

## KITTITAS VALLEY, W. T.

"Kittitas valley is some 25 miles long by 5 to 15 miles in width. It is surrounded by high ranges or spurs running from the mountains. There is but one easy outlet from it, and that is in the direction of the Columbia river. There is a wagon road running south, connecting Ellensburg with Yakima City. There is quite a desirable place, now being settled, which is nearly due east of Ellensburg, distant 24 miles, and is known by the Indian name, Teawous. The bottom is small and where the road crosses is on the east side. The stream is clear, cold and a bold one, filled with trout and other delicious fish. There is a high prairie adjacent, which in the opinion of the writer, if sown to Fall grain will produce an excellent crop without irrigation. The Swauk washes on one side while the Teawous washes the other and the distance is about three miles between them. Timber is in abundant supply on all sides and occasionally nice clear rivulets course down the mountains. The prairie spoken of is some 80 to 100 feet above the level of the streams. It is entirely free from rocks or gravel; is covered with a heavy coat of bunch grass; is easily plowed and more than ordinarily fertile for that kind of soil. The settlers number about seven at the present time, all of whom are located on the bottom land, which is of the finest quality. There is room for a dozen families; immigrants hunting land would do well, if they cannot suit themselves in Kittitas valley, to go north, in the direction of the mouth of the Wenachie. Four miles above the mouth there is the best piece of vacant land known to your correspondent, and is large enough to make homes for 12 to 16 families. Timber is abundant and convenient; is of easy access and a road already built up to and into it. There are quite a number of springs, living water breaking out in numerous places, while the Colochen itself is icy cold and sufficiently rapid to afford a mill site every one-fourth of a mile. On the Colochen is as good a place to run a dairy as Yakima county affords. There are thousands of acres of the best bunch grass on both sides of the creek, extending from the mountains on the west, some three or four miles to the Columbia river. The land suitable for culti-

vation, is rolling and untrodden by the hoofs of animals, save an occasional camper or small running bands of horses of red men whilst journeying through the country. At and near the mouth of the Wenachie experiments have proven that no part of Yakima can surpass or equal it for fruit culture. It seems to be a natural home for peaches and grapes. Settlers who have lived there for eight or ten years have proved this not only to their own satisfaction but that of all others who have seen the fruit which for quality and perfection in growth, is hard to beat anywhere. But irrigation is as much of a necessity here as elsewhere in the country. Several claims have been taken within the past year.

.....

CHEHALIS COUNTY.—This county is one of the largest in Washington Territory and one of the richest in resources, but it is almost entirely undeveloped. Its population is less than one thousand, and total property valuation, as shown by the last tax roll, \$300,000. The assessment is up to the full value of property, probably because so much land is in the hands of non-residents. Timber lands are valued at \$2 per acre. The county seat is at Montesano, which is the nearest approach to a town. For judicial purposes Chehalis is attached to Thurston county, and cases at law are tried at Olympia.

## .....

MEDICINE MOUNTAIN.

Situated on Coeur d'Alene river and about 16 miles from its mouth in what has been called by Capt. Sorenson, Green Island, from the fact that from a distance it looks as though it were entirely surrounded by water and green meadows. But this mountain we have been informed by Father Goosic of the Hangman mission, is called by the Indians "Smokokum," or Medicine mountain. It is 300 feet high and about one mile in diameter at its base and is situated in the center of Coeur d'Alene valley. On the side of this mountain is an old Indian cemetery; also two slate stone walls about 3 feet high and of same length, evidently placed there by human hands, for what purpose we cannot imagine. The superstitious Siwash who imagines he is going to die, comes there. The ill and sick also visit it and gather the herbs

and dig up the roots which abound here, for medical purposes. They then erect their tepee's and remain until they are cured, or fancy so. On the summit of this mountain there is a large cross that was erected 33 years ago by a Father D. Smith, a Catholic missionary. It is placed on a high foundation of slate rock. Some three months since Capt. Sorenson, after having heard the facts as stated, paid a visit to the summit of the mountain and found that the cross had been blown down. On his next visit he went prepared with the necessary tools and replaced the cross as near its original position as in his judgment was correct—facing east. The killikinick grows here in great abundance, and from the summit of the mountain we have one of the finest views imaginable of the Coeur d'Alene valley and river, both up and down.—*Spokane Chronicle.*

## .....

DAYTON.

A very happy state of affairs now prevails at Dayton, and never before in its history have we seen the people—generally speaking—so contented and prosperous. The old peanut men who were originally such a drawback to the town have taken their departure and their places are filled by energetic, enterprising citizens, who are fully alive to the new era which has dawned upon them since the advent of railroads. It is only within the past few months that the change has come over the people and it is attributable solely and wholly to the fact that the farmers of the vast grain-producing region which is tributary to Dayton, have for the first time been enabled to ship their produce to a market. Railroads have at least made the people happy in this section for not a word of complaint did we hear during a recent visit except that the carrying capacity of the O. R. & N. Co. was entirely inadequate to the occasion, and it is calculated that at the rate of 200 tons per day it will take until next June to carry away the wheat which alone will be brought into the Dayton depot.—*W. W. Statesman.*

.....

THE POLARIS.—A handsome looking 16-page paper bearing the above title has made its first appearance here. It is to be published weekly, and if each one of its mentioned contributors writes but one article in a year, it will be well worth the subscription price, which has been placed at \$3.50 per annum. We wish it all possible success.