

(from the 1858 Texas Almanac)

DALLAS.

[Furnished by J. L. Tharp.]

The produce of this county are wheat, rye, oats, barley, sweet potatoes, &c. Average crop of wheat, fifteen to twenty bushels to the acre; corn about twenty bushels, oats and rye do well, potatoes yield one hundred bushels to the acre. Improved land is worth from \$5 to \$15 per acre — unimproved \$1.50 to \$5. Lands that have been in cultivation 12 or 14 years produce now as well as ever, and produce corn and wheat better than at first. The soil is generally black and rolling, some being mixed with sand. Average price of cattle, \$6 per head for stock; single cow and calf \$12 or \$15; work cattle \$40 to \$65 per yoke; horses \$75 to \$125; sheep \$2.50 to \$3. Cattle and mules are raised without trouble. A mule at weaning is worth \$30 to \$35. Sheep yield 4 lbs. of wool per annum, worth 25c. per lb. Sheep do well, requiring only to be herded at night, to be protected from the wolves. A wheat or rye pasture in the winter makes them do better. The only fruit is peaches, and these are very fine and plenty in good seasons, though this year there are none. Dallas, Lancaster and Cedar Hill are the principal towns. There is a French town near Dallas. Dallas is some fifteen years old, with a population of about 400, and bids fair to become a considerable inland town. Flour is largely manufactured in Dallas, and there is one fine flouring mill in Lancaster. Dallas is watered by the Trinity River, East Fork, White Rock, Ten Mile, Five Mile and Duck creeks. The county is high and rolling. There is no hard limestone. Ox-teams are, as yet, our only means of transportation, though we are looking for the Houston Railroad to reach us before long. Emigrants come here by the overland route across Red River. Our building lumber is ash, cottonwood, elm, spotted oak and post oak, and is abundant on the Trinity, the price being from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per 100 feet. There are in the county, four steam grist mills, and three steam saw mills, with eight or ten saw mills and seven or eight grist mills, propelled by water power; also, several horse mills. Our pine lumber is hauled from Eastern Texas, a distance of about 100 miles, price \$2.50 per 100 feet. Fine brick are made here. There are some bois d'arc hedges. The currency of Dallas is gold, and silver almost exclusively. The usual interest is 12 per cent; sometimes 20. The water used for drinking is from springs, wells and cisterns. Stock water is, in some parts, abundant, and in others scarce. The dews are usually heavy, and honey dews occur sometimes. It does not often snow here. Ice is often one-half to two inches thick. The Chinese Sugar Cane is being tried in this county with fair prospects of success.

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