

its fertility, bearing, besides the pine forests and bunch grass, rose bushes, choke-cherry bushes, haws, willows, etc. The pine trees average two to three feet in diameter, tall and straight, and making fine lumber. Many of the trees are found that are five to six feet in diameter, which manufactured into lumber sells at the mills at from \$10 to \$25 per thousand. A shingle mill is now in operation in connection with the sawmill. Other wood-working machinery will be erected early this spring. Across the Columbia on spurs of the Cascade Mountains are immense forests, extending across the range to the Sound, giving inexhaustible lumber resources.

Of the Big Bend country J. A. Donaldson, who arrived on the coast several months since from Manitoba, writes from the Willamette Valley to his friends in Wisconsin as follows: "I have been pretty well over the State of Oregon, and have been as far south as the California line; have been all through the coast counties and all along the foothills of the Cascades, and up and down both sides of the beautiful Willamette Valley. A man with a few thousand dollars could fix himself very comfortably in this charming valley. But for the man of moderate means, like yourself and our Eastern friends, there lies a district 300 miles up the Columbia known as the Badger Mountain country. This beautiful stretch of country is bounded on the east by vast coulees, on the north, south and west by the Columbia. It covers an area of forty by sixty miles. Badger Mountain proper lies along the Columbia, and has on the northern end about 12,000 acres of magnificent timber. A sawmill is now in operation, and a Mr. Williams, of Manitoba, will have a saw and flouring mill ready for business by September. This will be on the east side, within an hour's haul of Okanogan. Douglas county has the coming city of the plain, Okanogan, for the county seat. Okanogan is beautifully situated. She has a grand sweep of country all around her. Looking away toward the east over a vast expanse of gently undulating prairie, the eye rests on the dark blue line of the now famous gold mountains of the Cœur d'Alene, 200 miles away. Turning toward the north you can track for 100 miles, through an equally rich mineral region, the silvery windings of the grand old Okanogan; looking toward the west you never tire of looking upon the snow-clad peaks of the beautiful Cascade range, the foothills bare and sides covered with towering Douglas firs, running up 300 feet without a limb. The grandest sight from the town is to the south, over a billowy prairie, the sunniest and richest I have ever seen, and you know I have seen a good part of the country both north and south of the boundary line. In regard to emigrating, I would unhesitatingly say, Come at once and bring all your friends with you, and try and induce others to come. There are hundreds here already, but there's room for millions more."

This region was erected into a separate county called "Douglas" by the last Legislature, with the county seat located at the new town of Okanogan. This word is of Indian origin and means "center of the circle," and while its orthography is unique, its meaning is wonderfully appropriate, as the town site is located in almost the exact center of the broad scope of prairie we have already described, and this prairie is nearly in the center of Washington Territory. There are some twenty-nine different ways of spelling this name as used by different writers, and its present orthography was adopted after a careful study of the various ways used by others, and after much thought and an inability to decide among the different modes of spelling. Okanogan was adopted, principally for the reason that it saved a decision on the question by spelling it a still different way from any of the authorities at hand. The bill creating the county

located the county seat at this point. As the title of the whole country was in the United States, it became necessary to secure the town site by some means, and to do this the services of Judge W. Abbott Lewis, the leading land lawyer of this section, was secured, and through him title obtained to forty acres, which have been platted into a town site, regularly laid out, with all streets 100 feet wide, and twenty feet alleys through every block. The site selected is on a gentle swell sloping to the southeast and overlooking the surrounding country. The plat has been surveyed, and already some fifty odd business lots sold to parties who will improve them at once. The owners of the town have adopted the policy of not selling lots in large numbers to speculators, but preferring to sell to those who intend improving and occupying them. Business openings of all kinds will be found here in the various branches of trade, the professions, and mechanics of all kinds will find room and demand for their services, and will be warmly welcomed to this new settlement, where they will find excellent opportunities to build up business for themselves.

The greater portion of this is Government land, and much of it has been taken up by actual settlers. The Northern Pacific Company's grant pushes out into the Big Bend and includes some very choice agricultural lands. Anticipating a rush to this locality during the coming year, the company, through its agent in Portland, Mr. Paul Schulze, has not only prepared for it in the latter city, but has located a representative at Spokane Falls, who will guide new-comers to this land of promise.

Across the Columbia to the west and northwest of the Big Bend is the Okanogan mineral region, whose rich ledges of quartz are attracting much attention, and where will be developed some of the greatest mining industries on this coast. A railroad running from Spokane Falls through the heart of Lincoln county to Okanogan, offering an easy outlet for the enormous bulk of grain and other products which the Badger Mountain country in a few years will produce, is one of the projects the energetic business men of Spokane Falls have in view. Such a road will be absolutely demanded by the necessities of commerce, and if not constructed by the Northern Pacific as a feeder to its main line, will be built by private capitalists as an independent road. Its ultimate extension through the vast timber, mineral and coal belt of the Cascades to some harbor on Puget Sound would be a natural sequence.

North of Spokane Falls is the county of Stevens, in which is the Colville region, already attracting much attention by reason of its fertile valley lands, magnificent timber and valuable ledges of quartz. Last year many immigrants settled in Colville Valley, and the indications are that this season will see a greater number still select homes in that beautiful region. Chewelah is the name of a town that has been laid out on a beautiful site at the head of Colville Valley. Its central and commanding position will make of it the largest town north of Spokane Falls. It is building up rapidly, and has a good saw mill already at work. To the northeast of Colville lies the great Kootenai country, chiefly in British Columbia, but partly in Idaho. The plans of the Columbia & Kootenai Railway & Transportation Company for developing this region have been given in previous issues of THE WEST SHORE. They embrace the construction of forty miles of railroad from the Upper Columbia to Lake Kootenai, by which a combination of rail and steamboat transportation will offer all the necessary facilities for taking in machinery to work its quartz ledges, its forests of timber and its acres of arable land, and for shipping to outside markets the products of the many industries that will be developed there. An act granting a charter and land