A SURVEY OF THE BRAZOS.

Data Submitted by the Waco Commercial Club.

WANT THE STREAM MADE NAVIGABLE

Cost of the Work Estimated to Be About Five Hundred and Eighty Thousand Dollars Complete.

Waco, Texas, January 28.—The secretary of the Waco Commercial club has forwarded the following to Colonel Roberts, chairman of the board of engineers appointed by the government to examine the improvements at the mouth of the Brazos, who is now in New York:

Colonel Henry M. Roberts, Chairman Board of Engineers for the Examination of the Mouth of the Brazos:

Waco, Texas, January 28.—Dear Sir: The visit of your board to Velasco and the importance of your forthcoming report to congress upon the improvements at the mouth of the Brazos have been brought to the attention of the Waco Commercial club, and I am directed to forward to you all data obtainable concerning the navigation of the Brazos. The success of the promoters of the deep water port at the mouth of the river has intensified the interest felt in the matter of securing government aid in the opening of the river to navigation as far up as Waco, a distance of perhaps 500 miles, by the meanderings of the stream, and I beg to submit a few figures relative to the volume of commerce which would be affected by such navigation. The Brazos river traverses twelve counties from Waco to its mouth, namely: McLennan, Falls, Milam, Robertson, Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Washington, Waller, Austin, Fort Bend and Brazoria. Each of these counties contains a large body of rich bottom lands along the Brazos and tributaries, constituting the Brazos valley, the finest cotton producing region of the world. I have not reliable reports of the exports of cotton from the counties named later than 1891, which place it at 420,000 bales in round numbers. I am sure a half million bales is not an exaggerated estimate of the amount for an ordinary year from year to future, with a probable increase with better and cheaper transportation facilities. The Brazos valley now produces about one-sixth of all the cotton raised in Texas, and with navigation of the river to Waco it would certainly produce one-half of the Texas crop. Along with the long staple cotton must be considered the item of cotton seed. For every bale of cotton produced there is a yield of half a ton of seed, so the production of cotton seed in the Brazos valley was in 1891 about 210,000 tons, and, with the contemplated increase in cotton production, would reach 500,000 tons.

According to the report of the Texas agricultural bureau for 1894 the twelve counties named lying between Waco and Velasco produced more than half the entire sugar crop of Texas, valued at $600,000, besides molasses, value at $[illegible] and sorghum, value at $[illegible]. In the same report cotton bales were worth $[illegible] per ton, of cotton seed, worth $[illegible] and sugar cane products, worth $[illegible], making a total of $[illegible] in these three items alone. When we take into consideration the other farm products, live stock, etc., which would in all probability add as much more to the export traffic, we have [illegible] which would be accommodated by the navigation of the Brazos. The reports are not taken into account, but would, of course, enter into the traffic and would probably equal the exports.

I now desire to direct your attention to the feasibility of Brazos navigation. The Waco board of trade in 1890 secured the services of Professor J. H. Hurwood of Waco to make a survey of the Brazos river from Waco to Richmond, in Fort Bend county. Professor Hurwood traversed the river in a small boat, making measurements and collecting data covering every detail bearing upon navigation, and his report is the most complete and most reliable collection of important information on the subject now extant. I submit extracts from the same. Addressing the board of trade, he says:

"The subjects for observation in your instructions were ten in number. I report on them seriatim, following in the order in the copy. I have inserted them because by this method I can give a more comprehensive view of the subject.

"No. 1. Inquiry No. 1 is in as follows: 'A statement of the length of the river from Waco.' [illegible]

"Answer—The navigable distance between the two points is 98 miles.

"No. 2. 'What is the fall of the river, the sizes of pools, their length and average depth?'

"Answer—If it [illegible] twenty Waco, [illegible] as far as San Felipe, a space of [illegible] the other from San Felipe to Waco. These lakes are [illegible] fourth mile the smallest, to eight miles the longest. Below San Felipe the lake system of the river is not so well defined, [illegible] from above Waco.

"These pools or lakes are forty-three in number, [illegible] Their length, commencing beginning at first from Waco, is as follows: [illegible] seventh, ¾ mile; eighth, [illegible] ninth, 9.6 miles; tenth, 1.1 miles; eleventh, [illegible] miles; twelfth, 1.8 miles; thirteenth, [illegible] miles; fourteenth, [illegible] miles; sixteenth, 5¼ miles; seventeenth, ¾ mile; eighteenth, 2½ miles; nineteenth, 1¼ miles; twentieth, 1 miles; twenty-first, 1½ miles; twenty-second, ¾ miles; twenty-third, 2½ miles; twenty-fourth, 1.7 miles; twenty-fifth, 3½ miles; twenty-sixth, 1¾ miles; twenty-seventh, 1.1 miles; twenty-eighth, 1.8 miles; twenty-ninth, 2 miles; thirtieth, 1.5 miles; thirty-first, [illegible] miles; thirty-second, 4 miles; thirty-third, 7.6 miles; thirty-fourth, 1.6 miles; thirty-fifth, 34 miles; thirty-sixth, 7 miles; thirty-seventh, 5¼ miles; thirty-eighth, 3 miles; thirty-ninth, 1.1 miles; fortieth, 4 miles; forty-first, 3¾ miles; forty-second, 3 miles; forty-third, ¾ mile; forty-fourth, [illegible] miles; forty-fifth, 2 miles. Outlined beyond Richmond. These pools, by 38½ miles of pools, with 4.8 miles from the first clearly defined pool or mixed water.

"The depth of these pools—Nearly all of these lakes have a well defined and uniform channel through their entire length. The depth of these channels was thoroughly measured, each separately, the depths of which I have arranged. The average depth was four to ten feet at the time of measurement, with occasional two to three foot water over loose sand for a few yards at each end of the pool. Many pools are twenty to forty feet in deepest places.

"4. 'What portion of the stream is shoal and would require jetties to narrow, control or make a channel?'

"As there are forty-four lakes of deep water, there are forty-four places which obstruct navigation. These are the steps over which these lakes discharge their surplus water into the lakes below. Of these forty-four steps, thirty-six are shoals. These shoals vary in length from twenty-five feet, the shortest, to two miles, the longest. Each would require from one to three jetties to narrow the river and form a channel.

"5. 'The length of the rapids, the force of the current over them and whether the boats could stem such a current?'

"Answer—The rapids are eight in number, of which seven occur between points on the river opposite Marlin and Hearne. The last is situated about seven miles above Washington. The length of these rapids (as respectively as follows, beginning from the Waco end): Falls on the Brazos, 1½ miles; Rock rapids, 600 feet; Blue Shoal rapids, 1½ miles; Curly rapids, 300 feet; Calvert falls, or Black's crossing, one-third of a mile; Herndon falls, 400 feet; Fort Sullivan rapids, one-half mile; Hidalgo falls, 300 feet.

"The current over these rapids is so affected by various causes, such as friction, obstructions, etc., that it is various even in the same rapid. Estimated from the [illegible] and the length of each, the current in some of them would be less than six to eight miles per hour if run in an unobstructed channel.

"Boats could not stem the current of the rapids except for the use of capstan and hawser. To this method the current over the rapids would be no obstacle.

"No. 6. 'What obstructions to navigation, such as bridges, snags, fallen timber, fish dam rapids, exist in that part of well course?'

"Bridges are twelve in number. Snags are not very rarely in the upper part of the river, in the lower part more frequently. Between Washington and Richmond are interesting groups of snags, with occasional isolated single snags in the upper part of the river. Two-thirds of the entire length is about as many. Fallen timbers offer no obstructions; falls and rapids are embodied in a previous answer.

"No. 7. 'What would be about the expense of removing existing obstructions and jetting the shoal portions of the stream?'

"From careful observations made, I estimate the expenses as follows:

For removing snags and rocks in channel over the shoals	$100,000
For jetties over shoals and rapids, 36 miles at $200	36,000
For excavating channels in eight rapids, $50,000 each	400,000
Total	$500,000

"No. 8. 'The average depth of water in the stream at the several seasons of the year, as near as can be ascertained by soundings?'

"The water in the lake channels, which form almost the entire length of the river, is almost absolutely without variation below the measurements we found on the trip. The testimony to this from intelligent persons was unvarying. The flowing water of the river varies from a few inches over the shoals in the drouth of summer to twenty-five feet in the spring floods. From the mass of the best information attainable, the water should be from three to twenty-five feet over the shoals from October to July, which would make the river navigable for light draft boats for nine months in the year from Waco to the sea, except for the eight lakes which could be crossed in not less than a ten foot rise. This subject can be determined only by protracted observations.

"The above general replies are based on elaborate measurements and calculations.

"I may, perhaps, be allowed to close this report by a few suggestions, purely gratuitous. The Brazos in respect to its long and deep lake system is a remarkable river. It has forty-four lakes, the channels of which constitute natural canals. The shoals and rapids, also forty-four in number, fitted with locks and dams, should make slack water navigation from Richmond to Waco possible every month in the year, except in high water. The lakes and steps enumerated do not include the water from Waco for nine miles down the river, but that piece of water is included in estimate for improvements. The study of the river was made at an excellent time, the river being nearly at its lowest. As a summary, the Brazos during our measurement contained from Waco to Richmond, in round numbers, 38 miles of water practicable for light draft boating and sixteen miles of shoals and rapids.

"The report, in addition to the above, gives a detailed report of the measurements of each reach and step, made with the care, if not the authority, of a government official. Professor Hurwood's estimate of cost may be too low, but his measurements have stood the test of expert examination.

"The data is submitted with the hope that in making your report upon the improvements at the mouth of the Brazos, you will make favorable mention of the Brazos navigation as far as Waco.

S. L. Jones,
Secretary Waco Commercial Club.

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Y—Mrs. May Young, Miss Callo Young.

FOREIGN LETTERS.

B—Alex Begg, Cerese Belden.
D—G. Decker.
E—Mrs. Easserbrook.
F—R. D. Ferguson.
H—Berreid Honig.
P—Robt Perkins.
S—Jul Schmidt, Augusta Settler, Dr. Scheffel, Miss Jose Sweeney.
W—M. Wagner.

PACKAGES.

Jerome Sampson, Wm. Hill, Mrs. Eva S. Waddell, Miss Susie Graham.

MAKING MOUNTAIN DEW.

Tennessee Moonshiner Throws Light on Distilling Processes.

Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

In the Shelby county jail there are at present a number of "moonshiners," as the men convicted by the federal court of illicit distilling are called. A reporter got one of those prisoners to tell just how "moonshine" is made. If anyone wishes to follow the directions, he should remember that there is room at the jail for him, and that Uncle Sam's marshal and district attorney have plenty of time to attend to his case.

Those who know by actual experience how the moonshiner makes his "mountain dew" are loth to tell how it is done. They reason, and not without good sense, that it is a dangerous secret, and there it is a matter of some difficulty to persuade one to tell his secret. The moonshiner knows that the very minute he starts a brew, that minute he is a criminal in the eyes of the law. His individual views as to the criminality of his act do not at all coincide with the law on the subject, however. The moonshiner believes that he has as much right to convert his corn into whisky as the gardener has to make sauce out of his tomatoes, or the grape grower to distill the juice of his fruit into wine. That is the way he looks at the crime of illicit distilling. All the laws cannot change his view of the matter. He argues that the government has a particular spite to vent against him, and therefore he regards civilized man as his rightful enemy. He holds the officer, whose sworn duty it is to enforce the law, in as much odium as society entertains for the moonshiner. He will stubbornly insist that he is more sinned against than sinning.

The moonshiners of this country have been unjustly compared to the smugglers who infest the mountainous regions of Europe and traffic in contraband commodities and articles. As a rule, they are not as desperate a lot as they are painted. Some have slain to protect themselves from what they deem unjust and outrageous laws, but that is done by men in other walks of life, and such are not denominated desperadoes. But this is digressing from the subject. How is mountain dew made? The idea of the average person whose environments in life have been such as would afford no opportunities for gleaning the secret of the moonshiner would take in some fine chemical process, that could not have originated in any but a college professor's mind, and yet the way in which the rugged moonshiner makes his "dew" does not include anything that the college student encountered in his study of chemistry, from a purely practical point of view.

The process is simple. The moonshiner sends his corn to mill to have it ground. It is converted into meal, the same as is used to make cornbread. This meal is put in a tub or barrel of boiling water. In this way it is cooked. It sits until it is cool enough to burn the hands when they are put in it. It is stirred up well, and then put in the still. The still is then filled with cold water. After that the malt is added. Malt is made by putting corn in water and letting it soak two or three days, or until it sprouts. When it is malted, the malt is ground the same as the corn was, and to every bushel of corn is added sixteen single handfuls of malt. The malt and the cold water are added at the same time. Then the brew stands until it foams, which requires several days. In this time it begins to "work," or ferment. A crude, or cap, as it is called by moonshiners, or bran forms on the top of the water. This cap is bluish in color. It is not disturbed at all. In a short time this cap settles to the bottom where it came from. The weight of the solidified mass of bran or husks causes it to sink. The fire is then started under the still, and it is only a matter of two or three hours until about two gallons of whisky have been distilled. The moonshiner then has two gallons of "dew" which he can sell for from $2 to $5, as the needs of the purchaser may justify, and he has consumed six days and a bushel of corn in making it. This, one bushel of corn, yields two gallons of whisky, which may bring, in the moonshiner's market, from $4 to $10. About thirty gallons of water are used to brew one bushel of corn.

"Do moonshiners buy or make the stills?" asked the reporter.

"They are bought," he answered, "though I have known of people making their stills. A still," he continued, noting the inquisitive look on the faces of his listeners, "is a large copper-lined shaped like a cistern. They hold from fifty to sixty gallons. Over the neck of the still a can fits the same as one joint of stovepipe fits over another. From the top of this can an arm runs out about ten inches long. To this arm is attached the worm. Well, the worm is a coil of pipe about sixteen feet long. It is through this that the evaporations of the steam from the still passes. The worm is coiled in the flake stand, which is filled with water for the purpose of keeping the worm cool. If the worm was not thus cooled no evaporation would take place, or at least not immediately. The other end of the worm runs out of the flake stand into the mouth of a funnel, which is placed in the keg, or jug, that catches the run. From the time the fire was started under the still until the brew is finished has consumed about two hours."

The whisky made by moonshiners is pronounced the very best when it has a little of age on it. They do not color it, but sell it just as it comes out of the still. It is then as clear as water.

A FINE MANAGEMENT.

"They tell me, Hoply, that your wife is a great business woman and knows just how to stop the leaks that occur in most households," quotes the Detroit Free Press. "At our place the folks are always getting things that don't fit or that are disappointing in some other way. But, instead of realizing something for them, they throw them away, give them away or put them in the attic. How does her management?"

"Well, this is what she told me last night. One of my friends believes everything that she hears. I bought a pair of heavy shoes for my wife. She was bent on being economical. They made her feet sore, and one of her stockings and extra pair of her weariness that she failed to sleep. Of course, it would not do to let her torture, so my wife sold the shoes for 50 per cent of their cost."

"Good! That's what I call economy."

"Mrs. Hoply found a remnant of just the material she wanted for a paper, bought it and had the [illegible] pulled and hauled and beaten almost distracted, and then bought goods of the same kind to make up to remedy the defect. She hired a second girl at a reasonable wage that might tell you half a dozen things in which she disposed of old things from hats to cook stoves."

"Good again! Such a woman is a treasure."

"There's one thing I should like, however. She never collects the cheap washwoman quilts. The man who sells without notice. The man who sells coal buys a stove and we have to buy again. She sells everything, but buys nothing."

In her book of Irish humor Lady Gregory quotes Gladstone's story of the passing charms of Mrs. Dillon, who was a furnishing-goods store on Grafton street in Dublin. One day the Duchess of Rutland, the viceroy's wife, drove up in a grand carriage to the shop, and looking for Mrs. Dillon, who was behind the counter, said: "Yes, you are the most beautiful woman in the kingdoms!"

INDISPUTABLE EVIDENCE.

Judge Was Not to Be Fooled by Buck Killmore's Plea.

The man on the bench was an old magistrate of the cactus district. He was a greater terror than usual to lawyers because suffering the consequences of over-stimulation. The first dilapidated prisoner who came before him the rugged representative of blind goddess showed his bottle.

Detroit Free Press.

"What's the charge, officer?" asked the judge.

"Whoopin' around the street," responded the officer.

"He looks it. What have you to say for yourself, Slippery?"

"I was just lovin' the world up when I spies Buck Killmore on the street, with both guns loaded, and I swore to round me up, and I couldn't unlimber. The rum makes a russin' fight with the gang."

"Two years for perjury."

"But looker here, judge—"

"Shet up, or I'll make it three!"

"Th' rankest liar I ever met on the stand. If Buck had put in an appearance once there would be no need for the needed fur ter hold up the perjury gang."