

Stamford – The Pride of West Texas

By Homer D. Wade, Secretary Stamford Commercial Club

In 1910, there are few towns in the country with a population of 8000 that are without antiques, and a notable example of this is Stamford, Texas. When a citizen wants to show a visitor to this metropolis of West Texas they take him to a side street and point out the oldest hotel in town, this building being nine years of age and not, yet, showing its need of a second coat of paint.

With rare foresight and confidence, the town of Stamford, the promoters prepared for the growth that has since been achieved. Streets were laid out with a view of permanency and while the building for the first few years was on a conservative plan, this has long since been passed and there are now residences in the town that represent many thousands of dollars, and business blocks that would be a credit to a town of fifty thousand inhabitants.

There has never been a boom in Stamford nor has one ever been encouraged. Its growth has been steady and the percentage of increase for each year is about the same as for the year previous. A striking example of the steady increase is the taxable value of the property, the following being the valuation for the different years since the town has started. In 1901, the valuation was \$17,720 and in 1909, the valuation was \$2,617,275.

Stamford continues to grow. Last year, sixteen business buildings of brick were erected and at the present writing a \$15,000 Carnegie Library is in course of construction; the foundation of a \$50,000 Methodist church laid; a 25 room annex to the Stamford Inn has just been completed; plans have been adopted for a \$100,000 sanitarium; a new private sanitarium has been built and plans adopted for a \$30,000 girls dormitory for the Stamford Collegiate Institute. In addition to this, contracts have been let and ground cleared for five new brick business buildings, two more are in course of construction and many residences are being built. This only shows the continued growth of the town.

In appearance Stamford has no rivals. Within the last two year she had laid 20 miles of concrete sidewalks, paved 16 blocks of her business streets with vitrified brick and is the best lighted city in the state. In no

town of her size is more civic pride shown, and with all these improvements her tax rate is only 65 cents on the \$100 assessed valuation.

The town has all the modern industries, such as a compress, oil mill, light plant, ice factory, flouring mills, steam laundry, and a \$10,000 creamery plant, as well as having every line of business in the mercantile and commercial world represented. She is doing a jobbing business of no small proportions, having three large wholesale grocery houses, one large wholesale produce house, the largest hardware house in the West, traveling five men on the road and several smaller jobbing concerns.

The Armour Packing Company recently located a branch house in Stamford, as has the Texas Oil Company, and several other important jobbing concerns are soon to locate in the city.

Stamford is easily the most accessible town in West Texas, having five railroads.