

# Grain a Staple for Settlers

The growing of Indian corn was the first thing attempted in the way of crops in a new settlement in the territories. This produced fairly successful results in Indian Territory but corn crop failures were frequent in Oklahoma Territory because of deficient summer moisture.

Fortunately, "Kafir corn" and "Milo maize" became available and soon were widely

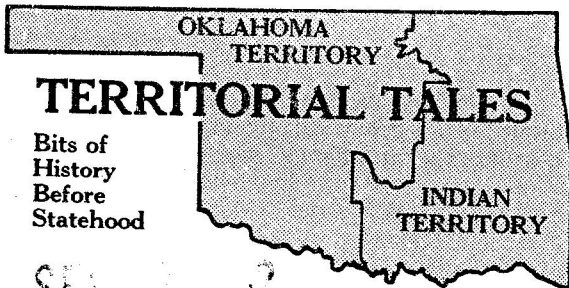
established. Another crop widely grown was broomcorn. Prairie hay was plentiful but alfalfa, clovers and thickly sown sorghum also were grown for feed.

Orchards were set out in many locations and it was reported that Oklahoma peaches were shipped to England in the summer of 1903 and sold in the markets of Liverpool at a profit. Hun-

dreds of carloads of peaches also were shipped to eastern U.S. markets.

The poultry industry prospered almost from the day of settlement in every community, providing food for home tables and something to sell or trade for other essentials.

The dairy industry developed less rapidly but it became a reliable mainstay for many a family with



short crops and no cash.

Most of the early settlers were poor and brought little livestock with them. As they became established, the

expansion of their beef herds followed. Hogs and sheep were added on many farms to capitalize on what has proved to be a "natural livestock community."