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THE publisher has perfected arrangements with Mr. Newton H. Chittenden, a journalist who has spent several years in exploring the Pacific Coast and writing up its resources, to supply THE WEST SHORE with a series of letters upon the resources of British Columbia, and especially of Queen Charlotte's Island. These letters are to be the result of an extended tour of exploration in that region upon which he has just been dispatched by the Colonial Government, and will appear exclusively in the columns of this magazine.

REPORTS received from Walla Walla are to the effect that the "dry lands" in Umatilla and Walla Walla counties are being rapidly settled upon. These lands occupy a belt lying along the south and east bank of the Columbia, extending back from the stream a distance of from ten to twenty miles, which has until recently been considered as fit only for a sheep range. That the soil is good is evident from the excellent growth of bunch grass it sustains, but it was feared that the rainfall was inadequate for the maturing of cereals. How much of the unpopularity of this section can be charged to the willful misrepresentation of sheep men, who desired to preserve the ranges from invasion by pre-emptors and homesteaders, and how much can be charged to the ignorance of climatic conditions, it is impossible to state. One thing is certain, the men who have grazed large bands of sheep upon this bunch grass plain have been universal in their denial of its fitness for agricultural purposes. The scanty rainfall has served to give weight to their utterances. Within the past few years experiments on a large scale have been made in various places with the productive powers of these despised lands, and the result has been uniformly good, completely silencing the evil prophets. Even under the unfavorable conditions of last year, fields in that region yielded averages of twenty-five and thirty bushels of wheat to the acre. On the opposite side, in Klickitat and Yakima counties, are vast

stretches of arable land popularly supposed to require irrigation to render it productive. It is possible it will also be found ere long that this land has been slandered as much as that on the opposite side of the stream. Even if such is not the case, since much of it lies in a position favorable to irrigation on an extensive scale, the time will come when farms will make green these long reaches of monotonous gray.

FRASER RIVER SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

THE scenery of British Columbia, so varied and so grand, supplies an exhaustless number of subjects for the pen and pencil. From time to time THE WEST SHORE has presented engravings of familiar scenes and objects, often where the work of man has combined with nature to produce still more striking effects. Such an illustration is that of the suspension bridge across Fraser River. This bridge was built by Hon. Joseph W. Trutch, in 1863, at an expense of about \$50,000, and crosses the Fraser twelve miles above the town of Yale. The suspension cables are supported on wooden towers, the bridge being 262 feet long in the clear, and are calculated to bear safely a load of forty tons. It is on the route of the Yale and Cariboo wagon road, which was built by the Colonial Government in 1862 at an expense of \$300,000, to accommodate the traffic and travel to the Cariboo mines. This road and the track of the Canadian Pacific Railroad run up the left bank of the river side by side, until the bridge is reached, when the wagon road crosses to the opposite side and continues up the right bank. The railroad remains on the left side, and just above the bridge runs around the face of Alexander Bluff, where the road bed is cut to a depth of 131 feet. The current of the river at this point is very swift and turbulent, and in the spring floods the waters rise to a great height and rush tumultuously through the narrow channel, often coming nearly to the bottom of the bridge, though this is seventy-five feet above low water mark.

THE GORGE AT VICTORIA.

THE Gorge, which forms one of our illustrations, is a favorite place of resort on Vancouver Island, three miles from Victoria. It is a contraction in the channel of an arm of the sea which projects a number of miles inland, and is known as "The Arm." It is easily reached by a pleasant drive along the shore or by sail and row boat. The tide enters the gorge gently and passes through into a large basin several miles in extent. When it ebbs, the water rushes impetuously through the narrow gorge with a roar that can be heard at quite a distance. One feature is quite noticeable, and that is the figure of a lion formed by the rocks on the right hand bank. It is a distinct and almost perfect outline, and seems to be Nature's hand and seal to the grant of that fair island to the British Crown.