

There are a great many quarter sections open to settlement which, by the records of the U. S. land office, appear to be taken up. They have been filed upon by parties not able to make proof, and are subject to entry again by any one who has not exhausted his rights. A little patience in looking up such cases will reward a settler. There is a class of shiftless men here, as elsewhere, who are always ready to "sell out" and go elsewhere, and good bargains may often be had from them. There is, also, much land which has been taken up by men residing in towns, who never intended to live upon and cultivate it. Much of this, also, is for sale at reasonable figures. The immigrant who alights from the cars at Sprague, will find himself at the nearest railroad point to a large area of the finest arable prairie land in Washington, where the opportunities to acquire land by homestead, preemption or timber-culture entry, or by purchase, are good, and where he will meet courteous treatment and kind attention from the citizens.

While I was in Sprague I was shown a collection of the products of Lincoln county, which had been gathered for exhibition at the fair in St. Paul. There was wheat which yielded forty-two bushels to the acre, and oats which had given sixty-nine; corn of several varieties, large ears and sound and perfect kernel, one stalk of dent corn being thirteen feet and two inches in height; turnip weighing sixteen and one-half pounds; squash weighing seventy-five pounds; cabbage-heads weighing from twenty to forty pounds; pumpkins of enormous sizes; melons—water, musk, cantaloupe, nutmeg and banana—of good size and delicious flavor; cucumbers, both of the ordinary and snake variety; tomatoes, onions, beets, peas and beans of the best quality; Japanese radishes, both black and white, and potatoes of large size and sound center, as white and mealy as any that ever came from the ground, which had produced from one hundred to three hundred bushels to the acre. There were specimens of cultivated grasses, including great bunches of alfalfa grown on the top of the hills without irrigation, and timothy six and one-half feet high, with a head nine and one-half inches long, also wild rye grass eight feet high. In the line of fruit, though early in the season, there were splendid specimens of pears, apples, crab apples, prunes, plums and peaches. Taken altogether it was a magnificent exhibit, and when it is considered that it was gathered from a newly settled region, which was but a few years ago considered only fit for a stock range, it forms one of the best possible evidences of the rapid and wonderful development of Eastern Washington.

The Colville mines, which have come so prominently into notice during the last two years, lie due north of Sprague, with which they are connected by a good wagon road, by the way of Fort Spokane, near the mouth of Spokane river. Both of these points are nearer Sprague than Spokane Falls, yet the mail routes have been established from the latter place. All the supplies for Fort Spokane are freighted from Sprague, and if the Western mail were sent by the same route it would reach the fort a day earlier than by the present route. An effort is being made to have the postal authorities take proper action in this matter and establish a route from Sprague. The same is true of the now famous mines of Salmon river, in the Okanagan country, north of the Columbia. The distance to these mines from Sprague is about thirty miles less than from Spokane Falls, and a mail route should be established from that city. Much teaming to the new mines is being done from Sprague, which possesses the two ad-