

BAXTER SPRINGS AS IT IS.

Also Some Plain Facts as to Cherokee County, Kansas.

Not Dead, nor Sleeping, but Quite With Progress Keeping—A Splendid Trading Point and Far-Famed Mecca of Health, Whose Transparent Waters Possess Valuable Medical Properties.

Emcompassed by a Wide Expanse of Richly Fertile Country—A Fair, Commanding Land as Seen Under Bright, Crisp December Skies—An Inspiring Picture of Material Thrift—Peopled by a Cosmopolitan Collection of Stirring Citizens—A Refined Social Order and Solid Business Status—A Steady Spirit of Push and Enterprise Pervades All Classes.

By BENEDICT BURR.

Some people may fancy that this treatise was conceived as a history of Baxter Springs, or of Cherokee county, with this city thrown in.

Perish the thought. It is with the live issues of today that the writer is dealing, not with the filmy past. That is the task that properly belongs to the compiler of history. My work lies in the presentation of features and affairs, as they are, as indicated by the head lines above, and therein I shall confine myself with such bare allusions to past data and matter as are absolutely necessary to qualify my report. I have in mind the spirit of the famous charity sermon of the celebrated Dean Swift, belivered many decades ago at Westminster Abbey, England, for the benefit of the poor of London. He very appropriately selected as his text, "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord," after which, pausing for a moment, he delivered as his sermon, "Brethren, now if you are satisfied with the collateral, down with the dust." Likewise I will present this town and the outlying districts.

BAXTER SPRINGS.

It lies in the eastern portion of Springvalley township, which is in the southeastern portion of Cherokee county, which in itself is the extreme southeastern county in the state. Six miles east would bring one to the Missouri boundary and one and a half miles south to the Indian Territory. From Kansas City it lies 160 miles south. It supplies a wide area of valuable territory. It is above the sea level about 1,000 feet. The first settler was a man named Baxter, hence the title. Present population some 1,750 souls. During the war both the Union and Confederate forces were quartered hereabouts, and an imposing monument in the National Cemetery westward from the city marks the spot where lie buried a brave force of Federal soldiers who were massacred by Quantrell's raiders.

In the spring of '70 the K. C. F. S. & M. railroad was built through here. Spring branch of Spring river flows through the city. This is a delightful natural location, on a rising, rolling plateau, perfect drainage, and commanding a beautiful scenic panorama all about.

MATERIAL ADVANTAGES.

There is here splendid water power, free to manufacturers. The river has a width of 400 feet and a fall of 10 feet to the mile. A fine \$15,000 bridge spans the river, below which is a \$10,000 dam. At low water mark there is 600 to 800 horse power. Countless springs feed the river. Throughout this district, under foot, are three heavy veins of coal of superior quality. Millions of bushels are mined annually. Adjacent, at Galena, Kansas, Joplin and Webb City, Mo., and other points, are the great lead and zinc deposits of the Kansas-Missouri district. The topography of this district is undulating or slightly rolling. Good natural roads lead out in all directions. This district lies in the best portion of the great corn belt. Here the grains, grasses, vegetables, orchards, flowers and animal life seem to attain the highest perfection. The range of production is shown by the exports, which are: corn, oats, wheat, flax seed, sweet and Irish potatoes, garden truck, dairy products, country produce, orchard products, fine road and draft horses, mules, high grade beef cattle, model hogs, sheep, coal, flour and hardwood lumber. Splendid pastures and meadows graze the herds and flocks. Blue grass grows quite as well here as in famed Bourbon county, Kentucky; white clover and red top also. The native herbage is peculiarly nutritious and yields abundantly.

The climate is semi-tropical and the average of health maintained is high. The summers are pleasant and the winters mild. The well established virtues of its famous springs, unequalled for the cure of several diseases, such as dyspepsia, rheumatism, general debility, eczema and all skin diseases, and as a general restorative agent, attract hundreds to visit here. Good views there are on every hand. At the annual soldiers' reunion an average daily attendance of 30,000 people congregate here. The neighboring states furnish large delegations.

Only a person who has resided here some length of time can appreciate fully the fine social features and advantages, its several churches, its superior high graded

schools, well stocked stores, wide well shaded streets and avenues, handsome homes, low rents and low cost of living, cheap fuel, pure water supply, boating facilities, rapid transportation, magnificent tributary region, matchless landscape, genial climate—these and other attractions must be experienced to be realized.

There are here a fine representation of secret, social and fraternal societies, three good lodge halls, a prosperous bank, fine flouring mill, elevator, two lumber yards, several hotels, two newspapers, fine town hall, opera house, electric light plant, large planning mill.

There are countless tasty residences of the best type of home architecture. Very noticeable are those of L. Murray Perkins, Capt. J. S. Price, Ira C. Perkins, R. H. Sands, J. N. McDonald, John Cheshire, Col. Wm. March, John M. Cooper, W. E. Price, Chas. F. Noble, C. A. Dively, T. E. Meads, Dr. E. D. Barber, T. B. McElhiney, Dr. A. O. DeWitt, Dr. I. E. Stryker, Dr. C. H. Shriner, C. A. Childs, W. S. Norton, J. C. Haskett, J. R. Tucker, George Haines, S. O. Noble, B. S. Warner, W. W. Scott, A. R. Kane, W. H. Hornor, Louis Beck, A. D. C. Harvey, John T. Polster, J. H. Humphrey, and many others like worthy of note.

A drive hereabouts reveals many fine farms, such estates as those of Mrs. G. G. Gregg, John Banning, R. O. Thomas, Wm. Buchan, John Hartley, John Lucky, J. A. Ellis, Abe Swalley, Peter Covert, Joe Peters, J. S. B. Willis, Enos Campbell, Alex. Warner, Tom Embury, Chas. F. Ebenstein, I. N. Lynch, E. A. Haines, Allen Anderson, Geo. Beall, S. T. Coe, J. P. Belta Hoover, Jacob Fitzer, Wm. Callis, R. H. Davis, James A. Hunter, Mrs. J. C. Painter, J. H. Ballard, Alex. Gould, J. B. Opperman, J. W. Stone, Ex-Governor Samuel J. Crawford, H. C. Commons, J. R. Commons, Mart Hibbard, Walter Von Wedell, Jas. Large, J. C. and W. J. Naylor, D. S. Chubb, P. J. Chubb, Mrs. E. H. Tousey, A. W. Abrams, J. P. McNaughton, and a whole raft more of practical agriculturists.

Accompanying these general notes are extended special mention of prominent mercantile enterprises and moving and guiding spirits of this community. Not all are enumerated, as time at disposal would not permit. Again, at the time of my visitation individuals were not present to set forth facts. It would have been a pleasure to have included all. A perusal of those outlined will serve as an index to the whole.

DANIELS & HARTLEY are a strong, reliable and favorably known firm, whose energies are devoted to handling real estate. They also act as loan agents and give careful attention to collections, pay taxes for non-residents, and in fact fully conserve the entire field in this line. C. W. Daniels and J. P. Hartley are the co-partners. Both gentlemen came here some 16 years ago, the former from Chicago and the latter from Muncie, Indiana. Mr. Daniels is also a notary and fire insurance underwriter. He represents a coterie of the strongest corporations in existence, having assets away up in the millions. Some five years ago this firm was established. They drive a big business; they have bulletined a fine list of small and large farms, improved and unimproved lands, choice town property here and elsewhere in Cherokee county; their advice and assistance will be found invaluable to prospective purchasers; they are familiar with every foot of land in this district; they have convenient offices on the ground floor and make everybody welcome. This firm has contributed much to development here. They are liberal users of printer's ink, spend hundreds of dollars annually to bring this region to the attention of the outside public, and are always foremost in aiding all commendable local affairs. Correspondence from any source will receive prompt attention and should be addressed to Daniels & Hartley, Baxter Springs, Kansas. Their references are any good business man in Cherokee county.

J. W. EDMISTON has for some three years successfully operated The Racket Store. He carries a multiplicity of useful, ornamental and indispensable articles, so nec-

essary in each household. The general public has learned the advantage to be derived from making purchases at The Racket Store. Many articles not elsewhere procurable are always at hand here. The old saying that "Many a little makes a mickle" is in truth here. To enumerate a list of the many classes of goods handled would require much space. A few are dry goods, notions, fancy wares, jewelry, pocketbooks, boots and shoes, tinware, glassware, chinaware, stationery, house furnishing goods, etc. Steady and numerous cuts are made, the whole consisting of a large general aggregate. Cash is the watchword and rules supreme here. While profits are small, yet there are no losses.

Mr. Edmiston is a native of the Buckeye state, and first saw the light of day on the old Ohio river. He is a pleasant, accommodating gentleman, appreciates the patronage bestowed, and is prospering.

HARVEY & SON is the firm title of an energetic house in the furniture trade, originally established some twenty years ago. The present style of Harvey & Son dates back to 1893. A. D. C. Harvey and A. L. Harvey are the individual members. The latter gentleman has the active management of affairs. They occupy spacious two-story premises literally packed with goods. Included are every description of kitchen, dining room, chamber, parlor and library furniture, rockers, easy chair, sofas, lounges, mirrors, mattresses, etc. This house also carries on an extensive undertaking business, carrying an elegant stock of coffins, caskets, burial cases, robes, shrouds and other mortuary paraphernalia, do embalming, own their own hearses, and in fact take entire charge of a funeral of any class.

Their stock of furniture is right-to-date, is selected from the most noted factories, and includes the latest pretty, symmetrical designs. Prices asked by Harvey & Son are much less than are exacted for similar goods in the larger cities. The public has not been slow to ascertain this fact, and close buyers are attracted hither from distances quite remote. The Messrs. Harvey are from Indiana, keep squarely up with the day and hour, and alike as business men and citizens, are personally popular.

J. B. OPPERMAN has for nearly 28 years been supplying the farmers and horse owners of this region with first class, durable, well made harness, than which none better can be made. He is a thoroughly skilled mechanic and takes a just pride in the excellence of his productions. He uses nothing but the very best oak tanned leather and the best trimmings and saddlery hardware in the combination of his productions. Anyone who has ever used a set of harness made by him will give favorable testimony as to its worth. In his emporium may be seen many specimens of his handiwork in light, single and double driving harness, express and carriage harness, and heavy or draft harness. He also has the sale of the light wheeled vehicles made by the Racine Wagon and Carriage Co., a splendid line of up-to-date buggies, phaetons, road wagons, surreys, carriages, etc. Here is a grand chance to buy a first class vehicle without paying any profit. He is about to disengage from the vehicle trade, has a few jobs on hand and will close them out at even less than original cost price. Mr. Opperman also displays a line of riding saddles and bridles, robes, whips, blankets and kindred supplies. In the many years engaged in trade here, he has always borne an unquestioned reputation as a reliable man. He came from the Buckeye state, erected and owns his own premises and enjoys a liberal award of trade.

J. G. POLSTER is the owner of one of the best business structures and proprietor of one of the most commodious and best appointed drug houses to be found anywhere over this inviting district. He came from the Province of Hungary, just now upon which the eyes of Europe are placed, and by the patriotism of whose people the nation of Austria depends for its salvation and continuance. He has been in trade here over 27 years, and in all that time has sustained the reputation of being a thoroughly reliable business man and citizen. For a dozen years continuously he has been a member of the city council. The large and varied stock carried is in full keeping with the fine premises. Aside from drugs, medicines, stationery, etc., he displays an elegant line of watches, clocks and jewelry. In the many years spent here in trade Mr. Polster has been an active observer of the varying conditions, and has always and ever kept fully abreast of the times. In all local affairs he takes decided interest and has done his full share to make Baxter's reputation as an advantageous trading point.

A. E. KANE is an alert, level-headed merchant and citizen, whom one instinctively recognizes as hailing from New York State. He comes from the western district, right in the shadow of that wonder of ages, Niagara Falls. Ten years ago he started in the jewelry business, to which he added the drug trade by the purchase of the old stand of Dr. G. G. Gregg, which, I believe,

was the pioneer house of its kind here. He has scored a capital success, attributable to sterling integrity and good business qualifications. He is an expert jeweler and watchmaker and receives a most gratifying patronage in this department. His establishment is familiarly designated as the Chicago Drug Store and is heavily stocked with drugs, medicines, chemicals, paints, oils, brushes, window glass, etc. Close quotations are made on a universally high quality class of goods. A liberal patronage is accorded, from both town and country, by all classes.

Very careful representation is made in the valuable wares classed under the jewelry head, and the reputation established far and wide for thorough reliability, has aided largely in building up his trade. Mr. Kane keeps in touch with the times, is attentive to trade and rightly is prospering.

CHAS. J. FRIBLEY has recently succeeded to the saddlery establishment of James A. Hunter. This gentleman is too well known to News readers to require any introductory notice. A few words are in order as to his business policy. He retains Carl Carney, well known to everybody hereabouts, to supervise manufacturing operations. The proprietor will leave nothing undone in order to meet all demands. He is himself a practical horseman and breeder and is alive to the current needs of farmer and horse owner. A thorough inventory has been made of the stock and large additions made in all departments. The result will be surprising to all who have not recently visited these premises. As hitherto, in their work-rooms, will be turned out a strictly hand-made harness, fully warranted. Any special class of work demanded will be made to order. For those who desire cheaper goods, a desirable line of factory made work is carried. With the new goods on display a surprising line exhibit is made of saddles, bridles, whips, robes, blankets and horse trappings generally. In every respect this new equine supply house is right-up-to-date. Prices asked will be a revelation. Fribley's saddlery and harness emporium is bound to be a favorite purchase depot.

MRS. L. H. McMICKLE conducts a neat, well-arranged grocery and flour and feed store which adjoins. This lady has resided here upwards of thirty years. Was originally from Ohio, moved to Minnesota, thence here, has managed this business for about two years, and enjoys the respect of all who know her. Many testify their appreciation by their patronage, and greatly is this lady prospering. A very choice stock is carried in staple and fancy groceries, prices rule low, and the care shown in the arrangement of the stock and general neatness of the premises, indicate that Mrs. McMickle is quite well qualified to successfully prosecute this business. It is a pleasure to include her name in this report.

MRS. W. W. JONES is a native of that powerful British country, England, formerly resided in Minnesota, thence removed here and for fifteen years has been engaged in the millinery trade. Mrs. Jones is a lady of acknowledged taste in fashionable headgear and has a wide circle of feminine patrons. Fashion's dictum has full sway here and numberless are the tasty creations which each season are sold from this Temple of Fashion. Each fair wearer may here find some fitting crown.

DR. A. J. THOMPSON is a pleasant, genial disciple of modern dentistry, a young man, native of the Hawkeye state, and made his advent here last April. He has centrally located and well appointed parlors, is a graduate of the Western Dental College of Kansas City, and for some time was in active practice there previous to his entry here. The doctor is a modest, unassuming man, keeps squarely up with the advanced literature and innovations of his chosen profession, and possesses every tool and appliance known to the craft. He has gained universal esteem and built up an extensive patronage. Giant strides have been made in dental surgery in the past few decades; the dental chair has now lost all its former terrors; operations that in by-gone days were undreamed of are now easily performed through the expert skill of a school of scholarly trained dental surgeons, of which type Dr. Thompson is a worthy representative.

MRS. W. STARK came here some 27 years ago from New York City, has been engaged for 23 years in the dry goods, notion and millinery line, has a cozy, well stocked bazar, is a lady of good business qualifications, number fair friends and patrons by the score, believes Baxter Springs to be one of the fairest spots on earth, owns a goodly lot of choice realty, owes no one a dollar, pays as she goes, and possesses the good will and esteem of all. This is a favorite trading place with the gentler sex.

H. E. TRUBY & BRO. are proprietors of the Home Bakery and Restaurant, an institution in high favor with the general public. They operate a well conducted bakery and daily turn out fresh bread, cakes, pies, etc. Carry a choice as-

sortment of pure confectionery, deal in oysters and foreign and domestic fruits and nuts in season, serve meals and lunch to order, have a host of patrons and receive a liberal award of patronage from all.

The brothers are Pennsylvanians by birth, are whole-souled, genial fellows and are the right men in the right business. The general merits of this establishment and the accommodating spirit of the proprietors commend the Home Bakery and Restaurant to everybody hereabouts.

WILLIAMS & ROBESON, a strong commanding firm in the lumber trade, in addition to well stocked yards here, have similar quarters in Galena, Kansas, Empire City, Kansas, and Carl Junction, Mo.

From Mr. G. H. Haines, their local manager here, I gleaned many facts as to the business situation and outlook here. For some time prices have been depressed in this line, consumers securing supplies nominally at cost. Nowhere for a radius of 200 miles has building material been sold as low as here, and nearby points. This should have stimulated building and improvement, but such has not been the case to any appreciable extent. This cannot always remain so and probably cannot continue long.

This house is energetic and meets competition. The fair and honorable manner in which all patrons are treated, and the general accommodating spirit of the manager have gained a large clientele of steady customers. At all times Mr. Haines is prepared to furnish estimates and prices to builders, contractors and others. He has resided here 17 years, 11 of which he has conducted the affairs of this concern.

J. J. FRIBLEY is an energetic Ohioan, who came to this region in 1882. He founded an immense hardware and agricultural implement business from which he retired some years ago. He was succeeded by Fribley & Twitchell, the former his son. Complications resulting through the death of Mr. Twitchell, again brought him forward to head the business. This is a thoroughly representative depot, a large and remarkably well selected stock being at all times carried. The list of specialties carried in farm implements and machinery embraces full lines from the most noted manufacturers. Well indicating this is the fact that this is the sole depot for Cherokee county and the district south for the famous Studebaker farm wagons and spring or light wheeled vehicles, and their full line of up-to-date buggies, surreys, carriages, road wagons, etc. The Studebaker farm wagon is the standard of the world and is unequalled in general construction.

Likewise is this the sole distributing headquarters for Moline implements, which have so long demonstrated their superior worth as being best adapted to the needs of the practical husbandmen of this region. The trade developed extends over this section, Indian Territory and portions of Arkansas and Missouri. An army of patrons is supplied. Mr. Fribley is well versed in stock husbandry, and in the past has contributed much to the development of fine horse raising here. He still possesses a good individual, an Altamont Rattler Lambert Stallion, "Walter H." No. 6000, an impressive sire, which is for sale at a reasonable price, as Mr. Fribley has disposed of the balance of his stock.

THE TRADERS BANK was formally opened for business on the 1st of February, 1897.

John M. Cooper, W. S. Norton, W. H. Hornor, old and substantial citizens, who, in conjunction with J. N. McDonald, of Winfield, Kansas, constitute the directory.

The executive officers of the bank are John M. Cooper, President, J. N. McDonald, Cashier.

Mr. McDonald brings to the service of the bank superior administrative ability and a thorough knowledge of banking, acquired from nearly a decade's connection with the Cowley County National Bank of Winfield, Kan., as its president.

Although less than a year old, yet already this institution is solidly entrenched in the popular confidence. This substantial recognition from the business and general public, is due to the fact that the management of the bank is eminently sound, and outside of its nominal capital, is in reality backed by upwards of a half-million dollars. Thus it enters upon the first year of its financial career with the best wishes of the community and a field of operations equal to the ambition of its owners and managers.

It is a very regrettable fact, that previously, this important and vital function, had been represented in such manner as to entail heavy losses upon the general public.

It is therefore a source of congratulation, no less than local pride, that this department of finance rests with a group of men of liberal means, high standing and tried worth.

The bank has cozy, convenient quarters, ample and secure vault and safe; loans are made on approved securities, exchange drawn and collections are promptly attended to.

Its correspondents are the Chase National Bank of New York and the First National Bank of Kansas City. Every effort is directed to meet the public need, consistent with conservative banking.

NATIONAL HOTEL. The writer was for several days quartered at this hostelry and can cheerfully bear testimony in its favor. Mr. G. T. Anderson, the proprietor, is a pleasant, everyday gentleman, who recently assumed charge, and does his best to make the stay of his guests comfortable, and he succeeds admirably. The brick building is modern, the chambers well furnished, the table is excellent, the office and writing room convenient to commercial trade and visitors.

The dining room is spacious and the cooking homelike. The traveler who complains either of his fare or the reasonableness of the charges must indeed be difficult to please.

Mr. Anderson has alike a good patronage from the townspeople and the traveling fraternity.

J. M. COOPER & CO., as associated with the drug and stationery trade, means a heavily stocked emporium where all wants are fully met, with a multifarious supply which includes drugs, chemicals and medicines, not alone those that are comprehended in the *materia medica*, but also those of proprietary nature. A big trade is transacted in heavy staples, such as paints, oils, varnishes, window-glass, etc. And a full line of stationery, school supplies, miscellaneous works, novelties, etc. Mr. W. E. Price, the energetic manager, has resided here several years, was formerly in trade himself and some two years ago, became one of the managerial staff of J. M. Cooper, whose varied interests are elsewhere set forth. Mr. Price is a systematic manager, and the care, system and management of this stock and premises, speaks volumes as to his business ability. A large holiday trade has been transacted this season, still there is a small surplus of useful and ornamental articles left over. Rather than to pack them aside, special reduction prices prevail to close them out. It is not Mr. Price's policy to have odds and ends accumulate. Thus have the public a rare opportunity to obtain some elegant souvenirs at a trifling outlay.

LYNCH & COOK are a strong, successful pair of Illinoisans, whose ample, well stocked premises, well evidence their business ability. As general merchants, they admirably represent the lines of groceries, flour and feed, dry goods and notions, boots and shoes, furnishing goods, etc. Also a fine line of crockery, glassware, lamp goods, stoneware, etc. The house was started a few years ago by I. N. Lynch, and last July, with the accession of J. W. Cook, present firm was formed. The first named is from Ridge Farm, and the latter from Danville, Ill. Both are driving business men, well disciplined in the best ways of trade, men who constantly struggle to increase their patronage. An unusually select line of groceries, teas, coffees, spices and shelf goods are carried. This is well illustrated when it is mentioned that they have the exclusive sale for the famous Boston importing house of Chase & Sanborn, whose line of teas and coffees are unequalled. Lynch & Cook have an immense country trade, all over this region and a part of the Indian Territory. Have just removed to new premises, in the old bank building on the corner, and will now be better prepared than ever to care for the trade.

COOPER & HODGKINS are a widely known grocery firm. This house was originally started over thirty years ago. The co-partners are J. M. Cooper, (noted elsewhere) and Ed Hodgkins. The latter hails from Syracuse, New York, left there in '64, went to Montana, and later came here. The firm occupy very commodious premises and carry a very heavy stock. They handle a big trade all over this district and into the Indian Territory. Comprehensive are staple and fancy groceries, provisions, flour and feed, confectionery and fruits, queensware and stoneware, wooden and willow ware, etc. Supplies are all received in immense lots from manufacturers and first hands. Goods are all bought on a spot cash basis, thus securing special prices and all discounts. The magnitude and extent of trade carried on by Cooper & Hodgkins is such, that almost daily are fresh accessions of goods received. Everything required by farmer or family is hauled, and nothing is ever left undone that will aid in assisting to meet the full requirements of all patrons. Thus it is, that Cooper & Hodgkins is a supply depot that receives a steady, unlimited patronage.

NEEDS & McABOY are new claimants for public patronage, and some five weeks ago, opened "The Klondike Meat Market" a neat, clean, spacious market, highly appreciated by the good housewives of this district. T. E. Needs and T. T. McAboy are the co-partners. The former is an Indianan, and the latter an Illinoisan. Before their advent here they conducted the Parlor Meat Market in Galena, which establishment they sold out. Both members of the firm are stirring, reliable men, are experts in their line, have every needed convenience for the successful prosecution of their business, and already have scored a decided triumph. They have their own slaughtering premises and bring to the block none but the choicest fat hogs, calves, lambs, hogs, etc. One can depend upon receiving at "The Klondike"

the most select cuts of meat, high class bacon, sugar cured hams, bologna, sausages, pure leaf lard and all other butcher's delicacies. Fish, game and oysters in season. Additional, this firm are buyers and shippers of stock. The public have not been slow to appreciate "a good thing," and are fast flocking to "The Klondike."

O. N. BALDWIN is the proprietor of Baldwin's Low Price Cash Home, where is shown an excellent assortment of general merchandise, including groceries, boots and shoes, dry goods, hats and caps, furnishing goods, crockery, glassware, tinware, provision, produce, hay and corn, etc. He is also the owner of the Occidental Hotel, managed by his wife, Mrs. Baldwin; as well as the Opera House. Mr. Baldwin came here a few years ago, in 1888, a native of famous Oneida county, New York. As is always the case with the average citizen of the Empire State, he possesses a full supply of energy and business acumen. This has won him a goodly patronage. He manages his affairs economically and wisely, is careful in representation of wares, sells goods at hard pan prices, is liberal in his dealings with customers, and merits the trade that has been built up. In all local matters Mr. Baldwin evinces a proper public spirit and is fitly merited to be listed in this trade report.

THE LONG-BELL LUMBER CO. have one of their well stocked lumber yards here. Started in '82, by P. R. Slater, who came hither from the Blue Grass State, to which he is native, and who has well identified himself with local interest. He has ever since had charge of their affairs here. This concern have many wholesale distributing agencies and retail yards scattered over Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri, and even beyond. In the yards and warehouses, is displayed an adequate stock of every description of rough and dressed lumber, doors, sash, and all other building material. They are fully able to furnish anything and everything in wood, that enters into the construction of a building of any class. Various causes have operated to depress prices in the past few seasons, when is taken into account the labor involved and the vast outlay of capital necessary, nothing like fair profits have been realized by the trade generally. As Mr. Slater remarked: "That is one of the circumstances which has to be endured with fortitude." It remains, however, that the public have been buying lumber at less figures than allows reasonable remuneration. It must occur to any fair-minded person, that the sooner values adjust themselves to a more healthy condition of the trade, the better it will be for all parties. It is a true maxim—"The prosperity of those about you brings your own prosperity."

DENT'S CASH GROCERY is a household name all over this region. One has but to glance around and about the establishment to find a wide-awake, active concern, who neglect no honorable opportunity to advertise their wares and increase their sales. This expectancy is confirmed in meeting Mr. J. A. Dent and his son, C. E. Dent. The elder Mr. Dent gives his entire attention to the general sales, delegating the purchase and selection of goods to his son, who is recognized as an expert in this line. These gentlemen hail from Virginia, like all good members from "Dixie," take great pride in maintaining an honorable name and reputation. This house was established some two and one-half years ago, and right from the start gained popular favor. The stock of staple and fancy groceries is of superlative quality, and the extent of the trade is such that constant replenishment is necessary, and thus at all times is this stock brand new and fresh. This is the sole depot for the famous "Reindeer" flour milled in Topeka, received direct and in car lots. For country produce they always pay the highest ruling market price. In every respect, Dent's Cash Grocery is a first-class representative depot, has scored a capital success and numberless are its patrons. Success has been developed by handling high-class goods at a very small advance over original cost and by assiduous attention to everybody's wants.

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