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## FOREWORD

The Colorado State Board of Immigration was established by an act of the Legislature in 1909 for the purpose of advancing, through publicity and in other legitimate ways, the development of agriculture, mining, manufacturing and other industries in Colorado. Its field has expanded year by year until at the present time it is the recognized authority of the state on all questions within its scope.

The contour, climatic conditions and industries of the state vary widely because of the natural boundaries established by the Rocky mountains, and in order that each district may be treated with reference to conditions peculiar to it because of altitude and climate, the state has been divided into seven districts, each of which includes counties where conditions are approximately uniform. The districts are known as the South Platte Valley, Eastern Colorado, the Arkansas Valley, the San Luis Valley, the San Juan Basin, the Western Slope and the Northwest Plateau, each being treated in a separate booklet.

Every effort is made to secure information of an authoritative character and to avoid the optimistic predictions of the enthusiast. It is the purpose of this department to furnish to the prospective citizen of Colorado authentic information concerning conditions in any part of the state. The department has no land to sell, nor does it represent, directly or indirectly, anyone having land to sell.

The department invites correspondence from anyone who is thinking of making Colorado his home. No state in the Union offers better opportunities for those of limited means if they possess energy, industry and intelligence. The truth about Colorado needs no exaggeration.

EDWARD D. FOSTER, *Commissioner of Immigration.*

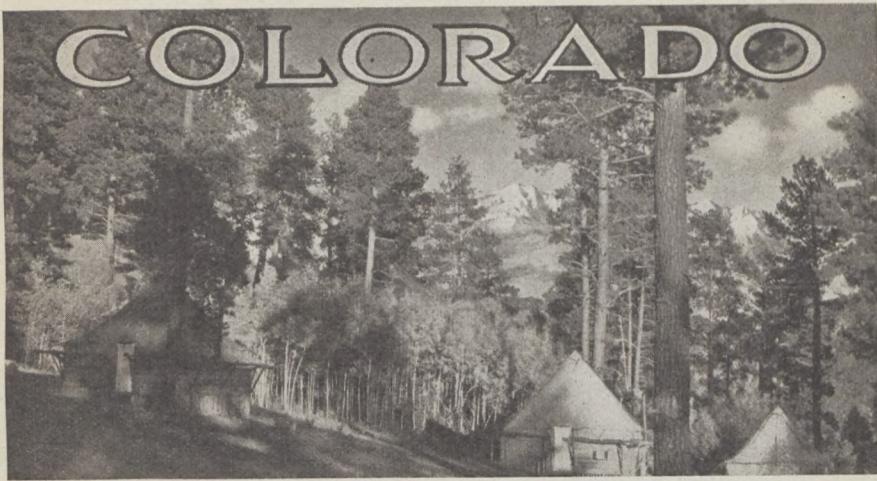
TOLBERT R. INGRAM, *Deputy and Statistician.*

### STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION

THE GOVERNOR, *President*

L. WIRT MARKHAM, Lamar      ARTHUR H. KING, Sterling  
ALLISON STOCKER, Denver

# COLORADO



COLORADO lies in the east-central part of the Rocky Mountain region and contains the most elevated portions of the Rocky mountains in the United States, though there are higher altitudes in both California and Washington, in the Cascade mountains, than are found in Colorado. The United States geological survey assigns to two peaks in Lake county the honor of being the highest points in the state. These are Mount Elbert, with an elevation of 14,419 feet, and Mount Massive, with an altitude of 14,404 feet. The highest point in the United States is Mount Whitney, California, 14,501 feet. Colorado has the highest mean altitude of any state, only about one-fourth of its area being below 5,000 feet, while approximately two-thirds of it ranges from 6,000 to 14,000 feet. It has at least 43 peaks that tower 14,000 feet or higher above sea level, and approximately 600 having altitudes of more than 10,000 feet. The eastern two-fifths of the state lies in the Great Plains, and is a level or broken prairie, crossed by the valleys of the Arkansas and South Platte rivers and their numerous tributaries, and rising gradually from the state line westward to the foothills of the Rockies. The main range of the Rocky mountains passes north and south through the central part of the state, with numerous secondary ranges and spurs running in all directions, giving Colorado the greatest extent and widest variety of mountain scenery found in any state. The western part lies in the Pacific water-

shed and contains the largest streams in the state. Its surface is much more broken than that of the eastern part, embracing numerous high mesas and fertile, narrow agricultural valleys, and rising to the rugged and wonderfully picturesque San Juan mountains in the southwest. In outline the state is almost a perfect rectangle, having the most regular form of any state in the Union. It ranks seventh in size, with a land area of 66,341,120 acres or 103,658 square miles. Its water area is 290 square miles, making the total area 103,948 square miles. It is more than twelve times as large as the state of Massachusetts, nearly twice as large as Iowa and about the same size as New York, Ohio, Connecticut and New Hampshire combined. Its extreme length east and west is about 387 miles, or 37 miles more than the distance from New York City to Portland, Maine, and its width approximately 276 miles, about the same as the distance from Chicago to St. Louis.

**Natural Divisions**—As a result of its large size and the extreme irregularity of its surface the state is divided into a number of districts that show considerable variation in topography, soil, climatic conditions, industries and products. The most important of these are the following: The non-irrigated prairie section in the eastern part of the state, popularly referred to as "Eastern Colorado"; the South Platte valley, in the north and northeast; the Arkansas valley, extending through the southern part of the eastern half of the state; the San Luis valley, a

vast basin, the bed of an ancient lake, lying in the south-central part of the state, almost wholly surrounded by mountain ranges; the San Juan basin, in the southwest; the valleys of the Colorado river and numerous tributary streams in the central-western part; the rugged plateau districts drained by the White and Yampa (Bear) rivers, in the northwest; the mountainous, mineral-bearing districts, extending in a broad, irregular belt across the central part of the state from Wyoming to the New Mexico line; and the mountain park districts, chief of which are North park, in Jackson county; Middle park in Grand county; and South park, in Park county. These last are very similar to the San Luis valley, but all have higher average altitudes and consequently enjoy less intensive agricultural development. In topography and climatic conditions the South Platte and Arkansas valleys are very similar to the non-irrigated sections of eastern Colorado, but by reason of the fact that a large supply of water is available in these valleys for irrigation they enjoy the most extensive agricultural development found in the state and produce a wider range and greater yield of crops than the non-irrigated districts. The San Luis valley has very light rainfall, but an abundant water supply for irrigation is derived from the Rio Grande del Norte and its tributaries. The average altitude is more than 7,500 feet, which limits the range of crops grown, but the fertile soil, abundant water supply and good climate make this valley one of the finest general farming and stockraising districts in the state. The San Juan basin is a region of from moderate to heavy rainfall, having a considerable area of irrigated land in the river valleys and much good non-irrigated agricultural land on the higher mesas. This is also an excellent stock-raising district. The valleys of the Colorado, Gunnison, Uncompahgre and other rivers and smaller streams of the Colorado river basin contain the principal fruit-growing areas of the state, as well as a large amount of the fine general agricultural land. The rainfall in this area is generally inadequate for farming without irrigation, but the water supply is adequate for all land that can be irrigated, and recently farming without irrigation has been undertaken successfully on some of the higher mesa lands, where rainfall is somewhat heavier than in the valleys. The northwest part of the

state is less developed than any other district, chiefly because of lack of transportation facilities, but it contains some of the best agricultural and grazing land in Colorado. The mineral area is very extensive, but the principal producing areas are somewhat restricted.

**Early History**—That part of Colorado lying east of the Rocky mountains was included in the territory acquired by purchase from France in 1803, usually referred to as the Louisiana Purchase. All the southeastern part of the state, lying south of the Arkansas river, and a narrow strip extending north through the mountain district into Wyoming, was claimed by the state of Texas and became a part of the United States when Texas was annexed in 1845. This included a considerable amount of the territory belonging to the Louisiana Purchase, but the controversy regarding the northern boundary of Texas was settled long before Colorado became a state. The western part of what is now Colorado and an additional strip lying west and south of the Rio Grande del Norte was ceded to the United States by Mexico in 1848, following the war with Mexico. The actual settlement of Colorado began with the discovery of gold in the summer of 1858, at which time most of the eastern half of the state was included in Kansas territory under the name of Arapahoe county. The boundaries of the county were very imperfectly defined, and the settlers in the new gold camps, moreover, objected to being governed by a set of territorial officials 400 miles away. They appealed to the federal government for the organization of a new state or territorial government, and finally, in February, 1861, the territory of Colorado was organized, about a month after statehood had been conferred upon the territory of Kansas. The boundaries of the territory were substantially the same as are those of the state at present. In 1876 Colorado was admitted to the Union as the thirty-eighth state.

**Population**—The population of Colorado has increased steadily and rapidly since its actual settlement began immediately following the discovery of gold in 1858. The census bureau estimates the state's population as of July 1, 1925, at 1,019,286. The following table shows its growth from 1860 to the present time, as compared with the growth for the entire country, all

figures being taken from census reports:

Year	Population	Pct. of Increase Over Previous Census	Pct. of Increase For United States
1860.....	34,277	....	....
1870.....	39,864	16.3	22.6
1880.....	194,327	387.5	30.1
1890.....	413,249	112.7	25.5
1900.....	539,700	30.6	20.7
1910.....	799,024	48.0	21.0
1920.....	939,629	17.6	14.9

During the two decades following 1860 the population was confined largely to the mining districts and to the city of Denver. The cities of Pueblo, Colorado Springs and Trinidad did not make their appearance in the census population statistics until 1880, when the three had a combined population of less than 10,000. During the early 80's the period of agricultural development began and the decade ending with 1890 was in many ways the most important in the history of the state. During that period 24 new counties were organized and scores of new towns were laid out in the agricultural districts. The percentage of increase in population dropped off materially in the succeeding decades, but remained considerably greater than the percentage of increase for the country at large. In 1910 the density of population for the state was 7.7 per square mile, as compared with 30.9 for the United States. Denver county ranked first in this respect, with 3,679, and Dolores and Jackson counties were tied for last place, with 0.6. The 1920 census showed the density of population for the state to be 9.06 per square mile. Denver still holds first place in this respect, with 4,422.26, and Jackson county ranks last, with 0.81. The rural population in 1910, including all people except those living in incorporated places of 2,500 population or more each, was 394,184, or 49.3 per cent of the total. The rural population as shown by the 1920 census was 486,370, or 51.76 per cent of the total. In 1910 the foreign-born white population was 15.9 per cent of the total, the principal foreign nationalities then being, in the order named, as follows: German, Italian, Russian, Austrian, English, Swedish, Canadian, Irish and Scotch. In 1920 the foreign-born white population was 12.4 per cent of the total, the principal foreign nationalities being

Russian, Italian, German, Mexican and Swedish.

**Land Classification**—Colorado is the seventh state in the Union in size, with a land area of 66,341,120 acres. It is divided into 63 counties, of which Denver county is the smallest, with an area of 37,120 acres, and Las Animas county the largest, with 3,077,760 acres. The records of the several county assessors showed a total of 34,122,665 acres of patented land on the tax rolls in 1924, including railroad rights of way and town and city lots. The records of the federal and state governments at the same time showed a total of 24,605,095 acres of non-patented land, including national forests, homestead areas, national parks and monuments, Indian lands and state land. This leaves 7,613,360 acres of land not definitely classified as to ownership, but none of which is on the tax rolls. Included in this is about 642,733 acres of state land that has been sold but not yet fully paid for and for that reason not yet patented. There is also approximately 3,594,055 acres of government land temporarily withdrawn from homestead entry. The balance is principally homestead land that has been filed upon but not yet proved up and for that reason not yet on the tax rolls. The area of patented land in the state is increasing at the rate of about 800,000 acres annually, through the patenting of homestead land, mineral and oil claims and other lands of the public domain under various classifications. In the mining counties there is considerable mineral land that has been filed upon but not yet patented, all of which comes in the unclassified list. Of the privately owned land in the state, 2,545,791 acres is classed by county assessors as irrigated farm land, including 31,378 acres of improved fruit land; 260,458 acres as natural hay land, 11,054,786 acres as non-irrigated farm land, and 19,032,790 acres as grazing land. The remainder is chiefly producing and non-producing mineral land, railroad rights of way and town and city lots.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—Containing, as it does, the most elevated portions of the Rocky mountains, Colorado is quite naturally the source of many of the important streams in the West. The Continental Divide crosses the west-central part of the state, and the streams in the western part flow to the Pacific, while those in the east find their way to the Gulf of Mexico.

The streams of the western slope are all tributaries of the Colorado river, from which the state derives its name. The Colorado (Grand) river, the largest stream in the state, has its source in Grand county. The Green river, which was regarded as one of the two streams forming the Colorado when the upper course of the Colorado was called the Grand river, flows through the northwestern corner of Moffat county. The northwestern corner of the state is drained by tributaries of the Green river, chief of which are the Yampa (Bear) and White rivers. The principal tributary of the Colorado river is the Gunnison, which has its source in Gunnison county and enters the Colorado at the city of Grand Junction. The southwestern corner of the state is drained by the San Juan and Dolores rivers, both tributaries of the Colorado. The south-central part of the state, including the San Luis valley, is drained by the Rio Grande del Norte. The southeastern part is drained by the Arkansas river and its tributaries, and the northeastern part by the South Platte river. The North Platte river has its headwaters in Jackson county and unites with the South Platte in Nebraska to form the Platte river. The Republican river, a tributary of the Kansas, drains a considerable area in the eastern part of the state. These streams have hundreds of small tributaries, most of which have their sources in the mountains where the snowfall is heavy. They furnish the principal water supply for irrigation and for the development of hydro-electric power. Water for domestic purposes is obtained principally from these streams, but in most agricultural sections wells are utilized as a secondary source of domestic water supply. Most of these wells are pumped, but there is a well-defined artesian belt in the San Luis valley and artesian water is found in numerous other places. There are several thousand artesian wells in the state, fully two-thirds of which are in the San Luis valley.

**National Parks and Monuments—**  
There are two national parks and three national monuments in Colorado. Rocky Mountain national park, with an approximate area of 254,327 acres, lies in Larimer, Boulder and Grand counties, and includes some of the most picturesque portions of the Rocky mountains. It is one of the newest of the national parks, having been

created by an act of Congress, approved January 26, 1915. Its highest point is Longs peak, 14,225 feet, and there are within its boundaries thirteen other mountain peaks more than 13,000 feet above sea level. It is the most accessible of the large western parks and this fact, together with the wide range of picturesque mountain scenery and its delightful climate, has made it the most popular of the nation's great public playgrounds. The report of the secretary of the interior places the number of visitors to this park in 1915 at 31,000. The following year the number had increased to 51,000, and in 1917 it was 117,186. The nearest approach to this was recorded at the Mount Ranier national park, which had 35,568 visitors in 1917. In 1924 the number of visitors in the Rocky Mountain national park was 224,211.

Mesa Verde national park is located in Montezuma county and is especially noted for the ruins of homes and villages of the ancient Cliff Dwellers, supposed to have been the earliest inhabitants of this part of the continent. Travel to this park has increased very materially in the past few years as the result of the construction of good highways leading to it. It was established by an act of congress June 29, 1906. Its area is 48,966 acres.

The Colorado national monument in Mesa county, near Grand Junction, was established by presidential proclamation on May 24, 1911. Its area is 13,883 acres. The site is in a picturesque canon which has been a popular scenic feature of that part of Colorado. The formation is similar to that of the Garden of the Gods at Colorado Springs, but it is generally conceded to be much more picturesque. There are many caverns in the monument, several of which have not yet been explored.

Wheeler national monument, located in Mineral county, northwest of Creede, was established by presidential proclamation on December 7, 1908. Its area is approximately 490 acres. It is especially noted for its weird and very picturesque rock formation, unlike anything found elsewhere in Colorado. "Hovenweep," an Indian name meaning "Deserted Valley," is the third of the national monuments. It is situated on the Colorado-Utah line in western Montezuma county and contains within its area of 285 acres four remarkable groups of ruins simi-

lar to those in Mesa Verde national park.

**Industries**—The principal industries of the state are agriculture, stock-raising in its various branches, dairying, bee-keeping, manufacturing, mining, quarrying, lumbering and commerce. The production of oil and gas is also becoming a leading industry.

Mining, the industry which first attracted the attention of the world to Colorado, has resulted in the production of tremendous values. Since the beginning of the metal mining industry the state has produced gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc worth considerably more than \$1,500,000,000 in addition to which hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of tungsten, radium, vanadium and other precious and semi-precious metals has added to the wealth of the industry. The coal fields of the state contain fuel deposits officially estimated at not less than 372 billions of tons, while coal actually mined to the end of 1924 was 293 millions of tons. Oil totaled more than 12,000,000 barrels to the end of 1924, and development is now getting under way on a large scale.

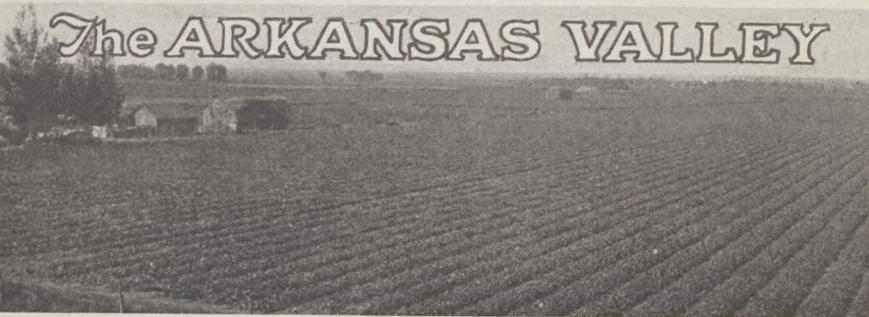
Stockraising, dairying and other industries allied to agriculture combine to make farming the most important feature of the state's development during the past three decades. The estimated value of manufactured products in 1923 was \$255,182,504, the highest mark ever reached except during the height of the World War demand. Agriculture, including only crops, totaled approximately \$126,000,000 in 1924, and with the addition of livestock, dairy products, honey and other farm values, is unquestionably the leading industry of the state today.

**Climatological Data**—As a result of its great size and the extreme irregularity of its surface, the climate of Colorado is wonderfully varied and cannot be described in detail here. The mean annual temperature for the entire state is 44.6 degrees, but it varies from about 31 degrees in some of the higher mountain districts to 54 degrees in parts of the Arkansas valley. The average annual precipitation for the state is 17.54 inches, but there is also a very wide range here in the different sections of the state. The lowest average precipitation is about 6.5 inches, in the San Luis valley, and the highest above 30 inches in the San Juan mountains. The delightful and

wonderfully healthful qualities of Colorado's climate are well known throughout the country. Rainfall is comparatively light in all sections of the state and the percentage of sunshine is very high. The range of temperature is wide. The amount of moisture in the air is always low and as a result the unpleasant effects of extremely low or high temperatures are greatly modified. The relative annual humidity ranges from 45 to 60 per cent, being lower than in any other state except Arizona and Nevada. The high altitude is another important factor in governing climatic conditions in the state. As a result of this high altitude and the correspondingly low atmospheric pressure, impurities in the air are quickly dissipated and the depressing effects common at low altitudes, especially during periods of warm, damp weather, are entirely foreign to this state.

**Railroad, Telegraph and Telephone Facilities**—There are 31 railroad companies represented in Colorado, operating an aggregate of 5,041.68 miles of main line track. Every county in the state except Baca county has some railroad mileage, though the railroad facilities of some other counties, particularly in the northwestern and southwestern parts of the state, are inadequate. The total value of railroad property in the state as returned by the state tax commission for the year 1924 was \$160,669,940.

Ninety-seven telephone companies operate in the state, owning an aggregate total of 416,180 miles of telephone line. This is an increase of more than 44,680 miles over the amount reported to the tax commission in 1923. The valuation of all property owned by these companies, as returned by the state tax commission for purposes of taxation in 1924, was \$13,880,860. Most of these companies are small and operate in but one or two counties. The Colorado & Eastern Telephone & Telegraph company operates in 15 counties in the eastern part of the state, and the Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph company operates its own lines in all but two counties in the state, Baca and Dolores, and has a total of 403,405 miles of line in Colorado. Four telegraph companies operate a total of 27,736 miles of line in the state. Five counties, Baca, Hinsdale, Jackson, Moffat and Rio Blanco, had no commercial telegraph lines in operation when reports were made to the tax commission for 1924.



**T**HE district in Colorado generally known as the Arkansas valley lies principally in the southeastern part of the state in the drainage basin of the Arkansas river and its tributaries. The river has its source in the central part of the state, in Lake county. It flows in a southeasterly direction through Chaffee county into Fremont county, from which place its course is almost due east to the state line.

In Lake and Chaffee counties the valley proper is only a few miles wide, the elevation of the valley in Lake county ranging from 10,500 feet to 9,000 feet and in Chaffee, the adjoining county on the south, from 9,000 feet to 7,000 feet. From the southern part of Chaffee county, the course of the Arkansas is eastward through Fremont county, a mountainous region except near its eastern border, where the rocky wall, through which the river has cut a channel, gives way abruptly to a rapidly widening valley. The elevation here averages around

8,000 feet. At the foot of the mountains the altitude is about 6,000 feet and gradually becomes lower towards the eastern border of the state, being about 3,500 feet on the extreme east, the lowest region in the state.

The great difference in altitudes results in varied climatic conditions; the average precipitation on the higher mountain slopes is double and the number of rainy days treble those of the drier portions of the plains. Lamar and the summit of Pikes peak differ 35 degrees in mean temperature, a difference equaling that found in going from Florida to Iceland. Because of the varying conditions, it is difficult to describe the climatic conditions of the region as a whole, and for that reason the subjects are treated separately in this booklet under the descriptions of the individual counties.

The counties in this district, described in detail in this booklet, are Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Crowley, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Lake, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers and Pueblo.

#### COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF POPULATION (CENSUS 1920)

County	Total Population	Native White	For-eign Born White	Negro	Indian	Chi-nese	Jap-anese	All Others
Baca .....	8,721	8,610	91	20	..	..	..	..
Bent .....	9,705	8,661	851	37	1	29	104	22
Chaffee .....	7,753	6,610	1,118	24	..	1	..	..
Crowley .....	6,383	5,654	688	12	..	..	29	..
Custer .....	2,172	1,912	259	..	..	1	..	..
Fremont .....	17,833	14,848	2,771	254	1	2	7	..
Huerfano .....	16,879	13,830	2,736	294	2	2	15	..
Kiowa .....	3,755	3,596	156	3	..	..	..	..
Lake .....	6,630	4,811	1,791	28	..	..	..	..
Las Animas .....	38,975	32,399	5,958	389	226	1	2	..
Otero .....	22,623	19,907	2,192	283	9	..	232	..
Prowers .....	13,845	12,361	1,441	32	11	..	..	..
Pueblo .....	57,638	46,030	10,029	1,455	8	9	103	4

**RANK OF COUNTIES AMONG THE 63 COUNTIES OF THE STATE**

County	Area	Population	Assessed Valuation	Bank Deposits	Agriculture	Beef Cattle	Milk Cows	Sheep	Swine	Metal Mining	Coal Mining	Manufacturing	Number Autos	Miles Highway	Miles Railroad
Baca .....	11	27	39	51	30	15	52	36	11	..	..	48	27	39	..
Bent .....	31	23	31	34	22	28	35	24	27	..	..	33	26	31	29
Chaffee .....	41	31	36	25	48	50	36	38	39	16	..	13	32	49	13
Crowley .....	50	35	38	39	24	34	50	55	19	..	..	19	33	26	54
Custer .....	52	55	58	57	47	45	51	48	48	12	..	57	49	33	59
Fremont .....	30	11	19	8	34	38	29	47	44	23	5	7	13	44	16
Huerfano .....	32	12	25	16	49	32	30	22	41	..	2	34	17	36	8
Kiowa .....	25	45	30	47	41	29	47	39	38	..	..	56	39	30	25
Lake .....	61	34	43	24	57	59	57	37	..	5	..	11	45	55	39
Las Animas .....	1	5	7	5	36	3	25	3	31	..	1	12	7	1	3
Otero .....	36	8	9	11	7	39	17	18	12	..	..	6	9	13	22
Prowers .....	28	17	18	18	12	21	21	21	13	..	..	14	18	25	28
Pueblo .....	13	2	3	2	19	24	15	45	15	..	..	2	4	8	2

**GENERAL Description—**

Baca county lies in the extreme southeastern corner of the state, being bounded on the east by Kansas, and on the south by Oklahoma and New Mexico. It is a regular rectangle, 55 miles long, east

and west, and 44 miles wide. Its area is 1,633,280 acres, or about 400,000 acres more than that of the state of Delaware. It is a comparatively level plateau, broken by a low range of hills in the southwest. The altitude varies from about 3,800 feet in the extreme east, to 5,700 feet in the southwest.

The first settlements in the county were made in the early 60's and for some 20 years isolated ranchers made their homes in the valleys of streams in the territory. Actual settlement did not begin, however, until 1887, when there was a considerable influx of stockmen and some farmers. The county was created in 1889 from a part of Las Animas county. Springfield is the county seat. Its distance from Denver by rail is 285 miles.

**Surface and Soil**—Baca county lies in the great prairie district of eastern Colorado. The surface is generally level, with narrow valleys of numerous streams traversing it east and west.



It rises almost imperceptibly from the east toward the southwest. The soil is principally a rich alluvial loam or sandy loam, usually chocolate colored. In the south and southwest it is broken by a range of low sand hills. It is suitable for cultivation in most districts except a few restricted areas where there is too much sand. No soil survey of this county is available.

**Population**—There has been a greater fluctuation in the population of this county than in that of any other agricultural county in Colorado. In 1890, one year after the county had been created from a part of Las Animas county, the population was 1,479. Ten years later, after a series of dry seasons had discouraged many of the farmers, the census bureau found but 750 people in the county. A re-settlement began immediately afterward and in 1910 the population was 2,516. Since that time perhaps no section of

Colorado has been developed more rapidly. The population in 1920 was 8,721, or an increase of 246.6 per cent over that of 1910. This is the largest percentage of increase shown for any county in Colorado. The census bureau estimated the population of the county to be 12,237 on July 1, 1925.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The county is drained by numerous small streams which have their sources either in the western part of this county or in the eastern part of Las Animas county, and flow east into Kansas. The principal streams are the Cimarron river, Sand Arroyo creek, Bear creek, Horse creek and Two Buttes creek. Most of these streams have their sources in comparatively level districts where the rainfall is only moderate, and they carry but little water during the drier parts of the summer. Few of them have a supply sufficiently reliable to justify efforts at irrigation. Water for domestic purposes is obtained principally from wells. There is an artesian belt in the northeastern part of the county, where water is reached at a depth of about 350 feet. In the other districts water is obtained from wells by pumping, principally with windmills, and is reached at depths varying from 30 to 300 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming and stock-raising. While the county ranks 27th among the counties of the state in population, it ranks 11th in the raising of swine, 15th in beef cattle and 30th in agriculture. Dairying has been followed to a limited extent and is growing in importance each year. There has been some mining in the southwestern corner, but the mineral deposits here have had comparatively little development because of remoteness from transportation. Manufacturing is limited, the latest census reports showing eight establishments, with an annual output valued at \$82,170.

**Crops**—The principal crops are sorghums, alfalfa, native hay, wheat, oats, barley, rye, corn, beans, broomcorn, potatoes, and garden vegetables. The farm value of all crops in 1924 was \$1,715,420. The county ranked first in the state in the production of sorghums. Most all of these crops were grown without the aid of irrigation, as less than one per cent of the agricultural land is irrigated. Of the total cultivated area, the per cent devoted to principal crops was, sorghums, 31.1; winter wheat, 27.8; corn, 18.9; spring

wheat, 4.1; barley, 3.67; alfalfa, 0.4; oats, 0.03. Five-year average yield in bushels per acre was, winter wheat, 9.5; spring wheat, 7.7; corn, 14.4; oats, 13.9; barley, 12.8; potatoes, 70.6.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays, gravel, silver, copper, sand, building stone and a variety of schists.

**Timber**—There is some small timber in the southwestern and northwestern parts, principally cedar.

**Land Classification**—Of the total area of 1,633,280 acres in the county, 1,473,200 acres is patented, including 3,440 acres of irrigated land, 919,320 acres of dry farming land, and 550,000 acres of grazing land. On July 1, 1924, there was 1,733 acres of government land open to homesteaders. These lands, however, are in small isolated tracts and of little economic value. The state had at the beginning of 1925 a total of 69,002 acres of unappropriated land, which may be purchased or leased from the State Land board on favorable terms.

**Transportation**—This is the only county in Colorado in which there is no railroad. A branch of the Santa Fe railroad extends west to Elkhart, Kansas, about six miles from the Baca county line. Most of the products of the county are moved by truck to Lamar and other points on the main line of the Santa Fe.

**Highways**—Two state highways pass north and south through the county. One leaves the Santa Fe Trail at Lamar and extends almost directly south through Springfield, the county seat, to the Oklahoma state line. The other leaves the Santa Fe Trail at Holly and extends south through the extreme eastern part of Baca county to the Oklahoma line. These two roads are connected by another state road leading from Springfield through Vilas and Stonington to a connection with the other state highway near Wentworth on the east, and on the west to connections with the towns of Trinidad and Las Animas. There are numerous secondary and county highways generally only imperfectly improved, but sufficient to take care of the present agricultural development in the county.

The county has a total of 600 miles of state and county highways, of which 60 miles is surfaced with sand and gravel, 240 miles is graded and the remainder unimproved.

**Educational**—The county has 102 schools in 64 school districts, employ-

ing 116 teachers. The per capita cost of education in 1924, based on average attendance, was \$92.18, compared with \$129.51 for the state. Bonded indebtedness of the school districts on January 1, 1925, was \$50,050. A full high school course is given in the school at Springfield, while those at Two Buttes and Stonington give two years of high school work, and the Liberty school near Springfield and the Star school near Rodley give one year. There are no private schools or colleges in the county.

**Climatological Data**—The climate is perhaps milder than that of any other Colorado county. The rainfall in the southwestern part varies from 13 to 15 inches. In the remainder of the county, including about three-fourths of the total area in the north and east, the rainfall varies from 15 to 19 inches. Most of it comes during the growing season, between the months of April and October. The summers here are longer than in most other sections of Colorado and the climate is suitable for growing many crops that are not produced in counties further north. The winters are open and very favorable for the feeding of livestock.

The average number of days between killing frosts is 157, the last killing frost in the spring generally occurring between April 19 and June 2, and first in the fall between October 9 and October 26. The normal annual mean temperature at Two Buttes is 53.2 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Tourist Attractions**—There is considerable tourist travel through the county on the D-C-D highway. Although the Santa Fe Trail at one time passed through a corner of the county, the road known now as the Santa Fe Trail runs further north, along the valley of

the Arkansas river. There is some attractive scenery in the southwestern part of the county and the construction of good automobile roads through this territory would bring in thousands of tourists annually. There is good trout fishing in the Two Buttes reservoir.

**Cities and Towns**—The county has two incorporated towns, Two Buttes, in the heart of the only large body of irrigated land in the county and the principal trading station for the entire northwest section, and Springfield, the county seat and largest town, located near the central part of the county. Population of Two Buttes on January 1, 1925, was estimated at 90, and Springfield at 450. Post offices in the county are: Blaine, Campo, Deora, Edler, Estelene, Lampert, Lycan, Rodley, Richards, Springfield, Stonington, and Two Buttes.

**Taxation**—The total assessed valuation for 1924 was \$10,465,012, and revenue for all purposes was \$235,085. The county levy was 5.40 mills and average levies for towns was 5.07 mills and for schools, 12.93, an average total levy of 22.46 mills, compared with 27.30 mills for the state. Taxes, licenses and special permits in 1922 averaged \$12.05 per capita, compared with \$17.23 per capita for the state.

**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities offered here are along the line of agricultural development. This county would perhaps support fully twice as large an agricultural population as it has at the present time. Development in this section, however, will be retarded until better transportation facilities are offered. The prices being asked for farming land here are very low and many people from states further east, especially from Kansas, are coming in each year and purchasing farms.

#### **G E N E R A L Description —**

Bent county lies in the southeastern part of the state, and includes a portion of the Arkansas valley. But one county, Prowers, lies between it and the Kansas line. It is nearly a perfect rectangle, 42 miles long, north and south, and 36 miles wide. Its area is 975,360



acres, or about three-fourths that of the state of Delaware. The surface is

generally level and rolling and the altitude varies from 3,600 feet, at the point where the Arkansas river crosses the eastern boundary, to about 5,000 feet in the southwest. Bent county was organized in 1874 from a part of Greenwood county and was named in honor of Col. William Bent, who, with Charles Bent, began the erection in 1828 of a fort near the present eastern boundary of the county. This was the earliest trading post established in southeastern Colorado. The county ranks thirty-first in area among the counties of the state. Las Animas, the county seat, is located 201 miles from Denver by rail.

**Surface and Soil**—The Arkansas river crosses the north central part of the county and most of the irrigated land lies in the valley of this stream and its tributaries, chief of which is the Purgatoire river. The surface of the valley is level and rises to broken prairies in the north and south. Most of the land is suitable for cultivation except some of the broken areas in the southwest. The soil is principally an alluvial loam in the Arkansas valley and a sandy loam, with a considerable variety of color and texture, in the south. It is very deep and fertile, easily worked and produces excellent crops under irrigation. In recent years farming without irrigation has been followed to a considerable extent and is proving successful. The soils of the Arkansas valley and of most of the tributary streams are sediments of the Dakota formation. In the extreme southwestern corner there are beds of Purgatoire and Morrison stone, and in the southeastern corner Niobrara and Tertiary rocks are exposed. A detailed soil survey of the irrigated district in this county has been made by the bureau of soils of the United States department of agriculture.

**Population**—The population of Bent county has grown steadily and rather rapidly. In 1920 it was 9,705, compared with 5,043 in 1910, the increase being 92.4 per cent. The population in 1925, as estimated by the census bureau, was 12,346. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 8.8 per cent of the total, compared with 9.9 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Mexican, Russian, Swedish and German.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The Arkansas valley and its tributaries drain the county and furnish water for irrigation. The principal tributaries

are the Purgatoire river and Rule creek, from the south, and Adobe and Horse creeks from the north. Among the irrigation canals in this county are Fort Lyon, Las Animas Consolidated, Las Animas Town, Highland and Keesee. All are among the first canals constructed in the valley and enjoy early rights to the use of water. Domestic water in most sections is obtained from wells and is reached at from 20 to 50 feet in the bottom lands along the streams, and at from 100 to 250 feet on the uplands.

**Industries**—The principal industries are agriculture, stockraising, stock-feeding and manufacturing. The irrigated portions of this county are equal to the best in Colorado for general farming and the non-irrigated districts are becoming more and more productive each year as improved methods of farming are introduced. Large numbers of cattle and sheep are shipped into this county annually and fed along the Arkansas valley during the fall and winter months. The principal manufacturing industry is the making of beet sugar at Las Animas, where a 1,000-ton factory of the American Beet Sugar company is located. In 1919 the county had 15 manufacturing establishments, with a payroll of \$50,419 annually and an output of products valued at \$317,540. The 1925 census gives the value of all farm property at \$9,699,790. The county ranks 28th in the state in beef cattle.

**Crops**—The principal crops in the order of their importance are hay, corn, sugar beets, sorghums, wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, beans, broomcorn, garden vegetables and a variety of seed crops. The estimated farm value of all crops in 1924 was \$2,210,618. It ranked 6th among the counties of the state in sorghums and 9th in corn. Of its total agricultural lands, 7.26 per cent is under irrigation. Of the total cultivated area in 1924 28.2 per cent was planted to corn, 6.7 per cent to winter wheat, 0.6 per cent to spring wheat, 1.9 per cent to oats, 1.7 per cent to barley, 26.6 per cent to sorghums, 23.8 per cent to alfalfa, and 4.4 per cent to sugar beets. Average yields in bushels per acre for the five years ending with 1924, including irrigated and non-irrigated lands, were: Winter wheat, 22.1; spring wheat, 16.9; corn, 24.3; oats, 33.0; barley, 24.2; potatoes, 44.5.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays of many varieties suit-

able for brick, earthenware and tile; gravel, building and glass sand and building stone.

**Land Classification**—Of the 975,360 acres in the county, 666,915 acres is classed as patented land, including 48,192 acres of irrigated land, 4,620 acres of dry farming land, and 610,537 acres of grazing land. The remainder consists principally of town lots and railway right-of-way. On July 1, 1924, there was 1,695 acres of government land open to homestead entry but this was in isolated tracts of little value. The state on December 1, 1924, had 138,555 acres of unappropriated lands, which may be purchased or leased from the State Land board on favorable terms.

**Transportation**—The main line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad runs east and west through the county along the south side of the Arkansas river. The Arkansas Valley branch of this road traverses the irrigated sections north of the river. It is connected with the main line by a branch road from Las Animas to Waveland Junction. Total mileage of railroad in the county is 77.5.

**Highways**—The principal state highway is the Santa Fe Trail, extending east and west through the county near the Arkansas river. This road is surfaced throughout the county and is very heavily traveled. There are numerous county highways generally sufficiently improved to take care of the present agricultural development. The county has 802 miles of county and state highways, of which 38 miles is surfaced with sand and gravel, 515 miles is graded, and the remainder unimproved.

**Educational**—There are 59 public district schools in the county, employing 110 teachers. The Bent county high school at Las Animas and the Union high school at Wiley each give a full high school course, and the branch high school at McClave gives two years of high school work. There is a consolidated school at Wiley, which is maintained jointly by Bent and Prowers counties. There are no private schools or colleges in the county. The per capita cost of education in 1924, based on the average attendance, was \$130.65, compared with \$129.51 for the state. Bonded indebtedness of the school districts on January 1, 1925, was \$102,900.

**Climatological Data**—The climate is mild and healthful. The United States

government, after a careful survey of climatic conditions in all parts of the United States, selected Fort Lyon in this county as the location for a United States Naval sanitarium. The selection was made principally because of the favorable climatic conditions there. The rainfall in the northern part of the county, including the Arkansas valley, varies from 12 to 15 inches annually, and in the southern part from 15 to 18 inches. The normal annual mean temperature at Las Animas, the county seat, is 51.8 degrees Fahrenheit. The average number of days between killing frosts is 154, the last killing frost in the spring usually coming between April 25 and June 1 and the first in the fall between September 21 and October 25.

**Tourist Attractions**—The improvement of the Santa Fe Trail through this county has opened up one of the principal automobile tourist routes from the east to the mountainous sections of Colorado. This county contains many points of interest to tourists, especially the ruins of Bent's Fort, and the naval sanitarium at Fort Lyon. There is some attractive scenery in the southwestern part of the county. On the cliffs along the Purgatoire river, about 20 miles from its mouth, is found a life-size representation of a cinnamon bear delineated in the rocks. The Indians who were in this region when the white men first came testified that they knew nothing of its origin.

**Cities and Towns**—Las Animas, the county seat and principal city, is located on the south bank of the Arkansas river, on the main line of the Santa Fe railroad. It is the principal shipping point for a large agricultural district. Its estimated population on January 1, 1925, was 2,800. Other towns are Caddoa and Prowers, on the main line of the Santa Fe, and McClave and Hasty, on the Arkansas valley branch. Post offices in the county are: Caddoa, Fort Lyon, Harbourdale, Hasty, Las Animas, McClave, Nina-view and Prowers.

**Taxation**—The total assessed valuation for 1924 was \$13,526,515, and revenue for all purposes was \$318,583. The county levy was 5.283 mills and average levy for towns was 17.50 mills, and of schools, 14.09 mills, an average total levy of 22.74 mills, compared with 27.30 mills for the state. Taxes, licenses and special permits in 1922

totaled \$16 per capita, compared with \$17.23 per capita for the state.

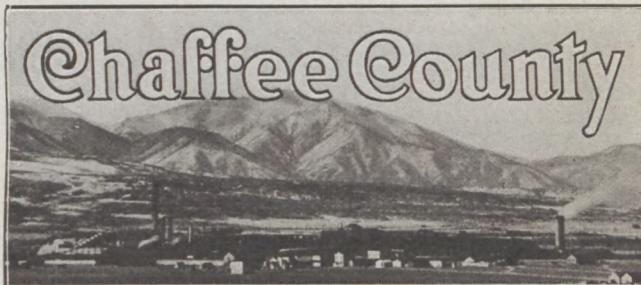
**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities offered here are in the line of agricultural development. There is water available for perhaps 50 per cent more land than is being irrigated. The more elevated lands beyond the reach of irrigation water are fertile

and their agricultural development has been rapid in the past three or four years. The county is perhaps capable of supporting an agricultural population twice as large as it has at present. The clays, sands and building stones are of considerable economic value and their development offers good opportunities for investment.

#### **GENERAL Description**—

Chaffee county lies near the central part of the state, the western boundary being formed by the Saguache mountains, which here constitute the Continental Divide; and the eastern boundary by the Park range. It has an extremely irregular outline, about 45 miles long, north and south, and about 25 miles wide near the central part. Its area is 693,120 acres, or about 10,000 acres more than that of the state of Rhode Island. The surface is principally mountainous and the altitude ranges from about 7,000 feet at the point where the Arkansas river crosses the southern boundary, to more than 14,000 feet at the summits of some of the peaks in the Saguache range. First settlement of the county began in 1860, when several mining camps came into existence as a result of the gold rush. During the early boom days of Leadville, what is now Chaffee county was a part of Lake county and the town of Granite was its county seat. In 1870 Chaffee county was organized from a portion of Lake county and was named in honor of Jerome B. Chaffee, one of Colorado's first United States senators. The county ranks 41st in area among the counties of the state. Buena Vista, 176 miles from Denver by rail, with a population in 1920 of 1,041, is the county seat.

**Surface and Soil**—The county contains the upper valley of the Arkansas river, in which there is a considerable amount of good agricultural land. Though the seasons are short because of the high altitude, the soil is extremely fertile and stockraising and general farming have been carried on for a good many years. The western



half of the county is extremely mountainous, culminating in the Saguache range. Among the principal peaks are three well known mountains of the Collegiate range: Mt. Harvard, 14,375 feet; Mt. Yale, 14,187 feet, and Mt. Princeton, 14,196 feet. Other prominent peaks are La Plata mountain, near the northern boundary, 14,332 feet; Mt. Shavano, 14,239 feet, and Mt. Antero, 14,245 feet. The extreme eastern part is also highly mountainous, but the peaks are not nearly so elevated. No soil survey of this area is available.

**Population**—The population of Chaffee county in 1920 was 7,753, compared with 7,622 in 1910, the increase being 1.7 per cent. The census bureau estimated the population in 1925 at 7,826. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 14.4 per cent of the total, compared with 15.7 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Italian, English, Canadian and German.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The Arkansas river has its source in Lake county and flows southeast through Chaffee county. This stream, with its tributaries, carries an abundant water supply and furnishes much of the water for irrigation of lands in this county and in the lower Arkansas valley further east. The watershed here is in a region of high precipitation and is one of the most reliable sources of irrigation water in the state. Water for domestic use in

some sections is obtained from wells and reached at depths varying from 5 feet to 40 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are metal mining, farming, stockraising, quarrying and lumbering. Stock-raising is confined principally to the Arkansas valley. Metal mining is carried on extensively in the western and northeastern parts of the county. Important granite quarries are being operated in the neighborhood of Salida. The county had 20 manufacturing establishments in 1919, employing an average of 379 wage earners with a payroll of \$592,904, and an output of products valued at \$3,935,183. The value of all farm lands and buildings in 1925, according to the census, was \$2,515,745.

**Crops**—Its principal crops in the order of their importance are hay, wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, lettuce, small fruits, and miscellaneous crops. Farm value of all crops in 1924 was \$522,108. Of that amount more than half was from the hay crops. Of 85,045 acres classed as agricultural lands in 1924, 26.7 per cent was irrigated land. Of total area under cultivation, 32.0 per cent was in alfalfa, 8.6 per cent in oats, 7.0 per cent in spring wheat and 6.1 per cent in barley.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are asbestos, bauxite, bismuth, cerium (monazite), corundum, copper, fluorspar, fuller's earth, gold, graphite, iron, lead, marble, mimitite, molybdenum, platinum, silver, zinc, granite, sandstone, and other valuable building stones; aquamarine, beryl, garnet, sapphire and other gem stones; limestone and other cement materials. Chaffee county produced in 1923, \$17,073 in gold, \$17,023 in silver, \$1,042 in copper, \$39,020 in lead and \$8,976 in zinc. Its production of these metals from 1859 to 1923, inclusive, was \$21,601,432.

**Timber**—There is an abundance of good heavy timber on the mountain slopes, principally pine, spruce and cedar. The county has 423,551 acres in national forests.

**Land Classification**—Of the total of 693,120 acres in the county, 91,625 acres is patented land. This includes 22,750 acres of irrigated land, and 62,295 acres of grazing land. The remainder includes town lots, railway right-of-way, etc. Government land open to homestead entry on July 1, 1924, was 61,930 acres, of little value except for grazing purposes. The state

has 18,580 acres unappropriated, subject to purchase or lease.

**Transportation**—The main line of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad follows the course of the Arkansas river through the county. A branch of the Colorado & Southern railroad follows the same general course. The main narrow gauge line of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad leaves the main standard gauge line at Salida and runs southwest across the corner of the county. A branch line leaves this road at Poncha Junction and runs west to Maysville, Garfield and other mining camps near the western border. The county has 122 miles of railroad.

**Highways**—The principal state highway leading through the county is the Midland Trail, which follows in a general way the course of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad and brings the tourist in view of some of the most magnificent scenery of the state. This road is joined at Buena Vista by a road that runs west from Colorado Springs over Ute pass and through South park. The Rainbow route leaves the Midland Trail at Salida and runs directly west to cross the range near Monarch pass. A branch of this road runs south from Poncha Junction into Saguache county. There are numerous county roads and trails which are being improved to take care of constantly increasing tourist travel. Of the 350 miles of state and county highways in the county, 53 miles is surfaced with sand and gravel clay, and 237 miles graded. The remainder is unimproved.

**Educational**—There are 24 public district schools in the county, employing 66 teachers. The high schools at Salida and Buena Vista each afford a full high school course. Average daily attendance in 1924 was 1,173. There are no private schools or colleges in the county. The average per capita cost of education in 1924, based on daily average attendance, was \$116.81, compared with \$129.51 for the state. Only three of the 25 school districts had any bonded indebtedness on January 1, 1925, the total being \$137,600.

**Climatological Data**—The precipitation here is widely varied. A small area near the central part of the county, including the city of Buena Vista, has an average annual rainfall of about 10 inches. A belt immediately surrounding this, including most of the Arkansas valley, has an average

rainfall varying from 15 to 20 inches. A narrow belt along the Saguache range has an annual rainfall varying from 20 to 25 inches. The climate of the Arkansas valley section of the county is comparatively mild, with short, warm summers and long open winters. In the higher altitudes the climate is more severe with extremely heavy snowfall. The normal annual mean temperature at Buena Vista is 40.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Average number of days between killing frosts is 102, the shortest on record being 78 and longest, 142 days. Last killing frost in the spring generally comes between June 1 and June 21, and first in the fall between September 5 and October 23.

**Tourist Attractions**—This county contains some of the most rugged and picturesque mountain scenery in the state. The principal mountain peaks which have been named above are all well known to automobile and railway tourists. Cottonwood Hot Springs, six miles west, and Hortense Hot Springs, nine miles south of the town of Buena Vista, are famous for the curative properties of their waters, said to be of special value in cases of catarrh, rheumatism and lead poisoning. Poncha Springs, near the town of Salida, is also a health resort of considerable importance. There are 99 springs in this group, whose waters contain minerals of recognized curative value. A sanitarium is located here. The completion of the various state highways named above has greatly increased automobile travel through this county and there are few counties in the state that are visited by a larger number of automobile travelers annually. There are large areas of splendid mountain scenery that are still inaccessible because of lack of

transportation facilities. The streams here are well stocked with trout and are much frequented by fishermen.

**Cities and Towns**—The county has four incorporated towns, of which Salida, with a population of 7,050, is the largest and most important. It is a railroad division and transfer point and a center for considerable shipping. Railroad shops form one of the town's important assets. Buena Vista, the county seat, is the second largest, with a population of 1,000. The state reformatory is located here. The other incorporated towns are Poncha Springs and St. Elmo, both of which are small but have a considerable tourist business. Post offices in the county are: Centerville, Garfield, Granite, Nathrop, Poncha Springs, Saint Elmo, Salida and Turret.

**Taxation**—Assessed valuation of all property for 1924 was \$10,574,815 and revenue for all purposes was \$278,127. The county levy was 7.7 mills, the average levy for towns was 10.06 mills and the average school levy was 10.94 mills. The average levy for all purposes was 26.30 mills, compared with an average of 27.3 mills for the state. Taxes, licenses, permits and special assessments in 1922 were \$15.35 per capita, compared with \$17.23 per capita for the state.

**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities offered here are in the line of mineral development. There are large areas of mineralized land that have been only imperfectly prospected. Rich deposits of granite and other monumental and building stone have been worked only to a limited extent and offer exceptional opportunities for further development. There is considerable good grazing land in the county that is not being pastured to its full capacity.

**GENERAL Description**—  
Crowley county lies in the southeastern part of the state, including a portion of the Arkansas valley. It is an irregular square, 30 miles long by 30 miles wide. Its area is 517,120 acres, about 120,-000 acres less than that of the state of Rhode Island. The surface is generally



level or rolling. The altitude varies from 4,100 feet, in the southwest, to

about 4,500 in the north. The agricultural development of this portion of the Arkansas valley began in the 70's and was comparatively rapid. The county is one of the younger group of Colorado counties, having been created in 1911 from the northern part of Otero county. It was named in honor of the Hon. John H. Crowley, who was state senator from Otero county at the time the division was made. Ordway, on the Missouri Pacific railroad, 169 miles from Denver by rail, is the county seat.

**Surface and Soil**—The southern part lies in the Arkansas valley and is a broad, level stretch of excellent agricultural land. It rises in the north into a level or broken prairie, where agriculture has been followed to a limited extent in the past half dozen years. The soil in the southern part is principally an alluvial or sandy loam with small adobe areas. In the north it is principally sand, with occasional stretches of shale or adobe soil. It is very fertile and generally easy to work. A detailed soil survey of most of the irrigated area in this county has been made by the bureau of soils of the United States department of agriculture.

**Population**—This county was organized in 1911, so no figures are available showing its population in 1910. At the beginning of 1920 its population was 6,383. Its population in 1925, as estimated by the census bureau, was 7,482. Previous to 1911 it was a part of Otero county. Its agricultural development has been rapid and its population has increased steadily for the past thirty years. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 10.8 per cent of the total. The principal foreign nationalities are Russian, Mexican, German and Italian.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The Arkansas river flows along the southern boundary and, with its tributaries, supplies water for irrigation. The principal tributary is Horse creek, which has its source in the Arkansas divide and flows south across this county into the Arkansas. There is water available for considerable more land than is now being cultivated under irrigation. Water for domestic purposes is obtained principally from wells and is reached at depths ranging from 50 to 75 feet. Artesian water is reached in some sections at from 1,200 to 1,500 feet. At various points in the county springs furnish abundance of

water for domestic purposes. The shallower wells are pumped by means of wind mills and in some sections furnish a limited supply of water for irrigation.

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming, stockraising, stock-feeding and manufacturing. Farming is carried on principally in the southern part of the county in the irrigated districts. In recent years there has been considerable development of the non-irrigated districts in the north, which have proved to be fairly profitable agricultural areas. Stockfeeding is followed extensively in the southern part. Thousands of cattle and sheep are shipped in here annually for fattening during the fall and winter months. The principal manufacturing industry is the making of beet sugar. At Sugar City the National Sugar company has a sugar factory; at Ordway, Crowley, and Olney there are alfalfa meal mills, and at Olney there is a canning factory. The last census credits the county with 19 manufacturing establishments with annual payrolls aggregating \$141,211, and finished products valued at \$1,380,221. The value of all farm property in 1925 was placed at \$6,380,020 by the census bureau. Livestock on farms included 3,450 horses, 10,523 cattle, and 4,585 swine.

**Crops**—The principal crops in 1924, in the order of their value, were sugar beets, corn, hay, fruits, sorghums, barley, beans, oats, wheat, potatoes, garden vegetables and a variety of seed crops. The farm value of all crops was \$2,149,807, of which \$665,693 was in sugar beets, \$335,470 in corn, \$315,223 in hay (principally alfalfa) and \$558,130 in miscellaneous crops. Of 398,862 acres classed as agricultural lands, 10.43 per cent was under irrigation. Of area in cultivation, 33.27 per cent was planted to corn, 24.54 per cent to alfalfa, 12.89 per cent to sugar beets, 12.07 per cent to sorghums, and 4.10 per cent to barley. Five-year average yield of corn was 21.6 bushels to the acre; potatoes, 26.9 bushels, and barley, 28.8 bushels.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays, road surfacing materials, building sand and building stone.

**Land Classification**—Of the 517,120 acres in the county, 400,432 acres is patented, including 316 acres of fruit land, 41,272 acres irrigated, 12,196 acres of dry farming and 345,078 acres of grazing lands. Government land open to homesteaders on July 1, 1924,

was 6,890 acres and state lands unappropriated, 58,216 acres.

**Transportation**—The Missouri Pacific railroad runs across the southern part of the county by way of Sugar City and Ordway. The main line of the Santa Fe runs along the southern boundary and furnishes transportation for some of the farm products in the extreme southern part. The county has 31 miles of main line railroads.

**Highways**—The principal state highway is that which follows the course of the Missouri Pacific railroad east and west through the county. Another state highway runs north and south through the county, crossing this road at Ordway and joining the Santa Fe at Rocky Ford. There are numerous county roads sufficient to take care of the present agricultural output. The county has 862 miles of state and county highways, of which 39 miles is surfaced with gravel and sand clay, 761 miles is graded and the remainder unimproved.

**Educational**—There are 32 public district schools in the county, employing 89 teachers. The schools at Crowley, Ordway and Sugar City each give a full high school course, while the school at Olney Springs gives three years of high school work and the Numa school, near Ordway, gives one year. There is a consolidated school at Crowley. There are no private schools or colleges in the county. There was an average attendance of 1,436 pupils in the public schools in 1924. Per capita cost, based on average attendance, was \$129.01, compared with \$129.51 for the state. All of the nine school districts have bonds outstanding, the aggregate being \$86,900 on January 1, 1925.

**Climatological Data**—The climate here, as in other parts of the Arkansas valley, is mild and very healthful. The summers are long and warm and the winters are comparatively short, with moderate temperatures. The rainfall varies from 12 to 15 inches annually. The length of growing seasons and mean temperature are approximately the same as in Bent county.

**Tourist Attractions**—The improvement of the Central Kansas Boulevard across this county has greatly increased the automobile travel, this being one of the principal highways leading into Colorado from the east. The county is generally level and destitute of natural scenic attractions, but

is of keen interest, however, to visitors from the east, because of the extensive development of farming under irrigation. Olney Springs derives its name from large natural springs located near here. Water from these springs is pumped to the towns of Olney Springs and Ordway for domestic use. The distance from the springs to Ordway is 18 miles, and farmers along the route have tapped the water mains to obtain their domestic water supply.

**Cities and Towns**—The incorporated towns are Crowley, Olney Springs, Ordway, and Sugar City. Crowley has a population of 290. Olney Springs, on the Missouri Pacific, has a population of 300. Ordway, the county seat, is the largest town, with a population of 1,250, is situated on the Missouri Pacific railroad and is an important shipping point. Sugar City, with a population of 850, is the site of the second sugar factory located in eastern Colorado. There are no other post offices in the county.

**Taxation**—Assessed valuation of all property for 1924 was \$9,849,425 and revenue for all purposes was \$315,971. The county levy was 7.63 mills, average town levy, 14.5 mills, and average school levy, 17.91 mills. Average total levy was 32.08 mills, compared with an average for the state of 27.3 mills. Taxes, licenses, permits and special assessments in 1922 were \$15.14 per capita, compared with \$17.23 per capita for the state.

**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities offered here are in the line of agricultural development of the land of the northern part of the county which is suitable for cultivation. Improved methods of farming without irrigation have been introduced in the past few years, proving that this area can be farmed at a profit. There is perhaps sufficient undeveloped agricultural land in the county to support as large an agricultural population as is now being supported by the land under cultivation. With Otero, the adjoining county on the south, Crowley county is the center of the cantaloupe district which has brought fame to Colorado, and there is unquestionably room for considerable development in this direction and in the direction of sugar beet culture and the growth of canning crops, which already are being grown on hundreds of acres. Climate and soil are well adapted to these intensively cultivated crops.

## **G**E<sup>N</sup>E<sup>R</sup>A<sup>L</sup> De- scription —

Custer county lies in the south-central part of the state, the Sangre de Cristo mountain range forming the western boundary. It is of irregular triangular shape, with an extreme length at the base, which is

the north boundary, of 38 miles, and a width of 25 miles. Its area is 478,080 acres, or about 200,000 acres less than that of the state of Rhode Island. It is a plateau, rising into a rugged range of hills near the eastern boundary and culminating in the Sangre de Cristo range on the west. The altitude varies from about 6,700 feet, at the northern boundary, to more than 14,000 feet at the summits of some of the peaks of the Sangre de Cristo range. The first permanent settlement in the valley was in 1869. A German colony led by Carl Wulsten located in the south half of the valley and their descendants are among the leading farmers in that locality today. Rich strikes of gold were made in the early 70's and the towns of Silver Cliff and Rosita were established. In 1879 and 1880 there was a rush of miners to this district and in 1880 Silver Cliff was the third largest town in the state, with a population of over 5,000. The county was organized in 1877 from a part of Fremont county. Silver Cliff, on the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad, 210 miles from Denver by rail, is the county seat

**Surface and Soil**—The Wet Mountain valley, one of the most prosperous agricultural districts in the state, occupies the central part of the county and extends into Fremont county. The surface here is level and the soil is extremely fertile. Surrounding this valley is a large area of more elevated plateau land which for many years has been a prosperous stockgrowing district. The surface rises very abruptly in the west to the Sangre de Cristo mountains. A range of low hills extends across the southern boundary and through the eastern part. No detailed soil survey of this area is available.

**Population**—The population of Custer county has varied widely, principally on account of variations in mining activity. It was largest in 1880, being

# Custer County



at that time 8,080. In 1890 it was 2,970 and in 1900 it was 2,937. In 1920 the population was 2,172, compared with 1,947 in 1910, the increase being 11.6 per cent. The census bureau estimated the population in 1925 at 2,300. The largest part of the population at the present time is engaged in agriculture and stockraising and the increase in population during the past ten years has been due largely to the development of new agricultural areas. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 11.9 per cent of the total, compared with 16.5 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are German, English, Canadian and Austrian.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The principal streams in the county are Graje creek and Texas creek, which flow north into the Arkansas river. Hundreds of small streams have their sources in the Sangre de Cristo range and flow across the valley below, forming a natural irrigation system the equal of which can scarcely be found anywhere else in the west. There is water available for considerably more land than is now being cultivated under irrigation. Water for domestic purposes in the agricultural districts is obtained principally from wells and is reached at depths ranging from 10 feet to 40 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming, stockraising and metal mining. Manufacturing is very limited. Oil in commercial quantities was found in 1924 in the northern part and considerable development is in progress.

**Crops**—The principal crops in the order of their importance are hay, oats, potatoes, wheat, corn and miscellaneous crops. Head lettuce is successfully grown. The farm value of all crops in 1924 was \$535,523, of which more than half was represented by hay, principally alfalfa. The area of

agricultural land is 198,327 acres, or 41.4 per cent of the total. Of that acreage 11.49 per cent is irrigated, 87.11 per cent is grazing land, and 1.4 per cent dry farming land. Of area in cultivation in 1924, 9.21 per cent was in alfalfa, 12.65 per cent in oats, 5.71 per cent in corn, and 4.53 per cent in spring wheat. Five-year average yields per acre were, potatoes, 57.6 bushels, oats, 25.2 bushels, corn, 17.3 bushels, spring wheat, 15.8 bushels.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are alunite, copper, fluorspar, gold, gypsum, lead, nickel, silver, granite, sandstone and a variety of other stones. Mineral production in 1923 was, gold, \$2,536; silver, \$23,357; copper, \$1,681 and lead, \$202,323. Total value of these minerals produced up to the end of 1923 was \$8,441,954.

**Timber**—There is good timber on the high lands in the east and west, principally pine, spruce and cedar. The government has 160,800 acres in national forests in the county.

**Land Classification**—Of the 478,080 acres in the county, 203,013 acres is patented land. This includes 10,213 acres of irrigated land, 12,580 acres of natural hay land, 2,766 acres of dry farming land, 172,768 acres of grazing land, and 3,754 acres of metalliferous mining claims. Government land open to homestead entry on July 1, 1924, was 6,462 acres, and unappropriated state land on November 30, 1924, was 13,117 acres.

**Transportation**—A branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad leaves the main line at Texas Creek, in Fremont county, and runs south to Westcliffe. This is the only railroad in the county. With the exception of the northwestern corner it is wholly without railroad facilities. This condition has served to retard general farming development to some extent but has left tremendous grazing tracts at the disposal of stockmen, who have taken advantage of this fact with such effect that the county is recognized as one of the best in the state for the stock industry.

**Highways**—Tourist travel to this county has increased rather rapidly in recent years on account of the attractive mountain scenery and the good fishing facilities. Two state highways cross at Silver Cliff, the county seat, one extending from Canon City south through Custer county to Walsenburg and the other west from Pu-

eblo to a connection with the Midland Trail at Texas Creek. There are numerous county roads and trails generally imperfectly developed but sufficient to take care of the present farming and mining output.

**Educational**—There are 26 public district schools in the county, employing 35 teachers. The county high school at Westcliffe gives a full high school course and two years of high school work are given in the consolidated school at Wetmore. There are no private schools or colleges in the county. Average daily attendance in 1924 was 391 pupils. Annual cost per capita in 1924, based on average attendance, was \$75.48, compared with \$129.51 per capita for the state.

**Climatological Data**—The climate in the Wet Mountain valley is comparatively mild and favorable for general agriculture. In the rich surrounding lands it is more severe and subject to extremely heavy winter snowfall in the south and west. The average annual rainfall in the northern part of the county is from 17 to 20 inches. South and west of this territory is a larger belt having an average precipitation of from 20 to 25 inches. A small area in the southern part of the county has a precipitation of over 25 inches annually. The normal mean temperature at Westcliffe is 42.6 degrees Fahrenheit. The average number of days between killing frosts is 97. Last killing frost in the spring usually occurs between May 6 and June 23 and first in the fall between August 31 and September 28.

**Tourist Attractions**—The valley is comparatively little known even to Colorado people, although it contains much beautiful mountain scenery. It is little visited by tourists because of lack of good highways and favorable railway facilities. The mountain streams are well stocked with trout and promise to become among the most popular fishing waters in Colorado when they are better known.

**Cities and Towns**—The county has two incorporated towns, Westcliffe, located on the Denver and Rio Grande Western railroad, at an altitude of 7,800 feet, and with a population of 350, and Silver Cliff, the county seat, with an altitude of 8,000 feet, and a population of 280. Postoffices in the county are: Focus, Forestdale, Ilse, Silver Cliff, Westcliffe and Wetmore.

**Taxation**—The assessed valuation of all property in 1924 was \$3,109,190 and

revenue was \$74,335. The county levy was 8.5 mills; average town levy, 10.22 mills, and average school levy, 10.53 mills. Average total levy was 23.91 mills, compared with 27.30 mills for the state. Taxes, licenses and permits and special assessments for all purposes in 1922 were \$18.40 per capita, compared with \$17.23 per capita for the entire state.

**Special Opportunities**—Opportunities are offered here for both agriculture and mining development. Privately-owned land may be obtained at reasonable prices. The county would support perhaps a 50 per cent larger agri-

cultural population than it now has. Mining has been followed here for more than 35 years and important ore discoveries have been made within the last two or three years. There is a large area of mineralized land in the county that has enjoyed but comparatively little development. Legitimate development of the mineralized areas has been delayed by the lack of sufficient transportation facilities, but notwithstanding that fact there has been considerable development in the proven districts. With the coming of more extensive railroad systems it is believed the county may become one of the large ore producers of the state.

#### GENERAL Description—

Fremont county lies in the south-central part of the state on the eastern boundary of the mineralized belt. A part of the western boundary is formed by the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. It is of a rectangular outline, about 60 miles long, east and west, and about 30 miles wide. Its area is 996,480 acres, or a little less than two-thirds that of the state of Connecticut. The surface is principally rolling or mountainous. The altitude varies from about 5,000 feet at the point where the Arkansas river crosses the eastern boundary to more than 12,000 feet at the summits of some of the peaks in the southwestern part. The first actual settlement was made in 1830 by a Frenchman named Morris, near the present site of the town of Florence. Fremont is one of the original 17 counties in Colorado territory, organized in 1861, and was named in honor of John C. Fremont, who crossed this territory several times in his efforts to discover a feasible railway route across the Rocky mountains. Canon City, on the Denver & Rio Grande Western and Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroads, 160 miles from Denver, is the county seat.

**Surface and Soil**—The surface is a broken plateau, containing a portion of the Arkansas valley near the eastern boundary, and rising into a rugged, mountainous area in the southwest.



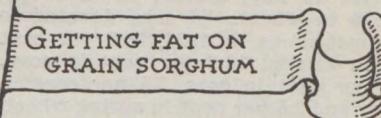
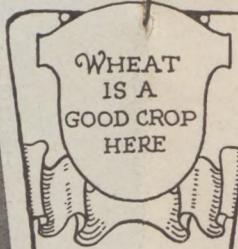
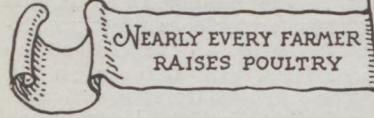
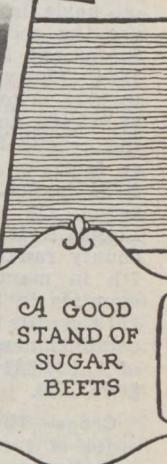
The Arkansas river has cut a deep canon through this plateau in the central part of the county and several of the tributary streams enter this canon by smaller canons from the north and south. There is some good grazing and agricultural land on the heights north and south of the river and considerable area of excellent agricultural land in the valley of the Arkansas river just east of its exit from the canon. The soil here is a deep sandy loam of excellent fertility. On the high lands the soil is a rich, deep sandy loam, which produces a variety of farm crops. No detailed soil survey of this area is available.

**Population**—The population at the beginning of 1920 was 17,883, compared with 18,181 in 1910, the decrease being 1.6 per cent. This decrease in population is due principally to diminished activity in the mining areas of the county. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 15.5 per cent of the total, compared with 18.8 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Italian, English, Austrian and Welsh.

COLORADO'S BANNER  
ALFALFA DISTRICT



FINISHING BEEF CATTLE  
FOR MARKET



**Drainage and Water Supply**—The Arkansas river flows eastward through the central part of the county and is fed by numerous small tributaries which have their sources in the high lands north and south of the main stream. It carries plenty of water for irrigation, but only the land lying in the valley east of Canon City is now irrigated. The land in the remaining parts of the county is too high to be reached by water except at considerable expense. The Arkansas river has a sharp fall in this county. Good domestic water is abundant in all parts of the county and is reached at depths varying from 20 feet to 35 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are general farming, which includes stockraising, fruitgrowing and dairying; coal mining, metal mining, quarrying, manufacturing, oil refining and lumbering. Agriculture is confined largely to the Arkansas valley about Canon City and Florence. Coal mining is carried on principally in the southeastern part of the county. The principal manufacturing industry is cement making and refining oil products. The cement factories at Portland and Concrete are the largest in the state. The oil fields in the vicinity of Florence are the second oldest in the United States and have been producing since 1864. The value of all farm property in 1924 as reported by the census was \$6,683,460, an increase of \$542,786 over the census figure of 1920. Livestock on farms on January 1, 1925, included 2,884 horses, 20,852 cattle and 1,669 swine. On that date the county had 120,404 fruit trees of bearing age. The county ranks 5th in coal mining and 7th in manufacturing among the 63 counties in the state. The census of 1919 credits it with 45 manufacturing establishments with an annual payroll of \$1,023,831 and an output valued at \$6,787,570.

**Crops**—The principal crops, in the order of their importance, are fruits, including apples, raspberries and small fruits; hay, corn, wheat, oats, barley, sugar beets and lettuce. The farm value of all crops in 1924 was \$1,288,561, of which \$601,208 was in fruits, \$269,727 in hay, \$83,327 in corn and \$32,999 in wheat. Of area devoted to principal crops in 1924, 36.2 per cent was in alfalfa, 16.2 per cent in corn, 10.4 per cent in oats, 3.5 per cent in barley and 2.5 per cent in spring wheat. Five-year average yields per acre were, spring wheat, 24.9 bushels, corn, 24.7

bushels, oats, 26.4 bushels, barley, 20.5 bushels, and potatoes, 48 bushels.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are asbestos, clays, kaolin, coal, copper, gold, gypsum, lava, lead, cement material, lithium, aluminum, mica, nickel, petroleum, natural gas, silver, tantalum, titanium, zinc, granite, sandstone and other building stone; agate, amethyst, beryl, rose quartz, tourmaline and other gem stones. The bituminous coal mined in Fremont county, and known generally as "Canon City coal," has been famous all over the west since the days of pioneer settlement of Colorado. The first coal claim in the Canon City field was staked out in April, 1860, at the site of the old Coal creek slope. A few years later the first coal in the district was mined at that property. Metal production in 1923 was \$1,678 and total from 1881 to the end of that year, \$421,590. Coal output in 1924 was 698,238 tons. Production of crude oil in November, 1925, was 400 barrels a day, with a total production up to that time of more than 11,000,000 barrels.

**Timber**—There is good timber in all parts of the county except the agricultural district in the vicinity of Canon City, principally pine, spruce and cedar. The federal government has 66,240 acres in national forests in the county.

**Land Classification**—Of the 996,480 acres in the county, 310,539 acres is in private ownership and includes 2,170 acres of fruit land, 20,956 acres of irrigated land, 1,200 acres of natural hay land, 85,462 acres of dry farming land, 174,915 acres of grazing land and 13,000 acres of productive coal land. Of the 284,703 acres classed as agricultural land, 8.5 per cent is under irrigation. Government land open to homestead entry on July 1, 1924, was 300,224 acres. State land unappropriated on November 30, 1924, was 58,404 acres.

**Transportation**—The main line of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad runs east and west through the county, following in general the course of the Arkansas river. A branch line leaves this road at Texas Creek and runs south to Westcliffe, in Custer county. A branch of the Santa Fe railroad runs west from Pueblo to Canon City. Branch roads from the Santa Fe and Denver & Rio Grande Western railroads extend to numerous coal camps and cement factories in the vi-

cinity of Canon City and Florence. The county has 110 miles of railroads.

**Highways**—The principal state highway in this county is the Rainbow Route, which follows in a general way the course of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad east and west through the county. Another road runs north from Canon City to Cripple Creek and south to Silver City, while still another extends north from Florence to Cripple Creek. Tourist travel to this county has been exceptionally heavy for many years, due largely to excellent highway development, particularly in the vicinity of the Royal Gorge. The county has 431 miles of state and county highways, of which one mile is hard surfaced, 143 miles surfaced with gravel and sand clay, 285 miles graded, and the remainder is unimproved.

**Educational**—There are 53 public district schools in the county, employing 196 teachers. The schools at Florence, Canon City, Penrose and Cotopaxi each give four years of high school work, while the one at Harvard gives one year. There are consolidated schools at Cotopaxi, Penrose and Canon City. Mt. St. Scholastica academy, a private school, is located at Canon City. Average daily attendance in the public schools in 1924 was 3,864. Cost per capita in 1924, based on average attendance, was \$95.72, compared with \$129.51 per capita for the state. Of 33 school districts, 8 had bonded indebtedness on January 1, 1925, aggregating \$494,400.

**Climatological Data**—The rainfall here varies from 12 inches, in the eastern part, to more than 25 inches along the summits of the Sangre de Cristo range, in the southwest. The agricultural district in the eastern part of the county has a rainfall of from 12 to 15 inches. The higher plateau regions have from 15 to 20 inches of rainfall annually. The Canon City and Florence districts enjoy exceptional climatic advantages. The summers are comparatively long and not unpleasantly warm, and the winters are comparatively short and open. In the high altitudes the climate is more severe, with comparatively heavy snowfall in the southeast. The normal mean annual temperature at Canon City is 52.4 degrees Fahrenheit. Average number of days between killing frosts is 161, the last killing frost in the spring usually coming between April 28 and June 2, and first in the fall between September 29 and November 8.

**Tourist Attractions**—Canon City and the territory immediately surrounding it is one of the most popular tourist districts in the state. The Royal Gorge of the Arkansas river, sometimes called the Grand Canon of the Arkansas, is one of the scenic wonders of the world. It begins one mile west of Canon City and extends for about 20 miles. The vast walls of granite tower above the river here to a height in some places of more than 2,500 feet. The Rainbow Route follows this canon for a considerable distance and a road has been built from Canon City to the upper rim of the canon, where the traveler may look down 2,500 feet to the waters of the Arkansas river below. There are numerous other scenic highways from Canon City, one of the most popular of which is the Sky Line drive, from which an excellent view of Canon City and the orchard territory surrounding it may be had. Bell's mineral springs, near the mouth of the Royal Gorge, are noted for the curative properties of their waters. South of Florence is South Hardscrabble creek, in the San Isabel national forest, noted for its beautiful scenery, where the citizens of Florence have secured a municipal camping ground and fitted it for the convenience and comfort of the camper. At Garden Park, near Canon City, the bones of some of the most wonderful animals the world has ever known have been found. The most abundant remains are those of the dinosaur, many of which were 20 feet long. These animals, which fed on vegetables and lived principally in swampy areas, inhabited this part of the country hundreds of thousands of years ago.

**Cities and Towns**—Canon City, the county seat and principal town, is one of the most beautiful cities in Colorado. It is located on the Arkansas river near the eastern end of the Royal Gorge, in a region of delightful scenic beauty. The population is 5,500 and its elevation above sea level is 5,333 feet. It is widely known as a health resort on account of its delightful climate and the mineral springs in its vicinity. It has one of the largest light and power plants in the state, which supplies power for the operation of various coal mines in the county, as well as power and light for the city and for the town of Florence. The state penitentiary is located here. Florence, a few miles east of Canon City, on the Denver & Rio Grande Western and

Santa Fe railroads, is the center of the oldest oil field in Colorado. It is a manufacturing town of considerable importance, one of its principal industries being the refining of crude oil. It has a population of 3,000, and is the second largest town. Among the other important towns of the county are Portland and Concrete, noted for their cement factories; Chandler, Rockvale and Coalcreek, important coal camps; and Penrose, six miles northeast of Florence, a growing agricultural town with many square miles of fruit farms adjoining. Post offices in the county are: Calcite, Canon City, Chandler, Coalcreek, Coaldale, Concrete, Coto-paxi, Florence, Hillside, Howard, Micanite, Parkdale, Portland, Pyrolite, Rockvale and Texas Creek.

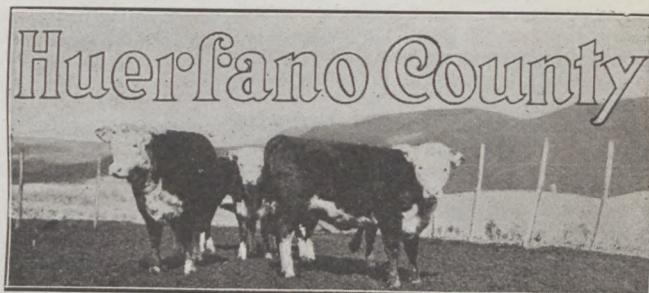
**Taxation**—Assessed valuation of all property in 1923 was \$21,576,327 and revenue for all purposes was \$703,170. The county levy was 7.37 mills; average town levy, 11.97 mills; and average school levy, 16.61 mills. Average

of the total levy was 32.59 mills, compared with an average total for the state of 27.30 mills. Taxes, licenses, permits and special assessments in 1922 were \$17.10 per capita, compared with \$17.23 per capita for the state.

**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities offered here are in the line of mineral development. A large area of the county is presumably mineralized and offers opportunities for prospecting and development. There is an immense amount of building stone which is certain to be developed as the demands of the West require. The coal deposits of this county are of excellent quality and are being worked to a considerable extent at the present time. There is, however, much room for further development in this direction. There are excellent deposits of glass sand, clay and similar materials awaiting development, and general farming, fruitgrowing and gardening are all expanding industries.

#### GENERAL Description —

Huerfano county lies in the south-central part of the state, the western boundary being formed by the Sangre de Cristo and Culebra mountain range, this being but one range, but having different names in different places. It has a more irregular outline than any other county in the state. Its extreme length east and west is about 48 miles, and its width, north and south, near the central part, is about 40 miles. Its area is 960,000 acres, or 300,000 acres more than that of the state of Rhode Island. The surface is an irregular plateau, broken by numerous narrow valleys in the east and rising into a rugged mountainous area in the west. The altitude varies from about 5,690 feet, at the north boundary, to more than 13,000 at the summits of some of the mountain peaks in the south and west. The county was organized in 1861 as one of the original 17 counties in Colorado territory, being much larger at that time than it is at present. Walsenburg, on the Denver & Rio Grande Western



and Colorado & Southern railroads, is the county seat.

**Surface and Soil**—The surface is extremely varied. Most of the eastern part is a plateau, broken by narrow valleys through which flow Huerfano river, Cuchara river and other small streams, all tributaries of the Arkansas river. The soil in most of this area is fertile and raises excellent crops under irrigation. The rainfall is also sufficient to grow good crops without irrigation. In some sections the soil contains considerable slate and shale and is not suitable for cultivation. The higher lands in the western part contain large areas of good grazing territory and the irrigated valleys provide excellent farm land for hay and small grain crops. There is no soil survey of this section available.

**Population**—The population in 1920 was 16,879, compared with 13,320 in 1910, the increase being 26.7 per cent. The census bureau estimated the population in 1925 at 18,894. In 1920 the foreign-born population was 16.2 per cent of the total, compared with 20 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign-born nationalities are Italian, Austrian, Mexican and Czecho-Slovakian.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—This county is crossed by numerous streams having their sources in the mountainous areas in the west and flowing north and east to the Arkansas river, the principal ones being the Huerfano and Cuchara rivers, which carry sufficient water to irrigate perhaps twice as much land as is now being cultivated under irrigation. Water for domestic purposes is obtained principally from wells and is reached at depths varying from 10 feet to 300 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are coal mining, farming and stock-raising. Huerfano county ranks second in coal output, being surpassed in this respect only by its neighbor, Las Animas county. Coal deposits cover about one-third of the county, in the southern part, but mining is confined largely to the area along the Denver & Rio Grande Western and Colorado & Southern railroads. Farming is carried on in nearly all sections of the county and agricultural operations are being rapidly extended. Lumbering is carried on to a limited extent, principally to supply local demands. The coal output in 1924 was 2,005,223 tons. The census bureau reported 21 manufacturing establishments in 1919, with an annual payroll of \$43,271 and products valued at \$274,222. Coke is the principal product of manufacture. The value of all farm property on January 1, 1925, was \$4,500,547. Livestock on farms included 4,415 horses, 19,316 cattle, and 2,479 swine.

**Crops**—The principal crops, in the order of their value, are alfalfa, corn, oats, wheat, sugar beets, beans, potatoes and small vegetables. The farm value of all crops in 1924 was \$503,625, of which \$354,219 was in hay, \$48,505 in corn, \$22,978 in oats and \$21,691 in wheat. Of the total area in cultivation, 37.6 per cent was in alfalfa, 22.9 per cent in corn, 4.1 per cent in winter wheat, 2.0 per cent in spring wheat, 7.4 per cent in oats and 1.7 per cent in barley. Average yields per acre over a period of five years were, winter wheat, 18.8 bushels; spring wheat,

15.8 bushels; corn, 17.3 bushels; oats, 25.2 bushels; barley, 23.1 bushels; potatoes, 57.6 bushels.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays, coal, gold, building and moulding sand and building stone, including much basalt.

**Timber**—The timber is found principally in the north and west and is mostly pine and spruce. The federal government has 118,052 acres in national forests in the county.

**Land Classification**—Of the 960,000 acres of land in the county, 612,141, or 63.7 per cent, is patented land, including 46 acres of fruit land, 6,293 acres of irrigated land, 15,450 acres of natural hay land, 29,426 acres of dry farming land, 533,772 acres of grazing land and 2,738 acres of productive and 20,221 acres of non-productive coal lands. On July 1, 1924, there was 31,240 acres of government land open to homesteaders and on November 30, 1924, there was 44,722 acres of unappropriated state lands.

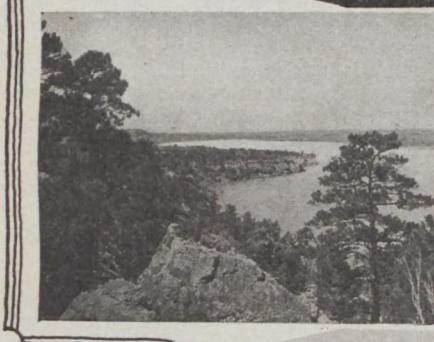
**Transportation**—The Denver & Rio Grande Western and Colorado & Southern railroads both run through the eastern part of the county, serving the principal coal mining districts. The Alamosa branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western runs west from Walsenburg and crosses into Costilla county by way of La Veta pass. Numerous branch lines from both of these roads serve coal mines lying near the main lines. The county has 131 miles of railroads.

**Highways**—The principal highway is that popularly known as the North and South highway, extending from Wyoming to the New Mexico line, passing through Walsenburg, the county seat. This road is surfaced entirely through the county. Another state highway leaves this road at Walsenburg and extends west to Alamosa and Durango. Still another state highway leaves the North and South road at Walsenburg and runs northwest to a connection with the Rainbow Route at Texas Creek in Fremont county. There are numerous county roads, generally fairly well improved and sufficient at the present time to take care of the products of the farms and mines. The county has 628 miles of state and county highways, of which 129 miles is surfaced with gravel and sand clay, and 497 miles graded, the remainder being unimproved.

**Educational**—There are 84 public



A HUERFANO  
COUNTY COAL CAMP



district schools in the county, employing 151 teachers. The county high school at Walsenburg and the Union high school at La Veta each give a complete high school course, while the branch high school at Gardner gives two years of high school work. There are consolidated schools at La Veta and Apache. There are no private schools or colleges in the county. Average daily attendance in 1924 was 4,372. The cost per capita, based on average attendance, was \$65.92, compared with \$129.51 per capita for the state. Of the 48 school districts in the county, 13 had bonds outstanding on January 1, 1925, aggregating \$80,807.

**Climatological Data**—The climate in the eastern part of the county is comparatively mild, but subject to rather low temperatures and somewhat heavy snowfall in the winter. In the western and northern parts the climate is much more severe and the snowfall in the winter is extremely heavy. The rainfall varies from about 14 inches in the extreme east to more than 25 inches in the northwest. By far the greater part of the county, including nearly all the agricultural area, has a rainfall varying from 20 to 25 inches.

**Tourist Attractions**—This county has much beautiful scenery, especially in the mountainous areas in the west. The completion of the North and South road and the Spanish Trail has greatly increased automobile tourist travel in the last two years. The large coal mines located along these roads offer an added attraction to visitors. Huerfano butte, from which the county derives its name, is located in the valley of the Huerfano river, and is a point of considerable interest to travelers. The Spanish peaks, located on the southern boundary, are twin peaks

that serve as landmarks for many miles in all directions. The streams in this county are all well stocked with fish where their waters have not been muddied by mining operations.

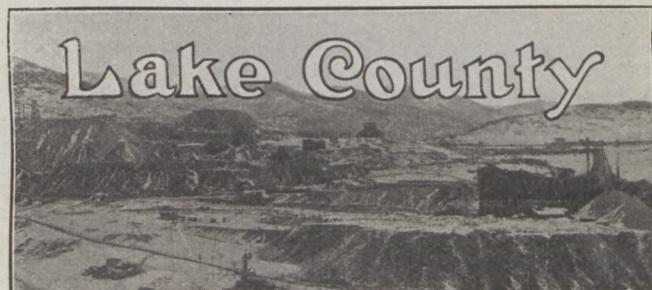
**Cities and Towns**—Two incorporated towns in the county are Walsenburg, population 4,500, on the Denver & Rio Grande Western and Colorado & Southern railroads, the county seat, and La Veta, in the western part, with a population of 850. The principal coal mining camps are Rouse, Walsen, Ravenwood, Farr, Pryor, Maitland, Pictou, and Oakdale. Post offices in the county are: Alamo, Apache, Cuchara Camps, Delcarbon, Farisita, Farr, Gardner, Gordon, Huerfano, Ideal, Lascar, La Veta, Lester, Maitland, Mustang, Oakview, Ojo, Pictou, Pryor, Rattlesnake Buttes, Ravenwood, Red Wing, Rouse, Sharpsdale, Solar, Tioga, Toltec, Walsen and Walsenburg.

**Taxation**—Assessed valuation of all property in 1923 was \$15,905,870 and revenue for all purposes was \$498,525. County levy was 8.5 mills, average town levy 13.46 mills, and average school levy 16.18 mills. Average total levy was 31.34 mills, compared with 27.30 mills average for the state. Taxes, licenses and permits, and special assessments in 1922 were \$14.59 per capita, compared with \$17.23 per capita for the state.

**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities here are in the direction of agricultural and mineral development. Although this county ranks second in coal output, there is a large area of coal land not yet developed. There is some mineralized area in the west which has never been worked. The agricultural territory is capable of supporting perhaps 50 per cent greater population than it now has.

#### GENERAL Description —

Lake county is an extremely rugged, mountainous area situated near the center of the state at the very crest of the main range of the Rocky mountains. It is comparatively insignificant in size, but is famous the world over as one of the richest known mineral producing districts. It is of an



irregular rectangular shape, 24 miles long, north and south, and about 22

miles wide at its southern boundary. It is bounded on the east by the Park range and on the west by the Saguache range, which here forms the Continental Divide. Its area is 237,440 acres, or a little more than one-third that of the state of Rhode Island. The surface is nearly all mountainous. The altitude ranges from about 8,935 feet, at the point where the Arkansas river crosses the south boundary, to 14,420 feet at the summit of Mt. Elbert, the highest point in Colorado. The county was organized in 1861 as one of the original counties of Colorado territory, being at that time much larger than at present. Leadville, 212 miles from Denver by rail, is the county seat.

**Surface and Soil**—The Arkansas river has its source in this county and the only agricultural land is that found in the upper valley of this stream. It lies, however, at an altitude of above 8,000 feet and agriculture is, of course, carried on to a very limited degree. The soil is very fertile and good crops of mountain hay, potatoes and various garden vegetables are produced in a very restricted area. The remainder of the county is extremely rugged and mountainous, containing the two highest peaks in Colorado, the summits of Mt. Elbert and Mt. Massive. No soil survey of this area is available.

**Population**—The population of Lake county has shown great variations. In 1880 it was 23,563, the county at that time including a much larger area than it does at present. In 1890 it was 14,663, and in 1900 it was 18,054. In 1910 the county had been reduced to its present limits and the population was 10,600. In 1920 the population was 6,630, the decrease being 37.5 per cent. This decrease has been due principally to a falling off of activity in the Leadville mining district. In 1920 the foreign-born population was 27 per cent of the total, compared with 35.2 per cent in 1910. This county has a larger percentage of foreign-born people among its inhabitants than any other county in Colorado. The principal foreign-born nationalities are Irish, Jugo-Slav, English and Austrian. The foreigners are employed principally in the metal mines at Leadville.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The headwaters of the Arkansas river are in this county, and this stream, with numerous small tributaries, supplies the drainage and abundant water for all necessary purposes. These streams have their sources in regions of high

precipitation and much of the water for irrigation of the lands in the Arkansas valley further south and east has its origin here.

**Industries**—Metal mining is the principal industry. It has been followed here for more than 60 years and the Leadville district is today the principal metal producing district in Colorado. There is some farming and stockraising in the upper Arkansas valley. Lumbering is carried on to a limited extent, principally to supply local demands. The county ranks 5th in metal mining and 11th in manufacturing among the 63 counties in the state, manufacturing being confined to milling, smelting and lumbering operations. In 1919 the census reported 14 manufacturing establishments with an annual payroll of \$569,798 and products valued at \$4,243,184. The value of all farm property on January 1, 1925, according to census reports, was \$156,300. Livestock on farms on that date included 193 horses, and 822 cattle.

**Crops**—Agriculture is carried on to a very limited extent, the principal crops being hay and small grains cut for hay. Hardy garden vegetables and head lettuce are grown to some extent, the latter being produced for market. The farm value of all crops in 1924 was \$88,212, of which \$87,742 was in hay.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are alunite, bismuth, clays, copper, cadmium (greenockite), gold, iron, lead, manganese, silver, zinc, topaz, granite, sandstone and other building stone. The mineral output in 1923 included \$271,504 in gold, \$537,787 in silver, \$75,231 in copper, \$393,747 in lead, and \$640,220 in zinc. Total output of these metals to the end of 1923 was \$425,784,550.

**Timber**—Heavy timber is rather abundant along the slopes, principally pine, spruce and aspen. The federal government has 159,226 acres in national forests in the county, or about 67 per cent of the total area.

**Land Classification**—Of the 237,440 acres in the county, 72,676 acres is patented and in private ownership. Of the patented land, 27,983 acres is grazing land, and 41,117 acres is non-productive metalliferous mining claims. The remainder consists of town lots, railway rights-of-way and miscellaneous. On July 1, 1924, the government had 7,227 acres open for homesteaders, of little value except for grazing pur-

poses. The state had 2,175 acres of unappropriated state lands on November 30, 1925, valuable principally for grazing purposes.

**Transportation**—The main line of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad runs north and south through the central part of the county by way of Leadville, crossing the Continental Divide at Tennessee pass, near the northern boundary. A branch of the Colorado & Southern railroad also enters Leadville and extends north and east to Breckenridge, in Summit county. Total mileage of railroads is 53 miles.

**Highways**—This county enjoys a large tourist travel, which passes principally over the Midland Trail, following the course of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad north and south through the county by way of Leadville, and crossing the Continental Divide at Tennessee pass. A branch of this road leaves the main line near Twin Lakes, crossing the divide at Independence pass and joining the main highway at Glenwood Springs. Another state highway runs north from Leadville into Summit county, where it joins highways to the northern part of the state and to Denver. There are numerous imperfectly improved county highways and mountain trails in the county sufficient to take care of the present mineral output. Of the 150 miles of state and county highways, 57 miles is surfaced with gravel and sand clay and 68 miles is graded.

**Educational**—There are 17 public district schools in the county, employing 51 teachers. The high school at Leadville gives a complete high school course. There are no private schools or colleges in the county. Average daily attendance in the public schools in 1924 was 949. Per capita cost was \$94.36, based on average attendance, compared with \$129.51 per capita for the state. The school districts have no bonded indebtedness.

**Climatological Data**—The rainfall here is extremely varied. In the upper Arkansas valley, from Leadville south to the county line, it ranges from 13 to 15 inches annually. A narrow belt surrounding this area has an average annual rainfall of from 15 to 20 inches. The mountainous areas in the north and west have an annual precipitation varying from 20 to 35 inches. The climate is somewhat severe. The summers are short and

warm and the winters are long, with extremely heavy snowfall in the high altitudes. Normal annual mean temperature at Leadville is 34.9 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Tourist Attractions**—Many features have combined to make Leadville a famous stopping point for tourists from all parts of the world. Its location is extremely picturesque, being near the foot of Mt. Massive, one of the two highest points in Colorado. It is also one of the highest cities in the world, lying at an altitude of 10,190 feet. The fact that some of the richest metal mines in the world are located here also makes it a point of keen interest to travelers. The surrounding territory is exceptionally rich in rugged mountain scenery, and the completion of the Midland Trail through this territory has greatly increased tourist travel. Another state highway running west from the Midland Trail across the south end of the county to Aspen, in Pitkin county, also opens up a very attractive mountain region.

**Cities and Towns**—Leadville, the county seat and only incorporated town, is located near the central part of the county, on the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad and the Colorado & Southern railroad. It has large smelters which give employment to a considerable number of inhabitants. The richest metal mines of the county are located within the city limits or immediately surrounding them. Its population is 5,000. Other post offices in the county are: Climax, Malta, Tennessee Pass and Twin Lakes.

**Taxation**—The assessed valuation of all property in 1923 was \$8,088,395 and revenue was \$275,928. The county mill levy was 9.67 mills; average town levy, 34.0 mills, and average school levy, 12.0 mills. Average total levy was 34.11 mills, compared with 27.30 mills for the state. Taxes, licenses and permits and special assessments in 1922 were \$17.65 per capita, compared with \$17.23 per capita for the state.

**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities offered here are in the line of mining development. Although mining has been carried on here for more than 60 years, metal values still are being opened up at great depth, and considerable areas, presumably carrying good metal values, have not yet been worked. All of the homestead

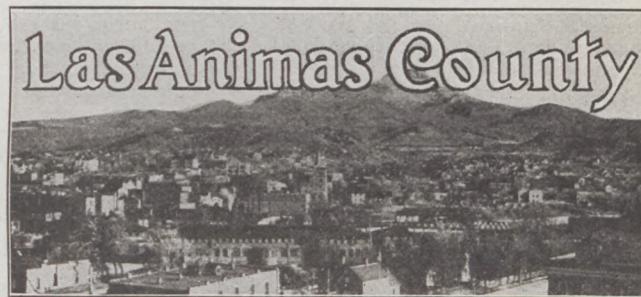
land and national forest area within the county is open to prospecting and patent under the mineral land laws, and much of it is highly mineralized. There are opportunities for the investment of capital in unwatering operations and the extension of tunnels in the principal mining areas of the Leadville district, where large bodies of ores exist at great depth. The work-

ing of such bodies is seriously interfered with by the strong flow of water encountered and the expense of disposing of it must be met generally by extensive and costly operations affecting many different properties. Good security is offered for money invested in such operations, which cost more in many cases than the property owners themselves can raise.

#### GENERAL Description —

Las Animas county lies in the southeastern part of the state, the southern boundary being formed by the state of New Mexico, and part of the eastern boundary by the Culebra mountains. It is of an irregular rectangular outline with an extreme length, east and west, of 116 miles, and an extreme width near the central part of about 55 miles. It is the largest county in Colorado. Its area is 3,077,760 acres, or about 7,000 acres less than that of the state of Connecticut. The surface is broken prairie in the east and in the west a plateau rising into a mountainous district west of Trinidad. The altitude varies from about 5,300 feet in the northeastern part, to more than 14,000 at the summits of the highest peaks in the Culebra range. The county was organized in 1866 from a part of Huerfano county. Trinidad, 210 miles from Denver by rail, is the county seat.

**Surface and Soil**—The eastern part of the county lies in the great prairie district of eastern Colorado. It is crossed by numerous small streams, most of them having their sources in districts of comparatively light rainfall and being dry a good part of the summer. These streams, as a usual thing, are but narrow valleys or canons, making the country a sort of broken table land. The surface rises gradually toward the west and the territory east and north of Trinidad is crossed by the valleys of the Arkansas and Purgatoire rivers, Timpas creek and a few other streams. West of Trinidad the country becomes much more broken, culminating in the Spanish peaks on the north, and the Cule-



bra range on the west. Most of the eastern part of the county is suitable for cultivation and where irrigation is possible excellent crops are raised. The soil is principally a sandy loam and is very fertile. The rainfall in most of the eastern part of the county is sufficient to produce fair crops without irrigation. No soil survey of this county is available.

**Population**—The population of this county has grown very rapidly. In 1900 it was 21,842 and in 1910 it had increased to 33,643. In 1920 it was 38,975, the increase during the decade being 15.8 per cent. The census bureau estimated the population in 1925 at 41,996. In 1920 the foreign born white population was 15.3 per cent of the total, compared with 23.9 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Italian, Mexican, Austrian and English.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The surface slopes gradually from the mountainous districts in the southwest toward the Arkansas river in the northeast. It lies almost wholly in the Arkansas river watershed. The principal streams are the Apishapa and Purgatoire rivers, which have their sources in the southwest, where the rainfall is comparatively heavy. Carrizo creek and other small tributaries of the Cimarron river have their sources in the southeastern part. Apishapa and Purgatoire rivers and Tim-

pas creek carry a considerable supply of water and are the principal sources of irrigation. The other streams, as a general thing, do not carry a reliable supply of water. Water for domestic purposes is obtained from wells and is reached at depths varying from 10 to 500 feet. The underground water supply in the eastern part of the county is uncertain and irregular, some districts having no known underground supply at reasonable depths.

**Industries**—The principal industries are coal mining, agriculture, stockraising, dairying, manufacturing and lumbering. Las Animas county produces more coal than any other county in the state. The coal mines are located along the railroads, principally north and west of Trinidad. The coal deposits underlie the entire western third of the county. The coal is bituminous, of good quality, containing much good coking coal. Manufacturing is carried on principally in the city of Trinidad. The county is one of the leading stock-raising districts in the state, cattle and sheep being the principal livestock. Excellent pasture is available, both in the mountain valleys, in the western part of the county, and on the wide prairie land in the east. Agriculture is carried on largely in the valleys in the north-central and central parts, though in the past three or four years there has been rapid extension of farming without irrigation in the eastern part of the county. Coal output in 1924 was 3,157,988 tons. In 1919 the county had 60 manufacturing establishments with an annual payroll of \$844,712 and output valued at \$3,943,416. The value of all farm property on January 1, 1925, was \$8,798,980 and the number of livestock on farms included 11,577 horses, 48,871 cattle and 3,627 swine.

**Crops**—The principal crops, in the order of their importance, are hay, wheat, corn, sorghums, beans, sugar beets, potatoes and garden vegetables. The farm value of all crops in 1924 was \$1,105,748, of which \$315,223 was in hay, \$200,945 in wheat, \$186,207 in sorghums, and \$174,522 in corn. Of the total area in cultivation, 26.0 per cent was in corn, 20.1 per cent in sorghums, 18.4 per cent in winter wheat, 11.6 per cent in alfalfa, and 2.7 per cent in spring wheat. Average yields per acre over a five-year period were, winter wheat, 9.4 bushels; spring wheat, 12.6 bushels; corn, 15.6 bush-

els; oats, 21.3 bushels; barley, 17.8 bushels, and potatoes, 52.6 bushels.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays, coal, graphite, sand, granite, sandstone, limestone, basalt and other valuable stone.

**Lumber**—Considerable heavy timber is found in the western part of the county. It is principally pine, spruce and cedar. The federal government has 27,398 acres in national forests in the county.

**Land Classification**—Of the 3,077,760 acres in the county, 2,225,839 acres, or 72 per cent, is in private ownership, including 35,290 acres of irrigated land, 102,818 acres of dry farming land, 2,024,537 acres of grazing land, 3,943 acres of productive and 42,087 acres of non-productive coal land. Government land open to homesteaders on July 1, 1924, was 51,739 acres, and unappropriated state land on December 1, 1924, was 153,891 acres.

**Transportation**—The western and central parts of this county are well supplied with railroads, but the eastern part is entirely without railroad transportation. The Colorado & Southern and the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroads run south from Pueblo through this county to Trinidad. The Colorado & Southern railroad extends southeast from Trinidad into New Mexico and Texas. The main line of the Santa Fe runs southwest from La Junta to Trinidad and south into New Mexico. The Colorado & Wyoming railroad extends west from Trinidad, serving the principal coal mining camps in this section of the county. Numerous branch lines from the Santa Fe, Colorado & Southern and Denver & Rio Grande Western serve the mining camps near to the main lines of these roads. The county has a total of 233 miles of railroad.

**Highways**—The principal state highway is the so-called North and South road, which runs north and south through the county by way of Trinidad. This road is surfaced entirely through the county. The Santa Fe Trail follows in a general way the line of the Santa Fe railroad from La Junta in Otero county to Trinidad. A state highway leaves this road a few miles east of Trinidad and runs southeast into New Mexico. Another state highway, especially popular among tourists, extends through the foothills through the western part of the county. An important highway serving the

agricultural territory in the eastern part of the county is that which runs directly west from a connection with the Dallas-Canadian-Denver highway, south of Springfield, and reaches the Colorado & Southern railroad at Trinchera. There are numerous county roads, particularly in the eastern part of the county, generally unimproved but capable for the present of taking care of the agricultural development. The county has a total of 6,000 miles of state and county highways, of which five miles is hard surfaced, 99 miles surfaced with gravel and sand clay, and 1,198 miles graded, the remainder being unimproved.

**Educational**—There are 175 public district schools in the county, employing 417 teachers. Four years of high school work are given in the high schools at Trinidad, Primero, Branson and Sopris. Three years of high school work are given at the schools at Hoehne, Berwind and Aguilar and two years in the schools at Rinn, Thatcher and Trinchera. Trinidad has an academy and a business college. Average daily attendance in the public schools in 1924 was 7,687. Average annual cost in 1924, based on attendance, was \$120.24 per capita, compared with \$129.51 per capita for the state. Thirty-two of the 120 school districts in the county had bonds outstanding on January 1, 1925, the aggregate being \$535,000.

**Climatological Data**—The rainfall in the agricultural districts, north and east of Trinidad, varies from 12 to 15 inches. In the eastern part of the county the rainfall varies from 15 to 17 inches, and in the western part the precipitation increases rather rapidly, varying from 12 to 25 inches. The climate in the north and east is comparatively mild, with long, warm summers and open winters. In the western part the climate is more severe. The snowfall in the higher altitudes in the extreme west is very heavy.

The normal annual mean temperature at Trinidad is 51.4 degrees Fahrenheit. The average number of days between killing frosts is 160, the last killing frost in the spring occurring between April 19 and June 2, and first in the fall between September 30 and October 26.

**Tourist Attractions**—Trinidad and surrounding territory has been a popular stopping place for tourists for a great many years. Recently the completion of several good highways in

this section has greatly increased automobile tourist travel. The city of Trinidad has recently acquired a scenic mountain park located in what is known as the Stonewall gap, west of the city, in the heart of one of the most attractive scenic regions in the west. This park may be reached by a delightful automobile drive of 35 miles through beautiful canons, following the course of picturesque mountain streams the entire distance.

**Cities and Towns**—The county has five incorporated towns, of which Trinidad, the county seat, is the largest and most important. It ranks 6th among Colorado cities in population. It was originally settled largely by Mexicans and still has a considerable Mexican population. The census bureau gave it a population of 10,204 in 1910, and 10,906 in 1920. The other incorporated towns are, Aguilar, population 1,500; Branson, population 300; Delagua, population 1,100, and Hastings, population 325. There are several unincorporated coal mining towns of importance, including Morley, Sopris, Primero, Segundo, and Tercio. Post offices in the county are: Aguilar, Alcreek, Andrix, Augusta, Barela, Berwind, Boncarbo, Bowen, Branson, Brodhead, Clanda, Cokedale, Dalerose, Delagua, Delhi, El Moro, Engleburg, Flues, Forbes, Gulnare, Hastings, Hoehne, Hoopup, Kant, Kazan, Kim, Lone Oak, Ludlow, Model, Morley, Officer, Patches, Patt, Plum Valley, Primero, Rapson, Rugby, Segundo, Sopris, Starkville, Tobasco, Tercio, Thatcher, Tobe, Tollerburg, Trinchera, Trinidad, Troy, Valdez, Vallorso, Vilegreen, Weston, Wornington, Yeiser, and Yetta.

**Taxation**—The assessed valuation of all property in 1923 was \$43,590,788, and revenue \$1,441,573. The county levy was 7.87 mills; average town levy, 18.33 mills, and average school levy, 16.42 mills. The average total levy was 33.07 mills, which compares with 27.30 mills for the state. Taxes, licenses and permits and special assessments in 1922 were \$12.92 per capita, compared with \$17.23 per capita for the state.

**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities offered here are in the line of agriculture, manufacturing and mining development. There is agricultural land sufficient to support a farming population twice as large as the county now has. Although Las Animas is the principal coal mining county in

the state, there are still vast deposits of good coal that have not yet been touched. The further development of

the farming and mining industries will increase the market for manufactured products.

**G E N E R A L Description**—  
Otero county is in the southeastern part of the state, in the heart of the Arkansas valley. It is of an irregular rectangular outline, 42 miles long, north and south, at the eastern boundary, and 36 miles wide.

The area is 762,080 acres, or about 80,000 acres more than that of the state of Rhode Island. The surface is a level or broken prairie traversed by the valley of the Arkansas and narrower valleys of several tributaries, chief of which is Timpas creek. The altitude varies from about 4,000 feet at the point where the Arkansas river crosses the eastern boundary to 5,100 feet in the southwest. The county was organized in 1889 from a part of Bent county and was named for Miguel Otero, one of the founders of the town of La Junta. La Junta, 182 miles from Denver by rail, is the county seat.

**Surface and Soil**—The Arkansas river flows across the northern part of the county. The valley here is broad and contains a large amount of good, level agricultural land. The soil in the valley of the Arkansas and along the tributaries is an alluvial loam or sandy loam, with comparatively little adobe. On the higher levels it is a sandy loam, varying considerably in texture and color. There are about nine townships in the county too rugged for cultivation, except a few very fertile valleys; most of this, which is suitable only for grazing purposes, lies in the southern part of the county and is well supplied with springs. A detailed soil survey of most of the irrigated area in this county has been made by the bureau of soils of the United States department of agriculture.

**Population**—The population of this county in 1920 was 22,623. The census bureau estimated the population in 1925 at 26,513. Its population in 1910 is not available, since Crowley county was created from a part of the larger



county of Otero in 1911. In 1910, however, the population of the larger county, which now includes both Crowley and Otero, was 20,201. The foreign-born white population in 1920 was 9.7 per cent of the total, compared with 9.5 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Mexican, Russian, German and Canadian.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The Arkansas river and its tributaries drain the county and furnish practically all the water for irrigation. The principal tributaries are the Purgatoire river and Timpas creek, on the south, Apishapa creek, on the extreme west, and Horse creek, on the northeast. The water rights here are among the oldest in Colorado and supply a larger proportion of the area of the county with irrigation water than is supplied in any other county in this part of the state. Water for domestic purposes is obtained principally from artesian wells and is reached at depths varying from 430 to 1,100 feet in the irrigated districts. Stock water is found at shallow depths.

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming, stockraising, stockfeeding and manufacturing. Farming is carried on principally in the Arkansas valley and in the smaller valleys of the various tributary streams. The development of the non-irrigated districts has been rapid in the past half dozen years, and success here has been such as to justify the belief that development will be even more rapid in the coming decade. The value of all farm property on January 1, 1925, according to the census, was \$14,455,534. This has long been one of the principal stockraising counties in the state, the

principal stock being cattle and sheep. Large numbers of cattle and sheep are shipped into the county every fall to be fattened for market. Livestock on farms on January 1, 1925, included 8,165 horses, 23,688 cattle, and 10,098 swine. A sugar factory belonging to the American Beet Sugar company is located at Rocky Ford and one belonging to the Holly Sugar company at Swink. There are also alfalfa meal mills at both of these places. The canning of fruits and vegetables is an important industry here, large canning factories being located at Manzanola, Fowler and Rocky Ford. There is also a large flour mill located at La Junta. The county had 57 manufacturing establishments in 1919, with an annual payroll of \$1,667,381 and output valued at \$8,766,757.

**Crops**—The principal crops in the order of their importance are sugar beets, hay, corn, wheat, fruits, oats, barley, potatoes and miscellaneous crops. Cantaloupes and other melons, cucumbers and seed crops are grown extensively. The farm value of all crops in 1924 was \$4,380,057, of which \$1,455,793 was in miscellaneous crops including cantaloupes, \$1,456,595 in sugar beets, \$523,205 in hay, \$418,396 in corn, \$164,188 in wheat, and \$80,031 in oats. Of the total area in cultivation, 25.6 per cent was in alfalfa, 18.7 per cent in sugar beets, 9.4 per cent in sorghums, 19.5 per cent in corn, 2.81 per cent in winter wheat, 2.5 per cent in spring wheat, and 3.9 per cent in oats. Average yields per acre over a five-year period were, winter wheat, 30.3 bushels; spring wheat, 24.3 bushels; corn, 31.3 bushels; oats, 42.0 bushels; potatoes, 68.3 bushels; and barley, 35.1 bushels.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays, including some fire clay; gravel, building sand, building stone and cement materials.

**Land Classification**—Of the 805,760 acres in the county, 544,766 acres, or 67.6 per cent, is patented land in private ownership and includes 723 acres of fruit land, 78,913 acres of irrigated land, 24,937 acres of dry farming land, and 435,683 acres of grazing land, the remainder being in town lots and railway rights-of-way. Government land open to homesteaders on July 1, 1924, was 1,396 acres and unappropriated state land on December 1, 1924, was 117,277 acres.

**Transportation**—The main line of the Santa Fe railroad enters this

county along the Arkansas river in the east. At La Junta it branches, one line following the Arkansas river west to Pueblo, and the main line running southwest along Timpas creek to Trinidad and on to California. The Arkansas Valley branch of this system runs north of the river to a junction with the main line at Swink. The county has 92 miles of railroad.

**Highways**—The principal state highway is the Santa Fe Trail, which follows the course of the Santa Fe railroad east and west through the county, with an alternate route extending southwest from La Junta to a connection with the North and South road at Trinidad. There are numerous county roads generally poorly improved or unimproved, but sufficient at the present time to take care of the agricultural development. The county has 1,580 miles of state and county highways, of which eight miles is hard surfaced, 77 miles surfaced with gravel and sand clay, and 645 miles graded, the remainder being unimproved.

**Educational**—There are 57 public district schools in the county, employing 236 teachers. The high schools at Fowler, Manzanola, Rocky Ford, La Junta and Cheraw each give a complete high school course, and the school at Swink gives three years of high school work. There is a consolidated school at Cheraw. There are no private schools or colleges in the county. Average daily attendance in 1924 was 4,918. Cost per capita, based on average attendance, was \$114.16, compared with \$129.51 per capita for the state. Of the 21 school districts in the county, 17 had bonds outstanding on January 1, 1925, aggregating \$652,400.

**Climatological Data**—The climate here, as in other sections of the Arkansas valley, is mild and healthful, and especially adapted for general agriculture and stockraising. The summers are long and warmer than in most other sections of the state, and the winters are comparatively short and mild. The rainfall varies from 12 to 16 inches, being heaviest in the extreme southeast. The normal annual mean temperature at Rocky Ford is 52.2 degrees Fahrenheit. The average number of days between killing frosts is 157, the last killing frost in the spring usually occurring between April 20 and June 2, and the first in the fall between September 23 and October 27.

**Tourist Attractions**—The improve-

ment of the Santa Fe Trail through this county has greatly increased automobile tourist travel from the east by this route. Possibly no other route to Colorado is more generously patronized than this one. There are no points of special scenic interest in the county, but travelers from the east always show much interest in the development of irrigation as it is seen in this valley.

**Cities and Towns**—The incorporated towns are as follows: La Junta, the county seat and principal town, located on the Arkansas river, at the junction of two branches of the Santa Fe railroad. It is an important railway town and the principal shipping point in the Arkansas valley. Its population is 6,000. Rocky Ford, also on the Santa Fe railroad, is the second town in the county and is the center of a very prosperous agricultural district. The Rocky Ford cantaloupe, which is the standard of excellence all over the country, takes its name from this city, in the vicinity of which it is extensively cultivated. Its population is 4,300. Swink, between La Junta and Rocky Ford, on the Santa Fe railroad, is an important agricultural town with a population of 450. Manzanola is the center of the most prosperous fruit and vegetable growing district in this section, and is noted for its canning industry. Its population is 650. Among

the other towns in the county are Fowler, population 1,200, near the western boundary, noted for its pure spring water, the Crewsdale dairy and the Fowler creamery, and Cheraw, population 250. Post offices in the county are: Ayer, Bloom, Cheraw, Fowler, Higbee, La Junta, Manzanola, Minderman, Rocky Ford, Swink, and Vroman.

**Taxation**—The assessed valuation of all property in 1923 was \$33,701,540 and revenue for all purposes was \$967,645. The county levy was 5.0 mills; average town levy, 15.12 mills, and average school levy, 15.33 mills. Average of all levies was 28.71 mills, compared with an average of 27.3 mills for the state. Taxes, licenses and permits and special assessments in 1922 were \$13.55 per capita, compared with \$17.23 per capita for the state.

**Special Opportunities** — Although agricultural development in this country has been more rapid than in most counties in the state, there is still considerable room for extension along this line. There is a considerable area of good non-irrigated land not yet broken and the experience of farmers on land of this nature in the county in the last few years has shown that success may be obtained here by following improved agricultural methods and especially by keeping dairy cattle and raising forage crops.

**GENERAL Description**—Prowers county lies in the southeastern part of the state, including a large part of the Arkansas valley. The eastern boundary is formed by the state of Kansas. It is an almost perfect rectangle

48 miles long, north and south, and 37 miles wide. Its area is 1,043,200 acres, or about 200,000 acres less than the state of Rhode Island. The surface is principally level valley in the north and a somewhat higher broken prairie in the south. The altitude varies from 3,200 feet at the point where the Arkansas river crosses the eastern boundary, to about 4,000 feet in the southwest: Prowers county was organ-



ized in 1889 from a part of Bent county and was named in honor of John W. Powers, an early associate of William Bent and a representative in the Colorado legislature in 1881-1882. Lamar, 235 miles from Denver by rail, is the county seat.

**Surface and Soil**—The Arkansas river crosses the northern part of the county and its broad valley contains practically all of the irrigated farm

land. South of this river the surface rises into broken table land containing much good non-irrigated farming territory. The soil in the valley is chiefly underlaid with Benton and Dakota sediments, and is principally an alluvial or sandy loam with restricted areas of adobe and other harder soils. On the uplands the soil is principally a sandy loam, very fertile and yielding readily to cultivation. It is very retentive of moisture and in recent years has proved to be of excellent agricultural character. There is a detailed soil survey of this area available, to be found in the annual report of the bureau of soils, department of agriculture, for the year 1902.

**Population**—The population of this county has grown rapidly. In 1890 it was 1,969; in 1900 it was 3,766; in 1910 it was 9,520 and in 1920 it was 13,845, the increase for the decade being 45.4 per cent. The census bureau estimated the population in 1925 at 16,293. In 1920 the foreign-born white population was 10.4 per cent of the total, compared with 8.2 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Mexican, Russian, German and English.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The Arkansas river and its tributaries drain the county and furnish much of the water for irrigation. A group of large reservoirs lie in the southern part of Kiowa county and extend into northern Prowers county, furnishing water for the irrigation of a large area of land. North of Lamar there is one of the most extensive systems of irrigation from reservoirs in the state. Water for domestic purposes is obtained principally from wells and is reached at depths varying from 10 to 75 feet.

**Industries**—The principal industries are farming, stockraising, stockfeeding, dairy farming and manufacturing. Until recently farming operations were confined largely to the Arkansas valley and the southern part of the county was used exclusively for grazing purposes. In recent years farming without irrigation has been extended rather rapidly in the south and is proving very successful. The value of all farm property on January 1, 1925, as reported by the census, was \$11,982,591. A beet sugar factory belonging to the American Beet Sugar company is located at Lamar. The Helvetia Milk Condensing company has a large condensery at Lamar. The plant has a capacity sufficient to handle the pro-

duction of 12,000 dairy cattle, or 150,000 pounds of milk daily. There are large alfalfa meal mills located at Hartman, Bristol, Kornman, Wiley, May Valley, Holly and Millwood. A flour mill, one of the largest in the state, is located at Lamar, milling local wheat, which is raised extensively in Prowers and adjoining counties. The 1919 census reported 49 manufacturing establishments in the county, with an annual payroll of \$231,633 and an output valued at \$3,825,014. Livestock on farms on January 1, 1925, included 11,202 horses, 23,455 cattle, and 8,849 swine.

**Crops**—The principal crops in the order of their importance, are hay, sugar beets, wheat, corn, sorghums, barley, miscellaneous crops, including cantaloupes, oats, fruits, potatoes and broom corn. The farm value of all crops in 1914 was \$3,574,543, of which \$981,415 was in hay, \$765,860 in sugar beets, \$610,540 in wheat, \$608,308 in corn, \$318,182 in sorghums, \$115,050 in barley, and \$109,953 in miscellaneous crops. Of the total area of agricultural lands in the county, 10 per cent is irrigated. Of the total area in cultivation in 1924, 23.1 per cent was in alfalfa, 19.4 per cent in sorghums, 18.7 per cent in corn, 18.2 per cent in winter wheat, 2.5 per cent in spring wheat, 4.8 per cent in sugar beets, and 3.9 per cent in barley. Average irrigated and non-irrigated yields over a period of five years were, winter wheat, 17.7 bushels; spring wheat, 14.2 bushels; corn, 24.2 bushels; oats, 32.5 bushels; barley, 23.3 bushels, and potatoes, 58.4 bushels.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays, glass sand, building sand, stone of several varieties and valuable shale.

**Land Classification**—Of the 1,043,200 acres in the county, 948,745 acres, or 91 per cent, is patented land in private ownership, including 96,029 acres of irrigated land, 2,600 acres of natural hay land, 598,811 acres of dry farming land, and 248,224 acres of grazing land, the remainder being in town lots, railway rights-of-way, etc. On July 1, 1924, there was only 485 acres of homestead land open to entry, and on December 1, 1924, there was 50,512 acres of unappropriated state lands.

**Transportation**—The main line of the Santa Fe railroad follows the Arkansas river through the county, running south of the river most of the way. The Arkansas Valley branch of

this road leaves the main line at Holly and runs through the irrigated district north of the river. It is connected with the main line by a branch road extending from Lamar to Kornman Junction and north to May Valley. The county has 80 miles of railroad.

**Highways**—The principal state highway is the Santa Fe Trail, which follows in a general way the course of the Santa Fe railroad and the Arkansas river east and west through the county. It is crossed by the North and South highway at Granada and Lamar. Another north and south highway extends south from Carlton on the Santa Fe Trail into Baca county. There are numerous imperfectly improved county roads generally sufficient to take care of the present agricultural development. The county has a total of 930 miles of state and county highways, of which 163 miles is surfaced with gravel and sand clay, and 629 miles graded, the remainder being unimproved.

**Educational**—There are 66 public district schools in the county, employing 160 teachers. The Union high schools at Lamar, Holly, Wiley and Granada each give a complete high school course, and two years of high school work are given in the school at Hartman. There are consolidated schools at Wiley, Bristol, Granada, Hartman and Holly. There are an academy and a business college at Lamar. Average daily attendance in the public schools in 1924 was 2,884. Average annual cost per capita in 1924, based on average attendance, was \$120.67, compared with \$129.51 per capita for the state. Of the 48 school districts in the county, 21 had bond issues outstanding on January 1, 1925, for an aggregate amount of \$433,000.

**Climatological Data**—The climate here, as in other sections of the Arkansas valley, is mild and open, very healthful and well adapted to general farming and stockraising, there being more full days of sunshine than at Phoenix, Arizona, or Los Angeles, as shown by the records of the United States weather bureau. The summers are longer than in most sections of Colorado; the winters are comparatively short and mild. The rainfall in the northern part of the county varies from 12 to 15 inches and in the southern part from 15 to 18 inches. Normal annual mean temperature at Holly is 53.8 degrees Fahrenheit, and at Lamar, 54.4 degrees. Average number of days

between killing frosts at Holly is 164, and at Lamar, 171. Last killing frosts in the spring usually occur between April 2 and June 1, and first in the fall between September 15 and October 29.

**Tourist Attractions**—The Santa Fe Trail is one of the principal routes for automobile tourist travel from the east into Colorado. In recent years there has been considerable tourist travel from points in this county, principally Holly and Lamar, south into Baca county. Although Prowers county has none of the rugged scenery which attracts tourists in large numbers to Colorado, it has an agricultural development under irrigation not surpassed in any other part of the country, and tourists often spend many days traveling through the farming districts.

**Cities and Towns**—There are five incorporated towns in the county as follows: Lamar, the county seat and principal city, is on the Santa Fe railroad in the western part of the county. Its population is 4,000 and elevation 3,500 feet. It has water works, sewer system, electric light and power plant, public heating plant and a 1,025 barrel flour mill. A power company, which has its headquarters and power plant at Lamar, has transmission lines to carry electric light into railroad towns in both Bent and Prowers counties, with distributing plants and lines to provide electric light and power for hundreds of farmers in many of the smaller rural communities. Holly, on the Santa Fe near the eastern boundary, is the center of a prosperous agricultural district and is the second city in size. It has a good system of water works, sewer system, electric light and power and is an ideal residence city. Its population is 1,150. Granada, on the main line of the Santa Fe, has a population of 350; Hartman, on the Arkansas valley branch, has a population of 200; and Wiley, 600. Post offices in the county are: Amity, Bristol, Carlton, Cheneycenter, Granada, Hartman, Holly, Lamar and Wiley.

**Taxation**—The assessed valuation of all property in 1923 was \$23,190,390 and revenue for all purposes was \$545,079. The county levy was 4.91 mills; average town levy, 14.67 mills; and average school levy, 12.23 mills. Average of all levies was 23.50 mills, compared with 27.30 mills for the state. Taxes, licenses and permits and special assessments in 1922 were \$14.23

per capita, compared with \$17.23 per capita for the state.

**Special Opportunities**—The principal opportunities offered here are along the line of agricultural and manufacturing development. A large area of good farming land in the southern part of the county is not yet in cultivation and the experience of good farmers in this territory in the past few years has proved that farming without irrigation, especially with dairy farming as a basis of operation, will be uni-

formly successful. There are extensive deposits of good glass sand near Lamar, which have been thoroughly tested and proved to be equal to the best glass sand found in this country. Drilling for oil has been in progress in this locality for a good while. If oil or gas should be developed in commercial quantities the establishment of glass factories would be especially profitable. There is considerable good building stone, principally sandstone, in the county.

#### **GENERAL Description —**

Pueblo county lies in the south-central part of the state and includes a portion of the Arkansas valley, one of the best known agricultural areas in Colorado. It has an irregular outline with an extreme length, north and south, of 54 miles on the eastern boundary, and an extreme width of 54 miles. Its area is 1,557,120 acres, or a little more than one-half that of the state of Connecticut. The surface is principally a broken plain, through the central part of which passes the valley of the Arkansas river. In the southwest it rises gradually into a rugged foothill district, the altitude varying from about 4,350 feet, at the point where the Arkansas river crosses the eastern boundary, to a little over 8,000 feet in the extreme southwest. Pueblo was one of the original 17 counties comprising Colorado Territory. The city of Pueblo, 119 miles from Denver by rail, is the county seat.

**Surface and Soil**—The soil is principally a sandy loam in the more elevated prairie sections and an alluvial or clayey loam in the Arkansas valley. There are some districts having considerable slate and shale, much cut by erosions and unsuitable for cultivation. These are of limited area. Most of the prairie part of the county is comparatively level. In the southwest the surface is hilly and mountainous, with numerous small mountain valleys containing some good farm land and a large amount of fine grazing area. No soil survey of this county is available.



**Population**—The population of Pueblo county has grown very rapidly. In 1880 it was 7,617; in 1890 it was 31,491; in 1900 it was 34,448; in 1910 it was 52,223 and in 1920 it was 57,638, the increase for the decade being 10.4 per cent. The census bureau estimated the population in 1925 at 60,705. In 1920 the foreign-born white population was 17.4 per cent of the total, compared with 18.5 per cent in 1910. The principal foreign nationalities are Mexican, Italian, Austrian and Jugo-Slav.

**Drainage and Water Supply**—The Arkansas river flows through the central part of the county and, with its tributaries, furnishes the drainage and supplies water for irrigation. The Arkansas river and most of the tributary streams carry plenty of water the year round, the supply being sufficient for irrigation of much more land than is now being watered. In the agricultural districts water for domestic purposes is obtained largely from wells.

**Industries**—The principal industries are manufacturing, agriculture, stock-raising, dairying and quarrying. Manufacturing is confined largely to the city of Pueblo and its suburbs. The steel mills of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company are located here, employing over 6,000 men. There are more than 140 other manufacturing establishments,

representing about 30 different lines of the manufacturing industry. It is an important packing center, has the largest brick and tile works west of the Mississippi river and the largest tent and awning factory in the West. Its factories employ about 7,500 men and have an annual pay roll of about \$9,000,000, with an output valued at approximately \$50,000,000. Farming under irrigation is confined to the valley of the Arkansas river and the narrower valleys of a few of its tributaries. Farming without irrigation is being rapidly extended on the prairie lands north and south of the river and is proving almost uniformly successful. The dairying industry has developed very rapidly in the past half dozen years. The value of all farm property on January 1, 1925, as reported by the census bureau, was \$14,184,494. Livestock on farms included 8,117 horses, 31,343 cattle, and 10,156 swine. Important quarries are located on Turkey creek, in the northeastern part of the county; at Lime, south of Pueblo, and at various other places. Pueblo county sandstone, quarried on Turkey creek, was used for the construction of the Pueblo county courthouse and for numerous other structures in the state. Marble from Pueblo county has also been used extensively for building purposes. The Colorado Fuel & Iron company quarries large amounts of limestone annually, principally from the deposits in the vicinity of the town of Lime.

**Crops**—The principal crops, in the order of their importance, are hay, corn, sugar beets, wheat, beans, sorghums, oats, fruits, barley and rye. The farm value of all crops in 1924 was \$2,556,514, of which \$695,440 was in hay, \$56,941 in corn, \$381,887 in sugar beets, \$386,257 in miscellaneous crops, \$192,859 in wheat, \$136,954 in beans and \$74,513 in sorghums. Of the total area in cultivation in 1924, 31.0 per cent was in corn, 6.8 per cent in winter wheat, 2.5 per cent in spring wheat, 25.8 per cent in alfalfa, 7.2 per cent in sorghums, 1.3 per cent in barley, 3.7 per cent in oats and 3.8 per cent in sugar beets. Average irrigated and non-irrigated yields per acre over a period of five years were winter wheat, 13.0 bushels; spring wheat, 18.9 bushels; corn, 23.4 bushels; oats, 30.6 bushels; barley, 25.5 bushels; potatoes, 38.7 bushels.

**Mineral Resources**—The known minerals are clays of many varieties, in-

cluding excellent fireclay; good glass sand, marble, granite, limestone, sandstone and other building stones. Drilling for petroleum has been done in several parts of the county and favorable showings of oil have been found, but no commercial production of oil has been accomplished.

**Timber**—There is some timber in the southeastern part, principally pine, cedar and spruce. The government has 35,456 acres in national forests in the county.

**Land Classification**—Of the 1,557,120 acres in the county, 1,141,393 acres, or 73 per cent, is patented land in private ownership, including 5,628 acres of fruit land, 40,532 acres of irrigated land, 79,608 acres of dry farming land and 992,243 acres of grazing land, the remainder being in town lots, railway rights-of-way, etc. Government land open to homestead entry on July 1, 1924, was 3,250 acres, in isolated tracts of little economic value. The state had 228,051 acres of unappropriated land on December 1, 1924, including a considerable amount of good agricultural land which may be purchased through the State Land board on favorable terms.

**Transportation**—This county is well served by railroads, the city of Pueblo being one of the most important railroad centers in the west. The Santa Fe and Missouri Pacific railroads follow the course of the Arkansas river west to Pueblo, and the Santa Fe runs west to Canon City and north to Colorado Springs and Denver. The Colorado & Southern and Denver & Rio Grande Western railroads run north and south through the county by way of Pueblo to Trinidad, in Las Animas county. The main line of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad runs west from Pueblo along the Arkansas river to Canon City and Leadville and thence west to Grand Junction and Salt Lake City. The Colorado-Kansas railroad runs northeast from Pueblo to the stone quarries in upper Turkey creek, in the vicinity of Stone City. The county has a total of 229 miles of railroad.

**Highways**—Pueblo, the county seat, is the center of the net-work of highly improved highways, chief of which are the North and South road and the Santa Fe Trail, both of which are surfaced. There are three state highways leading west out of Pueblo, two leading east, one north and one south. There are numerous county highways,

some of which are well improved, but most of which are unimproved. They are generally, however, capable of handling the present agricultural output. The county has 2,108 miles of state and county highways, of which 8.5 miles is hard surfaced, 335 miles surfaced with gravel and sand clay, and 952 miles graded, the remainder being unimproved.

**Educational**—There are 119 public district schools in the county, employing 494 teachers. A complete high school course is offered in two high schools at Pueblo, the Union high school near Pueblo and the high school at Boone. Three years of high school work are given in school district No. 4 near Pueblo, at Avondale, Beulah and district No. 12, also near Pueblo. Two years of high school work are given at North Avondale, Lime and district No. 14 near Beulah, and one year of high school work at district No. 50 near Avondale. There are consolidated schools at Boone, Rye, Pinon, North Avondale and Avondale. There are a number of private schools and a business college located at Pueblo. The average daily attendance in the public schools in 1924 was 10,113. The average annual cost per pupil, based on average attendance, was \$114.97, compared with an average for the state of \$129.51. Of the 44 school districts in the county, 21 had bond issues outstanding on January 1, 1925, aggregating \$1,223,800.

**Climatological Data**—The climate is mild and equable. The city of Pueblo and the Arkansas valley have a very high percentage of sunshine, the average being more than 300 sunshiny days annually. The rainfall in the northern and eastern parts of the county, including the Arkansas valley, averages from 12 to 15 inches annually. In the southwest it increases very rapidly, being more than 25 inches annually in the extreme southwestern corner. The normal mean annual temperature at Pueblo is 51.2 degrees Fahrenheit. The average number of days between killing frosts is 168, the last killing frost in the spring usually occurring between April 19 and June 2, and first in the fall between October 1 and October 26.

**Tourist Attractions**—Automobile travel to this county is very heavy and is increasing steadily. The Santa Fe Trail is one of the most popular automobile tourist routes from the east into Colorado and the Midland Trail is perhaps the most heavily traveled

automobile highway across the Rocky mountains in Colorado. In the southeastern part of the county there is an attractive scenic mountainous area which is reached by good automobile highways from Pueblo. Beulah and Rye are the most important tourist points in this section of the state.

**Cities and Towns**—The only incorporated town in the county is Pueblo, the county seat, the second city in Colorado in size, one of the largest manufacturing centers in the west, and a railroad point of great and growing importance. It has a large wholesale and jobbing trade and its trade territory is being steadily extended. Its population is 45,000, and elevation above sea level 4,700 feet. Among the other important towns are Boone, Avondale and Nepesta, in the Arkansas valley; Eden and Pinon, on Fountain creek; Lime and Brooks, south of Pueblo; Turkey Creek and Stone City, in the northwest; and Beulah and Rye in the southwest. The post offices in the county are: Avondale, Bessemer, Beulah, Boone, Bronquist, Cedarwood, Foothills, Grameros, Lime, Nepesta, North Avondale, Pueblo, Rye, Stone City, Swallows, Tacony, Undercliffe, and Whiterock.

**Taxation**—The assessed valuation of all property in 1923 was \$73,006,007, and revenue for all purposes, \$2,656,966. The county levy was 6.35 mills; average town levy, 20.0 mills; and average school levy, 16.51 mills. The average total levy was 36.39 mills, compared with an average for the state of 27.30 mills. Taxes, licenses and permits and special assessments in 1922 were \$14.14 per capita, compared with \$17.23 per capita for the state.

**Special Opportunities**—There is perhaps 300,000 acres of arable land in this county not yet broken. Small grains, pinto beans and forage crops do well in the non-irrigated district, the rainfall being almost always sufficient for maturing the varieties best adapted to this territory. The building stone resources of the county are very extensive and only partially and imperfectly developed. There are excellent deposits of glass sand along the Arkansas river, which would be rapidly developed for the manufacture of glass should oil or gas be discovered here in commercial quantities. There is considerable mineralized area in the southwest, which has been prospected extensively, but never developed.

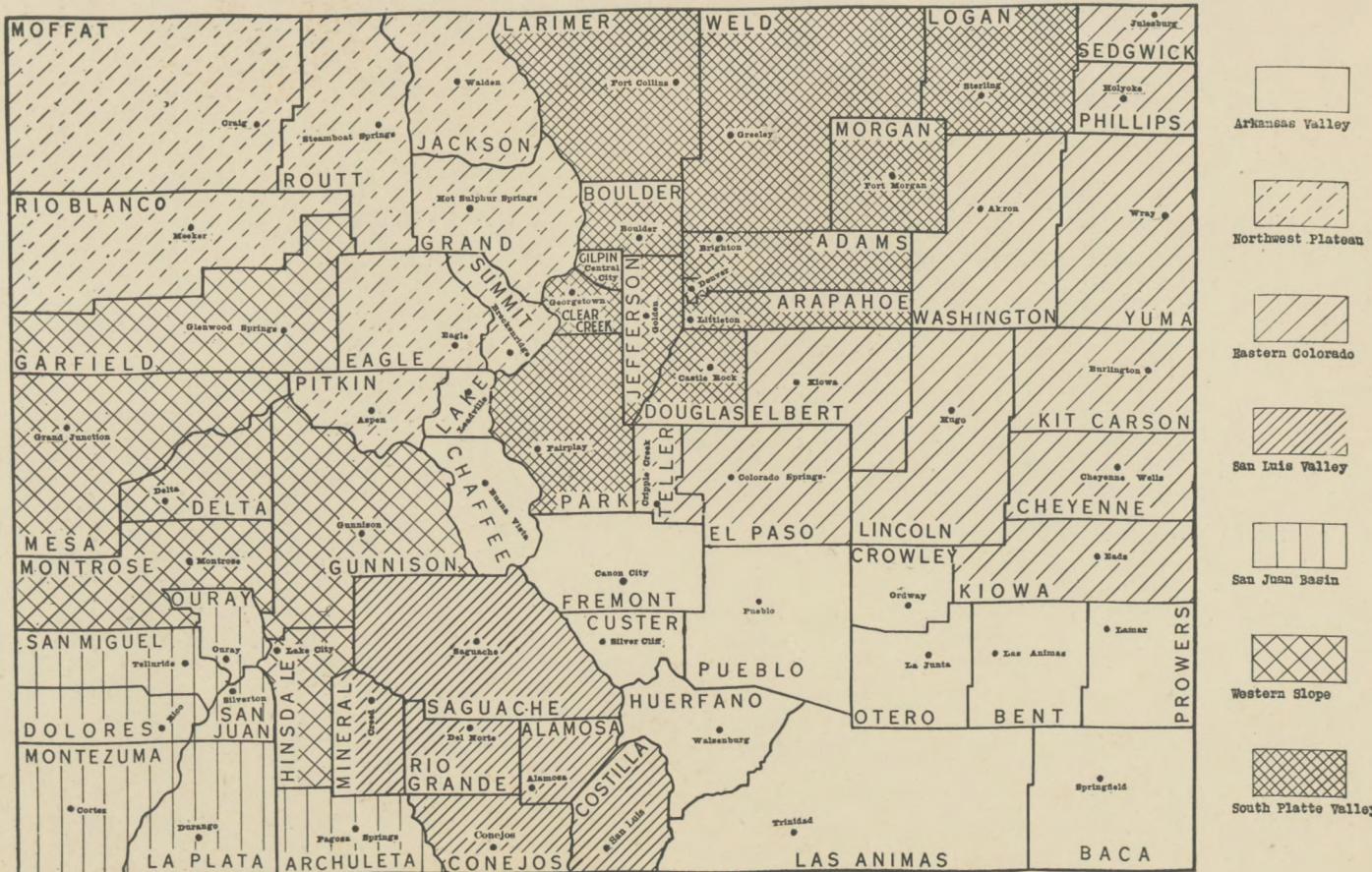
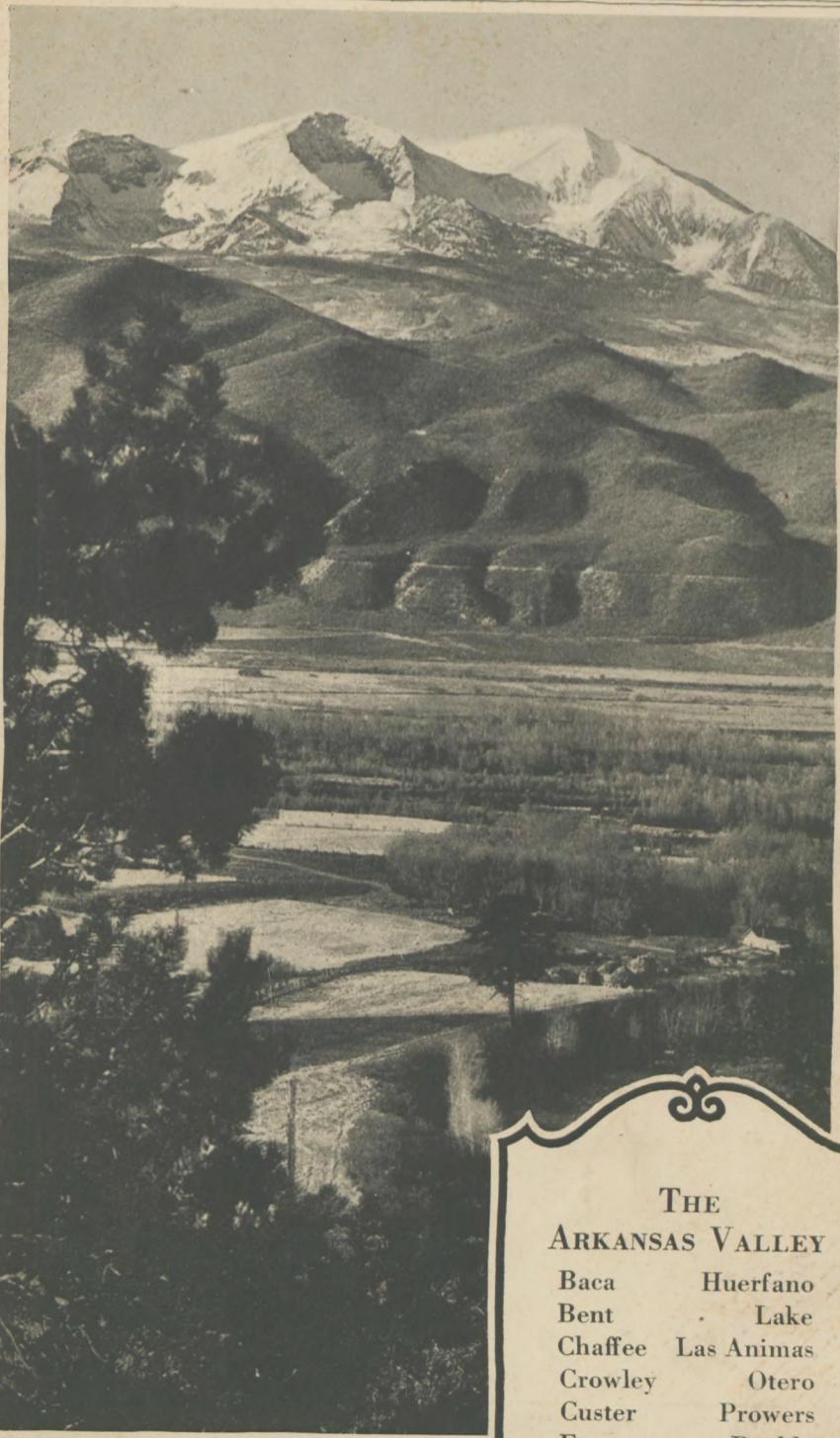


Chart showing grouping of Counties in Colorado, treated in each of the seven booklets published by the State Board of Immigration



THE  
**ARKANSAS VALLEY**

Baca	Huerfano
Bent	Lake
Chaffee	Las Animas
Crowley	Otero
Custer	Prowers
Fremont	Pueblo