



Dryden, Pecos Co., Texas, March 28th. 1886.

Mess. Henry Kimber, et al.,

London, England.

Gentlemen:-

Carrying out my understanding with you on leaving England, I have visited Pecos, Co., Texas and have made a careful examination of the lands owned by yourselves and the lands alternating with them (amounting in all to 322560 acres) with a view to ascertaining their adaptability to the breeding and fattening of Cattle and now submit the following report.

I find the principal body of these lands (comprising 296960 acres) are situated in the forks of the Rio Grande and Pecos river. The Galveston Harrisburg & San Antonio R. R. runs through this tract of land for 40 miles and has the four stations of Langtry, Samuels, Lozier and Watkins situated within its boundaries. These lands are situated between the 34th & 35th degrees of North Latitude and the 101 & 102 degrees of Longitude West from Greenwich. They have an elevation of from 2700 to 3500 feet above sea level and an average rainfall according to the Signal Service report of the United States for the last 10 years, of 24.2 inches per annum. The country is all of a Limestone formation and is broken up into hill, valley and table lands, producing the Mesquite and Gramma grasses, on which Cattle, horses, sheep, goats and indeed every kind of stock feed and do well the year round, without other food. As to the capacity of this land for sustaining Stock- I have found by inquiring from Stockmen who are now grazing it that about 30,000 head of Cattle and 20,000 head of sheep have been on it for the last two to three years and whilst they all concur insaying that this (present) has been the dryest season for six years (and remembering that this is the end of the winter when stock always look at the worst) I have in five days continuous riding over the land, seen only five carcasses of Cattle or sheep; this I consider a very favorable sign and I attribute this favorable condition of the stock to the nutritiousness of the grass, the good shelter the hills afford, the permanency of the water in the rivers and the general healthfulness of the climate. The last which the Stockmen here agree in saying is very healthy for both man and beast. To render the whole of the grass available it will be necessary in the interior of the tract to make basins of sufficient size to let water accumulate that stock might be well carried through these dry spells. I found a number of places where water is even now seeping out that would be suitable places for these basins and where they could be made at small expense. The Rio Grande and Pecos rivers both form a fence across which Cattle cannot pass. Taking these rivers and 50 miles of additional fencing the entire body of 296960 acres can be enclosed. In selecting a location to conduct a successful ranching business certain conditions are necessary. The locality where the smallest loss of stock in winter, the largest increase of young from a given number of females can be had; where Stock can be held, managed and fenced at the smallest expense and where they can be received and shipped to market with the greatest facility, is the most desirable. On all of these points the land under consideration is strong. I find from careful inquiry that loss from cold and scarcity of food in this range is rare and that the increase of calves from cows has never been less than 70 per cent. and averages fully 90 per cent. As the two rivers form good fences and the hills afford excellent protection, stock can be held at small expense. With the G. H. & S. A. R. R. right through the tract and said R. R. being leased and controlled by the S. P. R. R. Co., one of the largest of the country and connecting with the entire Railroad system and markets of the country, Stock pens can be put up within the boundaries of the ranch and when stock are bought they can be delivered immediately on the ranch or when sold can be loaded on the cars for market without the expense, delay and loss incident to a long drive. All things considered, it would, in my opinion be difficult to find a more desirable location for a ranching business than the lands I have now examined.

Yours Truly

(Signed) OLIVER L. ELLIS.