

Chapter 12

Creating the 46th State



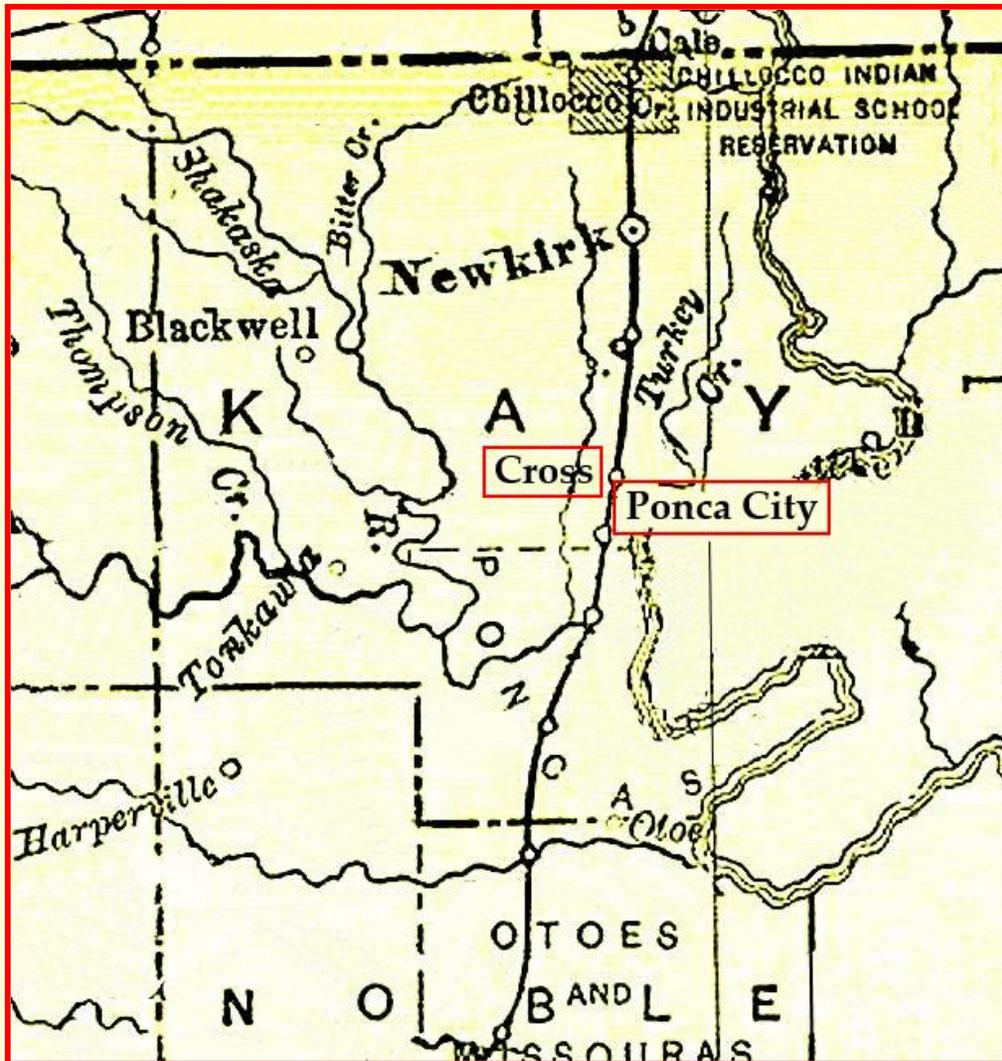
In this chapter:

- ❖ *Massive - and sometimes radical - changes will take place in the Twin Territories between the 1889 Land Run and Statehood in 1907, with railroads, agriculture, and minerals leading the way.*
- ❖ *The Five Civilized Tribes will advocate for a separate Native American state, but the United States Congress will ignore them.*
- ❖ *A constitutional convention in Guthrie will lay the foundations of the new state government.*

Section 1: Growth in the Twin Territories



A railroad stop almost guaranteed growth for a community, and many fought for it.



The Santa Fe Railroad originally stopped at Cross in Kay County, but the new townsite of Ponca City lured it away.

Cross became a ghost town.

Reno City even moved its buildings across the river to El Reno when the railroad passed them by.



In 1902, the Frisco Railroad made the town of Sapulpa its division headquarters.



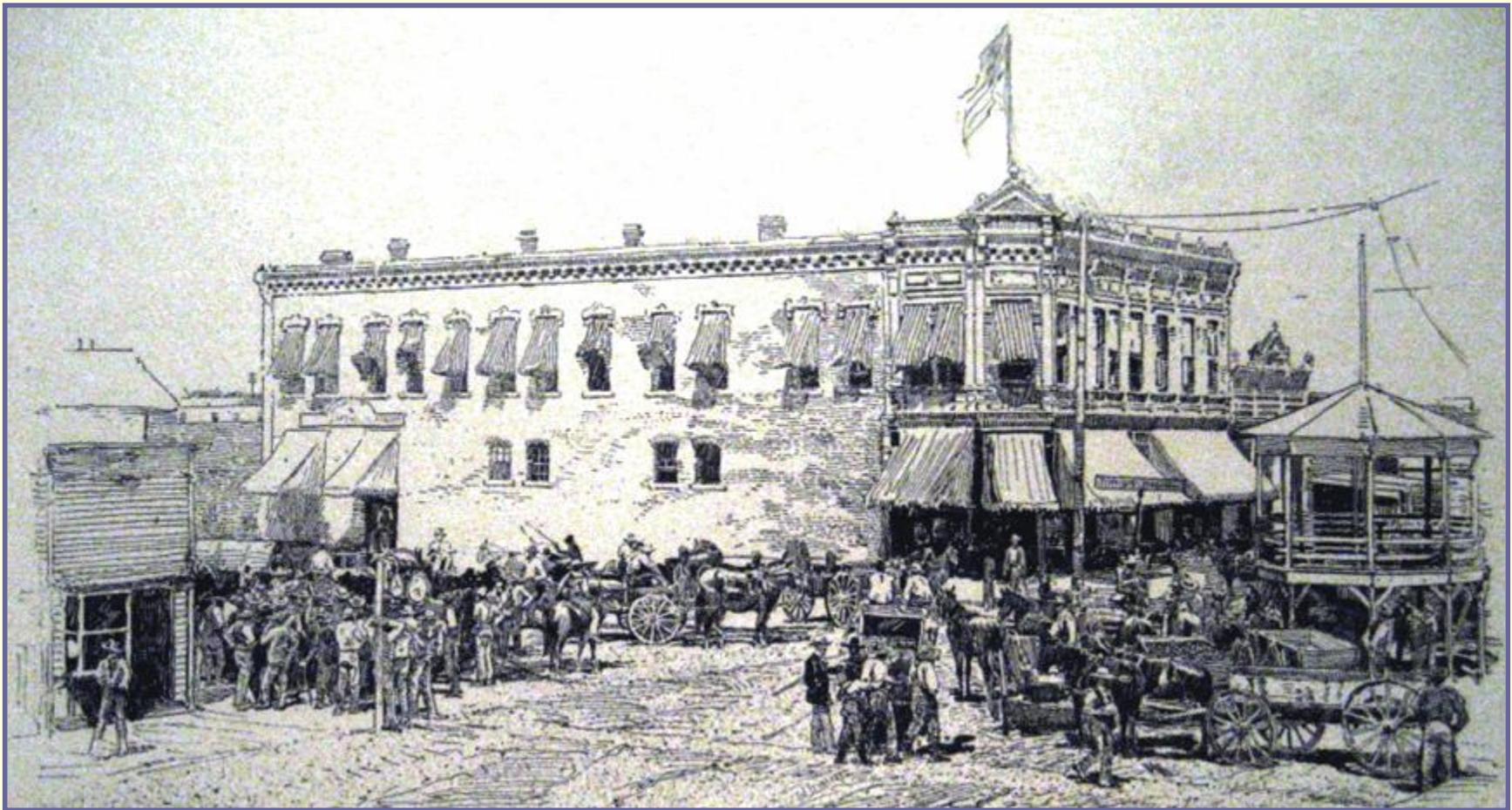
Tulsa offered the Katy Railroad a \$12,000 bonus and free right-of-way land if it would stop in their city instead of Sapulpa.

It worked. Tulsa became our second-largest city.



Most of Oklahoma City's rail traffic went through the freight yard known as Bricktown.

The cargo included cotton, cattle, horses, wheat, corn, and minerals.



Interurbans, or short railroads with trolleys, came to Oklahoma City in 1904.

Their success led to other routes to Guthrie and Norman.



*In 1976, the trolley station in Norman
was converted into a restaurant.*



One of the first crops planted was sorghum.

The grain on top was made into cattle feed, but the cane was milled into molasses.

Sorghum molasses was used as a sweetener and for flavoring.



Oklahoma also led the nation in the production of broomcorn, which was used for sweeping.

Broomcorn is not corn, but a variety of sorghum.



Cotton was the most popular crop in the Territories.

It was easily planted and didn't require a lot of rain, but it had to be constantly weeded and harvesting was difficult.

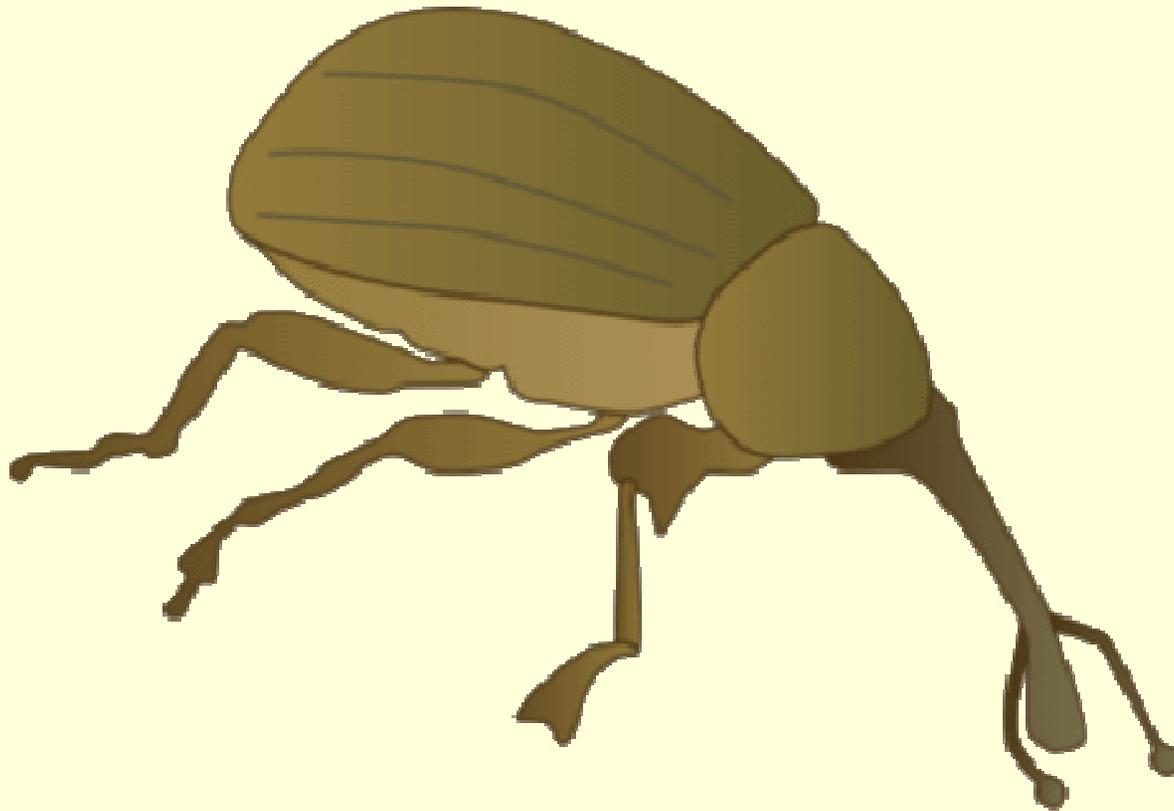
"Pulling cotton" required that each plant be picked by hand.



The Boll Weevil began destroying cotton crops across the state in the 1890s.

Over the next 30 years, many farmers went bankrupt.

However, farmers who had depended solely on cotton began to plant other crops, and many became wealthy as a result.



One of the few edible native fruits was the sand plum.

Oklahomans used it in jellies, jams, and pies.

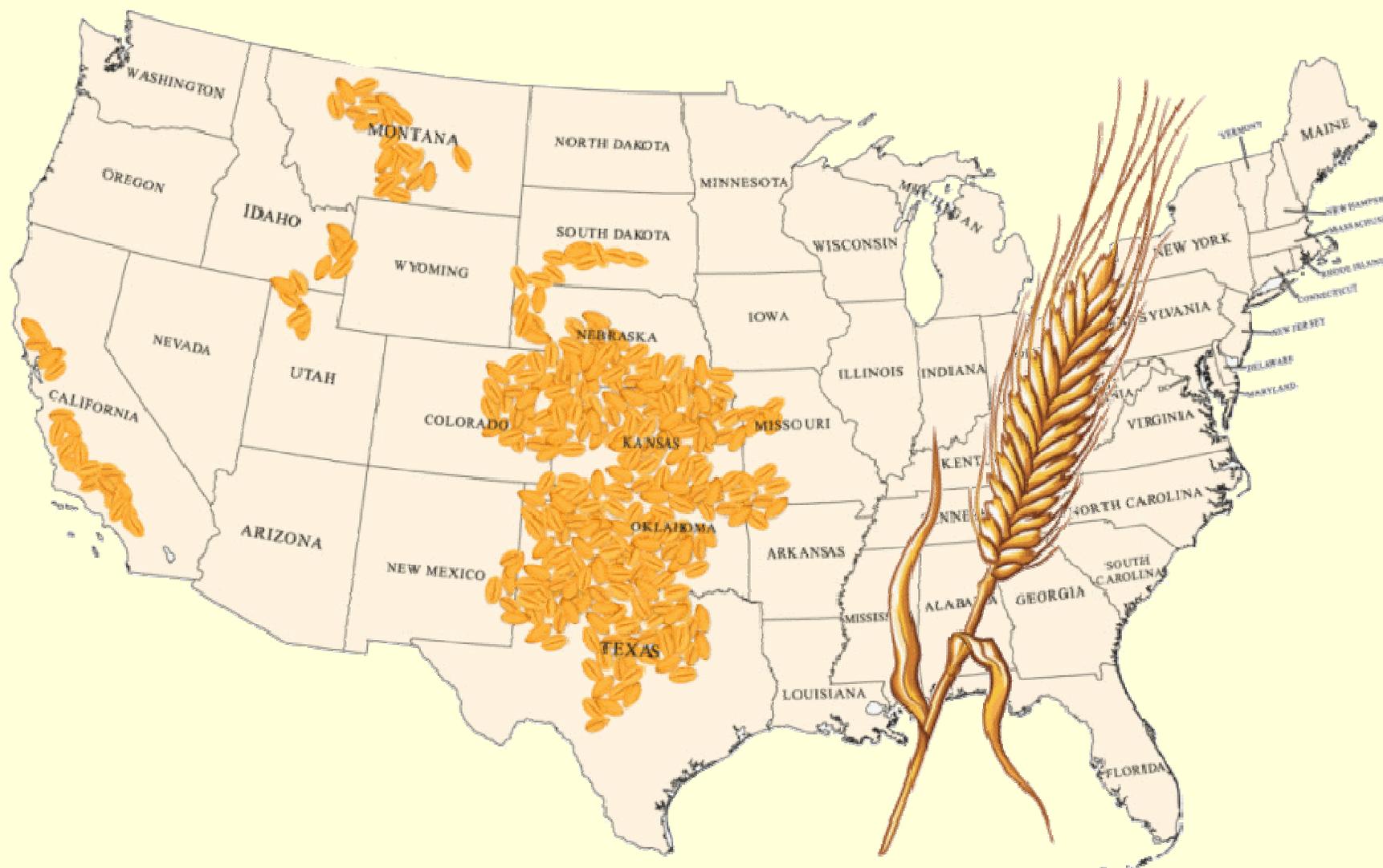
*They could also be cooked into a batter that was spread out on cloth to dry.
They were the forerunner of today's fruit roll-ups.*



German and Russian immigrants who settled in the Twin Territories in the late 1800s brought a new crop called Hard Red Winter Wheat.

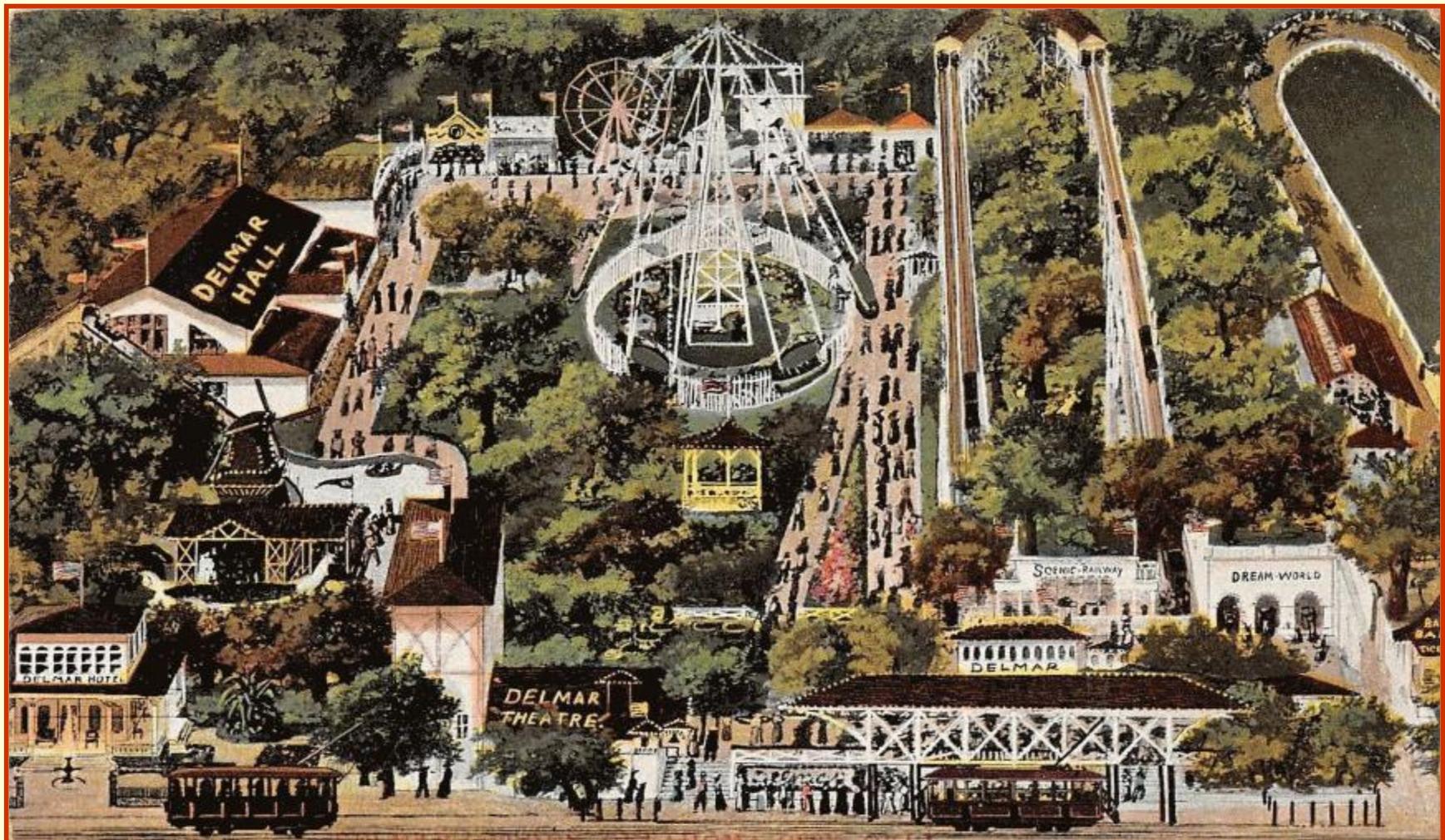


It was well-suited to the drastic climate changes of the Great Plains and became the #1 crop.



Oklahoma City offered fine entertainment at The Delmar Gardens, by the Canadian River.

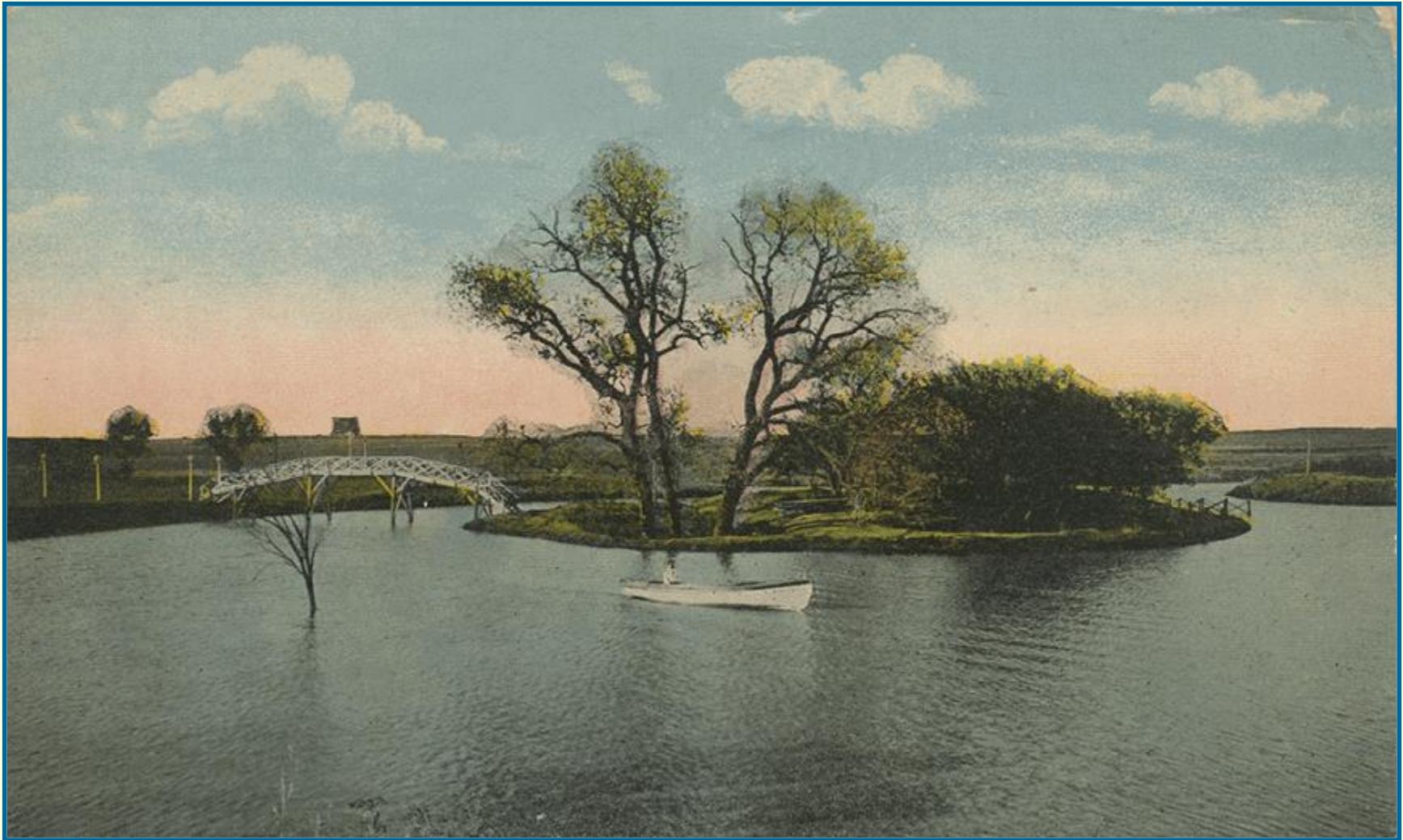
It had a theatre, race track, midway, beer hall, and restaurant.



*Many cities were using a new power source.
Tulsa's Electric Park showcased a carousel.*



*Belle Isle Park offered boating and swimming
as well as an island for enjoying picnics.*



Springlake Amusement Park, featuring the state's first roller coaster, opened in 1924.



The Tri-State District was the world's largest source of lead and zinc.

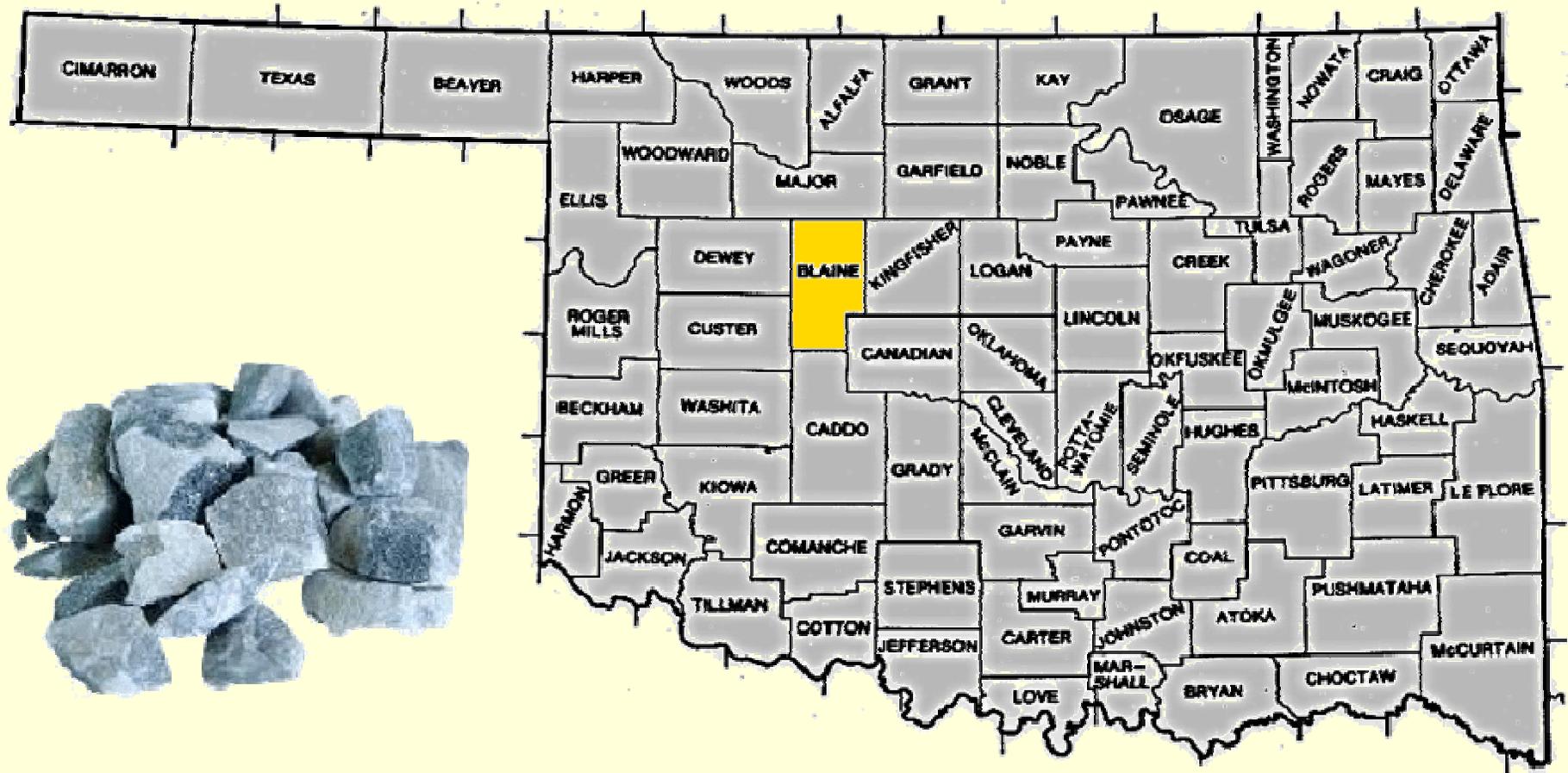
It included fields in southwest Missouri, southeast Kansas, and Ottawa County in northeast Oklahoma.



It was home to hundreds of small mining and milling companies.

Unfortunately, the mines contaminated the aquifer beneath the region, and many of the area towns had to be abandoned.

Some of the purest gypsum in the world is produced in northwest Blaine County.



Oklahoma Territory's gypsum products were featured at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis

The Fair celebrated the centennial of Lewis and Clark's Expedition.

QUICK FACT

**LOUISIANA PURCHASE
EXPOSITION**

The 1904 St. Louis World's Fair not only made Dr Pepper a national hit, but also was responsible for hamburgers, hot dog buns, and ice cream cones becoming national favorites.

The legislature spent \$40,000 to build the exhibit.



**Fairgoers were
more impressed
with the sandstone
“Rose Rocks”
that were handed out
as souvenirs.**

Towns sprang up quickly when a gold rush hit the Wichita Mountains in the 1890s.

Would-be miners swarmed the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache reservations.

But the fever ended when a geologist determined that the ore had no economic value.



*The Native Americans watched their way of life slowly being stripped away.
The territories were destined for statehood.
The only questions were when - and how.*



Section 2: Statehood



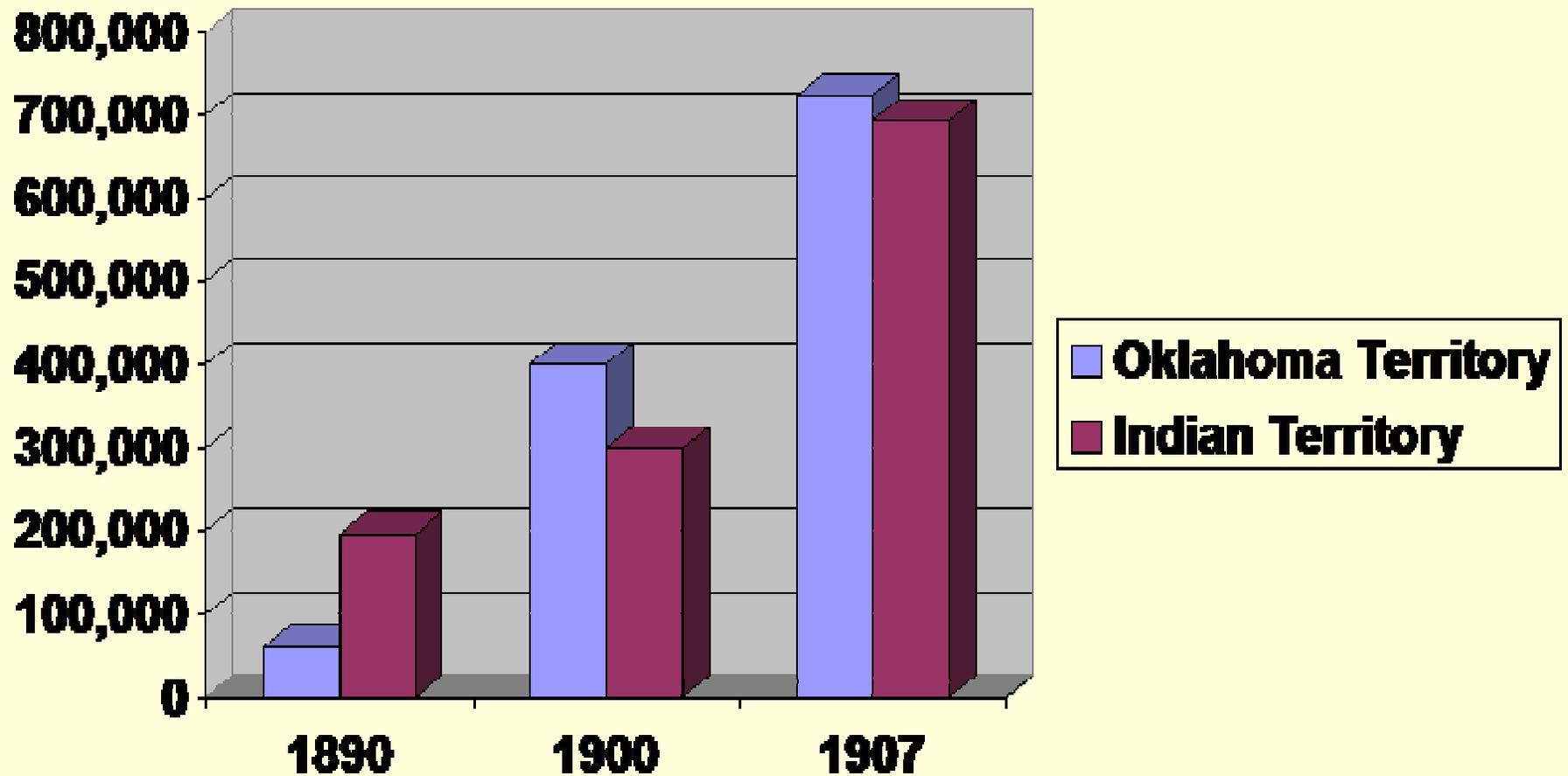


*The call
for statehood
was persistent,
and meetings
about it
were held
almost
every year.*

The population of Oklahoma Territory had grown with each new land opening.

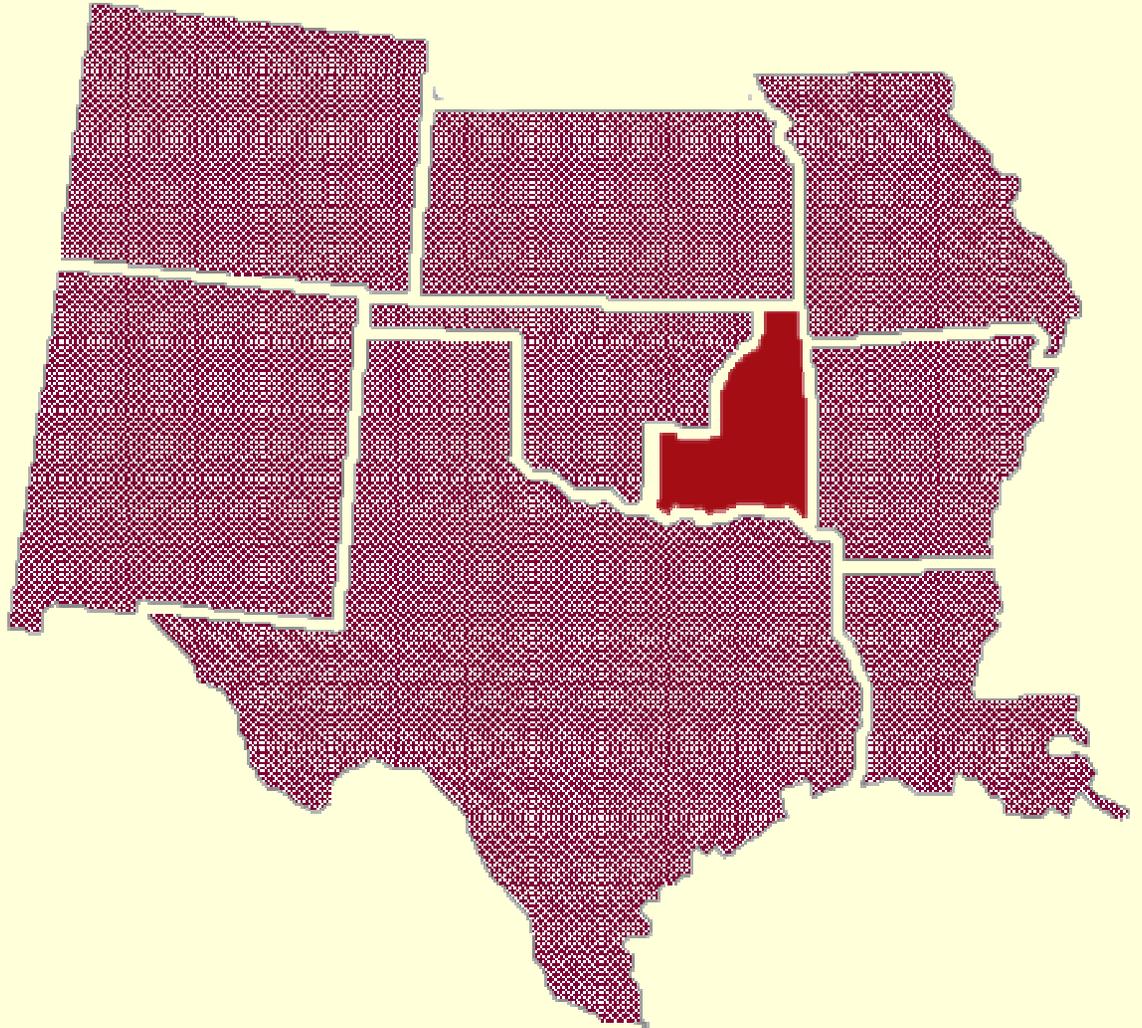


The population of Indian Territory was also growing rapidly, and tribal leaders opposed creation of a single state.



*Leaders of the Five Civilized Tribes
met to discuss statehood for Indian Territory.*

**In August 1905,
a constitutional
convention for the
State of Sequoyah
was held
in Muskogee.**



Henry S Johnston

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
STATE OF SEQUOYAH

PREAMBLE.

Involving the blessing of Almighty God and repeating faith in the Constitution and Treaty obligations of the United States, we, the people of the State of Sequoyah, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Article I.

BILL OF RIGHTS.

SECTION 1. All political power is vested in and derived from the people; is founded upon their will, and is instituted for the good of the whole.

SEC. 2. The people of this State have the inherent and exclusive right to regulate the internal government and police thereof, and to alter and abolish their Constitution and form of government whenever they may deem it necessary to their safety and happiness; Provided, Such change be not in conflict with the Constitution of the United States.

SEC. 3. All persons have an inherent right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the enjoyment of the gains of their own industry. To give security to these things is the practical effect of government.

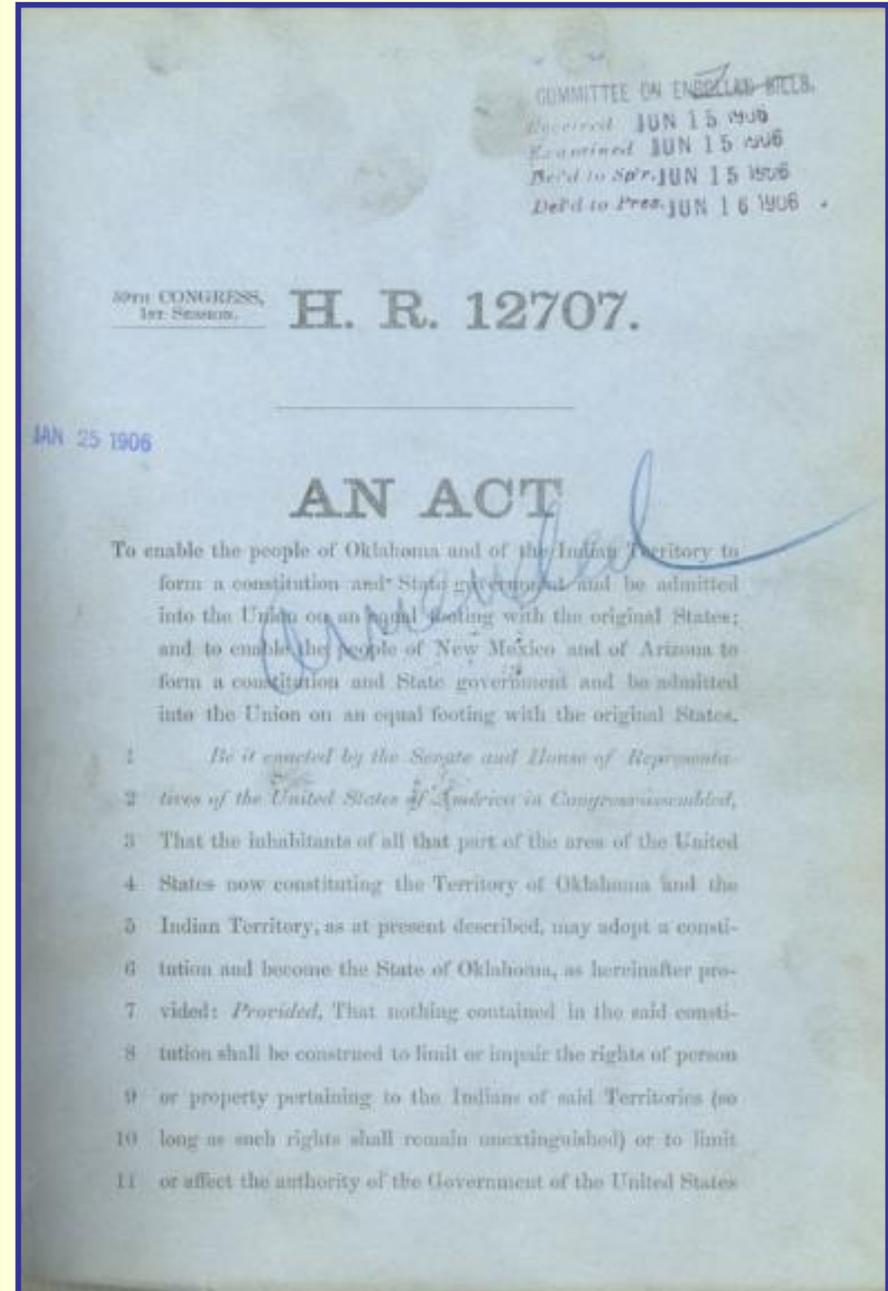
SEC. 4. All men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. No person shall, on account of his religious opinions, be rendered ineligible to any office of trust or profit under this State, or be disqualified from

**The constitution
was approved.**

*On November 7, 1905,
it was submitted
to the U.S. Congress.*

*The proposal
was ignored.*

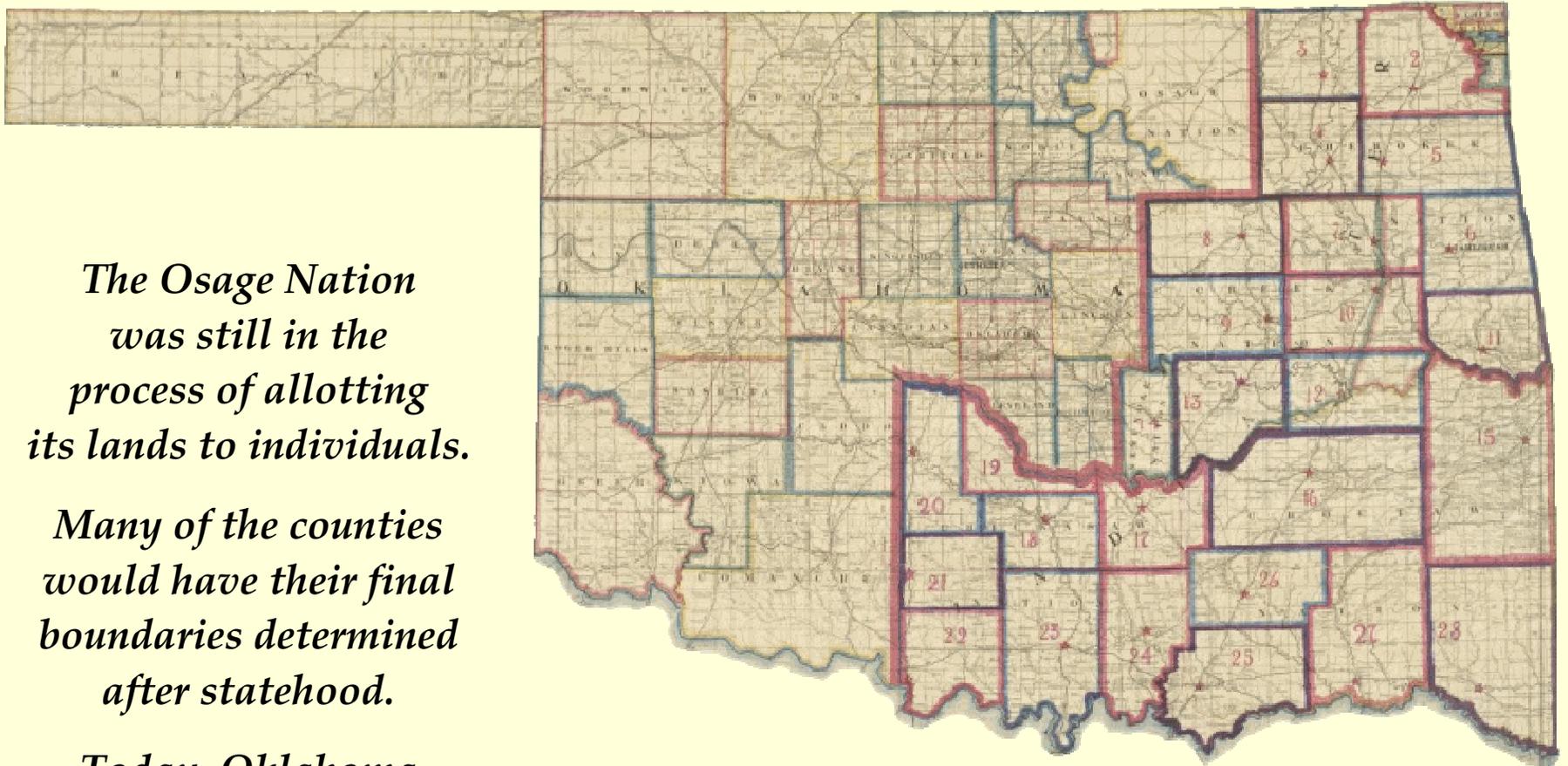
**Instead,
in June of 1906,
President
Theodore Roosevelt
signed the
Enabling Act,
providing for
the joining of the
twin territories.**



The Enabling Act required the following:
a republican form of government
religious liberty
the banning of polygamy
the right to vote for all races
the prohibition of alcohol for 21 years



Two delegates from each of the 55 existing counties and two from the Osage Nation were elected to the Constitutional Convention in Guthrie – 112 in all.

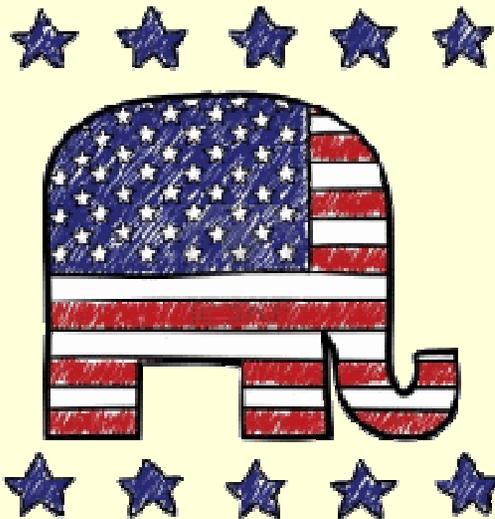


The Osage Nation was still in the process of allotting its lands to individuals.

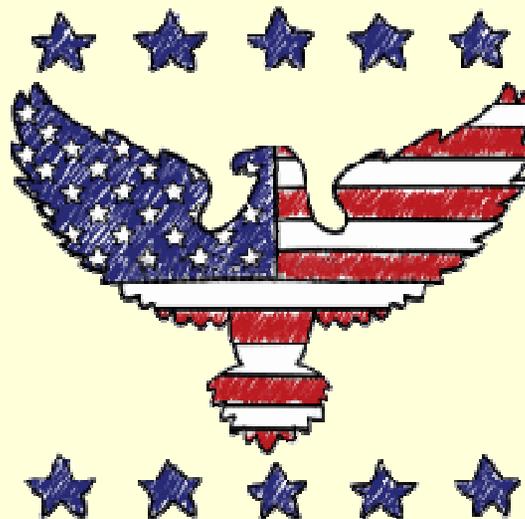
Many of the counties would have their final boundaries determined after statehood.

Today, Oklahoma has 77 counties.

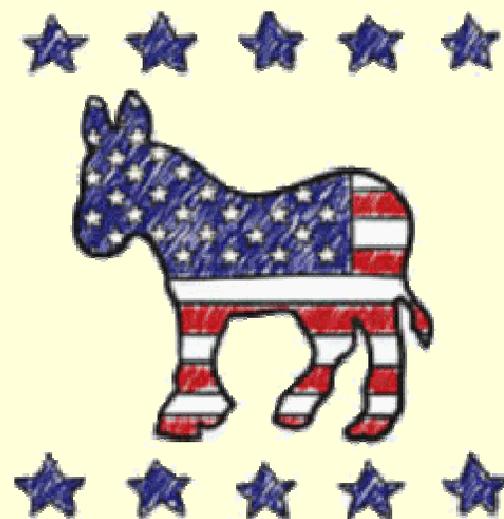
**There were no African American delegates
or women elected to the convention,
and political party representation was unusual.**



**There were 12
Republicans.**



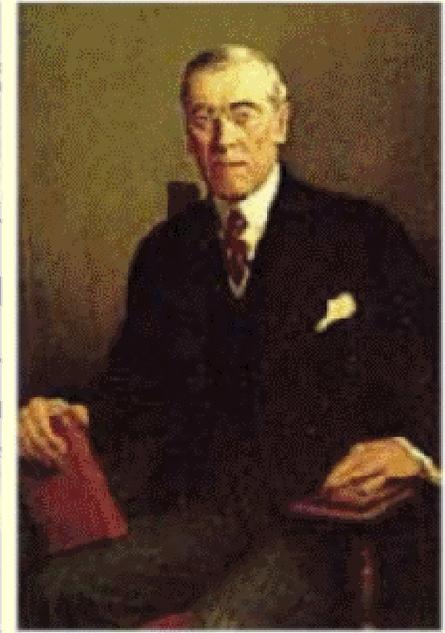
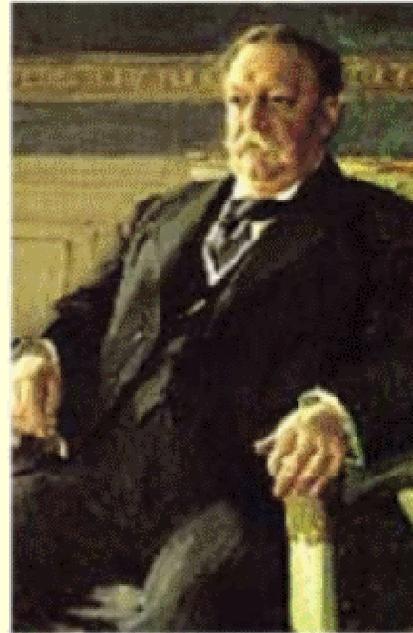
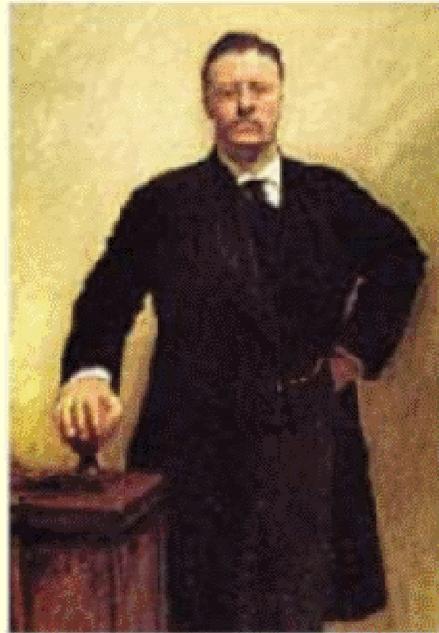
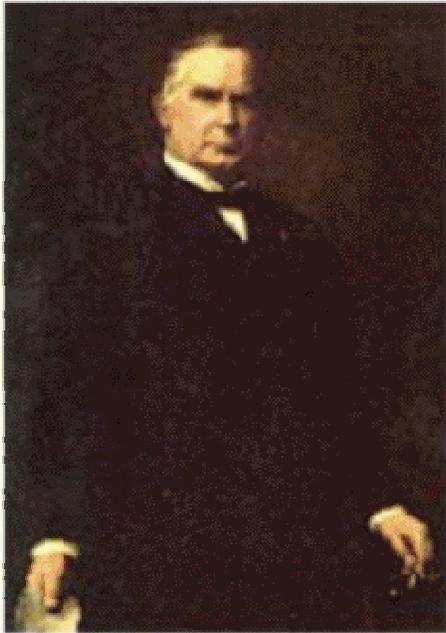
**There was 1
Independent.**



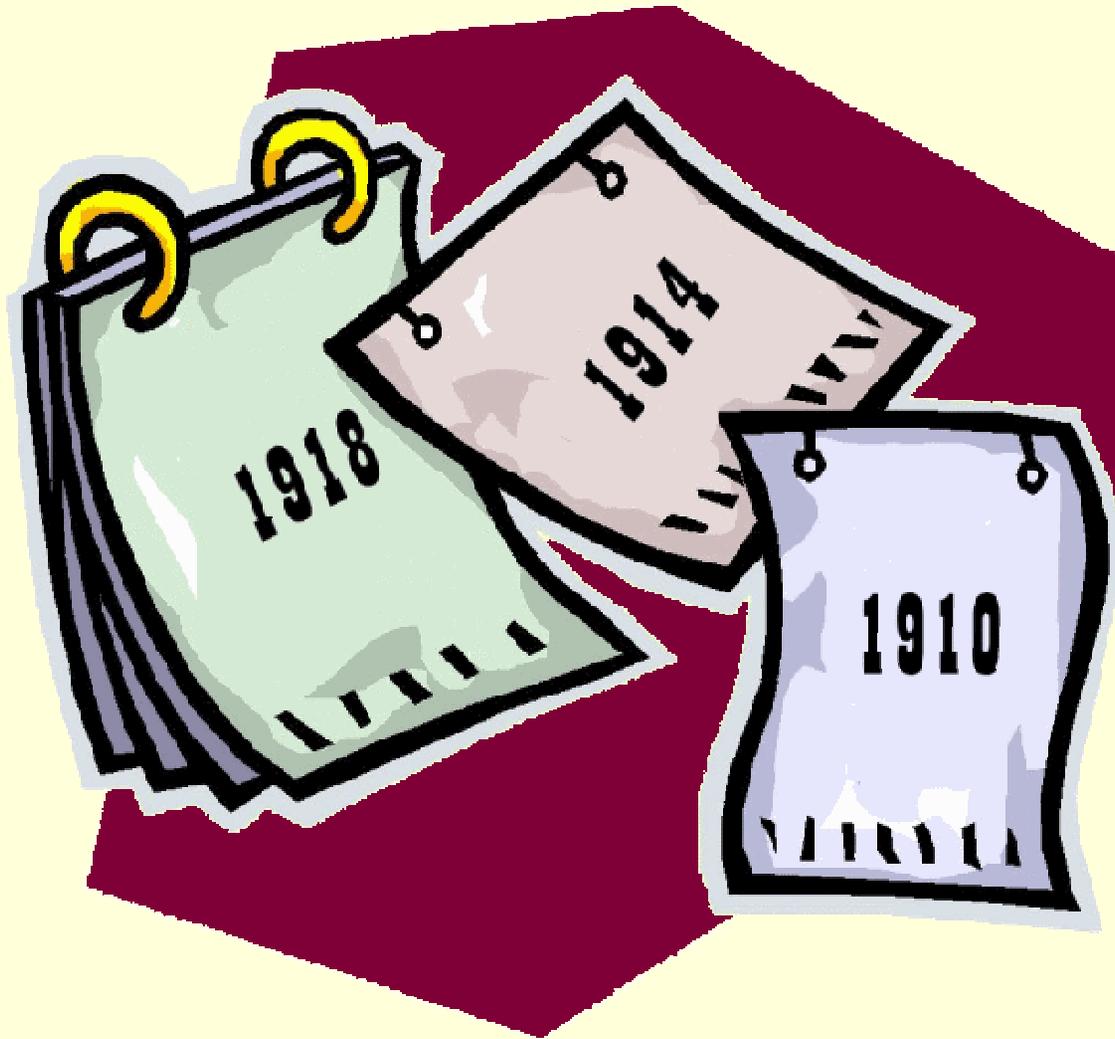
**There were 99
Democrats.**

Oklahoma was part of the Progressive Movement, reformers who believed that the federal government was best-equipped to correct the problems of society.

The movement elected four presidents: William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson.



The delegates intended for the legislature, as the “voice of the people,” to have the most power.



*Elections for Governor
were scheduled for
off-presidential years,
to keep a popular president
from swaying
the state election.*

The new constitution established a two-chamber lawmaking body called a bicameral legislature.

Members of the State House of Representatives would serve a two-year term, while members of the State Senate would serve a four-year term.



Citizens were also allowed to veto laws through a process called a referendum, or a popular vote before the law went into effect.

Senate appoints one Democrat and one Republican. The Speaker of the House of Representatives appoints one Democrat and one Republican. The Governor appoints one Democrat and one Republican.

The measure provides that the Lieutenant Governor chairs the Commission and is a nonvoting member. It requires orders of apportionment to be made by at least four members of the Commission.

SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES



AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO



**Citizens of Oklahoma could
propose laws by initiative petition, or
gathering the signatures of registered voters.**

People could also propose amendments to the constitution.

*When it was ratified, it was the longest governing document
not just in the United States, but in the world.*



Women's suffrage, a national movement to give women the right to vote, was gaining strength as statehood approached.



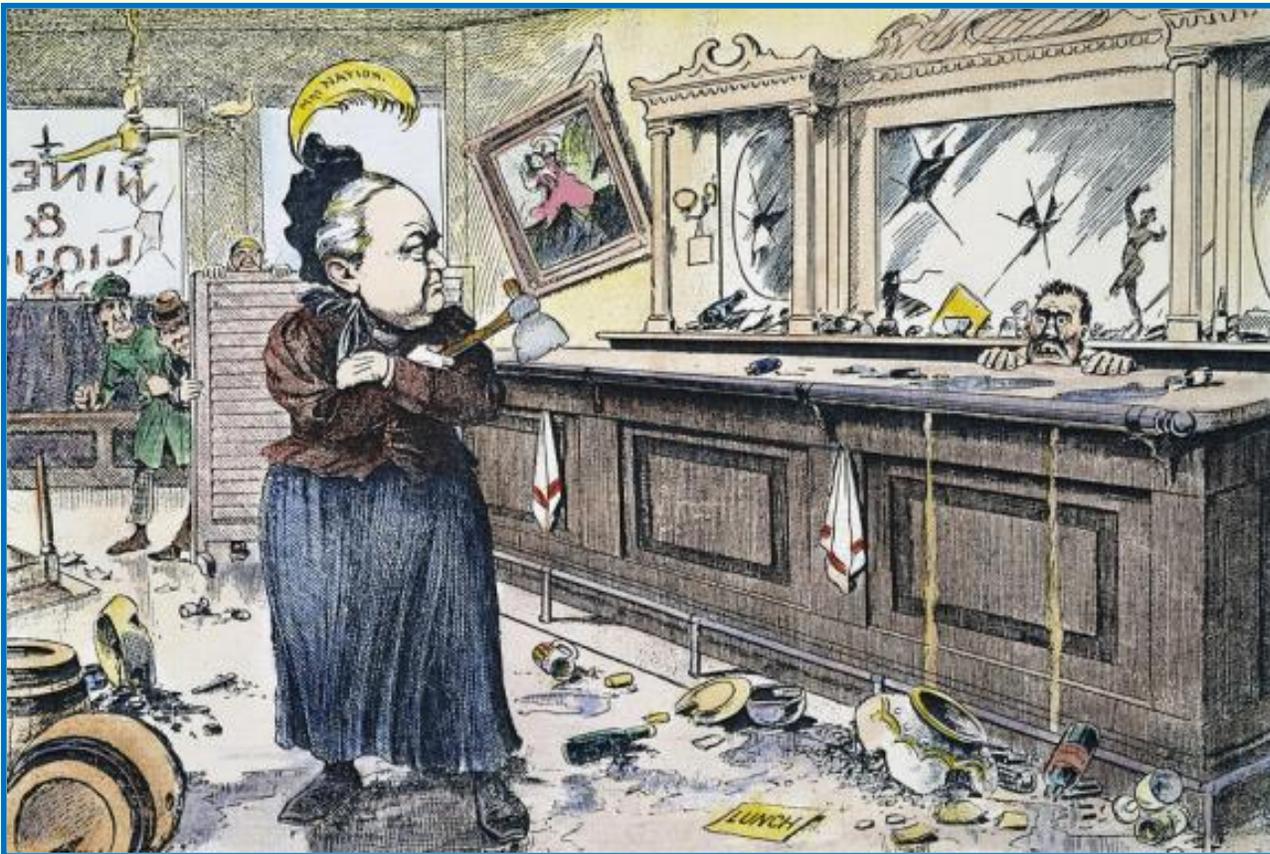
But the delegates decided against women voting.

*Oklahoma women finally gained the right to vote in 1918,
when voters approved State Question 97, an initiative petition.*



Prohibition, which banned alcoholic beverages, had been a sensitive issue since the 1830s.

Prohibition leader Carrie Nation moved to Guthrie in 1905 to support the ban. Former Abolitionists supported the group, also called the Temperance Movement.



The delegates
chose to leave
Prohibition
out of the
constitution
and added it
as an amendment
instead.





**African Americans
who moved to Oklahoma
hoped to escape the
discrimination of the
Jim Crow Laws,
which limited the rights
of black people.**

*Many of the delegates wanted
segregation provisions,
but the matter was tabled
until after statehood was achieved.*

JIM CROW LAW

Will Be One of the First in the State of Oklahoma.

Muskogee, I. T., Sept. 10.—When Indian Territory gets statehood doubtless it will at the time of its legislative convention pass a Jim Crow law, and that is going to cause a big howl from the minority population of the Territory. The negroes here, especially the freedmen, have by virtue of being land holders, brought themselves to believe they are entitled to all the privileges of the white man. This will continue until some form of local self government comes and the feeling at that time is likely to be so intense that a very stringent law of this character will be enacted. In railway coaches, street cars and elevators the negroes take equality with whites. Since the new railroads have been built into Texas and Arkansas where Jim Crow laws are in force the negroes from the Territory have been given a taste of what they may expect in the future in the Territory and they resent it bitterly. But the white population recognize the fact that there must be some such law to protect the public and it is likely that both political parties will agree to such a bill.



Other Constitutional provisions:

Labor rights:

- *8-hour day for coal miners and public workers.*
- *Children under 16 can't work in hazardous jobs.*

Public education:

- *Free public schools not connected to any religious group.*

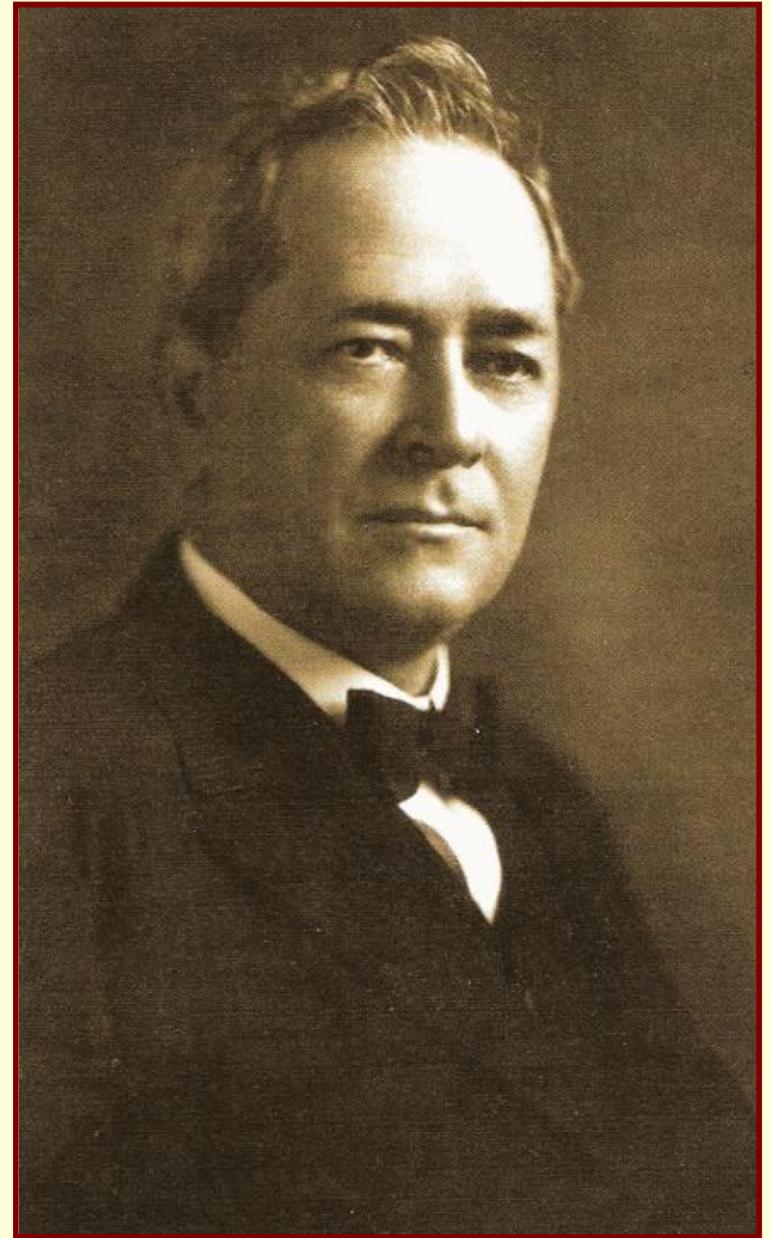
Businesses:

- *Required to have a charter to operate in the state.*
- * Cannot influence political campaigns.*
- * Cannot own stock in a competing company.*
- *All businesses regulated by an elected Corporation Commission.*

*On Sept. 17, 1907,
the constitution was
ratified by a margin of
more than 2 to 1.*

**Charles Haskell
was elected Governor.**

**The Prohibition Amendment
passed by a vote of
130,000 to 112,000.**



President Theodore Roosevelt signed the statehood proclamation on Nov. 16, 1907.

Through a direct telegraph wire from the White House, the news was received in Guthrie two minutes later, at 9:18 a.m. Oklahoma time.



The announcement was signaled with a pistol shot.

Immediately, bands played, church bells rang, trains blew their whistles, and most of the citizens present fired their guns.

Oklahoma, so long a maverick of the southwest, has finally received the coveted brand of statehood and been admitted to the corral

21,040

DAILY AVERAGE FOR OCT.

THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN

LARGEST DAILY NEWSPAPER
IN GREATER OKLAHOMA

VOL. 16, NO. 188

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1907—THIRTY-SIX PAGES

PRICE 8 CENTS

OKLAHOMA BECOMES STATE

SALDON DUEL CAUSE OF DEATH

Theft of a Bottle of
Whisky Responsible
for Fight

ROBT. JOHNSON IS DEAD

His Assistant, Fred Morris,
Surrenders to Under Sher-
iff Garrison

CHAUFFEUR IS FATALLY CUT DURING FIGHT

BELIEVED THAT VICTIM OF FIGHT
AT THREADGILL WILL
NOT LIVE

With four serious flesh wounds to his back as the result of a saloon brawl at the Threadgill bar at 1110 North last night, Harry H. Dixon, chauffeur for the Oklahoma Motor Car company, lies at Hutchinson hospital. His skull is cracked, and the point of death from the loss of blood.

K. B. Dorman and W. P. Chispeck, employes of the Western States, warehouse of Chicago, are being held at the county jail to await the outcome of Dixon's injuries, which are expected to mark fatally. Dorman, however, is believed to have done the killing. He was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Miles Casey and City Detective Robert Moore and District Marshal at the mere instant crossing of Threadgill bar.

SCRATCH OF QUILL PEN LETS THE NEW STATE INTO UNION

"That Makes Oklahoma a State,"
Says Roosevelt, When He
Affixes Signature

Special to The Oklahoman.
Washington, Nov. 16.—"There, that makes Oklahoma a state," declared President Roosevelt this morning as he scribbled at the signature in the cabinet room after he had appended his signature to the document admitting Oklahoma and Indian Territory as the forty-sixth state.

The actual signing of the document took place in the cabinet room at 10:30 o'clock in the eve-

INDIAN TERRITORY AND OKLAHOMA ARE SYMBOLICALLY WED

Thirty Thousand People Attend the
Inaugural Ceremonies at
State Capitol

Special to The Oklahoman.
Gallatin, Okla., Nov. 16.—At 9:20 o'clock this morning Governor Haskell received a telegram stating that the statehood proclamation had been signed by the president; at 9:30 o'clock in his room at the Royal Hotel, with only the members of his family, Senator Robert L. Owen of Muskogee, Thomas H. Owen of Muskogee, Frank H. Coston of Oswego, Dr. J. W. Drake of Gallatin, Mar-

ENID FIREBUG CAUGHT WHILE MAKING BLAZE

NIGHT WATCHMAN DETECTED
FIRING OIL SOAKED BAGS
NEAR BIG MILL

Special to The Oklahoman.
Enid, Okla., Nov. 16.—Caught in the act of firing a bag of oil soaked sacks, Clyde Cavetta, night watchman for the Phoenix Mill and Elevator company, was arrested at 10:30 o'clock this morning. A crowd of nearly 500 men gathered around the county jail. Cavetta has been suspected since early yesterday afternoon, when it was found that the sacks used in starting the fire the night before were from the Phoenix mill. He was searched tonight and caught while applying a match to one of the soaked sacks in a hot room. The hot man on the hot sack had just seen that the sacks were in the mill building.

Special to The Oklahoman of N. P.

BATTLE WITH GUNS; TWO DEAD

Marshal and Bootlegger
Victims of Fur-
tal Shooting

"BAD MAN" STARTS IT

Officers Attempt to Arrest
Bootlegger Kills and
Is Slain

A short time later, Governor Haskell took the oath of office on the steps of the Carnegie Library.



*A symbolic marriage ceremony joined
Mr. Oklahoma Territory and Miss Indian Territory.*

**With a population of 1.4 million,
Oklahoma joined the Union as the 46th state.**

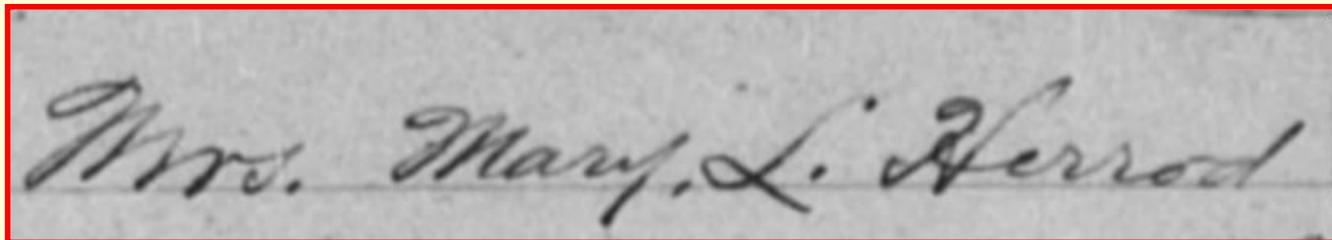


*Some citizens, especially in Indian Territory,
were not joining the celebrations.*

*“As Friday the 15th of November will be the
last day of the Indian Territory, and after that
we will be no longer a nation, some of us feel
that it is a crisis in the history of the Indians...*

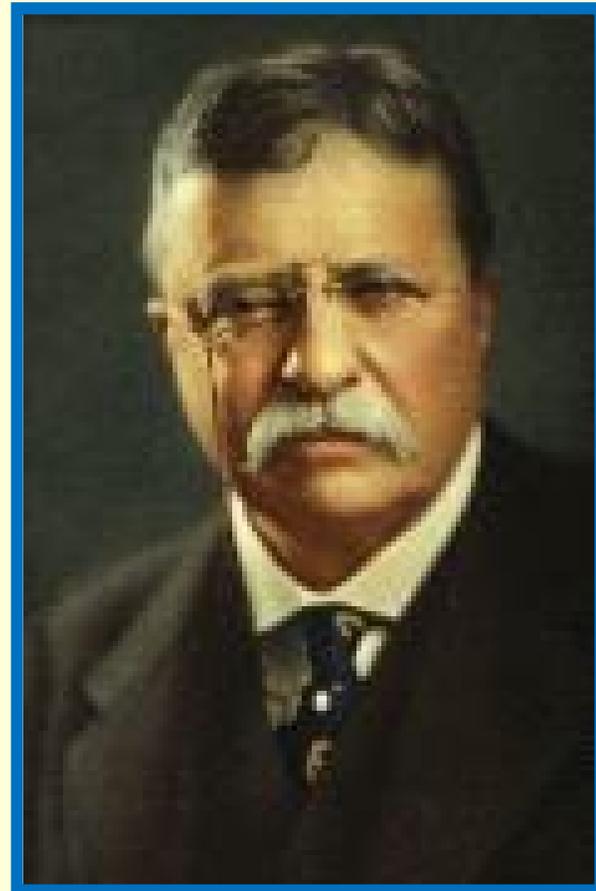
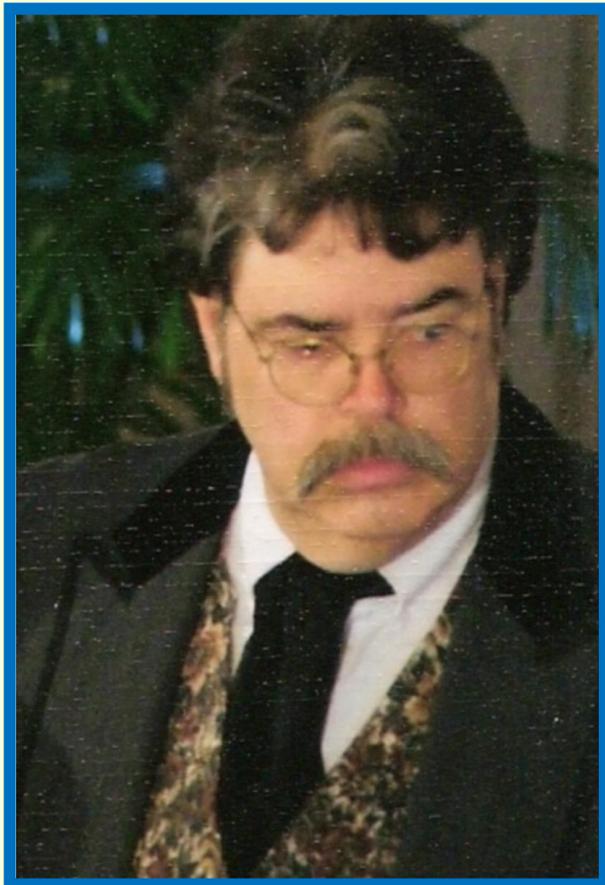
*The Indian does not count any more, even in his
own territory. I shall never write another letter.*

*I cannot date my letters ‘Indian Territory,’
and I shall not write.”*



Mrs. Mary L. Herrod

*In 2007, during the Centennial Celebration,
I played President Theodore Roosevelt
and presented a speech to a combined session
of the state Senate and House of Representatives.*



The President addresses the gathering.



Stellon's Photography & Design

Mr. Roosevelt accepts the congratulations of Mr. Brad Henry, the Governor of Oklahoma.

