

Maine, 1.23; Illinois, 1.33; New York, 1.58; Missouri, 1.63; Massachusetts, 1.77; Louisiana, 2.00. Children born here are strong and sturdy, and the diseases incident to childhood rarely assume a malignant form. Endemic and epidemic diseases are almost unknown. There are no low, swampy lands east of the Cascade mountains; malaria cannot exist, and fever and ague have no foothold. Consumption, that "dreaded disease which medicine never cured, riches never ward off, nor poverty could boast exemption from," which is the scourge and terror of New England and the east generally, is either here cured or modified so as to prolong life for many years.

Hurricanes, floods or other storms destructive to life and property are almost unknown in the history of this region. The growing season along the coast is accompanied with bounteous showers, whose absence in the interior is not felt because of the beneficent distribution of lands and streams suitable for irrigation. During harvest time there is rarely any rainfall; in fact such a catastrophe as loss of crops from drouth or flood would be considered phenomenal.

What a contrast to the oft repeated experience of the Mississippi and other eastern valleys! While I write, a flood covers the finest cotton, sugar and rice lands of the south. The overflowed area is estimated at 35,000,000 acres—nearly equal to the entire surface of the great state of Iowa. The amount realized there from the cotton crop alone was \$20,000,000. It will require \$10,000,000 to relieve the immediate necessities of the 500,000 inhabitants utterly destitute; many times that amount to make good their losses, and ages to blot from the memory of the rescued the awful scenes attendant upon the loss of human life. If the 400,000 sufferers, whom it is said must seek other lands and employment, could at a bound transfer their industry to this grand northwest they could, without fear of the elements, carve out a magnificent destiny, such as generations will not realize in that portion of the south.

EASTERN WASHINGTON vs. MISSOURI.

EDITOR WEST SHORE:—Your card requesting a statement of my observations in Northeast Washington Territory during my residence here, is to hand. Comparing this country with Missouri, where I lived from Oct. 15, 1829 to July 17, 1882, thus giving me a residence of only seven months in Washington and 54 years in Missouri, I may say: So far as I have experienced the climate, I like it better than Missouri. The changes from heat to cold are not so sudden, the Winter comes on gradually, and enables man and beast to become accustomed to the change, and not suffer from cold as in the sudden changes of all the country east of the Rocky Mountains. Horses are now living and doing well on the bunch grass, notwithstanding there are ten inches of snow on the ground, and the thermometer has been 27 degrees below zero and now stands at zero. Forage is abundant in the hands of farmers and ranchmen to get stock through the Winter in good shape. When Northeast Washington is properly developed, my honest opinion is, as a permanent wheat

and grass growing country, it will rank equal with any portion of the Pacific Slope. The soil on the hill lands is inexhaustible for wheat, and the valleys, where free from rocks, cannot be surpassed in the world for producing vegetables of all kinds. Springs of the purest and sweetest water abound all over the country, giving fresh water to stock through the Winter that never freezes, which is an important item to stock growers. East, west, north and south of Sprague is a large extent of country yet unoccupied, some townships of fine fertile lands have but from one to five settlers to the township. What a field is here open for the emigrant seeking a home in the West! Those who settled here within the past five years are well pleased and are doing well. I hear no complaint of dissatisfaction. But one exclamation—this is a good country and farming can here be made a success. A general good feeling prevails everywhere and "peace and prosperity reign supreme. Yours truly,

J. M. WILLIS.

SPRAGUE, Spokane Co., Feb. 1, 1883.

SMALL PROMISES—LARGE RESULTS.

Since the early settlement of Washington Territory, the region extending from the vicinity of Wallula Junction northward to a distance of nearly sixty miles has been considered comparatively worthless, not only by settlers, but by the land management of the N. P. R. R. Co., the grant to which Company embraces the region named. From Ainsworth northward is sandy and entirely waterless, and the hardness of Mr. Ritz in locating at Ritzville was questioned by many practical farmers. Mr. Ritz has, however, within the past two years, demonstrated that the soil, while not strictly first-class, is capable of yielding wheat profitably. He has also demonstrated what we have long held, and that is, that many of the regions considered worthless in Washington Territory, can, by three years' cultivation, be made to yield all the cereals, and return a handsome profit to the husbandman. Mr. Ritz has several sections in the vicinity of Ritzville now in cultivation, and judging from the increase of the present year over last year, we have not the slightest doubt but that he will raise more than an average crop in 1883. Our attention has also been attracted by the fine quality of the wheat produced, which is known as a variety of the Little Club. It stands in the head compact, and when threshed is hard and amber-like, yielding a nutritious and rich flour.

Within a few days a German who had settled on land northwest of Ainsworth, and who discovered, contrary to his supposition, that he was on railroad instead of Government land, upon consummating his purchase at the office of the General Land Agent, was required in the contract of purchase to cultivate in a good and husband like manner not less than one-sixth of the acreage purchased. To the surprise of the land department, he showed that in the past three years he had not only cultivated a large tract, but had done so with a profit of 100 per cent. on his investment and labor. It was so surprising that such results had been obtained in a region considered worthless, that a letter was addressed to him asking his experience in farming, to which he made the following reply:

Mr. Paul Schuler, General Land Agent, Northern Pacific R. R. Co.—Dear Sir: Replying to

your letter of yesterday, asking me to give you an account of my experience in Washington Territory, in regard to the material progress I have made upon the land purchased from your Company, I will say that I came to Ainsworth, W. T., on or about the 1st day of November, 1879, and obtained work in the shops of the N. P. R. R. Co. at that point, as blacksmith, the Company paying me four dollars per day and giving me steady work. I was about eleven dollars in debt when I arrived there, and although I have a large family, consisting of a wife and seven children, I succeeded in accumulating in the first year of my residence in Ainsworth nearly one thousand dollars. My first savings I invested in a lot purchased from the Company for fifty dollars. I then built a house and barn upon that lot, had a well dug, fenced the lot and set out some fruit and shade trees, costing me in the aggregate about \$700. Remaining in the service of the Company, I had an opportunity to save more money and better my circumstances. Being anxious to become independent, and to make a comfortable home for myself and children, I took up 160 acres of Government land in Sec. 26, T. 9 N., of R. 29 E., W. M., and bought from the Company at the rate of \$2.60 an acre, 90 odd acres of land in Sec. 25. At the time of my taking up this land it was considered worthless, and most of the inhabitants at Ainsworth and my fellow mechanics would laugh and poke fun at me for going on what they called a wild goose chase. Some of them would go so far as to style me a "crazy Dutchman." I paid no heed to their advice nor to their ridicule, but went ahead putting in my leisure hours at improving what I called "my farm," with the assistance of my family. I made most of my improvements on the 90-acre tract which I purchased from the Company. There are now under improvement on that tract about 40 acres which are substantially fenced. I have a house 18x27 with an L 12x16, and barn and other out-houses. In addition to this I dug a well and set out an orchard of apple, pear, peach plum and cherry trees, 200 in all, and about 100 bushes of small fruits. Last Spring I put in about three acres of wheat, five acres of rye and one acre of oats; besides, I had about two acres of corn, five acres of potatoes, and about one acre of cabbage and other vegetables. I cut all my grain for hay, averaging about two and a half tons to the acre. The potatoes yielded me about 250 bushels per acre. This I consider would be an extraordinary low yield as compared with ordinary seasons, since according to the statements of older settlers, the last season was the driest ever known in this region. I have also five horses, 3 cows and four heifers, 11 hogs and 300 chickens.

All this property I have accumulated within the short period of three years, and aside from hiring two or three carpenters at the time of building my house, I have not spent a cent for labor in improving my land in the sections named or my garden at the town of Ainsworth. To-day I wouldn't take \$12 an acre for the land which I bought from the company, or that which I claim under the homestead law.

I believe that any industrious man, of frugal habits, can do as well in this region as I have done, and that this region offers hundreds of homes equally as good as my own to frugal and industrious men. But all loungers, loafers and whiskey bummers who spend their time in saloons and lounging about stores and talking politics need not come to this country. I shall be glad to show intending settlers land in my neighborhood equally as good as my own, and will give them the benefit of my experience.

Very respectfully yours,
FRANK SCHUNEMANN.

We advise our farmers, especially between Portland and Kalama, to raise hogs. When the construction of the branch of the N. P. R. R. begins this spring, hogs will be hogs, and no mistake.

Red Cloud, the petted and pampered Indian, wants Indian Agent McIllicuddy removed. Isn't it about time Red Cloud was removed, also?