

## CLIMATE OF THE PACIFIC NORTH-WEST.

"How canst thou walk in these streets, who hast trod the green turf of the prairies? How canst thou breathe in this air, who has breathed the sweet air of the mountains?"

Said a prominent writer on western affairs recently: "The Montana mountaineers will have to fight cold winters and deep snows, but that kind of a battle is better for a man's energies than to search a shady place and smoke cigarettes. It is a better climate to develop energies and make strong patriotism. It is fitted for young blood. It is such a climate as never overhangs the homes of any except brave, earnest men, and earnest and true women." Said Hon. Samuel Bowles in writing of the Puget Sound country: "Up here above the latitude of Quebec and Montreal we basked in the smile of roses that are denied to us in New England. Here, within the circle of the softening seas, reigns a year that knows no zero cold, and rarely freezing water or snow; that winters fuchsias and the most delicate roses, English ivies and other tender plants, and summers them with rioting luxuriance; that grows the apple, the pear and the small fruits to perfection," and a noted writer on climatology adds, "the climate of eastern Oregon or Washington is like that of France and that of the western portion of these commonwealths like one produced by adding the mildness of Virginia to the moisture of England."

The truth is, this great kingdom of variable altitudes and of "most magnificent distances" affords every imaginable variety of climate except the tropical. Therefore, if as the great Montesquieu says, "the empire of climate is the most powerful of all empires," blessed is our region of the Pacific Northwest, for it possesses that desideratum. The temperature of Florida and Maine, of Pennsylvania and California, have their prototypes here. The persimmon constitution will find its ideal in the peach and sweet potato belts of the lowlands, and the man of sterner stuff, who wants a good frosty bracing atmosphere can revel in it in mid-summer a mile away.

*Roses in Portland in December, pansies in Virginia City, Montana, in January, peach blossoms at Lewiston, Idaho, in February, snowbanks in sight of either in August. Side by side, blending into one matchless picture are summer and winter, Italy and Switzerland, "the dreamy Orient and the restless Occident."*

## THE OCEAN CURRENTS.

It is well known that a wide difference in temperature exists in corresponding latitudes on the Atlantic coasts of the United States and of Europe, and the cause has been well established. While along the eastern shores of our own country courses the Arctic ocean current, bearing down from the northern sea its icy waters, the western countries of Europe are warmed by the mighty Gulf stream, which bears to their shores the thermal waters of the tropical ocean.

The Columbia river region is in the same latitude as sunny France, Switzerland and portions of Italy, Spain and Portugal. It is

subject to oceanic influences very similar to those of the countries mentioned, and necessarily has a somewhat similar climate. All this region is near enough to the Pacific ocean to be markedly affected by its currents. By reference to any map whereon the ocean currents are shown, it will be seen that the great Japan current (Kuro Sivo)—that mighty stream of warm water—bears directly against the western shores of America. The temperature of the winds blowing over it is of course affected by its heat, and they carry their modifying influences inland many hundred miles, even exerting their genial influences upon the climate of Montana.

Cast your eyes over a climatic map exhibiting the extreme northern line of wheat production, for instance, and you will find that while on the eastern shore it touches near the mouth of the St. Lawrence, at latitude 50°, it runs in the northwest 500 miles farther north and beyond the most northerly point in British America reached by the Columbia river. Over \$1,000,000 have been invested in herds of cattle and horses during the past eighteen months, which herds are to sustain themselves without winter feeding on the great bunch grass plains of British America north of Montana, the experiment having been often successfully made by freighters who have turned out their oxen in that country, poor from over-work in the fall, and after leaving them to shift for themselves through the winter, have gathered them up in good trim for work in the spring.

## THE RECORD BY DISTRICTS.

The valleys of Montana, the coldest portion of this region, have an average annual temperature of 48°, about four degrees warmer than Wisconsin, three degrees warmer than Michigan and one degree warmer than Massachusetts and New York. Montana averages 254 days of perfect sunshine per year, and two hundred and ninety-one fair days as against 191 fair days at Boston, and 170 at Buffalo and Chicago. Montana's fall of rain and melted snow is about twenty-three inches annually; five to seven inches less than that of Minnesota.

The average or mean annual temperature at Lewiston, in Northern Idaho, is 56°; a milder showing by five degrees than is made by Ohio, milder by ten degrees than Iowa, and milder by twelve degrees than Maine and New Hampshire. Boise City, in western central Idaho, with a much greater altitude than Lewiston, an average temperature of 51°, the same as Ohio, and four degrees warmer than Connecticut. The rain and snowfall at Lewiston is about 24 inches; at Boise about half that amount. Idaho is noted for its bright sunny days and dry pure atmosphere.

The average spring temperature of Western Oregon is 52°; summer, 67°; autumn, 53°; winter, 39°, or 52.75° for the whole year. The thermometer seldom rises above 90° in the hottest days of the summer, and rarely falls below 20° in the winter; so that the most active out-door labor may be performed at all times of the year, and at all hours of

the day. Considering the thermometer's limited range during the four seasons, and the other conditions peculiar to the locality, a year would be more properly divided into two seasons—the wet and the dry; the former lasting from the middle of November until May, during which period the rainfall is copious and regular, insuring certain crops and good pasturage. In the Willamette valley the annual rainfall is 44 inches—about the same as at Davenport, Memphis, and Philadelphia, while in all other valleys it is sufficient to prevent any drouth. The rain never comes in torrents, but gently and without atmospheric disturbance; thunder storms are rare.

The climate of Middle and Eastern Oregon differs in this from that of the western part of the state, that there is much less rainfall in the winter and consequently more coldness in the latter, and more dryness in the summer. The rainfall, however, throughout the greater part of Eastern Oregon, is sufficient to insure large and remunerative crops. The range of the thermometer is rarely above the summer temperature of Western Oregon, sometimes reaching 100°, but only at rare intervals. Ordinarily the thermometer indicates 90° as about the highest summer temperature, and 10° as the lowest for winter.

The climate of the different divisions of Washington Territory (eastern and western) is nearly a duplicate of that in corresponding sections of Oregon. The range of mercury is a trifle lower, and in the Puget Sound section the rainfall is a little greater; but these differences are hardly perceptible.

If these facts prove anything they prove that the habitable portions of this whole northwestern region are singularly adapted, by virtue of their climates, to comfortable out-door work at all prominent industries the year around; that with soils of ordinary fertility the various cereals, fruits and vegetables can be grown over a vast extent of now unoccupied territory; that millions of cattle, horses and sheep can thrive without shelter or prepared food on almost unlimited natural pasturage; and, best of all, that this is one grand sanitarium—undisputably the

## HEALTHIEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD!

According to the official report of the Surgeon-General of the United States army, the percentage of deaths from disease to each 1,000 soldiers in the different military districts of the Union are as follows, the result having been the average of four years: Atlantic coast, out of each 1,000, the percentage of deaths was 17.93; Arizona, 12.11; Pennsylvania and Michigan, 6.05; the northwest, including Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, 3.25. The Gulf states make a worse showing than the Atlantic states, and the northwest is by far the best of all. The mortality statistics taken in connection with our national census, shows a smaller death rate for Idaho and Oregon than for any other commonwealth in the Union, Idaho standing first with a percentage of 0.33, Oregon following with 0.69, and prominent eastern states following in this wise: Ohio, 1.11;