

The completion of the Northern Pacific railroad from Lake Superior to Puget sound, is an event of immeasurable importance to the entire Pacific coast country north, and especially so to the territory of Washington. It brings assurance of early greatness, by placing us in the very van of commercial importance on this newly opened highway of nations, including us in its circuit around the globe, and making our great waters the necessary counterparts of the seas of China and Japan, the North sea of Europe, and the bays of Boston and New York.

Forty-five millions of acres of timber, coal, pasture and mountain lands; mines of precious metals, quarries of lime stone, marble, granite, slate, sand stone, and beds of mica; ocean front, and inland salt seas; many lakes and rivers affording thousands of miles of navigable waters, all alive with an hundred varieties of fish, some of them of great value; water powers; a climate of even temperature, and healthful; grand scenery of water and mountains, facilities for manufacturing the staples from our own material, wood, iron, wool and hides; maritime opportunities unsurpassed for internal, coast-wise, and foreign commerce; in a line to absorb the trade of Alaska in fish, fur, cedar, and gold; to obtain the largest share from Asia in coffee, teas, opium, porcelain, silks and ivory, all of these are our resources and advantages which will straightway place Washington territory in the fore front along with the most prosperous countries on the globe.

The assessment of taxable property in the territory amounts for the current year to \$44,107,567. There are 32,000 children of school age, 24,000 of whom are enrolled upon the registers of the public schools, while nearly all the remainder attend private institutions or having acquired the rudiments of an education have taken the offensive in the battle of life.

The steady but rapid increase of wealth is indicated by the following table of valuations for the past eight years:

1876.....	\$15,139,078
1877.....	17,281,182
1878.....	18,678,437
1879.....	21,021,832
1880.....	23,708,587
1881.....	25,786,415
1882.....	32,568,901
1883.....	44,107,567

COLVILLE VALLEY.—It is seventy miles from Spokane Falls to the head of the valley, which varies in width from one-half to three miles, and contains enough good land to support a population of perhaps 8,000 people. The present scanty population is made up of whites including many half-breeds and Indians. There is as perfect security for life and property as in many older states. The Indians indeed, are more civilized than their neighbors, some of them being quite successful farmers, possessing hands of horses and cattle, and anxious to enjoy the improved methods of agriculture which their white neighbors possess. Indeed, considering their advantages, their condition, morally and intellectually, it is surprising. The whites generally are a law-abiding people, many of them possessing more than ordinary ability and shrewdness. A peculiar and important feature of the valley is that it contains an abundance of wood, water and good soil in close proximity—three cardinal vir-

tues. Nature seems to have adapted it to stock raising. For this purpose immense quantities of timothy can be grown in the bottom lands. The luxuriance of its growth is remarkable. In some cases, we are told by reliable parties that it has been known to produce at the rate of five tons to the acre. The cereals (except corn) do very well. Though fruit trees have not been thoroughly tried, it is thought they will thrive. We noticed a beautiful patch of strawberries, which we sampled and can attest their excellence throughout the valley. The timber, of which there is an abundance, including fir, tamarack and pine, is generally distributed throughout the valley. Much of the wooded land is suitable for agricultural purposes, much of it being free from the rocks which we ordinarily associate with timber.

The winters are longer by two or three weeks, than in the Spokane country, and the farmers calculate to feed stock for 100 days. If we told the whole truth, we should not forget the mud which abounds in the spring, rendering the roads impassable for a few weeks. An Illinoian might not, however, consider it worth mentioning. None of the ranchers would concede that there are greater extremes of temperature than along the Spokane, 100 miles further south. At any rate, there is plenty of fuel at one's door. The filings of four townships are at present open to settlement—those in the immediate vicinity of old Colville. The government surveyors are at present writing, working near the lower end of the valley, in the vicinity of Walker's prairie, and filings will probably be ready within a year, when the whole country will be in market. The only settlement worth mentioning to which the word town, or even hamlet, could properly be applied, is Chewelah, seventy miles from Spokane Falls, here are perhaps a dozen buildings, including a school house, postoffice, headquarters of the Indian agent, two stores, a physician, and a blacksmith shop. Twenty-five miles north is a place of about the same size known as Belmont, a town of recent origin. Near the latter are a brewery and gristmill in successful operation. By the way, the flour made in this part of the country is not excelled in quality by any made on the coast. Four miles from Belmont is the garrison, a deserted village whose inmates but a few years ago were removed to other garrisons.—*Spokane Falls Chronicle.*

THE QUILLEUTE COUNTRY.

Outside of Washington territory nothing is known of the Quilleute country, and but little is known in the territory of it. It lies on the western slope of the coast range of mountains, extending down to the waters of the Pacific ocean. The river of that name empties about 30 miles south of Cape Flattery, by route of which the Quilleute country is generally reached. A steamer from the sound goes around whenever the business will justify, while more frequent trips are made by schooners, especially those engaged in Indian trading and fur sealing. The most ordinary mode of communication is by the canoe of the Indian to Neah bay, or by tramping it over the roughest kind of trails to that place, or inlets further up the straits of Fuca. From Quilleute to the cape the coast line is of the hardest character, unbroken rock towering high, and threatening death and destruction. South from the Quilleute the coun-

try lowers gradually until it becomes a flat in the vicinity of Shoalwater bay and the Columbia. The obstacles in the way of reaching and making a home in this land have been many and almost insurmountable, yet they have been overcome by two score of rough and hardy backwoodsmen. These men (and some women and children) are but the forerunners of a countless host, who will soon be crowding in by hundreds and thousands. The better land is up the river, where rich and beautiful prairies, all ready for the plow, can be found to the extent of thousands of acres. These lands are said to have no superior on the face of the earth. The timber lands are also good, tho' in fertility are not to be compared with the prairies. The timber itself is valuable, and consists principally of spruce, hemlock and fir, the latter being of a smaller growth than that of the sound. The river is navigable a mile and a half from its mouth. Beyond that it is very rapid, but is traversed by the Indians in their canoes. The finest of salmon abound, the inhabitants thinking them the best on the coast. Off the shores are the fur seals, millions of which sport in these waters, furnishing profitable employment to the Indians in their capture. Back near the mountains are the greatest bands of elk to be found in the world. These noble animals stand higher than cattle, the females weighing from 500 to 700 pounds, and the males 800, 1000 and even 1200. A considerable traffic is enjoyed in their hides and antlers, while the meat is as palatable as beef. Bear also abound, of the black or brown species, and birds and other game. The Indians are of the original kind, but little tainted with the vices of the whites, and are hospitable in every thought and act. They use their own language generally, but few being acquainted with Chinook, and fewer with English. The people down there have none of the luxuries and advantages of modern times. Isolated as they are, they are never called upon for taxes, and know nothing of roads, schools or courts. An occasional mail gets in, and a postoffice has been established. There is talk of a county organization. A dozen years ago a Quilleute county was set off by the Legislature; but as there were no people to complete the organization and fill the offices, it (the county) never reached the condition of actual existence.—*Post-Intelligencer.*

We have received from the well known publishing house of G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, a copy of "The Great Northwest" a guide book for tourists and travelers over the Northern Pacific and associate lines. Typographically and artistically it is a very attractive volume, and its contents are well compiled. Price \$1.25.

A new steam saw mill is being erected twelve miles south of Baker City, Oregon. The demand for lumber in that region is increasing rapidly under the influence of railroads approaching both from the east and west.

The best photos, all styles and sizes, are taken by Abell. Gallery, west side of First street, between Morrison and Yamhill.

To obtain the most artistic views of scenery in the Pacific Northwest, go to Davidson, southwest corner First and Yamhill. He has the only complete assortment in this state.