

of that vast tract of unoccupied land in the eastern end of the county, the *Yakima Signal* says:

For a distance of sixty miles down the north side of the Yakima river, beginning at what is known as Parker bottom, or Konewock, and extending to Horseshoe bend, there are thousands of acres of the very best sage brush and bunch grass land to be found in the territory, with a soil varying from twenty-four to fifty-three feet in depth, as shown by actual tests, that remain unsettled simply for the reason that there are no living streams of water, and all of this vast domain can be reclaimed by a ditch carrying water from the Yakima river. Such a ditch could be made at a comparatively small expense, as the soil is easily excavated and there is no rock to interfere. A ditch twenty feet in width and three or four feet in depth, in the opinion of the writer, carried a distance of thirty miles, would irrigate from one hundred and fifty to two hundred thousand acres, and if extended to Horseshoe bend would cover twice that acreage. There is scarcely a quarter section that would lie between such a ditch and the Yakima river but what could be reclaimed, and that would not pay a water rental sufficient to remunerate any party or parties engaging in such an enterprise. The Konewock ditch company have built several miles of ditch, but it is too small to reclaim any considerable body of land. The Moxee ditch company are about beginning the construction of a ditch that, as at present contemplated, will reclaim twenty-five or thirty thousand acres and perhaps more, at an estimated cost of seventy-five thousand dollars. The climate in the locality referred to, especially on the lower river, is not excelled anywhere in the territory. The winters are usually mild and of short duration, and all that is necessary to make this vast domain the garden spot of the territory is water. Capitalists who are looking for investments that will yield large returns would do well to give this their consideration.

Irrigated lands do not depend upon the fitful caprices of the weather, and a good ditch is a guarantee of a crop such as its possessor can not fail to appreciate. There is a difference of opinion as to the necessity of irrigating these lands, as lands east of the Columbia and apparently as dry, are now being cultivated. Besides the sections mentioned there are thousands of acres of good land, some requiring irrigation and others not, valuable timber lands in the mountains, splendid ranges for stock and sheep, and undeveloped mineral resources of great value. If not this year, at least the next the tide of immigration will set in towards Yakima, and we are glad to see that steps are now being taken that will lead to the immediate construction of a railroad through the heart of this vast region.

Camas prairie is the name of a fine dairy region in Klickitat county, lying at the south base of Mount Adams. In the center is a magnificent meadow, covered with water in the winter time, but furnishing excellent pasturage and a fine crop of hay in summer. On three sides the ground rises gradually to the mountains, while on the east it stretches out in a long prairie to the Klickitat. A ditch would drain several thousand acres of valuable land. The important industry is dairy farming, and large quantities of butter are annually shipped to The Dalles and other points. But a limited area has thus far been sown in grain, and this has yielded well. The amount of land devoted to grain will increase annually, though the dairying business will probably never be supplanted.

Dayton is soon to enjoy the benefits of a system of water works. The Dayton Spring Water Co., with a capital stock of \$10,000, is bringing the water of a large spring to the city.

Hon. Philip Ritz is fencing 7,000 acres of land near Ritzville. This shows his faith in the land that has formerly been condemned as "too dry."

The Colville country is receiving many immigrants, and from all the reports that come from there we are forced to the conclusion that there is no place more desirable or offering more attractions in the way of resources or climate. There is still room there for thousands.

W. S. Smoot, of Oneida county, New York, recently purchased of the Oregon Improvement Co. 4,425 acres of land near Endicott, on Rebel flat, in Whitman county, for \$31,190.70. A colony from Central New York will soon occupy the land, and the town of Endicott will receive a forward impulse. Land cultivated in that vicinity has always produced well.

The new town on Four mile, Whitman county, is called Viola, and is acquiring quite a metropolitan air. A good general store and a planing mill are among its business interests.

Harrington is the name of the town recently laid out in the Big Bend country, twenty-five miles north of Sprague and nineteen from Harrison, the nearest railroad station. It is located in the center of one of the finest agricultural regions in the Big Bend, a tract four townships square and containing 976 square miles, or 624,640 acres, capable of supporting thousands of families. It is known as the Cold creek and Lord creek region and does not alarm the new comer with a stretch of country destitute for miles of spring, rivulet or any other form of water. Harrington stands upon high bottom land of black soil, on a gentle slope from the east toward a little creek which ripples through the northwest corner of the town, just across which, and still within the town limits, bubbles up a cool, overflowing spring. It is into this region such a constant stream of white-covered wagons is now pouring. The Big Bend is divided into east and west halves by an immense canyon or ravine, called the Grand Coulee, and so far immigration has been confined chiefly to the eastern division, while west of the coulee but little exploring has been done. In regard to that little known region we clip the following from the *Spokane Chronicle*:

From an interview with Col. L. B. Nash who has recently returned from a somewhat extended trip to the Big Bend country we gain new information about that notorious region. The colonel and his party made quite an extensive detour, skirting the Spokane and Columbia until crossing the Grand Coulee which trends in a northwesterly direction, and discovered between the coulee and the river a very fertile tract of land about thirty miles wide by seventy-five long, somewhat strikingly dissimilar to the region this side of the Grand Coulee. This is known as the Badger Mountain country, and Col. Nash regards it as one of the choicest spots in Eastern Washington, the outlet to which will be to the landing on the Columbia at Priest Rapids. The spring season he found to be in advance of this region by a month to six weeks, and a climate almost semi-tropical prevails. Water and timber are in abundance, and the location selected by the party for a settlement, nearly opposite Lake Chelan, they named "Bracken," in honor of the genial old captain. Col. Nash intends to apply his four land privileges, homestead, pre-emption, timber-culture and timber purchase in that locality and has sent on three men with teams and outfit to improve his claims. Col. Kimball and Captain Bracken have also taken claims, and will remain on the ground for a season to superintend improvements. Many others are locating in the vicinity.

WESTERN WASHINGTON.

Oil has been discovered in Whatcom county by prospectors representing the Standard Oil Co., of Pennsylvania. They were led to search for it by the numerous oily springs seen in various portions of the county. In case this proves to be a permanent oil well, a new industry will spring up. The rush of immigrants to that county still continues. Atlanta is the name of a new town laid out on Samish bay, three miles from Edison. It has a good harbor and is destined to become the seaport for Samish valley. Another town, called Bancroft, has been laid out on Fidalgo island. An addition has been made to the young town of Ferndale, on the Nooksack. Several colonies have recently settled in various portions of the county.

According to the returns made by their assessors, King county has a population of 10,000; Clarke, 6,211, and Lewis 4,644.

There is a great rush for timber lands in the Chehalis country.

Tenino, Winlock, Chehalis and Centerville have each a fine new depot.

The largest month's business ever transacted at the Olympia land office was that of May just past. 17,960 acres were sold for cash, 210 homestead filings were made, covering 31,548 acres, 311 pre-emption claims were entered to about 50,000 acres, and final homestead proof was made on 2,720 acres. This is proof positive that the greater portion of the immigrants pouring into the Sound country remain and take up land.

There are in Snohomish county, unappropriated, from 150,000 to 200,000 acres of land suitable for farming purposes, and nearly if not quite as much more suitable for pastoral or grazing purposes, for which the climate is peculiarly adapted, especially to wool growing. This land is, depending on the locality, either loam or peat (bottom) and sandy or gravelly (highland). The former is found along the rivers and is generally termed "vine and maple bottom." It is newly formed, being composed of basaltic sediment and organic matter. It is more sandy as it approaches the water courses, depending in this respect much upon the rapidity of the current of the streams, while further back the soil becomes more peaty. The river and tide marshes are mostly peat but have a considerable sediment. The bottom and tide land is remarkably productive and as a consequence has been mostly settled up; although on the Stillaguamish river, in the northern part of the county, there are still tracts unsettled; and on the Snoqualmie, Skykomish and Tolt rivers, southeast of Snohomish City, are many good ranches to be found on the river bottoms. The land, however, that is most convenient is the high land which has been deemed less valuable than the bottom land; but which many now value as highly, and which is being taken up rapidly. It is as productive, much warmer, has a good soil, with a clay sub-soil, and is not subject to overflow. It can be cleared nearly if not quite as cheap as bottom land. It lacks the basaltic character of the bottom, and the peat of the marshes, but is traversed by swales that have rich loamy soil, fully as productive and equally as valuable as the bottom land. These swales constitute about one-fifth of the high lands suitable for farming. For grazing purposes the high land