

(from the 1904 Texas Almanac)

UNORGANIZED COUNTIES.

The unorganized counties of Texas are 15 in number. Six of them lie at the western boundary of the State, bordering on New Mexico. They are Parmer, Bailey, Cochran, Yoakum, Gaines and Andrews. Four of them lie in the second tier from the New Mexico border ; they are Lamb, Hockley, Terry and Dawson, bordering on Bailey, Cochran, Yoakum and Gaines respectively. To the east of Terry county is the unorganized county of Garza, separated from Terry county by Lynn County. Adjoining Andrews County on the south is Winkler County, of which New Mexico forms a portion of the northern boundary. West of Winkler county is Loving County, of which New Mexico is the northern boundary and the Pecos river the southwestern boundary. At the southeastern corner of Winkler county is the northwestern corner of Crane County, which is bounded on the west by Ward County, on the north by Ector County, on the southwest and south by the Pecos river and Crockett County, and on the east of Crane County lies Upton county, which is the fifteenth unorganized county. Parmer, Bailey, Lamb, Cochran, Hockley, Yoakum, Terry, Gaines, Dawson and Andrews Counties are upon the great staked plains. Garza County lies partly at the foot of the plains and partly on them. That which is shown on the maps as a range of mountains is simply the precipitous border of the plains and canyons, which break the almost uniformly level surface. Loving, Winkler, Crane and Upton Counties lie at the southern extremity of the plains country. This region is largely devoted to stock raising, some of the largest ranches of the State being located within it. The great Capitol Syndicate ranch, comprising the 3,000,000 acres of land which the State gave for the erection of its capitol building, comprises the whole of Parmer, one-eighth of Bailey and one-half of Lamb County. In all the other unorganized counties the State owns much school land, which is under lease, but during the past few years some of the large pastures have been broken up and the land sold to settlers. Some of the lands are shown to have agricultural value, the crops planted being principally forage crops for the feeding of cattle. Melons, apples and some other fruits have been found to do well. The whole of the plains country is underlain with a great reservoir of water which, as a general thing can be secured at moderate depth. The population of the respective counties at the census of 1900 was as follows : Andrews 87, Bailey 4, Cochran 25, Crane 51, Dawson 37, Gaines 55, Garza 185, Hockley 44, Lamb 31, Loving 33, Parmer 34, Terry 48, Upton 48, Winkler 60, Yoakum 26. The population of several of these counties has somewhat increased since the census, owing to the sale of lands already mentioned. There are no railroads in any of these counties except Parmer and Winkler. Parmer is traversed from its northwestern to its southeastern corner by the Pecos Valley railway (Santa Fe), which has stations at Bovina and Frio. Bovina is one of the largest cattle shipping points in the United States, herds being driven there from far distant ranches in the plains country. The Texas & Pacific railroad crosses Winkler county at the extreme southeastern corner, and near the northwestern corner of Crane County. The United States Postal Guide shows but two postoffices in the 15 unorganized counties. They are Bovina, already mentioned, and Chicago, the center of Dawson County. END