

many tropical fruits. The climate is less enervating and freer from malarious influences than any other Gulf State. The soil is exceedingly fertile. The alluvial deposit of the coast region is of a sandy, clayey character, while the silt of the islands and lands adjacent to the Gulf coast produces the finest Island cotton. Along the river bottoms you will find a stiff black soil possessing a great richness. In the prairies are black waxy soils and fine black and sandy loams, especially rich and productive. The high plains produce admirable grasses. The mineral wealth of the Lone Star is great, especially in coal, iron and copper. The bituminous coal fields embrace the counties of Bexar, Clay, Palo Pinto, Young, Comanche and Coleman. The copper belt covers a large area, extending from Archer county to the Rio Grande. Lead, silver, copper, cobalt, nickel and asphaltum are found in several districts. Marble and the finest red granite are to be found in abundant quantities in Llano and San Saba counties. Preparations are now being made in several parts of the state for the purpose of conducting the industry of mining on an extensive scale, and in a few years the era of manufacture will embellish the history of the Lone Star. Her unsurpassed facilities for both foreign and internal commerce make her rival our Northern sisters. The fertile plains are traversed by large rivers, more or less navigable by steam boats, while numerous bays that indent its long coast line, form harbors. Though time has not fully developed the cities of Texas, they compare favorably with the oldest and best regulated cities in America.

Galveston, the chief seaport and most populous city, is situated on an island of the same name, at the mouth of Galveston Bay.

Houston is a thriving city on Buffalo Bayou. It is the great railroad and manufacturing center of the State and one of the most important commercial centers.