

Crab creek, while the northern is almost unbroken agricultural land. The traveler is particularly cautioned against forming an opinion of this region from what he sees from the car window in passing through. The railroad has, for economy of construction, been built along a series of old channels, once water courses, but now dry, barren and desolate, lying many feet below the general level of the country. Let him alight from the cars at Sprague, and ascend to the top of the hills north of town, and he will enter a tract of fine, rolling, prairie land, stretching north to the Columbia and Spokane rivers, treeless, except in small patches along the water courses, but covered with the famous bunch grass, where not broken for cultivation. This region, once a great and unexcelled range for stock, has been rapidly settled and fenced during the past five years, being quickly transformed from a pastoral to an agricultural country. The stock interests are still large, and are chiefly centered along Crab creek, along which, for a hundred miles, there are many fine ranches and beautiful meadows. Much hay is put up for winter use on these ranches, but cattle and horses live almost constantly on the range, and require feeding but two or three weeks in January or February. Some seasons no feed is required whatever, stock grazing on the range the entire winter, and being in good condition in the spring. With the exception of about three miles of scrub land, the country to the east of Sprague is all arable, extending into the well settled and fertile Palouse region. To the southwest, also, stretches a large area of fine grazing land, which will eventually be converted into farms.

The shipments of stock from Sprague aggregate two thousand horses, ten thousand cattle and twenty-five thousand sheep annually; wool approximating one

million pounds; and wheat, the present season, in the form of grain and flour, probably a quarter of a million bushels. The rapid increase in acreage of grain renders the surplus for shipment comparatively small, as so much is needed for seed and to support the new settlers. The following extract from an article in the *Davenport Times* gives much practical information about this region:

Looking upon the map of the western part of the United States, the extensive territory of Washington is found, situated upon the extreme northwestern boundary. At a single glance the idea of the extreme cold of that far northwestern region would be impressed upon the mind. But such is not the case, as I will try to make clear to the reader who cares to know of this favored country—favored by being entirely exempt from the destruction of cyclones and tornadoes, that sweep from the earth the beautiful homes, and destroy so much valuable property and many lives in the East.

I wish to speak more particularly of the country known on the map as the "Great Bend" of the Columbia, and bordering on the Spokane river, which empties into the Columbia forty-five miles west of Spokane Falls, and twenty-one miles north of Davenport, and which specially presents to the immigrant advantages above many other sections.

Here we have a climate not equaled in the temperate zone, equally mild and suitable for the cultivation of all crops that can be raised in the temperate zone, in a latitude little below fifty degrees north. This climate has often been compared to England, and the same causes produce the warmth where we should experience an approach to arctic cold. The Japan ocean current courses through the Pacific ocean as the Gulf stream warms the northern countries of the Atlantic, sending warm currents of air to moderate the cold that would otherwise result. Degrees of cold are not so great here as in Illinois, Massachusetts or Kansas, with entire freedom from sudden changes experienced there, which is destructive to fruit buds and vegetation. There are not a dozen days that the thermometer falls below zero in winter, and it is nearer thirty above oftener than lower. In usual winter weather the mercury falls to eighteen or twenty degrees above at night. There is a noticeable lack of wind during the months of October, November and December, and the winter winds are almost invariably warm—in