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Richest Indian In the World.

Harlingen, Texas, Dispatch to the Philadelphia Record.

The richest Indian in the world is Lon Hill, of Harlingen, who owns more than 300,000 acres of the best land in the Rio Grande Valley, every foot of which can be irrigated. At the rate which other land in this section of the same character is selling \$20 per acre for this 300,000 acres would not be an excessive figure. Figured on that basis, Hill is worth \$6,000,000, but he is not given to overrating things, and estimates his wealth at \$3,500,000. Hill is a full-blooded Choctaw and is proud of his Indian blood.

"This Indian has been able to take care of himself," he says. "I have never received anything from the government and I am not expecting anything." This is true. Hill never shared in any of the allotments in Indian Territory and has been making his way alone and unaided ever since he was a boy. The most marvelous thing about his great fortune is that he has accumu-

lated all of it during the last six years.

He located at Brownsville, 25 miles below here, a little more than six years ago, at which time it was 160 miles from the nearest railroad. He did not have any money, and was in debt. He had been practicing law at Beeville, Tex., and, while he made a success of that profession, it did not bring him any great amount of money.

He believed that the time was not far distant when the valley of the Lower Rio Grande would be transformed from its primitive wilderness of chaparral into cultivated farms and gardens, and prepared to make his fortune when the inevitable inrush of investors and home-seekers came.

Brownsville then was possessed of a morbid drowsiness typical of Mexican border places. Situated on one of the main streets was a three-story brick hotel building which for many years had been an abiding place for bats. When Hill proposed to lease it for a term of years his offer was quickly accepted and the rental was fixed at a figure so low as to be worse than ridiculous in the light of subsequent events. Hill secured

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