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# J. MITTENTHAL & CO.

### The Haskell Free Press.

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER  
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HASKELL, TEXAS

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## Haskell County.

Her Resources, Advantages, Progress and Future Prospects.

Topography, Water, Soil, Products,  
Shipping Points, Railroads,  
Public Schools and  
Mill Facilities.

HASKELL county is situated in the southern part of the Panhandle on the line of the one hundredth Meridian west from Greenwich. It is 1500 feet above the sea, and has mild winters and summers. It is 30 miles square and contains 576,000 acres of land. It was created in 1858 from a part of Fannin and Milam counties, and named in honor of Charles Haskell, a young Tennessean, who fell at the massacre at Goliad in 1836.

It remained unsettled until 1874 when there was one or two ranches established. Other ranchmen followed and in 1880 the county could boast of 15 or 20 inhabitants. There was no further development until 1885 when the town of Haskell was founded by donating lots to settlers who were induced to build residences, and in January, 1885 the county organized with a population of 57 electors.

Up to 1884 the soil had never been turned by a plow, and the people depended upon raising cattle, sheep and horses. As the natural grasses furnish food both winter and summer for immense herds. The poorer people made money by gathering many thousand tons of Buffalo bones and shipping them east to be made into fertilizers used in the old states.

Experiments were made in 1885 with garden products, corn, oats, wheat, rye, barley and cotton and the yield was bountiful. The acreage in farms have increased to at least 30,000.

#### TOPOGRAPHY.

The county is an undulated plain with occasional creeks and branches. It is bounded on the north by that picturesque stream the salt Fork of the Brazos, and on the west by Double-Mountain Fork.

There are a few washes and gulches along the breaks and rivers but with rivers breaks, rocks and poor land combined, their area in Haskell county would not exceed 10,000 acres that would not be fine agricultural land.

#### WATER.

It is traversed by numerous creeks and branches besides the rivers mentioned, some of which are fed by never failing springs of purest water.

Besides the numerous branches that afford water for stock all the time, the south half of the county is watered by the Red River and California.

ries draining the south half of the county.

The north half is traversed from Northwest to Northeast by Lake and Miller creeks whose tributaries furnish water and drainage for the same.

Besides the surface water there is an abundance to be obtained by digging from 15 to 40 feet, and all of a good quality, some of which is unsurpassed by that of any section in the state for purity and temperature.

The soil is an alluvial loam of great depth and fertility, varying in color from a red to a dark chocolate, and by reason of its porous and friable nature, when thoroughly plowed, readily drinks in the rainfall and for the like reason the soil readily drains itself of the surplus water, thereby preventing stagnation of the water and the baking of the soil, and the germination of miasma. It is those peculiar qualities of soil that enables vegetation to withstand all varieties of weather.

Except mesquit grubs and stumps which are easily extracted, there are no obstructions to plows and the land being level or generally rolling and easy worked, the use of labor-saving implements are profitable. One man with machinery and a little hired help has been known to cultivate over an 100 acres in grain and cotton.

#### PRODUCTS.

Indian corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye, durum, field peas, sorghum, castor beans, corn, millet, pumpkins and all the squash family, turnips and cotton are grown successfully and profitably. Also sweet potatoes do well, and Irish potatoes as well as anywhere in the south. Garden vegetables grow to perfection. Commis-sioners luxuriate in Haskell and grow to the size of apples. Besides the native grasses that grow on the prairies, sustaining large numbers of cattle, horses and sheep throughout the year. Colorado grass grows to great perfection and the hay made from this grass is a valuable adjunct to the winter pasture, in keeping stock over winter.

**YIELD AND PRICE OF FARM PRODUCTS.**  
The average yield of Indian corn per acre is about 30 bushels and the price varies from 50c to 1.25 per bushel; wheat yields from 18 to 30 bushels—averaging 25 bushels per acre, and sold in the home market for 90 cents to \$1.00 per bushel; oats yield 60 to 100 bushels per acre, and usually sell at 25 cents per bushel; cotton yields a half to three quarters of a bale per acre. Other crops make good yields and command corresponding prices. Home made pork is usually worth 6 to 8 cents per pound, fresh beef 4 to 6 cents; home made butter, sweet and delicious, usually sells at 25 cents per pound, chickens 15 to 25 cents each, and eggs 10 to 25 cents per dozen.

#### SHIPPING POINT.

As yet Haskell has no railroad, and our people do their principal shipping to and from Abilene, a town 52 miles south, in Taylor county, on the Texas and Pacific railroad, Albany on the Texas Central 45 miles from Haskell on the southeast, a 3d Seymour on the Wichita Valley 45 miles northeast.

#### RAILROADS.

A road being built from Abilene to Haskell, and one to be built from Haskell to North. The Texas

Central will extend in a short time from Albany and Haskell is on the line as originally surveyed.

The land men of Austin have organized a company to build a road from that city to this section of the state where they control nearly all the land and one of the principal members owns 150,000 acres in this and Knox county, besides he owns the large addition to the town of Haskell on the south.

Haskell is 52 miles north of the T. & P. R. R. and 92 miles south of the Ft. W. & D. R. R. and is situated on the direct line of the cattle trail over which the Rock Island, and G. C. & S. F. propose to extend their lines.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Our school fund is perhaps the best of any county in the northwest. In addition to the amount received from the state, about \$5.50 per capita, our commissioners court have wisely executed a lease for 12 years of our 4 leagues of school land, situated in the Panhandle, the revenue from which added to the amount received from the state gives us a fund amply sufficient to run the schools of the county ten months in the year.

#### MAIL FACILITIES.

There is a daily mail service from Haskell to Abilene via Anson and a weekly mail north to Benjamin and a daily mail to Seymour, also a twice weekly express line to Anson, these all carry express and passengers.

#### RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

The religious and moral status of the people of Haskell county will favorably with that of any other county in the northwest. The Methodist, Baptist, Christian, Old School and Cumberland Presbyterians each have organizations in the town of Haskell. Preaching on Sundays also preaching at other points in the county.

#### HASKELL.

The town of Haskell is the county seat, and is situated one and one-half miles south of the center of Haskell county, on a beautiful table land, and is seven years old and has a population of 942. Has as good water as can be found anywhere, which is secured at a depth of 18 to 22 feet. Also has two never failing springs of pure water in the edge of town. The town of Haskell with her natural advantages, of location, climate, good water and fertility of soil is destined in the near future to be the queen city of Northwest Texas, and railroad connection for Haskell is all that is needed to accomplish these.

#### ADVANTAGES AND RESOURCES.

In almost every neighborhood of the older states and the thickly settled portion of our own state there are many of its citizens who are contemplating a removal or a change of residence for many reasons. Some to restore lost health some to make their beginning in the world, others to repair financial losses, others seeking safe and profitable investments of surplus capital. There are many others who have comfortable homes and are well contented, but who have children, whom they would like to provide with lands suitable for a home, and assist to commence business in life, but can not do so with their present surroundings, and must seek cheaper lands and

better opportunities in other and newer localities.

To such we would say you are just the people we want. Come and see us, and you will find a broad field of occupation and investment to choose from, with chances greatly in your favor. In coming to Haskell do not imagine we are a people wild and woolly indigenous to these "western wilds," that we are loaded with dynamite and shooting irons, that our conversation are collections of cuss words and Malibatton mixtures, but rather that we are a people reared among the same surroundings that we have received the benefit of the same advantage that we have availed ourselves of the same educational privileges, that we have had the same christian instructions you yourselves have had. Be enlightened by past experience. Fortunes have been made by the development of new countries, and fortunes are yet to be made in our new and equally as good country.

We have a country endowed by nature with all the conditions of soil, prairie and valley adapted to the production of all the grains, grasses, fruits and vegetables of the temperate zone. We have a climate which is a happy medium between the extreme cold and extreme heat, a climate which will preserve the strong and religious, and strengthen the sickly and weak. We have a country well adapted to stock raising of all kinds. We have a country where no malarial sickness ever comes. We have a county of the best lands in Northwest Texas. We have an abundance of mesquite, elm and hackberry timber for firewood and fencing. We have the most substantial inland business town in the northwest. We have the greatest abundance of the purest water. We have a class of citizens as honest and industrious, as law abiding, patriotic and religious as can be found anywhere in the United States. We have plenty of room and invite you and all who contemplate a change to come, all who want good and cheap lands. We have them, and want you for neighbors and friends.

Reader please hand this to your friend.

#### CONSUMPTION CURED.

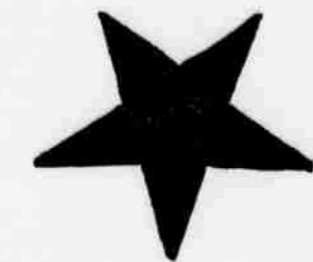
An old physician, retired from practice, having placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula for a cure of consumption, he has spent years in the study of the remedy and has found it to be a permanent cure of consumption, phthisis, cough, asthma and all the ailments of the chest, also a permanent and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all nervous prostrations, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, he felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellow men. Actuated by this motive and desire to relieve human suffering, I will free of charge, give to all who desire it, this receipt in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using, sent by mail in addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Hayes, 529 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

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