

valley is crossed here and there with dark green belts of pines, and gently swells up to the base of the foot-hills, back of which rise the towering mountains with streams of ice cold water running down the rugged canyons, while ever and anon a bold, basaltic headland juts out in the clear atmosphere like some grim sentinel keeping watch and ward over this peaceful little valley. The very atmosphere, rarified and aromatic from the breath of fragrant pines and firs, stimulates the senses like ancient wine, while brilliant-hued flowers, of almost countless variety, grow in profusion in summer times, to gladden the eye of the lover of nature. The prairie is divided up into four small valleys, viz.: Snipe, Round, Wilson and Big or Main Camas, with intervening ridges of "upland," which are covered with large, stately pines.

It is claimed by some that this upland will produce wheat when it is cleared. There are a few places in Camas prairie where wheat can be grown without fear of frost, but take the valley in its entirety it is too frosty for successful wheat growing, except it be used for hay. Barley and oats do well, however. Good gardens can be grown on most of the places claimed, or ever likely to be claimed. It is well adapted to dairying and stock raising, being watered by Camas creek, Owens creek, Snipe creek and other tributaries to the John Day river. Besides there are countless numbers of never-failing springs along the foothills and in the valley, some of them running nearly an inch stream of water the year round. It is difficult to find a section of land that has not one or more of these springs.

Then there are the hot springs within a few miles of Alba, which are destined to become a veritable "Pool of Bethesda," as they are already becoming famous as a pleasure and health resort. Two and one-half miles south of Alba is a mineral spring with remarkable curative properties, especially for rheumatism, chronic diseases, etc. Here is a chance for some enterprising person to start a summer resort. The spring is on unclaimed government land. For some years past this valley has been the Mecca of all cattle and sheep men of Eastern Oregon, who would drive their immense herds in here every summer to pasture on the rich, nutritious grasses. But all this is changed now; for what was once one of the finest stock ranges in the world is fast being broken by the plow, and stockmen are obliged to seek "pastures new."

To the sportsman, Camas prairie offers superior inducements. In the spring large numbers of salmon find their way from the Columbia up the John Day, thence up the various creeks, where they are easily caught. Elk, deer, antelope, ibex, mountain sheep, wolves, lions, cougars, wild cats, etc., are numerous, while if any one thinks he has lost a bear he can very soon find him in the mountains on the south side of the valley. Of game fowls, there are grouse, pheasants, chickens, and in the spring, myriads of geese, ducks and cranes.

A new era of life, so to speak, is just dawning for Camas prairie. Those who came here a couple of years ago with little or nothing, have got fairly started on the road to prosperity. Last season there was hay cut to the amount of 889 tons, 2,500 pounds of cheese and 17,260 pounds of butter made. This season, it is safe to say, this amount will be doubled. There are already three school-houses, a large, well stocked store and a number one blacksmith located.



The townsite of Sumner, on the new line of railroad from New Tacoma to Seattle, has been surveyed and plotted.

The M. E. Conference is building a college at Spokane Falls. It will be 40x66 feet and three stories high, and will be completed this fall. The cost will approximate \$8,000.

Fifty thousand acres of new soil were broken during the past year in Spokane county. The population has nearly doubled, and the assessment list has increased one-half. The next year will show even greater advancement.

The land office for the Whitman district has been removed from Colfax to Spokane Falls and will be opened for business at its new location as soon as possible. That portion of the district south of the Palouse river will probably be annexed to Walla Walla district.

Sedalia and Harriston are two young towns in the Big Bend country, three miles apart and sixteen from Sprague. As yet they contain little but their hopes for the future, which are great, and in view of the fact that they are surrounded by a fine grain and grass country, well watered, these seem not to be unfounded.

A tract of 320 acres in Schome harbor is being laid off into town lots by the Bellingham Bay Coal Co. This, with Whatcom, Bellingham and Fairhaven, will make one vast town site of three miles along the water front. The people of Whatcom county are determined to be fully prepared for the "boom" when it comes.

Marshall Field, of Chicago, and Baker & Boyer of Walla Walla, are the proprietors of a new town in Eastern Washington, upon which has been bestowed the name "Waverly." It is surrounded for twenty miles by a fine agricultural country. A flouring mill will be one of the first enterprises.

During the month of June the following business was transacted at the Olympia land office:—Cash sales, 24,878 acres, \$48,654; coal entries, 320 acres, \$6,400; homestead entries, 18,057 acres; pre-emption filings, 36,160 acres; sixty-nine timber-land applications of a quarter section each; final proof, 15,040 acres. The total cash sales for the quarter were 54,589 acres, for \$133,493.

The proprietor of the new town of Viola on Fourmile, situated about 16 miles east of Colfax, sold one hundred lots in that flourishing embryo city in three days. One year ago there was not a business house in the place; to-day it supports two general merchandise stores, two blacksmith shops, a planing mill, two hotels, one a two-story building, the other a three story with Mansard roof, two saloons, a livery stable, besides numerous other business enterprises contemplated. Lumber has been ordered for the erection of a drug store; a saw-mill within three and a half

miles of the place loads over thirty teams per day; a first-class shingle mill is situated near by, and liberal inducements will be extended to any person who will erect a steam flouring mill in the place. A rich farming country surrounds the town of Viola for miles in every direction. It is admirably located within easy access of inexhaustible quantities of timber. These happy conditions, in connection with the business enterprise and determination of her citizens, insures to Viola a prosperous future.—Colfax *Vidette*.

Of the country lying in the eastern end of Whitman county and extending into Idaho, the *Palouse Gazette* says: "The citizens of the eastern part of this county should use some exertion to induce the coming immigration to examine the country along the base of the mountains. The great Potlatch country offers great inducements to the settlers, because of its natural advantages of timber, water, etc. The excellent body of land surrounding Genesee, Uniontown and Colton, and extending north, past Pullman, Palouse City, Farmington, and into the Rock creek country, is all one grade of land, constituting the finest body of land on the Pacific coast. Being convenient to timber, and everywhere abounding in springs, it offers advantages that do not exist further west. The soil is rich, black loam, covered with a sod that is easily turned over with three common horses. Numerous towns are scattered throughout this belt of land, and excellent mail facilities everywhere abound. No settler should locate north of Snake river until he has taken a look at the Potlatch country, and from thence north towards Spokane Falls."

An agreement has been made by the interior department with Chief Moses, whereby that disgruntled chief agrees to smooth down his ruffled feathers and surrender his reservation to the government, receiving therefor an annuity of \$1,000 for a term of years. He will remove with his small band of followers to the Colville reservation, which is amply large for their accommodation. The Moses reserve contains an area of 4,200 square miles, and embraces all the country between the Okanogan river and the Cascade mountains from where the Okanogan unites with the Columbia to the international line. In it are large tracts of agricultural and grazing lands, immense forests of great value, and some of the richest mineral deposits and ledges in the west. The reserve was hastily set aside in 1879 when trouble was feared with the most potent Moses, and the rights of many settlers and miners within its limits were ignored. Representations in their behalf having been made at Washington, an order was recently issued by the president, restoring about one-twentieth to the public domain, being a strip off the northern end occupied by the white people. Moses made a fuss about it, was called to Washington, and an investigation of the whole matter has resulted in this agreement to surrender the entire reservation. When congress shall have ratified this and appropriated the money, the whole tract will be thrown open to settlement. There are other reservations where a few lazy Indians hold from occupation thousands of square miles of valuable land, which must soon be cut down or entirely abolished, and the sooner that is done the better it will be for the states and territories in which they are situated.