

TEXAS IMMIGRANTS' GUIDE

How to Find a Home in Western Texas.

A man who proposes to settle in Texas, ought, in the first place, to decide distinctly what sort of business or occupation he intends to pursue, and with his purpose definitely before him, let him, in seeking a home, confine his search for a suitable location to the section of the country in which that purpose has most prospect of success.

The attempt to see and examine all Texas would be a useless expenditure of time and money.

If you wish to farm with moderate but almost certain crops, with fine fruit and vegetables, good water and an abundance of timber, the land generally sandy and light, and the range for stock very limited—at the same time having the advantages of schools, churches and society, you should look for all this in the northern, eastern, or northeastern portion of the State.

If you design sawing lumber and making turpentine, there are immense forests of the very choicest pine upon the Sabine, the Angelina, and the Neches, where lands can be had at a mere nominal value, and labor and machinery will bring lucrative returns.

If you want to raise small grain, and especially wheat, the range of counties from Dallas and Collin in the north through McLennan, Bell, and Williamson, affords perhaps the finest body of wheat producing land in the world—land on which forty bushels has been reaped from one acre—the grain weighing seventy pounds to the bushel.

If your object be to cultivate sugar and cotton on a large scale, and you have sufficient capital to conduct the business extensively, the rich low vallies of the Trinity, Brazos, and Colorado, including the Bernards, Oyster Creek, Old Caney, and the country adjacent, possesses advantages unequaled. Should you desire to enjoy the sea breeze, have plenty of fish and oysters, cultivate the tropical fruits, and raise a little of the finest sea island cotton for market, there is the region along the coast from Copano and St. Mary's to Corpus Christi—a region that has also proved itself well adapted to the raising of sheep—especially sheep of the long wool varieties. But the whole coast and islands of Texas, from Corpus Christi to the Sabine, is well adapted to sea island cotton.

If you are willing to undergo the privations and endure the solitude incident to the occupation of sheep raising on a large scale, with the highest success and the largest profits, strike out at once—leave the fenced lands and the society of men—go west of San Antonio river, and lead your flocks over boundless prairies of the richest mesquit grass, to pools of the purest crystal, where every breeze is redolent of health and vigor, and every view brings a fresh surprise from its richness and beauty.

Should your taste incline you to the raising of horses, of course you will avoid the heavily timbered lands and the low lying flat prairies of the coast, and seek a higher region with a broken or undulating surface and a sweeter and more nutritious herbage; you will endeavor to find a location where experience proves horse stock is healthy and thrifty—where the water and the grass suit the animal and noxious insects and poisonous plants are rare or do not exist. Now, horses are bred successfully in all the

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limestone region throughout Texas, and, with fenced pastures and a few weeks winter feeding, do well almost everywhere in the State; yet there are particular localities which seem by nature adapted to the highest development of that noble animal. Without disparagement of other sections, I should advise the horse raiser to examine the country from Austin to San Antonio, giving the valley of the Cibolo special attention.

If the breeding of horned cattle be your object, you can hardly go amiss. Out of the piney woods cattle do well in all parts of the State, from the salt flats on the coast to the mountains, and from the Rio Grande to the cane bottoms of Red River. You have only to look for the convenience of water and for a range not already overcrowded. Perhaps you would find all the conditions of a profitable stock ranche upon the cheapest terms on the Aransas, the Atascosa, or the Neuces, while the newly discovered process for packing and preserving beef, now in operation at Corpus Christi, Powderhorn and many other places, secures you a certain and lucrative market for all you can raise.

The cultivation of the grape and the making of wine can be easily and profitably carried on throughout the whole West. The valleys of the Colorado, the Guadalupe and the San Antonio, and their tributaries abound with the native mustang grape, from which good wine is manufactured by careful and experienced persons, especially by the Germans. But all experiments go to prove that every variety of grape whether from Germany, France, Italy or Greece, or from Mexico or California, can be produced luxuriantly in this favored locality. The question in regard to foreign vines being, not which will grow or do well, but which will do best and yield the finest fruit, and the richest and most delicate wine.

Now, if the person designing to come to Texas expects to find all these advantages combined in any one place, he will, of course, be woefully disappointed.

Oysters and sea fish are not found in the interior, the orange and banana do not grow on the mountains, heavy pine forests and extensive prairies do not occupy the same district. A dense population, with close cultivation of the soil, are incompatible with a wide and unoccupied stock range. Nowhere out of Paradise, that we are aware of, are all desirable things congregated; and the expectation of finding them all bunched together in one favored spot, unreasonable as it is, has led hundreds to loss and disappointment in their search for a home in Texas.

The purpose of this article is not to instruct those who have wealth and leisure how and where to select a location, but to give to men of limited means, and with whom the waste of time and of money in traveling is an object, a few practical directions as to what to do and what not to do, and to confine those directions more especially to the choice of a home in the West.

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Note: The original spelling and grammar have been retained throughout.

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