

**INDIAN TERRITORY
BUSINESS GUIDE
FOR THE HOMESEAKER
AND INVESTER**

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Indian Territory business guide for the homeseeker and investor by James William Hale

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INDIAN TERRITORY BUSINESS GUIDE

There are thousands of people in the United States who would like to know something of the Indian Territory more than can be gathered from its geographical location and from what the newspapers say, and it is the purpose of this book to put the reader in touch with the true conditions that exist here today -- and by studying it closely one can familiarize himself with the country and obtain more knowledge than any way possible aside from coming and investigating personally.

It is the intention of the publishing company to furnish the homeseeker and investor a statement of facts as they exist here today and for that reason the company has secured write-ups from all of the cities and towns in the Indian Territory; most of them written by the mayors of the respective towns, giving a minute description of each town and vicinity,

showing what the town and country has at present, and what opportunities exist for the homeseeker and investor.

It is furthermore the aim of the book to acquaint the reader with the laws and customs relative to the acquisition of lands and other property, and so instruct him that should he desire to visit the Indian Territory he would not come a total stranger, but know what section of the country is best adapted to each one's calling or profession, and in this way make the book an account of such information worth many times its price to any such homeseeker or investor in whose hand it chances to fall.

Indian Territory

It is not within the power of man to fully describe the Indian Territory for it has been so kindly favored by nature that even a person familiar with it discovers from day to day some hidden virtue or some unknown treasure which has been lying dormant and undiscovered which portrays the handiwork of the Creator and his thoughtfulness of his creatures, and which treasures when fully developed, will place the Indian Territory immediately upon obtaining statehood, in the front rank with the foremost states in the Union, and populate her fertile valleys and prosperous towns with a prosperous and happy class of people.

So many people have a superficial knowledge of the new country and the conditions which exist here today; they know it as the home of the remnant of Five Civilized Tribes of Indians, but overlook the fact that by different treaties with the United States Congress the tribal relations, heretofore existing, are practically all abolished, and that they are now United States citizens, and the public domain, which they have for years been holding in common, has been devised and allotted to each member of the tribe.

As the country has progressed in its crude and simple way (for lack of the necessary legislation and

proper advertising), the United States Congress has recognized its great natural resources, the inducements here for both capital and labor, and has made treaties with the Indians and passed laws (which will be explained more fully hereafter) which enables them to dispose of certain portions of their land to people seeking homes and investments, and as a consequence the country has developed more in the last five years than during the previous fifty. Capital and labor both have discovered the opening of the necessary avenues and today, where a few years ago was an undeveloped and undiscovered country, you might say, one will see a network of railroads, coal and other mines, working thousands of people, and good towns and cities springing up following development.

According to the census of 1900, the population of the Indian Territory was 392,060, but since the recent act of Congress making it possible for white men to obtain good title to land, there is a great influx of people into this country, and, of course, the population now is considerably more. However, considering the area and the natural advantages of the country, as compared with other states, it is very thinly populated, and there is still plenty of room, and the pasture is yet green and opportunities are blossoming for the person with small or large capital and determination to succeed.

The Indian Territory contains thirty-one thousand square miles, and the per capita allotment varies from one hundred and twenty-two in the Seminole Nation to three hundred and twenty acres of average land

in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. As compared to the other states, the Indian Territory is twenty-nine times as large as Rhode Island, sixteen times as large as Delaware, six times as large as Connecticut, four times as large as New Jersey, about four times as large as Massachusetts, three times as large as Vermont, three times as large as New Hampshire, and three times as large as Maryland, has six thousand square miles more than Main, twelve thousand square miles more than South Carolina, is practically the size of Indiana, and is four-fifths the size of either Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, or Tennessee. The Choctaw Nation alone is larger than Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont or Maryland.

It has been said of the Indian Territory that "It is beautiful for situation, faultless in climate and boundless in possibilities, being free from the sultriness of the east and storms of the extreme west." But this is not all—Senator Goar in a statchood speech in speaking of the new country said in substance the following:

"We have as fine coal as Pennsylvania, as fine oil and gas as Indiana, as fine timber as Oregon, can raise as good fruit as California, can produce as good wheat as Nebraska, can grow as good corn as Illinois, can produce as good cotton as Texas, better Irish potatoes than Colorado, as good sweet potatoes as Georgia, can raise better cattle than Kansas, better mules than Missouri, as fast horses as Kentucky, and can boast of the richest women on earth."

This is not an idle jest of what, we, who live here think of our country, but it is corroborated and substantiated by people who do not live in this country, but who for either purposes of business or pleasure have come here and made personal investigations. We quote from a speech of Hon. William M. Stewart, United States Senator from Nevada, delivered in the United States Senate January 10th, 1905, on the Statehood bill:

"The Indian Territory is, I think, the loveliest section of the country that has ever been seen by mortal man. In resources it surpasses any other part of the United States, it abounds in oil, asphalt, coal and iron. It is the finest fruit land imaginable. It is equal to the best of California, and abounds in fruits of all description. It produces cotton, and everything that is produced in the temperate zone. The finest cotton I ever saw grows there. I was told by experts in raising cotton that there is no other place in the United States where such fine cotton grows. On the Arkansas bottoms I saw five or six hundred acres, or a thousand, perhaps, of potatoes in one place. They raise two crops a year. They were as fine potatoes as can be raised in Colorado or anywhere else, and they come into the market almost as early as Bermuda potatoes."

We quote again from Senator Bailey of Texas. In his speech for single-statehood, he said:

"And when they are joined (Oklahoma and Indian Territory) there is not one among the other commonwealths richer by nature than this new state. My own