

SOME OF OUR RIVERS AND LAKES.

The Columbia river rises in latitude 60 degrees and 50 minutes north, and after forming a series of lakes, takes in the waters of the Kootenai, Spokane, Okanagan, Chelan, Snake, Wenatchee, Yakima, Walla Walla, Methow, Palouse, Clearwater, Umatilla, John Day, Deschutes, Klickitat, Willamette, Lewis and Cowlitz, besides a half hundred lesser streams. It drains an enormous region of country, embracing seventeen degrees of latitude, and nearly as many of longitude; the great stream emptying into the ocean in latitude 46 degrees and 8 minutes, and longitude 121.

The Columbia is said to carry off a volume of water equal to that of the Mississippi. Though not so wide, the current is more rapid. The channel is of great average depth. This river may be said to be in Washington Territory. Though for three hundred and fifty miles from the sea to Wallula it is the boundary line between Oregon and Washington Territory. From Wallula it meanders northward through Washington Territory, a distance, of nearly 500 miles to the British line. After its passage into foreign soil, the river returns to the Territory by way of Clarks fork, and meanders nearly south to lake Pen d'Oreille, a distance of over one hundred miles. The other great fork, Lewis or Snake river, comes in at Ainsworth, the present terminus of the Northern Pacific going east. This fork is a large and important river. Most of its great waters are also in Washington Territory. But there is still another branch of the Columbia, along which the Northern Pacific will be running at some time—the Yakima, the valley of which contains lands of superior grain and produce raising qualities. This branch starts in the Cascade mountains and near the waters of Puget-sound, and runs southeasterly in eastern Washington. Many of these streams are fed by the mountain snows and for the most of the year afford cold and pure water. Though small by comparison they are navigable for small steamboats. In the old settlements the fine grass and farming lands along their margin have long since been occupied. The explorer will find, however, many fine lands in the back country along streams of similar kind.

Among the attractions of our North-

western territories are the lake regions. The lakes are numerous, many of them large, notably Pen d'Oreille, about thirty miles long north and south, surrounded by good lands and pine timber. The Northern Pacific will soon be finished to this point and afford an outlet westward. Near lake Cœur d'Alene, some forty miles from Pen d'Oreille, is the old mission and Cœur d'Alene reservation. Here is a beautiful country. The northern waters of Cœur d'Alene are some seven miles from the line of the Northern Pacific. Lake-Chelan, one hundred and fifty miles west from Pen d'Oreille and two hundred miles north of Walla-walla by way of the Columbia river, is forty miles in length, and situated in Stevens county, Washington Territory. Back of Seattle, and but a short distance from it is Lake Washington, twenty miles in length. Near Steilacoom, in Pierce county, are a chain of lakes, one quite large and a curiosity. American lake has no visible outlet, is the receptacle of several streams and never overflows its banks. It is likely the source of many fine springs pouring out through the hills far and near. Those who are partial to settlement near lake scenery can be accommodated in the Pacific northwest.

NEHALEM VALLEY.

The Nehalem river empties into the ocean about forty-five miles south of the mouth of the Columbia, and is one of the finest streams in Tillamook county, Oregon, being about 100 miles long. The valleys are from one-half to four miles in width, composed of fine soil. For about ten miles from its mouth the tide lands predominate, and being very rich, produce from three to four tons of hay to the acre. This hay is not so nutritious as timothy and other species, yet the stock eat it with relish, and thrive splendidly thereon. As you go up the river the bottoms are covered with salmon brush, vine maple, willows, alder, and other species of wood. These bottoms are easily brought under cultivation, being very rich and productive when properly cultivated. Potatoes, cabbage, beets etc., thrive and attain to a good size, and corn, pumpkins and squashes do passably well. Wheat on the table lands does well, yielding from 35 to 50 bushels per acre; but grows too rank, and does not ripen in season on

the bottoms. All cultivated grasses flourish on any of these lands, thereby making the country well adapted for dairy and stock raising purposes, which at present are the chief industries. The climate is temperate, never getting excessively hot in summer or cold in winter. The bottom lands are all covered with brush, but are easily cleared. Foley creek, a beautiful, sparkling stream, runs through about six sections of the best quality of bottom lands, which alone would furnish homes for a small colony. This creek is a tributary of the south fork of the Nehalem, and is full of fine speckled trout and other varieties of the finny tribe. The upper end of the Foley creek bottom joins those of the Miami, a more extensive and equally rich section, having an outlet eight miles south of the Nehalem, in Tillamook bay. The hills are covered with spruce, hemlock, fir, larch and cedar, which timber is of superior quality. It is confidently believed that a railroad will tap this country at an early day, for its coal and other commodities. Land is worth \$1.25 per acre. Persons can take steamer from San Francisco to Astoria, thence via Clatsop plains, keeping the coast route to the mouth of the Nehalem, or leave the coast at Seaside, go over the mountains by a rude trail, striking the settlements fourteen miles from the mouth of the river. From the Willamette valley the most practicable route is via Quick's wagon road from McMinnville or North Yamhill to Tillamook.

MEDICAL LAKE, W. T.

In addition to the medicinal qualities of that famous lake, it has pure, fresh water, beautiful scenery, fine drives, and a productive country around it. It is only seven and a half miles from Cheney, where invalids leave the cars of the N. P. R. R. The road between these two points is in splendid condition. Good and easy conveyances have already been provided to convey passengers to the lake, and if one-half the stories told of the wonderful curative properties are to be credited most of the patients will not need a conveyance to take them to the depot at Cheney on their return home. They will be glad to walk to show that they have been cured.