

L. C. BRITE

Rancher and Builder

A Man Whose Name Is Indelibly Written Into the History and Development of the Big Bend; A Man of Persistent Effort and Indomitable Courage, Which Has Enabled Him To Realize Success

Lucas Charles Brite came to Presidio County in the fall of 1885, then quite a young man. At that time this country was known as open range territory. He located his small herd of cattle near the site of his present headquarters ranch, at the foot of the Capote Mountain. The principal stockman, who came to the section at about the same time, were the Windham brothers, with about 5,000 head of cattle, and Robert Nixon with only a few head. H. W. W. Perry, an Englishman, had just settled with sheep and horses in the foothills of the Sierra Viejo, only a few miles away. In 1888 the Windham Boys sold their cattle to Harry K. Sneed Kennersley, an English nobleman. In 1892 Mr. Brite bought the Kennersley herd, which at

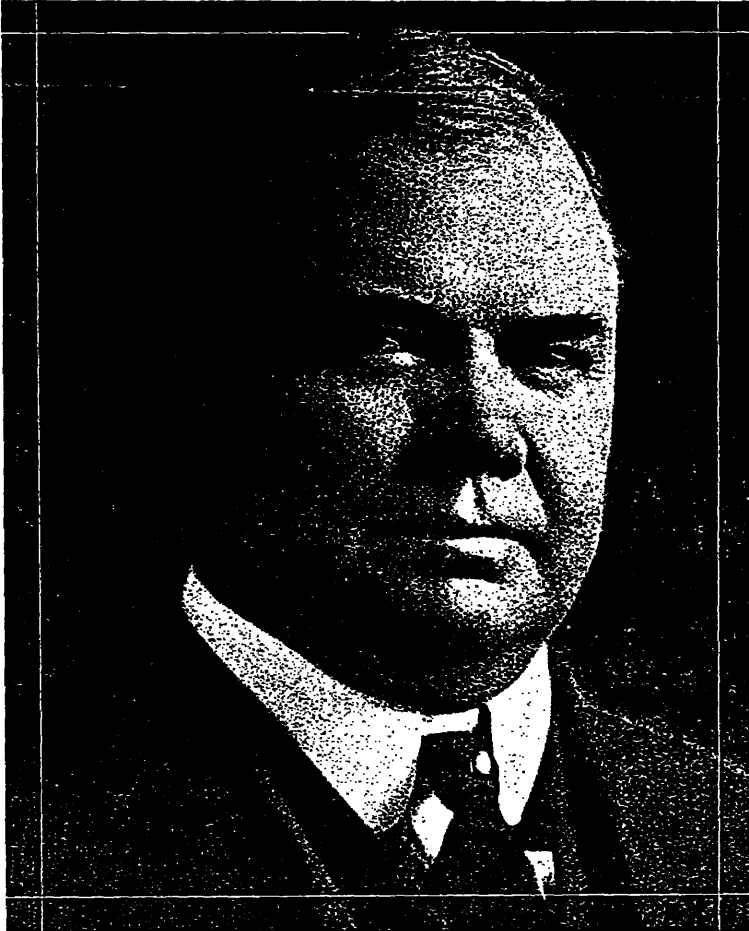
that time consisted of first class native stock. Since then he has been improving and building up his stock and ranch, until his great herd of Herefords has become famous, not so much by newspaper advertisement as by real merit brought about by years of close study of the cattle breeding business.

The ranch is located some thirty-five miles from Marfa and consists of about 125,000 acres of mountains, rolling hills, and fertile valleys. On the ranch there are hundreds of acres of land which are ideal for the growing of alfalfa, cane, Kaffir corn, and milo maize. In order to produce crops, it was necessary to construct several large reservoirs to catch and hold the storm waters.

One of Mr. Brite's policies is never to overstock the range, and with far reaching vision he always prepares for the lean years. He always has plenty of feed for his cattle. His chief ambition in a business way has been to develop his ranch to the highest degree. The only stock watering place when he first located his ranch was one small spring. He now has eight-five miles of pipe lines supplied by wells, which distribute water over his entire range.

The ranch is divided into a number of pastures, with their separate fence lines, houses, tanks, hoeses, etc. Oscar Wells is the foreman, and a very capable one. He lives at the headquarters ranch, known as Brite. There are the Kennersley, the McMinn, the Robinson, and the Cienega places.

The headquarters ranch is five miles from the Rim Rock, the highest, wildest looking bluff in the lonesome stretches of the Big Bend. The border bandit could stand on this bluff and look down two thousand feet, then out over miles of broken, uninhabited country to the Rio Grande. In the



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