

is reached. For many years there have been whisperings of this mysterious "Lost Lake," and we know of many expeditions that have started out in search of it. Reports have been rife that large nuggets of gold were found here at one time, and that the prospector could never return to the place. Then again that an explorer found where miners had been at work; there lay rusty picks and shovels, that the storm of winter and time had almost entirely consumed their wooden handles, while rust had demolished to a great extent the iron and steel portions of these evidences of mining. There is now no doubt that a great deal of this report originated in the imagination only. Its mysterious locality is no longer a mystery—the "lost lake of the Blue mountains" is found. Whether the Indians obtained reported quantities of gold from this locality or not is unproved, but our informant inclines to the belief that this portion of the story is only a myth, and that the general outline above given is all the interest appertaining to the "lost lake."

—Walla Walla Statesman.

COQUILLE RIVER AND VALLEY.—Coquille river flows into the ocean from the Coast mountains, through the southern half of Coos county. It is a beautiful stream, having an average width of three hundred and fifty feet for thirty miles from its mouth, and is navigable for that distance by vessels having a draft of fourteen feet, and by small steamers twenty miles farther. There is but little fall in the river for many miles, and scarcely any current is perceptible, the tide reaching far into the interior. The valley through which it runs is forty miles in length and from two to six in width, and consists of an almost level tract of alluvial deposit known as "bottom land," very fertile and inexhaustible. About once in three years, during the winter season, the valley is overflowed, the waters depositing a rich sediment upon the land, which maintains its fertility. These overflows do not come in a sudden and disastrous flood, but are the result of a gradual rise in the water, which can be observed for several days. At such times, those who do not live on the high land, above the reach of the water, drive their stock to the hills until the waters subside. Houses on the bottom lands are raised above the reach of the water. These floods come in near the foothills first, from the tributary streams, because the valley there is lower than in the immediate vicinity of the river. When the water in the streams has run down, the valley is drained again through the same channels. These overflows never occur during planting or growing seasons, but only in the winter. Along the tributary streams there is about as much bottom land as in the main valley. The lower portions of the valley, in their natural state, are covered with a dense thicket of willows, the higher land near the river with myrtle and soft maple, and the intermediate section with alder and ash. All but the willow are splendid furniture woods, the trees being of large enough size to be of great value for manufacturing purposes. Viewed from the hills, this dense growth on the bottom lands is very uninviting to one seeking a home, especially if he be from a prairie country, but when this land is cleared and reduced to cultivation, considerable of which has already been done, it produces almost fabulous crops of grain, hay, fruit and vegetables, and for pasture is unrivaled. All known varieties of clover do especially well. In fact, when land is cleared, clover and other grasses can be kept out only by thorough cultivation, which is in veritable contrast with many sections where it only makes a feeble growth for a few months in spring by much care and encouragement, while here it grows and flourishes nearly the whole year round. Three heavy crops of clover are usually cut each year, making about five tons of hay per acre. Other grasses do well also. The hill

lands, when cleared by being slashed down and burned, or logged off and burned, and properly seeded, produce a few crops of grass very little inferior to the bottoms, but run out sooner, and have to be renewed either by cultivation or manure to raise a good crop. The hill, bench and mountain lands surrounding the valley are very extensive, and are steep only in a few places, furnishing almost unlimited range for stock, even in their natural state, there being wild pea vine, brakes and much other natural growth, besides some wild grass in places where timber is not too thick, upon which stock thrive and do well nearly the entire year. Work horses and milch cows are usually sheltered and fed, especially in early spring, to produce the best results.

LAKE CHELAN REGION.—Lake Chelan lies in the northern portion of Central Washington, in the southwestern part of Okanogan county, and is at once the largest and most beautiful body of fresh water in the territory. Beginning within a few miles of the Columbia, with which it is connected by a short river, it extends sixty-five miles into the heart of the Cascade mountains, and is nine hundred feet above the sea level, and three hundred feet above the Columbia. It is navigable to Pierce river, its chief tributary, a wild, turbulent stream heading in the mountains, where the main tributaries of the Skagit river take their source. The country immediately north of the lake is open, comprising a considerable area of bottom land in the valley of Pierce river. Some of the finest cottonwood and cedar timber may be found in this section, and valuable discoveries of gold and silver quartz have been made on the summit of the Cascades, the dividing line between Okanogan and Skagit counties. The ledges were found two years ago by parties from the sound, who went in from Skagit river, but the same parties now go in by the Chelan route, which is more accessible. Seven or eight claims have been opened up and the assessment work done this season. Next year operations will be continued on a more extensive scale. The wonderful glaciers of that comparatively unknown and untalked of region will some day attract wide attention. They are found in a region extending about ten miles east and west, and twenty-five or thirty miles north and south. Peaks of green ice, forty to fifty feet in height, tower heavenward and present a magnificent spectacle. Here the Cascades reach their widest and highest range, the snow belt being seventy-five miles in breadth east and west, in what is known as the Saw Tooth range. Beautiful shells, resembling oyster and clam shells, are found on the highest mountains, and there are solid banks of gravel forty to fifty feet through in the glacier country. The agricultural lands which lie upon the lake and terraces of the hills on either side, covered with a dense growth of bunch grass, and which extend from the foot of the lake some ten or twelve miles, offer to the farmer the orchardist or stock-raiser, opportunities such as no other locality can excel. The mild winters, the soft, spring-like atmosphere of summer, the absence of cyclones and violent winds, and the pure, healthful water are tempting many to take up their abode near this beautiful lake. Immense water power exists at the foot of the lake, where a stream varying in size and depth, according to the seasons, affords many thousand horse power in a distance of half a mile. This, coupled with the fact that abundance of timber can be rafted to the outlet of the lake, and the further important fact that this power is immediately upon the border of one of the richest agricultural regions in the northwest, offers great inducements to the manufacturer. The country throughout teems with large and small game, and there are no such trout streams on the continent. In Lake Chelan there are four or