

## BUCODA, WASHINGTON.

ON the line of the Northern Pacific railway, forty miles south of Tacoma and 100 miles north of Portland, is the thrifty town of Bucoda. It has a population of about 1,000, and is soon to be incorporated. It may properly be termed the labor town of this district.

The chief manufacturing industry at this point has been the saw milling interest. The Seaco Manufacturing Company employ 150 men. They have a most complete establishment, including saw mill and sash, door and blind factory. They also employ 100 men in their five logging camps. The lumber in the vicinity of Bucoda consists chiefly of the magnificent fir and cedar, so famous in Western Washington. One large eastern railway company is to purchase its construction material here. The special adaptability of fir for bridge work and for railroad ties is being recognized, and there will be a greatly increased demand for it for railroad work. This point offers a splendid location from which that demand can be supplied, and mill men will do well to consider the advantages offered by Bucoda. The Northwest Coal Company is at present operating a mine here, and are able with the force now employed to take out 500 tons per day. This company owns vast coal beds in this neighborhood. The whole country round about is said to be one bed of coal. This industry will assume vast proportions at an early date. The narrow gauge railway running from Tenino to Olympia is to be made a standard gauge this season, and is to be extended to the coal beds of Bucoda; this road will also be extended to Montesano and Gray's harbor. This will open up a new route of transportation, ensuring for Bucoda an era of growth and prosperity.

Bucoda claims to have even now a pay roll double that of any town along the Northern Pacific line between metropolitan points. Already five veins of coal have been faced, and now a lower vein of good quality is being opened. Bucoda is contiguous to good agricultural districts which most admirably complement her manufacturing facilities. The Hanaford valley and the bottom lands of the Skookumchuck river—a stream more beautiful than its name—are tributary to the town. In these productive lands many kinds of vegetables are raised. They are also productive of wheat, oats and other cereals. The hill lands surrounding the town of Bucoda have a rich soil, and are especially adapted to fruit culture. Fruit, especially pears and prunes, of a most superior quality, yields bountifully. Hops in great abundance can be raised on all the lower districts. Northwest of the town lies Frost prairie, and due west is Mound prairie, which

afford excellent pasture and from which considerable hay is already shipped.

Bucoda has one enterprising newspaper, the *Bucoda Enterprise*, five stores of general merchandise, one meat market, one furniture store, one shoe shop, one cigar and confectionery store, a blacksmith shop and two barber shops. Immediate improvements are to be made. Plans are drawn for a hotel; a bank is being constructed, and a large hall will soon be completed. It is safe to predict for Bucoda a period of prosperity and development such as will surprise some of her more ambitious sisters. It enjoys a climate beautiful in summer and mild in winter.

## SPOKANE'S NEW BUSINESS BLOCKS.

SPOKANE FALLS is undergoing a great change—that is, it is getting back to its normal condition. Ever since the fire of last August the business district has been almost entirely occupied by tents. The construction of wooden buildings within fire limits was forbidden by law. A large number of frame structures went up in a hurry, and their occupancy tended to scatter the business of the city outside of what had previously been the business center. Nearly all the ground was covered with tents, in which business was transacted under difficulties. A very few bricks one or two stories in height were put up where it was possible to take the time for their construction. Generally these were but the beginnings of massive structures that are now being completed.

The transition that is now taking place is from the tents to the permanent buildings that are being finished. The tents exist only by sufferance, and the first of May is the time agreed upon for their removal. The city is rapidly becoming settled on a permanent basis. The tents will soon all be gone, and their places will be occupied by brick and granite structures from four to seven stories in height, substantially built and of beautiful, modern styles of architecture.

But few buildings of the new Spokane Falls are yet completed. The new Hotel Spokane built by Dr. Burch and H. Brook, the Eagle block built by H. Brook and D. B. Fotheringham, the new opera house just being completed by A. M. Cannon and J. J. Browne (all recently illustrated in WEST SHORE), and the Tidball block by J. G. Tidball, and the Carleton block by Henry L. Wilson and Dr. Essig (in this paper), show the character of business buildings of the restored city. The Hotel Spokane is the largest in the state. The Eagle block is one of the largest, if not the largest, office buildings in the state. It is 62x142 feet on the ground, five stories high, and is supplied with elevator and all modern conveniences. Its cost was \$75,000. It is located at the corner of Stevens street