OKLAHOMA JUST AS IT IS.

Views of a Nebraska Man Now on the Grounds.

A GOOD COUNTRY TO LIVE IN.

The Soil Rich, the Climate Healthy, The Populace Peaceful and Everything Favorable to the Success of Settlers.

In the New Territory.

KINGFISHER, Oklahoma Ty., May 26.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Your correspondent, in company with Thomas Burrell, entered Oklahoma Territory at the opening, 12 m., April 22, and proceed to Kingfisher with a fast team, making the distance of twenty-three miles from Buffalo Springs to the land office in two and one-half hours over a rough, and, in some places, sandy road. On arriving at Kingfisher we found about three thousand people, with a town laid out in streets and all the lots taken on the south half of section 15, township 16 north, range 7 west, the ground selected by the Nebraska colony for a town site. These people were mostly from western Kansas and had come in from the west side, arriving on the ground in ten minutes after the opening of the territory. By evening of that day about four thousand more arrived from the north side and squatted on the north half of the same section. On the 23d of April a city government was organized by the Kansas people on the south side, who named the place Lisbon; whereupon, to accommodate the Nebraskans, the representatives of

THE OMAHA COLONY

organized a city government on the north side, which included the land office, and named their place Kingfisher. This afforded town lots, two to each man, for all the Nebraska colony, if they had been there to take them.

About the same procedure was gone through with at Guthrie and Oklahoma City, making one mile square of land for each of the three towns. When these towns were six hours old, Guthrie numbered about 30,000 people, Oklahoma City 12,000 and Kingfisher 7,000. But as homesteaders had taken the townsite lands in each place, with the intention of suddenly becoming millionaires, and expressing a determination to contest their rights, everybody was disgusted and discouraged about titles, and the townsite booms

SUDDENLY EXPLODED.

The result has been that Guthrie has dwindled down to about 5,000 population, Oklahoma City to about 3,000, and Kingfisher to less than 1,000 of actual residents. No doubt half of those who came to live in the towns drifted north, while the balance drifted into the country, and are endeavoring to prove title to homesteads. So much for the townsite infatuation of Oklahoma.

As to the merits of Oklahoma for towns of large growth, forming my judgment from having examined every part of the territory, and visited the important points several times during the past month, the most promising point is not available, as it lays just outside of the line, two miles east of Fort Reno, on a broad hill south of the North Canadian river. It may require the action of congress to secure this for city purposes. There is no other point in the territory of equal advantages, both commercially and agriculturally, and the richest farming lands of the territory surround it for fifty miles in every direction, and is certain of more railroad crossings than Oklahoma City, which is the second best point. The Reno locality has the advantage from having long been the point of distribution of Indian supplies for the south and west, and its present stores have a permanent traffic over all the southwest country to the Red river, with both Indians and whites in the Chickasaw nation, and in the Apache, Kiowa and Wichita countries, which are well supplied with whites who carry on farming and stock raising quite extensively.

THE THIRD PROSPECTIVE CITY

would naturally be Kingfisher, which has no railroad yet, and is not likely to have a cross-road for many years, as the country up the Cimarron is rough and of poorer soil than other parts, and not likely to be improved till after the rest of the territory is under cultivation. But the lands surrounding Kingfisher for twenty miles are rich, smooth prairie, well watered, and every quarter section there will be immediately improved.

As to Guthrie, I say regretfully and without prejudice, there is nothing in its surroundings to sustain a city. On the north is the sandy Cimarron, with several miles of blackjack hills; on the east the same, and to the south for twelve miles scrub oak hills, covered with a scaly stone and cut up with deep gulches. The grass that grows on these hills is weak and scarce, showing an extreme poverty of soil. West of Guthrie for ten miles is a succession of abrupt hills, too rough for successful farming, though the soil is excellent. On the whole, the surroundings of Guthrie are discouraging to the pursuits of agriculture, except it may be fruit, while all other parts of the territory are much better for the latter industry.

A few more words about towns, and I will give your readers my observations regarding the soil of Oklahoma. In the first place, like all new booming countries,

JOLLY GAMBLERS AND PAINTED SIRENS

have taken indisputable possession of our mushroom cities. At Guthrie the several principal streets are lined with gambling houses, the first and best built, where the soothing strains of old fiddles are heard day and night to allure the suckers and tender-feet, and quiet their nerves while their last few dollars are being gradually absorbed by the "tiger." The "girls," who ecked out a precarious existence in back alleys of other cities, here take rank with capitalists in readily taking possession of corner lots, and ply their vocation with an unhindered air of respectability. The man who goes to Guthrie to embark in the hardware, dry goods or grocery business, finds the business center occupied with gambling dens, and must locate out one side if he gets a foothold. The same situation, only less in extent, exists at Oklahoma City. But at Kingfisher

A RELIGIOUS ELEMENT PREVAILS,

and the front ends of business lots are occupied by stores, while the back ends of the same lots are thickly dotted with tents, where gambling tables are surrounded day and night by crowds who actually need their lean purses for immediate supply of bread and meat. In any event it can only be a question of a few weeks, when most of the victims of the gambling habit will either hunt their dugouts with hungry stomachs, or go like beggars from this land of promise.

But the man who prudently uses his means, however small, will not fail to prosper, as it costs but little to live anywhere here, if one is a good angler or a fair shot with a bird gun. A little bacon, lard or butter will go a long way in frying fish, chickens and plover, which are very plentiful in all parts of the territory. Also deer and rabbits are abundant, and an hour's ride in any direction will find wild game as fat and tender as ever graced the table of an epicure.

Let me here tell THE BEE and its many thousand readers that the praise of Oklahoma has never been overdrawn, nor has half been told of

ITS WONDERFUL NATURAL RESOURCES.

I have traveled twice around its border in different routes, and crossed it centrally on seven trails, and everywhere except around Guthrie the hills are broad and smooth, and it may be set down as a fact that scarcely a quarter section is found without living springs, creeks of running, clear water, and in the exceptions good well water can be had by ten to twenty feet digging. The worst water in the territory is in Uncle John and Kingfisher creeks, and that is used at Kingfisher. The physician there, Dr. Fields, of Sidney, Neb., says it is very wholesome, as he has attempted to practice medicine there since the opening day with absolutely a failure, for the lack of patients. There has really been

NO SICKNESS IN OKLAHOMA

to speak of, and people universally look healthier than when they came. Thomas Burrell, my traveling mate, has lost his sallow complexion, but is fleshy as ever and red as a peach, though we slept without a tent, and with only one blanket, on the open prairie every night since we came, and have been several times drenched with rain. Pure air and excellent creek water account for it. We have cooked steak after laying three days in the sun, and found it without the slightest taint.

There are no liquors in Oklahoma except the bottled beer sold only by the post trader at Fort Reno, and any one taking a bottle of that out of the fort will have his team confiscated, if discovered by the marshal. It had been thought that a man should go well armed here, but no weapons of any kind are needed. Except stories of one or two killings the first week, out on claims, not an assault of any kind has been heard of in the territory. Such a fact as this should be printed in capital letters far and wide, considering we live where cowboy law reigns supreme, and where none of the statutes of civilization are binding. Does it not speak well of the kind of material that will lay the foundation of our new state!

THE SOIL OF OKLAHOMA

is variable, but a rich green verdure crosses both hills and valleys. In the north part, as well as in the Cherokee strip, about one-half of the land is red, sandy loam on the surface with bright red clay subsoil, but grasses of all kinds and rank weeds and timber grow on this red soil as luxuriantly as on black loam. It is as fiery red as blood, as if impregnated with some active mineral coloring. This red earth, when washed away away from gulches ten to twenty feet deep, produces slough grass six to twelve feet in height, so great is its fertility.

The prairies of the central, western and southern parts of Oklahoma are of a dark brown loam, a little sandy near the larger streams, and are broad and gently undulating, with very few abrupt hills. Between the two Canadian rivers the soil on the high land is nearly black, and ranges from fifteen inches to six feet in depth. The ravines are shallow and rich, but grass is as luxuriant and fresh on the highest hills as in the ravines. Our teams are now grazing seven miles southeast of Fort Reno on the hills with

RICH GRASS UP TO THEIR EYES,

and stand plowing and driving every day without a mouthful of grain. The cattle, horses and mules brought from the north all thrive excellently, and such a thing as disease has not been observed among them. The idea that northern stock will not do well here is simply preposterous. The grasses are mostly the kinds that grow on the prairies of Iowa and Nebraska, and the sod as close as that in any northern prairie. The prevailing opinion now is that Oklahoma will be a stock raising country, and that little land will be kept for plowing. Though corn is considered a sure crop here, cattle are thought to be more profitable, as they will thrive the year round on grass without grain. There has been much talk among settlers of fruit raising, as apples, peaches, pears and all small fruits, where experimented with in adjoining localities, have produced abundantly every year. For general farming the land between the two Canadians is the best, because the soil is deeper, the country more level, with good drainage, and better watered than any part of the territory. On a hill where we are camped, ninety feet above the river, we struck a splendid spring in digging six feet, with water enough to supply a hundred head of stock.

A TOWN HAS BEEN STARTED

on the north side of the river four miles east of Fort Reno, on the Rock Island survey, but as the location is low bottom land, with no possibility of sewerage, it can not become a city. Later a city may spring up on the point before mentioned near the fort. The difficulty of all our new towns is the homestead filings, causing litigation for titles to lots. To obviate this difficulty, I have selected a town site in the best part of Oklahoma, free from incumbrance, and will have something interesting to say about it for our Omaha colony in my next letter. All of the Omaha people now here are well located and in prosperous circumstances.

J. W. EVARTS.

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Beware of imitations, and do not be deceived by misrepresentation. Ask for ALLCOCK'S, and let no explanation or solicitation induce you to accept a substitute.

Mrs. Bromley's Reason.

Time: Bromley, whose pate is rather bald, was at the mirror in the conjugal dressing-room, brushing the locks at his temple with a hair brush that had very little hair in it. Mrs. Bromley was watching him from a sofa near by. Now, Brhmley has a weakness for conundrums, and so he facetiously asked:

"Mrs. Bromley, why is this brush like my head?"

He expected her to say, "Because it is sadly in need of hair," and he would have accepted that solution with commendable patience; but unfortunately the conundrum, like the hair brush, had another side to it, for she promptly replied:

"Because it is nearly all wood."

Peculiar in medical merit and wonderful cures—Hood's Sarsaparilla. Now is the time to take it, for now it will do the most good.

WILL REDUCE WAGES.

Carnegie Preparing to Economize in His Homestead Mills.

A notice will be posted at Carnegie's Homestead steel plant to-morrow announcing that a new sliding scale, based on the selling price of steel blooms, will go into effect on July 1, at the expiration of the Amalgamated scale, says a Pittsburg, Pa., dispatch. It is stated in the announcement that the scale must be signed for three years, and after that either party can withdraw from it upon giving six months' notice. The new scale made up is on the basis of $27.50 per ton for steel blooms, with the minimum at $25. It will be a reduction averaging 20 per cent and will fall most heavily on the higher priced men, who will be cut, in some instances, from 50 to 60 per cent. The new scale is similar to the one in operation at the Edgar Thompson plant of the same firm, with the exception that the scale will be based on blooms instead of rails. The new scale will be in the nature of a surprise to the workmen, as they have notified the firm that an advance averaging 68½ per cent will be demanded on July 1. It will probably result in a strike of the 2,500 employes, and the company is making preparations to meet any trouble that may occur. They claim that the wages offered in the new scale will be from 10 to 20 per cent higher than is paid by their eastern competitors, and if their old workmen do not want to sign the agreement other men will be secured. If the Carnegies are successful in introducing the scale, it will probably be adopted in all the other steel mills.

An Editor's Experience.

Major Sidney Herbert, a well known journalist in agricultural circles, writes April 18, 1889: Some five years ago I wrote a letter stating that Swift's Specific had cured me of severe rheumatism. Since that time I have had no return of the rheumatic troubles, although frequently exposed to the influences that produced former attacks. Several of my friends had a similar experience, and are firm in their conviction that S. S. S. brought a permanent cure. The searching power of this medicine is shown in the fact that it developed a scrofulous taint that was in my blood over thirty years ago, and has removed the last trace of it. I have also tested S. S. S. as a tonic after a severe attack of malarial fever, which kept me in bed for three months, and am convinced that its curative and strengthening properties insured my recovery from that illness, as I was in a very low condition of health.

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New York Weekly: Actor (in country town)—I hope you won't object to announcing in your paper that this will probably be the last chance to seeing me outside of the great cities, as I have received an offer from the Gotham theater for next season at $500 a week.

Editor—I will print it with pleasure. And, by the way, please announce from the stage that now is the time to subscribe from the Plumpkinville Trumpet, as I have received an offer of $500 a week to run the London Times.

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500 pair Scotch plaids, all wool, in brown and grey, $3.50, worth $6.00.
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500 pairs all wool Scotch Stripes and Plaids, all colors, at $2.75, worth double.
300 pairs all wool Scotch blue mixed, $2, worth $5.
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500 pairs all wool Scotch Plaids, in brown and grey, at $3.50.
200 pairs all wool dark Cassimeres, brown stripe, at $4 and $5.00.
300 pairs all wool Cassimeres, in plain plaids, stripes and checks, light and dark colors, $4.50
And many others. In men's, youths', boys' and children's suits, we shall make special prices during this week, and you will find it to your advantage to examine our goods and prices before purchasing.
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