

about Walla Walla and Dayton. In this whole region there is much land yet open to settlement, especially southeast of the Pataha, and between the line of the road to Texas Ferry and the Columbia river. Until the past year the latter region was considered too dry, but the error has been discovered and the land office at Walla Walla is besieged by men desiring to file homestead, pre-emption and timber-culture claims. Returning by the way of Walla Walla we reach the main line at

WALLULA,

on the Columbia near the Oregon and Washington line. This is the point of junction between the Northern Pacific and the O. R. & N. Co., and bidding adieu to the latter we commit ourselves to the care of the Northern Pacific and proceed northward. On the opposite side of the Columbia, in

KLIKITAT AND YAKIMA COUNTIES,

lie thousands of acres of government and railroad land awaiting occupants, much of which is ready for the plow, while the remainder only requires irrigation to make it produce wonderfully. The facilities for improving this land are abundant. A railroad through that region and across the Cascades to Puget sound will soon be constructed. At Ainsworth the train is ferried over Snake river, and takes a direct shoot to the northeast across the great plateau of the Columbia. We soon reach Palouse Junction, from which a branch is now under construction to open up the great

PALOUSE REGION,

lying partly in Washington and partly in Idaho. The road will run to Colfax, Palouse City, Farmington and Moscow, the chief towns of this section. This is much similar to the Walla Walla country, and in a few years will rival it in the production of grain. Half a dozen years ago Whitman county had but a few settlers, and now it possesses the largest population in the territory. Great quantities of land belonging to the government, the N. P. R. Co. and the Oregon Improvement Co., are open for settlement under the laws or are for sale on liberal terms. We can not pass without noticing the

PALOUSE FALLS,

the most beautiful sight in this region. They are on the river of that name, a few miles above its junction with the Snake, and not far from where the road crosses it. From the hills above them the eye ranges to the northeast a hundred miles to the Coeur d'Alene mountains, over an expanse of rolling hills that are rapidly being converted into fields of grain. Above them looms

STEPTOE'S BUTTE,

a solitary peak rising from the plain, and named in commemoration of Colonel Steptoe and his unfortunate campaign against the Indians of this vicinity in 1858. Continuing our journey from Palouse Junction, we pass through a region until recently supposed to be valueless for agricultural purposes, but upon reaching Ritzville and beholding the improvements and farms about that place, we realize how erroneous was this impression. To the west of us, and occupying hundreds of square miles is that vast tract known as the

BIG BEND COUNTRY,

surrounded on three sides by the sweeping bend of the Columbia. Into this immigrants are pouring by the hundreds, and what a year ago was an almost unexplored wilderness will soon be covered

with farms and thriving villages. Having left Ritzville behind, we soon arrive at

SPRAGUE,

a town built on railroad land, and situated in the midst of a splendid agricultural section. Being the chief supply point for the Big Bend and Crab creek regions, possessing a great agricultural trade, and having the round house and machine shops of the company, the present and future prosperity of Sprague is assured. We next stop at

CHENEY,

county seat of Spokane county. This, too, has a most favorable location in reference to the trade of adjacent and outlying agricultural districts, and is a bustling, enterprising and prosperous community. The whole region north of Snake river is dotted with lakes, both large and small, fresh and salt, and many of them containing sulphur or other minerals. The medicinal properties of some of these are wonderful, and especially the famous

MEDICAL LAKE,

lying six miles northwest of Cheney. This is rapidly becoming a great health resort, and a refuge from business and household cares for those who desire to enjoy a few weeks of freedom or to recuperate the vitalities exhausted in too close application to their life work. A little town has sprung up on its banks, a commodious hotel with bath houses is open to guests, and a factory for the preparation of powder from the medicinal waters gives employment to a number of men. Another lake, Granite, lies between it and Cheney, and its waters, also, have valuable curative properties. It will probably soon be fitted up as a summer resort. A stop of a few days at Medical lake will be pleasant and refreshing to the tourist, and it will no doubt become customary for many to remain here a brief period to rest from the fatigues of an overland journey. From Cheney we are rapidly drawn to the Spokane river and reach the town of

SPokane FALLS,

most entrancingly situated where the river foams and dashes over the rocks on its way to the Columbia. The beauty of the falls thrills the beholder with pleasurable emotions. Standing below them and gazing along the rapids to where the water rolls in white masses over the brink or foams and boils around the large bowlders in the stream, one is impressed with the flexibility of that great element as well as its almost resistless power. The "Old Man of the Spokane," a clear-cut profile in a jutting rock at the very edge of the fall, is sharply outlined against the snowy whiteness of the water, and catches the eye at the first glance. The value of the water power can hardly be estimated. It is already attracting the attention of capitalists, and that a manufacturing city of considerable magnitude will spring up is beyond question. The scenery along the Spokane is beautiful and many objects are of special interest to those who take delight in witnessing the eccentricities of nature. Among these the

BARREL AND PITCHER ROCKS,

are the most striking. They are four miles below the falls, towering masses of rock, so closely resembling the objects whose names they bear as to impress one with the idea that mallet and chisel has been used upon them by giant hands.

To the north of Spokane lies the

COLVILLE COUNTRY,

famous for the beauty of its scenery, the health-

fulness of its climate, its fertile soil and its wealth of timber and minerals. Through it runs the great "River of the West," passing down from British Columbia, navigable by steamers for 300 miles above Kettle Falls. A railroad to that point from Spokane is one of the projects of the future, to open up both the Colville and

KOOTENAI COUNTRY,

a splendid region lying in Washington, Idaho and British Columbia, whose agricultural, mineral and timber resources are attracting much attention. The Colville and Kootenai regions will be the Mecca of immigrants in a few years.

From Spokane we continue our journey eastward and soon cross the line into Idaho, where the road turns sharply to the northward to pass around the Coeur d'Alene mountains. A few miles from the road and nesting in the mountains, lies

LAKE COEUR D'ALENE,

a beautiful body of water, surrounded by high, timber-clad hills and fed by mountain brooks. On its banks are a military post, a Catholic mission and an Indian reservation. The forests abound in game and the waters in fish, and a more delightful place to spend a few weeks would be hard to find. Lakes of sparkling water are scattered through the mountains of Northern Idaho, their banks fringed with noble trees and their waters filled with sporting fish. One of the most lovely is

COCOLALLA,

a little gem, along whose margin the track passes. On its shores are immense ledges of the finest granite, which will be quarried and shipped along the whole line of the road. The largest, and most accessible of all, is the lake toward which we are now rapidly rolling, the beautiful

PEND D'OREILLE,

Across a narrow neck the road runs on a trestle bridge 8,400 feet in length, east of which the lake extends thirty miles and west fifteen miles. A splendid view of the water and the surrounding hills is gained as the train winds along the trestle, while the breeze from off the surface is delightfully cool and refreshing. Two steamers now ply on the lake, and this will soon become a favorite summer resort. Hotels, bathing houses, steamers, yachts and boats will be built for the entertainment and pleasure of visitors. Pend d'Oreille, or Sand Point, a station on the west shore, was for a long time the terminus of the road going east.

The great branch of the Columbia which heads in the Rocky mountains and flows northwesterly through Montana, Idaho and Washington to its union with the main stream, was named

CLARKE'S FORK OF THE COLUMBIA,

by the great overland explorers, Captains Lewis and Clarke, in 1805, but is now loaded down with five distinct titles. From its source it is known for about fifty miles as the Deer Lodge; thence to the vicinity of Missoula as Hellgate; from its junction with the Bitter Root until it unites with the Flathead as Missoula river; it then bears its proper name of Clarke's fork until it pours its waters into Lake Pend d'Oreille; but from where it again emerges it bears the name of Pend d'Oreille river till it unites with the main stream. In justice to history and to the name of one of our greatest and most renowned explorers, its original title should be restored from its birth-place in the Rockies to where its waters swell the volume of the Columbia as it rolls on toward the Pacific.