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Indian Legend.

Those who travel today up and down the great Columbia River valley first drink their fill of the magnificent scenery of this mightiest of the Western rivers, which well has been christened, "the Achilles of rivers." Then, if they have a business turn of mind, which, if they are Americans, they probably have, their attention will be directed to the great economic improvements that have been wrought along the banks of the great stream.

Chief among these are the two railroads that follow the river. The canal which makes possible water transportation around the Cascades is another great monument of man's activity, while above The Dalles, the half completed Government work upon the locks which will open the river from Lewiston to the sea, present a striking picture of enterprise and activity. Also there is the uncompleted bridge across the Columbia, the work of the Oregon Trunk Railroad, which will supply rail connection between the North Bank Road and the new Hill line up the Deschutes River into Central Oregon.

All this latter work is near The Dalles of the Columbia. How many travelers

interested in the present-day activities of railroad and canal builders, think of the vastly interesting history of this now active region through which they rush on the modern trains? For not only is the great river, in this section, rich in pioneer adventure, intimately connected with the beginnings of Oregon, but also it possesses a rarely fascinating legendary history.

The legend of The Dalles, passed down from the Indians, is one of the most entertaining, and well bears the telling in these days when this portion of the Columbia is seen by so many and attracts so much attention because of the deeds of modern men enacted on its shores.

To pass from the railroad engineers of today to the legendary demons of the redman's folk lore. At Pasco the two great forks of the Columbia unite. There the northern branch, now the Columbia proper, formerly known as Clark's Fork, and the Snake flowing from the south, meet after draining a vast area of continent west of the Rocky Mountain watershed. Thence the big river flows westerly some 120 miles, until it reaches the dreary region where the outlying ridges