

The Okanogan valley—meaning the valley in which lies Okanogan lake—is in the southern part of British Columbia and about 200 miles from the coast. Lake Okanogan is a long, narrow sheet of water, the largest and northernmost of a chain including Dog, Oak, Mud and Osyoos lakes, the last-named being partially within the United States. The Okanogan valley is about 150 miles in length, with branches in various directions. It is estimated to contain 400,000 acres capable of growing heavy crops of wheat, roots, hops and fruit, and about 9,000,000 acres of pasture lands. Of the 400,000 acres capable of growing farm crops, perhaps not more than one acre in a hundred is now cultivated. The other ninety-nine only require men and plows. There is no brush to clear nor timber to cut down and burn. This is one of the most favorable places in British Columbia for ranchers and stockmen. There is now under construction a line of railway fifty-one miles in length, branching from the Canadian Pacific railroad at Sycamoo, and terminating at the north end of Okanogan lake. This short railway will revolutionize the condition of things throughout that rich interior basin. A handsome little steamboat is about to be launched on the lake at the terminus of the railway. It is to run from Okanogan at the north end, to Penticlow at the south end of the lake, calling at intermediate points. As the railway is fifty-one miles in length, and the lake 100 miles (by from one to six miles in width) and as the American boundary is about thirty miles from the south end of the lake, this entire length of 151 miles will be opened up, and find a market where heretofore there was none. Settlers until now had no inducement to raise any other produce than what they themselves could eat or feed to live stock that can carry itself to market.

A steamer which recently arrived from Alaska brought news that both parties of the government expedition engaged in surveying the boundary between Alaska and the British possessions will remain for a second winter in camp in the interior, 2,000 miles from the mouth of the Yukon, instead of returning to the coast, as was expected. The agent said briefly that he had this information direct from the McGrath party and indirectly from the Turner party. It is feared that both parties may endure many hardships during another Arctic winter, though they took provisions for two years. The reason for their stay is that their work is not completed. Each party consists of eight white men and a number of Indians.

The second annual district fair of the Southern Oregon State Board of Agriculture will open September 22 at Central Point, Jackson county, Or. There will be a complete display of the products of that favored section.

The United States land office has prepared estimates of the amounts that can be advantageously expended in surveying public lands in the new states the coming year. The total appropriation asked for is \$425,000 which is more than twice the amount hitherto allowed for that work. Of this Washington gets \$100,000 on account of the difficulty of making the survey and the consequent higher price per mile for the work. Montana gets \$70,000, each of the Dakotas \$40,000, and Idaho and Wyoming \$20,000 apiece. An additional \$100,000 is to be expended in surveying Indian reservations in the Dakotas, Montana and Washington.

The Chehalis Improvement Company has been organized at Chehalis, Washington, with a capital of \$125,000. The objects of the association as set forth in detail by the articles of agreement are, first, to advance the material and general prosperity of the City of Chehalis; second, to establish real estate values by founding a business center in the City of Chehalis; third, to construct, or cause to be constructed, substantial brick, stone and iron business buildings on Market street in said city of Chehalis. The erection of buildings will be begun immediately on twenty-five lots that have already been subscribed to the concern.

The American Steel Barge Company, an organization for manufacturing a curious sort of steel barge that is proposed to revolutionize the carrying business by water, declares its intentions of building a yard on the Pacific coast for manufacturing and outfitting freight barges, and the site will be on Puget sound. The barges have been tried in the transportation of grain on Lake Superior and the craft is reported to be a success. It is proposed to have a line of these queer boats running between the sound and San Francisco next year.

A mining ditch and flume ten miles long is under construction in Idaho county, Idaho, to divert the water of the American river so that it can be conveyed upon 400 acres of placer ground in the forks of Elk creek. The enterprise includes the boring of a tunnel 160 feet long. Much of the work is already done.

A boiler and iron works plant will be removed from Sacramento, California, to Seattle. The plant is said to be larger than any now on the sound, and the industry will give employment to quite a large number of men.

A steamer will be built to navigate Rogue river from its mouth to Painted Rock, a distance of twenty-four miles.

PRIZE CONTEST FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS.

PRIZES FOR PROFESSIONALS.

PRIZES FOR AMATEURS.

WEST SHORE offers the following four prizes for the best photographs produced in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia or Alaska, divided into two classes, as follows:

CLASS 1.—Open to both professionals and amateurs. First prize, \$75.00 cash. Second prize, \$25.00 cash.

CLASS 2.—Open to amateurs only. First prize, one Partridge Compact Camera, 5 x 7, with double combination lens, valued at \$58.00. Second prize, one No. 1 Kodak Camera, valued at \$25.00. These prizes will be shipped from the photographic supply house of E. J. Partridge, No. 69 Morrison street, Portland, Oregon.

Photographs may be of any subjects the contestants may select, except portraits and machinery, and the number of entries by one person is not limited. The judges will be honorable, competent men selected just three days before the awards are made. The best photographs sent in will be reproduced from week to week in WEST SHORE, with the names and addresses of the photographers.

Contestants are requested to send two prints of each subject, one to be submitted to the judges and the other for use by the engraver. Make no marks on the photographs themselves, but cut out the accompanying slip and write your name and address, names of subjects and class they are entered in, and forward it with the photographs, one slip for each entry you make. The photographs will be grouped and placed on exhibition at the Portland exposition, the awards being made on the third day of the fair, Saturday, September 27th, 1890. It is important, however, that photographs be sent in as soon as possible, so as to enable us to reproduce them. Those received when the contest is nearly finished can not be reproduced.

NOTE.—Amateurs can enter in both classes, but professionals only in Class 1. Number of entries by one individual unlimited, but each entry must have attached to it the entry slip printed below. It is not necessary that a photograph entered by an amateur be entirely his own work; if he has selected the subject and made the exposure, that is sufficient. Photographs should all be mounted.

WEST SHORE PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST.

Class	Name of Photographer
Address	Name of Subject