

of 121,201 square miles, nearly two-thirds of which lie east of the Rio Grande, which bisects the territory the entire distance from North to South. The northwestern quarter of New Mexico is among the most rugged and mountainous regions on the continent, but rich in minerals. The entire eastern portion is comparatively level, being the most western portion of the great fertile plains which slope towards the Mississippi and the Gulf, and are drained by the more southern tributaries of the Arkansas, the Red River and some of the larger streams of western Texas. The southern half, from Albuquerque to the southern boundary, is a country of diversified aspect, made up of hills and valleys. The valleys are exceedingly fertile and peculiarly adapted to the culture of the vine. Mr. Hall, in his valuable work, "Guide to the Great West," remarks:

"The valleys and slopes in the eastern section consist generally of very productive land, the soil in this part being adapted to the culture of sugar." Again he says: "Cotton of good quality is grown in the southern part of the Territory; and the wine of the region, from Scorro, or even from Albuquerque, to the Texas line at Franklin, or the Mexican line at El Paso, is celebrated for its fine quality. Peaches are excellent and abundant in the southern part of the Territory."

There is probably no portion of North America so well adapted to the rearing of sheep as New Mexico. Already millions are found there; and were there a communication by rail, their numbers could be indefinitely increased. While out beyond Fort Riley I saw many Mexican wagons, with large bodies, loaded with wool, not in sacks, but in bulk. These wagons were unloaded into warehouses at the railroad stations, just as hay is thrown loose into a barn and tramped down. I examined some of this wool and found it to be of very good quality. As it requires at least two months for one of these wagon trains—each wagon drawn by four yoke of oxen and attended by two men—to make the trip from Santa Fé to Junction City, the expense of carrying this wool cannot be less than one hundred and fifty dollars per ton. With heavier return loads, and more ascending grade, it takes three months for the Santa Fé trains to make the return trips.

But, after all, the great value of New Mexico is in its mineral treasures, gold, silver and copper. Discoveries of rich mines of gold have recently been reported, but the information is yet too vague to warrant more than a general mention of the fact. Bituminous coal exists in great abundance on the eastern slopes; and near the Old Placer gold mine, about twenty-seven miles southeast of Santa Fé, and but a few miles from the contemplated route of this road, ANTHRACITE COAL has been found. Of this Mr. Hall says: