

BRIGHT PROSPECTS MARK ADVENT OF THE NEW YEAR

THE PASSING YEAR SEES MISS PROSPERITY MAKE DEBUT IN GRADY COUNTY

Farmers Plant Little Cotton But Go
in Strong for Corn and Wheat,
Harvesting Bountiful
Crops

LARGE GAINS IN ALL BUSINESS LINES

Railroad Traffic Grows and Merchants
Handle Big Volume of
Trade; Local Bank Deposits
\$386,129 Ahead

By GEORGE H. WYATT.

With the passing of the year 1915 an era of prosperity in Grady county will go into history—an era of prosperity which materialized despite the adverse conditions which marked the opening months of the year.

The history of the closing year shows that Grady continues one of the best agricultural counties in this prominently agricultural state, and that the farmers of Grady county may be classed among the most progressive and enterprising tillers of the soil to be found in any state in the union.

When the bottom dropped out of the cotton market with the coming of the great European war and the farmers the south found themselves with the biggest yield of that staple crop in the history of the state, the farmers of Grady turned their backs on cotton and hailed other lords of soil as more worthy their attention.

Such being the case the acreage planted in wheat in the fall of '14, and the acreage seeded to corn during the spring of '15 were the heaviest ever known in this section. And when the harvesters began to rattle and the threshers to hum last summer and the sheeters to buzz a few weeks later, with the clank of the hay balers playing a musical accompaniment, Grady county farmers saw that they had made no mistake.

The prosperity of the country, as a natural sequence, spread to the towns of the county, each coming in for its share of the good things showered down by a combination of good judgment in farming and good soil and good climatic conditions.

With the opening day of the first great Free Fair of Grady county, trade conditions showed the effects of the bountiful harvests and these conditions have kept up and grown better with each succeeding day until the closing of December, following the two weeks' bustle and hurrah and jollifications of the gladsome Christmas times, marks the highwater stage in the most prosperous year the farmers, the merchants, the bankers, the general public of this county have known for years.

All lines of business have been favorably affected in Chickasha. The merchants report, almost to a man, that they have never enjoyed a trade increasing in volume that of the season just passing. The railroads, the express companies, as common carriers, have necessarily come in for their portion of the business and the records of these companies show, it is said a most healthy gain over the business done during any preceding year. The business of the railroads and the express companies show a marked increase for each month in the year over the business during the corresponding periods of 1914.

Merchants have handled the heaviest volume of trade known in years, all throughout the marketing of the earliest crops of grain and alfalfa this section has ever known. General conditions, prosperous and otherwise, may be judged by the sum total of deposits carried in the banks of the county. The individual depositors furnish the life fluid of the banks of the nation and the amounts of these deposits serve as a giant pulse nose throbbing tell the condition of the general health of any community.

The total deposits carried in banks of Grady county outside of Chickasha are said to show a marked increase over those of 1914, the exact figures, however, being unavailable at this time.

The five banks in Chickasha show a net gain in deposits over those of last year of almost a half million dollars.

Taken bank by bank the increase in money in circulation in Chickasha, marked by the deposits of the individual customers, and the amount in circulation a year ago is found to be:

First National bank, at close of business, December 27, 1915, total deposits, \$1,002,216.26; same bank at close of business same date 1914, \$889,548.89. Oklahoma National bank, at close of business December 27, 1915, \$684,144.75; same bank at close of business same date 1914, \$623,686.88. Citizens National bank, at close of business December 27, 1915, \$648,349.01; same bank at close of business same date 1914, \$549,756.95. Chickasha National bank, at close of business December 27, 1915, \$319,963.00; same bank at close of business same date 1914, \$278,588.90. Farmers State bank at close of business December 27, 1915, \$207,629.04; same bank at close of business same date 1914, \$134,231.81.

Showing a net increase in deposits, bank by bank, over same period of 1914 of as follows:

First National, \$112,367.27.
Oklahoma National, \$60,457.87.
Citizens National, \$98,592.06.
Chickasha National, \$41,315.90.
Farmers State, \$73,397.53.
Total increase for year, \$386,129.33.

NO GROUNDS FOR CHARGE ARE FOUND

Verden Man Accused of Theft of Horses
in Colorado, is Dismissed After
Preliminary Hearing; Returns Home

About two weeks since John D. Graham of Verden was arrested at request of the officers of Baca county, Colorado, by Sheriff Bailey and later turned over to those officers and taken back to Colorado upon charges of being implicated in the theft of a car of horses.

As told in the Express at that time, Graham asserted his innocence and returned to Colorado without requisition papers, claiming that a thorough investigation would prove conclusively that he had no hand in the horse stealing offense with which he was charged.

Yesterday Graham arrived at his home in Grady county, his discharge having been ordered by the Colorado judge before whom he was arraigned preliminarily.

As a proof of his innocence of the offense Mr. Graham was given a letter from this judge which follows: "Stonington, Col., Dec. 29, 1915. "To Whom It May Concern: "This is to certify that John Graham proved beyond the possibility of a doubt that he was not guilty of the crime charged against him and is therefore released therefrom.

"BARNETT H. JONES, "Justice of the Peace." Graham's preliminary was held Tuesday. He says the only evidence against him was that a "slim man wearing glasses," answering to that extent to his own description, was seen with the stolen horses and Graham proved by a number of witnesses that he could not have been connected with the crime. He returned to Colorado to face the charge, without a requisition.

Keith Barnes left today for Lindsay on a business trip.

Good Resolutions



PROGRESS MADE BY CHICKASHA CHURCHES DURING CLOSING YEAR

Not alone in a material way did Chickasha prosper during the past year. Reports of the year's work in religious circles show that all of the churches in the city made marked progress in 1915:

Epworth Methodist Church.
Dr. J. A. Olds, pastor of the Epworth Methodist church, has one of the largest congregations in Chickasha under his charge. The membership of this church is composed of conscientious workers in the cause of religion and the deepest interest is ever manifested in all matters of church advancement. The Sunday school is particularly well attended and shows a remarkable increase for the year just closed. All societies of the church are harmoniously conducted, the activity being in evidence at all points.

First Christian.
During the past year the Christian church, under charge of Dr. G. Lyle

Smith has flourished in a most satisfactory manner. The attendance has been good at every service and the increase in membership has been such as to evidence the high esteem in which the pastor is held by all. The Sunday school of this church has particularly flourished. One year ago about two hundred children attended this Sabbath school and now the number has been swollen to almost three hundred. Sixteen active classes compose the membership of the Sunday school of the Christian church while one of the largest and most interesting adult classes in Oklahoma meets every Sunday.

Second Baptist.
The Second Baptist church presided over by Rev. C. P. Halley shows possibly the heaviest growth of any church in Chickasha during the past twelve months. The membership has increased not less than 50 per cent (Continued on Page Four.)

BANNER MONTH FOR MARRIAGE MARKET

If marriage is really a lottery, and many aver it is, then December, 1915, was the banner month for that year, in Grady county, in the matter of lottery tickets sold. Mrs. Watkins, chief deputy in the happiness department of the court clerk's office, stated this morning that December showed a total of 57 marriage licenses issued for the month, while the number of divorce suits filed had dwindled down to an insignificant eleven.

A total of only thirty-seven suits of all kinds were filed during the entire month, all of which would seemingly indicate that the people of Grady county are becoming less prone to divorce and more learned in the law and to dwell together in peace and harmony.

WEATHER FORECAST.
For Oklahoma.

Tonight and Sunday, clear and colder.
Local Temperature.
During twenty-four hours ending 8 a. m. today:
Maximum, 68 degrees.
Minimum, 46 degrees.

LUSTY HOWLING AS BABY YEAR IS BORN

Did you hear New Year come in last night? Or were you like everybody else and just thought the noise was either a fire alarm or the music of the advance guard in some raid or other?
A trifle prematurely, about one minute and sixty seconds so, a switch engine down in the Rock Island yards turned loose with the announcement that 1916 was a "boring." Scarcely had this whistle begun to far about through the prevailing atmosphere, when some one with noise in their hearts and murder in their souls unlimbered a large and ill-mannered piece of artillery composed, possibly, of two anvils each loaded with noise-making powder and laid face to face.
Following this, big guns and little whistles turned loose and "volleyed and thundered" for several consecutive minutes. Then, when the attending physicians announced that 1916 had been born and that the youngster was a fine and a lusty one, the noise-makers disbanded and the balance of the population of Chickasha again pounded the pillows.

Miss Mabel Linda returned yesterday evening from Durant from Durant, where she spent the Christmas holidays with friends and relatives.

GREATEST YEAR IN HISTORY OF COLLEGE

By PRESIDENT AUSTIN.
The die is cast, the year is ended, and the results speak for themselves.

The Oklahoma College for Women closed its doors for Christmas vacation one year ago with an enrollment of 215 young women and this last December sent 367 girls coming from forty-eight counties to their homes singing the praises of Oklahoma's only girls' school. More than two hundred applications for rooms in the dormitory were returned for the lack of accommodations.

I do not regard this unusual development as the most important feature because it takes more than numbers to build a great institution. The greatest progress the school has made during the last twelve months is its growth in the hearts of the people of this state. The citizens have found out that their daughters are looked after here and they are given the character of training that makes good women.

The standards of the institution have been raised until it is recognized today as one of the leading schools of the state.

I had a vision not long ago and I saw a magnificent fine arts building, a great science hall, and three large dormitories standing on the campus, and I heard the voices of one thousand Oklahoma girls chanting the praises of O. C. W. The flight of years was rapid and the curtain rose again and the finished product was before me. I saw one thousand well kept homes in this great state managed by one thousand former pupils of the Oklahoma College for Women, and it was then I recognized what the state was receiving for the investment in her girls' school.

We are now in the midst of the greatest year in the history of the institution and I am of the opinion that this is the worst year the school will ever see. Yours for service,
G. W. AUSTIN, president.

FORWARD STEPS TAKEN BY CHICKASHA SCHOOLS

By SUPT. W. F. RAMEY.

In noting the progress made by our city in various lines we must not overlook the increase and growth of our city schools and the forward steps taken for improvement. One year ago the enrollment of our high school was 224, with an average daily attendance of 203. The enrollment in all the schools was 1,821 white and total including the negro schools 2,133. The enrollment of the high school at this time is 279 with an average daily attendance of 265. The enrollment of all the white schools is 2,985 and of all the schools including the negro

school 2,438.

The increase as above shown called for enlargement in school room facilities. This is a matter that was very generously cared for in the recent declaration by vote of the people for a new junior high school building. The school spirit among patrons, pupils and teachers was never better. It is the very soul of progress and better things educationally. We prophesy that the close of the year 1916 will find our city schools well along on this forward movement of better schools and better school facilities for all the children of this city.

FORD PARTY IS GUARDED BY POLICE

By United Press.
COPENHAGEN, Jan. 1.—The members of the Ford peace party were virtually prisoners at the Royal Shooting club and were guarded by police last night to prevent them from becoming the object of attack of New Year's eve merry makers in the streets.

They promised American Minister Egan not to leave while the banquet was in progress. The entire delegation was "interned" for three hours. Governor Hanna, who is seriously ill in a hospital here, is reported better. Rev. Dr. Aked remained in Stockholm, on the verge of a nervous collapse.

Madame Schwimmer, who preceded the party to Copenhagen, to make arrangements, was warned by the police that the party would not be permitted to hold public meetings.

NEGRO PREACHER IS SHOT AS HE PRAYS

By United Press.
AUSTIN, Texas, Jan. 1.—Rev. H. A. Jones, a negro evangelist, was shot three times by a member of his congregation while he was on his knees in prayer.

The preacher's wounds are not serious. The motive of his assailant are not known.

ROUMANIA TO ATTACK BULGARIA

Three Army Corps Gather on Frontier;
Disquieting Reports on Kaiser's Illness Continue; Turks
Need Coin

By United Press.
ROME, Jan. 1.—Roumania has concentrated three army corps on the Bulgarian frontier, according to unconfirmed reports received here today. The object of the movement is not definitely known, but many connect it with the entrance of Roumania into the war on the side of the allies.

Operation for Greek King.
By United Press.
ATHENS, Jan. 1.—King Constantine will undergo an operation tomorrow. It is stated officially that the operation will be of a "minor nature," and that he will be outdoors shortly.

The king was attacked by illness two weeks ago, and it is believed that he will not be able to participate in public affairs for several weeks.

Kaiser in Bad Condition.
By United Press.
AMSTERDAM, Jan. 1.—Private advice reaching here from Berlin repeat disquieting reports concerning the Kaiser's health. It is said that he is still suffering from a number of violent carbuncles. An effort to obtain an authoritative statement in regard to his condition failed.

Turks Need Finances.
By United Press.
ZURICH, Jan. 1.—Reports received here say Turkish finances are in such a bad way that the Turks will ask Germany for a loan of one hundred million dollars.

MANY LOST WHEN LINER GOES DOWN

Large Vessel Reported Sunk by Submarine
Enroute from Oront to London;
Only Four Boat Loads
Saved

RAISES NEW PHASE OF CONTROVERSY

Washington Officials Amazed by Attack
Coming in Wake of Austrian Answer;
Dr. Griel Makes Statement

By United Press.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—Many lives are reported to have been lost when the Peninsula and Orient liner Persia was sunk in the Mediterranean sea Thursday, presumably by a submarine.

According to reports received here only four boat loads of passengers and members of the crew of the liner were saved. The Persia was enroute to London.

The vessel that was lost had a displacement of 7,794 tons, being only slightly smaller than the Italian liner Ancona. Excepting the Lusitania the Persia was the largest British liner sunk by a torpedo, it reports that she was submarined are true.

The latest dispatches state definitely that the Persia was submarined. "The Persia carried many passengers and a large crew," said an official of the line. "We have no definite figures to give out now."

Officers said that not over two hundred persons on board the vessel could have escaped in four life boats. In commenting on the statement that only four boats managed to clear, they said in all likelihood the number of survivors was considerably less than two hundred.

American Consul on Board.

By United Press.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Consul General Skinner at London wires the state department at noon as follows: "The P. and O. liner Persia reported sunk. Submarined while approaching Alexandria. Robert M. McConley, American consul at Aden, going to his post, left London as a passenger. Nearly all on board perished."

Serious Issue Arises.

By United Press.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—A new and most serious phase of the submarine controversy confronts the United States government in the torpedoing of the Persia.

White officials here were amazed at the attack coming so soon after the transmission of the Austrian reply to the Ancona note, they are disposed to withhold comment until the facts are fully ascertained.

Contradicts Austrian Report.

By United Press.
NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—Dr. Cecile L. Greil, the American survivor on the Ancona, takes issue with the Austrian note regarding the sinking of the liner. "The submarine that sank the Ancona fired fifty or more shots at her instead of sixteen as stated in the Austrian note," said Dr. Greil. "Every shell was fired after the vessel stopped, while efforts were being made to lower the boats."

Dr. Greil said the submarine circled about the liner, keeping up its fire all the while and disappeared along the surface without making any attempt to rescue the passengers. She says the Ancona's boats were not lowered till she stopped.

President Received Report.

By United Press.
HOT SPRINGS, Va., Jan. 1.—President Wilson received reports on the sinking of the Persia as fast as they arrived at the state department in Washington. He refused to make any comment.

(Continued on Page Four.)

Opla Hist Society