

and rats. His place is systematically supplied with hydrants, so that water is rendered convenient both at the house and at the barns, and everything is neatly arranged.

The Hillsboro *Mirror*, as well as the *Reflector* of December 17, 1891, gives many other examples equally encouraging, mentioning in particular G. W. Garrett, who settled near Woodbury in 1886; Jeff. Pritchard, near Hillsboro; John Weich, who located in the western portion of the county in 1872; J. M. McDaniel, near Peoria in the fall of 1869; James G. Howard, near Peoria in 1880; J. W. Howell, near Abbott in 1882; C. L. Martin, eleven miles west of Hillsboro in 1870; Tom Ellis, twelve miles south of Hillsboro in 1880; F. M. Files, in Files' valley in 1852, and is now one of the wealthiest men in the county; B. H. Turner, ten miles southeast of Hillsboro, in the autumn of 1878; Thomas B. Smith, near Massey in 1887; J. D. Kendrick, near Vaughan in 1867; J. B. Harris, eight miles south of Hillsboro in 1890; J. A. McGowan, near Hillsboro in 1876; W. T. Moreland, near Rienzi in 1878; W. R. Carr, four miles east of Hillsboro in 1886; H. G. Jordan, near Abbott in 1879; John McAdams, a mile west of Hillsboro in 1890, etc., etc.

Rosenbaum Bros., dry-goods merchants of Hillsboro, having several farms in the county, testify as follows: "We bought a farm of about 1,200 acres, three years ago, in Hill county. We are merchants, and bought the land for speculation. We rented it at \$4 per acre, cash. The tax on it has been about \$80 per annum, and it has not cost over \$50

per annum to keep it in repair; and it has netted us about 18½ per cent. interest on our investment, and is now worth 25 per cent. more than it was when we bought it. We have no trouble to rent it. We have always had demand for more land than we had, and usually rent it in July for the following year. We figure—not imagine, but cipher it out carefully on the slate—that a farm of 100 acres, bought at \$20 per acre, payable in ten yearly equal payments at 6 per cent. interest, and rented at \$4 per acre, will more than pay for itself, interest and all, in six and a half years.

"Last year (1889) the tenants made on an average seven-eighths of a bale of cotton per acre, which averaged \$51.50 per bale, or \$45.00 per acre. If we had rented for one-fourth of the crop, as is customary, we would have collected \$11.26 per acre."

Hill county land is considered the best collateral in the United States next to Government bonds, and loans upon it even at a small rate of interest are eagerly sought for by numerous loan companies. This makes it especially desirable for speculation, as it gives one an opportunity to use the most of his investment at a much smaller rate of interest than he could borrow the money on any other kind of collateral.

GRAIN AND COTTON.

There have been raised the following proportions of grain and cotton to the acre in Hill county: Corn, 76 bushels; oats, 115 bushels; millet, 50 bushels; wheat, 32 bushels; cotton, 1,180 pounds; These figures

are taken from the 1885 report of Prairie Dell Grange about six miles north of Hillsboro. Good unimproved land was then worth about \$8 an acre; improved, about \$30.

At Hillsboro there was shipped during the season of 1889-'90, 15,000 bales of cotton; 1890-'91, about 19,000 bales; and 1891-2, probably about 22,000 or 23,000 bales.

In 1886 the first bale of cotton was brought to the Hillsboro market August 3, by R. H. Taylor and George W. Watson, from a point about nine miles south, and they received 10 cents a pound and a premium of \$44.50. In 1891 the first bale was brought by M. F. Crocker, near Abbott, who sold it at 8 cents per pound, and obtained a premium of \$51.10, from the Hillsboro business men.

In the fall of 1891 three sons of R. H. Taylor—Arthur, Sid. and Willie,—aged respectively eighteen, twenty and twenty-two, picked in one day a total of 1,525 pounds of cotton, quitting work when the sun was an hour and a half high! In 1890 they had made a record of 1,485 pounds in one day, and their father gave them a premium of \$5 for their exploit.

October 13, 1891, J. V. Hampton, who lives on Little Aquilla creek eight miles west of Hillsboro, brought into town a specimen of a cotton plant grown on his place, that was six feet high, ten feet wide and had 300 fully developed bolls. The main stalk measured two inches in diameter, and had six large limbs, springing out six or eight inches above the ground, any one of which was larger than an average stalk of prairie cotton, and con-

tained an average of thirty-four bolls each! Every boll on the bush excepting one was fully developed. This particular species is known as "Long's Improved," and is the result of eight years' experimental work on the part of Mr. Long, its original propagator. It is strictly a Hill county production, having never been raised outside of this county.

Mr. Hampton has, in addition to several acres of this cotton, two particular acres, which he cared for as a special test of the claims made by Mr. Long for it, and as a result Mr. Hampton says he will never raise any other, having already picked 1,627 pounds from these two acres as a first picking, with a prospect of gathering a total of 5,000 pounds from the two acres. This patch was not planted until June 2.

The "Hill County Ginners' Association" was partially organized May 3, 1886, but we failed to learn further particulars concerning it.

CORN AND OTHER PRODUCTS.

During the month of May, 1889, as the people were preparing for an exhibition of their products at the Spring Palace, J. M. Moore, near Woodbury, furnished a beef fully seven feet long and ten to twelve inches in diameter! He also raised red corn the preceding year averaging sixty-five bushels to the acre. G. W. Powers, four and a half miles north of Hillsboro, raised white corn which averaged by weight eighty bushels and sixteen pounds to the acre. Green clover, sown by Dr. J. W. Spaulding on the black land farm near Brandon February 8, 1888,

was cut May 8, 1889, and by the 28th of that month was six inches high. A sample of clover hay from that farm was presented averaging two and a half tons to the acre. Radishes, raised by J. V. Reed near Blanton, were six inches in diameter and fifteen inches long.

The "Hill County Beekeepers' Association" was organized in the spring of 1886, with a strong membership. In their meetings important practical questions were profitably discussed. T. B. Smith, president; H. A. Goodrich, secretary.

LIVE STOCK.

This is not now what was formerly regarded a stock country, though the stock interest is becoming far more profitable than it was in the days of extensive pastures and large herds of Mexican ponies and "long horns," or Texas cattle. The tendency now is to improved stock, and the stock interest is still an important one, though subordinate and only auxiliary to that of agriculture. At present the supply of every variety of stock is far inadequate to consume the vast products of grain, seed, hay and pasturage, so abundant in every portion of the county. In fact the growing and fattening of stock is the key to success for the producer, as every animal thus becomes a vehicle to carry the products of the farm to market. At present the general grade of Hill county stock will compare favorably with that of most others in Texas, and the purchase and breeding of fine stock are constantly becoming more general. There are now many breeds of fine

horses in the county, such as Norman, Clydesdale, Percheron and English draft, running and trotting horses. The supply of jacks is limited but the quality is good, as most of them are either imported from Spain or are the offspring of the Black Spanish jacks, produced either in this country, Tennessee, Kentucky, or Missouri. The quality of cattle is also being constantly improved, and we now have the red and roan Durham, the Devonshire, Jersey, Holstein and others, all inter-bred with the native cattle, and all constituting good milk and beef cattle. The general grade of hogs is as good as can be found anywhere, and such a thing as disease among them is hardly known. The average values of stock are as follows: Draft horses, \$50 to \$100; saddle and buggy horses, \$75 to \$125; mules, \$75 to \$125; unbroken ponies, \$20 to \$25; a cow and calf, \$15 to \$50, while blooded cows are worth \$50 to \$75; sheep, \$2 per head.

March 3, 1890, occurred in Hillsboro the most brilliant display of horses and jacks that has ever been presented in Hill county. The number of animals and the splendid manner in which they were prepared for the exhibit testified in an unmistakable method the great interest of horsemen on the occasion. There were heavy draft horses, the graceful saddler, the swift-moving trotter and the thoroughbred. The jacks were well represented by imported animals and others that traced their descent from some Spanish grander of their race. Several individuals among the splendid array of specimens were valued at thousands of dollars. They were

all fine, for there was not a common horse or jack on the ground.

Reid Bros., the enterprising horsemen of Hillsboro, had their three splendid draft animals there, and they made a showing that could hardly be excelled at any fancy stock show in any country. Chauvin, the imported French draft horse, was greatly admired, and was by many considered the finest horse of the kind on the grounds. Texas Glory was there in all his "glory." He had taken the blue ribbon in several States in the North.

R. P. Lynch was another prominent exhibitor, having at the grounds Washington Denmark, Bay Donald, A. S. Collier (half Norman and half Leviathan) and Lilliputian, the smallest stallion in the county, five years old and weighing only 163 pounds! It is said that he bought him of a camper on the creek near town, paid 40 cents to have him shipped to Brandon and 35 cents for a man to go along in the car and hold the horse to keep him from blowing through a crack!

Other horses and jacks were Duplex, owned by W. G. Duncan and Mr. Posey; Grover Cleveland, by J. S. Woodward of Mussey; Montrose, by J. C. Simmons near Itasca; Young Madrid, an imported Spanish jack, by A. R. Fancher; Beecher, by Dr. T. R. Dean of Itasca; Rolland Mc, by W. F. Snow; Ned Lee, by J. E. Martin on Ash creek; Charley, by R. C. Mathews; Prince William, by S. H. Clarke of Peoria; Black Hawk, by J. I. & J. S. Terry; Porter, by A. J. O'Neal near Itasca; William, by T. O.

Wells near Itasca; Prince, by Dr. J. R. Harrington of Brandon; Archie, by J. B. Wallace near Peoria; Starlight, by J. D. Miller and R. B. Porter; General, by S. H. Clarke; Vulcan, by W. W. Glasgow; Hannibal, by James Hagan; Clyde, by Weatherby & Swendell; King George, by J. F. Pritchett; Denmark, by J. S. Terry five miles south of Hillsboro; Master Clyde, by L. F. Malone six miles southeast of Hillsboro; Joe, by Rusk Jourdan; John, by I. C. Byerly five miles north of Hillsboro; Dick, by S. R. Jones near Peoria; Button, by G. L. & J. M. Higgins; Lawrence, by Mrs. Rhoda Schofield; and Wanderer, by Weatherby & Swendell.

FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

The Patrons of Husbandry established a number of granges in this county during the years 1874-'78, a few of which still exhibit some vitality.

At present the Alliance movement seems to be the most lively, especially as its votaries are inclined to take part in politics, which somewhat disturbs the regular old parties. There are now forty-seven alliances in Hill county, and one district alliance, with headquarters in Hillsboro. These lodges comprise about 300 members. The organization is a very secret one, and scarcely any particulars, even names of leaders, can be obtained for publication.

POPULATION.

In the matter of population the progress of this county has been almost marvelous. From a sparsely settled territory a few years

ago it has become one of the most populous counties in the State. The census reports give the following statistics of its population:

In 1870	7,469
In 1890	16,554
In 1890	27,363

Of the above, 25,429 are white, 2,149 colored, 8 Indians and 2 Chinese. Thus we see how nearly the whole population are white Americans, in contradistinction to most northern communities. The great body of the negro population of Texas are in counties further south, especially near the coast. Hill is the tenth in the State in order of population. The total of the State is 2,235,523.

POST OFFICES.

Following is a list of the post offices in the county:

Abbott, ten miles south of Hillsboro, on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad.

Aquilla, on the Texas Central railroad, eight miles southeast of Whitney.

Blum, northwestern corner of the county.

Blanton, fourteen miles northwest of Hillsboro.

Brandon, nine miles east of Hillsboro, on the Cotton Belt railroad.

Bynum, fifteen miles northeast of Abbott.

Covington, eight miles west of Itasca.

Derden, five miles east of Blum.

Files, six miles northeast of Itasca.

Fort Graham, on the Noland river, seven miles northwest of Whitney.

Hillsboro, near the center of the county.

Hubbard (formerly Hubbard City), in the southeastern corner of the county.

Irene, eight miles south of Mertens, in the eastern part of the county, near the railroad to Corsicana.

Itasca, ten or eleven miles north of Hillsboro, on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad.

Masey, six miles northeast of Abbott.

Mount Calm, on the St. Louis & Arkansas railroad, southwest of Hubbard.

Osceola, twelve miles northwest of Hillsboro.

Peoria, six miles west of Hillsboro.

Tyson, five miles south of Aquilla.

Rienzi (formerly Halfway), twelve miles west and a little north of Hubbard.

Vaughan, nine miles southeast of Hillsboro.

Whitney, in the western part of the county, on the railroad and on Noland river.

Woodbury, eight and a half miles west of Hillsboro.

A mail stage makes three trips a week from Hillsboro to Vaughan; daily to Woodbury, Osceola and Covington; daily to Peoria and Whitney; three times a week from Blum to Derden; daily from Itasca to Files; three times a week from Abbott to the post offices easterly; three times a week from Aquilla to Tyson; and three times a week from Whitney to Fort Graham.

THE COUNTY'S WEALTH.

TAX VALUES.

From the tax assessor's rolls for the year 1883, we take the following exhibit:

	VALUE.
Acres of land rendered for taxes, 388,556	\$1,823,820
City and town lots	274,150
Wagons and other vehicles	98,080
Tools, implements and machinery	97,623
Horses and mules, 13,416 head	441,500

The assessment for 1891 gives the following figures:

ITEMS.	Resident	Non-Res.	Total.
Land	\$3,113,595	\$671,515	\$3,785,110
City and town property	880,340	131,225	1,001,565
Manufactured articles	100		100
Carriages, buggies or wagons	123,160		123,160
Manufactured tools and imple'mts, m'ch'y, etc.	65,980		65,980
Steam engines	42,880		42,880
Horses and mules	674,840	5,840	680,680
Cattle	222,560	28,900	251,460
Jacks and jennets	13,365		13,365
Sheep	7,965	200	8,165
Goats	700		700
Hogs	18,755		18,755
Goods, wares and m'fcs.	442,890		442,890
Money on hand	234,160		234,160
Miscellaneous property	220,075	10,045	230,120
Total	\$6,067,365	\$837,725	\$6,905,190
Unrendered roll (land and town property)			453,890
Railroads, telegraph and telephone lines			1,006,290
Grand total			\$8,365,270
Assessable property for 1890			7,963,370
Gain for the year 1891			\$ 428,900

Considering that the assessment is only about two-fifths of the real value, we see that the total valuation of property in Hill county must be about \$20,000,000.

The special school tax assessed for 1891 shows the following apportionment: Wilkes, \$68; Willow, \$121; Mountain Springs, \$235;

Dougherty, \$140; Union Valley, \$26; Itasca, \$619; Osceola, \$87; Bois D'Arc, \$154; Mountain View, \$98; Abbott, \$343; McGowan, \$47; Aquilla, \$156; Grove Creek, \$162; Brandon, \$312; Union Hill, \$146; Mount Calm, \$313; Richmond, \$55; and Hubbard, \$145.

State taxes are as follows;

For general purposes	15 cents on the \$100
For school fund	12½ cts. on the 100
Total	27½ cts. on the \$100

The county levies are as follows:

For road and bridge purposes	10 cents
For general purposes	20 "
For interest and sinking fund	10 "
Total	40 cents

Total State and county taxes, 67½ cents on the \$100 valuation of property in the county. School districts may levy special taxes not to exceed in any district 20 cents on the \$100 valuation for the support of free schools, erection of school buildings, extending length of sessions, scholastic age of pupils, etc. The total State and county taxes levied last year, including special district school taxes, amounted to \$68,826.99, and for this year it is \$70,424.02. The entire cost of the new courthouse will be \$87,145.

FINANCIAL.

The bonded indebtedness of the county is as follows:

Courthouse bonds	\$82,500
Road and bridge bonds	11,000
Jail bonds	13,000
Total	\$106,500

Of this indebtedness, the sum of \$21,500 is held by the county in trust for the school fund, and of the balance about \$10,000 will be paid this year. The registered indebtedness is \$2,000, being balance due on the fire-proof vault.

The exhibit of receipts, expenditures and indebtedness of Hill county for the years 1890 and 1891 gives the following grand totals:

RECEIPTS.		
	1890.	1891.
Collection on the rolls of the two preceding years	\$22,450	\$30,718
Occupation taxes	2,821	2,823
Sale of poor farm products	2,778	1,193
Fines and forfeitures	2,743	1,792
Jury fees	129	173
Stray animals	696	485
Deposits by road overseers	16	
Sale of courthouse bonds	23,500	23,500
State school fund	15,000	
Miscellaneous	463	
Totals	\$89,881	\$71,431
EXPENDITURES.		
General fund	\$10,783	\$3,765
Road and bridge fund	12,170	9,288
Pauper fund	2,724	2,772
Jail	2,711	4,061
Jury	2,281	5,101
Courthouse	23,417	26,062
Commission on sinking fund		19
Totals	\$80,066	\$67,620

The last exhibit compiled by the deputy county clerk gives also the following items:

INDEBTEDNESS—COURTHOUSE BONDS.		
To McLennan Co., school fund		\$10,000
To Shelby Co., " "		10,000
To Robertson Co., " "		10,000
To Austin Co., " "		5,000
To Hill Co., " "		3,500

To City of Hillsboro, school fund	1,000
To State, school fund	43,500

Total \$82,000

These bonds bear interest at six per cent., payable annually, and due on or before 1904.

Jail bonds, to Hill county school fund, \$13,000. These bear interest at seven per cent., payable annually, and due 1901.

Road and bridge bonds, to Hill county school fund, \$11,000. These are at six per cent. interest, payable annually, and due in 1898 and 1899.

Other registered indebtedness, \$8,470.

The Hill county poor farm, in account with Hill county, gives the following credits for 1891: 28 bales of cotton, \$1,085.88; 628 bushels of oats sold, \$237.50; corn and oats sold, \$32.70; 30 beef steers on hand, \$750; balance, \$694.50. To the credits here given might be added 23 bales of cotton burned, worth at the time \$35 per bale. Were it not for this loss there would have been a balance in favor of the poor farm of \$110.50.

The cost of the new courthouse, \$83,000; W. C. Dodson's commission as architect, \$4,020; clock and bell, \$1,325; furniture, \$1,692.90; vault in clerk's office, \$4,600; fence around the yard contracted for, \$1,500; carpeting, \$150; other items, about \$800. Total cost of courthouse, \$97,000.15.

LAND VALUES.

Land values have been advanced to an almost marvelous extent during the past few years, and in many instances persons who have purchased within that time would not to-day sell the land at four or five times the