

fringed crests in the sky, form its eastern boundary and divide it from Montana. This vast region is occupied by only four thousand people, and its taxable property is less than \$1,000,000 00. Its principal settlement is the Camas prairie country, my own beautiful home, and Camas prairie is really only a little strip of good land adjoining the Nez Perce reservation, which the Indians somehow overlooked when they selected their reserve. In this little strip twenty-five hundred people have made their homes. It is without doubt the most prosperous agricultural community in the northwest, and it shows evidences of improvement and material progress that are really startling to those who know the circumstances which have attended its settlement and occupation. Every pound of freight has to be hauled over the Craig's mountain from Lewiston, a distance of sixty miles. A bloody Indian war once raged here, and the graves of seventy-five victims are still kept green and their memories cherished by their surviving relatives and friends. Houses and stores were burned, property destroyed and stock driven off; nor has the government ever paid a cent for the damages then incurred. But, in spite of these cruelties and spoliations, the sturdy settlers remained, and in twelve years of industry and deprivation they have covered the scars of war with the fruits of peace, and the landscape to-day presents to the eye as beautiful a pastoral picture as ever was gazed on by the infinite in the loveliest vale of Judea. What has been done on the twelve townships of the Camas prairie will be repeated again, with infinitely less of hardship and toil and far less expenditure of money and muscle, by the newcomers who are fortunate enough to locate a homestead claim on the surplus lands of the reservation soon to be thrown open.

It is a safe estimate to say that fully three-fourths of the reservation are arable land, and that the remaining fourth is valuable for its timber, or for its minerals, or for grazing purposes. It is principally

prairie land, with a gentle slope from the foothills of Craig's mountain to the Clearwater. It is a country as large and as fertile as the great Palouse region, and had the reservation never existed it would now contain a larger population, with more products, enterprise and civilization, than anything the Palouse can boast.

Such is a brief, but imperfect, picture of a region which has hitherto been monopolized, to the detriment of the whole country, by Indians, and now, happily, soon to be brought under the domination of Caucasian energy. There need be no fear that the allotment will not be made, for these Indians well understand the situation, and have long been ready and willing to accept the severalty system. For many years they have abandoned their tribal relations and lived without a chief. Many of them are citizens by naturalization. Others are ordained ministers of the Presbyterian church, and the tribe can show more members who can read and write the English language than any other tribe outside the Indian nation. They are by no means blanket Indians, but honest, reliable, enterprising, industrious and loyal.

Those people who are coming from the eastern states to find homes in the far northwest should not fail to come to Lewiston and Camas prairie, for here they are most likely to be suited. The Nez Perce country is somewhat isolated, it is true, but it is in such localities that the best public lands yet remaining are to be found, and the Lewiston land district offers more of such than many more pretentious offices. Come to Lewiston, come to Camas prairie, oh, ye home seekers, and see for yourselves that we have soil, climate, products and resources as good as the best, while the very newness and extent of our country give you opportunities and advantages for acquiring fortunes that older localities can not offer, and which will be greatly increased by the opening up of the last remaining piece of frontier in the United States.

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