

CHEHALIS COUNTY.

Chehalis county embraces a tract of country on the Pacific coast in Washington Territory situated about half way between Fuca Straits and the Columbia river, and has an area of about 2,500 square miles. The greatest portion of this county is covered with timber, interspersed more or less with small prairies. The surface is much varied, having every variety of topography, from rough and rugged hills (some of which are high enough to be called mountains) to the most beautiful and fertile valleys. It may be divided into three parts, of nearly equal extent, viz: hilly, flat uplands and river bottoms. Grass and grain grow well on any of these lands, and the valley lands cannot be surpassed in fertility. That there is a bright future for Chehalis county, at no very distant day, no one can doubt who is acquainted with its history and the circumstances now so advantageous for its growth. Here is found a large variety of the finest timber in the world, including cedar, fir, sugar pine, spruce, hemlock, curly maple, cottonwood, alder, ash, etc., with the Chehalis river and its tributaries, which can be brought into use in the collection of timber for milling purposes.

GRAY'S HARBOR

is ample for the purposes of shipping, with an easy and safe entrance. The Chehalis river on which is situated, perhaps, the largest body of good land west of the Cascades, is navigable much of the year through the entire county. There are large tracts of good land on the Satsop, Wynoochee, Wishkah and Humptulups rivers. There is also a fine tract of country north of Gray's Harbor, extending from the upper Wishkah, across the heads of the Hoquiam to the Humptulups, which is a splendid location for a small colony. There are also valuable lands for grazing on the coast, north from Gray's Harbor. There are at this time, perhaps, three-fourths of the best agricultural lands in the county unoccupied. The population of the county is estimated at about a thousand. A question will naturally suggest itself to the stranger: Why is it that a country having so many advantages is so slow in settling? This question is not difficult of solution. Examine the waters of Puget Sound and the course of the Chehalis approaches within twenty

miles of the waters of the Sound. Settlement began on the Sound, and from thence to and down the Chehalis river, until it reached Gray's Harbor, a distance of seventy-five miles. As the settlement advanced down the river, roads were opened, making the Sound the

ONLY OUTLET AND MARKET.

It may easily be seen that only a few farm products could be taken to market over such a distance of bad road. It is also asserted that some persons of influence about Olympia exerted all their energies to turn away capitalists from Gray's Harbor, for the purpose of holding the Chehalis trade at that point. It is easy to see that under such circumstances it required a good deal of resolution for a person to settle in Chehalis county. We have, for the last twenty years, on the lower Chehalis, been paying from \$20 to \$40 per ton for our freights. But happily things have taken a very important turn for the better. We are now beginning to ship the products of the country down stream, in the order that nature intended, and our purchased supplies are brought in at Gray's Harbor and up stream, as they should be. Our rich bottom lands produce the finest grains, grasses, fruits and vegetables in abundance; the dairy products are becoming quite considerable and of the finest quality, and ultimately the product of timber must be of immense advantage to the whole country.

W. S.

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

The country northeast of Spokane, for forty-five miles is a level plain, covered with bunch grass; the land is fine for grazing, but not considered extra for agricultural purposes, although crops have been grown successfully on the plain. All west and north of Spokane, after leaving the town about six miles, there is a level prairie, the soil being a rich black loam, pronounced by the General Land Office chemist to be the best in the United States for wheat growing; the prairie is interspersed with timber, and abundantly watered by creeks and lakes. The section is settling up fast, and where one house could be seen last spring, more than forty could be counted from any door-step—the dead level of the country offering no obstruction to the view. The prairie extends from Spokane to

what is known as the Big Bend of the Columbia River, fully sixty miles. South of Spokane the country is somewhat rough, but valuable for grazing. The town of Spokane has the finest water power of any on the Pacific Coast, and surrounded as it is by an extensive agricultural and grazing country, on the line of the overland railroad, with outlet to both seaboard, and the seat of government of the county and section, its future as a manufacturing and distributing point is assured.

NOMENCLATURE OF PUGET SOUND.

BY F. F. VICTOR.

In 1592, before the power of Spain had declined, the Viceroy of Mexico acting for the Spanish Government, and extending its possessions, fitted out an expedition to examine the northwest coast of North America, in search of some passage into the Atlantic by water, which should shorten the voyage from old Spain to her Pacific possessions, and especially to the Philippine Islands. As navigators of all nations placed themselves at the service of Spain as the great maritime power, one Apostolas Valerinos, a Greek pilot, attached himself to the Spanish navy under the assumed name of Juan de Fuca, and was entrusted with the command of the exploring expedition above mentioned. In cruising along the coast looking for openings, he discovered the strait which bears his name; but he was nearly a degree out in his reckoning of latitude, and when subsequent navigators looked for his strait where he placed it, it was not found there, and they concluded his story a sailor's yarn; though they never quite forgot to keep an eye out for Fuca's strait. Therefore to a Greek are we indebted for the name of this remarkable arm of the sea, leading into Puget Sound. Along about 1787 and 1788, a good many traders of various nationalities visited the coast of Northwest America, having learned from the narrative of Cook's voyage that there was money to be made by purchasing furs from the natives of this coast and taking them to China to sell to the rich merchants of Canton. Several companies were engaged in this lucrative trade who rendezvoused at a snug little harbor on the coast called Nootka, and claimed by the Spaniards. One Berkeley, master of a ship from Ostend, in 1787, while run