

Settlement of the Panhandle of Texas
and
The Panhandle Livestock Association

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A country 170 miles east and west and practically 150 miles north and south - 25,500 square miles - and separate from Texas Proper - the settled and organized counties by 100 miles of country in which there were only widely separated ranches without county organization. An unoccupied land between savage tribes and civilization. Was the homeland of Comanche and Kiowa indians - the most powerful of the southwestern tribes. No power disputed their sway or invaded their territory until the late 1870s.... when first General McKenzie and then General Miles carried war into the heart of their country, the last campaign being over the headwaters of the Red River.

Destruction of buffalo, the indians' food supply by an army of commercial hide hunters had doomed the indian. No courage can successfully combat starvation. We should do the indian the credit to admit that he yielded more to fate than to arms. Weak from insufficient food, they must have been when their villages broke up. Their women and children fled, leaving hundreds of tepee poles in every pretty valley to mark the location of homes, mute evidences of distress, as were the ashes of homes and bare chimneys in the line of Sherman's march to the sea. Out of these poles, the wrecks of villages, I made my corrals - and o'er my range I found the irons of two army wagons left and the wood work burnt.

From 1860 Texas made but little progress. During the years of the Civil War the indian frontier shrunk bakc and after its close under carpet bag rule and during reconstruction days, conditions on the frontier and throughout the state were worse.

But, with a peoples government reestablished in the early seventies, the State took on new life, multiplied its~~x~~ population and wealth and within a man's lifetime the indian and the buff-alo became a memory.