

But there are still thousands of acres right around Colfax which will some time be worked. The soil is a strong, dark loam, with a clay subsoil. Bunch grass and multitudes of flowers cover the ground in all directions. As we proceed northward, the country becomes more desirable in all respects. The hills become less abrupt, the soil more loamy, and timber nearer at hand. In the vicinity of Hangman's and Pine creeks, is the richest section I have seen. The soil of upland and lowland alike is a deep, black loam, fully equal to the richest bottom lands of Western Oregon. Forty or fifty bushels of wheat to the acre is an ordinary thing. Twenty miles northeast of this region is Coeur D'Alene lake, the shores of which are covered with a dense forest of pine, tamarack, fir and cedar. The lake itself, as blue and clear as the sky above it, shimmering among the still bluer hills, is one of the most beautiful resorts on the Pacific Coast. Walter Scott would have made it the scene of numberless romances. American fancy and enterprise will soon make it the scene of a big hotel and several small steamboats. The U. P. R. R. will, no doubt, traverse its shores, and if, as many anticipate, a large city should spring up at Spokane Falls, the lake would become a second Lake George, its shores dotted with villas and its surface white with yachts. Immigration is now waiting somewhat upon the movements of the railroad. The general expectation is that it will touch Spokane Falls. Real estate is therefore very active at that place. At all events, railroad or no railroad, the Falls will undoubtedly become an important point. Its water power is immense. Its timber resources far surpass those of any other point east of the mountains. Although the land in its immediate vicinity is not of the best quality, yet the fertile plains of Hangman's Creek, Deep Creek, and the Four Lakes, are near enough to become contributory to its growth, in case it becomes fairly initiated as a manufacturing center. Emigrants will find vacant land more readily around the Four Lakes and on Crab Creek than in the Coeur D'Alene country. The climate of that region is warmer and better adapted to fruit-raising. The soil, however, is more broken, by the protrusion of the basaltic backbone of the country.

Universally the soil is richer along the slopes of the mountains, since there the deposition of loam has been so much greater.

The inhabitants of Hangman's Creek have evidently been, at some past time, much larger individually, if not so numerous collectively, than they are ever likely to be again. Here is the spring from which were taken those colossal bones exhibited by Coplen brothers in Salem and Portland during the fall of 1876. The wonderful perfection of these remains, their immense size, and the fact that some of them seem to belong to an entirely extinct species of the elephant family, make the collection one of the most remarkable and valuable of which we know. Those already exhumed are temporarily kept at Pacific University, Forest Grove. It is the intention of the discoverers to pursue the investigation, so that specimens even more extraordinary than those already found may reward their search.

The great majority of the people in this country are from some point in the Willamette valley. This fact well illustrates the restless character of our people. Though itself not yet fairly tamed, the Willamette valley is already beginning to colonize other countries. But during the coming ten years, not Oregon only, but all parts of the United States, will contribute inhabitants to this favored region. It has capabilities sufficient for a second Illinois. When thoroughly worked by human hands and sowed with human brains, it will respond with most abundant crops of human necessities and luxuries. It is a law that man must sow himself in order to reap his own needs. Therefore, no one need come to this country expecting to become rich without work. There is still land for thousands of good farms. I would advise all persons wishing to hunt land to first examine thoroughly the maps at the Land Office at Colfax, where they can ascertain the best places to visit.

After a week or two spent on the hurricane deck of a "bucking" Cayuse, the change to the elegance of the O. S. N. Co.'s boat is most refreshing. Notwithstanding the severe criticism heaped upon this company by some who would not be satisfied by the gift of the whole "outfit," there can be but one opinion as to the courtesy of the officers and the comfort of the accommodations.

Three hundred and sixty-two miles downward from Almont to Portland, and we shall find ourselves in the land of trees and sea-breezes. The tremendous current of the Upper Columbia is now in our favor, and the steamboat plunges down the white riffles like a frightened horse. Treeless hills, needless of basalt, and sandy beaches succeed each other in rapid succession, and we approach Hell Gate and The Dalles (no slur on The Dalles intended) much faster than we went away from them. The number of passengers is much less, and the character of the freight entirely changed. Wheat and wool fill the place made vacant by the unloading of farm machinery and dry goods. The quantity of wool is so great as to almost defy the carrying capacity of the steamer. But our steamer is moored to the Portland wharf to await another load, and our pen may follow suit.

JACKSON COUNTY RESOURCES.

This, the extreme southern county of Oregon, has now 140,000 acres of land enclosed and partly under cultivation, of which the present product is about as follows:

Wheat produced	300,000	bushels
Oats	350,000	"
Barley	100,000	"
Rye	3,000	"
Corn	40,000	"
Potatoes	50,000	"
Apples	100,000	"
Peaches	15,000	"
Pears and Plums	15,000	"
Hay	30,000	tons
Wool	250,000	pounds
Grapes	150,000	"
Butter	25,000	"
Cheese	15,000	"
Onions	160,000	"
Bacon	400,000	"
Lard	80,000	"

The amount of mineral lands, consisting of gold and placer mines, gold and cinnabar quartz mines, lying upon the western and southern border of the county, comprises an area of about fifteen miles in width and about sixty miles in length, and upon which there is already erected, at great expense, large mining improvements and a great many under construction upon other parts of this mineral land. Of the arable lands now enclosed, that have passed into the hands of individuals, only about one-half are cultivated. The amount of land passed from the Government to individuals in the county is about 275,000 acres, and there yet remains in the lands of the Government a large amount of land susceptible of profitable cultivation, with the aid of outside market; besides a very extensive range of good grass lands and excellent timber land, consisting of white, yellow and sugar pine, fir, cedar and other valuable wood, capable of furnishing an unlimited amount of excellent lumber. With direct communication to the seaboard as an inducement, the production of Jackson county can be increased four-fold.