

land, 60 per cent. of which is adapted to agricultural purposes. The sales from Nov. 12, 1879, to Dec. 31, 1881, amount to \$340,456.63, the larger portion being sold for cash at \$2.60 per acre; probably not more than 15 per cent. of this amount was sold on the instalment plan of five payments, extending over a period of four years, at \$4.00 per acre; 7 per cent. per annum interest is charged on deferred payments.

The Railroad Land Office is located at Cheney, Spokane county. This county originally contained about 1,260,000 acres of railroad land, and 90 per cent. is good wheat land.

There were 607 sales made in this division in 1881, amounting to 115,503 acres; about 55,400 acres was sold Spokane county, principally near the head waters of Hangman, Pine and Rock creeks on the southeast side of the railroad, and Deep and Crab creeks on the northwest side. The population of this county is increasing rapidly; four years ago the white population in this portion of Stevens county, now Spokane, did not exceed 300. In September 1881, the school superintendent in this county reports 1,700 white children of suitable age to attend the public schools.

The newer portions of the agricultural lands of this division that have been settled upon and cultivated during 1880 and 1881, have proved to be as productive as the older portion of Walla Walla, Columbia and Whitman counties, which are so well and favorably known as wheat, oats, barley, flax and vegetable producing lands. The samples of grain on exhibition in the land office at Cheney, from all parts of the division, labeled and placed side by side, show that the grain raised in Spokane county not only in length of straw, size of head, plumpness of kernel, but the yield per acre, will compare favorably with that raised on the best wheat land east of the Cascade mountains. Over 5,000,000 acres yet remain to the company between Wallula and Lake Pend d'Oreille, fully one-third of which is saleable at much more than the prices above named, notwithstanding its remoteness from the thickly settled parts of the East, and notwithstanding the sparseness of population on this coast. Were the company so disposed there would be no difficulty in selling to cap-

italists all of those lands in a body at \$2.60 per acre, but as such a sale would result in a land monopoly, hindering the rapid settlement of the region and thereby operating to the detriment of the road, such a transaction is not likely to be considered. It is not premature to advise people who are likely to want such lands at the present rate to use some diligence in the matter, for, although we are not advised as to their intentions it would seem that the rapid movements of the company, the extensive operations of construction indicating the early completion of the road, the financial stability of the concern and its increasing traffic, afford some ground of probability that the price of these railroad lands will be increased. The Pend d'Oreille division is completed and in full operation, so that this favored region is accessible to any point of its entire length along the road in comfortable warm coaches. These land sales began about the time that construction of this division was commenced at Ainsworth under direction of General Superintendent Sprague, in 1879, in November of which year the company opened a branch office in Colfax, the county seat of Whitman county, and then sold land to settlers until in June, 1881, when the road was built as far as Cheney, and the office was moved to that point.

L. T. Barin, Esq., Register at the Oregon City Land Office, furnished the following:

The state of Oregon is now divided into five land districts, viz.: Oregon City, Roseburg, Lakeview, LaGrande and The Dalles, the local United States land offices for said districts being situated respectively in the above named towns. The Oregon City land district, originally the Willamette land district, embraced prior to March 2, 1853, (at which date Washington Territory was organized) all the land in the territory of Oregon, said territory prior to that time, embracing all that part of the territory of the United States which lay west of the Rocky mountains and north of the 42d parallel of north latitude; now comprising Oregon and the territories of Washington and Idaho, covering an area of over 251,000 square miles of land. The Oregon City land district now embraces all the land south of the Columbia river to the 3d standard parallel, and west of the summit of

the Cascade mountains to the Pacific, containing an area of about seven million acres. The counties of Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Clackamas, Marion, Polk, Tillamook, Yamhill, Benton and Linn, with the exception of a few acres in the southern part of the two latter, are entirely situated in this district. About two-thirds of the land embraced herein has been surveyed, a great deal of which is yet unsettled. Lands lying near navigable rivers and railroads, have, of course, been first selected by settlers; and persons who desire to settle upon government land in this district, should not expect to find locations nearer than the foot hills of the Cascades and Coast ranges of mountains. However, by reason of cancellations and relinquishments, tracts of land may be obtained in any part of this land district. There are a vast number of acres of vacant government land in the counties of Clatsop and Columbia, the soil of which is very rich and fertile, but heavily timbered. In fact the land in this district remaining unclaimed, is generally covered by forests of fir, interspersed with hemlock, cedar, cottonwood, oak, pine, alder, maple, ash and various species of trees of less value. Fires have at different times raged furiously in the Cascades and Coast ranges of mountains, partly consuming the trees for miles in extent, and thus leaving the country in some places comparatively open; this is especially the case on the west side of the Coast range. Water of the purest quality is everywhere abundant, and range for stock is, in the foot hills, excellent. During the year ending December 31, 1881, two hundred and fifty six homestead entries aggregating 35,593 acres, and 188 pre-emption declaratory statements under section 2259 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, covering 24,628 acres of land, have been filed in this office; 144 claimants have made final proof in their homestead claims, covering 17,821 acres, for which final receipts entitling them to patents, have been issued; 45,420 acres of land, in which are included pre-emption claims, timber entries under the Act of Congress approved June 3, 1878, and excesses in homestead applications, have been sold for cash at \$1.25 and \$2.50 per acre, the rate depending upon the location of the land. A number of certificates have