

REPORT
OF THE
GOVERNOR OF OKLAHOMA.

GUTHRIE, *September 1, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition and progress of the Territory of Oklahoma for the year ending June 30, 1898, believing that it tells a story of progress, prosperity, and development never before equaled in the history of the States and Territories of the United States.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

With a population aggregating a third of a million and greater than that of any other Territory and half a dozen different States of the Union; with an area of 40,000 square miles or 24,499,680 acres; with a prosperous, contented people largely engaged in agriculture and kindred pursuits and producing crops that astonish the world; with a taxable valuation exceeding forty millions of dollars; with a commerce that has doubled and trebled in the past twelve months; with a smaller bonded debt than any other State or Territory, and the small amount there is having been incurred only for the erection of educational institutions; with a public school system equal to any in the land; with better facilities for higher educational training of her youth than many States five times as old and with many times the population; with the best of transportation facilities and almost unlimited natural resources; with a fertile soil, a delightful climate, bright sunshine, and health-giving breezes, Oklahoma extends a cordial invitation to the farmer, the stock raiser, the fruit grower, the manufacturer, the investor, the invalid, and the homeseeker of every class to come and better his condition and challenges comparison with any other equal area of the continent.

Our north boundary is 37° north latitude. Except in Greer County little of the Territory extends south of the thirty-fifth parallel. In latitude it corresponds with southern Kentucky and Tennessee. Except Beaver County, which extends in a strip 35 miles wide to the one hundred and third meridian west longitude, nearly all the Territory lies between 96° 30' and 100° west longitude, being in the same belt as central Kansas and Texas.

In general, the face of the country is rolling prairie, with a considerable number of rivers and streams usually flowing from the northwest to the southeast, and often having high and steep banks. In the eastern half there are considerable areas covered with timber, usually of the different varieties of oak. Timber is found in the valleys of the streams in all parts of the Territory.