

Reaching Spokane Falls our first glance indicates a pleasant town, with a bluff hill thinly clad with pines on the south and a large plain to the north and east, bordered with picturesque mountains. We find the business part of town built largely of brick, and very substantial for a town only seven or eight years old. There are many elegant residences here and there, especially among the picturesque rocks—piled around like hay stacks—south of the railroad. The ground on which the town stands is gravelly, not good for agriculture, but of the best for street wear, neither dusty nor muddy.

The falls, of course, form the greatest feature. Both from a scenic and commercial point of view they are of great interest. The clear and cold Spokane, a stream half as large as the Willamette, is here flung over a series of trap dykes, forming a cataract nearly half a mile long, with one perpendicular fall of a dozen feet, and another of thirty or more. While not of sufficient magnitude to be sublime these falls are marvelously beautiful, with the green, glassy surface of the river torn by the projecting rocks into shreds as white as wool. The water power is enormous and is already utilized by three great grist mills, one saw mill, the electric light works, and sundry smaller enterprises. Of the flour mills, two, the Echo and the C and C, are roller mills. The former has a capacity of one hundred and twenty-five barrels of flour per day, the latter not much less. Both have machinery of the most approved kind. The wheat supply for these mills comes mainly from the Spangle and Latah country, south of Spokane. The market, aside from the local demand, is Montana and the Cœur d'Alene mining region. There is one well equipped saw mill, under the charge of the Spokane Lumber and Manufacturing Co. It cuts forty thousand feet per day.

The town has become quite a city recently, by the introduction of fine systems of water works and electric lights. It contains now about thirty-five hundred people. Its public buildings do great credit to so new a place. There are several churches, one, the Catholic, being an elegant building. The public school house, a very neat, though not costly, structure, is located in a slightly spot, in the south part of town. On the north side of the river—the town is almost entirely on the south side—are the Methodist and Catholic colleges. The former, under charge of Rev. Mr. Bisbee, is making a good beginning in trying to meet the educational needs of this great region. The latter is temporarily closed. Spokane Falls is well supplied with newspapers. The *Chronicle* and *Review* are two of the best weeklies in the territory. The *Miner* is an excellent paper devoted to the mining and commercial interests of that region.

As to its connections with the outside world Spokane Falls is well equipped. The Northern Pacific railroad passes directly through it. A branch line from Marshall, seven miles south, is now in process of construction. It is already built to Spangle, ten miles south of Marshall, and is being rapidly pushed on to Farmington, thirty miles further. It traverses the magnificent wheat belt above described. From Spangle another proposed branch diverges to the southeast, probably going through or near the towns of Waverly and Latah, and finding a terminus on Cœur d'Alene lake. This favored region has also another railroad under construction from Colfax to Farmington by the Oregon Railway

and Navigation Co., and still another in prospect. So, in means of communication as well as natural resources, the great Spokane and Palouse country is likely to soon be one of the foremost sections in the territory. Its business will naturally converge at Spokane Falls, inasmuch as Marshall, the point of contact between the branch and the main line of the Northern, has no natural facilities. Besides its existing railroad connections, Spokane Falls has others in prospect. One northward through the Colville valley to some point on the Canadian Pacific, and another northwestward through the Big Bend country to some point on the Columbia river. This latter road will give the Spokane country independent connection with the lower country, for the river can, with a little work, be readily navigated from the Wenatchee to Celilo, at the head of the Dalles. It was, indeed, currently reported that last spring's reconnaissance of the river had been discouraging, but I was personally informed by Captain Troup that such was not the case. He believes that a few short portages—canals ultimately—will open the river from Celilo to Farwell, on the Canadian Pacific, the Kettle falls being the only great obstruction.

To intending immigrants it may be well to say that if you come to Spokane Falls seeking land you will find government land of fine quality, and as yet great abundance, in the Big Bend country. Harrington is the principal place in that region and can be reached by wagon from Spokane or Sprague. If one desire to purchase land he can find it of the finest quality at from \$7.00 to \$20.00 per acre in the Spangle or Farmington countries. There the government land is nearly all taken up. Claims, however, can frequently be bought at from \$600.00 to \$1,200.00. There is also good railroad land for sale. Such are some of the features of this metropolis of Eastern Washington, as its enthusiastic denizens are fond of calling it, and as there is much reason to suppose that it may sometime become. Time fails us to speak of all the multiplied attractions of the mountains and lakes in this region. Could you, artistic friend, stand with me on the glistening dome of Mica butte, and see the mirror-like surface of Cœur d'Alene lake mocking the azure hues of heaven, then could you turn westward and see the limitless prairie, sea-like in its wavy outlines, wrapped for its nightly burial in the golden shroud of sunset; or could you, piscatorial disciple of Walton, or venatorial emulator of Nimrod, descend with me to the bosom of the lake and sate your souls and stomachs on the finny hosts therein or the elk and deer and bear and cougars—if you are ambitious—that run or crouch along the banks; or could you, rheumatic friend, bathe your twisted frame in the "modern pool of Siloam"—Medical lake, in other words—and leap to your rejuvenated feet with the exuberance of boyhood; and could you all drink the pure water and inhale the vitalizing air and satisfy the almost boundless appetites thus created, with the sweet food of the lakes and hills, you would join with me in saying that this country of the Spokanes is one of the most beautiful, and most prospectively prosperous of any in all our great Northwest. The future development of this region, industrially, socially and morally, will be one of the most interesting within the great basin of which it is so important a part. It possesses all the natural requisites to be a land of homes, of permanent interests, of the best traits of our busy, aggressive American life.