

will afford homes for thousands of immigrants yet to come. When cleared of their dense growth of timber, the hills become valuable for farming purposes wherever the topography admits of it, while everywhere they furnish good grazing for stock, as clover and other grasses thrive wherever the ground is sufficiently cleared to permit.

This is the ideal dairy region of the Coast. White clover, the richest butter and cheese food cattle can have, though inferior to the bunch grass of the Inland Empire as a beef producer, attains a growth of twelve to fifteen inches all through the forests, except where it has been trampled down by cattle, which are yet so few that they destroy twice what they consume. Everywhere the hum of the honey bees is heard, as they extract the sweets from the blossoms, and then wing their way to the hive in some decayed forest giant, to lay up a store of honey for the winter's use. Butter, milk and honey, as good as the world produces, may be found in every farm house. This rank growth of wild pasture is produced by the copious rains in winter and the heavy dews which prevail in midsummer. The abundance of perennially green pasturage, the presence of the purest water in streams, natural springs and wells, the absence of cold weather to freeze the water and snow to cover the pasturage, render this a specially excellent dairy and stock region. For these purposes its qualities are becoming better recognized every year, and the time is not far distant when the wooded hills and valleys of Lewis County will vie with the bunch grass ranges of Yakima in the production of beef for market.

Boisfort Prairie lies in the southwestern portion of the county, about twelve miles from both Chehalis and Newaukum, and is drained by two branches of the Chehalis, which have their sources about ten miles farther south. This region was nearly denuded of timber many years ago, and settlers have found it comparatively easy to clear and cultivate farms. The natural pasturage is excellent, and much fine butter is produced. The amount of land that can be cleared with comparative ease is estimated to exceed 800,000 acres. Upon this land any ordinary farm crop can be raised. Wheat, oats, root crops and clover grow with great luxuriance. Some of the habitations of the earliest pioneers are still to be seen, but in many instances they have been superseded by neat farm houses with good frame barns and other buildings; and these, with their fields of grain, orchards and meadows, present an appearance of thrift and prosperity highly pleasing. Railroad lands are valued at from \$3 to \$5 per acre, and improved land from \$15 to \$20. This section is growing in population and wealth annually.

Little Falls, Winlock, Napavine and Newaukum are towns on the railroad between Cowlitz and Chehalis rivers. In the vicinity are a number of fine prairies, as well as a long strip of fertile bottom land on the Newaukum. In this region are some of the oldest settlements in the county. Hay, grain, cattle and hogs are the chief products of this region, and many tons of bacon are annually hauled to Napavine and Newaukum for shipment.

Cowlitz Landing is an old and well known point on the Cowlitz River, six miles above the southern line of the county. This was for many years the head of navigation on that stream. In early days a Hudson's Bay Company post was located there; also the first American trading post in the county and the first post office. One mile above the landing is the flourishing village of Toledo, the head of navigation on the river and an important shipping point. A mile further is Cowlitz Prairie, about seven miles long by two and one-half wide, and covered with well-improved farms. This is an old settlement, first occupied by employes of the Hudson's Bay Company. There are a grist mill, two stores, and a school kept by Sisters of Charity. Opposite, on the east side of the river, is Eden, or Layton's Prairie. Fifteen miles further up the Cowlitz is Silver Creek, where is a flourishing settlement. A store, saw mill and grist mill are located at this point. On the opposite side of the river is Klickitat Prairie. Up to this point, from the south line of the county, not ten per cent. of the desirable land is occupied, the remainder still waiting for the advent of the hardy and industrious settler to convert it from a timbered wilderness to productive farms.

Claquato and Chehalis are two towns in the main valley. The former is the older settlement, and was formerly the county seat and the central stage station of this region. It lies three miles westerly from the latter, which is the nearest railroad point. Chehalis is the county seat and chief town of the county. Its position is central in many respects. It lies midway between the Columbia and Puget Sound, also near the centre of the county, and at the head of navigation on the Chehalis, when the river is freed from obstructions. The business men are of that energetic, public spirited kind who compel success, and who have built it up in a few years from a population less than 100 to more than 500. This spirit was manifested when the railroad was built, when they succeeded, after a struggle, in securing a station and one of the finest depots on the line of the road. The business of the town is quite considerable, and grows annually with the increasing prosperity of the country surrounding it. Three hotels, two pork packing establishments, a large flouring mill, a saw mill, a bakery, two livery stables, two general merchandise stores, one dry goods store, one hardware store, one tinshop and stove store, one drug store, one jewelry store, one harness shop, two variety stores, two saloons, one blacksmith shop and a bank represent the business features. There are two weekly papers—the *Nugget* and *Bee*—both of them alive to the interests of the county. A handsome, commodious court house, three churches (Presbyterian, Baptist and Episcopal), two private schools and a public school comprise the public and semi-public structures. The whole town presents an air of prosperity, its well-kept streets, business buildings and private residences indicating thrift and culture. The town is incorporated and has a complete city government. The rapid increase in population and products in the surrounding country will make a continued demand for more trade facilities and manu-