

awake aggregation, and the secretary will take pleasure in answering your questions and giving any information relative to this wonderful young city and unopened Comanche country.

This city is known as the metropolis of the "New Country", which is that portion of Oklahoma Territory opened for settlement August 6, 1901. The district so designated is composed of Comanche, Kiowa and Caddo counties. Lawton is situated in Comanche county, one of the largest in the Territory. It is one of the three cities of the first-class in Oklahoma, the other two being Oklahoma City and Guthrie.

The growth of Lawton has been marvelous. Fourteen months ago the town-site as well as the surrounding country was bare prairie. Nine months later, when the census was taken, the city's population numbered eight thousand. A steady and sturdy growth continues. There is every evidence to warrant the hope of a great city in the near future.

The professions, industries and trades are all flourishing. An electric light plant has been in operation since July 1, giving excellent service to both business and resident portions of the city.

There are several brick-yards which furnish an excellent article for building purposes, and a plant is now started to make vitrified brick from a shale found west of town which produces the very finest quality for paving.

The native stone is beautiful and durable. There is also a red granite which takes a very high polish. All the buildings at Ft. Sill are of Comanche County stone. Also many of Lawton's substantial structures are of this material.

Lawton already boasts a number of manufacturing plants, a cold storage house, a cotton gin, and many other industrial enterprises.

Many of the churches have built their own houses of worship, and the schools are such as would be a credit to a much

more mature city. The most substantial business men have interested themselves in the public schools, with the result that teachers and educators have been employed who are second to none. Many of them have come from the larger cities of the country, where they had put in years of faithful work along the same line.

The liberal provision made for the public schools of Oklahoma by the laws of the Territory results in the best of educational privileges. At present there are three school buildings, and more room must be found at once. Three new additions, comprising four hundred acres, are now asking for admittance to the city.

We have four excellent daily newspapers, each on a sound financial basis, and each well patronized.

The post-office receipts are sufficiently large to warrant free mail delivery, which will soon be an accomplished fact.

Lawton has not the appearance of a "new" town. There are several excellent hotels, and very many handsome and commodious buildings have been erected.

In driving over Comanche County, it scarcely seems possible that it can be a part of what was once known as "The Great American Desert." It is certainly a striking example of the "desert blossoming as the rose." Substantial farmhouses and barns together with cultivated fields give the country the appearance of having been inhabited for years. The copious rains have enabled the farmers to do well in even this first year and the "new country" is fairly on the way to prosperity.

Every variety of fruit does well here, and all the cereals have produced excellent crops. Experimental farming at the Indian School indicates that the soil and climate of this country are especially adapted to the growth of wheat, oats and cotton.

Farms are held at prices ranging from one thousand to thirty-five hundred dollars. One farmer south of town has a

twelve hundred dollar house and a fifteen hundred dollar barn on his quarter section. The hard times wail of most newly-settled countries is here conspicuous by its absence.

Beginning with October, the land-office in Lawton will be a decidedly busy place, as the farmers will at that time begin to prove up on their lands.

At present the oil and mining interests of the county are attracting much attention. Oil wells have been sunk near Lawton, and the interest is being pushed and outside capital invested in order to develop the field. Miners are busily at work in the Wichita Mountains and claim to have found ore in paying quantities.

Of the natural beauties and social privileges of Lawton and Comanche County much could be said. The roads are excellent and many bridges are being built, so that driving is one of the favorite diversions. The Wichita Mountains, twelve miles from Lawton, form an objective point for many pleasure seekers. The scenery is most varied and picturesque.

The Comanche and Apache Blanket Indians are of much interest to tourists. They cling to their bright colors, and retain many of their tribal customs, in spite of the industrial training their children receive in the Indian School near Lawton. They seldom cultivate their land, but rent to the white men. The Comanches are also quite a source of revenue to the city, as each one draws about

one hundred dollars per year from the government, and they number about two thousand.

Ft. Sill is about five miles from Lawton and is a place of much interest. It is one of the old frontier posts, and has of late been much enlarged and improved.

Lawton people count the coming of the Frisco as the most fortunate event in the history of their city. It gives them a direct route to Kansas City, St. Louis, Memphis and Birmingham. It is also the shortest line to any of these points. It furnishes accommodations equaled by no other road. The wise officials who govern the policy of this road are determined that it shall be thoroughly "up-to-date" in every particular. Wherever its track is laid, cities spring into existence. Already, since this great system entered Comanche County, twelve towns have started into being along its right of way.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

Sometimes it is his lie-abilities that increase a man's assets.

* * *

Any small boy in his first pair of trousers feels sorry for his mother.

* * *

The skin-deep beauty of the rhinoceros isn't calculated to make him vain.

* * *

When it comes to the final show down it is the undertaker who lays the champion pugilist out.

UNNECESSARY.

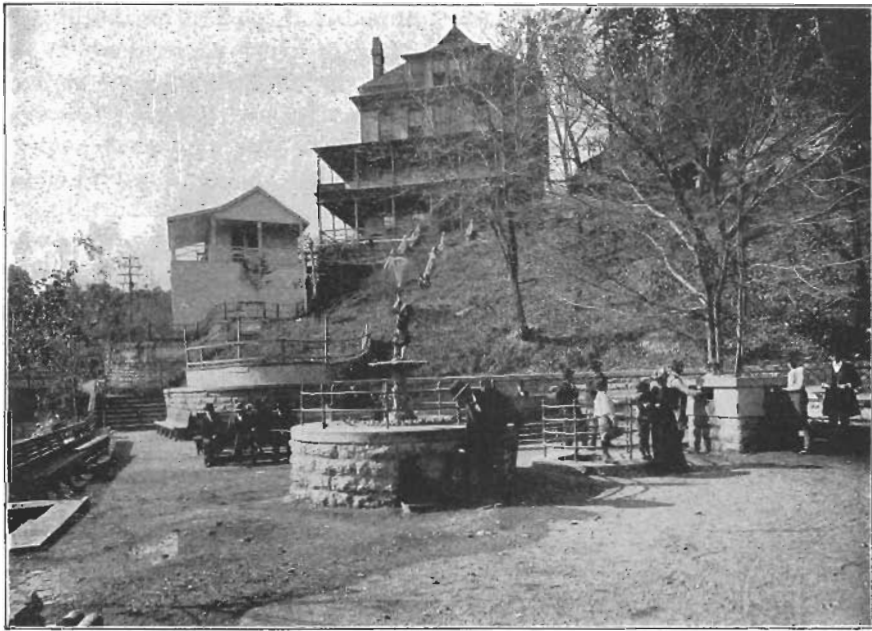
Men are apt to fret and worry,
 But what's the use?
 When too late they always hurry,
 But what's the use?
 Just to keep business boomin'
 Men do lots of things inhuman—
 Even argue with a woman.
 But what's the use?

EUREKA SPRINGS AS A RESORT.

BY MISS F. E. PERKINS.

To close the eyes on the smokes of the city and open them among the hills, this is what the Frisco System makes possible to the dweller in St. Louis or Kansas City. On all other sides surrounded by almost limitless prairies, in this direction there is an easy escape to the uplands, where the eye rests with relief upon a broken sky-line. Hither, too, comes the man from Texas, Alabama, Mississippi or Louisiana on a similar errand.

Follow any path, and it will lead you to one of the springs for which this region is famed. Clear, cool, health-giving water it is, with medicinal properties but no unpleasant medicinal taste. The Basin spring is the most central, and is the daily resort of all the seekers after health and most of the seekers after pleasure, to whom it affords an excuse for a pleasant little stroll down the main street of the town, a stroll which usually ends in the purchase of sou-



Basin Spring.

The approach to Eureka Springs is a gradual preparation for the romantic beauty of the resort itself. One's first impression of Eureka Springs is of a town on end. Houses one story high in front may be three or four stories in the rear. An electric car which winds in and out around the hills is a welcome sight to the tired climber. Conspicuous from every point the Crescent Hotel lifts its white walls and shows its crescent moon, the highest point of the town.

venirs in some one of the many attractive stores. Within easy reach are the Harding spring, the Sweet spring, the Crescent spring and the Grotto springs, the latter a particular favorite with the amateur photographer. Further off, but still within walking distance, are the Magnetic spring, Oil spring, Moss spring and many others.

To get a good general idea of the plan of the town one has only to take the elevator in the Crescent Hotel and be carried to the

tower. There such a panorama is spread out as is not often seen. A valley stretching north and south diverges into two and is intersected by half a dozen lesser valleys. In and out winds the electric car, climbing the mountain on which we stand. The Basin spring, with the surrounding buildings forming the nucleus of the town, lies to the southwest. To the southeast is the railway station, completely hidden by the trees.

For one who loves nature with a constant affection there is no need for amusement other than the free life of out of doors affords. But some of us are more fickle. We love nature, too, but there are other things we love, and above all we crave variety. All kinds of people can find their favorite amusement at Eureka Springs. Tennis courts are provided in the beautiful grounds of the Crescent Hotel. Black bass, perch and other fish are found in White and King's rivers, and there is abundance of game for the sportsman. For those who do not care to go so far afield there is the bowling alley, a favorite resort for all ages. Weekly dances are given at the Crescent Hotel and occasional dances at the smaller houses.

But the thing in which Eureka Spring easily leads its rivals is in the facilities it affords for horseback riding. The stables are good and are adapted to the wants of those unaccustomed to riding as well as to the experienced. At this season of the year the sumac has turned and the woods are glorious. The list of attractions to be visited is a long one and includes Silver Lake, the Goat Ranch and Blue Springs, the latter at a distance of nine miles, the others three and five miles respectively. There are caves to be explored and nuts to be gathered. There are precipitous places to be climbed and there are woody paths in which to walk the horse and drink in the odor of the pines. To many of the points of interest it is possible to take a carriage or a trolley. Others there are, like Pivot Rock, a miniature of the famous Balance Rock of the Garden

of the Gods, which are to be reached only by a horseman.

While the tide of pleasure seekers at Eureka Springs rises to its height during the summer and early fall, every season of the year has its peculiar charms, and the hotels and boarding houses keep open all the year round, the glorious climate insuring patronage. To those who have never journeyed in this direction, and who believe and teach that there is nothing worth a journey between the Catskills and the Rockies, should visit Eureka Springs and see with their own eyes its picturesqueness and be invigorated by its healthful waters.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

Patience is a great virtue but a fellow loses a whole lot of time if he cultivates it too closely.

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The young man who recently had his broken neck mended in a Philadelphia hospital may yet live to regret it.

* * *

Her lips were a luscious red
Her eyes a sparkling black
And all hands fell dead
When she bet a blue stack.

* * *

Laundrymen should make good farmers because they too make their living out of the soil.

* * *

A cynic is a man whose disappointment is due to the fact that the world was made without his advice.

* * *

A great deal of the charity that begins at home is too weak-kneed to reach the next neighbor's door.

* * *

If it is true that the good die young it is up to the oldest inhabitant to offer an explanation.

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It sometimes happens that a man puts both money and confidence in a bank—and later draws out his confidence.

FRISCO SYSTEM POINTERS.

Small Items, but Interesting—Read Them—They Will Do You Good.

It is estimated that there is coal enough in the Warrior coal fields of Alabama to last 10,275 years if mined at the rate of 10,000 tons per day. Does the reader realize all that this means? If he does he can look forward with a prophetic eye to future possibilities for that section. That immense coal field has an area of 7,810 square miles, every square mile of which is tributary to Birmingham and to the Frisco System, as the Frisco crosses this field almost in its center. There are other coal fields near Birmingham, but the Warrior field has no rival.

At Birmingham, Alabama, conditions are nearly ideal for a great manufacturing center. In this vicinity are found exhaustless fields of coal, mountains of iron and vast forests of timber, and all in a climate that is at once healthful and mild. This city is having a good growth at present and is adding productive enterprises all the time, but if its advantages were more generally understood its growth would be much more rapid.

Texas has the constitutional privilege of dividing into five states, a privilege which has been granted to no other state. However, no man has yet been found with the hardihood to seriously advocate the division of the state. Texas is large, but her citizens are large minded, and to a man they are proud of the very bigness of the state, and would vigorously oppose any effort to take from her any of the glory of being so large and so great.

Indian Territory continues to develop, notwithstanding the many vexatious delays that have come up to postpone the day of white ownership of land. The great cattle ranches are fast becoming things of the past, and are giving way to corn, cotton and wheat fields, even though the cultivators must lease of and pay tribute to the Indian

and negro citizens. Soon the gates will be thrown open to white citizens, and whites will own their own farms and make valuable permanent improvements thereon. Then will Indian Territory blossom as the rose, and then will development take on a phase that has been impossible as yet.

Arkansas has surprised the country repeatedly of late years. It was a surprise to the world when fortunes were made out of the pearl fisheries of Black river. It was a surprise when it was learned that lead and zinc were to be found in endless quantities in the hills of north Arkansas. It was a surprise to learn that the heaviest forests of pine and hard wood timber were to be found within her borders. It was a surprise to learn that the heretofore neglected overflow districts of northeastern Arkansas could hardly be equaled for cotton production. It was a surprise when Arkansas came to the front with anthracite coal nearly equal to that of Pennsylvania, during the late disastrous strike. It was a surprise to visitors at Ft. Smith and other points to see smokeless coal running large factories. It was a surprise to many to see sparkling streams and pure springs so common in many parts of the state. It was a surprise to learn that Arkansas offered so many inducements for investors and home seekers, and it may be said that she has still further surprises in store for those who do not know her at all, or but slightly.

The Angora goat has come to the Ozark mountain region to stay. The goat industry is not a fad or a passing fancy, for it has been demonstrated that this is the animal for our tree-covered hills. The Angora will aid the fruit grower and the farmer in clearing such land as is suitable for orchard and farm, and will reserve for himself such tracts as are too rough for either, for he delights in hills. Under the intelligent su-