

found in the Cherokee Nation: while lead appears to be abundant in several districts. Specimens of galena are not uncommon, and some of these contain a large percentage of silver. Though the Cherokees prohibit the mining of gold or silver, they have a special law applicable to lead and other of the less valuable minerals, so that when these claims are in process of development, a good deal of silver will be secured without direct infringement upon the law.

The Indian Territory was at one time the hunters' paradise. Even at the present time certain eastern portions of the Choctaw Nation may be regarded as second only to the Rocky Mountains in affording sport to the lover of gun and rod. The mountain ranges lying between the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad and the Arkansas State line, being almost uninhabited, and in places wholly impassable, form a secure retreat for wild animals, such as bear, panther, cougar, catamount and deer. Bear are very plentiful, specially in the vicinity of the Kiamitia River, in Wade County; eight bears were killed by one man during the summer and fall of 1891, in the Jacks' Fork Mountains, while several other hunters killed from two to four each during the same months, besides capturing some six or eight cubs. Bear hunting in these mountains is at its best when the huckleberry (or whortleberry) is ripening on the foot-hills and grassy slopes. Where this fruit is most plentiful, there brim is certain to be found. The female weans her cubs on the berries, and not infrequently the hunter approaches within a few steps of the greedy animals before they have discovered his presence. The acorn of the white oak is also a favorite food with brim, and in the late fall he will not be far away from woods where white oak abounds. Deer and wild turkey are also numerous in these mountains. The Choctaws, as a tribe, are not hunters, and few, even among the full-bloods, take any great pride in the chase. When they hunt, they do so to supply their physical wants rather than as a recreation, and the greater portion of the game killed in their nation falls before the rifle of the white man. Although the offence is punishable by arrest and confiscation of hunting equipment, parties of United States citizens are constantly visiting the more remote sections of