

that the Northern Pacific will push a branch through some pass in the Bitter Root mountains and down the Clearwater to Lewiston give a most cheering outlook for old Shoshone, which will cause the recalcitrant old tramps, who left her so long ago to fight her battles alone, to wish they had remained to share her good fortune.—Boise Statesman.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SPALLUMCHEEN VALLEY.

The *Inland Sentinel* recently published an account of a land hunting trip in that portion of the province above Yale, from which we condense the following: There arrived in April last a party of young men from the provinces of Manitoba and North West, who sent out two of their number in search of land for twelve settlements. Leaving Yale on the twentieth of April and having traveled through about 175 miles of country, they arrived on the 30th at Grand prairie, which was the first valley of any account; there they found about 1,300 acres of prairie land, slightly timbered, unoccupied; this land requires irrigation, which could be easily accomplished as it is very level and has a plentiful supply of water in a creek that flows down one side; at this place there is quite a settlement with six good farms well under cultivation and which carry considerable stock. Passing on the next place, about 20 miles, is Salmon river valley, which is very fine, but the land apparently is all taken up by settlers, with the exception of one or two pre-emptions, slightly wooded. Six or seven miles further on is the Spallumcheen valley, which is by far the best and largest in the country; the valley is well settled up, there not being one piece of choice land now available. In the valley there is a saw mill which is now capable of turning out several thousand feet of lumber per day. Here they were able to find a considerable tract of land adjoining the Indian reserve and extending to the Salmon river valley, about two miles from the Spallumcheen valley, open to settlement, consisting of about 3,500 acres of prairie land slightly timbered with Douglas pine, which will not require a great deal of clearing. These parties intend to jointly fence, clear, build houses and make homes; working the land to the best advantage. These men are a desirable class of settlers being all mechanics, and men who have farmed more or less in Manitoba, but who have been driven hence in search of a more genial climate and a country where farming may be carried on with some degree of pleasure and not subject to the long, severe cold weather, excessive heat and mosquitoes without number. Let us now add a word or two about the climate of the country: The winter varies from six to twelve weeks, during which time about two feet of snow falls, and the glass has been known to go as far down as 45° below zero, with no wind. The cold snaps seldom last more than two or three days, while the remaining part of the winter is very much like the old country. In the summer it is hot during the middle part of the day, say from 12 to 3 o'clock, before and after which time it is pleasant; cool nights and mornings, being able to sleep comfortably with your blankets. No irrigation is required and yields are above the average. The country there abounds with game of all kinds and to the

sportsman cannot be surpassed, there being caribou, moose, deer, partridge, blue grouse, prairie chicken, beaver, bears, mountain sheep and goats, together with a large variety of other animals and a beautiful selection of small birds; fish are plentiful. The land in this part of the country is like most parts of British Columbia, limited, but there is considerable timber land, which will soon no doubt be taken up by settlers, and after one or two years of labor be able to make very comfortable and profitable homes for themselves. The country is very thinly settled and need hardly say there is a good demand for the gentler sex and married persons, who will be most heartily received by the now residents in that district, and every inducement will be held out to them by the settlers.

At Spallumcheen they were kindly invited to see the Nicola country with a view to settlement. The Nicola district is more like civilization as there is a plentiful supply of the fair sex and many families, with the finest climate in the whole of British Columbia, with very little winter and sometimes no snow at all, and when it does it only remains a very short time on the ground. As a stock raising country it cannot be excelled, but for agricultural purposes it is not so well adapted, there being considerable labor and trouble attached to raising grain for even home consumption, on account of irrigation. The bunch grass there is in much greater quantities than any other place, and the way in which the cattle fatten on it is astonishing.

AGRICULTURE.

Corn has never been a staple product of this region, chiefly, however, because our farmers preferred to cultivate wheat. For a number of years it has been claimed that the Walla Walla region, meaning in general terms the whole of Southeastern Washington, could and upon proper cultivation would produce abundant and excellent crops of corn. That this is a fact would appear from the following statement of the *Waitsburg Times*: "J. C. Arnold last Wednesday morning brought to the *Times* office some of the finest corn we have ever seen in this county. The ears are 14 inches in length and contain 14 rows of grain all perfectly matured. It would compare favorably with corn produced in the famous corn producing state of Illinois. And the strangest thing is that this corn was planted in the dust and grew and matured without irrigation or a drop of rain. Mr. Arnold also laid, not on our table, but on the floor, a sweet potato squash which is no slouch; it measures 48 inches in length and weighs 43 pounds. It also grew in the 'desert region' without irrigation or a drop of rain. If anybody in any country can beat such productions we would like to know who or where."

The extent of the great western stock ranges, the number of young cattle that have been this year driven upon them and the value of cattle on the various ranges, is thus summarized from the *Chicago Journal*: The extensive grazing countries of the west comprise Texas, New Mexico, the Indian territory, Western Kansas, Western Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Eastern Utah, Western Dakota, Montana and portions of Nevada and Oregon, a stretch of country over 2,000 miles north and south, by 1,000 miles east and west. Into these grazing grounds—as appears

from the investigations of Messrs. Irwin, Allen & Co., of Kansas City—this year Missouri sent 55,000 one and two-year-old heifers and cows; the eastern half of Kansas about 20,000; Iowa about 25,000; Minnesota, 15,000; Louisiana, 10,000; Mississippi, 10,000; Tennessee, 5,000; Florida, 15,000; Illinois and Kentucky, 5,000; and driven into Texas, New Mexico and Arizona from Old Mexico, about 30,000. Oregon and Washington sent into Montana, Wyoming and Dakota, fully 20,000. And into this same country about 20,000 young thorough-bred and high-grade bulls were sent from different eastern and middle states. The cost of yearlings from Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska was from \$15 to \$21 per head; two year olds, \$25 to \$28 per head. From Arkansas and further south the prices per head was from \$3 to \$6 less, owing to the quality; and from Old Mexico \$10 was a good price for yearlings, \$12 for 2's, \$16 to \$18 for 3's and cows with calves \$22 to \$25. The price of stock cattle in different western localities are now as follows: Southern Texas, \$20 to \$22.50 per head; Northern Texas, Indian territory, Arizona and New Mexico, \$25 to \$28, owing to improvements; Western Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming and further north, from \$10 to \$35 per head owing to quality and improvement. Grade bulls cost from \$48 to \$60 per head for yearlings; \$60 to \$75 for two year olds; thoroughbreds from \$100 to \$300, owing to strains of blood.

J. F. Moran of Moran prairie called at this office on Tuesday and deposited on our table samples of apples grown on his farm which for size, weight, soundness and freedom from all blemishes can hardly be surpassed in any part of this or eastern countries. Four varieties, Baldwin, Spitzenberg, Newton Pipin and Winesap, were among the apples raised by Mr. Moran, and no one variety appears to excel the others in points of excellence and perfection. Mr. Moran has been a resident of Moran prairie for thirteen years, and has experimented in fruit growing for the last ten years. He says he never has lost an apple tree from other cause than the gnawing of the pocket gopher, and he considers it settled that the raising of this fruit can and will be made a profitable business in Spokane county. Mr. Moran has experimented with the peach, pear, plum and prune fruit trees, and has succeeded beyond his expectations in obtaining good results from each. Indeed there is no question about any of these fruits except the peach. He has had the peach tree in bearing for a number of years, and has had his trees so loaded with fruit as to break down. But the cold of last winter, which proved so disastrous to peach trees in the Walla Walla valley and elsewhere, killed Mr. Moran's trees. He is not discouraged, however, but thinks the peach can be cultivated in many favorable localities in this part of Washington territory. What our friend has succeeded in doing on Moran prairie can be done elsewhere, and no further evidence is required to prove this a natural fruit growing region.—*Spokane Falls Chronicle*.

An incorporated company has been formed, with a capital stock of \$200,000, to operate the flouring mills of Prescott, W. T., and Isaac's mill at Walla Walla. These mills are fitted up with roller machinery for manufacturing flour by the patent process.