

Badger mountain country: One of the two wagon routes traveled by immigrants runs through the Grand coulee, near the Columbia river, passing through Deep creek falls, Cottonwood, near Mosquito springs, Rocky canyon, Wild Goose hills, California settlement, in a general northwesterly course, through the deep coulee, then southwesterly to and along Foster creek, crossing this stream or creek bed at a point near where it empties into the Columbia, thence southwesterly again along a branch of main Foster creek, towards its source, and on until the Chelan and Walla Walla government wagon road is struck, which runs the entire length, north and south, of the prairie country bordering on Badger mountain. The roads are not so bad as might be imagined, considering they run wild and are never worked or repaired, and a loaded team can move along quite comfortably much of the distance. The second and most favored route is identical with the Grand coulee route as far as Cottonwood and some distance beyond, and then runs in a southwesterly direction through the Crab creek country, along Mineral lake, Iron springs, and through the Moses coulee. The ascents and descents are not so lengthy or so abrupt as on the northern route, and loaded teams can move with less difficulty. East of the Grand coulee is a prairie country thirty miles wide, east and west, and running south from the Columbia river as far as the eye can reach, of whose great area, rich soil and capabilities for producing grain and maintaining a dense population it seems the world is poorly informed. Standing on one of the highest summits of this region, a few miles south of the Columbia, and looking away to the south over what seems an unbounded expanse of rolling, billowy prairie, one can not fail to be filled with enthusiastic admiration and with wonder that people are not rushing thitherward by the thousands to occupy and build up pleasant homes and accumulate comfortable fortunes. Widely scattered cabins betoken an extremely limited population, and the character and extent of improvements give evidence of little enterprise. Much of this land has lately been taken up by men who intend to occupy and improve next season, and at the end of another twelve-month the whole region will assume an entirely different aspect from that it now wears. The day is not far distant when all this country will be settled and improved and become the inheritance of a large population of thrifty farmers. In the big horseshoe, between Grand and Moses coulees on the east and the Columbia river on the three remaining sides, lies a grand farming prairie, extending about sixty miles north and south and thirty east and west. This is land almost entirely free from scale-rock and so gently undulating that not one acre in forty is unutilizable. One might plow a furrow for miles in any direction without a break, and cultivate every foot of section after section of as good land as the sun shines upon. Extending for miles along the southwestern border of the prairie is Badger mountain, on whose northernmost summit and slopes are several thousand acres

of valuable pine timber land. A saw-mill has recently been put up in one of the canyons of the mountain and lumber will soon be turned out for the use of the settlers. Over the river and bordering it are the mountains of the Cascade range, and all along the slopes of these mountains, but principally in the regions higher up the river, are bodies of pine timber from which lumber will be manufactured and rafted to points easiest of access to the cities and farms of the plain. At a point nearly opposite the west center of the prairie the Wenatchie river has made for itself a valley bed about four miles wide and extending back and northwest a number of miles. Near the Wenatchie river a bed of bituminous coal has been discovered, and from this and others sure to be brought to light in the Cascade range at no very distant day, fuel will be brought by railroad as soon as the necessities of the people require it. The Columbia river is navigable for many miles above here and to Priest's rapids below, and when congress makes the appropriation to clear these rapids of obstructions or lock them, there will be unbroken steamboat navigation through to Portland and the ocean. The soil of the Badger mountain country is a rich sandy loam of a light shade, two to four feet in depth and underlaid with a clay subsoil. All through this subsoil small fragments of limestone are thickly scattered, as the material thrown out at the mouth of each badger hole goes to show. The presence of these bits of limestone so lavishly strewn through the subsoil is undoubted evidence of the wheat producing qualities of the surface soil. Of its vegetable producing qualities there can be no longer any doubt, as some of the settlers of the early part of this season gave it a trial and found it all that could be desired. Potatoes planted on new turned sod in June, grew, matured and reached a degree of perfection and excellence not often exceeded, and that without a drop of rain and without cultivation from the breaking of the prairie to the digging of the tubers. Of what the soil is capable in the way of producing grain crops we can judge only by appearances, as it is wholly untried, except in the instance given above; but that the soil is inferior to none in Washington territory must be conceded by all who give it investigation. There is none of the bothersome wool grass on that prairie, and the rich soil turns over in as fine a state of tilth and as fit for immediate cropping as much of the prairie land of other sections at a second plowing. A good team will break two acres of the prairie in a day, and this fact taken in connection with the other fact that seeding may immediately follow breaking, will operate greatly to the advantage of next spring's settlers. A settler named Fearing is breaking prairie at this time with a common team whose only feed is the dry bunch-grass as it stands on the prairie. The coming city of the plain is to be called Okanogan (O-kan-og-an), and is situated near the center of the prairie and about sixteen miles east of the westernmost bend of the river. It is located on high land and has a grand outlook in every direction, down across

the easy slope to the river on the west and upon the peaks of the Cascade and Columbia mountains on the north, west and south. The town site is 120 miles west of Spokane Falls and 115 miles east of Seattle on the sound. Ellensburg on the southwest is seventy miles away, and from there the present supply of flour is being obtained for Okanogan at a cost of \$3 per barrel at the mill. Yakima is about thirty miles south of Ellensburg and one hundred miles from Okanogan. At Wenatchie, twenty-five miles away and on the river of the same name, is the nearest postoffice at present. The coal-beds are near this hamlet. The temporary county seat is Davenport, a small town in the eastern end, which was selected by the legislature in spite of the fact that Sprague, the only place of any considerable size, desired it and to secure it worked hard for the creation of the new county. It will be permanently located by a vote of the people at the next general election.



The assessment list for Lewis and Clarke county foots up \$6,538,551, including 50,219 acres of land listed at \$12.51 per acre, 30,424 stock cattle at \$20 per head, and 28,354 sheep at \$2.75 each. It exceeds that of 1882 by about \$2,000,000. The great bulk of this property is owned by men residing in Helena.

The station on the Hellgate formerly known as Drummond and which was re-christened Flint, has had its first title restored to it. Drummond occupies the site of the old town of Edwardsville, which has been purchased from John Edwards by the company, and is the railroad point for Phillipsburg, New Chicago, Nevada creek, Helmville and Deep.

The town of Great Falls, on the Missouri, includes Black Eagle falls in the town site, at which the projected improvements of water power are to be made. Preparations are on foot to deliver 1,000,000 feet of lumber there in the spring and to burn an immense quantity of brick. A planing mill will be the first industry established. It is expected that the "Minneapolis of Montana" will make a great showing in 1884.

The growth of the new town of Anaconda, in Deer Lodge county, is something remarkable even in this land of mushroom cities. The first house was built in July last, and now the town boasts of 260 houses, including several fine brick blocks and dwellings. Large stores, hotels, markets, shops, livery stables, saloons, and all that goes to make up a thriving business town have been established, and only the new appearance of everything would indicate that this was not a town of several years' growth. Work on the immense smelter is progressing rapidly. Both the Utah & Northern and the Northern Pacific will probably build branch lines to Anaconda in the spring.

The region north of Flathead lake, though one of the best, is one of the least known in the ter-