

OKLAHOMA.

THE "BEAUTIFUL LAND," RICH AND PROSPEROUS, IS NOT YET READY FOR STATEHOOD.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The "Beautiful Land"—in the Indian tongue, Oklahoma—is in many respects the most extraordinary section of this country, especially with regard to its wonderful record of progress and prosperity within the single decade since it was thrown open to settlement. The story of that brief period reads almost like a chapter of the Arabian Nights, yet the conquests of the last ten years, in the opinion of its leading men, only foreshadow still greater advance, more marvellous achievement and more rapid strides in the near future. The Territorial Governor, C. M. Barnes, in his latest report to President McKinley, declares that another "year of abundant crops for the farmer; of increase in value and number of the herds of the stock grower; of expanding business for the merchant; of building up of manufacturing industries; of extension of railways; of general growth in financial lines; of development of the

education obtainable for every young man or woman; with 700 churches, 1,000 Sunday schools and 150 newspapers; with an area greater than that of the six States of Vermont, New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New-Jersey and Delaware; with a rapidly increasing taxable valuation and decreasing tax rate; with all lines of business in a prosperous condition, manufacturing industries growing rapidly and great natural resources on every side inviting development, Oklahoma offers inducements to

MAP OF OKLAHOMA TERRITORY.



musical or reading clubs are to be found in every town; a score or more of women's clubs compose an active Territorial Federation; public libraries and reading rooms are found in the leading towns; the towns have more church buildings to the population than the majority of the States; the people meet in social functions of all kinds, as do the people of the communities from where they came, and the visitor from any part of the United States will find here the social life, the educational advantages, and the religious opportunities to which he or she has been accustomed.

Its conditions, except that of crime. In this particular it need only be said that last year there was not a single attempt at mob violence, there has been no occasion to call out its militia in its ten years of existence and there is now only one convict for each 2,100 people, a rate

The mineral deposits of the Territory, yet barely prospected, are rich and varied, the manufacturing interests are increasing tenfold annually, and already there are 10 daily, 122 weekly and 18 monthly papers profitably published and circulated. With her wheat going to



THE COTTON YARDS AT OKLAHOMA CITY.

manifold natural resources of the Territory, has realized the most optimistic predictions of the past; has made all of our people not only contented with their lot, but anxious that their relatives, friends and old time neighbors of the less prosperous and progressive States shall come and partake of this bounteous share of the good things of life.

With a population rapidly advancing toward the half million mark; with a fertile soil that successfully produces every crop of the temperate zone, except oranges and sugar cane; with an area in wheat greater than that of Great Britain; with a corn crop equal to many of the great corn growing States; with orchards and vineyards laden with fruit; with cattle upon a thousand hills; with a public school within reach of every home and a college

the capitalist, the laborer, the professional man, the farmer and the home seeker unequalled anywhere."

The size of the Territory, 26,000,000 acres, corresponds to that of Ohio; it is in the latitude of Tennessee; its surface averages 1,500 feet above the sea; its population is about 400,000; it produced last year 20,000,000 bushels of wheat, \$5,000,000 worth of cotton and the single item of cattle in its live stock industry aggregated a million head. Its public school enrollment is 80,000 pupils; it supports a number of higher institutions of learning, including three universities with 600 students; it enjoys the smallest percentage of illiteracy of any State or Territory in the Union; its bank reserves are larger than those of any State, and, in fact, the superlative must be used in telling of any of



HOW APPLES GROW IN LOGAN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA.



EMERSON SCHOOL, OKLAHOMA CITY. There are three other similar schools in the city.

less than that of New-York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kansas and many other commonwealths, indeed nowhere in the United States are life and property more secure.

Of Oklahoma's social and religious status, Governor Barnes says in his report:

Peopled with the most enterprising people from all of the States of the Union, there is no reason to believe that the social condition of Oklahoma should be different from those of the States of which all the people have lately been residents, and yet there seems to be a widespread conception throughout the East that Oklahomans are a kind of strange beings, different from the general run of mankind, and at national conventions and assemblies of all kinds the delegates from Oklahoma are gazed upon with great curiosity, and often there seems to be disappointment over the fact that they are but ordinary men and women.

With a code of laws the equal of any State and enforced better than in many, with as small a per cent of illiteracy as any portion of the Nation, with their magnificent higher educational institutions, with a schoolhouse on every hilltop, and a church in the valley, why should not the social and religious life of the people of Oklahoma be on as high a plane as in any State of the Union?

All of the leading religious denominations have representatives in the Territory, and are doing progressive work; young people's religious societies and Sunday schools are found everywhere, and the reports of their work create surprise and enthusiasm in every national gathering. All of the fraternal bodies have good membership, every community has its newspaper, the Chautauque Society, literary circle, and

all America and Europe, her flour to all parts of this continent and by cargo direct to Liverpool, her cotton to the spinning mills of New-England, Mexico, England, and even far off Japan; her hogs and cattle to the markets and slaughter pens of the Nation, and to Cuba and South America; cedar logs to the pencil factories of Germany; castor beans to the oil presses of the Old World, and fruits and melons to the city markets of the North, together with clothing, drygoods, groceries, implements, vehicles, machinery, furniture, and other articles of consumption coming in, Oklahoma has a commerce which many communities five times her age would be proud to attain.

Yet Oklahoma, already possessing a larger population than Delaware, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, North Dakota, Vermont or Wyoming, is declared by its Governor to be unripe for Statehood. On this subject he says:

It is the earnest wish of a large number of our intelligent and influential citizens that a State government be accorded to Oklahoma without further delay. The platforms of all political parties at their latest conventions have declared in favor of Statehood upon such terms and with such boundaries as Congress may in its wisdom see fit to prescribe, and, tested by the standards that have heretofore prevailed in the admission of new States, Oklahoma is certainly entitled to all the rights and privileges of a State government. No fair minded man can read of the opening, settlement and develop-