

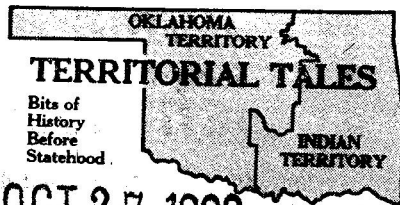
State Impressed Visitors

When an "immigration society meeting" was called in Oklahoma City in the summer of 1907, more than 150 delegates attended.

They agreed that if Oklahoma's natural advantages were boosted and advertised, the new state would soon pass established states in development. "Boost" was announced as the battle cry for the new organization and "Oklahoma as a whole" was claimed as its territory.

The name chosen was "Oklahoma State Immigration and Industrial Organization." Sydney J. Roy, secretary of the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce, was elected president.

The meeting coincided with the convention of a reported 2,000 delegates to the Farmers National Congress, many of whom came to Oklahoma City from other states on special trains. An objective of the immigration organization was to persuade more farmers to move to the new state to "farm its virgin soil" and raise livestock.



At the close of the farmers convention, The Daily Oklahoman interviewed a number of delegates and the reporter wrote:

"They expected to find a settlement made up of Indians and bronco busters. They were greeted by businessmen whose progressive methods have surprised them.

"They expected little frame shacks. They found numerous skyscrapers, fashioned after the most modern architectural plans.

"Instead of winding and muddy roadways, such as they believed were Oklahoma City's thoroughfares, they found 30 miles of paved streets." It was evident the visiting farmers were impressed.