

WHATCOM COUNTY, W. T.

The mainland portion of Whatcom county consists of two parts, the valley of the Skagit and part of the valley of the Fraser. These two parts are divided by a spur of the Cascades, which reaches salt water at Bellingham Bay. If we adopt the theory that at one time the sea reached the base of the mountain range, then all the low lands in this county south of the Chuckaunt spur of mountains have been formed by the deposits of the Skagit river, while the table lands north of it have been formed by the Fraser. The valley of the Fraser, lying between the mountains and salt water, and extending from Bellingham Bay to Burrard Inlet, is somewhat in the form of a semi-circle and contains about a thousand square miles of agricultural land, about three hundred of which in the form of an acute angled triangle lay south of our national boundary line and forms a part of Whatcom county. Through this triangle run the waters of the Nootsack or Lummi river, having two mouths, one of which empties into Bellingham Bay, the other into the Gulf of Georgia. Between and adjoining these two mouths are several thousand acres of marsh lands, most of which are overflowed by high freshets, but all of which can be reclaimed and prepared for agriculture, but as most of those lands are within an Indian reservation, nothing has yet been done to reclaim them.

This portion of our county between Bellingham Bay and the 49th parallel is almost all a dense forest which will some day be transformed into some of the pleasantest homes in North America. It is all rich agricultural land, and when once cleared of timber, will make valuable farms. It is table land along the shore, averaging about 40 feet above the level of the sea and is almost all level. The soil mainly consists of a rich brown loam resting on heavy clay, which in some places necessitates much draining. Every description of fruit, vegetables or grain, incident to this climate and latitude, grows to perfection here, and unlike some portions of the States, we can always depend upon a good crop, if we plant or sow good seed, and give it a good show.

The whole of this tract is well watered with springs and small streams of mountain water, and everywhere good

water can be found by digging from 10 to 40 feet.

Some of the finest timber in the territory can be found near the headwater of the Nootsack river; and some of the best openings for manufacturing every description of woodwork can be found here. About three miles back from Bellingham Bay is a lake, twelve miles long averaging two miles wide, partly surrounded by mountains. This lake is 300 feet above the level of the bay; it has but one outlet which empties into the bay at the town of Whatcom. This outlet, which is Whatcom creek, falls 200 feet within a mile of the lake, forming about a dozen good mill sites. It then meanders through almost dead level ground for about two miles, when it has another fall about a quarter of a mile from the bay and another of nearly 40 feet close to the bay. On this creek every description of manufacturing could be carried on.

YAKIMA COUNTY, W. T.

Yakima county is bounded on the north by the Wenatchie river; on the west by the crest of the Cascade range; on the south by the dividing line between townships six and seven, which is known as the summit of the Simcoe mountains, and on the east by the Columbia river. The length from north to south is about 140 miles, and from east to west about 100 miles. This area comprises what is known as the Yakima valley, and tributary thereto are the following valleys: Simcoe, Attahnum, Cowyche, Natches, Wenas, Kittitas, Umptanum, Squaw Creek, Selah Springs, Coal Creek, Moxee, and, lastly, the valley extending from the Moxee valley down the Yakima river for 75 miles, including Sulphur Creek, Black Canyon and Rattle Snake Springs. The above comprises the principal valleys in this county. Besides there is a strip of country along the Columbia river susceptible for settlement which belongs to Yakima county. This, of course, is on the eastern slope of the Cascade range, and is naturally diversified with hills and valleys, covered with bunch grass, and much of the low lands are covered with sage brush. Very little timber, except along the foot hills and along the streams.

The soil is unexcelled by any portion of the globe. From 40 to 50, and

sometimes as high as 75 bushels of grain is the yield to the acre.

The climate is healthy, and unsurpassed in any country. Some winters barely enough snow for good sleighing, and in eight or ten years we have from one to two feet of snow. The present winter has been quite mild. Most of the time the ground has been bare at Yakima City. In other localities, near the foot hills, they had good sleighing for some weeks.

Most of these valleys referred to are only sparsely settled at present, and at a rough guess we would say there is room for at least twenty thousand inhabitants, and they are cordially invited to come and take their chances with the pioneers.

In addition to our agricultural advantages, we are backed up by vast mineral wealth in the Cascade range of mountains. We have the Swauk mines, the Peshastin mines and the Cle-elm mines, most of which is now in process of development, the same being gold and silver bearing quartz. Then we have stone coal and iron ore, which will all come to light in due time.

IN the vicinity of Heppner, Umatilla county, there are over 200,000 sheep. These will average six pounds of wool apiece or 1,200,000 pounds, which, at an average price of twenty cents per pound, yields \$240,000 a year.

AVERAGE YIELD.—The census bulletin from the Department says that the average crop of cereals raised in Washington Territory last year, was 27½ bushels per acre, the largest average of any State or Territory in the Union.

MESSRS. STEINER & BLOSSOM have just begun business at Salem with a complete and well assorted stock of stoves and tinware. As they are both practical men in this line of business, they will, without a doubt, make a success of it.

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GEO. W. TRAYER, favorably known to all old Oregonians, has now the general agency, for the Pacific coast, for the Massachusetts Benefit Association, of Boston, Mass. He expects to soon visit Oregon in the interest of his company. Our readers can rely on the Association being on a solid footing, otherwise Mr. Trayer would not consent to act as its agent.