

homes are also very excellent. The opera house at Greenfield has a most peculiar sign carved in three stones set about five feet apart in a horizontal line across the top of the building. These are "Drama, Comedy, Tragedy," meaning, I suppose,

that the show house contributes to every element of human emotion. The best days for Dade county are yet to come, so its residents believe. Certain it is that things are "picking up a bit," as the old settlers say.

THE HARVESTER IN ACTION.

The most vital work of the nation is that of gathering in the sheaves. And yet how little attention is attached to the great American harvest. Perhaps, because of the usual peaceful manner in which this event in the world of labor passes by each summer season, is why it is accorded less than usual prominence.

But new conditions are surrounding the farmer today, conditions against which he is going to and has already rebelled, and the future of the grain dealer is rather stormy. Strikes are liable to follow each other in quick succession throughout the wheat and corn harvest of the present season. Reports of combines of harvest workers are pouring into the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor from all portions of the United States, while equally as numerous are the reports of combines of farmers, who have organized to fight the trust, as they are pleased to term it.

But the harvester in action is a man worthy of his rank in the realm of laborers. There are masters of their craft in every division of the world's great work, and there are men who have the work of the field completely subservient to their hands. Be it known that grain gathering is a task. In the heated days of a long, dry summer it becomes a siege of endurance, which muscles cannot always withstand. But there are men who can wade through acres of golden grain, in the beating rays

of a mid-summer sun and never feel the serious effects of heat. On every hand men are falling about them, but the real harvester is a giant in endurance, who works day after day in a temperature ranging from 80 to 110 degrees and never wavers.

Is the labor worthy of the price? Harvest hands in the richest wheat belt of the United States, the northwest, are paid from \$2 to \$3.50 per day. The actual profit, and it has been averaged by experts, upon \$1.90 worth of labor, yields from \$5 to \$8 to the employer. The same condition of affairs exists in Kansas, Nebraska and elsewhere. There are in the United States six million daily wage earners, of which one million are found in the harvest field during the summer time. Last year \$365,000,000 was paid out to the workers who gathered in the sheaves. This included the regularly employed farm hands and the men who were imported from the cities to cut the grain.

The harvest begins in May and lasts until latter August. It moves north from the Gulf coast at the rate of twenty miles per day until the Dakotas and Canada are reached. Meanwhile there are experts who have followed the harvest in its northward flight and who have spent the entire summer in the midst of the grain fields. These are the experts who earn from \$3 to \$5 per day. But as a rule, for the immense profit brought to the employer, the farm hand is the poorest paid worker on the labor calendar today.

THE HICKORY FLAT COUNTRY OF MISSISSIPPI.

BY H. E. BLAKESLEE.

"There's something to see along the Frisco" in Mississippi.

The highest and most picturesque portion of the state is traversed by the road as it winds its way through the Hickory Flat country in a southeasterly direction from Holly Springs to Tupelo. High hills and narrow valleys, covered with a growth of yellow pine, oak, poplar and black jack,

largely high and dry, closely bordering on the mountainous. It is not an agricultural country, strictly speaking, the valleys and gentler slopes only being in cultivation. Lumber cutting has been carried on largely for years, and the timber available to the railway is fast disappearing and other pursuits are being adopted.

The little town of Hickory Flat in Ben-



Where there are dozens of mineral springs to the acre, possessing varied medicinal properties,

with the monotony frequently broken by precipitous bluffs and huge boulders. The traveler with a zest for the novel in natural scenic effect always finds something of interest at every turn, as the train dashes through the varied landscape.

A wrong impression has gained a foothold in the minds of an uninformed public as to the topography of Mississippi, which brings disappointment if, when the border has been crossed, an unbroken line of swamp and morass is not in evidence. Such is not the case, however, along the Frisco System. The country traversed is

ton county, with its 400 people, is situated in the center of the yellow pine region and still does a considerable timber and lumber business, but not so much as formerly. It lies in the pretty and fertile valley of "Oak-li-me-tah" creek and only half a mile from the picturesque "Oak-Chili-Tubbe" bluffs. It is well supplied with schools and churches. The people are proverbially hospitable and take pride in making the stranger within their gates feel at home. The head of the municipal government, Mayor B. Ayers, is a Nebraskan, and has been very successful since casting his for-



Looking down through a rift in the foliage to Oak-li-me-tah Creek at the foot of Oak-Chili-Tubbe bluff.

tunes with the people of the Sunny South a few years since.

Lands surrounding the town are varied in adaptability. The bottoms are fertile and in a high state of cultivation. Corn and cotton are the principal crops. This land sells from \$4 to \$15 per acre, according to improvements. The hills, which constitute a larger portion of the country, are not in cultivation, generally being too precipitous for such uses, but readily grow

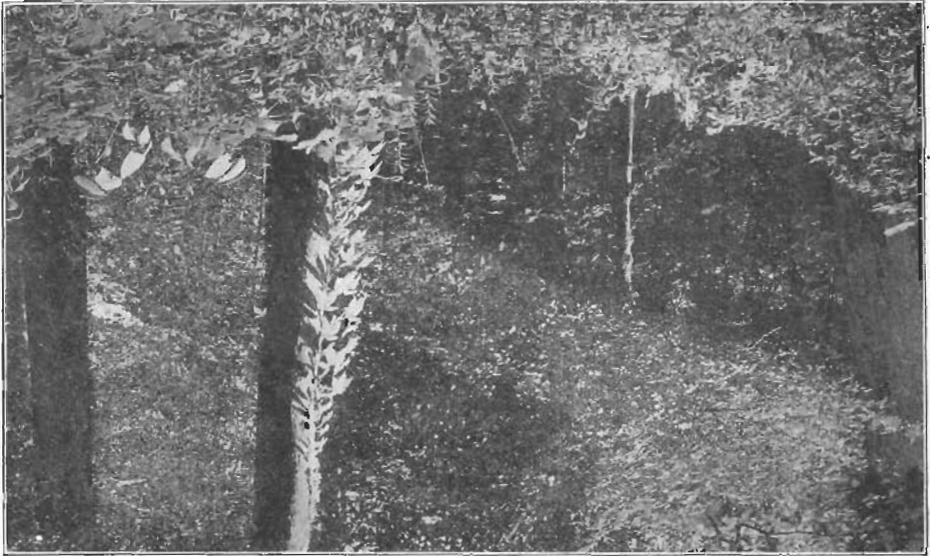
Bermuda and other grasses where the underbrush has been cleared away. This land would make admirable stock farms if properly managed, especially for sheep and Angora goats. The extremely mild and short winters of this section require but little feed and scarcely any shelter to bring stock through in good condition. Native goats roam the hills and thrive without special feed or attention. Thousands of acres of this land can be bought at from



Exposed face of coal ledge 4 feet and 8 inches thick within a few miles of Hickory Flat.

75 cents to \$1.25 per acre and only await the coming of people experienced in stock raising to make them more valuable than the lowlands to the owner. Peaches, pears and grapes grow finely and rarely ever miss a crop. Strawberries produce wonderfully and the close proximity to several large cities affords a ready market for them. There are fine openings for this kind of farming and the first to introduce it will reap handsome profits. The lands are cheap and would require very little labor to prepare for grasses, trees or berries. Some attention is being paid to

of Hickory Flat there are many indications of mineral wealth. Iron ore of surprising richness can be found scattered on the surface. An examination by experienced mineralogists would likely reveal the presence of ledges of great value. The detached specimens to be found in such profuse quantities certainly came from a parent source at some time. At a number of places there are outcroppings of coal which, while closely bordering on lignite, is hard enough to burn in a grate or for other light uses. These ledges face from three to five feet, some being of



Luxuriant growth of ferns, vines and flowers in "Oak-li-me-tah" bottom, near Hickory Flat.

these industries and in a few years they will in all probability grow to large proportions. Last year peaches grown in this section brought more on the St. Louis market than offerings from any place. Berries grown here command the highest price everywhere. With the energy and enterprise of good settlers to help in the development this section is destined to become a great stock and fruit country.

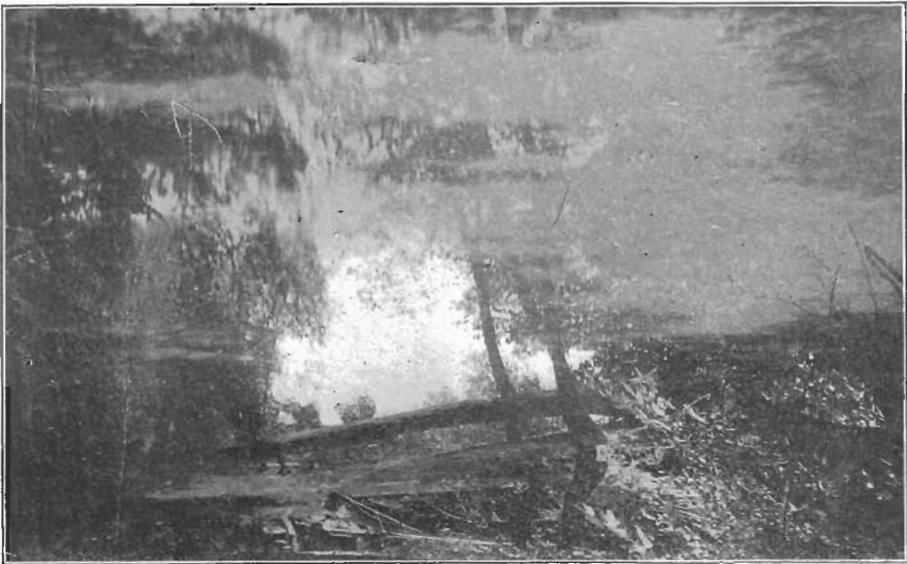
Should the state of Mississippi ever develop mineral deposits of any consequence this is bound to be the section from which it must come. In the hills to the north

greater thickness. A mining expert recently declared that at some distance below the surface there might be found veins of greater hardness and with less sulphur. A move is on foot now to investigate this matter with the view of development should a strictly merchantable article be found. Then, too, the writer has in his possession specimens of galena that assays 75 per cent of lead and a trace of silver. These have been picked up from time to time in a section of country only a few miles north of Hickory Flat and near the town of "Oak-Chili-Tubbes,"

the old Indian chieftain who ruled the country hereabouts during the first half of the last century. His people were in possession of a never-ending source of supply of lead and also of silver with which to make trinkets for the adornment of their persons. Old settlers still living testify to this fact and, too, that less than a day's journey was required to go from their town and bring a fresh supply.

There are several beds of clay of exquisite fineness that might be used for the manufacture of semi-porcelain or other

ciqm, aluminum, sulphuric amyhide, silica and sulphur. The high dry pine hills and pure atmosphere make it a desirable location for an all-the-year-round resort. All that is needed is men with money, push and brains to make it one of the most popular health and pleasure resorts of the South. Its proximity to Memphis would make it very popular with the people of that city. The virtue of these waters has been known since the time of "Oak-Chili-Tubbe" and was sung in the beautiful legend of his only daughter,



"Wah-ha-li-ta" mist hole in Oak-li-me-tah Creek, according to the legend of Oak-Chili-Tubbe's ill-fated daughter, who was drowned in the stream with her warrior lover.

ware. One of these in particular is from three to four feet in thickness, and while it is of a yellowish color, easily washes to a snowy whiteness. Indications of other minerals appear in places, but their quality and quantity have not yet been tested.

There are within a few miles of Hickory Flat numerous mineral springs, which by recent analysis have proven to be the most valuable in the South. The "Oak-Chili-Tubbe" Water Co. has been organized for their development and placing the water on the market. These springs show large quantities of iron, magnesia, sodium, cal-

"Wah-ha-li-ta," who was drowned in the limped waters of "Oak-li-me-tah" creek with her lover in the vain attempt to reach their healing power when taken ill away from the father's wigwam. There are numbers of these springs with varied medicinal properties that can be purchased for nominal sums and furnish an inviting field for men with capital and tact in the management of health resorts.

"Advice to a newly married couple is so useless!" "Yes, all the harm is done then."