

derived from the decaying vegetation and the rich soil of the higher regions, which are spread over the cultivated lands, thus annually enriching the soil and preserving its fertility. The benefits derived from this source alone fully compensate for the cost of the water, and the farmer is relieved of the expense and labor of applying fertilizers in the ordinary way. The chief difficulty encountered in handling water in this way is a lack of experience. Time will correct the errors occasionally resulting from permitting too great or too rapid a flow of water, and the farmer soon learns to flood his lands gently, evenly and economically.

A brief summary of the various valleys in the county, followed by a statement of what the soil will produce, will give a fairly correct idea of its agricultural possibilities. The Ahtanum valley is twenty-five miles long, with an average width of five miles, including Wide hollow. It is all arable land, but not yet completely under ditch. There are now two large ditches, both heading from the Natches, the Natches and Cowiche and the Broad Gauge, and a third one is contemplated. Numerous smaller ditches are taken from the Ahtanum. This is the principal hop-raising section of the county. Along Cowiche creek lies a considerable valley, supplied by water from the creek. Between the Cowiche and Natches lies a plateau, three by ten miles in extent, which is a splendid body of land. This is all covered by the proposed Natches and Cowiche ditch, which will head in the Natches, cross this plateau, be carried across Cowiche canyon on a flume, and cover considerable land in Yakima valley. It will serve fully thirty thousand acres of land. The Natches is a small valley, about one mile in width and ten long. It is well occupied by thrifty farms, and is irrigated by means of small ditches

from the Natches. Wenas valley is about one mile wide and twenty long, well filled with fine farms, chiefly producing hay, though considerable grain and fruits are cultivated. It is watered by small ditches from Wenas creek. Selah valley lies along the Yakima river, and contains five thousand acres, partly settled. It is irrigated by small ditches, and contains some good locations for settlers. Rising back from the valley is a large extent of excellent grazing land, too high to be reached by ditches which could be constructed at any reasonable cost. The Moxee valley lies opposite the Ahtanum. Here is a large body of land covered by the ditch of the Moxee Company, also a large tract gradually rising from the valley, so that irrigation of it becomes difficult.

An institution which forms a distinctive feature in Yakima, is the Moxee Company, an incorporated association, which is doing more to advance the cause of agriculture in the great Columbia region than any other society or individual. In 1886 this company made extensive investments in property, and began a systematic development, by means of an irrigating canal, and instituted a series of agricultural experiments, which are being productive of the greatest possible good. The company numbers among its promoters and stockholders Hon. Gardiner G. Hubbard, of Washington, well known in connection with the Bell telephone. Wm. Ker is president, and Samuel Hubbard, Jr., secretary and treasurer. The affairs of the company are managed on business principles, and all its undertakings are systematically conducted. Weekly meetings of the officers and superintendents are held for consultation. The company owns nearly five thousand acres of land, of which three thousand six hundred acres are arable, and the remainder suitable for grazing. At what