



F687
.M7Y7

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 016 089 428 3



F 687
.M7 Y7
Copy 1

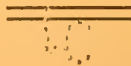
KANSAS
As She Has
Grown Up



AND SOMETHING ABOUT

MONTGOMERY
— COUNTY —

HER MOST MARVELOUS SECTION
AND ITS NATURAL RESOURCES
AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT



BY H. W. YOUNG,
EDITOR INDEPENDENCE TIMES,

1907

FG87
.MTY7

Louisiana
Name The Revolution
189

31

Kansas as She has Grown Up.

“What’s the matter with Kansas?”

The injection of this query and William Allen White’s answer to it into the political campaign of 1896 was the dash of humor that set the whole nation laughing and made White one of our literary celebrities.

Whatever Kansas has been or has done in the past, she has never been humdrum nor uninteresting. The struggle of her quarreling parents of the North and South for her possession, in her infancy, focused all eyes on the territory that has since become the central state of the Union. It was then that America’s greatest pulpit orator exhorted his congregation to send Sharpe’s rifles rather than bibles to the nascent commonwealth. Those were the days of John Brown and Quantrell, of the Lecompton constitution and guerilla raids, of midnight murder and daylight conflagration.

A few years later Kansas came into the limelight as a mendicant. Grasshoppers had devoured every tender twig, the drouth had parched her prairies and the blood-thirsty red men and fiery siroccos had completed the work of her impoverishment, until in every hamlet in the east the hat was passed for her and donations of money, bread and cast-off clothing solicited.

Another decade rolled by and it was the mortgage and money lender that were sapping her resources and retarding her growth. The eastern capitalist was forced to forego his interest on the unfruitful acres, and the holders of maturing obligations had no option except to take the titles of undesired holdings at the lonesome sales the sheriffs held in ever-increasing number at “the south door of the court house.” And the metropolitan press moralized much on the plight of the confiding capitalist, and indited long homilies on the innate untrustworthiness of the Kansas citizen.

Again in the nineties, the curtain rises with Kansas the national joke—the clown in the comedy. Her long-whiskered populists and short-haired suffragists, her William Drivel

Peppers and her Mary Yellin' Leases, her Alliance picnics and her free-silver agitators, kept up a continuous performance, which was greeted with loud guffaws from Eastport to San Diego.

The American people have wept with Kansas as a victim of multiplying misfortune or laughed at her as the nation's madcap; but they have never really understood or appreciated her, nor can they now realize that the *infant terrible* has grown up and settled down to business. We have all known some young girl whose parents were in straightened circumstances, who was growing up barefooted, hoydenish and untrained, a nuisance and a terror to all except her nearest relatives—and not always a joy to them. Begging for nickels and later borrowing books which she never remembered to return, lacking reverence for anybody or anything, mimicing her elders and making life miserable for her companions with her practical jokes, she has seemed about as unpromising material for womanhood as could be imagined. But after a few years have passed, how often has it happened that we have seen this same apparently hopeless specimen of everything that was unattractive in girlhood, with changing circumstances, flower out into a woman of wonderful charm. Her lank ungainly figure has rounded into graceful curves and lines of beauty; she has emerged from the chrysalis, and as the ugliness of the moth has been succeeded by the beauty of the butterfly, we have seen her, with pouting ruby lips, damask cheeks and compelling eyes, drawing to her side and making a devoted admirer of whomsoever she would, by the spell of her magnetism.

Whether the reader has ever thought of it or not, this is just what has happened to Kansas. She has simply grown up. Nowhere else in the world can you now find another equal area where a million and a-half of people are living such abundant lives—full to the brim of industry, usefulness, prosperity and happiness. Nowhere else can you find the average of intelligence higher, the sting of poverty so little felt, or the overflowing products of meadow, field and garden so well distributed.

With almost a hundred millions of money in her banks; with mortgages paid and new houses built and furnished with every luxury craved by a refined taste; with Nature so

lavishly bountiful that the products of her farms during the past year have reached the incomprehensible total of 238 millions of dollars; with multiplying schools and colleges, churches and opera houses; with shaded blue grass on her lawns and a sky of tourmaline over her head, Kansas is doing very well today, we thank you. Assure her a square deal in the future and she will not only ask no odds, but will always have something for her less fortunate neighbors—as when she poured out from her bounteous stores, train load after train load of corn and meat, bread and clothing, for the stricken city of San Francisco.

Abundance Without a Parallel.

It was no figure of speech when I referred to the marvelous production of Kansas' fertile acres during the year of grace 1906. There lies before me as I write a card sent out over the signature of F. D. Coburn, the man who turned his back on an offered United States senatorship because he had rather continue to serve the people of Kansas as Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture. Above all things Coburn is conservative in his statistics, preferring rather to understate than to risk going beyond the truth. And these are some of the figures he sends out: Wheat crop of 1906, 77 millions of bushels worth 53 million dollars; corn crop for the same year, 190 million bushels worth 68 million dollars; total for both crops 122 millions of dollars. This is a greater aggregate for these two crops than any other state north or south, east or west, can boast. Kansas has for years held the first rank in wheat production, raising more of that staple than any other 80,000 square miles on the surface of this planet. And though not first in corn, she has long stood at the head in wheat and corn combined.

Besides these two, there are other field crops whose yield makes a total of 64 millions of dollars, while animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter add 52 millions more. So it appears that, of farm products alone, Kansas produced in a single year a value of \$150 for each man, woman and child in the state, or \$750 for the average family. Her wheat crop would furnish bread for one-fourth of the inhabitants of the entire nation; or for the people of twelve states as populous as she. If every other state produced as much food in proportion

to population as Kansas, we should have to seek new markets for it in some other portion of the solar system, for the earth would be inundated by the unconsumable abundance.

It is no longer the valley of the Nile that most fittingly typifies phenomenal production; the prairies of Kansas furnish food for our race in richer profusion and send out to the less favored sections of the earth a greater surplus than the world has ever seen paralleled in all its past.

New Sources of Prosperity.

A state blessed with such agricultural abundance would seem to need nothing more to make her rich, contented and famous; but the story of Kansas' wealth is only half told when Coburn's Aladdin-like reports have been scanned. Valuable deposits of coal oil and gas, the bulk of them brought to light since the dawn of the present century, have made some sections of the state rich beyond computation, aside from the prolific soil those sections share in common with the rest.

While we have no exact statistics of the underground crop produced in Kansas during the past year, the fact that in the one county of Montgomery, on oil and gas properties alone, a single company has paid taxes on a valuation of \$689,000, assessed as one-fourth of the actual value, is sufficiently suggestive.

A County of Wonderful Resources.

Let us now take a more detailed view of the one county just mentioned. Montgomery county is one of the southern tier, and the third from the Missouri line. It adjoins the new state of Oklahoma on the south. Its area is only 700 square miles, but while only a one-hundred-and-fourteenth part of the state's acreage, it contains one-twenty-eighth of her people. In rank, Montgomery stands third in population, being exceeded only by Shawnee with the state capital and Wyandotte with the state's part of the great Kansas City metropolis. In wealth, according to the assessor's figures, Montgomery holds the fifth place, although in real values she belongs a notch or two higher.

A little more than eight years ago, when the census of 1898 was taken, Montgomery county had a population of 26,632. Last June, our annual enumeration showed 55,710.

There was a gain of 29,078 in eight years, or more than 100 per cent. Between 1902 and 1906 the gain was 23,777, or at the rate of 5,944 a year, which was more than 18 per cent. During the same four years Independence grew from 6,208 to 13,504 and Coffeyville from 6,673 to 16,467. The county now has not less than 60,000 people, more than half of whom are living in the two cities of Independence and Coffeyville, which are only 18 miles apart and are to be connected by the Union Traction Company's Interurban line now nearly completed.

If this were a booming mining camp, or our cities were suburbs of some great center of population like Chicago or St. Louis, such a record as they are making might not be deemed surprising; but there has been nothing like a boom and the products of the lands of the county, and the multiplication of its industrial plants are alone responsible for the solid and lasting growth we have witnessed here.

Phenomenal Growth in Wealth.

Assessed values in Kansas furnish but a meagre criterion of actual wealth, the rule being, as suggested a little while ago, to put all kinds of property on the rolls at not more than one-fourth of its actual value, while in many cases the figures lack much of reaching even that fraction. And yet from this nominal one-fourth valuation of \$4,046,804 in 1900, the total for the county has risen to \$8,761,138 in 1906, a gain of 116 per cent. in the six years. At the same time Independence jumped from a valuation of \$420,853 in 1900 to \$1,237,903 last year, an advance of almost 200 per cent. And in that period Coffeyville's valuation rose from \$456,477 to \$1,691,388, an increase of 270 per cent.

While these rival cities have been growing in wealth with such tremendous strides, the farm lands of Montgomery county have not been at a standstill, and it is safe to say that the entire real estate of the county would easily command double the figures today that it could have been sold for five years ago.

In this county, as in the state at large, corn and wheat are the leading farm crops. Indeed in the city of Coffeyville there are two flouring mills of 800 barrels per day capacity

—sufficient alone to furnish all the bread for a third of the population of the state, or half a million people.

It is noteworthy that Montgomery county has in some seasons had a crop of over 1,600,000 bushels of wheat, and that it lies farther east than any other county that Secretary Coburn has ever marked down as lying in the "Kansas Wheat belt." The ordinary corn crop of the county, taking one year with another is usually a little in excess of a million and a-half bushels.

All sorts of fruits and vegetables known in the temperate zone are successfully grown here. Peas ripen early in May and potatoes are ready to dig in the latter part of that month. That is also the month of strawberries, which with blackberries are grown in immense quantities. One of the principal berry growers of the county, living midway between Coffeyville and Independence, is now congratulating himself that with the Interurban in operation he will hereafter be able to place his products on the market within an hour after picking. As transportation facilities improve and rates become more reasonable, early fruits and vegetables will be grown here in larger and larger quantities for the northern markets.

An Ideal Fuel that Transports Itself.

Of all the gifts of Nature to this favored section, though, no other is so highly appreciated or is doing so much to add to its population, multiply its manufacturing institutions, or increase its wealth, as the wonderful fuel, which like the rock when touched by Aaron's rod, has only to be reached by the drill to cause it to flow forth to supply furnaces, stoves and lamps, furnishing heat and light at any distance and transporting itself to the place where it is needed. The reports of the County Gas Inspector, after his semi-annual test of the gas wells of the county, show that the wells already drilled here have a capacity of more than 1,000 million cubic feet of gas per day.

It is only very recently that the extent and capacity of this gas field begun to be realized. Until 1902 none of the big gassers had been found, and it was not until 1904 that the great gas field four miles south of Independence was discovered. Here, on the Crane, the Thompson, the Wingard, the

Bennett, the Dow, the Stone, the DeVore, and other farms, more than a score of wells have been drilled, ranging in capacity from 7 to 30 millions of cubic feet per day.

The Greatest Gas Field in the World.

At the accepted estimate of 20,000 cubic feet of natural gas as equivalent to a ton of coal, the developed natural gas in Montgomery county is equal to a coal output of 60,000 tons of coal a day for heat production. This would load 3,000 cars, which would make a hundred trains of thirty cars each. These trains would cover thirty-three miles of railroad track; and the entire yearly output of gas would rival in efficiency coal enough to load a continuous train of twenty-ton cars that would reach half way around the globe, or from pole to pole. To make these estimates more practical, however, it must be borne in mind that no gas well can be drawn on for its full capacity without speedily ruining it. But with a 10 per cent. drain, wells here continue to produce gas without a sensible diminution of pressure or product; and a division of the figures above by ten, showing a possible annual fuel production from the gas wells of the county of the equivalent of 190,500 car-loads of coal, is sufficiently suggestive.

It is unquestionable that we have here in Montgomery county and in the neighboring portion of the Indian territory the greatest gas field ever discovered in the world. Not that there is as yet as much developed production as in some other fields; but that the area of proven gas territory is vastly larger and the wells as strong as have ever been found anywhere. Indeed, the development of this gas field has hardly begun; and already it makes a showing of product that throws in the shade any other gas field at a similar stage of development. Oil and gas have both been found so far south in the Indian Territory as wells have been drilled, and with the enormous production of gas already secured in this county, and unlimited supplies to the south of us, there is no probability that our gas will be exhausted or even diminished during the lifetime of the present generation.

Immense Coal Deposits in Reserve.

And not only has this county the largest developed gas field in the west, with a capacity of a billion feet a day, but as

a reserve behind the gas it has immense coal deposits, veins running as high as eleven feet in thickness lying six miles to the north of Independence, at a depth of 935 feet. From these can be drawn an abundant supply of fuel for all our factories, present and prospective, should so improbable an event as the exhaustion of our gas ever come to pass.

As manufacturing and distributing centers no other cities in the southwest possess the advantages that belong to Independence and Coffeyville. Standing at the gateway of Oklahoma and the rapidly developing region which has made so wonderful a growth in the past decade, they are in a position to become the markets for a vast area which they can at the same time supply with manufactured products.

Two Million Dollar Cement Plants.

Since the extent of our gas territory and the volume of our gas resources became evident, manufactures have been established here such as were never even dreamed of six years ago. First among these is the Western States Portland Cement Company's plant, which was erected in 1904 at a cost of \$1,500,000, and has been in operation nearly two years. Its original capacity has been increased during that time, until it is now able to turn out 3,000 barrels of cement per day, worth over \$4,000. This plant is located on an inexhaustible deposit of Independence limestone, with the required shale immediately contiguous, and the company owns about 800 acres of this land. It employs 500 men and is connected with the Missouri Pacific railroad by a spur track two and a half miles long.

In June, 1906, the second cement plant went into operation here. This was erected by the Independence Kansas Portland Cement Company on the eastern flank of Table Mound, four miles northwest of Independence, and cost a million dollars. It has a capacity equal to that of the Western States plant and employs 475 men. Here this company owns the whole mound, occupying an area of more than a square mile, capped with the Iola limestone to the depth of 25 to 30 feet and containing raw material enough to keep the plant turning out 3,000 barrels of cement a day for some hundred years to come.

As large a figure as these two plants cut among the industries of the county, and as much as they have done to

promote the recent growth and prosperity of Independence, they do not tell the whole story. Four other companies are now organized and each has secured several hundred acres of limestone land, with gas rights and ample capital, so that before the close of 1907 there seems to be little doubt that active work will be in progress on as many more million dollar plants, trebling the present product in this line and adding 2,000 more workmen to the population of Independence and its suburbs.

Fourteen Vitrified Brick Plants.

Montgomery county's second largest industry is the manufacture of vitrified brick for paving and building purposes. The shale found in her mounds and hills is excellently adapted for making these brick, which are of almost flinty hardness; and there are fourteen factories of this sort in operation in the limits of the county. Five of these are located at Cherryvale, three at Coffeyville, one at Independence, two at Sycamore and one each at Caney, Tyro and Elk City. These plants represent an investment of more than a million dollars and employ 800 men.

With these home-made paving brick, the streets are being paved in the principal cities of the county. In Independence, the county seat, the business section is already entirely paved, as well as the streets running to each of the railroad depots. When the work already ordered, and under construction is completed, there will be more than four miles of such paved streets in this city, and a considerable additional section has been curbed and guttered, ready for paving.

Within the past year the Standard Asphalt and Rubber Company's plant has been erected and put in operation at Independence. This company gets its raw material from the oil fields of the county through its own pipe lines, and uses the heavier portion, after the distillates have been taken off, in the making of insulating material, roofing, paints and other products. It has a capitalization of \$750,000 and is the first factory of its kind in the world. A hundred hands are employed here, and the number will be largely increased in the future. When its full capacity is

reached it will be shipping twenty or thirty cars a day of roofing paper prepared by its patented processes, besides dozens of other products.

A Centre of the Glass Making Industry.

The glass making industry was inaugurated in Montgomery county less than five years ago by the establishment of the Midland plant at Independence. From that beginning it has grown and multiplied as plants have been removed here from the exhausted gas fields of Indiana, until the county now has fifteen window and bottle glass plants. Three of these are located at Independence, eight at Coffeyville, one at Cherryvale, one at Caney and two at Tyro. All of these towns will be on the trolley lines the Union Traction company is preparing to build in this county.

The Independence glass plants are the Midland, the Osage and the Western Window Glass. They represent an investment of \$225,000 and employ 200 hands. In addition to these, however, contracts have been made for the removal of the three Johnston Window Glass plants from Dunkirk and Hartford City, Indiana, to this city; and by the time the fires begin in the fall of 1907 it is expected to have them all in operation here. They represent a capitalization of \$500,000 and are of 132 pots capacity. Added to the 60 pot capacity of the existing plants here, this will give a total of 192 pots for Independence. The new plants will employ 660 hands, adding 3,000 or 4,000 to the population of the city and \$50,000 to its monthly pay roll.

The Coffeyville Glass plants are: The Marion Fruit Jar and Bottle Company, the Coffeyville Window Glass Company, the Sunflower Glass Company, the Kansas Glass Company, the Pioneer Flint Glass Company, the Coffeyville Bottle and Glass Company, the Mason Fruit Jar Company, and the Coffeyville Novelty and Glass Company. The total capitalization of these various plants is \$660,000, and they together employ 1,350 people. Not only is the cheap fuel an attraction to glass factories, but extensive deposits of glass sand have been discovered in this section, which will reduce very considerably the cost of the raw material.

Smelters at Four Points in the County.

Another great industry in Montgomery county is the smelter business. At Cherryvale the Edgar Zinc Company has been in operation for several years, and with an investment of \$500,000 gives employment to 450 men. The Caney Smelter is about half as large and has 250 hands. The Ozark Smelter now under construction at Coffeyville will cost \$150,000 and have 125 men on its pay roll. The new Lanyon Smelter at Deering, five miles west of Coffeyville on the Union Traction Company's line, has been under construction for several months past and will soon go into operation with a force of 200 men. Here the smelter people have constructed fifty houses for their employes, and this little hamlet is having a great growth and promises soon to become a young city.

The cement, smelter, vitrified brick and glass industries in Montgomery county, taken together, will before the close of the present year be giving employment to more than 5,000 men, and another year will probably see the total for these industries increased to 7,000.

A List of Varied Industries.

Among the minor industries which go to make up a grand aggregate in Independence are the following:

The Kansas Cracker Company, with an investment of \$25,000 and 40 people employed.

The Bowen Milling Company, with a capitalization of \$100,000 and furnishing employment for 35 hands.

The Bovaird Machine Shops, with \$50,000 capital and 45 people employed.

The Independence Iron Company, with \$40,000 and forty people.

The Independence Standard Drill Company, \$6,000 and five people.

The Independence Ice Company, \$50,000 and 25 hands.

The Crystal Ice and Cold Storage Company, \$35,000 and 12 men.

The Jones Confection Company, \$7,500 and 12 hands.

The Independent Paper Company, \$50,000 and 75 people.

The American Concrete Company, \$6,000 and 20 hands.

The Baden Wholesale Produce and Grocery, \$100,000 and 30 people.

The North Side Planing Mill, \$5,000 and 6 men.

The Independence Bottling Works.

The Electric Light and Power Company, \$25,000 and ten men.

There also located in Independence the headquarters of the Prairie Oil and Gas Company, the producing branch of the Standard Oil company, with fifty people employed, and the general offices of the Kansas Natural Gas company, a 12 million corporation, with 40 more.

At its tank farm adjoining the city of Caney, the Prairie Oil and Gas company has 500,000 barrels of crude oil in storage and during the past season it has had 450 men engaged in tank building there.

Schools, Banks and Public Buildings at Independence.

Independence has a County High School with over 200 pupils in attendance and a faculty of ten instructors. The school was opened in 1899, the building and plant costing \$30,000. Besides there are two city school buildings erected five years ago at a cost of \$60,000, and three more under construction which will require an expenditure of \$80,000 to complete.

In this city there are also at the opening of 1907 a modern theatre building, to cost \$40,000, and a Carnegie Library building, for which \$20,000 has been appropriated, both under roof and nearing completion.

From this city, which is not only the county seat but also centrally located in the county, the Union Traction company's lines will radiate to Coffeyville, Cherryvale and Caney.

Independence has three national banks, and a fourth is shortly to be established. Of the three, the First National has a capital of \$50,000 and a surplus of \$83,000; the Commercial National, \$75,000 capital and \$60,000 surplus; the Citizens National, \$150,000 capital and \$75,000 surplus, making a total banking capital of 450 thousand dollars. At their last statement, made in November 1906, these banks had deposits as follows: The First National, \$698,160; The Commer-

cial National, \$1,034,132; the Citizens National, \$672,685. All told this counts up \$2,394,977 in the three banks at that date.

Coffeyville a Hive of Busy Industry.

At Coffeyville, in addition to the industries before mentioned, there are the following in miscellaneous lines:

The North Star Manufacturing company, a flouring mill, with \$200,000 capital and 125 hands employed.

The Rea-Patterson Milling company, with \$250,000 capital and 100 hands.

The Grisham-Kiddoo Milling company, with 25 thousand dollars capital and 15 men.

The Coffeyville Pottery and Clay company, 35 thousand dollars invested and 30 people employed.

The Coffeyville Excelsior company, 40 thousand dollars capital and 20 people.

The Hall-Baker Elevator, 40 thousand dollars and 15 people.

The Walker Grain Elevator, 25 thousand dollars and 15 people.

The Kansas Wood Fibre company, 10 thousand dollars and ten people.

Wells Brothers Produce and Grocery company, 25 thousand dollars and 15 people.

Ruthrauff Brothers Planing Mill, \$2,000 and 20 men.

Enders Planing Mill, five thousand dollars and 6 people.

Coffeyville Novelty Works, five thousand dollars and 20 people.

Gillette's Bottling Works, five thousand dollars and 5 people.

Ice Cream Factory, five thousand dollars and 5 people.

Coffeyville Ice Works, 50 thousand dollars and 60 people.

Cold Storage company, 40 thousand dollars and 6 people.

Western Roofing Tile company, 50 thousand dollars and 60 people.

Ziegler Neckyoke Company, 10 thousand dollars and 5 people.

Four divisions of the Missouri Pacific railroad end at Coffeyville, and there are employed in the general offices 100 people, and in the round house and shops 75 men.

Operations have begun by the National Refining company, of Cleveland, Ohio, who are building a 4,000 barrel refinery, employing 100 men and to cost 750 thousand dollars.

Coffeyville last fall opened her new Jefferson Theatre, a fine modern structure, complete in every detail, at an expense of 30 thousand dollars.

At Tyro, on the south side of the county, between Coffeyville and Caney, a \$20,000 brick plant has just been erected that will employ 50 men, and has a capacity of 60,000 per day. Work is about to begin there on the construction of two new glass plants, a 36-blower Diamond Glass factory and a 36-blower Window Glass Plant. These factories will employ 130 men and have a pay roll of \$15,000 per month.

Two large Vitrified Brick plants are located at Sycamore, north of Independence, which employ 160 men.

Looking Forward and Backward.

Taken altogether, the manufacturing institutions already in operation or now under construction in Montgomery county, represent an investment of 8 millions of dollars and furnish employment to about 7,000 men. Those which are practically assured and will be erected in the next two years will represent 5 millions additional capital and 5,000 more wage earners.

The reader is no doubt surfeited with facts and figures by this time, but in no other way than by presenting them would it be possible to convey any adequate idea of what has been done and what is being done in the way of building up a manufacturing center here in the heart of the great western gas field, nor of the vast capital that is finding profitable investment in what was a few years ago a humdrum agricultural section with no hint of the surprises the future was to bring. Indeed, we have to look back less than forty years to see what is now Montgomery county part of an Indian reservation, and the government making treaties with the Osages who then occupied all this section, by which they were to sell their lands for the \$1.25 per acre the government afterwards charged the settlers. And that single acres of those lands in the business section of Independence and Coffeyville are now worth as much as the half a million

dollars these Indians realized for the entire 400,000 acres comprised in the county, is only one of the myriads of similar marvels that have accompanied the growing up of Kansas and the neighboring states of the great western section that they used to tell us was a "desert."

Look up the main streets of Independence or Coffeyville this Saturday night; and observe how they are thronged with well dressed people from all the walks of life; see those streets lined with two and three story brick blocks, bright with gas and electric lights and here and there flaming out with rythmic signs, and you will agree with me that real cities are growing up here in this marvelous section. Or wait until the morrow and ride over our paved streets and note the hundreds of modern residences and comfortable homes from which the crowds are wending their ways to our churches and Sunday schools, and you will further agree that the material wealth that is being multiplied here with such bewildering rapidity is not entirely dwarfing our spiritual natures or leading us to forget that there is nothing a man can afford to take in exchange for his soul.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 016 089 428 3

