one. The one was Capt. F. S. Goodrich, a republican. F. S. Rhodes was elected from the first ward, Frank Menton from the second ward, Captain Goodrich from the third ward, and J. S. Lindsey from the fourth ward. Edward Cooke was elected treasurer of the school board. The city received from the Department of the Interior a grant to lots 40 and 41 of block 23, known as the Hill corner. How it gained possession of the property through strategy is to be related hereafter.

The anniversary of the establishment of the city was cele-



brated modestly this year, Col. J. W. Johnson delivering an oration and Mrs. A. C. Scott directing a program of music. The ladies of the Presbyterian Church served meals.

A tragedy of the year was the death of Mrs. Harry C. St. John, who was killed by her husband, a prominent and learned young attorney, and a son of Gov. John P. St. John of Kansas. Public indignation almost superseded reason as details of the tragedy were unfolded and told and told again. Death on October 11, 1896, ran counter to the course of legal proceedings and it quieted the ravings of a conscience-stricken brain that hastened the end.

There were churches and preachers and growing congregations, in contradistinction to saloons, tragedies and sensational divorce proceedings. One could easily imagine the preachers were poorly paid, probably were engaged in a manner of missionary work with funds coming out of other treasuries. Law enforcement, however, had now become a public policy and churches were fixed integrally. That the Rev. E. Huffaker, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, needed a new suit of clothes and some expense money before going to Conference may be easily imagined by one who read his urgent call of the stewards and trustees into special session the evening of November 20. The board consisted of Dr. J. R. McIlvain, Dr. C. B. Bradford, R. G. Blakeney, F. Caruthers, R. Woodbridge, W. S. Williams, R. J. Ray, G. F. Walker, M. O. Craigmoyle and W. A. Huddleston.

Nor were theatrical attractions lacking, though the best of them, which were but little better generally speaking, than the worst of them, came at very long intervals. Among the best of them was "The Black Crook." The press agent announced in choicest English that it was fresh from a successful run of twelve months in New York City. The costumes he described as being magnificent and made of the costliest of silks, satins and velvets, and they were tailored especially for this tour of the West. Their brilliant effects, he said, were simply dazzling and spread brilliance over the throng of dancers in various ballets, a brilliance enhanced "by countless colored electric lights." It was a spectacle such as is seldom seen outside of a metropolis.

Two battalions of the Oklahoma National Guard were



organized at Guthrie during the year and among the ambitious young lieutenants who expected promotions soon was Edward Overholser, son of one of the city's first citizens and who afterward was elected mayor.

Two large school buildings were completed and the enrollment totalled 800. Plans were made for a building in the Maywood Addition and one on Military Hill.

Seymour Price was elected president of the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company. Gen. Henry G. Thomas was elected president of the Oklahoma Waterworks Company. Henry Will was elected president of the State National Bank. Capt. J. C. Delaney, who had been receiver of the United States Land Office, was, through the influence of his old-time friend, Senator Matt Quay, appointed superintendent of public property in the capital of Pennsylvania. Roy Hoffman of the Guthrie Leader was elected president of the Oklahoma Press Association. O. A. Mitscher was at the annual election of officers of the Board of Trade again chosen president and other officers were re-elected. Fifty members attended the annual meeting and by-laws were adopted.

John Milligan was hanged for murder on March 13th, Sheriff DeFord and deputies officiating. DeFord afterward brought suit against the county for \$165, the amount expended in preparation for the execution. Milligan brutally murdered Gabe and Hannah Clark and it was the second ghastly tragedy of the year. His execution was one of the first to take place in the Territory.

Slow progress was made during the year in drilling a test well for oil or gas, by the Oklahoma City Oil, Coal & Gas Company. The hole reached a depth of 750 feet and red clay was still in evidence. This was discouraging, for the company had had a report that a well drilled to 1,500 feet at Gainesville, Texas, still was in a red-clay formation.



## 1896—FUSION AND FREE SILVER

Previous political campaigns, which had resulted in republican victory in the Territory in spite of the fact that a democrat occupied the White House, were like preliminary contests compared to that of 1896. When William J. Bryan was nominated by the democrats in Chicago and later by the populists, and when the populists of Oklahoma fused with the democrats, it fired republicans with a fervor they had not previously demonstrated. A series of debates on the principal issue of the campaign, gold standard versus free silver, enlivened the Territory throughout, and the campaign ended with great rallies in Oklahoma City. The first of these was staged by the democrats and populists in honor of J. Y. Callahan, their nominee for Congress, and the second by republicans in honor of Dennis Flynn, their nominee.

The campaign opened with unprecedented enthusiasm immediately after the Chicago convention. Samuel Murphy, a gold-standard republican, fired a challenge to Col. J. W. Johnson, a free-silver democrat, to engage in a series of debates. These hardly had begun when the growing fight spirit inspired other speakers to spring into the argumentative fray. Selwyn Douglas, a local republican leader of education, training and influence, sent a challenge to Amos Green. A. C. Scott, from the beginning a local leader in education, politics and civics, challenged Thomas G. Chambers, a lawyer of uncommon ability. Colonel Johnson, already burdened with a load of disputative responsibility, was challenged by H. H. Howard. Each challenge was almost immediately accepted, and these men enlivened a summer with wisdom and wit and oratory.

A statehood convention held in the city early in the year was virtually a fiasco. It split over the question of whether one state or two should be created out of the Territories. The proceedings consisted mainly of speeches, and among the





speakers was Gen. Powell Clayton of Arkansas, a distinguished soldier and politician. T. F. Hensley, an editor of El Reno, presided.

A free-homes organization was perfected early in the year at El Reno and M. L. Turner was elected treasurer. The convention was attended by 100 delegates who in a resolution asserted that it was an injustice for homeseekers to pay \$15,000,000 to the Government for 13,000,000 acres of land then subject or soon to be subject to homestead entry.

The city having been awarded a patent by the Government to what was known as the Hill corner at Broadway and Grand Avenue, District Judge John H. Burford rendered a decision against Hill Brothers, saloon keepers who occupied the corner, in a suit in which they sought \$77,000 damages from the city. One last step, that of possession, remained to be taken by the city. The Hills refused to vacate. Whereupon Mayor Button ordered that a charge of selling liquor on Sunday be preferred against them. They were arrested and thereby ejected from the property and the chief of police for the city established the nine points of law.

Whit M. Grant was this year appointed United States commissioner to succeed Col. H. Wilkinson, who resigned, the appointment being made by District Judge Scott. Mr. Grant was installed in office April 4th. He was at that time vice president of the State National Bank, and had been, under the first term of President Cleveland, United States district attorney in Alaska.

The spring municipal campaign in a measure foreshadowed the more acrimonious one that succeeded it. Although there had been no serious faults or obvious omissions during the democratic administration, a majority of electors believed that C. G. Jones was entitled to a reward for his earnest efforts in city building and they elected him mayor over Richard Avey, the democratic nominee. Republicans, under the influence of that quadrennially recurring spell of party infatuation, voted their ticket almost solidly, and the victory was assured by diverted democratic votes. The First ward cast 290 votes, the Second 250 votes, the Third 324 votes, and the Fourth 308 votes.

Probably for the first time in the brief career of the Terri-



171-172



CHARLES G. JONES



tory votes of women were cast in this election. Seven of these votes were counted, all in the Fourth ward. Three were cast by white women and four by negro women. A contest was threatened because of this, and a bill of particulars drawn by democrats recited that other irregularities had been discovered. The contest propaganda was not popular, however, and Mr. Jones and the new aldermen were in due time installed in office with acclaim of well wishes from virtually the whole electorate. The new aldermen were Capt. F. S. Goodrich, F. S. Rhodes, Dr. A. L. Dunn, J. S. Lindsey, E. J. Streeter, W. M. Warren, Frank Menton and J. H. Loughmiller. The inaugural speech of Mayor Jones was well received, and it was prophetic of important accomplishments in the near future. One of his early official acts was the appointment of Abe Couch as chief of police. Mr. Couch had been the city's first police department head and had made an excellent record.

It was said of this election that little drinking was in evidence and that only a few drunken men were seen on the streets. The fact was narrated as the beginning of a new era when intoxicants no longer would exercise a baneful influence over the ballot; for election day in the West had been a day of free and unlimited distribution of whisky and beer, and its approach had signaled an occasion for the inebriation of poor and purchasable and the carousal of the influencing rabble. Prior to this election saloon keepers, at the instance of the mayor, had removed all screens from the front windows of their shops.

J. R. McLain, who was reelected superintendent of schools, announced that the estimate of the cost of education for that year was \$20,000. He declared prospects were bright for a year of unusual educational progress and prophesied that Oklahoma City soon would be the educational center of the Territory.

Valuations of taxable property in the city that year totalled \$1,047,513, while county valuations outside of the city totalled \$871,273. The assessor's report showed that he found in the city 504 horses, 46 mules, 138 cattle, 3 sheep, 7 hogs, no dogs, 223 carriages, 292 gold watches, 35 silver watches, 114 pianos and household furniture valued at \$30,000. He found \$13,500 in coins in banks and among taxpayers.



Oklahoma City was beginning to cut a figure in the baseball world. A regular team was maintained during the season and some sensational contests were had with Guthrie, El Reno and other places. Horace Wilson, who probably should be credited with being the father of organized baseball in the city, resigned during the season as manager of the city club and was succeeded by Usher Carson.

On June 19th the Department of the Interior issued a patent to the tract of land known as Maywood and arrangements were made for the sale of lots. This ended litigation over the tract that lasted for four years.

Hardly were the city officials warm in their seats in the city hall that had been taken strategically from the Hills than Frank McMaster, eager for another fight, served written notice on the mayor and council that he was owner of 50 by 140 feet overlapping the Hill corner and that he had in his possession a deed thereto. He asserted that the property had been taken by the city without his consent or permission. He asked that a board of appraisers be appointed in order that the property might be legally condemned and sold. The McMaster instrument appears to have been relegated to the municipal archives. It was the topic of much official and unofficial discussion, and McMaster was countered against with charges that he was not a legal resident of the city. These set forth, with purported proof, that he was a homesteader in the Pottawatomie Indian country, and they concluded that in addition to his being a nonresident, he had sat on the council without legal right.

In September a charter was granted to the Bank of Commerce and it was opened for business in October, at the corner of Robinson and Grand avenues. The directors were T. W. Williamson, Richard Avey, J. B. Wheeler, D. W. Hogan and J. W. Wheeler. J. B. Wheeler was elected president and Mr. Hogan cashier. Mr. Hogan came here from Yukon where he had been cashier of the Bank of Yukon.

Judge Henry W. Scott, who was a district judge and was also an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the Territory, resigned, and on September 24th President Cleveland appointed James R. Keaton, then of Guthrie, to fill the vacancy. Judge Keaton had taken an active part in Terri-





torial politics since the Territory was organized. He had been a delegate to the Chicago convention and after the nomination of Bryan espoused the cause of free silver and spoke in behalf of that issue and the party nominee throughout the Territory. He took the oath of office, which was administered by Chief Justice Frank Dale, on September 28th, and came at once to Oklahoma City to begin his service. His reception by Mayor Jones and a committee of representative citizens was an unusual event of that busy autumn of political speaking and political bushwhacking. Hundreds of citizens attended an evening meeting, which was an impressive sign of the city's welcome. Participated in joyously by republicans, the unqualified nonpartisan warmth of it seemed to presage harmony, a virtue born out of two years of ill-tempered dissension.

More railroads became the slogan of the Board of Trade, which that year reelected O. A. Mitcher president. Construction of the Frisco extension from Sapulpa, under direction of the Oklahoma Central Railway Company, was a virtual certainty. At a rousing mass meeting fathered by the Board of Trade citizens pledged a bonus of \$50,000.

Catholics of Oklahoma City and other representative citizens attended an observance at Guthrie, November 21st, of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ordination of Bishop Meerscheart. The Most Reverend Archbishop Janssens of New Orleans and Bishop Dunn of Dallas took part in the ceremonies. Twenty-five years later, in Oklahoma City, observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of Bishop Meerscheart constituted the chief religious event of the year.

Among county officers elected this year were John R. Barrows, sheriff; William L. Alexander, treasurer; Asa Jones, judge; Robert Caffrey, clerk; James McKee Owen, register of deeds; W. R. Taylor, attorney, and Alice V. Beitman, superintendent of public instruction.

Of Judge Keaton a writer of this period says: "Judge Keaton was born December 10, 1861, in Carter County, Kentucky. His father, who passed his active years in agricultural pursuits in Kentucky, served in the Union army during the Civil war, and as a member of General Sherman's command was captured at the siege of Vicksburg and for six



months held prisoner. With the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic, he became active in its movements, and for some years was commander of his post.

"Judge James R. Keaton was given his preparatory education at the National Normal University, Lebanon, Ohio, where he was graduated in 1884 with the degree of Bachelor of Science, following which he went to Texas and from 1884 until 1887 was principal of the Hico (Texas) High School. During this period he became proprietor and editor of the Hico Courier, which he published from 1886 until 1888, and also, in connection with his editorial duties took up the study of law. In 1888 he entered Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., and in 1890 was graduated from the law department thereof with the degree of Bachelor of Laws, shortly thereafter being admitted to the bar and coming to Oklahoma. He at once entered upon the practice of his profession at Guthrie, where he continued until 1896, then coming to Oklahoma City and being appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court and ex-officio judge of the Third Judicial District of Oklahoma Territory, but in 1898 resigned to become the fusion candidate of the democratic and populist parties for delegate to Congress. Being unsuccessful in his campaign, he again took up his practice, continuing alone until April, 1902, when he became a member of the law firm of Shartel, Keaton & Wells, at Oklahoma City. This firm continued until November, 1913, when Mr. Shartel retired and the style of Keaton, Wells & Johnston was adopted and thus continues.

"Judge Keaton is a member of the American Bar Association and was, for several years, a member of the general council thereof, which is the directing body, and has also been a member, since it was created, in 1911, of the committee to oppose the judicial recall of the association, this body consisting of one member from each state, Judge Keaton being selected to represent the State of Oklahoma. He also holds membership in the Oklahoma State Bar Association. Although his professional and official duties have been arduous and exacting, they have not absorbed his energies to the exclusion of the general interests of the community. He has interested himself in the development of Oklahoma commer-



cially, industrially and educationally, and has varied and extensive interests in the oil fields and other industries.

"Judge Keaton was married July 17, 1890, to Mrs. Lucille Johnston, daughter of William R. Davenport, who was a native of North Carolina and consul to Mexico for the Confederate government during the Civil war. One son has been born to Judge and Mrs. Keaton: Clarence, who is a resident of Long Beach, California. The Keaton home is situated at No. 118 West Sixth Street, Oklahoma City."



## 1897—THE SEEKERS OF PIE

The inauguration of William McKinley as President, March 4th of this year, which ended four years of democratic administration, was followed by a lively and long-continued scramble for appointive offices in the Territory, and Oklahoma City and Guthrie were convenient assembly points for place seekers and their busy political supporters. The United States marshalship seemed to be most desired and Oklahoma City led other places in the number of candidates for that office.

Capt. C. H. DeFord, former sheriff of Oklahoma County, and W. F. Harn began early a bombardment of the national capital. DeFord had the support of former Delegate Dennis Flynn, who had been favored by staunch politicians for appointment as governor and who had been defeated by Cassius M. Barnes, former mayor of Guthrie. Indeed the overshadowing contest of the early part of the year was waged by friends of these men, and the Flynn-Barnes political feud was long remembered by veteran party workers.

Charges against DeFord were filed with President McKinley by Frank Cochran and Frank Gault of Oklahoma City. They related to the collection and distribution of rewards accruing from the capture of what was known as the Bly gang of law-breakers. These charges, however, were less responsible for the defeat of DeFord than the fact that he was a resident of Oklahoma City; for Governor Barnes, who undoubtedly had major influence in Washington, was credited with being a stalwart Guthrie partisan. Already the matter of a permanent capital was a potent and ever-present issue between the rival young cities.

When it was apparent that neither DeFord nor Harn was without Washington official favor, the name of A. C. Scott was presented to the President for consideration. About the same time out of Guthrie came the announcement that James





Cottingham, a lawyer of that place and a member of the firm of Asp, Shartel & Cottingham, had entered actively into the race for the marshalship. In later years Mr. Cottingham became a resident of Oklahoma City and was among its leading lawyers and capitalists. The other members of the firm, Henry Asp and John Shartel, also in due time came here, the latter to become and remain vice president and general manager of the Oklahoma Railway Company.

The marshalship fight was ended October 25th when President McKinley announced the appointment of Harry Thompson of Enid. Among the earliest appointments made by Thompson was that of W. B. Fossett of Kingfisher as first assistant. Fossett was for many years one of the most intrepid law enforcers of the entire Southwest and his experiences would fill a volume as interesting as ever has been written about men of the frontier. Twenty-four years later when officials of the city were wrestling with a veritable rampage of violations of the Volstead Act this veteran was again called into service, as a member of the city's police force.

Thompson's first field deputies were Ned E. Sisson, William Tighlman and Heck Thomas. In after years Mr. Sisson was clerk of the United States Court in the district presided over by Judge F. E. Gillette and at the advent of statehood he became associated with the New State Ice Company in Oklahoma City and continued there until his death. Tighlman and Thomas already had acquired a reputation throughout both Territories as kings of the foes of outlawry. No braver officials ever traveled the treacherous trails of the Southwest, and the records they made are worthy of perpetuation in a more detailed work than this. Thomas migrated to the Kiowa and Comanche Indian country after it was opened to settlement in 1901 and was the first city marshal of Lawton. Tighlman later settled in Chandler. After statehood he was elected to the State Senate from his district, resigning his seat after a session of the Legislature to become chief of police in Oklahoma City. Here thereafter he made his permanent home.

Governor Barnes was inaugurated May 26th. Among applicants for appointment to Territorial offices that flowed into the executive office during the succeeding few weeks were





J. P. ALLEN



those of A. C. Scott and the Rev. A. V. Francis of Oklahoma City for superintendent of public instruction, Henry Overholser for treasurer, and Dr. L. H. Buxton, then of Guthrie but later of Oklahoma City, Dr. G. D. Munger and Dr. F. S. Denny, both of Oklahoma City, for superintendent of public health. Col. James H. Wheeler, being a democrat, sent in his resignation as inspector general of the Oklahoma National Guard, but Governor Barnes is said to have been so touched by the man's frankness and sincerity and by the soldierly record that he had made that he requested Colonel Wheeler to continue in office if to do so would not be burdensome.

The free-silver wing of the democratic party, which was composed of a large percentage of the membership of the party, coalesced with the populist party in the city campaign this year, as it had done advantageously the previous year, and elected Maj. J. P. Allen mayor over Henry Overholser, the republican nominee. Before the beginning of the campaign, N. H. Sampler resigned as chairman of the democratic party that he might become a candidate for office and he was succeeded by Dr. C. B. Bradford. The committee that effected an agreement with the populists was composed of Frank Harrah, William A. Moore, L. G. Hinds, L. M. Lee and E. S. Dyer.

With local and Territorial political filibusters fairly well disposed of toward the end of the year, factional differences were relegated in the organization of a renewed fight for statehood. The next statehood convention was to be held at Kingfisher on January 13, 1898. Calls for election of delegates were made by Sidney Clarke, chairman of the Statehood Executive Committee; Dan W. Peery, representing J. J. O'Rourke, chairman of the Democratic Central Committee of the Territory; L. V. Laverty, chairman of the Populist Central Committee of the Territory; Virgil Hobbs, chairman of the Free Silver Central Committee of the Territory, and William Grimes, chairman of the Republican Central Committee of the Territory.

The Chamber of Commerce, which during the previous year had thrived and then virtually disintegrated, was succeeded early in 1897 by an organization first known as the Merchants Club and later as the City Club. Its president was



W. W. Storm, a substantial and far-seeing pioneer business man. F. J. McGlinchey was elected vice president; Fred Smith, secretary, and E. H. Cooke, treasurer. It had a charter membership of thirty and the roll was increased to fifty-two within a few months. Its charter provided that no gambling or drinking in the club would be tolerated. The club did some constructive work during the year. Besides assisting in securing a land bonus required to guarantee construction of the projected railroad from Sapulpa, it contracted for the erection of a large cotton compress. It lent assistance to A. S. Connellee of Eastland, Texas, who announced his intention of establishing a 150-barrel flour mill and a grain elevator of 100,000 bushels capacity. Connellee's project resulted in the organization of the Plansifter Milling Company, which installed the plant and remained one of the leading flour-making institutions of the city.

Early in the year Gen. Henry G. Thomas, one of the city's leading real estate owners, died. His funeral was attended by a large number of persons, for he was generally beloved. It was under auspices of the First Regiment of the Oklahoma National Guard headed by Governor Renfrow and his staff from Guthrie. The body was sent to Portland, Maine, the birthplace of General Thomas. His quality of charitableness was notable. His distribution of useful gifts to the poor at Christmas was a regularly recurring illustration of that quality.

Anton H. Classen, whose name afterward was a household word in Oklahoma City because of his industrial and civic accomplishments, was this year appointed receiver of the United States land office. Another notable appointment of the year was that of Maj. H. D. McKnight of Perry as register of the land office at Mangum. Major McKnight had been a comrade and mess-mate of President McKinley in the Union army. McKnight, for many years one of the Territory's most progressive citizens, was transferred to the land office at Lawton in 1901 and served through the great land rush that was the equal if not the superior of agencies of that period that contributed to the growth of Oklahoma City into the class of leading cities of the Southwest.

The Lloyd Lumber Company of Kansas, controlled by





S. M. Gloyd, in 1897 purchased the business here of the Arkansas Lumber Company. Mr. Gloyd became one of the city's best-known business men. In 1921 he purchased an interest in a department store and the eight-story building it occupied and the concern after reorganization became known as the Gloyd-Halliburton Company. Lee VanWinkle, who had been manager for the Arkansas Lumber Company, was retained as manager for the Gloyd company. Mr. VanWinkle developed into business leadership and once later was mayor of the city.

A committee of lot owners on the reservation petitioned the City Council to order a reappraisement of unsold lots of that tract, so that prices would be reduced, and a sale of the lots. It asked also that the Choctaw Railway Company be ordered to open streets crossed in the reservation. The committee was composed of W. W. Storm, Sidney Clarke, Boston Wilson, J. S. Jenkins and R. Q. Blakeney.

It was on October 1st of this year that the Jennings brothers and their associates held up and robbed a Rock Island passenger train between Minco and Chickasha. Newspapers reported a few days later that Al Jennings passed nonchalantly through Oklahoma City and said in an interview that he was in Kansas City on the date of the robbery. The newspapers reported also that, during the man hunt, in which Oklahoma City officers participated, Jack Love, an avowed enemy of the Jennings brothers, barely missed being assassinated by a bullet fired into a train on which he was riding to Oklahoma City. The search for the outlaws rivaled political affairs in furnishing extraordinary entertainment and food for gossip during the last few months of the year.

Some political appointments were yet to be made. Chief among them of local concern was the selection of a successor to Judge J. R. Keaton, who was expected to retire because of a change in the national administration. Contestants for his seat were B. T. Hainer and B. F. Burwell, both of whom later received judgeship appointments. F. S. Goodrich, who had been a local republican leader and a member of the City Council, was appointed by the new secretary of the interior to the post of special agent for the general land office.

Assurance of construction of the St. Louis & Southwestern Railroad from Sapulpa to Oklahoma City had not been



vouchsafed at the end of the year and the subject inevitably had become entangled in the contest for supremacy between Oklahoma City and Guthrie. Governor Barnes again incurred the wrath of Oklahoma City business interests who charged him with being connected with what was known as the Red Fork scheme to divert the projected line to Guthrie.

An industrial project of that year, which proved to be a forerunner of a rush for gold that was supposed to have been discovered in the Wichita Mountains, was the Navajo Mining & Townsite Company, a local concern that proposed to develop mineral properties in Greer County. The directors were Edward L. Dunn, then clerk of the United States District Court and in later years a townsite promoter of note in Eastern Oklahoma oil fields, W. J. Gault, J. A. Flattery, J. S. Lindsey, Frank McMasters, C. A. Compton, J. H. Beaty, J. M. Brogon and J. R. Blair.

In recent preceding years the milling and grain business had developed into an important industry in the city. "Great news!" screamed a newspaper one day. "Another elevator to locate here." Wire service with Chicago had been established and keen competition in buying had developed. What was more natural, therefore, than that Oklahoma City should emulate Chicago in market activities. Speculators in Chicago went upon a bull spree and local speculators followed suit. Wheat reached the unprecedented price for the decade of 52 cents and before checking influences could operate a top of 57 cents was attained in the course of a day. In marketing quarters of the city some historically wild scenes were enacted, and these increased like a panic trend next day when the product mounted to 75 cents. Many losers dropped out at that stage and they and others more composedly watched the figures mount to 82 cents and then to the highest level of the flurry, 86 cents.

The first National Bank was voluntarily liquidated this year, the principal reason being that J. P. Boyle, the cashier, found it necessary to take his family to a different climate. He and other stockholders bought stock in the State National Bank and among them was Pat Roden who took a position with the State National and there remained for many years.

Those given to imbibing, who in recent years may have



suffered more or less of thirst because of the Volstead drouth and who find comfort and pleasure in returning again and again to the "good old days," may appreciate being reminded that in 1897 good home-made blackberry, strawberry and grape wine could be had at 16 South Broadway. "It's good for that tired feeling," the distillers announced.

A peregrinating parson this year, inspired by an abundance of the fruits of freedom, went about baptizing converts and performing marriage ceremonies and accepting fees therefor. His mission was ended and the source of his income abolished when two preachers of Oklahoma City made startling announcement through the newspapers that the parson was without authority to perform either of such rights. Whether any considerable moral damage was done records of the period do not divulge.



## 1898—ON TRAIL OF THE VOLUNTEERS

In the rather sanguinary breakfast-spell affair with Spain this year Oklahoma City was not conspicuously represented, but the fault was not with the city. Rather it was with the ninety millions whose military leaders distributed honors only among those who graded up to the strict physical requirements of army standards.

Company C of the Oklahoma National Guard was quartered here, Capt. A. W. Dunham in command. On his staff were Lieut. D. A. Johnston and First Sergeant Guy Blackwelder. On April 26th, after the declaration of war against Spain, Governor Barnes ordered Captain Dunham to send eight of his fittest men for examination preparatory to active military service. The men selected were Luke Chenoweth, Edward Loughmiller, Theodore Folk, Earl Hammer, W. A. Maupin, Robert Peyton, David McClure and Alexander H. Denham. Governor Barnes looked them over, declared they were too young for service and ordered them back home. Whereupon the young men, in the bitterness of their disappointment, for the moment forgot official and military etiquette and at least one of their number, speaking the sentiment of them all, boldly told the executive he didn't know what he was about.

Adj.-Gen. Bert C. Ormer seemed to have more liberal views with reference to age and experience, for on May 3d he requested Captain Dunham to dispatch another detachment of ten or twenty men for examination, admonishing the captain that they must be physically sound. This second detachment also was rejected. Meantime, however, eight members of Company C applied for enlistment in a cavalry troop and four were accepted. These were Folk, McClure, Loughmiller and Sidney Johnson. Later Denham enlisted and he and McClure, Folk and Loughmiller were transferred to the regiment of Rough Riders organized by Theodore Roosevelt.





Early in the enlistment period the secretary of war designated Oklahoma City as a troop rendezvous point. When there had been some reverses to American troops at the front and it appeared probable that a second call for volunteers would have to be made by President McKinley, Governor Barnes requested the War Department to permit Oklahoma to raise a regiment of its own in case there was a second call. Meantime battalion officer appointments in further preparation for service were made by the governor. Roy Hoffman was commissioned as captain and MacGregor Douglas of Oklahoma City as second lieutenant. Dr. John Fee was made a member of the medical examining board. Douglas declined the appointment, saying that the governor had not permitted the recruiting of a force of twenty-five men by these officers, as he had promised.

On July 7th, John O. Casler, an unofficial recruiting officer, advertised for 100 picked men. D. A. Johnston and E. F. Cochran joined in this call. Nine days later Johnston and Cochran announced the organization of a cavalry troop, with Cochran as temporary captain and Johnston as temporary first lieutenant. Formal announcement of the organization of the troop was made to the governor and he advised that he would make an effort to get the troop into service. He failed, however, and a short time later the governor of South Carolina wired Captain Cochran that he believed he could fill his state quota with the Oklahomans. Captain Cochran replied that the assignment would be satisfactory provided the troop would not lose its entity in the Carolina process of absorption. This exchange of telegrams seems to have been the termination of efforts of the Oklahomans to get a chance to fight the soldiers of Spain.

Oklahoma volunteers—there was a considerable number gathered from over the Territory—were ordered assembled at Fort Whipple, Arizona, and the battalion was in command of Maj. John F. Stone. Among Oklahoma City men found acceptable before enlistments closed were Fred Banks, Fred Norris and William Condon.

Loughmiller, McClure, Denham and Folk took part in Rough Rider engagements and McClure was wounded in the leg in the Battle of Santiago. His return home on August





RICHARD CAFFEY



10th was an occasion of patriotic rejoicing, and for some weeks, as runs the American fighting blood, he was the hero of every group that gathered to hear him relate over and over again his wonderful experiences as a fighting man. Denham and Folk returned on September 18th and Loughmiller, who had been a faithful war correspondent for his relatives and friends, arrived two days later. Patriotic receptions were given them.

Industrial enterprises continued to rap on the city gates and early in this year the City Club again made resolutions concerning greater accomplishments. The new board of directors consisted of J. M. Owen, J. H. Wheeler, A. L. Frick, B. M. Dilley, Henry Overholser and F. W. Smith. Mr. Dilley was elected president; Mr. Wheeler, first vice president; Mr. Overholser, second vice president, and F. W. Smith, secretary-treasurer. An executive board was chosen, consisting of E. H. Cooke, W. W. Storm, F. J. McGlinchey, E. J. Streeter and W. E. Harper.

The club had occasion for rejoicing—and its expressive feeling spread radiantly among the masses—when President C. G. Jones of the St. Louis & Southwestern Railway Company telegraphed from St. Louis that a contract had been signed for construction of the road from Sapulpa to Oklahoma City. This happened on January 25th and the contract provided that grading should be started by February 15th and that it should be completed by August 1st. President Dilley and a committee provided for Mr. Jones a demonstrative reception. Announcement was made at about this time that the St. Louis & San Francisco Railway Company had agreed to operate and eventually assume ownership of the road. The coming of the Frisco, the third railroad to enter the city, was among the portentous events of the first ten years of the city's existence.

As had been the case when the Choctaw road was assured, railroad promotions became popular. Hardly had public rejoicing ceased when the City Club had notice that another railroad was in promise. A corporation had been organized, known as the New Orleans & Oklahoma City Railway Company, that announced its purpose of constructing a line through the city with such objectives to the south as Tisho-



mingo and Sherman, Texas, and to the north as Kingfisher and Enid. It had a capital stock of \$4,000,000 and the board of directors consisted of C. G. Jones, D. C. Lewis, Henry Overholser, S. A. Steward and former Governor C. W. Renfrow.

Suit against the city for \$10,000 damages was filed this year by Frank McMaster who previously had demanded possession of a tract of land extending thirty-six feet south into Grand Avenue at Broadway. Nonconformity of two townsite surveys gave rise to the controversy. McMaster had been refused a deed by the townsite board and he sought relief through the District Court by mandamus proceeding. The court ordered the deed executed by J. H. McCartney, president of the board, and he refused to obey the mandate of the court. The city had sought to end the controversy by giving McMaster title to some lots on Robinson Avenue, opposite the courthouse, but was unable to deliver the lots because of their having been sold by the townsite board.

It undoubtedly was the rapid growth of Oklahoma City that inspired Guthrie to have a bill introduced in Congress providing that that city should be designated as the permanent capital of the Territory. On February 6th a mass meeting held in Oklahoma City, presided over by G. W. R. Chinn, adopted resolutions that were sent to Congress protesting against passage of the bill. The resolutions were drawn by a committee consisting of Sidney Clarke, Henry Overholser and Senator Johnson. Support of this opposition was asked of other ambitious towns of the Territory and fighting propaganda was furnished them by a committee consisting of Mayor Allen, E. J. Streeter and R. Q. Blakeney.

Judge John H. Burford, who in after years was a resident of Oklahoma City, was this year appointed chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, succeeding Justice Frank Dale, and Judge Bayard T. Hainer was appointed associate justice to succeed Justice J. R. Keaton. W. F. Harn was selected as clerk of the court of Justice Hainer. The United States attorney general called for the resignations of Thomas McMechan as district attorney and Roy Hoffman, his assistant, announcing that it was his intention of appointing to those places B. S. McGuire of Pawnee and J. W. Seothorn of Guthrie.





The democratic county convention in June, presided over by Jasper Sipes, passed a resolution favoring the nomination of Judge Keaton for delegate to Congress. Judge Keaton had been popular on the bench and was an excellent campaigner and these were attributes in his favor when the Territorial convention was held July 15th. This was a joint convention of democrats and populists, presided over by Judge Robert Neff, and it was characterized by a long deadlock during the balloting. The leading candidates were Keaton and Delegate J. Y. Callahan. On the final ballot Keaton received 242 votes and Callahan 78. A heated campaign ensued between Keaton and Dennis Flynn, the republican nominee, and the Oklahoma City Keaton Club took a conspicuous part. Dr. Delos Walker was president of this club, V. H. Hardeastle was vice president, John H. Wright was secretary, and R. G. Hays was treasurer.

Flynn was nominated in a convention held at El Reno. Oklahoma City delegates supported C. G. Jones for the nomination, but the revival of the old animosity between Flynn and Governor Barnes and the bitter fight between the factions supporting them, presaged at the outset of the convention, probably was responsible for Oklahoma City support going to Flynn. Flynn had gone into the convention pledged not to be a candidate and he offered vigorous protest when delegates framed the first organization in his behalf. His final word was that he would not consent to his name being presented unless his friends made satisfactory negotiations with candidates of the anti-Barnes group, and this appears to have been accomplished, in a measure at least. Defeat of the Barnes group caused the governor to make overtures for a reconciliation. Flynn was agreeable and the two are said to have buried the hatchet.

Flynn was elected by a substantial majority. Democrats and republicans divided honors in Oklahoma County. Sidney Clarke, democrat, was sent to the Territorial Council and C. G. Jones, republican, won a seat in the House of Representatives. C. W. Olmstead, also a republican, was the other representative elected. County officers elected were of the democratic-populist fusion brand. They were W. R. Taylor, county attorney; Richard Caffrey, county clerk; C. J. Brown,



register of deeds; Asa Jones, probate judge; W. L. Alexander, county treasurer, and Alice Beitman, county superintendent of schools. Henry Overholser, republican, was elected a member of the board of county commissioners.

Clerk Caffrey had been in office but a short time when he was sent to jail in contempt of court for refusing to obey the order of the court to make certain increases in taxes. Judge John H. Burford, who sentenced him, granted his petition for an appeal to the United States Supreme Court but declined to admit him to bail pending a decision by the higher tribunal. Judge Keaton, his attorney, perfected the appeal in Washington but the Supreme Court also refused to admit Caffrey to bail. Early in the next year, while he was yet in jail, the Territorial Supreme Court issued a commitment for him in a second contempt case based on his refusal to extend the 1897 board of equalization valuation and assessment figures upon the county books. Caffrey is said to have been amused by this action and to have sent word to the court that he was just as far in jail at that time as it was possible for him to be. Politics had a hand in the affair, as was evidenced in January of 1899 when what was known as a taxpayers' organization called at the jail and presented the clerk with an ebony gold-headed cane. The presentation speech was made by D. C. Lewis.

Some interesting events of the year were an excursion to St. Louis participated in by several hundred Oklahoma City men and their entertainment by the Mayor of St. Louis and other distinguished citizens; the application of John Shartel for a street railway franchise, succeeded by announcement of the city council that he would have to guarantee that no horse-drawn cars would be operated; the settlement of the city's controversy with Hill over the city hall site by an agreement to pay Hill \$6,000; the organization of a Territorial association of liquor dealers with a charter membership of seventy; the appointment by Governor Barnes of B. F. Nyhart, superintendent of city schools, as a member of the Territorial Board of Education; the organization of the Federation of Women's Clubs of Oklahoma and Indian Territories and the election of Mrs. Selwyn Douglas as president; the resignation of D. F. Stiles as colonel of the First Regiment of the Oklahoma Na-



197-198



WHEELER PARK



tional Guard, the result of an incident in Guthrie in which Colonel Stiles and some other officers were reputed to have been "egged"; the organization of a lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of which T. A. Connor was elected exalted ruler; and the purchase by L. F. Kramer of twenty acres of land, at a cost of \$200 per acre, situated north of the Choctaw railroad on the Higgins homestead, to be used for racing and park purposes.





## 1899—COUNCIL VERSUS CONGRESS

Scenes quite like those of the opening year growing out of boundary disputes were enacted this year when the City Council, the Santa Fe Railway Company and the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf Railway Company became involved in a controversy over a narrow strip of land paralleling the Santa Fe right of way between Main Street and Grand Avenue. Trouble threatened to lead to tragedy but was checked by counsel and court short of that termination.

In order that it might be properly equipped with switching and transfer facilities, the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf secured the passage of a bill by Congress permitting it to lay a side track on a strip of ground ten feet wide near the Santa Fe tracks between the two principal business thoroughfares. Meantime the Santa Fe, desiring to utilize the same area for a siding, received permission from the City Council, through emergency ordinance, to install a track. Men and material being held in readiness, the company proceeded, on the same night the ordinance was passed, to lay the ties and steel.

By virtue of higher authority, since the area was yet subject to some measure of control by the Government, the Choctaw—the name by which the company was designated from its inception—laid a siding over at least a part of the disputed area. This being in violation of the city ordinance, Street Commissioner Warren marshaled a squad of employes and ordered that the Choctaw track be removed. His men set to work and had part of the track in disorder when an officer of the court of Judge Burwell arrived bearing an injunction of the court forbidding execution of the order of city officials.

During the remainder of the night and the next day and the next night armed guards were stationed at the scene of controversy, representing the city and the railroad companies. A later opinion by Judge Burwell held that the strip



was the property of the Santa Fe and the city was ordered to abstain from in any way exercising control over it.

The controversy over the Higgins homestead, which had become a west-side addition to the city, was renewed January 7th when J. C. Adams, who had completed a term in the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth for the shooting of Captain Couch, instituted suit for title to the land. Formerly the land office had approved the entry of R. W. Higgins and rejected that of Adams. Adams claimed that at this time the land was worth \$40,000. Defendants in the suit were R. W. Higgins, W. C. Renfrow, Lulu Carey, L. F. Kramer, J. L. Brown, Estella Newell, O. S. Russell, Cynthia E. Couch and Anna Venner.

Arrangements were made this year for the issuance of bonds with which to purchase a county courthouse. The county commissioners entered into a contract, which they appeared to have valued as more or less tentative, to sell an issue of \$22,000 of bonds to R. J. Edwards, provided Edwards could secure the enactment of a law by the Legislature legalizing the issue. Subsequently M. L. Turner presented to the commissioners a contract to buy the county's bonds and make them payable in New York without the necessity of legislative action. The commissioners rescinded the contract with Edwards and accepted that of Turner, which provided for his buying bonds in the total sum of \$77,600.

Lee VanWinkle, the democratic nominee for Mayor in the April election, defeated Henry Overholser, the republican nominee, by seventy-two votes. The campaign involving the election of a chief of police was no less exciting than the race for mayor, for Capt. C. H. DeFord, who had held that position, again sought the office, as the republican nominee. He was defeated by W. B. Hendrey by 238 majority. John H. Wright was elected city attorney and W. D. Gault city treasurer. W. J. Pettee, who the previous year resigned as a member of the City Council because of having moved out of the ward from which he was elected, was reelected to membership, defeating Dr. E. Witten, democratic nominee, by a vote of 73 to 24. W. M. Jones was the only other republican elected. Other democrats elected to the council were J. H.





LEE VANWINKLE



McCartney, Edward L. Dunn, W. A. Hudelson, W. T. Parker and J. S. Morrow.

Selection of a site for the public library was made this year, after a lively tilt between advocates of the several locations offered. Mrs. Selwyn Douglas, a club leader of local prominence and president of the Territorial Federation of Women's Clubs, appeared at the meeting called to select the site in behalf of those who chose a corner at the intersection of Main Street and Walker Avenue. Others present urged sites at California and Robinson and at Third and Robinson. The latter was selected. Mrs. Douglas had made such an able presentation of her claims that after the selection was made Capt. D. F. Stiles publicly commended her and called upon those present to give three cheers in her honor. The committee of the council having the library matter in charge was composed of J. H. Hudelson, W. J. Pettee and Mayor Van Winkle.

The first reunion of Roosevelt's Rough Riders was held this year in Las Vegas, N. M., and Oklahoma City in that convention was chosen as the place for holding the reunion of 1900. Accordingly in the autumn preliminary preparations for entertainment were started. A Rough Riders' Reunion Association was organized, of which Anton H. Classen was elected president; E. W. Johnson, vice president; Clifton George, secretary, and Seymour C. Heyman, treasurer. Directors were chosen at large from over the Territory and among them were Capt. Roy Hoffman of Chandler and Edward L. Dunn and Elmer E. Brown of Oklahoma City.

A rather extraordinary event of the year was the adoption of an ordinance by the City Council annulling the franchise the city had granted to D. H. Scott and the Oklahoma City Waterworks Company. This followed a report of a committee of the council which charged the company with noncompliance with its contract. It was found that pressure in the mains was too low to assure protection against fire, that the company's equipment was insufficient, and that the company had ignored the public's interests to such an extent that public health was hazarded and property subjected to danger of destruction by fire.

Three street railway franchises were applied for during





the year. The first proposition was submitted by J. A. Clark of New York, the second by Henry Overholser of Oklahoma City, who also promised an electric-light service, and the third by Anton H. Classen and associates. The Classen proposition in substance was that the franchise should run for twenty-one years, that a minimum of four miles of track would be laid the first year, two miles of which would be completed within six months, that construction should be started within ninety days, that the fare should be 5 cents, and that the city should receive certain percentages of earnings of the company based on receipts ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Two new railroad projects appeared this year. C. B. Ames, an astute young lawyer of Mississippi, who recently had come west and been made president of the Southwestern Cotton Seed Oil Company, was one of the chief promoters of one of them. He and his associates organized and incorporated the Oklahoma Railroad Company. Ames was elected president; S. T. Alton, vice president; J. M. Owen, secretary, and J. L. Wilkin, treasurer. The other developed into an organization known as the Wichita Falls & Oklahoma City Railway Company, and among the influential men behind it was A. M. Huff of Wichita Falls, Tex., who afterwards became noted throughout the Southwest because of the industrial enterprises, including railroads, that he had a part in concluding in Northwestern Texas and Western Oklahoma. It was apparent that before many years the Kiowa and Comanche Indian reservation would be opened to settlement, and no cities of the Southwest were more vitally concerned over that matter than Oklahoma City and Wichita Falls, for the great reservation lay between them. The reservation was opened to settlement two years later but the railroad did not materialize. That it failed may have been due to the already announced desire of the Frisco to penetrate that territory. Other incorporators with Mr. Huff were C. G. Jones, D. C. Lewis and F. M. Riley.

On April 15th W. J. Gault died. He was among the organizers of the city government in 1889 and was the first legally elected mayor. He also had served as president of the school board and was a member of the House of Representatives of the Fourth Legislature. His death was profoundly





CLIFTON GEORGE



regretted throughout the community. Mayor VanWinkle called the council into extraordinary session and it adopted appropriate resolutions.

Outstanding more or less minor events of the year included the election of a new board of directors of the City Club consisting of A. H. Classen, W. W. Storm, M. C. Milner, E. H. Cooke, Fred W. Smith, Dr. Wilson Stuve and J. M. Owen; the selection of Capt. C. H. DeFord as sergeant at arms of the lower house of the Legislature; the resignation of E. F. Cochran as chief of police and the appointment of G. W. R. Chinn as his successor; the departure of Edward Loughmiller, a Rough Rider veteran, for New York as a member of the Wild West show troupe of William Cody who chose ten men from among the Oklahoma veterans to appear in performances in various cities of the East; the arrival of Charles F. Colcord, former sheriff of Noble County, from Perry, and his announcement that he expected to erect a row of two-story brick business houses on Grand Avenue; the election of Clifton George as corresponding secretary of the City Club; a proposal by Oscar Lee to erect a four-story hotel at Main and Broadway at a cost of \$40,000, provided residents of the city would subscribe \$5,000 of that amount; and the resignation of F. W. Smith as recording secretary of the City Club and the election of J. McKee Owen as his successor.



## 1900—FRANCHISES AND BOND SALES

Final plans for constructing a street railway system nearly materialized this year. Altogether four applications for franchises had been made, and of these the committee of the Council to whom they were referred recommended acceptance of that submitted by H. Overholser. The recommendation was not acted upon at that time because of rumors of a combination of interests the perfection of which was calculated to prevent contests for favors. Eugene Everest, lawyer, reported to the council at a subsequent meeting that a street railway company with a capital stock of \$200,000 was in process of formation and that he was authorized by the promoters to apply for a franchise. Judge Lindsay of Gainesville, Texas, and George C. Kelly of Birmingham, Ala., were among the promoters. Mr. Everest told the council he had been informed by Mr. Overholser that the latter was willing to withdraw his application if other persons seeking a franchise were really prepared to at once begin construction of lines.

On August 3d a franchise was awarded to the Oklahoma City Land & Electric Railway Company which pledged itself to begin operations by the first of the next February.

Perhaps the greatest event since the opening of the country was the second annual reunion here this year of the Rough Riders Association. Certainly it was the largest attended convention that had been held in the Territory, 40,000 persons being present, and it was considered to have had inestimable advertising value. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, then governor of New York, was the most distinguished of the guests, and his former comrades from all parts of the nation gathered here to greet him. Colonel Roosevelt arrived on July 2d and was greeted formally by a committee consisting of Mayor Lee Van Winkle, Col. A. O. Brodie, Capt. Frank Frantz, Serg. C. E. Hunter, E. W. Johnson, Anton H. Classen, Judge B. F. Bur-





well, Sidney Clarke, Dennis Flynn and Dr. David R. Boyd, president of the University of Oklahoma. This committee represented the Rough Riders Reunion Association, and it was joined by Governor Barnes and his military staff. The program consisted of a parade of record-breaking proportions for Oklahoma, a speech by Colonel Roosevelt, a roping contest, and spectacular fireworks at night that typified the Battle of San Juan Hill.

An incident of this reunion is said to have had a bearing on important events in the near future. Governor Barnes had ordered that fourteen horses and saddles for use in the parade of himself and staff be sent over from Fort Reno. These mounts were in readiness in a stable early in the day but when a staff officer called for them all but three of them were missing. Their absence was soon accounted for: they had been taken by Rough Riders who had not been provided with mounts. When news of this reached Governor Barnes he grew angry and ordered Adjutant General Orner of his personal staff to recover the mounts. Orner sought to comply with the order but he soon learned that he and his chief and all their comrades of political tinge were virtually inconsequential in comparison with these Roosevelt men who had actually fought for their country and who were unhorsing precedents and checkmating conventions in this time of hilarious celebration of their military accomplishments. No opportunity for combat here, Orner thought, and he so informed the governor. Only three members of the governor's staff had mounts for the parade. Colonel Roosevelt is said to have been incensed when told of the governor's action and before he departed Captain Finnerty of the governor's staff brought to the colonel apologies of the staff. Subsequently, when Roosevelt was President of the United States and giving thought to the appointment of a governor of Oklahoma, he was reminded of this reunion incident by Benjamin Colbert, an Indian Territory Rough Rider, who had served as his aide. "I have not forgotten it," said the President.

During the Rough Rider festivities, Clifton George, secretary of the City Club, fell from his horse and suffered a fracture of the skull and a broken collar bone. For several days his recovery was doubtful but he recovered.



Before the departure of Colonel Brodie he was presented with a souvenir spoon as a token of Oklahoma City's appreciation of his services in helping to make the reunion a memorable success. The spoon was carved from a piece of cypress by E. W. Discher and painted and decorated by Mrs. T. S. Chamberlain and Mrs. Brackett. Inside the bowl was a portrait of Colonel Roosevelt, mounted, representing him as Rough Rider leader in service. The souvenir was presented to Colonel Brodie with a speech by Sidney Clarke as the personal representative of the mayor.

The Territorial Democratic Convention was held in Oklahoma City this year and Robert Neff of Kay County was nominated for delegate to Congress. The republicans in a Guthrie convention renominated Dennis Flynn. The populist nominee was John S. Allan of Norman. Flynn was elected by a plurality of 3,180 votes. The nomination of Neff was accomplished after a highly exciting tug. Opposing candidates were William Cross, a traveling salesman of Oklahoma City, and Roy Hoffman of Chandler. Although the populists later nominated a candidate, Neff was considered a fusion nominee. In that convention the populists presented the name of Dr. Delos Walker for delegate nominee. James R. Jacobs of Shawnee was chosen National Committeeman over Jasper Sipes of Oklahoma City, and the choice ended a contest between the men which started early in the year and which the National Committee declined to settle.

C. G. Jones was reelected a member of the House of Representatives and other members elected to represent Oklahoma County were John Hogan and J. W. Hadley. John S. Alexander was elected county treasurer, William R. Taylor, county attorney; Richard Caffrey, county clerk; Maj. J. P. Allen, probate judge; Charles J. Bowman, register of deeds; Mrs. Mary D. Couch, county superintendent of schools; Charles R. Goucher, tax assessor; Michael A. O'Brien, sheriff; J. P. Barnard, surveyor; Dr. J. G. Street, coroner, and Edward S. Malone, county commissioner for the district embracing the city.

Undoubtedly this was the most growing year that the city had experienced. Its geographical position and its increasing railroad facilities attracted hundreds of persons interested



in the establishment of industries and distribution plants. The City Club had its busiest year. At the annual meeting in January, C. B. Ames and MacGregor Douglas were elected to the directorate and directors of the preceding year were re-elected. Anton H. Classen was chosen president, M. C. Milner, first vice president; Seymour Heyman, second vice president; J. M. Owen, secretary-treasurer, and Clifton George, corresponding secretary. The club this year entertained delegations of trade-trippers from Memphis, Tenn., and Little Rock, Ark., business interests of these cities having been attracted to this territory by completion of the Choctaw Railroad to Oklahoma City.

Two thousand names were placed on the club's visitor register during the year. It had passed resolutions that were forwarded to Congress asking passage of a bill to open the Kiowa and Comanche Indian reservations to settlement. It had inspired the organization of the first Humane Society, officers of which were Mrs. Selwyn Douglas, president; E. J. Streeter, vice president; L. M. Holcomb, secretary-treasurer, and Sidney Clarke, Dr. Delos Walker, Miss Mary Fox, Mrs. E. J. Streeter and MacGregor Douglas, directors. Capt. D. F. Stiles died during the year and his death left a vacancy in the city park board. To fill that vacancy the club recommended Joseph B. Thoburn. Important among the club's subjects of discussion was a proposal suggested by C. B. Ames that the statehood convention, to be held in McAlester in December, should provide for the assembling of a constitutional convention as a preparatory step as well as a spur to Congress toward the accomplishment of statehood.

The corner stone of the public library, which meantime Andrew Carnegie had contracted to support, was laid August 16 with appropriate exercises held under auspices of the library association, which consisted of Mrs. Selwyn Douglas, president; Mrs. Wilson Stuve, vice president; Mrs. J. H. Wheeler, secretary; Mrs. W. J. Pettee, treasurer; Mrs. William Brady and Mrs. J. N. McClung.

The city council, on August 20, adopted plans for the construction of a city hall that had been prepared by David Douglas. The cost was estimated at \$26,000. On September 15, the council sold to the highest bidders the buildings





FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING





on the city-hall site. W. M. Jones paid \$53 for a brick structure. Mrs. Rachel Key bought a frame building for \$151, N. B. Clark bought another one for \$110, and J. W. Johnson paid \$20 for the board sidewalk.

Public demands for paving increased during the year and on November 19 the council passed an ordinance providing for the paving of Main Street, Grand Avenue and First Street, between Santa Fe Street and Harvey Avenue and of Broadway and Robinson Avenue between California Street and the right of way of the Choctaw Railroad. This action was urged by a citizens' committee consisting of Charles F. Coleord, O. D. Halsell and Edward Overholser. During the remainder of the year no public issue was nearly so much discussed as that involving whether the pavement should be of asphalt or brick construction, and the matter finally was settled in court.

Bonds in the sum of \$20,000 for installing a sewage system and \$100,000 for purchasing the plant of the Oklahoma City Waterworks Company were voted by a large majority and on September 14 they were sold, at a premium of \$7,500, to M. L. Turner. On November 5 the council passed an ordinance providing for purchase of the water system.

Rival telephone companies sought franchises and during several weeks political and business influences were vigorously contended for through conferences, personal solicitation and stirring articles in the daily newspapers. The outcome was the granting by the council of a franchise to the Citizens Independent Telephone Company.

Doubtless there is of record in the public archives of the city some documentary evidence of the official condemnation of a cottonwood tree. An innocent old landmark of the former prairies, the last of its family to escape the ruthless axe of unfeeling man, standing fearlessly and somewhat majestically at 32 Grand Avenue, was, by the council, declared to be a nuisance, and that declaration bore the seal of execution. An axe fell upon it and it crashed to the earth, unpitied and unsung. Pioneers recalled that this tree and its former associates stood in what the settlers called a lagoon that lay in Broadway between Grand and California avenues. It was within the area of this lagoon that J. P. Culbertson of Paris,



Texas, in this same year chose to erect a large business structure. That structure, by virtue of nonconformative surveys, spread over nearly half of Broadway and stands today a mute reminder of the line battle of '89. Culbertson paid \$7,000 for the site.

The United States Supreme Court on April 1 dismissed the appeal of Richard Caffrey, the county clerk who had refused to spread upon the records of the county the returns of the Territorial board of Equalization. Caffrey, however, had been admitted to bail after serving several months in the county jail. On June 30 the Territorial Supreme Court again ordered Caffrey to perform this act. He declined and was again placed in jail. He appealed in vain to Governor Barnes for relief. Caffrey contended at that time he was unable to obey the order of the court because County Treasurer W. L. Alexander refused to surrender the books necessary to the transcript unless ordered by a court to do so.

Other events of public interest this year included the organization in Oklahoma City of an Anti-Saloon League; the acceptance by the city council of an offer of Henry Overholser to loan the city \$30,000 with which to erect a city hall; the efforts of the City Club and other public-spirited citizens to secure the location and erection of a Methodist College; the organization of a military company of forty members, of which A. Sidney Johnson was elected captain, L. E. Blakesley, first lieutenant, and Dr. A. M. Dietrick, second lieutenant; the resignation of B. F. Nyhart as superintendent of city schools to accept the chair of Latin in the Territorial Normal at Edmond and the election of Isaac M. Holcomb, then principal of Washington School, to fill the vacancy; the reelection at Kingfisher of Mrs. Selwyn Douglas as president of the Territorial Federation of Women's Clubs; the purchase by the Oklahoma Printing Company of The Daily Oklahoman, editor, and of which company W. T. Parker was elected vice of which Roy E. Stafford, president of the company, became president and treasurer, and V. V. Hardecastle, secretary; the organization of the Texas Association, of which M. Fulton was elected president, J. S. Jenkins, first vice president; W. R. Reagan, second vice president; E. J. Giddings, secretary, and J. P. Johnson, marshal, with T. M. Upshaw, Dr. A. K.



West and J. P. Johns selected as a committee to obtain quarters; the suspension of W. B. Hendrey as chief of police on a charge of neglect of duty, the appointment by the council of G. W. R. Chinn to the position, and the reinstatement of Hendrey after Judge Burwell had ruled that the council was without authority to eject him from office; the veto by Mayor VanWinkle of an ordinance granting a franchise to the Oklahoma City Gas & Power Company and the renewed application of that company after amending terms of the original application to overcome the objections of the mayor; the formal opening of the Lee Hotel on July 30; the organization of the Oklahoma City Heat, Power, Fuel & Gas Company, of which M. W. Gifford of Chicago, R. D. Farmer of Benton Harbor, Mich., and R. G. Hays, J. McMeachan and A. C. Root of Oklahoma City were elected directors; and the organization of the Frontier Publishing Company by J. B. Thoburn, W. H. Roach and C. J. Creller to publish, simultaneously in Oklahoma City, Chickasha and Fort Sill, a weekly periodical to be known as *The Last Frontier*.



## 1901—OIL AND ANOTHER OPENING

The opening to settlement of the Kiowa and Comanche Indian reservation, in the southwestern part of the territory, on August 6 this year, undoubtedly was the superlative event down to that date in Oklahoma City's commercial history. It was far more important from the commercial standpoint than the opening of the Cherokee Strip, for, so far as the distribution of products was concerned, this reservation belonged to the city almost exclusively. The city had been forced to divide commercial honors with other towns, the profits accruing from increased population. It may be said truly that the commercial supremacy of the city was secure from the date of this opening, for the record of wholesale and factory development during the ten years ensuing is one of the most marvelous in the annals of the Middle West.

Oklahoma City men had had a hand in securing the passage of the bill providing for the opening of the Kiowa and Comanche country and it was prepared to handle and profit from the business. It made an unsuccessful effort to get the bill amended so that this city would be made a registration point along with El Reno and Lawton. The registration and the drawing that followed in a few months attracted to the territory over 200,000 persons and a larger number than that became residents during the next few years. The towns of Lawton, Hobart and Anadarko were established under direction of the Department of the Interior. Some representative citizens of Oklahoma City became residents of these. Among them were Leslie P. Ross, who was first mayor of South Oklahoma City and who was the first elected mayor of Lawton; J. Elmer Thomas, a young Indiana lawyer, who for over ten years after statehood represented his district in the state Senate; Frank McMaster, the political leader, lawyer and editor; V. V. Hardecastle, the publisher, who was the first elected city attorney of Anadarko.





Before the passage of the opening act, C. G. Jones, chief of Oklahoma railroad builders, had organized the Oklahoma City & Western Railway Company with a view of extending through the new territory and into Texas the line that he had brought to Oklahoma City from Sapulpa. On October 17 he announced that he had awarded a contract for construction of the southwestern line.

Jones was a consistent worker. His vision of the industrial possibilities of the state was clear-lined and distinct. He was a dreamer in a million who made dreams come true. He conceived that the community's interests were his interests. Guthrie had complacently awaited fulfillment of a prophecy that the Frisco would build along a Cimarron valley survey into that city. Shawnee had secured the Choctaw and showed indications of being a business rival of Oklahoma City. Jones deprived each of a large portion of country-trade territory by thrusting the Frisco over a virgin route between them, thereby enhancing the strength of his own city in a striking and fascinating supremacy contest. With the southwestern line out of hand for the present, Jones turned his attention to the Southeast. He foresaw the construction of a state out of the two territories within a few years and a rapid development of a large section of the Indian Territory tributary to Oklahoma City. He therefore organized what was called the Oklahoma & Southeastern Railway Company, objectives of which were to be Coalgate, Atoka, Denison, Texas, and Shreveport, La.

The impression should not be left that Jones single-handed and alone accomplished the many enterprises with which he was connected during the full years of his usefulness. A few of those who theretofore had been in considerable degree responsible for industrial successes and who thereafter played an important part in the city's development were members of the board of directors of the new Oklahoma & Southeastern. These men were: Charles F. Colcord, W. W. Storm, vice president, C. E. Bennett, C. M. Meade, Edward L. Dunn, secretary, and Edward H. Cooke. The new company was destined to a career of rivalry that will make interesting paragraphs in this record of events.

Oklahoma's first excitement over the actual discovery of



oil in paying quantities developed this year. The discovery was made at Red Fork, in the Creek Indian Nation. Within a few weeks probably a score of oil concerns had been organized in the territory, several of them by Oklahoma City enthusiasts in the game of speculation. Stock sales were promoted personally and through newspaper advertising and the purchasing fever seemed to have been carried on the winds. It was during this period that the big gushers had been discovered at Beaumont and Oklahoma was enveloped in the cloud of get-rich-quick speculation that covered the Southwest.

Among the most active companies was the Red Fork Oil & Gas Company of Purell, of which Dorset Carter, a young lawyer of that place, was president. Clarence Bennett of Oklahoma City was vice president, and Edward L. Dunn of Oklahoma City was secretary. Fred S. Barde, the Guthrie journalist, afterwards known as the dean of Oklahoma newspaper men, was made corresponding secretary, and E. M. Meade was treasurer. The company reported that it had acquired twelve town lots at Red Fork, that each of these was as large as the average city block, and that one of them was within 300 feet of the discovery well, which was reported to be a gusher. In the following June another well was completed in that district that was reported to have made an average of 2,800 barrels daily. Robert Galbreath was credited with discovery of the Red Fork pool. He and other men of the city were reputed to have made small fortunes there.

Further plans were made also to test so-called "structures" in the vicinity of Oklahoma City. It may be remarked, parenthetically, that all such enterprises, though of a highly speculative nature, are really of more than ordinary importance in these annals in view of the fact that just such enterprises were instrumental in holding the subject of oil before the public until eventually discoveries were made in spots where over fifty pools were developed, and Oklahoma became one of the leading oil-producing states of the world.

On April 25 the Oklahoma City Oil, Gas & Mineral Company was organized with a view of drilling at Council Grove. Of this W. D. Cole was elected president and Robert Gal-

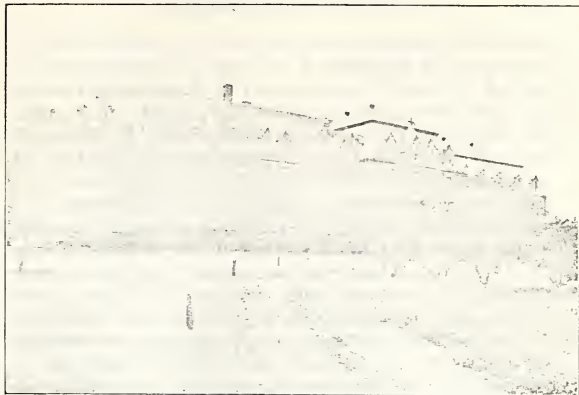


breath, secretary. Directors were J. E. Evarts, C. F. Colcord, F. R. Holt, F. B. Zeigler, A. L. Welch, W. L. Alexander, S. B. Finley, Harry Throckmorton and Robert Galbreath. Officials reported the company had 15,000 acres of leases, and later it acquired 1,200 acres additional in Pottawotamie County. At a subsequent meeting of the directors, J. E. Evarts was elected president, W. L. Alexander, secretary; F. R. Holt, treasurer, and F. B. Zeigler, manager. At about the same time the Oklahoma Oil Company was organized with C. B. Ames as president, J. P. Smith, vice president, and W. B. Armstrong, secretary and treasurer. Oil concerns popped out here and there all over the territory. Roy E. Stafford, who nearly twenty years later became a representative oil operator, was made a member of the board of directors of the Cimarron Valley Oil, Gas & Coal Company.

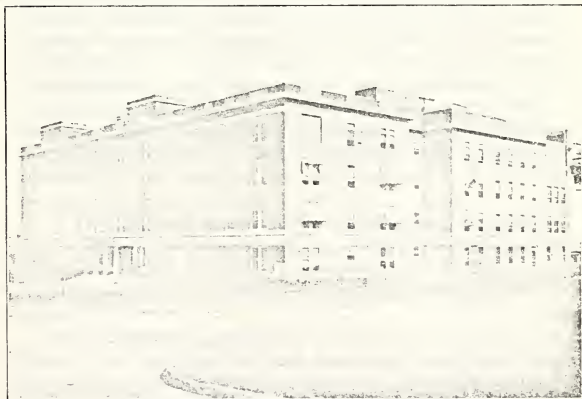
The annual election of the City Club resulted in A. H. Classen being reelected president. H. C. Milner was elected vice president, S. C. Heyman, second vice president; J. M. Owen, treasurer, and Clifton George, secretary. W. W. Storm, C. B. Ames and MacGregor Douglas were elected directors. The club this year entertained a large delegation representing the merchants and manufacturers association of St. Louis, and representatives of the Dallas and Kansas City commercial organizations. It sent a delegation of business men to Memphis, to return the Memphis call of the previous year, to advertise the city's resources and to discuss its desires that the two territories be admitted to statehood. These matters were presented in speeches in the Tennessee city by Mayor VanWinkle, C. B. Ames, Nels Darling and others. During the year Mr. Storm resigned from the board of directors and was succeeded by O. D. Halsell. Secretary George, on account of ill health, also submitted his resignation, and the board of directors unanimously rejected it. Entertainment was afforded to representatives of the Commercial Club of El Reno who made known the desire of the city that it should be by the Legislature declared the seat of the penitentiary.

The first permanent organization of the Eighty-niners Association was perfected on April 8. Sidney Clarke was elected president and W. L. Alexander, secretary, and plans were made for a banquet to be held in observance of the opening.





SECTIONAL VIEW OF ST. ANTHONY'S HOSPITAL



STATE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL





Charter members of the association were Sidney Clarke, W. L. Alexander, J. M. Owen, F. V. Brandon, Harry Gerson, James Gerson, Dr. F. S. Dewey, Samuel Bartell, J. B. Garrison, E. W. Gaston, J. M. Gaston, Robert Galbreath, J. M. Haley, W. H. Wilson, T. F. McMechan, Samuel Croker, R. Q. Blakeney, Samuel Murphy, A. L. Welch, A. E. Lundberg, Oscar Reagan, Taz Upshaw and C. F. Colecord.

A deed to the city to a tract of land in the Maywood Addition to be used for park purposes was presented to the city council February 25. It was from Capt. D. F. Stiles and his sons, George and Charles, and Mr. and Mrs. James Geary. Later Stiles Park, the name given the tract, was formally dedicated. Two thousand persons attended the exercises and speeches were made by the mayor and Governor Jenkins.

Skirmishes for a street car franchise enlivened official life during the year. An ordinance was passed early in December granting a franchise to Harold R. Berry, Edmond Harrison and A. S. Crancy of New York. It was vetoed by the mayor principally because of certain street exemptions. The ordinance was again passed, on December 24, with objectionable features eliminated. Previously the Oklahoma City Street Railway Company, organized by C. F. Colecord, A. H. Classen, H. Brauer, T. K. Hackman and E. W. Johnson, had applied for a franchise. An application had been made also by J. M. Davis of Springfield, Mo. In April the Oklahoma City Street Railway, Light, Power & Improvement Company had given notice of an application. Of this company C. F. Colecord was president, C. E. Bennett, vice president, and C. F. Gilpin, secretary.

C. G. Jones was chosen mayor in the spring election, defeating Mayor Lee VanWinkle, the democratic nominee, by 193 votes. J. H. Wright was reelected city attorney by a majority of one vote. Ralph Cochran was elected chief of police.

Happenings of historic interest during the year included these: The American National Bank was organized with a capital stock of \$100,000 and with W. S. Search, president; Col. S. E. Moss of Cleburne, Texas, vice president, and J. S. Corley, cashier; Roy Hoffman of Chandler and M. L. Turner and Dr. John Threadgill of Oklahoma City incorporated the



Oklahoma City Trust & Surety Company; E. S. Bronson, for many future years secretary of the Oklahoma Press Association, came down from Trenton, Mo., and located; J. F. Warren, who afterward became one of the city's leading bankers and served for several years as president of the Oklahoma State Fair Association, located here, coming down from Wabash, Ind., and engaged in the loan business; the Real Estate Association was formed with C. F. Coleord as president, J. H. McCartney, vice president; J. J. Novak, secretary, and John Holzapfel, treasurer; C. B. Ames, representing Capt. Frank Frantz, presented the City Club with a loving cup as a mark of gratitude for the entertainment afforded under the auspices of that body to the Rough Riders Association in the previous year; the county assessor reported the population of the city to be 14,009; E. A. Neal, formerly of the Wichita Eagle, and Hathaway Harper, formerly city editor of the Oklahoma City Times-Journal, bought the McMaster printing plant and launched the Evening Herald; J. H. Vosburgh, president; L. G. Tillotson, vice president; R. K. Sleeper, secretary, and S. Laird, treasurer, and others organized the first golf club in the city; Frank J. Wikoff resigned as territorial bank examiner, to become president of the National Bank of Commerce of Stillwater; the Carnegie Library was dedicated on August 29; Edward S. Vaught was elected principal of the high school and A. R. Hickam, teacher of Latin in the high school; on September 10 the corner stone of the city hall was laid under auspices of the Masonic Lodge and C. Porter Johnson delivered the oration; the Illinois Society was formed with a membership of about forty and C. Porter Johnson was elected president, John Miller, first vice president; M. L. Blackwelder, second vice president; Louise Warden, recording secretary; R. E. Huron, corresponding secretary, and C. E. Mitchell, treasurer; and the first paving contract was awarded.



## 1902—MORE BUSINESS, LESS SOCIETY

The chief events of this year were the concluding of arrangements for installing a system of trolley cars, the reorganization of the City Club as a Chamber of Commerce with social features eliminated, the selection of a site for Epworth University, and a renewal of efforts to secure the passage of a statehood bill.

On January 30 the city council passed an ordinance granting a street railway franchise to the Metropolitan Street Railway Company and shortly thereafter it was announced that Anton H. Classen had purchased the franchise granted to H. B. Berry and associates. On March 5 a deal was completed whereby the interests of Classen were merged with the Metropolitan company. In due time the City Council cleared its records of franchises granted and applied for, which gave the Metropolitan company an unobstructed field, and its officials announced that the laying of track would start in a short time. Four miles of the line were to be in operation within one year.

The Metropolitan Street Railway Company, of which the present Oklahoma Railway Company is the successor, was organized with a capital stock of \$500,000, with W. W. Storm as president and John Shartel as secretary and treasurer, and these men and S. T. Alton, Dr. John Threadgill and E. H. Cooke constituted the board of directors.

A site for Epworth University was selected on May 6. It was situated one and three-quarter miles northwest of the business center of the city. The executive committee, which also constituted the building committee, was composed of the Rev. J. B. Riley, the Rev. E. B. Rankin, the Rev. D. G. Thompson, the Rev. C. F. Roberts, George G. Green, C. B. Ames and Joseph B. Thoburn. Mr. Thoburn was elected secretary. A committee of citizens representing the committee and the business interests, consisting of Dr. John Threadgill,



J. M. Owen, G. B. Stone, J. H. Hess and W. G. Guthrie, was appointed to solicit contributions to a fund of \$100,000 to be used in construction of buildings and for endowment purposes. This fund was agreed upon by the Methodist committee in accepting a proposition submitted by the University Development Company, represented at the meeting by John Shartel. This proposition involved a donation of fifty acres of land for a campus and building site.

This project had endorsement of the conferences of the North and South branches of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In fact, the plan of erecting a university here was conceived at a joint meeting of representatives of the churches many months before. Interest was slow in manifesting itself, although several enthusiastic meetings of church men were held during the previous year. The project was welcomed by the City Club and business interests outside the club, and it was heralded as the beginning of a movement toward giving the city recognition over the Southwest as an important seat of higher learning.

Consummation of plans for the institution came almost concurrently with the street railway conclusions and officials of the Metropolitan company entered heartily into the university enterprise. These facts are significant stepping stones in the history of the city, which was ascending toward metropolitan proportions, and men of means who built temporary frame residences near the business district began looking forward to permanent homes farther out. The university project and the assurance of street railway service drew attention toward the Northwest. In a short time residential lots were put on the market on Thirteenth street and beyond, and this was the first step toward establishment of residential districts that within fifteen years contained homes with values aggregating millions of dollars.

Upon the resignation of Clifton George as secretary of the City Club, Joseph B. Thoburn was chosen to fill the office temporarily, his term depending upon a call to Guthrie to assume the position of secretary of the Territorial Board of Agriculture, which had been offered him by the governor. Thoburn's investigations of the club's purposes, his knowledge of its activities, and his conception of its duties sug-





gested need for reorganization. In substance his idea was that the club should be a strictly business enterprise with all the machinery required to make it a success. That it had been of great value to the city was not gainsaid, but that its fifty per cent of social purpose was a bar to a larger and more-enthusiastic membership was undoubted. The new secretary was given permission to make inquiry as to the machinery of successful commercial organizations. He appropriated from the constitutions of Kansas City, St. Louis and other cities the best provisions that could be made applicable here and wrote a new constitution for the club. At the last meeting of the year the constitution was adopted. This created what afterwards was known as the Chamber of Commerce, and it is virtually the same constitution under which that body operates today.

The necessity of this organization was made apparent to Secretary Thoburn by the rapid growth of the city. It was a period of unprecedented and rapidly increasing business. Many of the city's leading men were enthusiastic boosters but they were too much engrossed in their own business to give much serious thought to the future, while proper direction of events of the future required intelligent and more concentrated organization than many events of the present.

Assisting Secretary Thoburn in the preliminary steps of reorganization was a committee appointed by President Clasen consisting of Seymour Heyman, George E. Gardner, J. M. Owen, C. B. Ames and J. W. Wykoff. Under the new plan Seymour Heyman was elected president, Thomas F. Mc-Meehan, vice president; Weston Atwood, treasurer, and J. B. Thoburn, secretary. The board of directors consisted of C. E. Bennett, Joseph Hess, T. F. Mc-Meehan, O. D. Halsell, Weston Atwood, W. P. Dilworth, Seymour Heyman, George G. Sohlberg, A. T. Alton, C. V. Topping, C. F. Colcord, L. F. Lee, George L. Cooke, Dr. A. K. West and G. E. Gardner.

Indications were favorable early in the year for the passage of a statehood bill, but this was rendered less certain when a disagreement arose in Congress, as well as among a few representative Oklahomans, as to whether one state or two should be created out of the territories. The democrats controlled the House of Representatives and the party was



pledged to statehood for Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. A bill introduced by Representative John H. Stephens of Texas provided that one state should be created out of Oklahoma and Indian Territory. Representative Moon of Tennessee, reflecting the sentiment of a considerable number of democrats who favored two states in order that democratic representation in both the House and the Senate might be increased, introduced a bill creating the state of Jefferson out of Indian Territory and designating McAlester as the capital. The Committee on Territories made a favorable report on the Moon bill. It was opposed by Wall Street which objected to an increase in the number of senators, and it failed of passage. In its stead the House passed what was known as the Omnibus bill, granting statehood to Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. On the floor of the House, Representative McRae of Arkansas, who twenty years later was governor of his state, made a vain effort to have the bill amended so as to include Indian Territory in the State of Oklahoma. Delegate Flynn of Oklahoma, who believed that his constituents were in favor of virtually any sort of statehood and had supported the democratic majority, opposed the McRae amendment unless another amendment should provide an appropriation to counterbalance the lack of public lands in the Indian Territory.

That ended statehood agitation in Oklahoma for several months. C. G. Jones, the Oklahoma City representative in Washington, said upon his return home that the Senate probably would hold an inquest over the Omnibus bill and consign it to oblivion.

Late in the Autumn the Senate began an investigation of the desires of the territories. A committee headed by Senator Albert Beveridge of Indiana came out in November and toured the territories, spending a few hours in Oklahoma City on November 24. It was given a cordial reception by representative business men and the representatives of half a score of towns who were permitted to make arguments before it in a parlor of the Lee Hotel. A week later a convention was held in Claremore to prepare to fight the Omnibus bill in the Senate. Resolutions passed by this convention, written



by C. B. Ames, again asserted that the people of the territories desired single statehood.

William Cross of Oklahoma City was nominated for Delegate to Congress by the democrats in territorial convention at Enid on April 23, after a long siege of balloting. On one of the ballots votes were cast for C. B. Ames, whose name had not been presented as a candidate and who was chairman of the resolutions committee. Bird S. McGuire was the republican nominee, and was elected. Cross filed a contest, claiming the perpetration of fraud but the count of the territorial election board was sustained.

County officials elected this year were M. A. O'Brien, sheriff; J. S. Alexander, treasurer; J. L. Mitch, register of deeds; Ralph Ramer, county attorney; J. H. Harpen, probate judge; Mrs. Mary D. Couch, superintendent of schools; D. W. Wright, assessor; Dr. J. F. Messenbaugh, coroner; J. P. Barnard, surveyor, and J. S. Morrow, county commissioner.

Reports of the discovery of minerals in the Wichita Mountains created a sensation almost equal to the discovery of oil in the preceding year. Scores of men joined in a perfumetory rush into the prospective territory, only to have their hopes crushed later by a report of Charles N. Gould of the Oklahoma Geological Survey that mineral did not exist in paying quantities. Publication of the Gould report aroused the ire of Frank McMaster, at that time a resident of Lawton, who hurried into print in support of the prospectors. "Come out, Professor," said an open communication from a committee of prospectors to Mr. Gould, "and let the boys show you an old extinct crater near Craterville, take a bath in Lost Lake, pan free gold on Deep Red Run, examine the porphyry that makes a checkerboard of the Otter Creek, make yourself a jungle bell of a phonolite, select you a charm out of our amethyst quartz, examine the rose quartz, the hornblende and the feldspar; come for a while to the shadows of Mount Sheridan, scale its summit and get a birdseye view of the miners' camps, examine the native copper on Sandy, look back to the ninety-foot shaft of Campbell Brothers and the 103-foot shaft of Quanah Parker's, and be convinced that the progressive American miner is proving rich resources in these old hills."



The mineral excitement blew over in a few weeks, so far as Oklahoma City was concerned, but it continued with vigor for some months in Lawton, Hobart and Anadarko.

On the first of this year the headquarters of the Oklahoma Historical Society was transferred from the University at Norman to Oklahoma City and its effects installed in the Carnegie Library.

E. H. Cooke and G. W. Wheeler, principal owners of the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Power Company, sold the business to New York capitalists for approximately \$140,000.

C. F. Colcord sold an interest in a quarter-section of land adjoining the city on the Southwest to G. W. Baumhoff and associates of St. Louis for \$12,000. The purchasers announced their intention of spending \$25,000 in converting part of the tract into a park and of asking for a street railway franchise. A consequence of this sale was the establishment of Delmar Garden, which succeeded Colcord Park, and which for several years was the leading public amusement place of the city.

Isaac M. Holecomb on March 1 resigned as superintendent of schools to accept an appointment as deputy to the clerk of the District Court. He was succeeded by Edward S. Vaught, who was promoted from the high school principalship. A. R. Hickam, high school teacher of Latin, succeeded to the principalship.

C. H. Thompson resigned as United States marshal and was succeeded by W. D. Fossett.

A. H. Branch of Denver was elected president and general manager of the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company. Charles Gillette of New York was elected vice president and C. B. Ames, secretary and treasurer. Some board members elected were E. H. Cooke, G. W. Wheeler and G. B. Stone.

A country club was organized that purposed improving a sylvan spot near Spencer. The directors were Clarence Bennett, J. H. Wheeler, Dick Ragon, Weston Atwood, W. M. Grant, Harry Gerson, C. B. Pope, W. S. Guthrie and Dr. John Threadgill.

The Oklahoma Medical College, with a capital stock of \$15,000, was organized this year and a complete faculty selected. Dr. John Threadgill was elected president, Dr. W. T. Salmon, secretary and treasurer; Dr. G. A. Wall, dean; Dr.







THE BAUM BUILDING



THE CONTINENTAL BUILDING



R. T. Edwards, vice president, and Dr. W. E. Dicken, a member of the board of directors.

The establishment of a modern park at Delmar Garden and the probability of a line of the street car system being laid to that place revived interest in baseball during the year and a baseball association was formed that purposed promotion of a permanent league. Seymour Heyman was elected president of the association, Harry Robare, secretary, and Byron D. Shear, treasurer. These men and Hugh McCredie, C. F. Colcord, C. J. Bowman, E. I. Leach and F. E. Patterson constituted the board of directors.

On May 12, J. B. Wheeler, a pioneer resident and one of the city's leading citizens, proposed to the mayor and city council to donate to the city forty-four acres of his land situated along the north side of the Canadian River immediately south of the city, to be used for park purposes. The contract he presented provided that the city should expend \$2,000 a year during the succeeding five years in improving and beautifying the tract, that no intoxicating liquors should ever be sold thereon, and that it should be known as Wheeler Park. The council indicated that the contract was acceptable and the mayor took steps to have a park commission created.

Efforts were renewed during the year to get an appropriation by Congress for a Federal building. J. W. Hunt was selected to represent the city before Congress and the brief that was prepared for his use showed that during the year ending June 30, 1901, the post office receipts had amounted to \$36,041, and that this was \$2,644 more than the receipts for that year of the post offices at Guthrie and El Reno combined.

An organization designed to assist in the promotion and location of factories and other industrial enterprises was formed with a capital stock of \$50,000. A dozen or more prominent men took stock. Dr. John Threadgill was elected president, George Gardner, vice president; J. M. Owen, secretary, and J. L. Wilkin treasurer. A. H. Classen and G. G. Sohlberg were members of the board of directors.

---

Of a visit to Oklahoma of the Senate Committee on Territories this year, Mr. Thoburn has written: "The Committee on Territories traveling on a special train on the Panhandle



Division of the Santa Fe Railway, entered Oklahoma unannounced, on the afternoon of Saturday, November 22, 1902. Brief stops were made at Woodward and Alva, whence telegrams were sent to Guthrie, Oklahoma City and possibly other points. The telegram addressed to the Oklahoma City Commercial Club was very brief, merely announcing that the Senate Committee on Territories would arrive in Oklahoma City at 4 P. M. the next day (Sunday). This intelligence was immediately transmitted from Oklahoma City to the friends and leaders of the single statehood movement in many towns in both Oklahoma and Indian territories, with invitation to send delegations to meet the members of the committee. But, in this, Oklahoma City almost reckoned without its host because of a change in the program which the members of the committee were induced to make after arriving in Guthrie.

"The committee's special train arrived at Guthrie about midnight and expected to remain there until time to start to Oklahoma City the next afternoon. The members of the committee were met and persuaded that it would be best to hold but one hearing for both territories and that at Guthrie. In order to let them see something of the country in the two territories, it was also proposed that their train should proceed to Oklahoma City early the following morning, make a brief stop there and thence go east on the Rock Island to Shawnee and McAlester; thence north on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas to Muskogee and Wagoner; thence over the Iron Mountain to Claremore; thence back to Oklahoma City on the St. Louis & San Francisco and return to Guthrie Monday morning. When the Senatorial Committee arrived in Oklahoma City at an early hour Sunday morning, practically unheralded, save for the brief announcement in the morning papers, there was dismay among the advocates of single statehood. They had not been outgeneraled—they had just been 'scooped,' with no chance to present their side of the case, and they were dumbfounded when Senator Beveridge assured them that it had all been arranged and agreed that there should be but one general hearing for the people of both territories and that it should be held at Guthrie. The heavy clouds whence fell intermittent showers during the day, could scarcely add to the gloom which prevailed in Oklahoma City as the



Senate Committee's special train departed for Shawnee. But, even as every cloud is said to have a silver lining, so there were a few sparks of optimism unextinguished in the group which gathered for consultation at the Lee Hotel shortly afterward. The one question uppermost in every mind was that of finding some plan by means of which the Senatorial Committee could be induced to change its plan and hold part of its hearings in Oklahoma City on the following day. Various expedients were suggested and rejected. Finally, one man present said he believed he could write a telegram that would keep the senators in Oklahoma City part of the day. 'Let us see it,' was the instant response from several quarters. When the telegram was written, it read thus:

"OKLAHOMA CITY, Nov. 23, 1902.

"HON. A. J. BEVERIDGE, Chairman,  
Senate Committee on Territories,  
South McAlester, Ind. Ter.,

"Sir:—South McAlester, Muskogee, Vinita, Claremore, Tulsa, Sapulpa, Chandler, Wewoka, Holdenville, Shawnee, Tecumseh, Norman, Lexington, Purcell, Pauls Valley, Wymewood, Davis, Ardmore, Chickasha, Lawton, Mangum, Hobart, Anadarko and Oklahoma City delegations respectfully but insistently urge that they be accorded a hearing in Oklahoma City tomorrow.

"(Signed) .....

"It should be stated that there were not actually that many delegations in sight at the time but it was hoped that there might be within a few hours. Late that night a telegram came from Senator Beveridge saying: 'Will endeavor to hold brief hearing in Oklahoma City, tomorrow, though nothing is certain.' Early the next morning a second message came from him saying: 'Arrive in Oklahoma City at 9 A. M., leave for Guthrie at 11 A. M.' And so there was a hearing held in Oklahoma City. The members of the committee agreed to take the testimony of the mayor and president of the commercial organization and two wholesale merchants of Oklahoma City and of one spokesman from each of the visiting delegations. (Fortunately for the committee, there were fewer delegations present than might have been expected from the statement contained in the foregoing telegram.) It was nearly

Date		Time		Place		Remarks	
1901	10/1	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/2	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/3	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/4	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/5	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/6	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/7	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/8	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/9	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/10	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/11	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/12	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/13	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/14	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/15	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/16	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/17	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/18	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/19	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/20	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/21	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/22	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/23	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/24	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/25	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/26	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/27	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/28	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/29	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/30	10	10	10	10	10	10
1901	10/31	10	10	10	10	10	10



noon when the hearing was completed and it was half an hour after noon before their special train got under way for Guthrie. The stay of the committee at Guthrie was even more brief than the one at Oklahoma City, as the special train departed from the territorial capital at 3:30 o'clock."



## 1903—IN EARNEST ABOUT STATEHOOD

A statehood convention held in Oklahoma City on January 6 this year was the most largely attended and the most enthusiastic of all meetings to that date held in the people's pursuit of self government. It voiced the keynote of future activities of that pursuit during the year. It was a year of enlightenment for Congress and for the Nation. The subject of statehood was among the paramount subjects in Washington, and of New York even, for men of the Empire State were coming to Oklahoma in considerable numbers and investing millions.

This convention drew together more men of prominence than any of its predecessors. Five thousand persons were assembled. Ex-Governor W. M. Jenkins was conspicuous among the leaders. Henry M. Furman, afterward a member of the Criminal Court of Appeals of the new state, represented Ada. W. H. P. Trudgeon, a republican wheelhorse of Purcell, represented a section of the Chickasaw Nation. W. L. Alexander, a pioneer of the city who had drawn a homestead in Kiowa County, was a delegate from his section of the new country. Woods County was represented by Jesse J. Dunn of Alva, a democratic leader, a lawyer of distinction, and after statehood a member of the first Supreme Court. Thomas J. Leahy, a young lawyer and business man of action, who afterwards was accounted one of the state's most useful citizens, brought greetings from the rich lands of the Osages. William Tighlman, the marshal and the celebrated foe of outlaws, was in the delegation from Chandler. In the Noble County group were Judge Thomas Doyle, a political leader of prominence who after statehood was for many years a member of the Criminal Court of Appeals, and W. M. Bowles, afterward a district judge and a democratic candidate for governor of the state. W. D. Cardwell, an early-day political leader, came over from Weatherford. And there were dozens



of other men from over the two territories who were trail-blazers in their communities and whose names subsequently were linked with the fortunes of the new Commonwealth. Bands came from Duncan, Muskogee and Chickasha.

In the caucus of the Indian Territory delegation Gideon Morgan of Ardmore was elected chairman and H. B. Johnson of Chickasha, secretary. In the caucus of Oklahoma Territory C. B. Ames was elected chairman and R. E. Stafford, secretary. John Palmer, an educated and influential member of the Osage Indian tribe, was elected president of the convention and Jesse Dunn of Alva, secretary. The resolutions adopted declared the delegates favored a statehood bill introduced by Senator Nelson. The convention elected a new campaign committee consisting of C. B. Ames, Roy Hoffman of Chandler, Thomas Doyle of Perry, W. H. P. Trudgeon of Purcell, W. A. Ledbetter of Ardmore and W. H. Hutchins. The committee went almost immediately to Washington and it returned January 20 with the discouraging message that the passage of the statehood bill that winter was very unlikely.

On April 29, which was the one hundredth anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, and in commemoration of that event, a local organization of statehood workers consisting of C. B. Ames, A. H. Classen, M. L. Turner, H. H. Howard, Lee Van-Winkle, J. W. Johnson, R. E. Stafford and others, sent to C. E. Castle of Wagoner, chairman of the Single Statehood Executive Committee, a formal request that he issue a call for a meeting of the committee to consider the advisability of calling a Constitutional Convention. Chairman Castle responded almost immediately and sent a call to members of the committee to meet in Oklahoma City on May 25. The committee met on that date but refrained from issuing a call for a Constitutional Convention, choosing rather to submit the matter to the people. Whereupon the chairman issued a call for a delegate statehood convention to meet in Shawnee on June 24. The call asked for 400 delegates from each of the territories. Oklahoma City in due time selected a delegation of sixty-three, of which Seymour Heyman was elected chairman and R. E. Stafford, secretary. The Shawnee convention was well attended. It was enthusiastic but unusually



deliberative. The proposition of calling a Constitutional Convention was voted down and the delegates concluded to make another effort to secure action by Congress. An exhaustive resolution setting forth the claims of the people was adopted and a committee, consisting of C. B. Ames, H. G. Beard of Shawnee, C. B. Douglas, of Muskogee and W. A. Ledbetter of Ardmore, was appointed to present the resolution to Congress. In the preliminary organization of the Shawnee convention Robert W. Dick of Ardmore, who in later years was an oil operator and prominent property owner in Oklahoma City, was chosen chairman of the Indian Territory caucus.

Later in the year the new Statehood Executive Committee met in Oklahoma City and C. G. Jones was elected chairman, Seymour Heyman, vice chairman; C. E. Castle, secretary, and A. H. Classen, treasurer. The committee invested itself with authority to write a statehood bill to be introduced in Congress in the autumn.

Under its new constitution the Chamber of Commerce early in the year set about the business of city building with enthusiasm and vigor. President Heyman appointed chairmen of the several committees as follows: Agriculture, parks and roads, W. S. Guthrie; entertainment, Henry M. Scales; advisory, A. H. Classen; arbitration, Sol Barth; auditing, G. B. Stone; education, Jasper Sipes; house, C. M. Strong; mercantile and library, N. E. Butcher; membership, R. E. Chapin; manufactories, D. F. Harness; municipal legislation, M. C. Milner; railroads, W. F. Harn; state and national legislation, John Shartel; trade extension, Lee VanWinkle; transportation, Buran House. John R. Rose, who was employed temporarily as secretary, two months later was elected permanently to the position on a salary of \$165 a month, out of which he was to pay a stenographer. Mr. Rose had talent for the work and he put into it much enthusiasm and energy. These attributes were especially manifest when he assumed leadership in the conduct of what to that time was the most extensive trade trip the business men had made. As a representative of the city he accompanied a delegation of Oklahomans to the World's Fair in St. Louis in charge of a car of agricultural products that had been assembled by Ewers White, chairman.



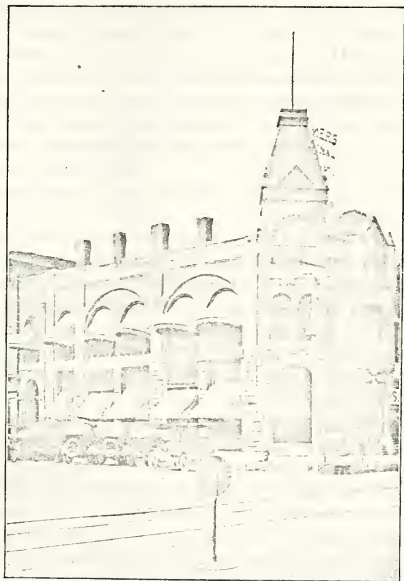


At the last formal meeting of the Chamber of Commerce in December directors for the following year were elected as follows: Seymour Heyman, T. F. McMechan, G. G. Solhlberg, Weston Atwood, Lee VanWinkle, J. B. Murphy, H. N. Leonard, Dr. A. K. West, V. V. Topping, F. S. Sparrow, A. H. Crews, Jasper Sipes, George Gardner, and I. M. Putnam. The directors chose Mr. Solhlberg president, Mr. McMechan, vice president; Mr. Rose, secretary, and Weston Atwood, treasurer.

With Fort Sill less than 100 miles away, the Chamber of Commerce found available for entertainment purposes officers and men stationed there, and when a program was being arranged for the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Live-stock Association, Lieut. Col. Charles Morton permitted the Twenty-ninth Battery of Artillery and Troops A and D of the Eighth Cavalry to be scheduled for the parade. They came with full marching equipment, the Battery in command of Capt. E. E. Goyle, Troop A in command of Capt. C. W. Farber, and Troop D in command of Captain Donaldson. Colonel Morton himself also took part in the parade and other festivities. The convention brought 20,000 visitors here. They were welcomed by Mayor Jones and officials of the Chamber, and so well were they entertained that the association members voted to hold the next annual meeting here.

Some subsidiary organizations of the Chamber of Commerce were organized this year. Among them was the Association for the Promotion of Home Industries, of which Seymour Heyman was elected president, A. S. Connellee, vice president, S. C. Bowers, secretary, and Weston Atwood, treasurer. It was representative of the Trades Association and the Manufacturers Association as well as of the Chamber of Commerce. Another was the Oklahoma City Real Estate Association, of which J. C. Gillogly was elected president, Joseph Hess, vice president; I. M. Putnam, secretary, and A. J. Vance, treasurer. Two other associations became affiliated with the Chamber. They were the Oklahoma City Manufacturers Association, which at its annual meeting elected A. S. Connellee president, I. N. Phelps, vice president; T. D. Boydson, secretary, and N. S. Sherman, Jr., treasurer, and the Oklahoma City Jobbers Association, which at its annual





FARMERS NATIONAL BANK



meeting elected Lee VanWinkle president, J. P. Brough, vice president, J. J. Hartnett, secretary, and Eugene Miller, treasurer. The latter body made complaint against the railroads charging them with maintaining unfair and discriminatory freight rates, which resulted in the Chamber later holding a mass meeting to voice a protest of all shipping interests.

The county commissioners in January of this year purchased from Allen M. Noyes and Clarence O. Russell twelve lots as a site for a county courthouse and jail, paying therefor \$4,000. The lots were described as being situated between Main Street and Grand Avenue and Walker and Colecord Avenues. The commissioners proposed the erection of a court house to cost \$150,000.

Mayor Jones, then president of the company that built the southwestern extension of the Frisco Railroad, took members of the city council and W. T. Hale as his guests to St. Louis, traveling in his private car, Wanderer. They were entertained by Mayor Wells and B. F. Yoakum, president of the Frisco, and newspaper account of the visit related that the party visited and inspected a brewery.

The growing influence and power of Mr. Jones in both politics and business and the extension of his activities into newer and wider fields made him a victim of enmity, and perhaps of jealousy, among some business interests, but more particularly among leaders of his political party. The influence of his opponents was made manifest in the spring city campaign, and, although he actively sought the renomination for mayor, he was defeated. The nominee was the Rev. Thomas H. Harper, pastor of the Pilgrim Congregational Church, who made an active personal and speaking campaign in which he advocated measures of reform that had been in the minds of forward-looking pioneers for a number of years. The nomination of a preacher was another of many unusual things characterizing the practices of these peculiar people, who had abandoned the climes of the major points of the compass and abolished sectional antagonism, and who had a happy, original and refreshing way of doing things by their own exclusive patterns. Everybody watched the popular preacher-politician. In the secret camp of the enemies of reform no special fault was found with him, save the pos-



sibility of his being a harbinger if not an actual forerunner of day of depression for the saloon keeper. Doubtless he had a premonition of irksome responsibility when he chose for his sermon text for the following Sunday morning, "Thy soul shall be required of thee." But this was a democratic year and Lee VanWinkle, a former mayor, was elected by a comfortable majority.

The retirement of Mayor Jones was an occasion of coffee, sandwiches and cigars, speeches effulgent of good will and the official farewell of the executive who said he bore no ill thoughts against his opponents and bespoke a term of progress for the new administration.

Organization of the Farmers State Bank, forerunner of the Farmers National Bank of today, was perfected this year, and it was the ninth banking institution for the city. The capital stock was \$25,000 and the incorporators were H. N. Atkinson, J. N. Ritchie, J. F. Warren and C. L. Henley. During the year also the Oklahoma City Savings Bank was consolidated with the American National Bank. E. F. Sparrow, who had recently moved down from Pawhuska and become an official of the Oklahoma Packing Company, was elected president. Frank P. Johnson, who had been president of the savings bank, was elected cashier of the American National. Johnson was an astute and alert young financier who five years before had come up from Mississippi and promoted the organization of the Union Trust Company which was succeeded by the savings bank. George G. Sohlberg, the miller, was elected vice president. Another change in financial institutions was perfected when the Oklahoma Trust & Banking Company was converted into the Commercial National Bank, and of this Dr. John Threadgill was elected president, C. F. Coleord, vice president; John C. Hughes, cashier, and Elmer C. Trueblood, assistant cashier. During the year the State National Bank increased its capital stock from \$50,000 to \$200,000.

A contract was awarded early in the year for construction of a railroad to Coalgate. This enterprise had support of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway Company and the road was built to Atoka, where it tapped the main line of that company between St. Louis and Texas. Preliminary arrange-





ments were being made in Kansas City to construct the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient Railway Company's line through Oklahoma, and overtures were made by the promoters to the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. Concessions and a bonus were offered, but unfruitfully, for the line crossed the western part of the territory.

In March the First Christian Church was dedicated. The building and lot had cost \$25,000 and the structure probably was among the most modern in the territory. The dedicatory sermon was delivered by Dr. F. M. Raines of Cincinnati, Ohio. The Rev. S. D. Dutcher was pastor and J. H. Everest was chairman of the board of directors. On September 20 the corner stone of St. Paul's Episcopal Church was laid with Masonic ceremony, Bishop F. K. Brooke being in charge of the dedicatory program. On October 30 the contract was awarded for construction of the First Methodist Church, the cost of which was to be \$40,000. In April the corner stone of the administration building of Epworth University was laid with impressive ceremony, Governor Thompson G. Ferguson delivering the principal address.

On February 7 The Oklahoma Publishing Company announced that Edward K. Gaylord had purchased an interest in the company and been elected business manager of The Daily Oklahoman. In a few years the paper under direction chiefly of R. E. Stafford has become without question the most influential factor in the development of the city and the territory. It was now metropolitan of dress, its type was set on machines and its modern presses the boasting inhabitants liked to compare with the latest that Kansas City afforded. Mr. Gaylord entered vigorously into the business of the publishing company, bringing fresher ideas from metropolitan centers, and earnestly into the fascinating passion for building a metropolis of the future state. For many years the teamwork of Stafford and Gaylord—stars on the pinnacles of prosperity—was accounted an influence incomparable and without which, or an equally potent contemporary, the future of the city would have been insecure. It was of small concern to these men whether minor policies were popular; their hearts were set emulatively on those progressive vie-



tories of great American municipalities that have given America leadership of the entire world.

Baseball took on a professional aspect this year. Manager Frank Quigg of the Statehoods—which was the name originally given the city team—carried his passion for a stemwinding team with a stemwinding reputation into other communities, with the result that the Southwestern League was organized. In it were clubs at Oklahoma City, Arkansas City, Shawnee and Enid. Subsequently plans were laid to bring Guthrie, Wichita, Emporia and Salina into the organization.

A visitor of distinction this year was Ethan Allen Hitchcock, Secretary of the Interior, who remained over for a day on his way to visit the new towns of the Kiowa and Comanche Indian country. He was entertained otherwise but importantly as a guest of the mayor who gratuitously and graciously chartered a street car and put on a trolley party. The visit of Secretary Hitchcock was significant, for residents of the new country were almost on the verge of doing violence to local representatives of the Department of the Interior because of apparently unseemly delays of the department in returning town-lot money in the form of public improvements as had been promised. He returned to Washington with a proper conception of the requirements of the new-country residents and positive that Oklahoma was entitled to become a state. Hitchcock exercised unusual influence in the national administration and when he announced in Washington that he favored immediate statehood for the territory his words were construed by senators as having much significance. But the words got no results.

When June rains threatened to bring floods down the Canadian River, as they had done before in many springs and summers, residents of the lowlands demanded relief. Whereupon the Oklahoma County River Improvement Association was formed with A. J. Henthorn as president and J. A. J. Baugus as secretary. A committee was appointed to solicit memberships and funds and a resolution was passed memorializing Congress to make an appropriation for river improvement.

On December 16 the Secretary of War designated Okla-



homa City as headquarters for officials of the Southwestern military district, which included Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and some other states. The choice appears to have been made upon recommendation of Lieutenant Colonel Smith, who had been sent out from Washington for that purpose. He chose a suite of eleven rooms in the Baltimore Building, and on January 15 of the next year Maj. Gen. S. S. Sumner was placed in charge. General Sumner soon was enamored of the life he found in the newest section of the Southwest, shortly grew fond of the worthwhile people, and took an active part in the civic, social and commercial life of the city. Earlier in the year the Oklahoma Military Institute had been established, under permission of the Secretary of War, with Capt. James S. Bruett in charge.

Other events of the year were the voting of \$100,000 in bonds to erect a county courthouse; the appointment of Mark H. Kesler of Guthrie as chief of the fire department; serious discussion of a bond issue of \$350,000 for water extensions; a baby show at Delmar Garden, in charge of Seymour Heyman and at which E. E. Brown, John Dibble (said to have been extremely bashful) and W. R. Taylor, bachelors all, acted as judges; announcement of O. A. Mitscher, a former resident of the city who had been appointed Indian Agent at Pawhuska, that he was going to Washington to make an effort to get Osage lands allotted.

A writer of this period said of Mayor VanWinkle: "As mayor of Oklahoma City Mr. VanWinkle won for himself the thanks and good will of all the honest people for his able and determined fight for clean, wholesome administration of civic affairs. It will be recalled that at one time he brought about the indictment of six out of ten members of his city council for unbecoming conduct, known by a more familiar name as grafting. His administrations can be accepted as the point of origin for practically all the better public improvements such as paving, before the close of his second term had given Oklahoma City more miles of paved streets than almost any city in the Southwest, and also the establishment of a municipally owned waterworks system.

"Aside from his record of public service, Mr. VanWinkle has for a number of years been prominent in manufacturing



and lumber circles in Oklahoma, and is also one of the leading Masons in the state.

"R. E. Lee VanWinkle was born at VanWinkle's Mills in Benton County, Arkansas, July 17, 1863. He acquired his early education in the home schools and in the University of Arkansas, and grew up in the rugged surroundings of the timber covered district of Northwest Arkansas. The home school which he attended was built and maintained by his father for a number of years. Four of the sons had been taught by private tutors in the home prior to the establishment of this school which was also attended by other children in the community.

"From early boyhood Mr. VanWinkle has been acquainted with the technical side of lumbering, gained by experience in his father's mill. For twelve years after leaving school he was in the retail lumber business, and then turned his attention to wholesale lumbering and manufacturing. In 1896 Mr. VanWinkle organized the Oklahoma Sash & Door Company, and served as its president and manager until 1904. In that year he disposed of his interests, and has since made the wholesale business the object of his attention, and is at the head of the VanWinkle Lumber Company, with offices in the Lee Building at Oklahoma City. He still holds some extensive interests in manufacturing and wholesale concerns in the timber belts of Arkansas."

Date		Description		Amount	
1890	Jan 1	Balance		100.00	
	Feb 1	Interest		5.00	
	Mar 1	Interest		5.00	
	Apr 1	Interest		5.00	
	May 1	Interest		5.00	
	Jun 1	Interest		5.00	
	Jul 1	Interest		5.00	
	Aug 1	Interest		5.00	
	Sep 1	Interest		5.00	
	Oct 1	Interest		5.00	
	Nov 1	Interest		5.00	
	Dec 1	Interest		5.00	
1891	Jan 1	Balance		100.00	
	Feb 1	Interest		5.00	
	Mar 1	Interest		5.00	
	Apr 1	Interest		5.00	
	May 1	Interest		5.00	
	Jun 1	Interest		5.00	
	Jul 1	Interest		5.00	
	Aug 1	Interest		5.00	
	Sep 1	Interest		5.00	
	Oct 1	Interest		5.00	
	Nov 1	Interest		5.00	
	Dec 1	Interest		5.00	
1892	Jan 1	Balance		100.00	
	Feb 1	Interest		5.00	
	Mar 1	Interest		5.00	
	Apr 1	Interest		5.00	
	May 1	Interest		5.00	
	Jun 1	Interest		5.00	
	Jul 1	Interest		5.00	
	Aug 1	Interest		5.00	
	Sep 1	Interest		5.00	
	Oct 1	Interest		5.00	
	Nov 1	Interest		5.00	
	Dec 1	Interest		5.00	



## 1904—IN BIB AND TUCKER AT ST. LOUIS

So admirably did the city distinguish herself at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis this year that one Mr. Bunker, a member of the City Council, returning home with unsuppressable enthusiasm, conceived the notion that within twelve years Oklahoma City could teach the world a lesson or so in exhibitions and he asked the council to take preliminary action to that end. The city, indeed, had made a creditable showing at St. Louis; more creditable perhaps than many other cities of several times its proportions within the boundaries of the Louisiana purchase. The inhabitants had become so accustomed to "selling" the city wherever and whenever occasion chanced along, or was deliberately made, that they looked upon the St. Louis enterprise as a sort of fore-ordained event.

It was accorded one of the first honors bestowed by the exposition company when a portrait of Miss Mildred Morrow was imprinted on the first season tickets the company issued. The company neglected to print her name and place of residence and the history of her home town upon the admittance slip, and Oklahoma City overcame the unintentional if not almost unpardonable slight by supplying the round world with the missing information. Miss Morrow was a daughter of J. S. Morrow, a pioneer grocer and at that time a retired capitalist of Oklahoma City.

September 5th was Oklahoma City Day at the Exposition, had been so ordered and advertised by the exposition company. It was observed with one of those characteristic getting-on-the-map programs, formal at the beginning, hilarious at the ending. John W. Noble, a former secretary of the interior, who had accepted an invitation extended by O. D. Halsell, chairman of the World's Fair Club of the Chamber of Commerce, delivered the principal address, semi-officially and with the enthusiasm and adjectives of an adopted son. Represen-



tatives of the Apollo Club, an organization of forty young business and professional men, under leadership of J. E. Crawford, furnished the choicest music of the occasion. The address of welcome was delivered by Mayor Rolla Wells of St. Louis and responses were made on behalf of the Territory by Governor T. B. Ferguson, and of Oklahoma City by Mayor Lee VanWinkle and Miss Miriam Richardson. A poem written and dedicated to the city by Frank L. Stanton was read. It was entitled Atlanta's Greeting to Oklahoma City, and it follows:

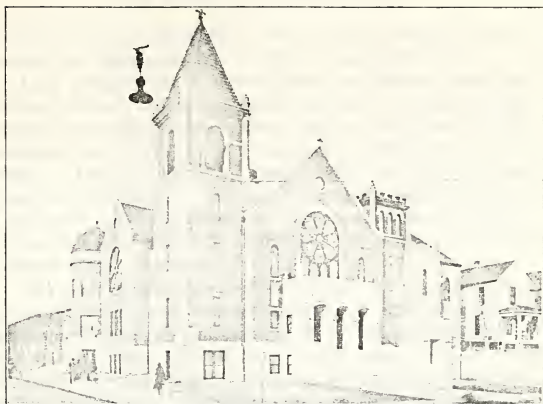
A welcome that rings from Atlanta,  
From the green hills that sigh for the sea;  
To the city that looms  
As from wilderness glooms—  
A star on the flag of the free.  
She came to us crowned with her sixteen bright years,  
And we gave her a Godsend and sixteen glad cheers.

A welcome, the heart thrills to say it;  
Wave flags over tower and wall.  
Make music, blithe drums;  
Like a robed queen she comes  
To the echoing hearts of us all.  
On the bright path of progress she blazes her way  
And makes of wild winter a dream of a day.

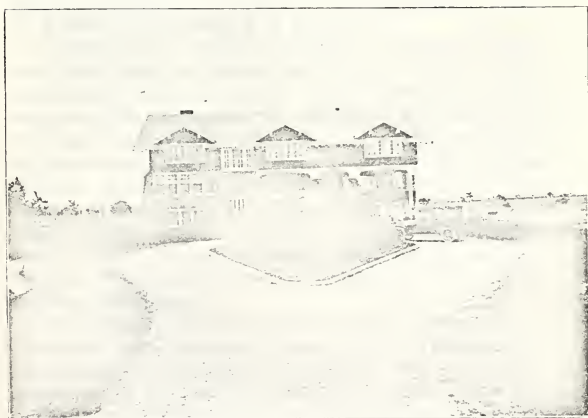
A welcome; her heavens are lighted  
With stars of the liberty gleam.  
For her the bells are ringing,  
For her the stars are singing,  
And the world is the light of the dream.  
She comes crowned with hopes—like a queen she appears,  
And we give her all glory and sixteen glad cheers.

Credit for the success of the Oklahoma City exposition enterprise probably should be given more to E. S. Rockwell than to any other single individual. He was secretary of the Oklahoma City exposition organization and devoted virtually all of his time to the duties of it for many months. His labors





FIRST METHODIST CHURCH



OKLAHOMA CITY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB



dovetailed harmoniously into those of Fred L. Wenner, secretary of the Oklahoma World's Fair Commission.

C. A. McNabb, one of the early-day agricultural enthusiasts of the Territory and by the same token one of its most useful citizens, was superintendent of the Oklahoma exhibit. In the selection and exhibition of agricultural products he was assisted by Joseph B. Thoburn, then secretary of the Territorial Board of Agriculture. George E. Gardner, manager of the Lion Store, offered a prize for the best agricultural display in the exhibit. This offer influenced the sending of many products from both of the Territories.

The year opened with prospects bright for the passage of a statehood bill and enthusiasm over the dissemination of propaganda and the maintaining of a lobby in Washington was warm in January and showed high temperature in December. The first local organization of statehood advocates, formed in January, arranged to send as a delegation to Washington, C. B. Ames, C. G. Jones, A. H. Classen, Selwyn Douglas, Samuel Murphy, Judge John McAttee, D. C. Lewis, Dr. John Threadgill, C. F. Coleord, J. L. Wilkin, E. E. Brown, R. E. Stafford and Judge J. R. Keaton.

Members of the committee shortly were off for Washington. They found upon arrival that Delegate Bird S. McGuire was elassed with the advocates of double statehood. If this was the mental attitude of the delegate from Oklahoma at that time, later reports concerning him would indicate that he experienced a change of heart. Dennis T. Flynn, former delegate, appeared before the Senate Committee on Territories, and sought to have eliminated the provision that the capital should remain at Guthrie, advising the committee that, given the opportunity under statehood, the people of the state would shortly remove it to Oklahoma City. His appeal was unavailing.

On December 2d the executive committee of the Inter-Territorial Single Statehood Committee met in Oklahoma City and adopted new resolutions demanding early action on the statehood bill and made provision for members of the committee to go to Washington, December 10th, and present the resolutions to the Committee on Territories.

The Oklahoma City Freight Bureau was organized early





in the year with the election of Thomas Jarboe as president, A. Carroll as vice president, G. E. Lindsay as vice president, T. D. Boydston as secretary and Eugene Miller as treasurer. At this meeting J. H. Johnston, who recently had come here from Galveston and who was destined to take conspicuous part in the city's industrial affairs during the next fifteen years, was chosen traffic manager. So much was promised by this organization and so highly was it valued in commercial life that an agreement was reached between its officers and those of the Chamber of Commerce and the Manufacturers' Association whereby Mr. Johnston was to act as secretary of them all jointly, and his salary was fixed at \$5,000 a year. Future events proved that this was one of the several peak steps taken by commercial organizations during the formative years of greatest consequence. Shortly thereafter the traffic organization was again reorganized into the Traffic Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce and T. M. Jarboe, J. F. Robinson, O. D. Halsell, J. A. Anderson, A. A. Crews, W. A. Wherry, N. S. Sherman, A. S. Connelley, I. N. Phillips and G. F. Lindsay were chosen as a board of directors.

At the annual meeting of the Retail Merchants Association, which made creditable progress and considerably increased its membership during the year, Seymour Heyman was elected president, S. H. Gaines, secretary, and these men and J. M. Bass, G. E. Gardner, Joseph Myers, A. E. Warfield, G. W. Piersol, Eli Brown, W. J. Pettee and C. E. Mitchell, directors.

Directors of the Chamber of Commerce elected at a December meeting, for the succeeding year, were J. H. Ingwerson, Archie Dunn, L. F. Lee, G. E. Gardner, W. L. Alexander, T. D. Turner, Weston Atwood, G. G. Schilberg, I. M. Putnam, Dr. A. K. West, W. P. Dilworth, O. D. Halsell, A. H. Classen, J. H. Hess and G. B. Stone. The directors elected Mr. Turner president; Mr. Stone, first vice president; Mr. Atwood, second vice president; J. H. Johnston, secretary, and J. L. Wilkin, treasurer.

The first permanent organization of a Young Men's Christian Association was perfected this year and J. F. Denham of Findlay, O., was employed as secretary. The board of directors consisted of C. B. Ames, C. E. Bennett, I. M. Holcomb, T. J. Hendrickson, George Larrimore, J. N. McCar-



nack, G. G. Sohlberg, A. N. Wycoff, J. M. Bass, J. H. Everest, F. W. Hawley, W. A. Knott, J. A. Matthews, J. R. Rose and Dr. C. W. Williams.

New spring and summer floods coming down the Canadian River and fresh inundations of lowlands in consequence brought about a revival of the subject of shortening the channel of the stream, reclaiming many acres of lowlands, and preventing future damage by overflows. Discussion of the subject led to the organization of the Oklahoma River and Improvement Canal & Irrigation Company, capitalized at \$10,000, and of which M. L. Blackwelder, R. E. Chapin, D. C. Pryor, John Howard and W. B. Armour were directors.

The resignation of George J. Shields from the office of city treasurer provoked a lively issue in which three banks took a leading part. A supposedly strategical move by a member of the City Council, who cast his vote in behalf of the gayety of nations, resulted, unexpectedly to him, in the council electing Elmer C. Trueblood, who was the candidate of the Commerce National Bank. The candidate of the American National was Frank Butts and that of the State National was J. M. Owen.

Deaths of two prominent citizens occurred during the year. That in particular of James Geary, who died October 21st, was widely regretted. Mr. Geary was an Eighty-niner and had established a bank at the corner of Main Street and Broadway twelve days after the opening. This he sold in 1893 and purchased of Capt. D. F. Stiles an interest in what was afterward known as Maywood Addition. Geary Avenue in that section of the city was named in his honor. Geary was an adopted plainsman, having gone West from St. Louis at the age of fifteen and associated himself with Col. William Cody. Subsequently he was with General Sheridan and General Hancock in movements against the troublesome Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians. In 1868 he secured a contract with the Government to build houses for the Ponca Indians, but this contract was short-lived because of the redskins refusing to accept Governmental support in that way. Later he was a rancher at Salina, Kan., and a merchant at Newton, Kan. Sidney Clarke, a compatriot of the early years in Oklahoma, delivered an oration at his grave. The other death was that



of James E. Brett of the Twenty-fifth United States Infantry who was in command of cadets at the Military Institute. He died of pneumonia and his body was sent to San Francisco for burial. Major Brett was fifty years old, had been an officer in the army for twenty years, had served during and after the Spanish-American war in Cuba and the Philippines, and had taken part in campaigns against Indians on the frontier.

As a consequence of bickerings among some members of the City Council and due in some degree undoubtedly to political enmity, friends of Henry Overholser, on April 23d, over a year after the city election, were instrumental in having placed before Mayor VanWinkle and the council figures showing that Mr. Overholser had been elected mayor and a demand for the ejection of VanWinkle and the seating of Overholser. Mayor VanWinkle cast the vote that saved him his seat, and immediately had his attorney apply for an injunction to prevent the installation of Overholser. The injunction was granted by Judge Irwin and later sustained and made permanent by Judge J. L. Panoast.

Capt. John J. Pershing, then assigned by the War Department to the Southwestern Division, was among the guests of honor at a banquet given at the Threadgill Hotel on May 17th in honor of Maj.-Gen. S. S. Sumner, who was in charge of the division. The spread was one of the most pretentious in the city's history and given in a hostelry that had been proclaimed by the newspapers as one of the very finest in the Southwest. Judge B. M. Dilley was toastmaster. Unfortunately the remarks of Captain Pershing were not recorded.

Frank Matthews of Mangum, a member of the Territorial Council, was the nominee of the democrats for Congress. The convention was held in Oklahoma City, July 27th, and was an enthusiastic affair. Matthews was declared the nominee on the nineteenth ballot. Other names presented to the convention were those of M. J. Kane of Kingfisher, L. P. Ross of Lawton, Edgar Jones, William Bowles, W. R. Taylor of Oklahoma City, and J. H. Maxey of Shawnee, the latter being nominated by S. P. Freeling, afterwards an attorney general of the state. Jesse J. Dunn of Alva was chosen chairman of the Territorial Democratic Committee. A summer of vigor-



ous campaigning ensued, and it ended with the reelection of Bird S. McGuire, the republican nominee. Dr. John Threadgill, republican, of Oklahoma City, was elected a member of the Territorial Council. Democrats and republicans divided honors in the county election and among the men of note in the city's history elected were George W. Garrison, sheriff; John L. Mitch, register of deeds, and Edward Overholser, county commissioner.

Happenings of more or less interest during the year included these: The Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company's business was sold to a syndicate represented by T. B. Burbridge, J. J. Henry and C. H. McBeth of Colorado; a second cattlemen's convention was held, including a fat-stock show and sale at Coleord Park that was attended by festivities and 10,000 persons; Capitol Hill, a separate town south of the river, was incorporated by a vote of 72 to 61; Assessor W. P. Hawkins announced that he had found the population of the city to be 33,000, which was an increase of 23,000 in four years; the First Methodist Church was dedicated on June 6th by Dr. T. C. Iliff; Judge Clinton Galbreath returned June 22d from Hawaii, where he had been a member of the Supreme Court, and announced that he would practice law in Oklahoma City; on July 6th the county commissioners awarded to the Gross Construction Company the contract for erection of a courthouse to cost \$99,999; on June 30th the City Council concluded to call an election to submit the proposition of issuing \$185,000 in bonds for water and sewer improvements; Edward S. Vaught was reelected superintendent of schools, and he announced that the school population was 6,800, that seven buildings were occupied and that two more were needed; the City Council on October 3d ordered an election on the bond proposition, submitting figures of \$175,000 for water works and \$200,000 for sewers; Mayor VanWinkle called the election but later rescinded the call; Ralph J. Ramer resigned as county attorney and G. A. Paul was elected to the position.





## 1905—SIDESTEPPING AN ISSUE

Advocates of open saloons entertained little hope that the sale of intoxicants would be permitted many years longer in Oklahoma, for the prohibition forces, under leadership of the Anti-Saloon League, had been active for several years and had accomplished results that could not be interpreted otherwise than as prophecies of prohibition. It was impossible to separate the issue from the statehood question. No one expected Congress to summarily end half a century of anti-liquor restrictions over the nations of the Five Civilized Tribes, which were to become part of the state, nor to relieve lands of the Indians of Oklahoma Territory of similar restrictions. Over fifty Indian tribes were represented in the two Territories. Indians would live in every county of the new state. The Government was the guardian of the Indians. It was pledged to protect them as far as possible against evil influences and to educate them and make Christians of them. So it was virtually certain that the statehood bill that became law would either provide blanket prohibition for the state or renew, extend and strengthen the network of paraphernalia and machinery used to protect the Indians against the liquor evil.

The nonsectarian and nonpartisan Chamber of Commerce found it advisable, probably for the first time in its history, to sidestep a stand on an issue of vital import to the city. The statehood bill was passed, with amendments, by the Senate, February 7th, and it carried an amendment, written by Senator Gallinger, prohibiting the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors within the state. It created a State of Oklahoma and Indian Territory and eliminated New Mexico and Arizona. Its passage was made possible by Senator Foraker of Ohio leading a force of republicans into the united camp of the democrats. When news of the passage reached Okla-



homa City it was welcomed with sincere rejoicing on one hand and dubious and superficial acclaim on the other. This news was followed shortly by a message to the Chamber of Commerce from Washington asking that body for an expression of opinion on the prohibition amendment. The Chamber was convened in short order and the matter placed before it. Such bodies always are constituted of men of divergent shades of opinion, and this was not an exception to the rule. Devout church men and the representatives of brewers and liquor dealers had sat side by side for many years nearly always in accord on issues affecting the commercial welfare of the city. They had never faced the prohibition question except as it came perhaps timidly and obliquely from local reform sources. Now it was a paramount issue demanding of every man that he come out squarely on one side or the other.

The telegram was referred by the president of the Chamber to a committee. The committee gave it brief consideration and reported that, as it viewed the matter, expression of an opinion was beyond the jurisdiction of a body thus constituted. Thus was the subject disposed of.

Meantime the advocates of prohibition continued rejoicing and their enthusiasm spread like a contagion over the city, just as it was spreading over the Territory. A largely attended mass meeting was held at the Christian Church not only in celebration of adoption of the prohibition amendment but to send a message of approval to Washington. D. A. Duncan was chairman of the meeting and S. A. Horton was secretary. Speeches were made by the Rev. F. E. Day, pastor of the First Methodist Church; Dr. L. Haynes Buxton, the Rev. Thomas H. Harper, and others. A special message expressing the gratitude of those assembled was forwarded to Senator Gallinger.

Since the bill passed by the Senate differed from that which passed the House, and in several respects differed so radically, the outlook for this measure becoming a law this year was not encouraging, although C. G. Jones, the Chamber of Commerce representative in Washington, wired that he felt sure of statehood within the year. The situation certainly warranted no slackening of activities here. Oklahoma's campaign of education and its democratic demand for self-gov-

NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	EDUCATION	RELIGION	POLITICAL	PROFESSION
JOHN	25	NEW YORK	COLLEGE	METHODIST	DEMOCRAT	TEACHER
MARY	22	NEW YORK	COLLEGE	METHODIST	DEMOCRAT	TEACHER
JOHN	20	NEW YORK	COLLEGE	METHODIST	DEMOCRAT	TEACHER
MARY	18	NEW YORK	COLLEGE	METHODIST	DEMOCRAT	TEACHER
JOHN	15	NEW YORK	COLLEGE	METHODIST	DEMOCRAT	TEACHER
MARY	12	NEW YORK	COLLEGE	METHODIST	DEMOCRAT	TEACHER
JOHN	10	NEW YORK	COLLEGE	METHODIST	DEMOCRAT	TEACHER
MARY	8	NEW YORK	COLLEGE	METHODIST	DEMOCRAT	TEACHER
JOHN	6	NEW YORK	COLLEGE	METHODIST	DEMOCRAT	TEACHER
MARY	4	NEW YORK	COLLEGE	METHODIST	DEMOCRAT	TEACHER

THE

1911

THE

1911

THE



DR. J. F. MESSENBAGH



ernment had accomplished good results to date and it didn't purpose giving Washington any opportunity to forget.

The Statehood Executive Committee met here April 14th and issued a call for a convention for July 12th. The subject of holding a constitutional convention again was discussed and such a convention this time was advocated by Thomas H. Doyle of Perry. C. B. Ames, father of the proposition as originally presented and which had been voted down in the Shawnee convention, opposed it.

A thousand delegates attended the July convention, representing a million and a half people, and they adopted a memorial to Congress ringing with heartfelt sincerity and abounding in illuminating facts and figures. The convention was electrified by a statement from Delegate B. S. McGuire that he favored a single state. President I. M. Holcomb of the Chamber of Commerce welcomed the delegates. A new executive committee was chosen, C. G. Jones representing Oklahoma County. A special committee, of which Mr. Jones was a member, was selected to take the memorial to Washington. When Congress convened the next winter two more statehood bills were introduced in the House of Representatives, one by Mr. Hamilton of Michigan and one by Delegate McGuire of Oklahoma. Each provided for a single state of the two Territories and the Hamilton bill provided also that New Mexico and Arizona should be admitted as one state. Stage settings were installed for Oklahomans to hold a continuous performance in Washington during the winter and the big show opened early in December with the arrival there of an Oklahoma delegation that filled five Pullmans. Helen Renstrom, whom Col. N. H. Lingenfelter sobriqueted The Swedish Nightingale and whose musical talent he discovered while she sang in the choir of a mediocre little church, accompanied the delegation. Her singing was heard by thousands in hotel lobbies, churches and public meeting places of the capital and her unusual voice was a subject of favorable comment by art critics of eastern cities. Helen Renstrom and the ubiquitous hobnobbers of "the land of the fair god" that winter internationalized the charming story of Oklahoma, and they drew out of the uncertain future a boon the realization of which perhaps was years distant.





It happens that a Secretary of the Interior is vested with more authority in the administration of government in a Territory than any other Washington official, and that official therefore is subjected to the greatest number of criticisms from those who come in contact with the rules and regulations of his department. While the records do not reveal that Oklahoma City had any important part in it, the Territories this year made the official life of Secretary Hitchcock a veritable bed of thorns. His administration touched even small municipal affairs and at every touch the municipality howled and turned its rancorous weapons of abuse upon him. Many times he was abused without just cause. Many times abuse was premeditated and born of no cause whatever. Every charge was an expression of the voice of a people that had found—even if they imagined it largely—that long-distance government from Washington was intolerable. And the sum of these charges before long drove Washington opponents of statehood into disorganization and inevitable rout.

This Oklahoma situation—these peculiar Oklahoma people—the source and the substance of all this noise—undoubtedly influenced two other Cabinet members to come here. Secretary Wilson of the Department of Agriculture looked the domain over, was entertained as cosmopolitans entertain, and returned a believer in the justness of the Oklahoma cause. Secretary Shaw of the Treasury Department was a guest of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and went back converted to the cause. It was a record-breaking year in the matter of distinguished visitors. Senator Chester I. Long of Kansas came down as a guest of Dennis T. Flynn and was entertained by the Chamber of Commerce. Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin and William J. Bryan of Nebraska came on chautauqua expeditions and went out preaching about the matchless spirit of these hospitable and long-suffering people. Gen. A. R. Chaffee, chief of staff of the United States Army, who conducted a rifle competition at Fort Reno, also was a guest of the business interests during the year. And the redoubtable Teddy, the double-fisted American, the champion of the West, then President of the United States, chose a hunting spot in Oklahoma, and when he had fetched in coyotes and loboes to his satisfaction down in the Big Pasture, a



thousand representative Oklahomans set him rejoicing before his special train pulled out of the station at Frederick.

No external influence bearing on statehood had more widespread or marked influence this year than that of members of the National Editorial Association whom Oklahoma City entertained after their annual convention had been held in Guthrie. Dozens of these editors on returning home "took their pen in hand" and wrote unstintingly virtuous praises of this new land and almost with one accord urged Congress to admit the Territories to statehood.

The spring city election resulted in a republican victory in the mayoralty fight, Dr. J. F. Messenbaugh defeating F. S. Rhodes, the democratic nominee, by about 800 votes. The socialists this year nominated a full ticket and made an active campaign. Their candidate for mayor was Edgar A. Davidson. An independent ticket also was nominated, headed by the Rev. Thomas H. Harper for mayor, and the nominees conducted a warm battle on issues elevated somewhat above those of ordinary political fights. George Hess was elected clerk; G. A. Paul, attorney; John Hubatka, police chief; John Hayson, police judge; Dan Wright, assessor; Will S. Guthrie, treasurer of the school board, and Elmer Trueblood, city treasurer. At this election \$60,000 of bonds was voted for building ward schoolhouses.

Resolutions demanding statehood for the Territories were adopted by the Federation of Commercial Clubs of the Territories which held its annual meeting here July 11. Lee Cruce of Ardmore was elected president; J. H. Johnston of Oklahoma City, secretary, and H. L. Fogg of El Reno, treasurer.

Before Mayor Messenbaugh one day came a modest little black-haired woman with talkative brown eyes who made application for appointment as city stenographer. She was a democrat and the democrats maintained the balance of power in the council. She had been active in politics, had an influence with laboring men, and seemed to possess some qualities essential to democratic militancy. The appointment was made and she entered diligently and enthusiastically upon the duties of the job. She appears to have been so engrossed there the public learned little about her, except that now and



then it heard of a mysterious feminine influence bearing apparently meager fruits in some nonpublic strata of society. She was an extravagantly busy little woman and she soon displayed executive propensities. She worked consistently and by rule and by hours, and she breathed into the city offices an atmosphere of clerical independence theretofore unwitnessed. In that atmosphere her timidity departed and she became sagely self-assertive. This was too radical a step for City Attorney Paul and he gave her notice one day that her employment was at an end. She had declined to work overtime and on Sunday. She appealed to the City Council, stating her case rather exhaustively, and the record of the council meeting shows that the "communication was received." The little woman was Kate Barnard. This was one of her first acts in a long career to improve conditions of working men and women. Early in that career the people of the new state elected her commissioner of charities and corrections, and as such she cultivated her talent and acquired a national reputation.

On November 21st, by a stimulating majority, bonds in the sum of \$375,000 were voted for water and sewer extension purposes. Business men celebrated the victory at a riproarious mass meeting that was presided over by Graves Leeper and spoken to by C. G. Jones, Seymour Heyman and T. D. Turner. The victory was acclaimed as an event destined to have far-reaching commercial consequences, and speakers predicted that within twelve months construction involving an expenditure of several million dollars would be under way.

I. M. Holcomb was late in December elected president of the Chamber of Commerce for the ensuing year. R. A. Kleinschmidt was elected first vice president; J. B. Helton, second vice president; J. H. Johnston, secretary, and J. L. Wilkin, treasurer. Other members of the board of directors were J. M. Gross, W. L. Alexander, T. D. Turner, J. G. Leeper, Guy Blackwelder, J. E. Piersol, J. H. Hess, A. H. Classen, G. B. Stone and F. A. Gross.

The Oklahoma Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized this year with Henry B. Edwards as president; Arthur H. Price, registrar, and Dr. L. Haynes Buxton, secretary. Other charter members were: Dine John-



ston, Paul F. Mackey, A. S. Reaves, J. B. Thoburn, E. C. Barrows, A. J. Brasted, Fred Brasted, Charles W. Burr, H. V. Foster, C. M. Greenman, C. R. Hume, Charles R. Hume, A. E. Patrick and E. G. Spillman.

The corner stone of the Baptist Temple at Third Street and Broadway was laid with ceremonies on November 1st, addresses being delivered by Dr. Henry Alford Porter, the pastor, and Dr. M. P. Hunt of Louisville, Kentucky. Dr. Porter recalled that the first Baptist Church in the city was organized November 2, 1889, and that Kendall, Elder and L. H. North were elected deacons and I. N. Phillips, F. V. Brandon and T. M. Richardson, trustees, and that the Rev. W. H. Nichols was the first pastor.

Among other events of the year were these: Edward Overholser resigned as county commissioner and was reappointed by Governor Ferguson after a political scramble, during which J. A. Johnson was named for the place, the governor discovering later that Johnson did not live in the district in which the vacancy occurred; Benedum & Trees of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, through O. A. Mitscher, their local representative, applied for a natural gas franchise; on January 25th Miss Edith Phelps was chosen public librarian; Graves Leeper on February 1st was chosen chairman of the City Democratic Central Committee; A. C. Root, J. H. Johnston and others prepared a form of city charter, the travail of which in the Legislature caused the resignation of Dr. John Threadgill from the Chamber of Commerce; the city received notice that the McMaster suit had been dismissed by the United States Supreme Court; Brig.-Gen. Frank Baldwin of Colorado succeeded Maj.-Gen. S. S. Sumner as commandant of the Southwestern District; the Marquette Club, with 200 members, was organized with G. B. Stone, president; J. L. Wilkin, vice president; Will S. Guthrie, secretary, and these and J. S. Lillard, Dennis Flynn, J. H. Wheeler, C. B. Pope, Buran House, John Shartel, Weston Atwood and I. M. Holcomb, directors; the Eighty-Niners Association held a banquet, in which "sooners attacked the grub before the shot was fired," and Col. Samuel Crocker was elected president; R. S. Bangus, vice president; Sidney Clarke, secretary; John Carey, assistant secretary, and J. H. Wheeler, treasurer; the American





National Bank and the Bank of Commerce were merged under the name of the former and J. H. Wheeler was elected president; F. P. Jolmson, cashier, and H. B. Carson and Oscar Avey, assistant cashiers; the Pioneer Telephone Company bought two lots at the corner of Broadway and Third Street and announced its intention of erecting a large building; the Rev. George H. Bradford of Kansas City was elected chancellor of Epworth University.



## 1906—A GOLD PEN AND A QUILL

The years of 1906 and 1907 were so crowded with momentous events that it is difficult to classify them in the order of their importance. Nor is it easy to extract from many of these events particles of news that relate exclusively to Oklahoma City. Indeed, it hardly is possible, nor should it be attempted, to separate the history of Oklahoma City from the history of the state. They are inseparably interlinked.

It was in the first of these two years that Oklahoma and Indian Territory were enabled by an act of Congress to write a constitution for Oklahoma, and in the second that the constitution was adopted, approved by the President and proclaimed the law of the new state, and the first state officials elected.

On June 14th the statehood bill as finally passed by the Senate was adopted by the House of Representatives and two days later it was signed by President Roosevelt. The President wrote his Christian name with a gold pen that had been presented to him for that purpose and gave the pen to Delegate William Andrews of New Mexico, perhaps as a consolation and a recompense for the rejection by Congress of that feature of the original statehood bill that provided for admission of New Mexico as a state. The name Roosevelt he signed with an eagle quill, that also had been provided for that purpose, and the quill he presented to the Oklahoma Historical Society. The blotter he used was presented in person with the President's compliments to James P. Gandy of Woodward, and a humorist of the day said that Mr. Gandy, having had the matter impressably in mind, wondered for the instant if the President hadn't "commissioned him to hold some office or other."

President Roosevelt, in spite of his predilection to politics and his superficial sympathy with politicians who doubted the political expediency of statehood at that moment, un-



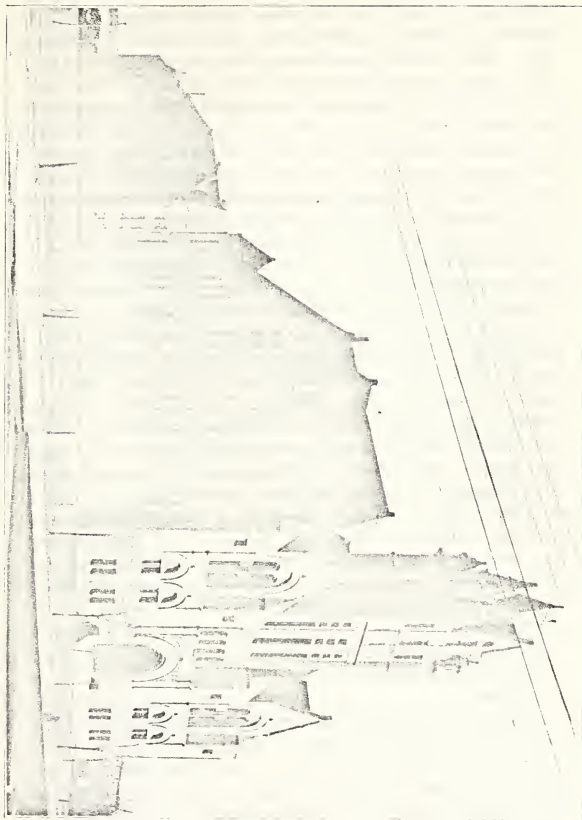
doubtedly, as a devout American and a profound statesman, was in sympathy with the aspirations of the million and a half people in the two Territories. Perhaps this accounted for the characteristic good humor he displayed in signing the statehood bill. The act was witnessed by former Governor C. M. Barnes, Judge J. R. Cottingham, Claude Baker, Judge Robert E. Wood, James Wilks, James P. Gandy, J. F. Sanders, Judge Hammer and representatives of daily newspapers of Oklahoma and elsewhere.

So demonstrative did the people of Oklahoma City become and so contagious was their hilarity when news reached here that the bill had passed the House, that Mayor Messenbaugh issued unpremeditatedly a proclamation warning the people against the use of fire arms or fireworks but joining them in the spirit of their rejoicing. Three thousand persons gathered at a hurriedly assembled mass meeting, presided over by Dr. J. Hensley. Congratulatory and patriotic speeches were made by Mayor Messenbaugh, O. A. Mitscher, C. G. Jones, E. J. Giddings, D. C. Lewis, Col. J. W. Johnson and others.

Seven days later the demonstration was repeated, the city taking the lead in a statewide thanksgiving event. Ten thousand persons assembled. They came from all sections of the Territories and from adjoining states. Among visitors was Governor Hoch of Kansas who delivered one of the principal addresses. Governor Frank Frantz came down from Guthrie accompanied by Adj.-Gen. Alva Niles and the governor's personal staff, among whom were Maj. John W. Duke, Capt. Hugh Scott and Maj. Harry Pentecost. They were greeted with the greeting extended Governor Hoch, and the reception committee consisted of Capts. Fred W. Hunter and Samuel Harralson of the National Guard, Carl Holtzschue, chairman of the reception committee of the Chamber of Commerce, Senator John Threadgill, Col. William Cross, Anton H. Clausen, A. W. McKeand, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and others. In addition to the addresses of Governors Hoch and Frantz there were speeches by Seymour Heyman, I. M. Holcomb, E. J. Giddings and Claude Weaver of Pauls Valley.

The statehood bill had passed the Senate on March 9th. R. E. Stafford, who was in Washington as a representative of the city, wired that some doubt existed whether the bill









would pass the House over objection of Speaker Joe Cannon, who, for reasons chiefly political, was bitterly outspoken against it. On the other hand, Delegate McGuire declared that it would be put through the House within a week. Cannon's attitude left the status of the measure in such doubt that the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce called another of its numerous statehood mass meetings. It sent letters and telegrams to 1,750 mayors and presidents of town boards in as many cities and towns of the two Territories urging them to communicate to Washington, and Speaker Cannon in particular, the demand of Oklahoma people for passage of the bill. At this meeting the boosters revived a practice of former days and applied the multiplication table to it, that of every man getting in touch with senators and representatives of the state from which he came, if he were not a native. Messages of this character illustrated the cosmopolitanism of the population, for they were sent into nearly every state of the Union.

Even all this did not quite satisfy the leaders. They had set out to turn heaven and earth, and they feared nothing short of a human thunderbolt would rift the muck in Washington. So they had a call issued for a meeting of the Statehood Executive Committee of the Territories. It was held March 21st in Shawnee, and 1,000 grimly determined delegates subscribed to a memorial that apparently would be irresistible to politicians at Washington who were unmoved by other appeals. A similar memorial was adopted and ordered transmitted directly to the President. To strengthen the cause in the White House the delegates made Capt. Charles Hunter, a Rough Rider veteran, chairman of the convention. Early in the year Capt. Frank Frantz, another Rough Rider whom the President officially remembered, had been inaugurated as governor of Oklahoma, and to the appointment of Frantz was attached a political speculation the sum and substance of which was that perhaps the President didn't desire the new governor's term to be unduly abbreviated nor the democrats given soon an opportunity to get hold of the reins of government. Such assumptions may have been unfounded.

The Senate, as Oklahomans viewed it, was in a meddlesome mood while it discussed and emasculated the bill. Not content with burdening it with a prohibition rider, the Senate



made provision that the capital of the new state should remain at Guthrie for a term of years. This piqued the population of Oklahoma City as no other modification of the terms of the measure had done, for it was always evident and perfectly clear that one of the important reasons why the city labored so ardently for statehood was that eventually it expected to be the capital. On February 16th President Holcomb of the Chamber of Commerce convoked a mass assembly and it forthwith named Sidney Clarke, John H. Wright and R. E. Stafford a committee to draw a resolution protesting against the capital amendment. It was a dignified resolution with some temperature, profound withal and eloquent of English, declaring no precedent existed for such an act, asserting that out of part of the proceeds of lands valued at \$5,000,000 the state would be able to erect a capital, and praying that the million and a half people be permitted to determine the capital question for themselves. C. G. Jones and Mr. Holcomb were selected to take the resolution to the Senate and Delegate McGuire.

Pursuant to a provision of the act, Governor Frantz called an election for November 6th to choose delegates to a constitutional convention. Democrats of the Territories united their organizations for the campaign, but republican organizations remained separate. J. L. Hamon of Lawton was named campaign manager for the Oklahoma republicans.

Oklahoma County contained two constitutional convention districts, the twenty-eighth and the twenty-ninth. In the twenty-eighth a heated controversy arose between J. L. Brown and D. C. Lewis, republican candidates for delegate. Brown advocating constitutional prohibition and Lewis opposing any sort of prohibition. Lewis received the nomination. Hugh McCredie was the nominee in the other. The democratic nominees in the districts respectively were W. C. Hughes and John L. Mitch. The Rev. E. O. Whitwell applied to the court of Judge Burwell for a writ of mandamus to compel the election board to place his name on the ballot as the candidate of the Independent League in the Twenty-eighth district, but it was denied.

Republicans and democrats alike sought advice and party enthusiasm from stations of high authority outside the state,



democrats more than republicans perhaps, for the republicans were far from being a unit. Among representative republicans who came this way before the election was Vice President Charles W. Fairbanks, who spoke in Oklahoma City on October 22d. He was introduced by Chairman Hamon and was entertained by Chief Justice John H. Burford, Governor Frank Frantz, C. G. Jones and other republican leaders. Mr. Fairbanks toured Indian Territory after leaving Oklahoma City.

The democrats elected a large majority of delegates to the convention, including both nominees from Oklahoma County. Mr. Hughes was prominently mentioned for president of the convention, but found on his arrival at Guthrie that William H. Murray of Tishomingo was far in the lead of favorites. The convention assembled November 20th. Mr. Murray was elected president and John M. Young of Lawton, secretary. William A. Durant, who for many years thereafter was a leader in politics and active in public life, was elected sergeant at arms.

With a view of studying conditions in the Territories relative principally to Indian affairs, a committee of five members of the Senate toured the Territories in November and on November 22d was entertained in Oklahoma City. The committee consisted of D. C. Clark of Wyoming, Chester I. Long of Kansas, W. A. Clark of Montana, Henry M. Teller of Colorado and F. P. Brandegee of Connecticut. They were entertained by a committee of citizens consisting of C. G. Jones, A. H. Classen, Sidney Clarke and others.

Early in the session of the constitutional convention Delegate Mitch of Oklahoma City submitted a proposition to the convention providing that the people of the state should have the opportunity of voting on the location of a permanent state capital and making provision for the erection of a capitol to cost not over one million dollars and to be completed by January 1, 1914. Delegate G. M. Tucker of Comanche submitted a proposition providing that the capital should be located as near as feasible to the geographical center of the state and that the name of the capital city should be Indianoma, the name symbolizing the conjunction of the Terri-



tories. Delegate Hughes was the first to approach the subject of prohibition, proposing a local option measure.

Miss Kate Barnard, now matron of the Provident Association of Oklahoma City and a member of the Central Trades and Labor Council, being ambitious to advance some cherished reforms and also having political aspirations, came importantly before the public during the convention by advocating measures relating to compulsory education, factory inspection, an eight-hour work day and child labor. In preparation for this work she had made an extensive study of conditions in Chicago and St. Louis.

Charles N. Haskell of Muskogee, who with other Indian Territory leaders had sought to write a constitution for and establish the State of Sequoyah, and who subsequently, as the first governor of the state, ordered the great seal of state moved from Guthrie to Oklahoma City, made his first political appearance in Oklahoma City at a Jackson Day banquet held January 8, 1906. Four hundred representative democrats of the Territories attended. It was without doubt the most important gathering of notables of the democratic party, held solely for political purposes, that had assembled in the Territories. S. M. Rutherford of Muskogee presided. A. M. Jackson of Winfield, Kan., formerly a representative in Congress, was the guest speaker. Mr. Haskell spoke on "How to Organize." The theme of Judge J. L. Carpenter of Mangum was "Party Loyalty," that of Freeman Miller of Stillwater, "The Power of the Press," and that of Judge Henry M. Furman of Ada, "The Sovereignty of the Citizen." Talks were made by Leslie P. Ross of Lawton, Robert W. Dick of Ardmore, Col. William Zevely of Muskogee, Leslie Niblack of Guthrie, Thomas Doyle of Perry, U. S. Russell of McAlester, T. P. Gore of Lawton, J. B. A. Robertson of Chandler, Dan Peery of Carnegie, Col. J. J. McAlester of McAlester, Jesse J. Dunn of Alva and Charles West of Enid, all of whom afterward occupied prominent places in public or political life.

On December 10th of this year J. B. Wheeler, one of the city's representative citizens died, at the age of eighty-one. He had donated Wheeler Park to the city in a former year and since that time had been a member of the park board. In that position he had taken an active part in improving





and beautifying the park that was to be a memorial to him. He was a native of New York, had been a banker in Michigan and as an Eighty-Niner had established one of the first banks in Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma Railway Company was chartered on December 4th with a capital stock of \$5,000,000, with the purpose expressed in the charter of constructing 170 miles of inter-urban lines out of Oklahoma City, reaching Norman, Shawnee, Guthrie, El Reno and Purcell. The incorporators were Frank Wells, O. R. Rittenhouse, G. G. Barnes, J. J. Johnson, Carlos Combs, Fred S. Combs and E. L. Lawson.

One of the most eloquent and substantial compliments paid the city and its Chamber of Commerce during these extremely busy years was expressed by Lee Cruce of Ardmore while a guest of the Chamber on an occasion during this year. "Oklahoma City is one of the most wonderful cities on the face of the earth," he said. "I have found here tonight that the Chamber of Commerce is one of the best organizations of the kind west of the Mississippi River. No town can grow without a live organization like this. Your people should be proud of this Chamber of Commerce; it has accomplished wonders."

Other happenings of the year of more or less historical value are these: Trustees of St. Luke's Methodist Church, South, bought from Edward H. Cooke a site for a church at Eighth and Robinson for \$17,500 and announced that plans for a large edifice were being drawn; the Lee Hotel was sold to Joseph Huckins, Joseph Huckins, Jr., L. W. Huckins and Paul Huckins; A. W. McKeand was elected secretary of the Chamber of Commerce to succeed J. H. Johnston, and W. E. Campbell, secretary of the Traffic Association, of which Mr. Johnston remained manager; the Eighty-Niners Association held its annual banquet, presided over by Samuel Crocker, and elected Dr. Delos Walker president; O. A. Mitscher, vice president; W. L. Alexander, secretary, and Oscar Reagan, treasurer; J. B. Taylor was elected superintendent of schools to succeed Edward S. Vaught, and F. C. Jacoby succeeded Mr. Taylor as principal of the high school; City Assessor Dan P. Wright reported that the total valuation of city property was approximately \$26,500,000; the Federated Commercial



Clubs of the Territories held an annual meeting here and Lee Cruce was elected president; A. W. McKeand secretary, and I. M. Holcomb, treasurer; the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company, among the directors of which were C. B. Ames and D. T. Flynn, asked for a franchise, promising to pipe gas here within a short time and sell it for domestic consumption at 35 cents per 1,000 cubic feet; the City Council passed a resolution asking Congress to donate to the city section 16 of township 12 north, range 3 west; Delegate McGuire introduced a bill in Congress making an appropriation of \$450,000 to purchase a site for, and construct a Federal building in the city.



## 1907—POLITICS, PREJUDICES AND VICTORY

President Roosevelt issued his proclamation on November 16th and statehood was an accomplished fact. The constitution went into effect and under it the first state officials took the oath of office. Charles N. Haskell, who had been a member of the constitutional convention from a Muskogee district, in the election of September 17th defeated Frank Frantz, republican nominee for governor, by an overwhelming majority, and was the first to take the official oath.

Fifteen officials constituted the executive department of government and four of these were residents of Oklahoma City, namely: William Cross, secretary of state; T. J. McComb, insurance commissioner; Miss Kate Barnard, commissioner of charities and corrections, and Charles A. Daugherty, labor commissioner. Other officials who afterwards became residents of the city were Charles West, attorney general; M. E. Trapp, auditor, and A. P. Watson, corporation commissioner. Samuel W. Hayes, a member of the first Supreme Court and during his term a chief justice, after retirement from the bench, became a resident of the city.

Down nearly to the very week of the issuance of the President's proclamation there was doubt of executive approval of the constitution. The instrument had been declared by W. J. Bryan to be one of the greatest of documents of human liberty and self-government, and it had been declared by William H. Taft, then secretary of war, to be honeycombed with prejudices and radical doctrines and consequently unfit for adoption. The democrats were virtually solidly united in its support and the republicans were divided. A large element of the latter party took the view expressed by C. G. Jones after its adoption, that Statehood was desired above all else and that if the constitution was found to contain objectionable features he trusted to the good sense of the people to later amend it. Republican speakers condemned it on the stump



and passionately advocated its rejection. But the instrument was subjected to its severest trials in the courts.

The democrats of the convention drifted far into the legislative field and incorporated in the constitution not a few tenets of the party that were subjects of debate between the parties. Among these were provisions for separate coaches and separate waiting rooms for white and colored persons and the initiative and referendum. These and other provisions were held by republican leaders in the campaign to constitute violations of the Constitution of the United States. Others of less moment were declared to be in contravention of the Enabling Act. Among the latter were the election provisions and those that subdivided counties, established county seats and named temporary county commissioners. Summing up all partisan objections, Charles H. Filson, territorial secretary, declined to receive from President Murray the copy of the instrument offered for official registration. Judge Pancoast held in a case arising in Woods County involving the appointment of county commissioners that the constitution makers made the appointments without authority. This was appealed to the Territorial Supreme Court and the Pancoast decision reversed.

While this case was pending and while President Murray was carrying the constitution around in his pocket and threatening to call an election to submit the constitution, a meeting of statehood advocates, consisting principally of democrats, was held in Oklahoma City and a delegation of lawyers, W. A. Ledbetter, Samuel W. Hayes and Charles Moore, all members of the constitutional convention, was selected to confer with President Roosevelt. In due time the convention reassembled in Guthrie and made some amendments that overcame the republican objections and others that were found necessary after the delegates had been home and listened to expressions of their constituents. The convention recommended September 17th as a date for submitting the instrument to the people and the election of state officials and adjourned finally on July 15th. Meantime powerful influences, inside the Territories and out, both of political and commercial shades, were brought to bear, with the result that all legal controversies were ter-







HENRY M. SCALES



minated and Governor Frantz and Secretary Filson issued a call for an election to be held on September 17th.

Caucuses, primaries and conventions were held that resulted in the selection of democratic and republican tickets, the former headed by Mr. Haskell and the latter by Governor Frantz. Haskell defeated Lee Cruce of Ardmore for the nomination after a historically acrimonious campaign. T. P. Gore of Lawton defeated M. L. Turner of Oklahoma City and Roy Hoffman of Chandler for the nomination for United States senator for the western division of the state, and Robert L. Owen defeated Judge Henry M. Furman for the nomination in the eastern division. Elmer L. Fulton of Oklahoma City was the democratic nominee for Congress in the Second District. All democratic nominees for state and congressional offices were elected, except that Bird S. McGuire of Pawnee, republican, was elected to Congress from the First District.

Provisions of the Enabling Act relating to elections were so variously interpreted by students of law that it became a serious question early in the year whether city elections should be held prior to adoption of the constitution. Attorney Edward S. Vaught of Oklahoma City filed in the District Court application for an order restraining George Hess, city clerk, from registering voters and preventing the holding of an election on April 2d, the date fixed by the statutes of the Territory. Mayor Messenbaugh already had issued a call for the election. Vaught contended that the call and the registration of voters were in violation of the Enabling Act which provided that persons holding public office should continue to serve until their successors were elected and qualified under laws to be adopted by the new state. The case went to Chief Justice Burford and he ruled that city elections should be held.

For mayor the democrats nominated Henry M. Seales and the republicans J. H. Johnston. The charge of corporation influence against the republican candidate, a charge that had accomplished satisfactory results for the democrats in the convention campaign and during sessions of the convention, was effective in the city campaign and Mr. Seales was elected by a substantial majority.

Organization of the Oklahoma State Fair Association was



perfected this year and it contracted for the use of state school land adjoining the city on the east as an exposition site. A temporary organization was perfected January 16th by the election of C. G. Jones as president and A. W. McKeand as secretary. Two days later a meeting more largely attended was held and a committee consisting of Seymour Heyman, A. H. Classen, Dr. F. M. Jordan, Frank H. Shelley, E. Bracht, Weston Atwood, George Gardner and C. G. Jones was appointed to apply for a charter. On February 21, the charter having been granted, officers and directors were elected as follows: C. G. Jones, president; L. L. Land, vice president; Frank H. Shelley, secretary, and Seymour Heyman, treasurer, and E. E. Alkire, V. L. Bath, Dr. J. M. Jordan, Oscar Lee, C. H. Keller, C. B. Sites, W. F. Young, J. L. Wilkin, C. F. Colcord, Samuel Finley and I. M. Putnam.

Chamber of Commerce activities during the year were largely of a business nature, except for entertainment required by virtue of the political campaigns. It was a year of almost unprecedented growth. The business districts, wholesale and retail, were spreading so rapidly and inquiries from the world coming in such great numbers that the Chamber found it necessary to devote itself to taking care of what it had and what was in sight instead of reaching out for more. It was disappointed that the Federal census report showed the city to have a population of only 32,452, whereas figures above forty thousand had been expected. Reports of real estate transfers and building permits every month were an index to a development of magnitude beyond most sanguine expectations. Real estate transfers during some months went beyond the million and a half mark. Paving was being extended rapidly and at the beginning of the year it was predicted that over three million dollars would be expended during the year on paving. No incentive to all this was more influential than the guarantee of statehood.

The Chamber again induced real estate dealers to form an organization. Sixty dealers out of a total of 107 attended the organization meeting that was presided over by A. H. Classen and of which A. W. McKeand acted as secretary. A committee consisting of Joseph Hess, Guy Blackwelder, J. H. Johnston, O. P. Workman and R. V. Moran was appointed



to draft a constitution and by-laws. Chamber officials were sponsor also for the organization of the Hundred and Fifty Thousand Club, the chief object of which was to increase the population of the city to that number by 1914. It was composed of one or more members from each of the several industrial and professional organizations. Mr. Classen was its first president and C. J. Pratt, G. E. Gardner, Robert Scott, J. W. Van Ehn and J. H. Johnston constituted the executive committee.

At the annual meeting of the Eighty-Niners Association in April a committee composed of C. G. Jones, J. L. Brown and Sidney Clarke was appointed by President Walker to solicit funds with which to erect a monument to the memory of Captain Couch. Another committee composed of O. A. Mitscher, Sidney Clarke and Asa Jones was appointed to assist a committee of a Territorial association that purposed erecting a monument to the memory of Captain Payne. Former Governor T. B. Ferguson attended the annual banquet and delivered the principal address. Dr. Delos Walker was reelected president. Sidney Clarke was elected vice president and J. A. J. Baugus, secretary.

A distinguished visitor of the year was James Bryce of Great Britain, formerly ambassador to the United States, who stopped here on his way to the Kiowa and Comanche Indian country where he was to visit Quanah Parker, noted Comanche chief, and Geronimo, the Apache warrior whom General Miles had captured and who was then a prisoner of war on the Fort Sill military reservation. He was accompanied by former Governor D. R. Francis of Missouri and some other men of lesser note. He delivered a brief address in the Overholser Opera House, being introduced by Doctor Bradford of Epworth University.

Selection of a site for the Federal Building was made in June, after a lively contest between property owners and real estate dealers interested in several sites proposed. Five lots were acquired at the corner of Robinson Avenue and Third Street. They were owned by John Burt, A. Ketcham and Mrs. E. Epstein, then of Lawton, and were appraised at \$30,000. Burt, who owned the corner lot, was reported to have named a price of \$5,000, but after the site selection was made





he made a price of \$25,000. When Burt definitely declined to negotiate, an appraisal committee was appointed consisting of Whit M. Grant, Newton Avey and F. J. Merrill, and there the matter rested for the time being.

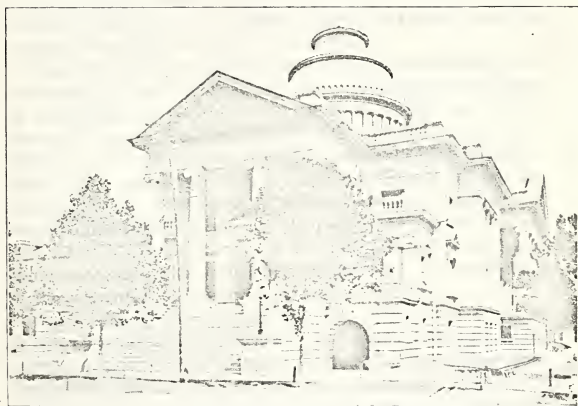
A bond issue totaling \$250,000 was voted in the September election for water and sewer extension purposes and to liquidate some old city debts. Mayor Scales originally asked authority of the council to call for an issue of \$325,000.

The Oklahoma City Street Railway Company, which this year increased its capital stock from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000, announced that it was soon to expend \$200,000 in erecting a power house, and \$180,000 in improving its park at Belle Isle, a small resort that had rapidly grown in popularity, and that it hoped before long to construct an interurban to Britton and Edmond.

Ten thousand persons attended the first State Fair, which opened its gates October 5. Luther Jones, the eleven-year-old son of C. G. Jones, president of the fair association, pressed the button that flooded the exposition with lights and by that act the exposition was officially opened. The first ticket, the number of which was 1001, was purchased by E. L. Gore, an Oklahoma City traveling salesman, and President Jones kept it as a souvenir of the occasion. Some formal ceremonies were indulged in. Graves Leeper presided over the little gathering of men and women at the gate and speeches were made by President Jones and C. N. Haskell, the governor-elect.

This was an era of experiments in government and what was popularly known as the commission-form of city government was gaining favor over the country. The progressive Chamber of Commerce therefore decided that the aldermanic-form had outlived its usefulness here and proposed to construct a city charter that would provide the commission-form. President H. Y. Thompson appointed a committee headed by O. D. Halsell to inquire into the feasibility of making a charter. Mr. Halsell appointed a sub-committee consisting of J. H. Johnston, Judge J. R. Keaton, C. G. Jones and S. J. Murphy, and on November 13 this committee reported that it found much to commend in the proposed reform. Soon thereafter President Thompson named a committee of fifty





ST. LUKE'S M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH



to inaugurate a campaign for a charter election. When the matter was first discussed by the city council in session, City Attorney T. G. Chambers told the council it was his opinion that a charter could not be adopted unless provision was made for such a government by an act of the Legislature. The Chamber of Commerce Committee of Fifty thereupon was instructed to draft a bill to be presented to the Legislature, but the committee was not convinced by the logic of Attorney Chambers and it proceeded also to the circulation of a petition asking the mayor to call an election to choose a board of freeholders to write a charter. There the matter ended as a part of the chain of events of this year.

Simultaneously with the adoption of the constitution and the election of state officers, the voters of Oklahoma adopted as a separate proposition a prohibition article, and at the advent of statehood saloons were closed. Closing was a make-shift, however, on the part of some saloon keepers of Oklahoma City. Some keepers who consulted Sheriff George W. Garrison were advised that he meant to enforce the law. A meeting attended by some four thousand persons was held on November 25 in celebration of the prohibition victory, and Governor Haskell, who had been a champion of prohibition in the constitutional convention, made a speech.

Some saloon keepers contested the act in the court of District Judge George W. Clark, who was the first man under statehood to fill that office in Oklahoma County. They contended that the article was not legal because it was not incorporated in the constitution, because the convention was without authority to pass upon the subject, because the article was not filed with the territorial secretary, and because it was in contravention of the Enabling Act. Judge Clark promptly denied them an injunction. Later, Yeatman Smith, a saloon keeper, under arrest charged with selling intoxicating liquors, was denied a writ of habeas corpus by District Judge J. E. Lowe of El Reno, who upheld the prohibition act.

Capitol Hill, a village adjoining the city on the south that had acquired a population of nearly two thousand and developed into a business community of considerable consequence, broke into the limelight during the latter part of the year when the board of trustees passed a resolution declaring H.



C. Schilling, president of the board, president no longer, and proceeded to fill the vacancy with M. F. Rowlett. Schilling protested and declared the act of the board illegal. Dr. W. R. Clement, town clerk, who was an influential leader in the village, gave it as his opinion that Mr. Schilling had been stripped of authority. Schilling applied to the court for relief, the board ordered his official telephone discontinued, and thereupon the controversy's confusion was lost in the din of ringing bells and tooting whistles that signalled the end of a year.

The arrival of the first flow of natural gas into the city was duly celebrated on December 7. Newspapers reported that 5,000 persons joined in a demonstration held at Tenth Street and Central Avenue that began when W. L. Tull, chairman of the advertising committee of the Hundred and Fifty Thousand Club, punctured the gas main. The roar of escaping gas was as welcome as had been the pop of a military gun on that memorable April day in '89, and the acclaiming chorus of the congregated populace simulated the howls and cheers of another day. The main was punctured with a touch of formality. Present were Dennis T. Flynn, president of the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company; V. Hastings, manager of the company; F. A. Tidman, manager of the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company, and A. W. McKean, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

G. B. Stone was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce for the ensuing year and he and W. S. Guthrie, B. C. Housel, M. M. Moberly, F. A. Gross, W. M. Westfall, S. L. Brock, J. H. Johnston, J. D. Thomas, O. P. Workman, Homer Eiler, H. J. Miller, Weston Atwood, H. Y. Thompson, J. M. Owen, A. H. Classen and J. H. Everest constituted the new board of directors.

During this year Edward Dyehe succeeded L. W. Baxter as territorial auditor; J. B. Thoburn took charge of an exhibit sent by Oklahoma to the Jamestown Exposition; a law school of Epworth University was established with C. B. Ames as dean and Harry G. Snyder, secretary of the faculty; on September 2 the corner stone of St. Luke's M. E. Church, South, was laid; on October 5 the Chamber of Commerce announced that 866 buildings had been erected in the city





within twelve months; C. G. Jones, who had been elected to a seat in the lower house of the first state Legislature, announced that he had prepared a bill providing for the investment in good securities of the \$5,000,000 Congress had appropriated for the state in the Enabling Act; Mayor Henry Scales at Muskogee was elected president of the Oklahoma Municipal League and George Hess of Oklahoma City was made a member of the committee on resolutions; Edward Overholser resigned as county commissioner and Governor Haskell filled the vacancy with George Carrio; W. C. Reeves and Mont F. Highley of Oklahoma City and George Henshaw of Madill and E. G. Spillman of Kingfisher, both of whom later were residents of the city, were appointed assistants to Attorney General Charles West; E. L. Fulton, first congressman from the district, announced he would ask Congress to appropriate \$1,000,000 for a Federal site and building; on December 30 the New State Brewing Association, amidst exciting and unusual scenes and much hilarity, emptied into the sewers 7,500 gallons of beer said to have been valued at twenty-seven thousand dollars.

---

#### PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S PROCLAMATION

“By the President of the United States of America—A Proclamation:

“Whereas, the Congress of the United States did by an act approved on the 16th day of June, one thousand nine hundred and six, provide that the inhabitants of the territory of Oklahoma and of the Indian Territory might, under and upon the conditions prescribed in said act, adopt a constitution and become the state of Oklahoma, and

“Whereas, by the said act provision was duly made for the election of a constitutional convention to form a constitution and state government for the said proposed state; and

“Whereas, it appears from the information laid before me that such convention was duly elected and such constitution and state government were thereby duly formed, and

“Whereas, by the said act the said convention was further authorized and empowered to provide by ordinance for sub-



mitting the said constitution to the people of the said state for ratification or rejection, and likewise for the ratification or rejection of any provisions thereof to be by the said convention separately submitted, and

"Whereas, it has been certified to me, as required by the said act, by the governor of the territory of Oklahoma and by the judge senior in service of the United States court of appeals in the Indian Territory that a majority of the legal votes cast at an election duly provided for by ordinance, as required by said act, have been cast for the adoption of said constitution, and

"Whereas, a copy of the said constitution has been certified to me, as required by said act, together with the articles, propositions and ordinances pertaining thereto, including a separate proposition for state-wide prohibition which has been certified to me as having been adopted by a majority of the electors at the election aforesaid, and

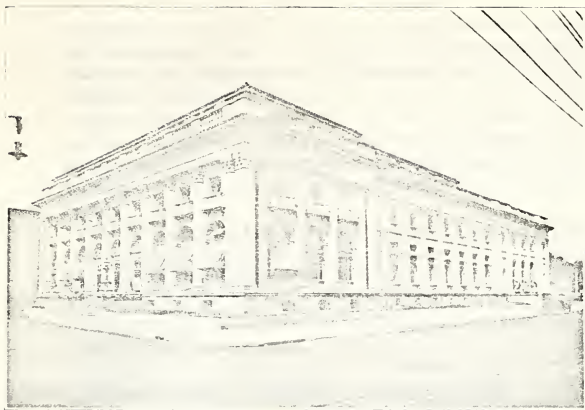
"Whereas, it appears from the information laid before me that the convention aforesaid after its organization and before the formation of the said constitution duly declared on behalf of the people of the said proposed state that they adopted the constitution of the United States, and

"Whereas, it appears that the said constitution and government of the proposed state of Oklahoma are republican in form and that the said constitution makes no distinction in civil or political rights on account of race or color, and is not repugnant to the constitution of the United States or to the principles of the declaration of independence, and that it contains all of the six provisions expressly required by section 3 of the said act to be therein contained; and

"Whereas, it further appears from the information laid before me that the convention above mentioned did by ordinance irrevocable accept the terms and conditions of the said act, as required by section 22 thereof, and that all the provisions of the said act approved on the 16th day of June, one thousand nine hundred and six, have been duly complied with.

"Now, therefore, I, Theodore Roosevelt, president of the United States of America, do, in accordance with the provisions of the said act of Congress of June 16, 1906, declare





FEDERAL BUILDING



VIEW AT STATE FAIR PARK



and announce that the result of the said election, wherein the constitution formed as aforesaid was submitted to the people of the proposed state of Oklahoma for ratification or rejection, was that the said constitution was ratified together with a provision for state-wide prohibition, separately submitted at the said election; and the state of Oklahoma is to be deemed admitted by Congress into the Union under and by virtue of the said act on an equal footing with the original states.

"In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington this 16th day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seven, and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and thirty-second.

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

"By the president: Elihu Root, secretary of state."

A feature of the ceremonies incident to the inauguration of the first state officials at Guthrie was the marriage of Mr. Oklahoma to Miss Indian Territory. C. G. Jones of Oklahoma City was selected to impersonate the bridegroom. The proceedings were related in a story in a Guthrie newspaper:

"The 'bridegroom,' not one whit abashed, took his place in the center of the platform and began his abbreviated wooing with a knowing nod in the direction of the spectators.

"I have been asked," he said, "to perform the agreeable duty of proposing the marriage of Oklahoma to the Indian Territory. Permit me to say that nothing gives me greater pleasure, as the President advises us in his proclamation that the marriage will be strictly legal, without regard to age, condition or previous servitude. The bridegroom is only eighteen years old, but is capable of assuming all the matrimonial responsibilities of a stalwart youth. Though he was born in trouble, in tribulation, in the city of Washington in 1889, his life of eighteen years on the plains has been one of tremendous activity, and he has grown to the size of a giant. Like every well-regulated masculine individual he has grown tired of being alone, though he was fairly capable





of taking care of himself. Strange to say, on account of his youth and inexperience, he is possessed of an unconquerable modesty and he has asked me to propose marriage with the Indian Territory.

“Out of sympathy for the young bachelor, I now propose to the Indian Territory, who I am assured is matrimonially inclined, that the proposal be accepted, and that the union be consummated here and now. It should be understood, however, that nothing should be said about the age of the bride. It is a case when youth and age are to be blended together in harmonious union, and that under the constitution and laws a divorce can never be granted. This is not exactly a case of love at first sight. A lady by the name of Sequoyah at one time interfered with the courtship and at first tried to break up the match. But having failed to do so, and tired of the loneliness of single blessedness, she gracefully surrendered to the inevitable and has ever since been in favor of the marriage.

“By authority vested in me by the high contracting parties, and in obedience to their request, I now call upon Rev. W. H. Dodson, of the First Baptist Church of Guthrie, to perform the marriage ceremony.”

“The response for the blushing bride was made by W. A. Durant, of Durant, Indian Territory, a fullblood Indian. His formal acceptance was as follows:

“To you, Mr. Jones, as the representative of Mr. Oklahoma, I present the hand and the fortune of Miss Indian Territory, convinced by his eighteen years of persistent wooing that his love is genuine, his suit sincere and his purposes most honorable. With pride and pleasure I present to him Miss Indian Territory, who was reared as a politician orphan, tutored by federal office holders and controlled by an indifferent guardian residing a thousand miles from her habitation.

“Despite the unhappy circumstances of her youth, which have cast a shade of sorrow over a face by nature intended to give back only the warm smiles of God’s pure sunshine, this beauteous maiden comes to him as the last descendant of the proudest race that ever trod foot on American soil; a race whose sons have never bowed their necks to the heel of the oppressor; the original occupants of the American continent.



“Although an orphan, Miss Indian Territory brings to her spouse a dower that, in fertile fields, productive mines and sterling and upright citizenship, equals the fortune of her wooer. To Oklahoma, into whose identity Indian Territory is about to be merged forever, must be entrusted the care of this princely estate. We resign it to you freely in the confident hope that it will be cared for, developed and conserved to the unending glory of our new state and the untold benefit of her people.

“Oklahoma, your wooing has been long and persistent. For eighteen weary years you have sought the hand of our fair maiden in wedlock. If the object of your suit has at times seemed indifferent, believe it to have been but evidence of a maiden's proper modesty and not a shrinking from the union.

“In winning the hand, you take with it the heart. Your bride comes to you without coercion or persuasion, as the loving maiden confidently places her hand in that of her husband of her choice. The love she bears for you, as the love you feel for her, arises from kindred interests, mutual aspirations and an unbounded admiration, one for the other.”

“Until she stepped to the front to accept the hand of her fiancée the identity of the bride was known to but few. She was Mrs. Leo Bennett, of Muskogee, a bewilderingly handsome matron, whose Creek lineage is evidenced in a dark complexion, heightened by the bloom of perfect health.

“As she came slowly forward to the front of the platform the crowd gallantly shouted an acknowledgment. With a huge chrysanthemum the young woman shaded her eyes as she looked out over the crowd. She smiled and bowed again and again as the applause continued.

“Then the Rev. Mr. Dodson offered a fervent prayer on the union and the formal marriage of the ‘twin territories’ was consummated.”



## 1908—NEW JERUSALEM APPROVED

As has been intimated heretofore, many people of the state believed that the matter of the location of a permanent state capital was a prerogative of the people rather than a prerogative of Congress, yet there was no disposition on the part of a majority to override that provision of the Enabling Act that fixed the capital at Guthrie for a term of years. But in the interim the matter was always a live subject of discussion. On February 11, I. M. Putnam, representative from Oklahoma County, introduced a resolution in the Legislature providing that the capital should be moved to Oklahoma City. Soon thereafter, Senator Campbell Russell of Warner introduced a resolution asking for appointment of a committee to inquire into the feasibility of locating the capital as near as possible to the geographical center of the state. His idea contemplated the establishment of a capital on a virgin spot where other state buildings would be assembled. On February 28 the Chamber of Commerce gave a banquet in honor of the Legislature, which came down from Guthrie in a body, and made it clear to the members that in due time the city would openly demand capital honors.

Senator Russell's idea became popular in Guthrie and met the approval of many residents of Oklahoma City, although President Stone of the Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Seales warned the people against it. It met the open and pronounced approval of Governor Haskell who, no doubt, at the time had in mind a project whereby the Russell idea could be complied with and Oklahoma City's desires met by the same act. The New Jerusalem idea was disposed of in the Legislature as a proposition to be voted upon in the autumn election. In that election it received a comfortable majority of the votes cast but there was a doubt of its having received the constitutional majority. Subsequently in major acts touching the subject this vote was kept in mind and interpreted as the voice of the people and the last word with reference to location.



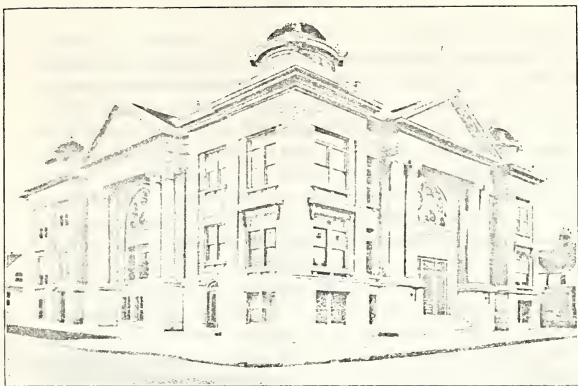
The desires of the Chamber of Commerce formulated and expressed during the previous year that the city should have a new charter were realized this year to the extent of a charter being written by a board of freeholders, of which Warren K. Snyder was president. Mayor Seales was outspokenly opposed to the charter and refused to call an election to submit it to the people. Charter advocates took the matter to court and on July 23 the Supreme Court held that there was no constitutional inhibition to a charter of this nature supplanting the aldermanic form of government, but it did not grant the request of the charter advocates for a mandamus directed at the mayor. The latter, therefore, announced that he would in his own good time issue an election call. The date fixed eventually was August 29 and after the call was made charter advocates and opponents pitched into a lively campaign, the result of which was that the charter was defeated by a little over two hundred votes. Opponents said it would have given the city a monarchical form of government. Public utility owners declared it was a step backward. The leading advocate of the charter on the stump was John H. Wright, one of its authors. John Shartel said it was a freak. Henry Overholser and G. B. Stone were outspoken against it.

Ladies of the Grant Relief Corps of the Grand Army of the Republic on June 13 formally presented to the county a new flag containing forty-six stars. This was the first flag bearing an official endorsement or received by public officials that had added the star that represented the new state of Oklahoma. A presentation speech was made by Mrs. Mary J. Woods and an acceptance speech for the county by County Attorney E. E. Reardon. Other features of the program were an invocation by Dr. H. E. Colby, pastor of the Reformed Church, a reading by Mrs. Laura Corder, the singing of the Star Spangled Banner by Mrs. Abbie Hunter and the singing of America by the audience of about two hundred that was assembled on the courthouse plaza. The participants in chief were attended by a fife and drum corps of veterans of the Civil war.

Negotiations were started toward the end of the year for securing the establishment here of two large packing plants.







FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FORMER OCCUPANTS OF THE COLCORD BUILDING SITE



Secretary McKeand of the Chamber of Commerce, having heard that representatives of Schwarzschild & Sulzberger of Chicago contemplated a visit to Fort Worth with a view of establishing a packery, wired them an invitation to stop in Oklahoma City. The invitation was accepted and they arrived here in the latter part of November. They were entertained by members of the Chamber and these men proposed that the city would raise as a bonus \$200,000 in cash if the company would establish a plant in Oklahoma City. The visitors indicated that the proposition would be acceptable. "We have got to trade Johnny on the spot!" shouted G. B. Stone. No set of business men ever thought faster and more seriously nor acted more quickly than these. It was a momentous hour in the city's history. A committee was appointed to raise the bonus. It consisted of A. H. Classen, O. D. Hallsell, C. F. Colcord, E. K. Gaylord, William Mee, Samuel Levy, Frank P. Johnson, J. E. O'Neil, R. N. Myers and W. T. Corder. Active McKeand permitted no idle moments to pass. He kept business moving, typewriters clicking and telegraph wires singing, and he announced before the initial appreciation of the first coup had been dulled by the labor of raising funds that Nelson Morris & Company, another large Chicago packing firm, was looking with favor upon Oklahoma City.

By ordinance of the council, twenty-two additions to the city, having a total population of about 3,000, were included within the city limits. These were McKinley Heights, Putnam Heights, University Heights, Las Vegas Heights, University View, Aurora Heights, Military Park, part of Weinan's Addition, part of University Park Addition, part of Young and Englewood Additions, Jefferson Park, Grand View, Pleasant View, part of the Margaret McKinley Subdivision, the Culbertson Second Addition, Bath Highland, Bath Orchard, East View, Edgmont, Guernsey Park, Fairlawn Cemetery and McKinley Place.

A banquet at the Grand Avenue Hotel, exercises at Wheeler Park, a parade and a program of speeches constituted the program of the Eighty-niners Association on April 22. One hundred members of the association were in line of march and 125 attended the banquet. Addresses at the park were made by Mayor Seales and Dr. J. H. O. Smith, pastor



of the First Christian Church. At the business session O. A. Mitscher was elected president. In the parade, D. C. Pryor rode a horse that belonged at that time to H. H. Schultz and was reputed to be the first horse that crossed the line in the run of '89. Later the horse was in the service of George Thornton, the city's first marshal. The meeting was attended by Mrs. Preston Sutton, whose maiden name was McKeane, who was said to have been the only woman in a section of the assembled hosts at the border to make the run on horseback and locate and hold a homestead. She became a teacher after the founding of the city and taught in a little building on Reno Avenue. During the festivities of the celebration C. H. Mead, a member of the association, who had for some time been ill, died, at the age of fifty-five. He was a cigar manufacturer.

These were such busy commercial days that the city's builders forgot in a measure to look after things touching civic beauty. It was of consequence, therefore, that during the year a civic club was organized by an enthusiastic set of forward-looking and intelligent men and women. They called it the Oklahoma City Civic Improvement Association and its chief purpose was beautification through the planting of trees, shrubbery, and flowers and creation and extension of public parks. C. A. McNabb, who had been secretary of the Territorial Board of Agriculture, was elected president, Will H. Clark, who probably was the most accomplished landscape artist in the city at that time, vice president, R. A. Kleinschmidt, a lawyer and member of the city council, secretary, and O. A. Mitscher, treasurer. These men and T. F. McMechan, Mrs. J. B. Taylor, wife of the city superintendent of schools, and A. H. Classen constituted the executive committee.

Sheriff George W. Garrison, while seeking to arrest Alf Hunter, a negro accused of murder in Oklahoma County, was shot and mortally wounded by the negro in Blaine County on June 5. The tragedy produced a profound sensation in the city and the state, for Sheriff Garrison was one of the best known law enforcers of the Southwest. Poses of officers from several counties of the western part of the state joined in search for the negro. He eluded them, however, but some



weeks later was apprehended in the eastern part of the state and duly tried and executed. On June 10th the county commissioners appointed Harvey Garrison, son of the deceased officer, to the office of sheriff.

Since only a corporation commissioner and two members of the Supreme Court were to be elected this year, politics was not as animated as in the previous year, although it was a presidential period. W. L. Alexander had the honor of participating as a delegate in the first national convention in which the new state had first and full representation. Mr. Bryan, the democratic nominee for president, carried the state by about 15,000 majority, and Richard Morgan of Woodward defeated Congressman E. L. Fulton for reelection in the second district. Champ Clark stumped sections of the state for democrats and Uncle Joe Cannon sections for republicans. United States Senator Beveridge spoke in behalf of Mr. Taft, the republican nominee, in Oklahoma City and the eastern part of the state. Governor Haskell was compelled to resign as treasurer of the Democratic National Campaign Committee because of charges made against him by W. R. Hearst and his speech in Oklahoma City after the resignation was characteristic of the man when aroused by political and personal animosity. It was an event.

In the election of November 3 the city voted bonds in the sum of \$325,000, of which \$300,000 was to be used in construction of a high school.

Other events of the year included the resignation of T. G. Chambers as city attorney and the appointment of W. R. Taylor as his successor; the purchase by W. B. Skirvin of a lot at First and Broadway as a site for the Skirvin Hotel, from G. W. Turley, for \$40,000, the lot having cost Turley in 1889 only \$12; the approval by Congress of a bill appropriating \$200,000 for a Federal building; the formal opening in June of the Lakeside Country Club, of which J. M. Bass was president, Joseph Huckins, Jr., vice president, E. T. Hathaway, secretary, and G. K. Williams, treasurer; the retirement of Dr. David R. Boyd as president of the University of Oklahoma, the election of Dr. A. Grant Evans of Tulsa as his successor and the appointment of Lee Cruce, W. R. Rowsey, Judge Clifton J. Pratt, Dr. N. L. Linebaugh, Dr. J. Matt





Gordon and J. P. Hickam as a board of regents; the awarding of paving contracts involving the expenditure of \$800,000, which would increase the number of paved miles to fifty-eight; the destruction by fire of the Lee Hotel on August 15, the loss being \$125,000, and the breaking of dirt on December 12 for the present ten-story Huckins Hotel; the announcement of the Oklahoma State Fair Association of an increase of capital stock from \$100,000 to \$200,000, of its intention to ask the state for an appropriation of \$100,000 to be used in building construction, and of the fact that nearly 65,000 paid admissions to the second fair had been received and that the association had netted \$14,000 out of the exposition; and reports that bank clearings for the year, totaling nearly \$50,000,000, had exceeded those of the previous year by over \$20,000,000, and that building permits had totaled \$2,700,000 which was more than double the total of the previous year.

Of the career of George B. Stone a writer of this period says:

"George B. Stone, to refer briefly to the principal event in his own career, was born at Mattoon, Ill., February 23, 1865. His parents were both born in Belmont County, Ohio. In 1849 his father went around the Horn to California, and in that state followed the trade of millwright as well as miner, and was one of the few who returned with some considerable addition to their material prosperity. Subsequently he was a contractor and builder in Illinois, Iowa and Kansas, also engaged in the live stock business, and during 1875-76 was at Cheyenne, Wyo., engaged in selling horses and mules to the Government for use in the Black Hills country. On account of ill health he removed to Old Mexico, and in the winter of 1878 established his home in West Texas.

"It was at this time that the active career of George B. Stone began. From 1878 until 1882 he rode the range, a veritable cowboy, and was in the employ of one of the large cattle outfits operating over the West Texas country. He was not only fearless and industrious, as most cowboys of the time were, but was also reliable in a business way, and consequently in 1882 his employers put him in charge of their ranch outfit, barns and transportation facilities at Colorado City, Texas. From there he removed in 1884 to Fort Worth, Texas.



and started to feed cattle for the market. He suffered from a disastrous fire and in 1885 removed to El Paso, and for a time was a salesman for the firm of L. B. Frudenthal & Company, wholesale dry goods and groceries. In 1887 Mr. Stone removed to Wolf City, Texas, and there first became actively identified with the real estate business. He constructed the first brick building in Wolf City, rented the lower floor for a bank, retaining his own office in the same building. In 1889 he removed his business headquarters to New Birmingham, Texas, and there had charge of the real estate department for the New Birmingham Iron & Land Company. In the spring of 1890 Mr. Stone identified himself with Wichita Falls, Texas. He was in that city during its greatest period of development, when it became a railroad and business center, was in the real estate business and made himself in many ways an active factor in the upbuilding of the city. In 1897 Mr. Stone served as delegate from Texas to the Trans-Mississippi Congress at Salt Lake City. There he was instrumental in having the congress advocate a new measure in which he saw great prospective benefit and which provided that the state of Texas should so amend its constitution as to permit bonds to be issued against land in arid sections for irrigation purposes.

"Before coming to Oklahoma Mr. Stone had actively assisted in the expansion of its original territory for settlement. In February, 1899, he went to Washington, D. C., to advocate the opening of the Kiowa and Comanche country on the theory that it was a natural stock raising district and that by the use of silos could be made one of the most useful regions for the production of live stock in the United States. It was in 1900 that Mr. Stone removed to Oklahoma City, where he has since been engaged in the real estate and insurance business.

"Since its organization in 1907 he has been a director of the Oklahoma State Fair Association and has been vice president since 1913. He is a director of the American National Bank of Oklahoma City; a member of the Oklahoma City Men's Dinner Club, and a member of the First Presbyterian Church."



## 1909—COMING OF THE PACKERS

A more dramatic hour never was experienced in the city's history than one of a May day in 1909 when representative business men in a mass meeting, perceiving an industrial opportunity the importance of which seldom comes to a community and never to but few communities, signed pledges for nearly \$500,000 to secure a packing plant costing in the neighborhood of \$3,000,000. Secretary McKeand's 2-cent stamp and a little message of invitation were getting results.

A representative of Nelson Morris & Company, a Chicago packing firm, being impressed with the advantageous location of the city and its railroad facilities, told these business men that his company would erect a packery here if it was given a cash bonus of \$300,000 and some minor concessions. A handful of boosters listened intently. Almost with one accord they said, "We'll do it." A mass meeting was the initial consequence. When the opportunity was offered for subscriptions, Anton H. Classen, the town booster from away back, asked to be registered as giving \$10,000. Oscar G. Lee, the hotel builder, said he'd take \$10,000. So did C. F. Colcord and C. G. Jones. A little man with a modulated voice, as animated and as eager as the rest, said, "Gentlemen, I am not a rich man, but I know what this means to all of us and I want to make my subscription \$25,000!" It was Sidney L. Brock, the department store owner and president of the Chamber of Commerce. "Three cheers for Brock!" some one shouted, and he got it, unanimously, whole-heartedly. The tension tightened as animation increased, the tension of grit, of perseverance, of heroic determination. A stock exchange with a disturbed market had been transplanted here. A ledge of gold of fabulous possibilities had been touched by a prospector's pick. An oil gusher drilled into a pool of potential millions had been uncapped and allowed to flow.

Like a gambler who stakes his all on the last draw, Anton



Classen, brimful and radiant of enthusiasm, shouted: "Raise my subscription to \$40,000!" Adventurers followed suit and in very little more time than is required to tell the story the chief backers of prosperity subscribed over \$400,000. Then it was announced that Mr. Brock and G. B. Stone had secured an option on 575 acres of land for a consideration of \$180,000 and that they had put up \$25,000 to bind the deal. Whereupon a temporary organization of an industrial district company was perfected with a view of selling lots out of the proceeds of which to raise the bonus of \$300,000 as a reimbursement of their own outlay. The temporary directors were A. H. Classen, Oscar G. Lee, Sidney L. Brock, C. B. Ames, G. B. Stone, Seymour Heyman, J. F. Harbour, C. F. Colcord, C. H. Ruth, O. P. Workman and J. M. Owen.

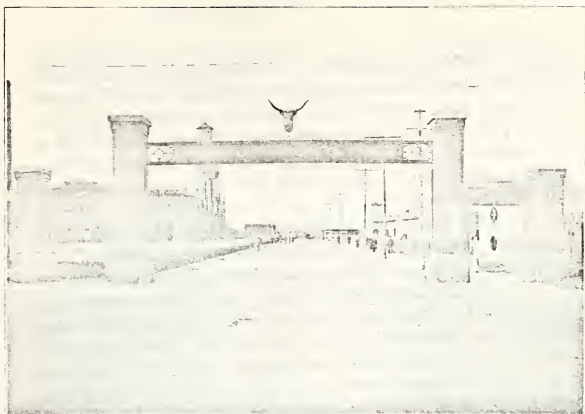
The temper of this gathering spread quickly throughout the city. It radiated in every business house, office and shop. Within twenty-four hours the gas and electric company announced that it would double the capacity of its plant by an expenditure of over \$600,000. The telephone company announced that its capacity would be increased with an outlay of hundreds of thousands of dollars. John Shartel reported that Henry M. Daugherty of Ohio was due to arrive in the city to go over plans with the officials of the street railway company for constructing interurban lines. These were real oracles of prosperity and what the oracles prophesied came true.

Mr. Daugherty arrived in due time and in due time interurban construction began. In view of the fact that eleven years later this Ohio lawyer-financier became attorney general in the cabinet of President W. H. Harding, it is not unpardonable—on the contrary, it is pertinent—to quote a brief expression he made: "Personally, I think this is the greatest town in the United States. I haven't the slightest doubt about its growth and its stability. It is a city of enterprising men who exercise business judgment."

When, a few days later, an industrial company was formed, Mr. Brock was elected president, Mr. Stone, vice president, Mr. McKeand, secretary, and Mr. Jones, W. T. Hales, Edward H. Cooke (who had telegraphed his subscription from Enid on mass meeting day), Mr. Classen, Mr. Lee, Mr. Ames,







ENTRANCE TO THE OKLAHOMA NATIONAL STOCKYARDS



PENS AT THE OKLAHOMA NATIONAL STOCKYARDS



Mr. Colcord and Mr. Heyman, directors. On the 14th of the following June a representative of the Schwarzschild & Sulzberger Packing Company of Chicago came to town, and with him negotiations were started that resulted some time later in his company concluding to match the Morris enterprise in what was soon to become Packerstown. Activities relative to packeries during the next few months touched the platting of lots, securing rights of way for railroad trackage and loops, and the actual construction of the Morris plant.

This was a year of unparalleled commercial and industrial progress on the one hand and of official scandal, lax law enforcement, grand jury investigations and petit jury trials and removals from office on the other hand. It was a conglomerate year, but one in which individual and public progress outstripped sordidness, misanthropy and corruption and in which public decency and civic ideals ascended to a measure of triumph. It opened with the boost spirit and atmospheric element. Jobbers said that in twelve months their business had increased from \$18,500,000 to \$20,000,000. Bank deposits increased over \$2,000,000 in less than two months. Prosperity seemed to be growing on the trees, popping out of the bushes and forming like dew upon the grass. And while this spirit was prevalent the board of park commissioners, W. F. Vahlberg, William H. Clark and Kay W. Dawson, took advantage of it and proposed a bond issue of \$400,000 for park purchases and improvements, and their will prevailed in the April election. Out of the proceeds they secured the site for, laid out and graded and bridged a twenty-seven mile speedway completely encircling the city, known soon as Grand Boulevard, and purchased and began improvements on a tract of about seven hundred acres which the residents knew for some years as Northeast Lake but which was appropriately and patriotically christened Lincoln Park. It was an enterprise of magnificent possibilities and more scientific improvement of it was under way in 1921. But always prosperity and a spiritualized civic sense could not continue uninterruptedly and, for the lack of funds, the lack of perception of a necessity, and because of public and financial vicissitudes of the future, including war, the boulevard in the rough was in large measure neglected. Its possibilities



remain, and some of this generation may witness realization of the hopes of its promoters, that it be famed as the ideal motor race course of the country.

On March 25 the Oklahoma City Civic Improvement Association held its annual meeting. The attendance of twenty-five members was recorded, which was a record in numbers for those days of engrossing business thought. The association resolved to buy 3,000 packets of seeds to be given to the Federation of Women's Clubs for distribution, and it discussed practical ways of park extension and beautification. C. A. McNabb was elected president, Curtis Bronson, J. H. Bell, A. B. Snell, the Rev. Thomas Harper, John H. Myers and J. A. Braniff, vice presidents, and Mrs. J. B. Taylor, secretary.

The getting accustomed to prohibition was entered upon half-heartedly by anti-prohibitionists and local-optionists. The thought was repugnant to radicals among those elements whose influence openly flouted law enforcement. Radicals interpreted the belief of these elements as public sentiment and bootleggers elevated it above the statutes. Bootlegging became open and notorious, so much so that suspicion attached to both county and city officials. It reached such notorious stages that Governor Haskell, after an investigation, concluded that officials of the Federal Government were conspiring to defeat the will of the majority in the new state. In a lengthy communication to President Taft he prayed that the Government make a probe. Distrust and dissatisfaction permeated the city administration and an extended and acrimonious controversy between Mayor Seales and Chief of Police Hubatka eventually terminated in the mayor discharging the chief. Hubatka, however, declined to remove his star and the battle waged again with more vigor than before. The discordant atmosphere of the city hall at length caused District Judge George W. Clark to summon a grand jury.

Suspicion also attached to the county courthouse, where bootleggers were said to have exercised an influence productive of laxity. It should be noted that law and order leagues and other associations of law-abiding residents had been formed during the reign of lawlessness and that their influence was gradually enlightening the law-breakers. These



organizations quietly went to the governor and their visit inspired the governor to instruct Attorney General Charles West to institute an inquiry. County Attorney E. E. Reardon offered assistance of his office to the attorney general but concluded to withdraw it after Mayor Scales had protested that the state officials should have a free hand. West convened a grand jury and it returned indictments against the chief of police and some other officials. The attorney general then said he purposed continuing sessions of the inquisitorial body to investigate the cause of the failure of the Columbia Bank & Trust Company of Oklahoma City. This was the first state bank failure after the adoption of the bank-guaranty law. Believing that the law was under fire of its enemies and that the financial situation was somewhat acute, Governor Haskell asked Mr. West to forego an investigation.

Enforcement advocates, however, were not satisfied with results and they petitioned the assembling of another grand jury. This was done on approval of state officials and Governor Haskell assigned John M. Hays, counsellor for the state enforcement department, to direct the probe. This roused the wrath of Mayor Scales and some rather intemperate communications were exchanged by the two executives. In the meantime District Judge Stilwell H. Russell of Ardmore, who had been assigned to the local bench for special cases, quashed indictments against Hubatka and other officials. The first grand jury had recommended the suspension of Sheriff Harvey Garrison on the charge of bribery, and Judge Clarke, who issued the suspension order, appointed Samuel Calhoun sheriff for the term of the suspension. Calhoun resigned after a few weeks and was succeeded by U. S. Grant, a hotel keeper. Grant held the office but a short time and was succeeded by M. C. Binion, who served until May 13, 1910, when Judge Russell vacated the suspension order and restored Garrison to the office, the latter having offered convincing proof that his indictment was brought about by perjured testimony.

During the year an organization known as the Sons of Washington was formed in the state. While it advocated strict law enforcement, it opposed the principle of prohibition. Its influence became an important factor in political affairs, bringing about an initiated measure providing for repeal of





the prohibition law and the announcement the next year of a candidate for governor who advocated local option. The measure was defeated in the November election of next year by a majority of over twenty thousand and the candidate suffered defeat in the primary of the August preceding.

Mayor Scales was reelected in the April election, defeating George Dodson, the republican nominee, and John Hubatka was reelected chief of police. James S. Twyford, republican nominee for city attorney, and Robert Parman, republican nominee for city clerk, were elected, as were J. T. Highley, democratic nominee for police judge, and E. C. Trueblood, democratic nominee for city treasurer. In an autumn election bonds aggregating \$185,000 for sewer extensions were voted and other propositions relating to a city hall site and the construction of a city hall were defeated.

Senator Campbell Russell's resolution providing for the appointment of a joint commission of fourteen members of the Senate and House to prepare a bill touching the subject of the capital location was adopted by the Senate January 11. In substance the measure contemplated carrying out the New Jerusalem plan which had been approved in the election of 1908. The Oklahoma City capital organization had been kept intact and it employed Prof. Henry Meier of the State University to determine what was the exact geographical center of the state. On January 22, Professor Meier reported that he had found the center to be two and a quarter miles east and one and a quarter miles north of the town of Britton, and in the southwest quarter of section 23-12n-3e.

In February Senator Russell himself prepared the sort of a bill he would have had prepared by a commission. It provided for the appointment of a commission of five to make selections and secure options on not less than sixteen nor more than thirty-six sections of land not more than fifty miles from the center of the state to be used for capital purposes. It provided for the issuance of bonds for building purposes that were to be retired out of the proceeds of land sales, and that the commission should make its report by July 1, 1909, and the governor was directed to call an election for a date not later than August 1, 1909. This bill was passed by the Senate on March 2.



The local capital organization proceeded to the preparation of a bill of its own. H. A. Johnson was chairman of the drafting committee. The measure was completed by May 1 and petitions asking for an election were put in circulation. It contained some of the features of the Russell bill but it provided that the capital lands should be within five miles of an established town and for the securing of options on not to exceed 2,000 acres of land, out of the sale of part of which funds were to be derived to reimburse the state for an initial capitol-building appropriation. It proposed to amend the constitution to remove the inhibition created by the Enabling Act against removal of the capital before 1913, and provided for the creation of a capital commission of three members. Petitions were filed with the secretary of state on July 28. A Guthrie capital organization sought to restrain the secretary of state from calling an election under the initiative law, and on August 14, W. A. Ledbetter, representing the local organization, applied to the Supreme Court for an order prohibiting District Judge A. H. Huston of Guthrie from interfering with the secretary of state. Leo Meyer, acting secretary of state, asked that a hearing be held as to the legality and sufficiency of the petition.

And while these events were transpiring, I. M. Putnam, an Oklahoma City real estate dealer, who as a member of the first state Legislature, had introduced a capital-removal measure, believing that eventually the capital would be located on a virgin spot near an established town, began acquiring lands northwest of Oklahoma City. Putnam's was one of the most dramatic speculations in the history of the Southwest. On September 11, he paid or contracted to pay Henry Schaffer of El Reno and J. W. Maney of Oklahoma City \$266,000 for 1,028 acres of land between the Putnam Heights Addition and a site some miles to the west for a suburban town he had tentatively named Oklaeadian, on a proposed interurban extension. Previously Putnam had bought 800 acres in that vicinity for \$251,000. The name of the projected "model city" later was changed to Putnam City. The tracts were platted, streets marked and named, trees planted, buildings erected and other improvements made, and Mr. Putnam had the pleasure on November 6 of welcoming there the first inter-



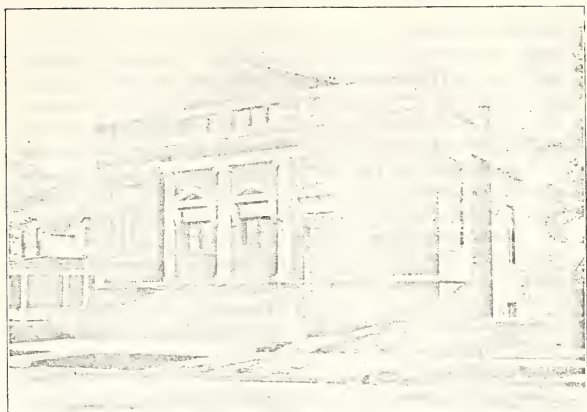
urban car run by the Oklahoma Railway Company over a line that was building to El Reno.

Profiting by the defeat of a proposed city charter in the previous year, representative men, still desirous of municipal reforms, this year initiated another movement toward construction and adoption of a charter. The movement had its inception in a Good Government League of which, early in the year, Dr. A. K. West was president. Doctor West retired, however, before the campaign started and was succeeded by J. M. Bass and he a few weeks later by R. A. Kleinschmidt. President W. T. Corder of the city council, in the absence of Mayor Scales, on November 7, issued a call for an election to be held December 6 for the selection of a board of freeholders to draft a charter. The freeholders elected were George K. Williams, Dr. C. B. Bradford, J. H. Everest, Henry G. Snyder, Thomas H. Harper, John W. Stevens, J. C. Johnson, J. M. McCornack, Loyal J. Miller and Samuel Murphy.

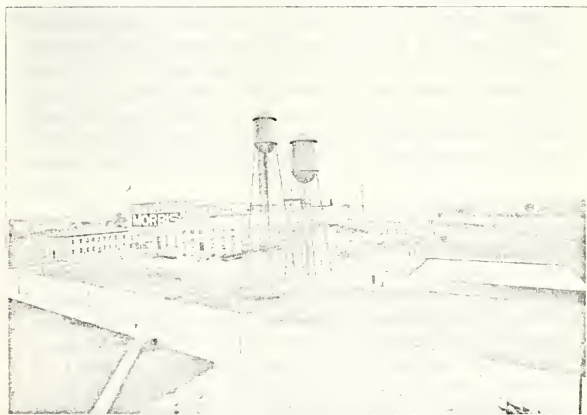
The Eighty-niners Association held a celebration on opening day that was a little more ambitious than on former anniversaries, staging a parade and executing a program at Delmar Garden. In the parade appeared Belle Cunningham, the first white child born in Oklahoma, and George Stiles carried the first flag that floated in the new city. Addresses were delivered by Dr. A. C. Scott and E. D. Cameron, state superintendent of education. A committee consisting of J. A. J. Baugus, Sidney Clarke and J. W. Johnson was appointed to draft a bill to be presented to the Legislature providing that April 22 should be a legal holiday throughout the state. O. A. Mitscher was reelected president of the association, A. D. Marble, vice president, J. A. J. Baugus, secretary, and Mrs. Fred Sutton, treasurer.

On June 19 of this year occurred the death of Sidney Clarke, a member of the Eighty-niners Association and one of the ablest of Oklahoma pioneers. He had been a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln and Mr. Lincoln had given him a commission in the army. He had served three terms in Congress from Kansas and was a friend and advisor of Capt. David Payne and Capt. W. L. Couch, the original boomer leaders. He was a native of Massachusetts, having been born in Southbridge in 1831. For five years he was editor of the





TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL



PACKING PLANT OF MORRIS & COMPANY





Southbridge Press, and in 1885 he was commissioned by the Chicago Tribune to accompany General Sheridan to Fort Reno to settle some incipient Indian troubles. Prior to that, however, he had settled in Lawrence, Kan., and from his district was elected to the state Legislature in 1858. He was elected to Congress in 1864 and reelected twice thereafter. He was defeated for reelection in 1870 and in 1878 was a candidate for the United States Senate. He came to Oklahoma at the time of the opening and was one of the founders of the city government. His was a trained and logical mind and he had the temperament and capacity of a safe and useful leader. At his funeral, orations were delivered by Dr. A. C. Scott and the Rev. Thomas H. Harper.

Interests represented by L. E. Patterson, which had constructed a section of street railroad and contemplated an interurban line to Shawnee, were granted a franchise in the April election that apparently paved the way for an entrance to the business district. These interests were merged on November 11 with interests represented by Homer S. Hurst of Holdenville and out of the merger grew the Citizens Traction Company, which was organized with a capital stock of \$300,000, and of which L. E. Patterson, H. S. Hurst, W. F. Harn, J. F. Winans and Alfred Hare, the latter of Shawnee, were elected directors. The merger came about through the Hurst interests blocking the route of the Patterson interests east from McNabb Park and the Patterson interests blocking the way of the Hurst interests to an Oklahoma City terminal.

Other events of the year included the organization of the permanent Oklahoma Municipal League, of which Mayor Scales was elected president and City Attorney W. R. Taylor, chairman of the executive and legislative committee; the organization of the Men's Dinner Club, of which C. B. Ames was elected president, H. G. Snyder, secretary, and Dr. A. C. Scott, Dr. A. K. West, Dr. George Bradford, Judge George W. Clark, D. W. Hogan and J. C. Clark, members of the executive committee; a visit of John W. Gates, who purposed building a railroad from Oklahoma City to Wichita Falls, but who announced that he was deterred by a constitutional provision that forbade the sale of a new railroad to an estab-



lished railroad company operating in the state; the granting of a new twenty-five-year franchise to the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company; establishment of the Tradesmen's Bank with a capital of \$50,000, of which Frank Wikoff was elected president, J. C. McClelland, vice president, and J. E. Mundell, cashier; the organization of a Board of Trade, of which Buran House was elected president, R. H. Drennan, vice president, and Major Moberly, secretary; the death, September 4, of Dr. Daniel Munger, the first physician to open an office in the city; the circulation of a petition by an organization headed by Dorset Carter, and of which A. L. Walker of Waurika was secretary, asking for an election to eliminate from the constitution that article objectionable to railroad promoters; completion of the Great White Way on Main Street, which was celebrated with speeches by H. Y. Thompson, W. T. Corder, Seymour Heyman and J. F. Harbour, the latter being credited with being the father of the lighting movement; and the organization of the Oklahoma Methodist College, of which Dr. A. C. Enochs was elected president, the Rev. Frank Barrett, vice president, W. W. Robertson, secretary, Dr. J. M. Bostelle, treasurer, and Dr. N. L. Linebaugh, superintendent of construction and the sale of lots, whereby funds were to be obtained for building purposes on a site selected two miles north of Britton.

---

Leslie's Weekly published an article written by Sidney L. Brock, entitled "The Truth About Oklahoma," from which the following two paragraphs are taken:

"As the result of the follow-up correspondence campaign of the Chamber of Commerce in 1908 and 1909, placing before the great packers information of the production, source of origin and destination of live stock shipments from Oklahoma, and the advantages of Oklahoma as a suitable place for the establishment of a packing plant, negotiations were opened with Morris & Company of Chicago. Their representative looked over the field, quietly secured options on a large tract close to the city and then called on the writer with a view to closing the deal with our Chamber of Commerce. In company with one trusted associate, a tentative agreement was made, guaranteeing on the part of the packers the establishment of



a great live stock market. The citizens of Oklahoma City, on the other hand, were to pay the packers a cash bonus of \$300,000 and grant other reasonable and necessary specified conditions in relation to sewer connections, water and gas extensions and exemption from taxation for a five year term.

"How to get the cash bonus was the question. The writer and his associate, George B. Stone, hit upon this plan: The packers were induced to accept half the bonus when the plant should be ready for operation and the balance a year from that date. Their representative consented to no publicity till we gave the word. Options on 575 acres of land were secured, the best land adjoining and overlooking the packing district from the south, and all within the three mile limit of the center of Oklahoma City, the cost of the land being \$184,000. Three tedious days saw the options in our hands; then the directors of the Chamber were called in and needless to say quickly ratified the tentative agreement. The Oklahoma Industrial Company was planned, with a capitalization of \$400,000, to finance the proposition and guarantee the bonus. At a mass meeting on the 19th of May at 10 o'clock the Assembly Hall could not contain the multitude. The announcement of the securing of the Morris proposition was made and the plans were laid before the assemblage for financing it, and the statement was made, 'it is up to you to make good and secure this great enterprise.' Did they respond? Four hundred and twenty-seven thousand dollars were subscribed in an hour and thirty minutes amid great cheering and enthusiastic addresses, all of one tone—that of approval and hearty cooperation. The packers began to build and the land company to plot and to sell. In the year's time nearly \$700,000 worth of lots had been sold and 2,000 out of the original 44,000 lots were still on hand."

In reviewing this achievement which meant so much to the future welfare and development of Oklahoma City, the Daily Oklahoman paid Mr. Brock and his associates the following editorial tribute: "Not everyone knows the tremendous efforts which were put forth by Mr. Brock and Mr. Stone. Not everybody knows that Sidney Brock rifled the bank account of his big dry goods store and took out \$25,000 of his own money with which to purchase options which would be necessary to



insure the location of the big plant in Oklahoma City. He did this without any guarantee that one dollar would be refunded to him in case he lost and the Morris Company decided to locate elsewhere. He did it without hope of one cent of profit to himself other than the indirect benefit of the location of the packing plant here. One city in a thousand can produce men of the spirit and caliber of Sidney Brock and George Stone. And any community which is fortunate enough to claim citizens who are ready and willing to stake a large part of their fortune on the hazard of greatly benefiting their town can never go backward."





## 1910—THE CAPITAL ACHIEVED

By an incontestable majority the people of the state on June 11, 1910, approved of the Oklahoma City capital bill. The returns were so patently indicative of the outcome that long before the official count was made Governor Haskell unofficially made declaration of the result and moved his office force and part of his records from Guthrie and established himself in the Huckins Hotel. By night the great seal of the state was secretly brought to the metropolis. The morning after the election, when the Guthrie committee was considering a legal blocking procedure, the governor indicted a letter to Judge J. H. Burford, counsel for the committee, in which he advised that if the committee desired to serve him in the name of the law he could be found in his hotel office in Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma City postponed plans for its campaign until after it had negotiated a contract for the location of a second \$3,000,000 packing plant and successfully waged a campaign for the issuance of \$660,000 of bonds for public improvements. The bonds carried by a substantial majority on April 5, and of the amount, \$300,000 was for schools, \$150,000 for improving the fire department, \$10,000 for establishing a fire alarm system and \$200,000 for purchasing Delmar Garden and improving the channel of the Canadian River.

Governor Haskell on March 27, being convinced that the Oklahoma City capital committee had complied with the law relating to the initiation of bills and of the sufficiency of the petition filed with the secretary of state, issued a call for an election on June 11. The petition contained nearly twenty-eight thousand names and they were of residents of a majority of the counties of the state. On April 5, 1,500 persons attended the first capital mass meeting, presided over by Sidney L. Brock and a campaign committee was appointed with E. K. Gaylord as chairman. Acting on advice of Governor



Haskell, who, it should be noted, was from the outset in favor of the Oklahoma City measure and of the location of the capital here, but who adroitly manifested a more or less impartial attitude, the committee on May 20 appointed a sub-committee to prepare legal options on capitol lands and another committee to secure options. The first committee was composed of J. H. Everest, C. B. Ames and W. A. Ledbetter, and the second of C. F. Coleord, Henry Overholser, S. L. Brock, F. P. Johnson and W. L. Alexander. At the same time Chairman Gaylord sent a challenge to Senator Campbell Russell to debate the issue jointly with Judge E. S. Hurt of Madill who had been employed by the committee for that purpose, Russell meanwhile having initiated a New Jerusalem bill to be submitted in the November election. Senator Russell accepted the challenge and one of the outstanding features of the campaign was this series of joint debates.

On the 1st day of June the options committee submitted to Governor Haskell four propositions. The first of them was that 1,380 acres of land northeast of the city could be obtained for \$275,000 and 800 acres additional without cost. The second was made by I. M. Putnam, who meantime had invested \$200,000 in a quarter-section of land in the vicinity of Putnam City, making the total of his investments there nearly \$750,000. His proposition was that for and in consideration of \$1 he would deliver to the state 2,000 acres of land near Putnam City. The third was that 800 acres of land could be had for \$36.50 an acre about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of the city. The fourth called for the expenditure of \$250 an acre for 1,500 acres east of the city.

This report actuated the committees at Guthrie and Shawnee to move more definitely toward a site and acreage vantage point, and within a few days each submitted to the governor a proposition.

The campaign necessarily was carried into every community of the state. While the Oklahoma City committee and other organizations and the ministers in the pulpits counseled fair play and an honest election, and while there is no doubt that in a general way it was as clean a fight as ever was made by a municipality, strategy and treachery and acrimony were indulged in to an extent by all three of the com-





DANIEL V. LACKEY



mittees of applicant cities. The majority for Oklahoma City was over thirty thousand. The victory was celebrated at the State Fair Park on June 15. Fifteen thousand persons participated and the principal address was made by Governor Haskell. The following day the governor issued his proclamation declaring Oklahoma City the capital. Already the Guthrie committee had secured an injunction in the District Court forbidding other state officials from moving to Oklahoma City. The committee appealed also to United States Judge Ralph Campbell but he dismissed the petition, holding that he was without jurisdiction. Another appeal went from Guthrie to the President and immediately Attorney General West asked for a conference with United States Attorney General Wickersham. Governor Haskell made the next move by applying to the Supreme Court for a writ of prohibition against the interference of District Judge Huston of Logan County. The Supreme Court, four weeks later, in an opinion written by Justice R. L. Williams held that nothing in the constitution forbade the governor maintaining his office at any place in the state but denied the right of other state officials to maintain their offices elsewhere than in the capital, which the court indicated had not been legally removed from Guthrie.

The governor, however, proceeded with plans for carrying out the will of the people. He appointed a capital commission consisting of Dr. Leo Bennett of Muskogee, J. B. A. Robertson of Chandler and Tate Brady of Tulsa. B. S. Utterback was chosen secretary of the commission. Robertson resigned a short time later and his place was taken by Boone Williams of Lehigh, who had been a member of the constitutional convention. On August 23 the commission announced its acceptance of the offer of the Putnam tract. It employed Dr. Charles N. Gould of the State University to make a survey relating to water supply and drainage, and arranged with George E. Kessler, a landscape architect, to make preliminary plans for landscaping the capital block.

Another case contesting the legality of the June 11 election having reached the Supreme Court, that tribunal on November 15 issued an opinion declaring void that provision of the Enabling Act relating to the temporary location of the



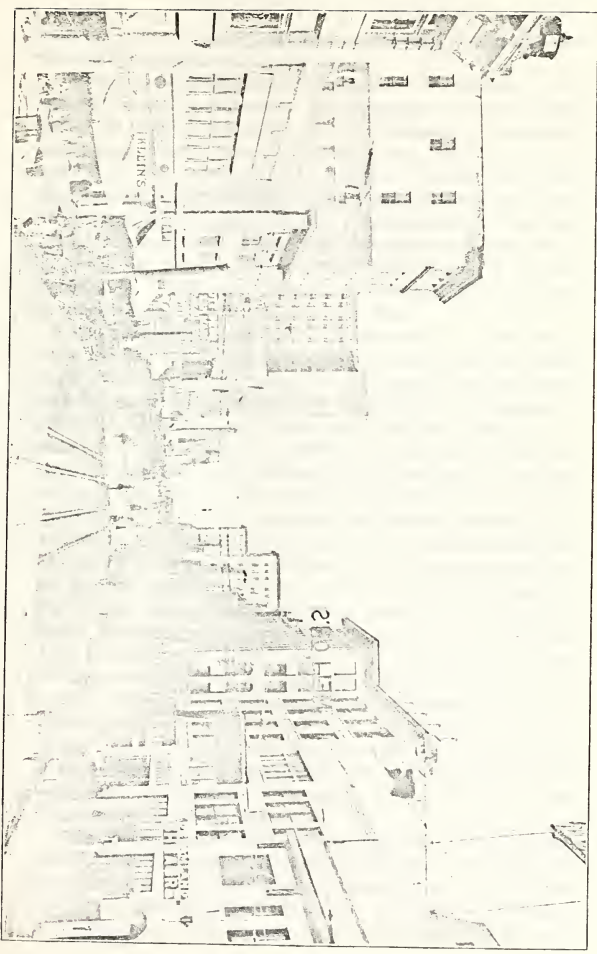


capital and asserting that the people of the state had power and authority to locate the capital for themselves. This opinion did not uphold the June 11 election, and Governor Haskell issued a call for an extraordinary session of the Legislature to enact a law definitely and permanently locating the seat of government. The Legislature was convened on November 28 and immediately both houses ratified the call of the executive. In due time a bill was introduced in the House known as the Durant-Thompson bill providing that Oklahoma City should be declared the permanent state capital. The bill was passed by the House after the name of Dan Peery of Carnegie had been hyphenated into the title. Since Mr. Peery, a member of the first Territorial Legislature had been the first man to suggest Oklahoma City as the capital, as has been told by the late F. S. Barde in another part of this history, that distinguished pioneer was gratified by the honor of having a part in making the last legislative contribution to the subject.

In the Senate a bill was introduced by Senator J. B. Thompson of Pauls Valley providing for the sale of certain tracts of state school land north of the city for capital purposes. This bill was reported to have been sanctioned by the governor. On December 8, Senator Thompson, chairman of the capital committee, addressed a letter to "the people of the state of Oklahoma" in which he asserted that no bill would be reported favorably or passed by the Legislature until that body had been given positive and substantial assurance that the people of the state, by virtue of the act, were to receive a capital without cost to them. The Oklahoma City committee again went into action. It was advised that the senator was speaking for others also in high authority and it was convinced that the Putnam site would be abandoned and another selected nearer to, and in a northeasterly direction from, the city. Whereupon it secured options on tracts to the northeast, and on December 14 the Senate passed a resolution accepting the offer of a site at the intersection of Twenty-third Street and Lincoln Boulevard. When this resolution reached the House, which had craved the honor of initiating capital legislation, that body promptly tabled it. Conferences led to an early amicable settlement of minor disputes and the



MAIN STREET OF THE BIGGY DAYS





measure was adopted by the House and duly signed and approved by Speaker W. B. Anthony.

With the issue thus definitely settled, with Oklahoma City almost beyond peradventure the permanent capital of the state, the capital committee then reorganized its forces to assist state officials and the Capital Commission in preliminary steps for construction of a building. The first step was the organization of the Capital Building Company, of which C. G. Jones was elected temporary president and Orin Ashton temporary secretary. Temporary directors were Henry Overholser, C. F. Colcord, C. G. Jones, W. F. Harn, J. J. Culbertson, K. W. Dawson, Edward S. Vaught, O. J. Johnson, E. F. Sparrow, S. L. Brock and O. G. Lee.

The historic performance of the previous year respecting the establishment of a packing plant, the boosters were called upon to repeat on February 1 of this year. On that date a definite proposal was received by the Chamber of Commerce from the Schwarzhild & Sulzberger Packing Company. It asked for a cash bonus of \$300,000, water, sewer and gas main extensions to the building site, a fire station near the site, and free water to the amount of 350,000 gallons daily for five years. A committee consisting of Weston Atwood, O. G. Lee, Seymour Heyman, John Shartel and William Mee was appointed to consider the proposal. It learned shortly that the Delmar Garden tract was available for subdivision purposes, the tract at that time being owned by the Parkside Realty Company, composed of C. F. Colcord, J. R. Keaton, John Sinopoulo and John Marre. Part of it was under lease to the baseball association. The tract consisted of 164 acres and was offered to the Packinghouse Development Company, which was formed shortly thereafter, for \$250,000. A tract of fifty acres adjoining was offered for \$95,000 by J. S. Carle. J. A. J. Baugus, who owned 128 acres near the park on the west, offered the company the proceeds of sales above a net price to him of \$1,900 an acre.

The Packinghouse Development Company had a capital stock of \$400,000 and shares were \$100 each. The incorporators were Seymour Heyman, Solomon Barth, A. H. Clasen, C. H. Russell, C. F. Colcord, W. T. Hales, G. B. Stone, A. E. Monroney, J. R. Keaton, O. G. Lee and O. P. Workman.



At a mass meeting held on February 4, the cash bonus was guaranteed to the packers. Mr. Classen led the subscription makers with an offer of \$20,000. Within twenty minutes \$100,000 was subscribed. Among those who subscribed \$10,000 each were C. F. Coleord, R. J. Edwards, W. T. Hales, E. H. Cooke, S. L. Brock and C. G. Jones. "What will Putnam do?" some one shouted. The premier young real estate promoter answered, "I'll take all that is left." This the assemblage greeted with uproarious applause. But the hot cakes continued to go so rapidly Putnam feared what was left would be too small for a man's honor to rest securely upon and he changed front and announced a subscription of \$20,000. In an interim of comparative quietude Seymour Heyman, burning with a zeal that revealed the man's conception of modern city building, exclaimed, "A booster is one who does all the good he can just as long as he can to all the people he can and leaves the rest to God. A knocker is a thing on a door; who the hell wants to be a knocker?"

Later the Packinghouse Development Company No. 2 was organized with John Shartel, president, C. F. Coleord, vice president, I. M. Putnam, vice president, O. P. Workman, general manager, Seymour Heyman, treasurer, and A. W. McKeand, secretary. Construction of the second packery was started April 11. On October 3 the Morris plant was formally opened. Sidney L. Brock pushed the electric button that put machinery in motion and speeches were made by Governor Haskell, Graves Leeper and Mr. Brock. It was estimated that 25,000 persons went through the plant that day. Two thousand men were given employment and during the day 2,500 hogs, 1,500 cattle and 1,000 sheep were slaughtered.

Another city charter went to defeat by a difference in totals of less than one hundred votes on August 2. The instrument was completed early in the year. Sections of it were condemned in the campaign by the Good Government League which found that ward and political lines had not been obliterated in the manner the league had advocated. An amendment by Loyal J. Miller of the freeholders, which provoked the first controversy, was adopted, with the result that a bitter war arose between organizations for and against the political subdivi-





sion program. W. A. Ledbetter, representing a conciliation committee, appeared before the board and a semblance of harmony resulted. The general campaign for adoption of the charter was conducted by the City Charter Club, organized April 8, of which Dr. C. B. Bradford was president, Joseph Huckins, Jr., vice president, Samuel Murphy, secretary, Guy Blackwelder, assistant secretary, and Guy Turner, treasurer.

In the November election Lee Cruce was chosen governor, defeating Joseph McNeal of Guthrie, the republican nominee, by 30,000 votes. McNeal had defeated C. G. Jones of Oklahoma City for the nomination. The effort of Mr. Jones to secure the nomination for governor was his last active participation in politics in Oklahoma. At this election the people defeated an initiated measure repealing the prohibition article of the constitution, and they defeated an amendment giving women suffrage and the Russell New Jerusalem amendment. Other state officers elected were J. J. McAlester, lieutenant governor; B. F. Harrison, secretary of state; Leo Meyer, auditor; Charles West, attorney general; Robert Dunkop, treasurer; R. H. Wilson, superintendent of public instruction; Charles A. Taylor, examiner and inspector; Ed Boyle, mine inspector; P. A. Ballard, insurance commissioner; Giles W. Farris, state printer; Charles L. Daugherty, commissioner of labor; Kate Barnard, commissioner of charities and corrections; G. T. Bryan, president of the board of agriculture; W. H. L. Campbell, clerk of the Supreme Court, and as then constituted the corporation commission consisted of George A. Henshaw, A. P. Watson and Jack Love. Members of the Supreme Court were John B. Turner, R. L. Williams, M. J. Kane, S. W. Hayes and Jesse J. Dunn. Members of the Criminal Court of Appeals were Henry M. Furman, James R. Armstrong and Thomas H. Doyle.

Members of the Chamber of Commerce, believing that business men had profited from mistakes of former campaigns and, having become educated to the possible advantages of a commission form of government, determined to have another charter prepared, the fourth in the city's history. Accordingly on October 10 a committee was appointed to lay plans to that end. The committee consisted of O. P. Workman, J. M. Owen and C. F. Colcord. Two days later a campaign com-



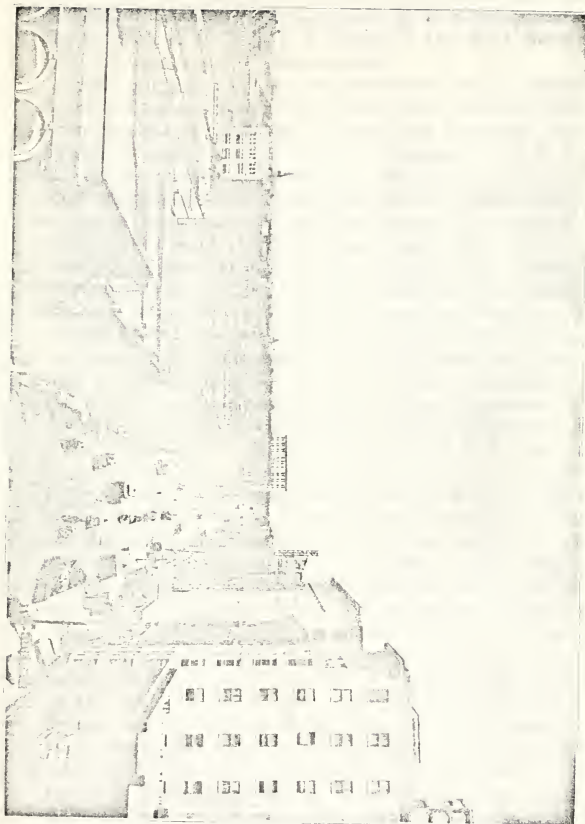
mittee was appointed of which R. E. Stafford was chairman and W. E. Campbell, secretary. The Chamber selected and gave public endorsement of candidates of both democratic and republican parties for freeholders. Freeholders elected were Dr. C. B. Bradford, John W. Nicely, Robert Chowning, George Ross, Claude Weaver, W. W. Storm, B. C. Housel, J. C. Gilmore, George Shotwell, J. H. Stewart, Clark C. Hudson, R. A. Caldwell, W. R. Clement, L. Radin, J. F. Warren and Frank Wells. A committee to write the charter was selected, consisting of Mr. Hudson, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Shotwell, Mr. Storm and Mr. Stewart.

New Orleans' Mardi Gras was imitated this year in the character of the natal day celebration. The celebration was promoted by the Eighty-niners Association and a new organization known as the Aprillis Fiesta Company, the directors of which were Mrs. Fred Sutton, Mrs. Mary McClure, Mrs. Marion F. Rock, Mrs. C. A. McNabb, Mrs. James George, Mrs. W. R. Clement, Mrs. John Wingler, O. A. Mitcher, John Harrah, John S. Kerfoot, T. F. McMechan, J. M. Owen and A. H. Classen. The most pretentious and altogether the most picturesque parade that had ever been given in Oklahoma was the outstanding feature of the event. It was a riot of flowers and colors, a magnificent spectacle of decorated floats and motor cars and of dress adapted from styles and customs of the several periods depicted. It was led by Governor Haskell and a committee of the promoting organizations. Miss Myrtle Owen was the fiesta queen and was called *La Reine Aprilla*. Miss Jennie Bradford was her maid of honor. Hart Wand was the king, called *Rex Aprillo*, and seven attendants were in the galaxy of his troupe. Of especial interest in the period-depicting section was a boomer's covered wagon drawn by an ox and a mule.

The Oklahoma Medical College, which was instituted to teach the latter two years of a four-year course, the first two being taught in the State University at Norman, opened its first session September 15. During the ceremonies of the opening addresses were made by Dr. A. Grant Evans, president of the State University, and Dr. A. K. West. The first faculty consisted of Dr. West and Drs. A. L. Blesh, Lee A. Reily, A. D. Young, R. M. Howard, M. Smith, L. H. Buxton.



BROADWAY, LOOKING NORTH, 1910





H. C. Todd, E. S. Ferguson, Horace Reed, J. W. Riley, E. S. Lain, E. R. Day, L. J. Moorman, R. E. Looney, S. R. Cunningham, J. W. Jolly, R. L. Foster, C. Lee, N. G. Busby, Leila Andrews and J. F. Messenbaugh.

Some other events of the year were these: the first Oklahoma Automobile Dealers' Association was organized with John McClelland, president; G. Page, vice president; Ray Colcord, secretary; R. H. Mulch, Jr., treasurer, and F. R. Thompson, chairman of the board; on January 25, I. M. Holcomb resigned as cashier of the Oklahoma City National Bank to engage in lecture work and was succeeded by Colin S. Campbell of Chicago; G. W. R. Chinn, Eighty-niner, who had installed the first telephone in the city, died; E. B. Cockrell, on recommendation of the executive committee of the State Bankers Association, was appointed bank commissioner to succeed A. M. Young, resigned, Mr. Cockrell himself retiring on November 15 to become an officer of the Central State Bank, stock in which he bought from Clay Webster, vice president, and R. M. Estes, assistant cashier; the law department of Epworth University was abandoned and the graduating class of the year was Harry E. Brill, W. H. Winn, J. R. Connell, R. A. Weeks, W. A. French, H. B. Hopps and W. F. McLaury; on July 25, the census bureau reported the population of the city to be 64,205; William Cross, secretary of state and the democratic nominee for state auditor, died on August 3, the day after his nomination, and after a long illness; on September 6, A. W. McKean resigned as secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and as a token of the Chamber's esteem, was presented with a gold watch by C. H. Russell, acting for President Brock in the latter's absence; the corner stone of the First Presbyterian Church was laid on September 25, Dr. Phil C. Baird, pastor, being assisted by Dr. Carter Helm Jones, the Rev. W. H. B. Urch, the Rev. Thomas H. Harper and the Rev. J. H. O. Smith, pastors of other leading churches of the city; Mayor Scales resigned on October 17 and Daniel V. Lackey, president of the council, succeeded to the mayoralty seat; on November 8, the new directors of the Oklahoma State Fair Association elected John Fields, editor of *The Oklahoma Farmer*, president, and Henry Overholser, general manager.

# THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT  
TO THE PRESENT TIME  
BY  
JOSEPH NEALE  
OF THE BOSTON BAR  
IN TWO VOLUMES  
VOL. I.  
BOSTON: PUBLISHED BY  
J. NEALE, 1825.

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON, FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME, BY JOSEPH NEALE, OF THE BOSTON BAR, IN TWO VOLUMES. VOL. I. BOSTON: PUBLISHED BY J. NEALE, 1825.



William Macklin Cross (popularly called Bill Cross) was born at Purdy, McNeary County, Tenn., July 4, 1847. At the age of fourteen he entered the Confederate military service as a drummer in Company K, One Hundred and Fifty-fourth Tennessee Regiment, of which his father (who was killed in action at the battle of Shiloh) was colonel. Young Cross was wounded and captured the same day his father was killed. He was subsequently exchanged and returned to the front, serving in the army of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. After the end of the war he entered Kentucky University, at Lexington, but only remained one year on account of the financial condition of the family. He entered a dry goods store and eventually became a traveling salesman, in which capacity he came to Oklahoma. He was nominated for delegate to Congress in 1902, but was defeated. He was nominated as the democratic candidate for secretary of state and was elected in September, 1907, when the constitution was ratified. He died August 4, 1910.—Thoburn.



## 1911—A CHARTER ADOPTED

The fate that other charters met was an important guide to the freeholders who wrote that which was adopted on March 9 this year. Also the charter was more modern than those that failed. The American who isn't modern is a non-entity as Americanism appraises him, and by the same token to affect to be an Oklahoman without being a booster was affectation only. Perhaps the charter was a great improvement over its deceased predecessors, and probably it was as good and as modern and as ideal as any written for any other city of the Nation. The campaign was balmy, the opposition mild. The hardest fight came after its approval on March 14 by Gov. Lee Cruce. The governor signed it with a gold pen presented to him by Miss Amelia E. Weaver, daughter of Claude Weaver, one of the authors of the new municipal constitution.

Nominations for municipal offices were made in a primary held April 11. The democratic nominee for mayor was Whit M. Grant, who was elected at the regular election on May 9, and the republican nominee was J. F. Warren. J. T. Highley, democrat, defeated C. W. Ford, republican, for commissioner of public safety. Guy E. Blackwelder, republican, defeated John S. Alexander, democrat, for commissioner of public works. W. H. Hampton, democrat, defeated Will H. Clark, republican, for commissioner of public property. Elmer C. Trueblood, democrat, defeated Thomas H. Harper, republican, for commissioner of accounting and finance. In the primary election Mr. Grant defeated Henry M. Seales, John L. Mitch, Dan V. Lackey and Ross N. Lillard for the nomination.

Immediately after the election the city council passed a resolution with a majority of six votes holding that the election was illegal and void. A case was prepared for court and in the petition it was contended that the charter was



illegal and void because no provision had been made in the constitution for such an instrument of government, because of improper division of the city into wards, because the charter provided no specified time at which officials elected under it should take office, and for other reasons of less consequence. On May 30 Judge E. D. Oldfield sustained a motion of the new officials for a writ of mandamus against the old. Among the early appointments made by Mayor Grant was that of William Tighlman, formerly of Chandler, formerly a state senator, and who in territorial days had been a noted law enforcement officer, as chief of police. Another was of J. C. Eagen as city treasurer to succeed P. H. Simmons, resigned. Among unusual things undertaken by the commissioners during the year was to attempt to get a water supply from deep wells. It contracted with the Western Wells Company of Kansas to furnish 5,000,000 gallons of well water daily to be paid for at the rate of 2 cents a 1,000 gallons.

On May 29 of this year the United States Supreme Court said the last word in the capital controversy, and it was an important word for the doctrine of state rights. The opinion, written by Justice Lorton, held in substance that Congress was without authority to locate a capital for the new state for a term of years, that to undertake to do so was to deny the state its constitutional privilege of entering the Union on an equal footing with the other states. "When equality disappears," said the opinion, "we may remain a free people, but the union will not be the union of the constitution."

Guthrie's protest against the removal of state offices to Oklahoma City on December 30, 1910, caused the foregathering of a mob that threatened violence and Governor Haskell ordered troops held in readiness for service should they be needed. An injunction issued out of the District Court at Guthrie was served against State Treasurer James A. Menefee and when wagons began loading furniture out of his office he was cited for contempt of court. W. A. Ledbetter went to Guthrie as an emissary of the governor and helped to restore peace. The injunction did not hold and on the following day twenty-five tons of state furniture and records were moved to Oklahoma City.

The Legislature convened on January 2 and W. A. Durant



of Durant was elected speaker of the House and J. Elmer Thomas of Lawton, president pro tempore of the Senate. On January 9 Lee Cruce was inaugurated governor. The Senate on January 28 passed a bill abolishing the Capitol Commission but the bill was not passed by the House. Some doubt existed as to the validity of the call issued by Governor Haskell in the previous year for an extraordinary session of the Legislature and a resolution was passed by this Legislature validating the call and the actions of the former body. The State Supreme Court on February 9 rendered an opinion, written by Justice R. L. Williams, to which Justices Kane and Dunn dissented, holding that the capital location provision of the Enabling Act was unconstitutional, and it was this opinion that was affirmed by the United States Supreme Court. Arguments before the latter were made for Oklahoma City by Attorney General Charles West, Judge B. F. Burwell of Oklahoma City and former Senator J. W. Bailey of Texas. Guthrie was represented by Judge Frank Dale.

Governor Cruce, who favored and practiced the strictest economy in government, on June 20, asked for the resignation of members of the Capitol Commission, and in due time he appointed members of the State Board of Public Affairs to succeed them.

The Capitol Building Company, representing the city, had agreed to pay \$1,000,000 to the state as a capitol building fund, and the first payment, \$25,000, was to be made July 1. Homer S. Hurst, a member of the company, proposed shortly before the payment of this amount was due that the city issue bonds in the sum of \$1,250,000 to be delivered to the state. The constitutionality of such procedure was doubted, however, and the company on June 29 concluded to issue fifty \$500 notes to raise the amount due on July 1. The company had title to lands donated and bought for capitol purposes but to get the money was at that time a difficult matter, so it proposed, through Ed S. Vaught, its spokesman, to Governor Cruce, that 600 acres and an additional fifteen acres reserved for the capitol be delivered to the state in lieu of the \$1,000,000. Governor Cruce declined to accept the proposition, holding that only the Legislature had authority to alter contracts made with the state under authority of the



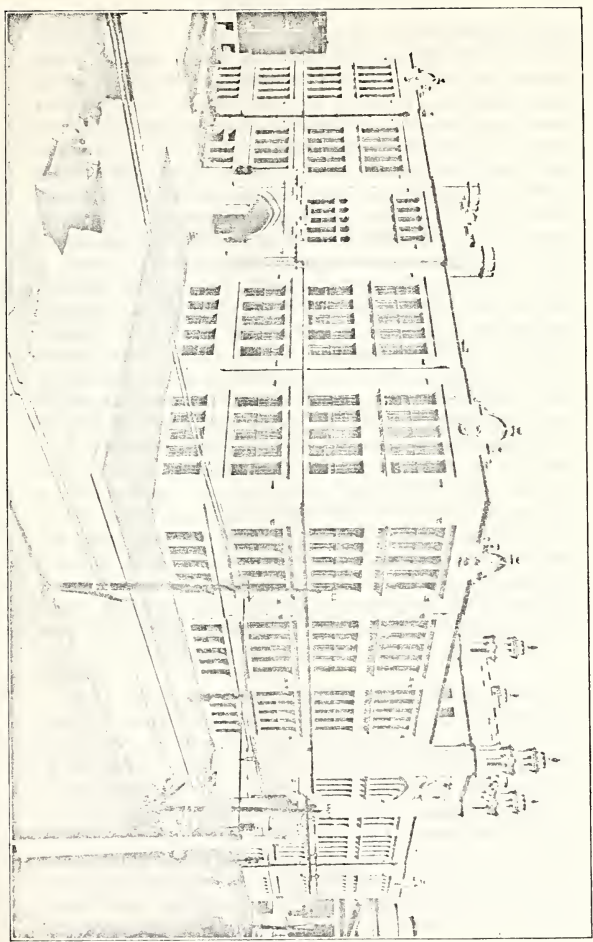


Legislature. Later in the year the company, which had executed a bond of \$100,000 as a guarantee of payment of instalments of the \$1,000,000, again proposed to the governor to deliver to the state 6,030 acres of land and pay the forfeiture of the bond, retaining twenty acres to be sold by the company to reimburse it for the bond forfeiture outlay, and there the matter rested at the end of the year.

Outside of his own office force, the first appointment announced by the governor was that of John R. Williams, who had been his campaign manager, as secretary of the Commissioners of the Land Office, and the appointment was in due time confirmed by the commissioners. He appointed Judge Frank Matthews of Altus, E. B. Howard of Tulsa and E. E. Morris of Duncan as members of the State Board of Public Affairs. Judge Matthews resigned soon to accept a judicial appointment and Lon M. Frame of Ardmore, who had been named game and fish warden, filled the vacancy. John B. Doolin of Alva, who had been assistant manager of the Cruce campaign, was appointed to the position vacated by Frame. The appointment of Morris as the republican member of the board was stoutly disapproved by members of the republican state organization who had recommended O. K. Benedict of Hobart for the place. Among early appointments was that of J. F. Warren of Oklahoma City as a member of the board of regents of the State University and J. F. Sharp of Purcell as chairman of the board of control of the Boys' Training School at Pauls Valley. J. D. Lankford of Atoka was appointed state bank commissioner and J. C. McLelland and Fred G. Bennis members of the state banking board. The Cruce state election board consisted of Ben W. Riley of El Reno, former Governor T. B. Ferguson of Watonga and C. C. Pern of Weatherford. Under an act of the Legislature of that year creating a Supreme Court Commission, the governor appointed C. B. Ames, Phil D. Brewer and John B. Harrison members of the commission. His state board of education consisted of City Superintendent Brandenburg of Oklahoma City, W. E. Rowsey of Muskogee, O. F. Hayes of Chandler, Scott Glenn of Shawnee, Robert Dunlop of Newkirk, then state treasurer, and Dr. A. C. Scott of Oklahoma City.

Dr. Alexander Potter of New York was employed during





CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.



the preceding year to make a survey and recommendations for a permanent and increased water supply for the city. After his report was submitted the mayor called an election to be held February 14, this year, to vote on a proposed issue totalling \$1,650,000, part of which was to be used in main extensions for water and sewer extensions to Packingtown. During a campaign rally the night before the election, when Kate Barnard was making a speech opposing the issue, Doctor Potter, who interrupted her—insolently, some of her friends said—was ejected forcibly from the hall. The issue was defeated.

Some important bank changes took place this year. On January 21 Henry W. Williams, late of Greenville, Texas, Don Lacy of Ardmore and W. M. Bonner of Ardmore, purchased a controlling interest in the Oklahoma City National Bank. On February 25 this bank absorbed the Central Reserve Bank and new officers were elected as follows: H. W. Williams, president; A. M. Young, vice president; C. H. Everest, vice president, and W. M. Bonner, assistant cashier. E. B. Cockrell retired from the organization to become president of the Continental Trust Company which was organized a few weeks later with a capital stock of \$500,000. On May 19 the Oklahoma City National Bank was consolidated with the State National Bank, with Mr. Williams as president, John M. Hale, C. H. Everest and Don Lacy as vice presidents, George L. Cooke, cashier, W. M. Bonner, Pat Roden, Henry Elliott and F. C. Clarke, assistant cashiers, and Edward H. Cooke, chairman of the board. All banks of the city at the beginning of the year had about \$16,000,000 on deposit.

C. G. Jones, whom many accounted the most useful resident of the city, died on March 29, at the age of fifty-five. His funeral on March 31 was the most largely attended of any in the history of the state. Orations were delivered by Dr. G. H. Bradford and the Rev. A. K. Riley and the ceremony of the Masons, of whose lodge he was a member, was employed. In the yard of his residence a flag that he had raised, a flag at the state house and one at the Morris packing plant were hung at half mast. In honor of his memory Governor Creece issued a proclamation requesting that all state offices be closed. The business of the United States Circuit



Court, of the District Court and of the County Court was suspended. The State National Bank, of which he was a director, and many business houses closed their doors. The Eighty-niners Association held a special meeting and adopted resolutions and went in a body to the Jones home before the funeral and left generous floral wreaths and shed tears of genuine sorrow. Pallbearers were E. H. Cooke, C. F. Colecord, C. A. Mitscher, W. T. Hales, W. J. Pettee and H. C. Milner.

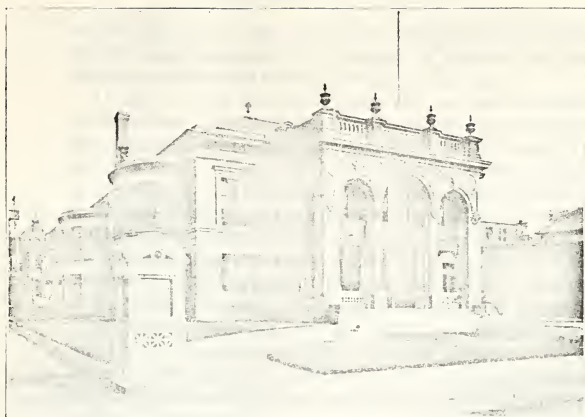
The Oklahoma Railway Company ran its first interurban car into El Reno on November 30. It bore all leading officials of the company and a score of their guests. George W. Knox, III, eight-year-old son of George W. Knox, Jr., general manager of the company, turned on the power that sent the car whirling into the west. F. M. Banks was the car's conductor and Lawrence Paulson was the motorman. The party was entertained at El Reno with a banquet. It was welcomed in a speech delivered by Mayor P. P. Duffy, to which O. P. Workman, president of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, responded. Other speeches were made by R. E. Stafford, John Shartel and Seymour Heyman.

A bonus of \$75,000 was raised by the Chamber of Commerce to secure a line of the Missouri, Oklahoma & Gulf Railway Company, but the company's plans failed to materialize. Walter B. Moore of Dayton, Ohio, succeeded J. H. Johnston as secretary-manager of the Chamber on November 1. The resignation of Mr. Johnston was submitted several months before. So satisfactorily had he performed the duties of the office that a committee sought to have him withdraw the resignation. At the annual meeting of the Chamber in December Frank J. Wikoff was elected president; C. F. Colecord, first vice president; Leon Levy, second vice president, and Colin Campbell, treasurer. Seymour Heyman, a former president, was on December 5 elected president of the board of education, succeeding W. R. Swartout, resigned, and his election restored harmony in the board that had for some months been engaged in a wrangle.

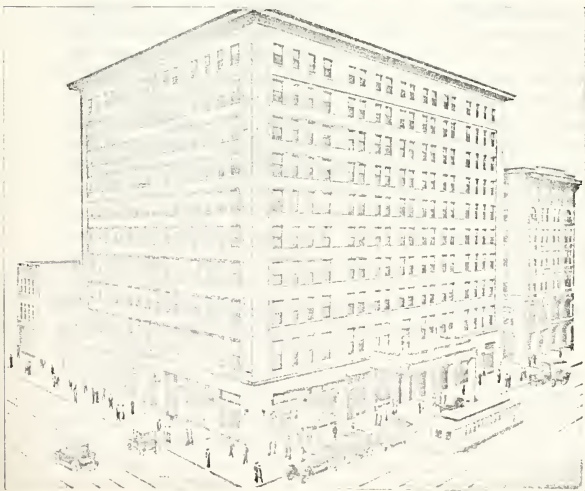
The city's second big packing plant was opened formally on October 9. President Workman of the Chamber of Commerce was the master of ceremonies and the principal speech was







CARNEGIE LIBRARY



HUCKS HOTEL



made by Governor Cruce. Jack Love, chairman of the corporation commission, killed the first cow. It was estimated that 10,000 persons passed through the plant that day.

Owing to disagreements between the northern and southern branches of the Methodist Church and to untoward financial conditions respecting the institution, it was decided at the close of the school year that Epworth University should be abandoned. The northern branch of the church concluded to transfer its interests to Guthrie and consolidate them with a Methodist College. A few weeks later representatives of the southern branch announced that the university would be continued. A new board of trustees was elected, consisting of Dr. W. B. Watkins, president, W. A. Shelton, secretary, C. H. McGee, treasurer, the Rev. R. E. L. Morgan, B. F. Moseley, the Rev. M. L. Butler, the Rev. Moss Weaver, the Rev. O. F. Sensabaugh, and the Rev. J. M. Gross. Difficulties soon confronted the new board, however, and the institution remained closed.

One illustration among many of the increase in real estate values in the city was related this year. J. M. Bowen, who filed on a homestead at the time of the opening—a tract of 160 acres now bounded by the Santa Fe on the east and Walker Avenue on the west and Tenth Street on the south and Thirteenth Street on the north—found his rights contested. William J. McClure, who provided the funds to prosecute the contest, and Judge Frank Dale of Guthrie, who provided the legal wherewithal, succeeded in winning the contest and for their services were given one-half of the tract. They divided the eighty acres, McClure taking the east half of it and Judge Dale the west half. The Dale share lay between Harvey and Walker Avenues. It is not of record easily accessible how much money McClure received out of the lots he sold, but Judge Dale's receipts amounted to \$250,000. Four of the city's leading churches, with property values totalling over \$500,000, are on Dale lots.

The interests of the Pioneer Telephone Company and the Missouri & Kansas Telephone Company were merged May 1, and E. D. Nims, president of the former, retired from that office. Among directors retained were Mr. Nims, John M. Noble, who was elected general manager, E. E. Westerfelt,



who was elected secretary-treasurer, David McKinstry and Henry Asp. The new organization had assets of the value of \$40,000,000.

Other events of the year included a strike of employes of the Oklahoma Railway Company that was settled after a few days of exciting moves, including an order from the governor for troops to be in readiness for service, the rescinding of the order and an agreement between officials and employes; dedication of the high school on March 3 with ceremonies participated in by Governor Cruce, President Workman of the Chamber of Commerce, Dr. A. Grant Evans, president of the State University, City Superintendent W. H. Brandenburg, Ed S. Vaught, the Rev. Thomas H. Harper and B. F. Nihart, a pioneer teacher; announcement of the Oklahoma Railway Company on April 10 that it had floated a bond issue of \$12,000,000 preparatory to completing inter-urban lines to El Reno, Guthrie and Norman; celebration of the Opening on April 22 with a fiesta parade, similar to that of the preceding year, in which Russell Pryor was Rex Aprillis and Miss Mildred McNabb Aprillis La Reine; the graduation of 105 students from the high school; the resignation of Paul M. Pope as a member of the city park board; the purchase by J. L. Wilkin of the Night & Day Bank; the resignation of Dr. A. Grant Evans as president of the State University and the election of Dean J. C. Monett as acting president; the beginning of the radiation of a good roads sentiment over the state inspired by Col. Sidney Suggs, state highway commissioner; and the election of Dr. Charles Evans as president of the Central State Normal School at Edmond.



## 1912—A FIGHT AGAINST EXPENSES

A laughable situation arose once when on the same day it was announced that the Legislature was coming down from Guthrie as guests of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, the chief of police issued an edict forbidding the operation of bootlegging joints. The public was no more chagrined by the officers' revelation of the existence of open violation of the prohibition law than was the body of statute builders against whose motives the chief of police had slung a slur.

And somehow it is just as amusing, viewed through the perspective of a decade, to witness the serious faces of a few of the city's commercial stalwarts, who—the packeries and the capital having been obtained and the city's population increased to 50,000 and the taxable wealth proportionately increased—met with a peek of trouble for a subject and set about constructing schemes to cut expenses! They were in dead earnest. The subject seemed to require immediate consideration. No less a personage than the governor had said that if the state, the county and the municipality didn't cease burdening themselves with debt, they would bankrupt the state.

From that meeting resulted the Citizens Protective League, the primary object of which was to curb expenses and teach economy in government. Charles F. Colcord was elected president and O. P. Workman, secretary. Other directors were Joseph Huckins, J. M. Bass, G. G. Sohlberg, Leon Levy, E. H. Cooke, J. M. Owen and S. M. Gloyd. It found a great many people of like mind on this subject and its membership grew almost as rapidly as a list of names on a petition asking for a constitutional amendment, that is to say, with extraordinary rapidity. In a short time the league had 1,000 members in Oklahoma County, 1,000 members in Garfield County and 500 members each in Washington and Creek counties. Agents of the league, all of them representative



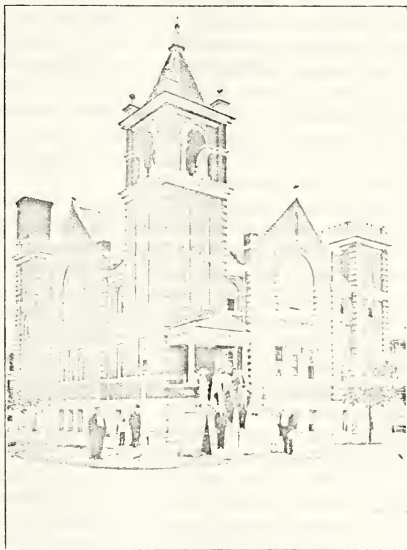


business men of the city, became foreign missionaries and traveled into all populous regions of the state, preaching the doctrine of seeking first the kingdom of economy.

The league was organized in March. Its first statewide meeting was held in Oklahoma City on June 19 and 20, and it was attended by 200 members representing probably a score of counties. It was at this meeting that Governor Cruce propounded the doctrine of economy in state government. The delegates supported almost unanimously a plan projected by the directors to initiate two proposed amendments to the constitution. One was to provide that the tax limit should be 12 mills, of which 1 mill should be for state purposes. The other proposed a commission form of government for counties, the governing board to consist of three commissioners and a judge. A committee to draft the bills consisted of Judge B. F. Burwell, Judge J. R. Keaton and Henry G. Snyder. Whether or not the bills were drawn is not a matter of vital concern, for one month later officials of the league announced that, owing to the time before the November election being too short in which to circulate petitions, the league had concluded to forego initiation of the measures, but that its officers would be employed in influencing so far as possible the carrying out of its ideas of economy.

The last word had not by any means been said on the capital matter, for Guthrie in her discontent was not in the least mollified by the decision of the United States Supreme Court. She came back with the strength of a new organization and asked the governor to call another election that she might have it out with Oklahoma City single-handed and alone. The petition filed with the secretary of state contained over 50,000 names. Of these nearly 5,000 were obtained in Logan County and a majority of them were obtained in Logan, Pottawotamie, Tulsa, Garfield and Payne counties. Oklahoma County itself supplied over two hundred. The petition was presented by H. T. Swearingen, chairman of the Guthrie committee, and Fred L. Wenner, secretary. Governor Cruce in due time issued a proclamation calling for an election on November 5. The campaign was waged as diligently, but less spectacularly, than that of 1910 and the Oklahoma City organization expended about \$15,000, or a little less





MAYWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



than \$1 a vote in the majority figures. This majority, small as it appeared, was not discouraging, however, for over 25,000 persons who voted at the election did not vote on this question. The vote was decisive enough and it was the signal of Guthrie's ultimate surrender.

Governor Cruce in January had reached an agreement with the Capitol Building Company whereby he would accept for the state 6,050 acres of land selected for the capitol and \$100,000 in cash and release the company from obligation. Early in February a mass meeting was held and the city commission was prevailed upon to call an election to submit a bond issue, out of the proceeds of which the Capitol Building Company and the Packingtown Development Company could be relieved of capitol and packery bonus obligations. The bonds in due time were authorized at an election and sold. Ostensibly they were for park and playground purposes and to provide a terminal for a proposed railroad that was to enter from the northwest, a project that John Shartel took an active interest in and which he hoped to carry out. The Capitol Building Company received from the bond proceeds the needed \$100,000. The remainder, \$150,000, was distributed, \$20,000 to a committee of bankers, acting as a board of trustees, to be held for use in obtaining terminals for railroads, \$60,000 to pay a mortgage executed by the Packingtown Development Company, and the remainder to complete a bonus promised the Schwarzschild & Sulzberger Packing Company. On May 24 the Capitol Building Company delivered to the governor a warrant for \$100,000 and deeds and abstracts to all tracts in the capitol gift save fifty-five acres the title to which had to be secured in court.

The quarter-section of land embracing this fifty-five acres was filed upon as homestead on April 22, 1889, by the Rev. Henry Howe. During the intervening twenty-three years title to it had been clouded by contests and the Government never had issued a patent. In the meantime the original claimant had died. Two sons, E. W. Howe and Dr. C. F. Howe of Atelison, Kan., never relinquished their claim as heirs of the father's estate. The Capitol Building Company reached an agreement with the heirs and the latest contestant whereby judgment should be taken in favor of the heirs, and whereby



these, the contestant and officials of the company, should have a joint interest in the Howe Development Company, which was organized with a capital stock of \$300,000. Title in due time was perfected and the fifteen acres on which the permanent capitol is located spreads over a part of the historic homestead of the preacher.

In view of the fact that a long and bitter controversy the governor had with his state board of education over the adoptions of textbooks for the public schools of the state touched educational affairs of the city and several representative men of the city before its termination next year, some incidents of the controversy will not be out of place here.

Governor Cruce was not pleased with a conclusion of the board reached just before a final adoption vote and he asked that a vote be deferred. Members of the board interpreted the request as a reflection upon their judgment and integrity and a majority expressed displeasure, with the consequence that the governor asked for the resignations of Robert Dunlop, W. A. Brandenburg, Scott Glenn and Frank Hayes. When they refused to grant his request, the executive issued an order summarily removing them and then reappointed Mr. Brandenburg and filled the other presumed vacancies with Ira L. Cain of Muskogee, the Rev. C. C. Weith of Ardmore and D. I. Johnston and J. F. Warren of Oklahoma City. When members of the original board sought relief in District Judge Clark's court it was denied. On November 17 the matter was again presented to Judge Clark and he granted an order enjoining the new board from action, saying that he had not been fully advised when the order was prayed for originally. Attorney General West then appeared in behalf of the governor and asked for a writ of supersedeas to defer application of the injunction. This was denied and the attorney general announced he would appeal to the Supreme Court.

Governor Cruce's next move was to convene the Senate in extraordinary session, on December 3. On December 7 it reported to the executive that it had concluded to reject confirmation of members of both boards, and asked that names of other men be submitted. This the governor took under advisement. Meantime the holidays were approached and





teachers in state schools were denied their warrants because of there being no recognized authority to issue them. To relieve this situation Governor Cruce appointed a temporary board. It was composed of C. F. Colcord, James Chenoweth, E. F. Bisbee and Dr. J. A. Ryan, and they immediately convened and transacted necessary urgent business.

Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis was the speaker at the annual banquet of the Chamber of Commerce this year, held March 4. Eight hundred men were in attendance. It was presided over by President Frank J. Wikoff who revealed that the Chamber was working on plans for elevating the tracks of the Rock Island Railroad and the straightening of sections of the channel of the Canadian River. Shortly before this date President H. U. Mudge of the Rock Island, who visited the city with a party of minor officials, had stated that the company had about completed plans for elevating the tracks. Doctor Hillis said: "I have been lecturing for seventeen years and during that time have delivered over twelve hundred lectures. During many of them I have devoted about thirty minutes of time to telling of the advantages of the Northwest. But I want to tell you that during the next seventeen years I shall devote some time in each lecture to telling of the advantages of the Southwest." This banquet opened the annual campaign for membership that resulted in the acquisition of nearly five hundred members. Among them was Bishop William A. Quayle of the Methodist Church.

In the autumn the first home products show was held, under direction of a subdivision of the Chamber of Commerce. It was so successful that members of the Home Products and Manufacturers Association resolved to perpetuate the organization and to separate it from the Chamber. C. E. Van Cleef was elected president, J. R. Harris, vice president, Paul B. Smith, secretary, and Carl Weihener, A. M. Lehr, D. C. Collins, G. G. Solberg, C. W. Rathbun, Bunn Booth, J. B. Klein, E. K. Fitzpatrick and Walter I. Crawford, directors.

S. M. Gloyd was elected president of the Chamber at the December annual meeting, and he and James Chenoweth, H. C. Upsher, J. E. O'Neil, E. F. Bisbee, Fred T. Miller, John J. Iten, Ed S. Vaught, Joseph Huckins, Leon Levy and F. S. Lamb constituted the board of directors.

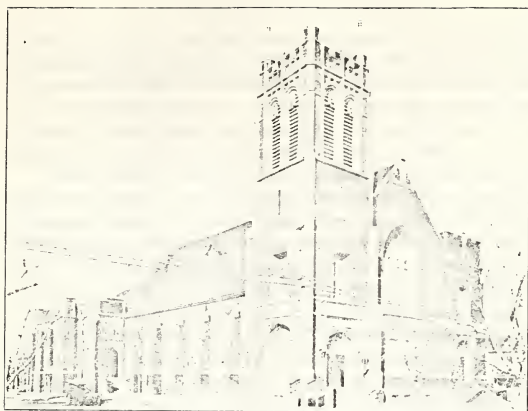


Seymour Heyman, a former president of the Chamber, who, in fact, was credited with being its founder, died on June 20. The demise of no other man in the city was more profoundly or more generally regretted. He was a native of New York, had come West as a young man and lived in Lawrence and Topeka, Kan., and had come to Oklahoma City in 1897, when he became a member of the clothing firm of Heyman & Goldstandt. He was the founder of the retail merchants association, had been president of the baseball association, and the board of education and had taken an active part in every laudable public undertaking during his residence of fifteen years. He was an Elk and a Shriner and representatives of these lodges took part in the funeral ceremonies. In its resolution condoling his death, the Chamber of Commerce said: "In the capacity of president, director and member of the Chamber of Commerce he served the people with a self-sacrificing devotion that took no account of the demands of his own private interests, and in every move looking to the general good he could be and was relied upon for efficient and effective service." A host of friends attended the funeral which was in general charge of a committee of the Chamber of Commerce consisting of O. P. Workman, G. B. Stone and C. E. Coleord.

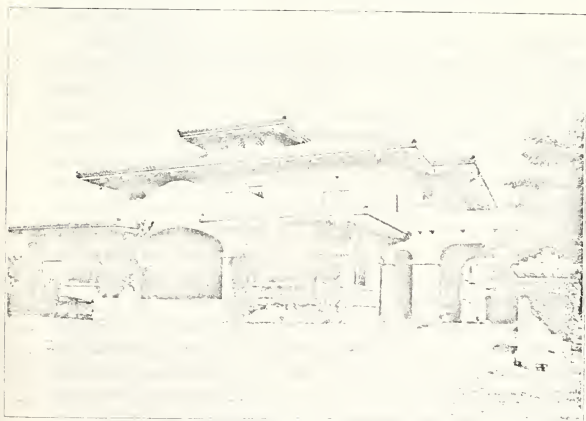
The general election on November 5 resulted in Senator R. L. Owen defeating Judge J. T. Dickerson of Oklahoma City for United States senator, the defeat by Dick T. Morgan of Judge John J. Carney for Congress, the defeat by Ben F. Wilson of Dr. John Threadgill for the State Senate, the defeat by D. K. Pope of Al Jemmings for county attorney, and the election of John Hayson, county judge, Harold Lee, clerk of the Superior Court, W. W. Storm, county clerk, M. Cornelius, register of deeds, Mrs. Anna B. Love, superintendent of schools, Thomas Kirby, clerk of the District Court, George Baker, treasurer, and M. C. Binion, sheriff.

L. E. Patterson and associates during the year sought an entrance for their street cars into the city along Robinson Avenue. An extended colloquy ensued that attracted public attention and when Mayor Grant and the commissioners refused a permit for use of that thoroughfare, Patterson took the matter to court. When the case reached the Supreme





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



RESIDENCE OF W. R. RAMSEY



Court on appeal that tribunal held that only an ordinance adopted by the City Commission could grant the use of streets for a railway enterprise and that the election previously held, in which Patterson was granted a franchise, was only advisory. Mayor Grant contended that the election had not been held according to law and therefore was invalid.

Three large churches were dedicated during the year. Four thousand persons attended the two services at the First Baptist Church on March 24th when the pastor, Dr. Carter Helm Jones, delivered two sermons of a dedicatory nature. On June 30th the First English Lutheran Church was dedicated by the Rev. E. E. Stauffer, president of the Synod of Kansas. It was of Gothic architecture and the site and the building represented an outlay of \$50,000. It contained three memorial windows, one of which was presented by A. H. Classen, another by Mrs. N. F. Gates and Mrs. John J. Weitzel in memory of their mother, and the third by four sons of Mrs. Mary Hansen, who had died recently. On October 20th the University Place Christian Church, located at Twenty-eighth Street and McKinley Avenue, was dedicated by Rev. E. T. Lane, the pastor.

Dr. Carter Helm Jones on July 7th submitted his resignation to his official board and announced that he had been called to a pastorate in Seattle. He was one of the most learned pastors, one of the greatest preachers and one of the most beloved men that had filled a pulpit in Oklahoma City, and this was attested by resolutions of the Chamber of Commerce, the Ministers Alliance, the Men's Dinner Club and the Virginia and Tennessee Societies asking him to reconsider. His successor was Dr. H. H. Hulton, who came from a pastorate at Charlotte, N. C.

Theodore Roosevelt again visited the city this year, this time as the nominee of the progressive party for President. His coming worked a more marked division between the ranks of the Roosevelt and the Taft supporters. Alva McDonald of El Reno was chairman of the progressive party in the state. Nels Darling of Oklahoma City was among the party stump speakers of the campaign. J. A. Harris, who had been elected republican national committeeman, resigned as state chairman





during the campaign and was succeeded by Arthur Geissler of Oklahoma City who had been vice chairman.

Other interesting happenings of the year included these: H. G. Eastman succeeded E. E. Brown as postmaster and the new half-million-dollar Federal Building was formally opened; Carlton M. Greenman, secretary of the Retailers Association, was elected assistant secretary of the Chamber of Commerce; Robert Galbreath, then of Tulsa, defeated John B. Doolin of Oklahoma City for democratic national committeeman; Dr. Stratton D. Brooks of Boston was elected president of the State University and was inaugurated October 21st; 109 students graduated from the high school; the death of Mrs. Whit M. Grant, wife of the mayor, occurred on June 9th; on July 1st, Fred T. Miller was appointed to succeed the late Seymour Heyman as a member of the Board of Education and J. O. Mattison was elected president of the board; W. L. Bradley resigned as secretary to Mayor Grant and was succeeded by C. J. Kendle; John Fields resigned as president of the Oklahoma State Fair Association and was succeeded by J. L. Wilkin; the Rotary Club held its first annual banquet at the Skirvin Hotel, attended by 200 persons.

Mr. Brown, later secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma City, was a resident of this city for more than a quarter of a century, and during this time was engaged in a variety of pursuits, in all of which he was connected more or less closely with the growing commercial and civic development.

He was born in Wyandotte County, Ohio, July 17, 1861. He secured his early education in the public schools of his native locality, this being supplemented by a course at the Normal School at Paola, Kan., and thus prepared entered upon his career as an educator, being engaged in teaching school for two years. In 1887 he moved to what was known as No Man's Land, a tract of land which had been ceded to the United States Government by Texas, in 1850, but which for a number of years had no government. This is now included in Beaver County, Oklahoma, and there is probably no man in the state who is more familiar with the history of this interesting locality. He is considered an authority and has been frequently called upon to settle disputes regarding its



history. There he devoted his attention to newspaper work, for which his talents peculiarly fitted him, and it was in this same capacity that he made his appearance in Oklahoma City in July, 1889.

Mr. Brown continued to be engaged in journalistic labors with several newspapers here until 1903, and in the meantime identified himself with politics, so that in 1895 he was appointed chief clerk of the Territorial Senate. His work in that body impressed itself favorably upon the administration, and in 1901 he was appointed territorial oil inspector, a position which he held during that and the following years. He continued his newspaper connections while holding office, but in 1903 again entered public life, when he was appointed postmaster of Oklahoma City, and retained that office until 1912, having at that time completely abandoned newspaper work. During his administration the service was greatly improved, and he made a record which established him in the confidence of the people and gave him the reputation of being a man who could accomplish things. Always an enthusiastic booster of Oklahoma City's interests, when he left the postmaster's office in 1912, he was chosen as secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. He has no membership in clubs or secret societies, and is unmarried.



## 1913—A PREACHER'S FAREWELL

"I see an Oklahoma City of the future, a city beautiful, prosperous and happy; a city in which the spirit of Christ is like an advance of summer awakening flowers, sympathy and love; a center of every influence for good; its business conducted by men who recognize the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man; its homes presided over by Godly, praying mothers; its citizens taught of the Lord from the least to the greatest."

This was the farewell message of Dr. J. H. O. Smith, for six and a half years pastor of the First Christian Church, who resigned in November to accept a similar pastorate at Little Rock, Ark. It was the end of his last sermon delivered to his congregation on November 2d. Three days later he had a formal leave taking of the Chamber of Commerce, of which he was an active and devoted member, and the regret and the well wishes of the membership were expressed by President S. M. Gloyd. Later, in the parlors of the church, his parishioners and other city pastors bade him an affectionate good-bye.

For the simple reason, no doubt, that Doctor Smith probably was the most human of popular pastors of the decade he was best loved inside and outside of his congregation. He was a genial and cordial gentleman to whom material diversions and unconventionalities strongly appealed, an excellent mixer, an apt and forceful speaker on any stump, a minister of uncommon virtues, a preacher of uncommon parts, and withal spiritual and always abounding in good works for the church. Next to his church he loved his city, and his city loved him, and it was with genuine regret that his city gave him up.

The departure in May of this year of Dr. Thomas H. Harper, who for many years had been pastor of the Pilgrim Congregational Church, for Spokane, Wash., where a like pastorate awaited him, likewise was generally regretted.



Doctor Harper, an Eighty-Niner, during his residence of twenty-four years, and by virtue of that long residence, probably exercised a greater influence for good in citizenship, civics and government than any other preacher that lived in the city. If his influence ever was restricted, and there is little doubt that it was during the last few years of his residence, it was because of his partisanship in political matters. His friends led him into politics, several times nominating him for public office, and made him a target for the arrows of unscrupulous politicians. But those who knew him intimately never countenanced a charge that he had less interest in political and civil reforms than in the honors that come to men in political and civic authority.

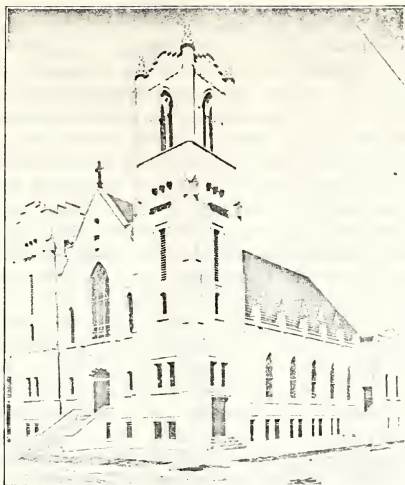
It was during this year that politicians relieved the city builders of the state capital issue. Politics had crept into it but once before. That was when Governor Haskell, ambitious to succeed Robert L. Owen in the United States Senate, had on divers occasions tossed the issue this way and that for the approval and acclaim of Oklahoma City and her supporters over the state. Oklahoma City, however, if it felt under obligations to him, did not entirely fulfill them, for in the election of the preceding autumn it gave Mr. Owen a considerable majority.

The first measure introduced in the Senate of the Legislature that convened in January of this year was a resolution by T. F. McMechan of the city providing that the Legislature on behalf of the state accept the land and money that had been offered by the Capitol Building Company. The Senate appointed a committee to investigate titles to the capitol tracts and on February 19th the committee recommended approval. On the following day, United States District Judge W. H. Pope of New Mexico rendered a decision in the contest case of John Burton against the heirs of the estate of the Rev. Henry Howe in which he held that the heirs had legal title to the Henry Howe homestead. Burton had charged in his contest that the preacher was a "sooner."

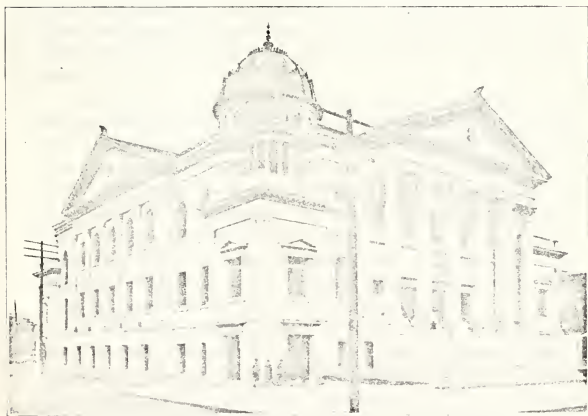
A second resolution touching the capital matter was introduced by Senator C. F. Barrett of Shawnee, in which he charged the Capitol Building Company with bad faith and breach of contract and authorized the attorney general to







FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



bring suit on the company's bond. The resolution was defeated. Senator John H. Burford of Guthrie introduced a measure providing that the state officials should be housed at Guthrie until the capitol was completed, and this was defeated. On March 6th the Senate passed the McMechan resolution, and on March 15th it was passed by the House. Senator McMechan on April 15th introduced a bill creating a capitol commission to be composed of three members and appropriating \$1,000,000 for erection of the capitol. On May 2d a bill was passed by the House appropriating \$750,000 for building purposes. A compromise bill finally passed the House on May 9th and the Senate on May 16th and was approved by Governor Cruce on May 23d. Under this bill the Senate selected P. J. Goulding of Enid, the House, W. B. Anthony of Marlow, and the governor, Stephen A. Douglas of Ardmore, as a capitol commission.

Representative J. E. Wyand of Muskogee and H. C. Swearingen of Guthrie filed with the secretary of state a referendum petition praying that the capital bill recently enacted be referred to the people. The bill did not carry an emergency clause and would not become a law until October 3d. On December 9th, Justices R. W. Williams and M. J. Kane announced disqualifications for sitting in the hearing of the case which had been appealed from the secretary of state.

Governor Cruce in January complied with the desire of the Senate and appointed an entirely new State Board of Education and all appointments were confirmed on February 1st. The appointees were H. M. Duncan of Pauls Valley, H. C. Potterf of Ardmore, Frank J. Wikoff of Oklahoma City and Dr. F. B. Fite of Muskogee. Attorneys for the original board were granted an injunction by District Judge J. J. Carney forbidding the new board executing new textbook contracts. On behalf of the new board, Charles Moore, assistant attorney general, appealed the case to the Supreme Court.

An unusual incident of the observance of the state's birthday this year was the placing of what was called a Century Chest in the foundation of the First English Lutheran Church. It was planned by the Ladies' Aid Society of the Lutheran congregation of which Mrs. George G. Sahlberg was presi-



dent, and the conception was that the chest should be opened 100 years from that date. Instructions to that effect were written on the chest's exterior. In it were placed articles of singular significance. Among them were speeches delivered during the evening program by Governor Lee Cruce and Mayor Whit M. Grant, phonograph records of the voices in song of Mrs. C. B. Ames, Mrs. W. B. Moore and M. K. Bennett, a phonograph record of an address by Dr. A. C. Scott, and a manuscript containing instructions to those who open the box on April 22, 2013. This bore a prayer that is to be repeated by those participating in the opening ceremony and it directed that the speech of Governor Cruce should be read to the assemblage by the then governor of the state and the speech of Mayor Grant read by the then mayor of the city.

In his speech Mayor Grant said: "I am conscious that we are making ancestors of ourselves tonight. We are furnishing a text and a message from which one hundred years from today descendants will take a measure of their ancestors. This is the first time in history, I suppose, that an evening's program was prepared one hundred years before its performance. It was the thought of a genius and that genius is Mrs. Virginia Tucker Sohlberg. An April evening of 2013 will be athrob with the life of a buried day. Voices and presences will be there from far across the century. We are tonight laying fairy bridgework that will span a century of time. We are forging a bond whose binding power will bring in close communication the lusty living and the distant dead. We, pioneers of Oklahoma City, send our greeting across the century to men and women of 2013. We, who shall have long been dust before this message falls upon your ears, salute you!"

The incidents of this night were vividly recalled less than ninety days later when Mrs. Sohlberg passed to her reward.

Resolutions favoring Oklahoma taking a conspicuous part in the forthcoming Panama-Pacific Exposition at San Francisco were adopted by the Eighty-Niners Association at its annual meeting. Jack Love, chairman of the Corporation Commission, was elected president of the association. John L. Mitch was elected vice president, Robert Parman, secretary, and Fred Sutton, treasurer. Representatives of the association a few weeks later took part in a reproduction of



the "run" of 1889 at Lincoln Park, staged for the camera that the picture might be reproduced in San Francisco.

An association had been formed to take charge of preparation for Oklahoma's part in the exposition, and Justice Jesse Dunn of the Supreme Court, then sojourning in California, and Miss Gail Johnson Sipes of Oklahoma City were authorized by the association to select a site for an Oklahoma building. Many thousands of feet in cinema film were made for the "picture show" of the Oklahoma Building, and these exhibited all manner of life, style, architecture, products, thoroughfares, industries and landscapes. A statewide brick-sale campaign was carried on by which to raise funds for transporting and housing the exhibits. On September 13th, Roy Oakes resigned as secretary of the Exposition Commission and was succeeded by A. R. Turner of Oklahoma City.

In the April election Guy Blackwelder was reelected commissioner of public works, defeating Henry M. Scales, a former mayor. J. T. Highley was reelected commissioner of public safety, defeating O. A. Mitscher. The progressive party for the first time nominated candidates for municipal offices. Fred Peckham was its nominee for commissioner of public works and Orin Ashton for commissioner of public safety.

Guy V. Buchanan of Joplin, Mo., was this year elected superintendent of schools to succeed W. A. Brandenburg, who retired to accept the position of president of a state normal college at Pittsburg, Kan.

Patience ceased to be a virtue with the Oklahoma City Terminal Railway Company while it awaited word from officials of the Missouri, Oklahoma & Gulf Railway Company that it was ready to contract for construction of a road from Henryetta to Oklahoma City, and on September 16th the terminal company advised the railway company that unless the contract was executed at once the latter would forfeit the bonus of \$75,000 that had been raised. On November 5th the terminal company announced its readiness to return the money subscribed to the bonus fund, and it was only a few months later that the railway company passed into the hands of a receiver. The terminal company had on deposit in banks nearly forty-four thousand dollars of money received from a





bond issue, which remained to be disposed of. Officials of the terminal company, which was created to receive and make disposition of the railroad bonus, were George G. Solhlberg, president, R. M. Gardner, secretary, W. V. Hardie, assistant secretary, and O. P. Workman, treasurer.

At a wide awake luncheon of the Chamber of Commerce on October 23d the body heard an illuminating address on the subject of the possibilities of irrigation in Oklahoma, delivered by H. M. Cottrell, agricultural commissioner of the Rock Island Railway Company. It rekindled the booster fervor of former inspirational gatherings and the body went on record favoring an irrigation project for the vicinity of this city, and President Gloyd appointed a committee to make a survey of the underground water supply. Commissioner Cottrell promised to send his railroad engineers down to assist in the enterprise. The meeting was addressed also by United States Senator Gore. Since a democratic national administration had been installed in March and a vacancy existed, or was about to exist, in the Interstate Commerce Commission, Frank J. Wikoff at this luncheon nominated George Henshaw, a member of the Corporation Commission, for appointment to a seat in the national body. The nomination was seconded by J. H. Johnston.

At the regular annual banquet of the Chamber this year, attended by 500 persons, an address was delivered by Willis L. Moore, chief officer of the United States Weather Bureau. On April 15th, W. B. Moore resigned as secretary-manager and was succeeded by W. V. Hardie, secretary of the Oklahoma Traffic Association.

Three interurban cars were filled with guests of the Oklahoma Railway Company on November 14th on the initial run of cars into Norman. They were met by a large crowd of Norman residents and students of the State University and a welcoming meeting was held in the street. The welcoming address was delivered by Judge W. L. Eagleton, president of the Norman Chamber of Commerce, and the response by Frank J. Wikoff of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. Other speeches were made by Dr. Phil C. Baird of the First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City, John Shartel, general manager of the railway company, Dr.





SKIRVIN HOTEL



Stratton D. Brooks, president of the State University, and George Henshaw, a member of the corporation commission.

With an appropriation of \$75,000, provided by the Legislature, a commission composed of Governor Cruce, Secretary of State Harrison and State Treasurer Dunlop paid for and accepted a silver service that was to be presented next year to the commanding officer of the Battleship Oklahoma, completion of which was to be announced within a few months. The service consisted of sixty-seven pieces weighing 223 pounds sterling. On the handle of one piece was engraved a likeness of Sequoyah, inventor of the Cherokee alphabet. On the handle of another was a likeness of David L. Payne, the chief of Oklahoma boomers. On the punch bowl was an engraved reproduction of a picture of the "run" in 1889, and on another part of it the great seal of state. The front elevation of the capitol soon to be erected was depicted on a large tray that bore the service. Governor Cruce announced that his daughter Lorena would be selected to christen the dreadnaught.

The year was notable for the number of resignations of officials. On February 11th, William Tighlman resigned as chief of police and announced himself a candidate for appointment as United States marshal. He was succeeded by Jerome D. Jones whom Mayor Grant appointed. On February 12th, Leo Meyer resigned as state auditor and Governor Cruce appointed J. C. McClelland of Oklahoma City to succeed him. On March 18th, Senator J. B. Thompson of Pauls Valley resigned from the Senate preparatory to taking his seat in Congress, to which he had been elected from the state at large. On April 28th, A. L. Welch of Purcell was appointed by Governor Cruce to succeed P. A. Ballard who had resigned as state insurance commissioner. Justice Jesse J. Dunn resigned from the Supreme Court on August 12th, announcing that he expected to become a resident of Oakland, Cal., and Governor Cruce appointed Judge R. H. Looftbourrow of Woodward to fill the vacancy.

A reorganization of the Real Estate Dealers Association was perfected this year and steps were taken to carry on a campaign of publicity for the city and to assist the railroads in stimulating immigration. L. C. McClure was elected president, and the directors were E. L. Aurelius, Dr. G. A. Nichols,



J. W. Mann, Dr. A. C. Enochs, C. F. Coleord, L. D. Kight, Charles B. Cooke, J. W. Pryer, G. H. Brauer and A. R. Nelson.

A mild condemnation of the referendum, vouchsafed by the constitution, as a provision of a city charter was expressed at a meeting of officials of commission-governed cities held here January 15th, in response to a call of Mayor Grant. Objections were found also to the recall provision of charters. This was the first meeting of the kind in the history of the state and it resulted in the election of E. S. Ratliff, mayor of Ada, as president; Guy Blackwelder, commissioner of public works of Oklahoma City, secretary; and P. P. Duffy, mayor of El Reno, vice president. The discussions were timely so far as Mayor Grant was concerned, for twice already efforts had been made to effect his recall. His was a business administration and approved by business men, but it was in disfavor with political charter enemies and organizations that complained of lax enforcement of ordinances against liquor and gambling. The Central Hundred, an organization composed principally of churchmen and headed by John Embry, formerly United States district attorney, was perfected, and its members were instructed to use their influence for the enforcement of city, county and state laws.

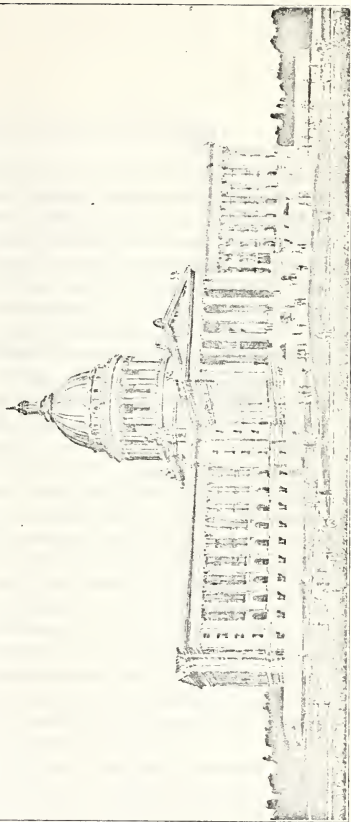
Other events of the year included the following: The House of Representatives of the Legislature, of which J. H. Maxey was speaker, passed a resolution favoring the appointment of Judge R. A. Rogers of Oklahoma City as secretary of the interior; Elmer E. Houghton, an Eighty-Niner, a veteran of the Spanish-American war and the owner of much county and city property, died on June 12; Hubert L. Bolen, a representative in the Legislature from Oklahoma County and who had managed the campaign for Senator Owen the previous year, received notice of his appointment as internal revenue collector for Oklahoma; Clarke C. Hudson, one of the new members of the board of education, was elected its president; on October 21st announcement was made that the North Canadian Valley Railway Company, of which John Shartel was general manager, had purchased the railway interests of L. E. Patterson and associates and that the purchase meant in effect a consolidation with the Classen railway interests;





on October 24th, Dr. J. Q. Newell was appointed United States marshal of the Western District to succeed Cash M. Cade; J. L. Wilkin was elected president of the State Fair Association; G. B. Stone, vice president; J. F. Warren, treasurer, and I. S. Mahan, secretary.





OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL



## 1914—THE CENTRAL HUNDRED

Whether law violations were more numerous and more notorious this year than in former years or only appeared to be through revelations made to the public is not ascertainable. It is certain that the public conscience was livelier and public outcry for intenser efforts at law enforcement was vastly more evident and much more insistent than formerly. The Central Hundred, an association of churchmen principally, which was organized in the preceding year, wielded a tremendous influence in behalf of law and order, public morals and public decency. While its motives sometimes were doubted in high places and crinations were indulged by its enemies, there is no doubt that a great majority of its members were righteously conscientious and moved by commendable desires. On the other hand, its activities no doubt ran counter to the activities of others whose endeavors were equally well grounded in morals but trended an entirely different route toward results. A detailed review of the year's reform movements would inevitably force a conclusion in the mind of a nonresident that the city had become unpardonably bad. Doubtless currents of lawlessness in the lower strata of the city's life had been set off from shore by the defeat of the proposed repeal of the prohibition article of the constitution. Color was lent to this presumption when advocates of local option, undismayed by defeat, resolved to maintain an organization, hoping that a time would be found opportune to again submit the matter to the people of the state.

A severe criticism of Mayor Grant was contained in the substance of the proceedings of a January meeting of the Central Hundred, and on January 29th, Fred S. Caldwell, counsel for the organization, filed with the city clerk the necessary form of affidavit as a basis for initiating a recall petition. The affidavit charged that the mayor had been



derelict in enforcing laws against the sale of intoxicating liquor and gambling. Mayor Grant replied to the charge in a statement addressed "to the people of Oklahoma City," in which he told of the handicaps of the administration. It was difficult, he said, for officers to locate the scenes of operations of law violators because of lookouts being stationed advantageously by violators to report the presence of officers. The people had demanded an economical administration, which he was striving earnestly to give them, he said, and he deemed it inadvisable to concentrate his police force against violators of this kind to the exclusion of regular duties that required all of their time. He defended what he termed a commendable record for law enforcement, expressed a doubt that officials ever would be able to cope successfully with the hip-pocket bootlegger, and recommended that county officials take a lead in enforcing the anti-liquor and anti-gambling laws because of their ability to secure and maintain injunctions against violators and their places of business.

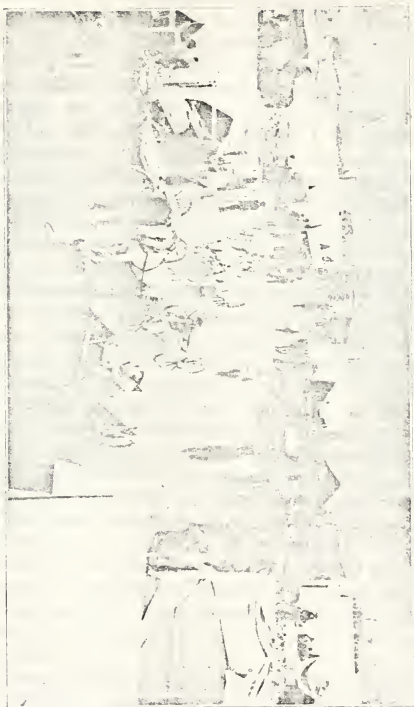
Sentiment created by the Central Hundred's propaganda was in a measure responsible for Mayor Grant's demanding the resignation of Police Chief Jones and the appointment of Shirley Dyer as successor. Jones declined to submit his resignation and both he and Dyer reported for duty. This controversy was terminated ten days later when Dyer resigned and Webb Jones was appointed.

The public did not impugn the motives of men who, during this period of the revolt of the churchmen, organized the United Civics Association, but a considerable percentage of the public condoned what they conceived to be the inopportuneness of the association. And this belief was intensified when the association in a call for a meeting asserted that "there never was a time in history when a display of common sense and courage was more needed, when cheap politicians, and fake reformers were making themselves so conspicuous, to the injury of Oklahoma's material prosperity and advancement." Henry Crosby was president of the association, A. M. Goldstant, vice president, and F. B. Johnson, secretary-treasurer.

When there were signs of the disappearance of clouds of conflict and of an improvement in public morals, "Queenie"







FIRST WEEK BETWEEN CALIFORNIA AND GRAND AVENUES



came to town. Queenie was a dancing girl, imported for entertainment of delegates to a cattlemen's convention. It would appear from the rag-tag of street conversation, which was repeated and spread until it encompassed the city, that Queenie performed unethically for the cattlemen and their Oklahoma City host. This was among the reasons for the creation of the Women's Council of Oklahoma City on March 16. Other reasons were the interest the women had in general reforms. Its president was Mrs. S. Ditzell, its vice presidents Mrs. John Threadgill and Mrs. C. M. Steffer, its recording secretary, Mrs. Michael Conlan, its corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. P. Cochran, its treasurer, Mrs. Tracy Robinson, and its parliamentarian, Mrs. William Kelley.

Representatives of several law and order organizations conferred with the governor. They discussed conditions generally and in particular protested against race-track gambling being permitted during a forthcoming race meet. The governor said to them that if necessary he would order out state troops to prevent gambling. Shortly after that the hand of the governor was visible in clean-up operations, Attorney General Charles West appearing in the District Court to assist the county attorney in the prosecution of two men charged with gambling. John Embry, president of the Central Hundred, represented that body in the prosecution. In the meantime Sheriff M. C. Binion and his flying squadrons of deputies were diligently pursuing law violators, Mayor Grant and his police department were increasing their activities, and wholesome results were being obtained. Attorney General West, having secured convictions in the gambling cases, continued to harass law violators. He instituted suit for \$8,000 against the owners of one of the city's largest office buildings, charging that rooms were leased for law violation purposes.

From the city hall came the next move. It was made by Col. J. W. Johnson, municipal counsellor, who applied to District Judge J. J. Carney for an injunction restraining operation of turf exchanges. It was granted, but later dismissed, and Attorney General West, taking a hand, joined Colonel Johnson in an application for another hearing. County Attorney D. K. Pope resented the apparent officiousness of



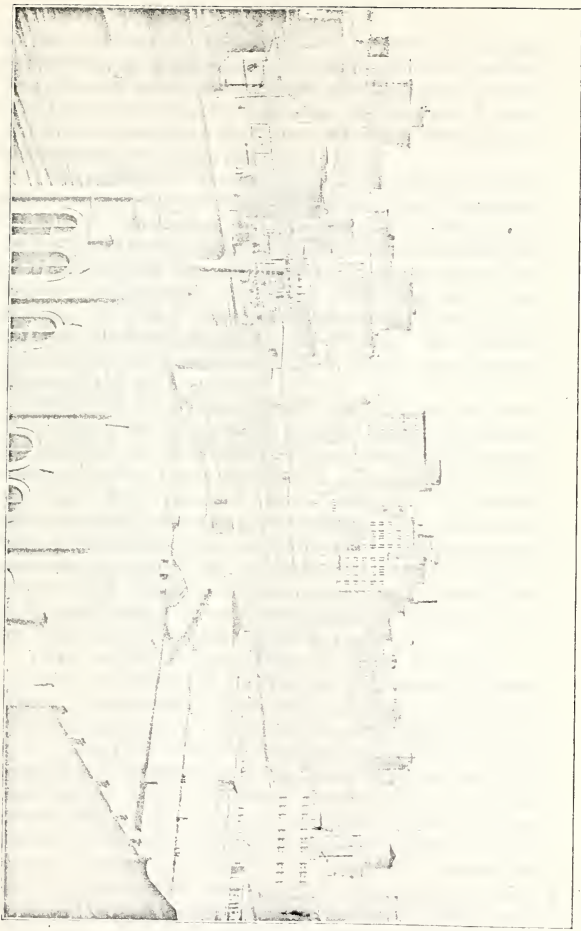
the attorney general and said in effect that the latter should continue to relieve him of enforcing the anti-liquor and anti-gambling laws, to which Mr. West replied, "It's your duty; you do it." Whereupon the Central Hundred administered a rebuke to the county attorney.

More stringent laws relating to bootlegging and gambling were approved by the people of the state in the August election and Governor Cruce on September 16 issued a proclamation declaring them in effect. During the remainder of the year there was peace and the gradual restoration of good will.

By a breath-taking margin the city escaped another capital campaign this year. A decision of the Supreme Court saved them. Representative J. E. Wyand of Muskogee and Henry Swearingen of Guthrie, it will be recalled, had filed with the secretary of state a petition asking for a referendum to the people of the last act of the Legislature touching the capital issue. The constitution provides that such a petition must be filed within ninety days after the adjournment of the session of the Legislature during which the act was passed. These petitioners, believing that the session had been officially terminated on July 5 timed their filing toward the extreme end of an ensuing ninety-day period. Secretary of State Benjamin F. Harrison declined to act upon the petition and the petitioners appealed to the Supreme Court. That tribunal had before it the question of the exact and legal date of the adjournment of the Legislature. The court was shown a record of the House, having on June 30th adopted a concurrent resolution providing for adjournment until July 5, and a record of the Senate having on July 1 adopted the resolution. The resolution provided that should there not be a quorum present on July 5, the speaker of the House and the president of the Senate should declare the session adjourned without day. The court held that the Legislature was without authority to delegate the matter of adjournment to a minority and that the session legally ended on July 1, wherefore the filing of the capital petition fell without the ninety-day period.

Charles F. Colcord, president of the Chamber of Commerce, issued a public statement on March 17 advising the people that the city was behind over \$53,000 in collections





VIEW OF SINGAPORE FROM THE WHOLESALE DISTRICT





to pay a balance due the state under a rental and expense agreement, and he asked Mayor Grant to proclaim a holiday that solicitors might have right of way for a final canvass. The amount was raised in due time and on June 5, State Treasurer Dunlop gave Mr. Coleord the state's official receipt showing the debt paid in full.

With appropriate exercises and in the presence of a large crowd the first dirt was turned in construction of the capitol on July 20. Governor Cruce, who made an address, opened the soil with a pick presented to him by J. E. O'Neil, manager of the Richards & Conover Hardware Company, and W. B. Anthony, chairman of the capitol commission, dug deeper into the soil with a silver shovel presented to him by the Simmons Hardware Company of St. Louis. The Chamber of Commerce was represented by Ed S. Vaught, who delivered the second address of the day.

Former Justice Jesse J. Dunn of the Oklahoma Supreme Court came from his California home in August with authority to speak for officials of the Panama-Pacific Exposition Company and he urged Oklahoma to make the best possible showing at San Francisco. On December 8, C. H. Russell, then secretary-treasurer of the Oklahoma exposition commission and who had been responsible for much of the interest manifested, resigned. He was succeeded by Mrs. Fred Sutton, one of the organizers of the company. In this enterprise, as in many another since the founding of the city, Mrs. Sutton concentrated her best thought and effort.

When in July the Tax Efficiency League discovered, according to its best lights, that the city government's expense budget for the ensuing year seemed entirely too high, it sent its president, Judge B. F. Burwell, to confer with the mayor. J. H. Johnston, an official of the league, had reported that the budget totaled \$125,000 more than in the previous year. By reason of the league's insistence some reductions were obtained. One of the objects of the league, which had been formed but recently, was to secure an amendment to the city charter to create the office of city manager. A committee appointed by Judge Burwell to prepare amendments consisted of E. H. Cooke, R. A. Vose, C. E. Bennett, J. P. Martin and M. D. Scott. The object, said Mayor Grant in a public state-



ment expressing his disapproval, was to create a position for Mr. Johnston.

It was generally believed at this time that efforts to secure sufficient water from wells to supply the city's requirements were doomed to failure, and this belief was strengthened on November 8 of this year when F. H. Newell, chief of the United States Reclamation Service, expressed positive disapproval of well projects. Mr. Newell spent the day here as a guest of City Commissioner W. H. Hampton and Water Superintendent J. W. Bennett and continued his journey to Lawton where he investigated for the Government the mountain source of water supply for that city and Fort Sill. Artesian wells are for small towns and not for cities, he said, and he pointed out that Dallas and Denver had been compelled to seek supplies elsewhere. The hope of a city, he said, is in the storage of flood water. The opinion of the reclamation service chief was responsible in large measure for the city later securing its permanent water supply from a reservoir created by the damming and dredging of the North Canadian River.

Several district good roads associations were merged this year into the first permanent Oklahoma Good Roads Association, of which W. J. Milburn of Johnston County and later a resident of the city, was elected president, and Alfred Hare of Oklahoma City, secretary. The subject of good roads had been an abstract one, in spite of the efforts of I. M. Putnam, Mr. Milburn and others in the Legislature and of Col. Sidney Suggs, state highway commissioner, to educate the public to appreciate advantages of improved highways. More or less sporadic efforts at state organization had been made during the preceding few years; and it was about this time that motor-car concerns, which had been carrying on an unprecedented business, offered encouragement and support to the movement. Delegates from various parts of the state attended this meeting, and they were welcomed in speeches by President Colecord of the Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Grant. Among them was Col. A. N. Leecraft, afterwards state treasurer.

A resolution was adopted at the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Oklahoma State Fair Association in No-





RESIDENCE OF C. F. COLCORD



RESIDENCE OF H. OVERHOLSER



member authorizing the directors to increase the capital stock from \$100,000 to \$250,000. The fair had maintained the remarkable growth that characterized its first few years and had become beyond peradventure a permanent and necessary institution. J. F. Warren was reelected president and G. B. Stone, vice president, and I. H. Mahan, secretary. J. M. Owen was elected treasurer.

Some other important events of the year were these: Elmer E. Brown, a pioneer of the city, an early-day publisher, recently superseded as postmaster, and altogether one of the city's worthiest and most progressive citizens, became secretary of the Chamber of Commerce; on March 10, Justice R. L. Williams resigned from the Supreme Court to enter the race for governor and was succeeded by Stilwell H. Russell of Ardmore who was appointed by Governor Cruce, the new justice serving, however, only until May 16, when he died; on April 14, John Fields was nominated on the republican ticket for governor and Judge John H. Burford for United States senator; a little later John P. Hickam of Stillwater was nominated on the progressive ticket for governor and J. M. Morrow of Oklahoma City for lieutenant governor; in the November election, Judge Williams was chosen governor, E. M. Trapp, lieutenant governor, T. P. Gore, United States senator, W. L. Alexander, state treasurer, E. B. Howard, state auditor, Frank Gault, president of the state board of agriculture, A. L. Welch, state insurance commissioner, William Ashton, state labor commissioner, W. D. Matthews, commissioner of charities and corrections, S. P. Freeling, attorney general, Ed Boyle, chief mine inspector, R. H. Wilson, state superintendent of education, Fred Parkinson, state examiner and inspector, J. L. Lyon, secretary of state, A. P. Watson, corporation commissioner, W. M. Franklin, clerk of the Supreme Court, Summers Hardy, J. F. Sharp and G. A. Brown, justices of the Supreme Court, and James R. Armstrong, justice of the Criminal Court of Appeals. On August 18, occurred the death of J. A. J. Baugus, an Eighty-niner and former county superintendent of schools; and on December 7, occurred the death of Col. J. W. Johnson, municipal counsellor, at the age of sixty-seven, his death marking the passage of a prominent and useful citizen, since the founding of the city.





## 1915—PASSING OF PIONEERS

Three of the city's pioneers, all of them men of prominence, who had had a conspicuous part in commercial, civic and religious progress, passed away during the year. In the matter of leadership in paramount enterprises, and particularly in the quality of executiveship, Henry Overholser doubtless was the chief of these. The others were Dr. John Threadgill and Judge H. Y. Thompson.

Mr. Overholser's death occurred on August 24, after a prolonged illness that caused his absolute retirement from business. He was one of less than a dozen men of '89, accounted business leaders of the early years, who lived through the succeeding quarter century and retained a position among the leaders. He was born in Ohio in 1846 and had come West as a young man. As one of the early settlers of the city he built the first hotel and the first theater. To him was credited the first suggestion of the organization of a county fair, which was the initial step toward organization of the State Fair Association. He was one of the promoters of the Chamber of Commerce which succeeded the Oklahoma City Club and his was the first name written on the membership roll.

Representative men of the city were genuinely devoted to him and to the policies he so long advocated, and through them was reflected a city-wide sentiment of regret over his demise. Dr. J. G. Street, acting for the absent mayor, issued a proclamation asking business houses and offices to close and that flags be flown at half mast during the period of the funeral. Exercises were conducted at the First Christian Church by the Rev. E. C. Van Horn, pastor. The pallbearers were A. H. Classen, C. F. Coleord, W. J. Pettee, John Fields, E. H. Cooke, B. F. Burwell, E. E. Brown, R. J. Edwards, J. L. Wilkin and J. F. Warren. Appropriate resolutions adopted by the Chamber of Commerce were drafted by a



committee consisting of Ed S. Vaught, S. L. Brock, J. E. O'Neil, Frank Wikoff and James Chenoweth.

Dr. John Threadgill died May 14. He was not a pioneer of Oklahoma City, as pioneers were designated in these days, having come here in 1901, but he had come to the territory in 1895, six years after the opening. His influence as a citizen of the territory was kindred to that of the metropolis; for the latter had been, and still is, so inseparably a part of the territory that it would be impossible to write a history of one without drawing largely upon the more or less venerable sources of the other. A native of North Carolina, Dr. Threadgill, after sojourning for a few years in Brenham and Taylor, Texas, settled in Norman, Okla., in 1895, and established a sanitarium. Although a veteran of the Confederacy, he was a sincere republican and his party twice sent him to the Territorial Council (upper house of the Legislature). In 1905 he was appointed a member of the territorial board of education. Coming to Oklahoma City, he was one of the organizers and was first president of the Commercial National Bank. Later he was a director of the State National Bank. In 1903 he was president of the city board of education. At Second and Broadway he built a hotel that for many years bore his name. Newspapers of that day spoke of the structure as being one of the finest in the Southwest. He was intensely devoted to the interests of the veterans of the Lost Cause and for many years his was a familiar figure at their state and national reunions. On July 19th, veterans of the state assembled at St. Luke's Church to do honor to his memory. Addresses were delivered by Gov. R. L. Williams, Gen. D. M. Hailey of McAlester and others.

Judge Thompson, who in the previous autumn election had been elected county attorney, died on April 16th, at the age of sixty-two. Although a native of Ohio, the many and varied scenes of his career lay in the Middle and Farther West. He went to Portland, Oregon, as a young man, studied law and seven times in succession was elected prosecuting attorney of that county. Later for several years he was attorney for the Great Northern Railway Company. He came to Oklahoma City in 1903 and thereafter was active in public and professional life. In 1907 he was president of the Chamber of





EDWARD OVERHOLSER



Commerce. In 1913 he was assistant to County Attorney D. K. Pope and in the campaign of 1914 defeated Herbert Peck, the democratic nominee, for county attorney.

The corner stone of the Capitol was laid with Masonic and public ceremony on November 16th, the eighth anniversary of the advent of statehood. A proclamation concerning it was issued by Governor Williams on November 9th and the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations arranged to take part in the exercises. These consisted of a parade initiated in the business district and extended to the Capitol site, Masonic ceremonies led by E. A. Monroney, most worshipful grand master of the Masonic Lodge, addresses by Governor Williams and Chief Justice M. J. Kane, a prayer by Bishop F. K. Brooke and a song entitled "Oklahoma," by the Apollo Club. The occasion warranted a partial holiday and thousands of persons witnessed the ceremonies and heard the addresses.

Former State Senator P. J. Goulding of Enid was, on March 23d, elected chairman of the Capitol Commission. The governor at that time, showing appreciation of the vital interest that residents of the city entertained, appointed an advisory committee of citizens whose duty was to assist the commission in the selection of plans, consideration of estimates and the awarding of contracts. This committee consisted of E. K. Gaylord, Joseph Huckins and Ed S. Vaught of Oklahoma City and also H. W. Gibson of Muskogee and Thomas Hale of McAlester. A law passed by the Legislature early in the year provided that the commission should meet only on call of the chairman or of the governor. In June, the commission, with consent of the advisory committee, awarded a contract for construction of the building to James Stewart & Company of New York, the contract price being slightly over \$1,500,000. John H. Frederickson, a brother of George Frederickson of Oklahoma City, was appointed construction superintendent.

The chief political events of the year were the inauguration of Judge Williams as governor, in which the city's society participated, and the election and inauguration of Edward Overholser as mayor. The first appointment made by the governor was of A. N. Leecraft of Colbert as his secretary.





J. L. Lyon of Oklahoma City, who had been elected secretary of state largely through the influence of organizations of traveling salesmen, of which he was a member, took his office with other state officials on January 11th and selected Charles McCafferty, former treasurer of Oklahoma County, as his chief assistant.

Governor Williams in his message to his first Legislature, which convened in January, recommended an appropriation of \$5,000 for paying expenses of Oklahoma's exhibit at the Panama-Pacific Exposition. William A. Durant introduced a bill appropriating \$6,000 for that purpose. It was passed by the House but rejected by the Senate.

Mr. Overholser, a son of the distinguished pioneer, Henry Overholser, was elected mayor over W. D. Gault, the democratic nominee. Fifteen years earlier, W. J. Gault, father of this candidate, defeated Henry Overholser for mayor. Mike Donnelly was elected commissioner of accounting and finance, defeating Robert Parman, the republican nominee, and Dr. J. G. Street was elected commissioner of public property, defeating H. G. Eastman, late postmaster, the republican nominee. J. B. Norton was the independent nominee for mayor and W. R. Gallion, the socialist nominee.

Byron D. Shear was selected by the mayor as municipal counsellor to succeed Judge W. R. Taylor, who had been appointed as the successor of the late Col. J. W. Johnson. Mr. Shear, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, had been clerk of the United States District Court under Judge B. F. Burwell from 1898 to statehood and since that time had practiced his profession. On recommendation of a large number of bankers, business men and professional men, John E. Dickson was appointed city treasurer. Loyal J. Miller succeeded O. L. Price as municipal judge, and W. B. Nichols was named chief of police.

A mardi gras ball was the important feature of the entertainment of the Eighty-niners Association this year, and preceding it was the annual banquet. Governor Williams and his staff attended the festivities and the governor crowned the queen of the ball, Miss Caroline Colcord, who had been selected for the honor in a popularity contest conducted by the Women of Eighty-nine. The king, her attendant, was Eu-



gene Whittington. Officers elected by the association were C. F. Coleord, president, W. O. Church, vice president, A. L. Welch, secretary, and Fred Sutton, treasurer. Directors were J. M. Owen, J. J. Weitzel, A. H. Classen and W. J. Pettee.

The war in Europe, which began in the previous year, was spreading its tentacles across the seas, and in Oklahoma City, as everywhere else in the Nation, preparedness was a topic of important discussion. President Wilson in December issued a statement favoring some form and measure of preparedness. The Women of Eighty-nine was the first organization in the state to express an opinion on the subject. It adopted a resolution and forwarded a copy to the President and to each member of the Oklahoma delegation in Congress in which it asserted that "as mothers and wives we abhor and deplore war in all its details; we are loath to give up our husbands and sons for cannon fodder; but if compelled to defend our country and our homes, we demand such a measure of preparedness as will give them the fighting chance to which they are entitled."

Oklahoma women had for ten years been as forward in literary and civic enterprises as had women of the other states, but, with a few exceptional instances, they had sought little recognition in public affairs. They had been content principally with fostering civic pride through the planting of trees and the beautifying of parks and with the conduct of the public schools and the churches and the building and operation of the public library. Several efforts to create a statewide interest in woman suffrage had failed, although a few faithful ones in the cause never let the fires burn low. But the city had now become a playground of joyriders and a center of picture-show enthusiasm and festivities. Jazz had not been defined but its symptoms had been experienced in their incipency. The women were the first to sense the need of reform in the character of pictures exhibited, and when "Inspiration" was flashed upon the screen and became the subject of street-corner conversation, they organized, under direction of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and marched upon the city's capitol. They asked Mayor Overholser to appoint a censor board. The mayor replied that he himself would be censor, and he had an ordinance passed



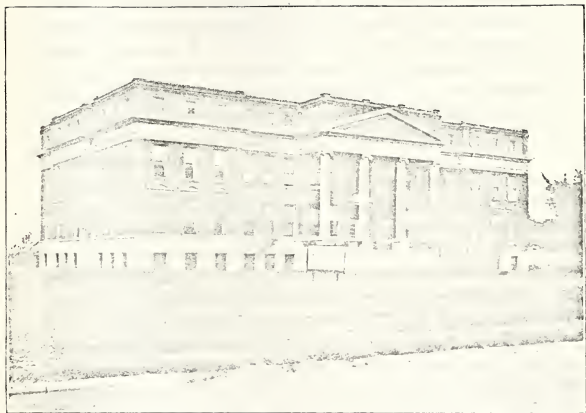
granting him that authority and forbidding the exhibition of pictures calculated to corrupt public or private morals. The mayor fared forth upon a new mission. The first exercise of authority took place on the east side where he barred "Inspiration" from a negro picture house.

The new board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce in January chose E. K. Gaylord, president; Ed S. Vaught, vice president; R. J. Edwards, second vice president, and D. W. Hogan, treasurer. Mr. Gaylord announced that he had in mind a year of get-acquainted activities, and these he accounted of as great moment as efforts to secure enterprises of the equal of the packing plants and the state capitol. Owing to the call of business that kept him out of the city for several months, Mr. Gaylord resigned on November 1st and the directors elected Mr. Vaught to serve out the unexpired term. At the regular December meeting for that purpose a new board of directors for the ensuing year was chosen, consisting of E. H. Slack, William Mee, E. S. Malone, Fred S. Gum, I. S. Mahan, Ed S. Vaught, R. A. Vose, G. A. Nichols, G. G. Kerr and J. M. Bass.

Since Oklahoma City had been awarded the capital and had received a large vote over the eastern part of the state, Muskogee, then the leading city of the east side, felt that Oklahoma City should not begrudge it the honor of being the seat of a State Fair recognized by law and supported by appropriations of the Legislature. Directors of the State Fair Association had not asked recognition of the Legislature nor had the Chamber of Commerce, but both this year found themselves facing a fight to prevent Muskogee getting recognition by the state. The fight was provoked by a bill introduced in the House by Representative N. B. Maxey of Muskogee which proposed official recognition of a fair conducted at Muskogee and making appropriations for buildings and to pay premiums. The bill failed of passage, but that was not by any means the end of Muskogee's efforts; indeed, she in later years was rewarded with a measure of victory.

Claude Weaver, whose term as a member of Congress expired March 4th, was appointed postmaster to succeed H. G. Eastman who submitted his resignation on February 17th. Mr. Weaver was installed on April 1st. Some other appoint-





EPWORTH METHODIST CHURCH (ORIGINALLY EPWORTH UNIVERSITY)





ments of the year were these: J. D. Lankford, who was state bank commissioner during the administration of Governor Cruce, was reappointed by Governor Williams; W. R. Samuel of Vinita, who later for a number of years was secretary of the Oklahoma Bankers Association in Oklahoma City, was appointed a member of the state banking board; A. L. Walker, who later was a member of the corporation commission, was appointed chairman of the state election board; John Embry, of Central Hundred fame and who had been United States district attorney, was appointed county attorney for the unexpired term of the late H. Y. Thompson; R. J. Edwards, for some years one of the leading bond dealers of the state, was elected president of the city board of education; Dr. LeRoy Long of McAlester, who subsequently was a representative physician of the city, was appointed dean of the medical department of the State University, succeeding Dr. C. R. Day of Oklahoma City.

Other outstanding events of the year included these: It was announced in January that bank deposits on the first of the year had totaled \$111,000,000, an increase of twenty per cent over the total of that date in the preceding year; a proposed bond issue of \$240,000 for water extensions was defeated June 15th; on June 27th, it was announced that Dr. R. A. Chase was to retire as pastor of the First Methodist Church and that his successor would be Dr. I. F. Roach of Madison, Wis., to whose pulpit Doctor Chase had been assigned; on July 17th, the State National Bank absorbed the City State Bank and W. D. Caldwell of the latter was elected a vice president of the former, and among the new directors of the State National was E. W. Sinclair of Tulsa; Justice G. A. Brown of the Supreme Court, one of the ablest lawyers and jurists of the state, died on October 25th and his body was sent to Mangum, his home, for burial, and Governor Williams appointed Charles M. Thacker of Mangum to fill the vacancy.

Henry Overholser was born April 20, 1846, on a farm near Dayton, Ohio, where his childhood and youth were spent. In his young manhood he spent several years in Indiana, after which he settled at Ashland, Wis., where he engaged in business. He came to Oklahoma City when the country was first



opened to settlement, bringing several carloads of building material with which a number of small frame business structures were erected. From the first he was recognized as a leader in the affairs of the new community, where his keen, shrewd business judgment often helped to tide over times of troubles and perplexity. One day in July, 1893, two of the four banks in Oklahoma City closed their doors and a heavy run soon started on a third bank. Mr. Overholser was one of the bondsmen of the territorial treasurer. He hurried to Guthrie and demanded every dollar in the treasury for deposit in the distressed bank. The treasurer had only \$5,000, which was on deposit in the Guthrie banks. It was drawn out in silver and gold coins and placed in sacks. Other coin sacks were filled with iron washers. When Mr. Overholser returned to Oklahoma City he was accompanied by four or five men, each carrying two heavy sacks. The first of the sacks to reach the paying teller's window were opened and the yellow and white coins rolled out in plain sight, with the result that the line of anxious depositors melted away almost instantly. When he was elected a member of the board of county commissioners of Oklahoma County in 1894, county warrants were being sold at 40 cents on the dollar. As the result of his vigorous insistence and management they were soon selling at par. During his last years Mr. Overholser was president of the State Fair Association, to the affairs of which he devoted much time and personal attention, thus insuring the success of the enterprise. He died at Oklahoma City, August 25, 1915.—Thoburn.



## 1916—THE FOOD STRIKERS

Because of the World war, food production had so slackened in Europe that it became necessary for the United States to furnish a large part not only of the food that soldiers required but that of women and children and other non-combatants. Enormous exports of food to Europe by virtue of the law of economy produced gradually rising prices of food in this country. So rapidly did the prices mount in some instances that housewives believed merchants were profiteering. In Oklahoma City they believed it, and they told the merchants so. The merchants made stout denial but stout denial did not affect the skyrocketing living-expense account.

Three hundred women attended a mass meeting at the Congregational Church the evening of December 3d. It was a meeting of protest and to devise ways and means of cutting expenses and of assisting the poor who could not pay high prices for food and clothes. It was presided over by Mrs. R. M. Campbell, president of the City Federation of Clubs, and it was addressed by Sidney L. Brock and Mont R. Powell. Mr. Brock dwelt upon the necessity of practicing economy. Mr. Powell urged the women to enter into a crusade against profiteering. Mrs. Campbell asked the women to assist her in a movement to aid the poor.

The Housewives' League met on December 11th with 200 present. At this meeting was initiated probably the first movement in Oklahoma toward the practice of self-denial in food needs and the practice of conserving foods most needed for the Allies in France. The members agreed to eat fewer potatoes and fewer eggs. Miss Louise Hopkins, head of the domestic science department of the Central State Normal School, at Edmond, agreed to furnish a list of substitute foods for those denied. Miss Leno Osborne, an expert in the domestic science art, agreed to furnish menus for simple and wholesome meals. Simplicity in foods was the watchword. Mrs.



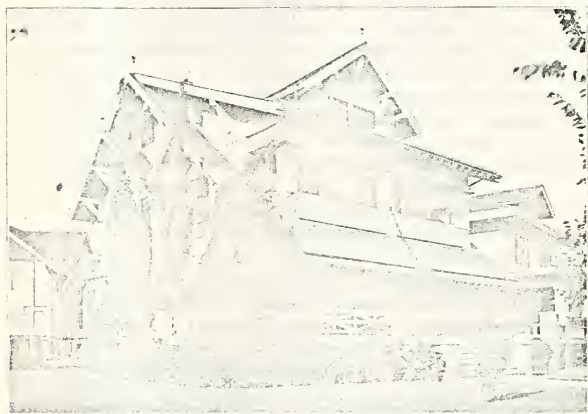
M. E. Reynolds, chairman of the philanthropic committee of the City Federation, discussed the wages of the poor and asked for assistance in distributing food and clothing to the needy. Such meetings as these awakened the people to a fuller realization of conditions facing civilization, and their influence was extended and widened until it became a powerful and patriotic force in the days of sterner realities when America joined the Allies in the greater fight for civilization.

While the women imbued with the idea of food economies began their work in an organized way this year, another body of women completed the foundation of a structure that was to become a succor to the poor and unfortunate and a place of refuge and comfort to the worthy bereft, down into other generations. This body was known as the Community Club, and its members and the Rev. W. H. B. Urch, then pastor of the Pilgrim Congregational Church, erected on the south side what was called the Pilgrim Community House. It was dedicated on December 8th with appropriate exercises during which addresses were made by Mayor Overholser and Col. A. N. Leecraft who represented Governor Williams. The club was short \$5,000 of the amount necessary to pay all debts of the enterprise, and on the day of the dedication a donation of that amount was made by B. B. Jones, a wealthy oil man. Mrs. Ed Overholser was president of the club, Mrs. B. B. Jones, vice president, and Mrs. Frank P. Johnson, secretary.

It was a year of big philanthropy. A fund of \$300,000 was subscribed with which to erect and equip a building for the Young Men's Christian Association. The enterprise appealed to virtually all the people and, although some days of hard work were allotted toward the end of the campaign to subscription-taking committees, some of the city's biggest hearted and wealthiest men booked themselves for substantial donations. For instance, a committee of nineteen men, the first that was organized for solicitation purposes, at its first meeting made each a subscription of \$2,500. These men were A. J. McMahan, D. I. Johnston, G. G. Kerr, R. A. Kleinschmidt, George G. Sohlberg, C. C. Roberts, E. B. McKillip, A. H. Classen, Walter Caldwell, Ed Overholser, Edward Vaught, J. H. Everest, Leon Levy, C. B. Ames, S. S. Smith, Allen Street, J. E. O'Neil, Henry Hoffman and S. M. Gloyd.







RESIDENCE OF C. P. SITES



This committee's activities were directed by an executive committee selected during a mass meeting held on October 29th. This committee consisted of A. J. McMahan, G. G. Kerr, George G. Sohlberg, C. C. Roberts and R. A. Kleinschmidt. The original program contemplated the raising of \$250,000, but at a banquet of the workers held on November 25th, which was attended by 700 persons, it was agreed that \$300,000 should be raised. During this banquet there reappeared some of that singular brand of Oklahoma enthusiasm and while it held the audience with its thrill R. J. Edwards announced that he would make a further donation of \$10,000. Then pioneers came to the fore again. An Eighty-Niner of the hickory blend appears never to have met defeat. Charles F. Coleord and Anton H. Classen arose simultaneously and announced additions of \$5,000 each to their subscriptions. Possibly there were others equally large. The fund was raised in due time and it constructed one of the finest Y. M. C. A. buildings in the Southwest.

The chief municipal enterprise of the year was the voting of bonds totalling one and one-half million dollars to be used in creating a water reservoir a few miles northwest of the city and extending the water system. The issue was voted on May 20th. Plans for this great enterprise were drawn by Guy V. McClure, city engineer, and they were approved by competent engineers of St. Louis, Chicago and Houston. They provided in the main for the construction of a dam and the creation of a storage basin capable of holding six billion eight hundred million gallons of water. At that time the amount of water works bonds outstanding was \$1,210,000.

It was either in evidence or imagined by representative members of the Chamber of Commerce early in the year that the organization's vitality was abnormally low and that its activities were draggy. Quite probably it was experiencing a necessary reaction following the great accomplishments of the two preceding years. The assumption appeared to be contagious and on June 11th the board of directors announced its intention of resigning in a body "in behalf of an expansion movement." The movement was set going at once after the resignations were in. Pep committees were set to work under a new program and on July 11th the membership committee



reported that it had obtained 1,800 members, and at one of those characteristic onward and upward meetings set its goal at 2,000 members. At a later meeting the new organization elected a board of directors consisting of Ed S. Vaught, J. E. O'Neil, G. G. Kerr, Joseph Huckins, S. L. Brock, C. F. Colcord, Ed Overholser, A. H. Classen, G. G. Sohlberg, William Mee, E. B. McKillip and Dr. Phil C. Baird. The board re-elected Mr. Vaught president.

A revolution in Mexico that resulted in depredations being committed on soil of the United States caused an invasion of Mexico this year by American troops under leadership of Gen. John J. Pershing, and in this invasion soldiers of the Oklahoma National Guard participated. The mobilization order of the War Department was issued June 18th. It called for concentration of Oklahoma troops at Chandler. Col. Roy Hoffman of the Oklahoma regiment proceeded to prepare the camp at Chandler and Adj.-Gen. Frank Canton to set the troops in motion. Recruits were called for and an intensive drilling was under way immediately. Before any men were sent to Chandler the War Department changed its order and commanded that the guardsmen be mobilized at Fort Sill. On June 24th the first troop train moved out of Oklahoma City bearing all men and officers of the companies of the guard in the city. Down to that date the demonstration was the greatest ever held in the city. Twelve thousand persons assembled and listened to a patriotic speech by President Vaught of the Chamber of Commerce.

Governor Williams on June 28th issued a call for volunteers for the National Guard, indicating that seven hundred to eight hundred able-bodied men were needed for training. On July 8th it was announced from Fort Sill that Maj. Charles Barrett of the first battalion and Maj. Winfield Scott of the third battalion were found physically unfit for border service. On July 19th the troops entrained at Fort Sill for the Mexican border. The patriotic celebration on July 4th this year, held at Belle Isle, was a genuine demonstration of American patriotism and incidentally it was a record-breaking patriotic event of a decade. Among the speakers were Mr. Vaught, Col. Harry W. Pentecost, Col. A. N. Leecraft and Capt. H. H. Harrelson.



An illustration of the truth of the proverb that all great bodies move slowly may be discovered in discussions of this year on the subject of a union railway station for the city. On March 6th, the corporation commission issued an order commanding the Rock Island and Frisco railway companies to erect a union passenger station, and directing that their engineers submit plans for the station by June 1st and that the station be completed by January 1, 1917. Officials of the companies announced that they had plans in the making for a seven-story station and office building to cost about seven hundred thousand dollars. On October 10th, Commissioner George A. Henshaw reported that the commission had granted the railroads an extension of time to September 1st and that the commission would not tolerate a delay longer than December 1st. Meantime engineers' plans had been approved by Mayor Overholser on behalf of the city and the roads had selected the original site of the Frisco passenger station for the union passenger station. The commission finally granted the roads until July 1, 1917, to complete the station. In later years union-station matters again became topics of discussion, but great bodies still were moving slowly at the end of 1921 and the city still was without a union station and still suffering the inconvenience of grade crossings.

In later years George Kessler, noted landscape architect of St. Louis, took a part in railroad station and city-planning discussions. It was in October of this year that Mr. Kessler made his first visit to Oklahoma City. He came on invitation of the park commission to make plans for laying out and beautifying Harn Park in the Harndale Addition, and he advised making plans for a larger parking system and boulevards.

At the annual meeting of the Eighty-Niners Association it was announced that during the year twenty-five members had died. The meeting was well attended and special addresses were delivered by Claude Weaver and Judge Preston S. Davis of Vinita. New officers and directors elected were A. L. Welch, president; John E. Carson, vice president; T. M. Richardson, Jr., secretary; Fred Sutton, treasurer, and E. H. Monwell, J. L. Wyatt, A. M. DeBolt and George Carrio, directors.





State officers elected this year were Campbell Russell, corporation commissioner, defeating J. L. Brown, the republican nominee; W. D. Humphries, corporation commissioner, who had been appointed by Governor Williams to succeed A. P. Watson on the commission; Matthew J. Kane, member of the Supreme Court, defeating Horace Speed, the republican nominee; C. M. Thacker, member of the Supreme Court, and T. H. Doyle, member of the Criminal Court of Appeals. Joseph B. Thompson of Pauls Valley defeated G. H. Dodson of Oklahoma City for Congress from the Fifth District.

This year marked the beginning of interstate and continental highway movements in this section of the country, and among the leading projects affecting Oklahoma City directly was that of Col. W. H. Harvey of Monte Ne, Ark., general manager of the Ozark Trails Association. That association held a convention here on November 20th, at the conclusion of a campaign for raising a fund of \$10,000 that was required of the city by the association. A local motorists' club had been organized here and its influence was in a large measure responsible for the city becoming an objective point on the Ozark Trail. Of this club George G. Sohlberg was president.

Judge Selwyn Douglas, a highly esteemed pioneer and an influential resident of earlier years, died on June 28th, at the age of seventy-five. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan and began practising law in Kansas, moving to Oklahoma City in 1890. He was for five years receiver of the United States Land Office and later was referee in bankruptcy. He was one of the founders of the Public Library Association and was its first president.

The death of Judge B. F. Burwell took place this year also, on April 2d. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1866 and came to Oklahoma City in 1891 as a law partner of Dr. A. C. Scott. In 1898 he was appointed associate justice of the Territorial Supreme Court, a position he held until the advent of statehood, when he became a member of the law firm of Burwell, Crockett & Johnson. No decision of his while he occupied the bench ever was reversed by the United States Supreme Court. Virtually the entire city mourned his death. At his funeral Judge C. B. Stuart delivered the memorial address.



Another death of the year was that of Joseph C. McClelland, former state auditor and at this time vice president of the Tradesman's State Bank, of which he was one of the founders. He was fifty-nine years old, and a native of Missouri. He came to Oklahoma in 1893. He engaged in the banking business at Pond Creek and while there was for four years clerk of the United States Court. On proclamation of the governor all state departments were closed during the funeral. The pallbearers were former Governor Lee Cruce, C. F. Coleord, A. H. Classen, Frank J. Wikoff and Charles West.

Organization of the Employers Association of Oklahoma was formed on February 4th. Among members of the first board of directors were Frank Foltz, Dorset Carter, Bunn Booth and C. H. Anderson of Oklahoma City.

On February 24th, Elmer E. Brown was reelected secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. He resigned later in the year and was succeeded by Leroy Gibbs of Sioux Falls, S. D.

Judge Samuel Hooker, formerly county judge and later assistant county attorney, was on January 5th appointed by Governor Williams as a member of the Supreme Court Commission.

The Lakeside Country Club was organized June 7th and incorporated by S. H. Ingham, C. S. Burton, and G. Misch. Its membership was to be limited to 500. It planned construction of a \$10,000 club house near the city lake and laying out an eighteen-hole golf course.

John A. Whiteford of St. Joseph, Mo., was on June 26th elected superintendent of schools to succeed Guy V. Buchanan.

The Oklahoma Railway Company operated its first inter-urban car to Guthrie on July 14th. Accompanying officials of the company on the initial trip were Jack Love, chairman of the Corporation Commission, representing the state, and City Commissioner J. T. Highley.

John Embry resigned as county attorney during the year to return to the private practice and was succeeded by Charles B. Selby.

Edgar S. Vaught was born in Wythe County, in Southwestern Virginia, in 1873. His ancestors were from Holland, and found homes among the pioneers of the noted mountain



district of Western Virginia and Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee. He graduated from the Carson-Newman College of Jefferson City with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1899. In the meantime he had also attended the Emory & Henry College of Virginia. In 1896 he was elected to the office of county superintendent of schools of Jefferson County, Tennessee, was reelected for the two succeeding terms, and at the same time was carrying on studies in Carson-Newman College and was also equipping himself for law. He was admitted to the bar at Dandridge, Tennessee, in 1898, and had some experience as a lawyer in Dandridge before coming to Oklahoma.

In 1901 Mr. Vaught came to Oklahoma City to accept the post of principal of the city high schools. In less than a year he was made superintendent of the Oklahoma City schools. His services attracted the attention of the territorial government of Oklahoma, as coincident with his service as city school superintendent he was from 1902 to 1906 a member of the territorial board of education. In May, 1907, Governor Frantz appointed him a member of the board of regents of the territorial normal schools, three in number, and his membership on that board was terminated by the entrance of Oklahoma into the Union on November 16, 1907.

In 1906, after severing his active relations with the public schools of Oklahoma City, Mr. Vaught formed a law partnership with John E. DuMars and Samuel A. Calhoun, under the firm name of DuMars, Vaught & Calhoun. In 1907 the firm became DuMars & Vaught, continuing as such until 1912, when it was dissolved. At that time Mr. Vaught became associated with James H. Ready, making the firm Vaught & Ready. Later the style of the firm was Everest, Vaught & Brewer.





<http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found>



<http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found>

<http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found>



Thank you for your order !

This media compilation, our respective advertisements and marketing materials are protected under U.S. Copyright law. The Federal Digital Millennium Copyright Act and various International Copyright laws prohibit the unauthorized duplication and reselling of this media. Infringement of any of these written or electronic intellectual property rights can result in legal action in a U.S. court.

If you believe your disc is an unauthorized copy and not sold to you by **Rockyguana** or **Ancestry Found** please let us know by emailing at

<mailto:dclark4811@gmail.com>

It takes everyone's help to make the market a fair and safe place to buy and sell.