

IN SOUTHERN WASHINGTON

Region Comprising Over Half the Area of a Great State in the Valley of the Columbia and Tributary to Portland.

ALL of Western, Southern and Southwestern Washington borders upon or is drained by the Columbia River and its tributaries or is contiguous to them, and properly belongs in the Columbia River Valley. The greater part of this district, which comprises far more than half the area of the State of Washington, is in Portland's trade field. This section of Washington is developing very rapidly, both in agriculture and manufactures, and its prospects are exceedingly bright. Clark County, just across the Columbia from Multnomah County and, one might say, from Portland, is forging to the front faster than ever before. Within the past year it has been given direct railroad communication with the outside world. Southern Washington is a region of vast resources and the time is not far distant when practical use will be made of its many advantages.

ASOTIN COUNTY.

Systematic Irrigation Has Opened a Large Fruit District.

Among the first in the alphabetical order of counties of Washington will be found Asotin, but from her organization up to about 1897, to the chagrin of her people, Asotin was counted among the least in point of importance. The lack of important resources was not due in the slightest measure to the lack of fertility of her soil, or of the commercial value of her magnificent forests of pine, the unknown yet certain value of her mineral deposits, nor the healthfulness of her climate, her people well know. It was because of the inaccessibility of Asotin County to the cities of the West, that retarded the progress with which other counties of the West, with less promising resources, were blessed. Prior to that year, but few people found the almost hidden trail that led by a circuitous route from the main traveled roads of the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern to the O. R. & N. branch line in the northern border. In 1898 the Lewiston branch of the Northern Pacific was extended to that city, situated in Idaho and at the northern corner of this county. Asotin is on this railroad extension, the Northern Pacific people extensively advertised throughout the West the many alluring possibilities of the grand country tributary to this new branch, and the result thereof marked the most important epoch in Asotin County's history. From that time onward her progress has been both substantial and rapid.

Seven years ago, with less than 100 inhabitants, Asotin was a remote spot some miles of territory. Asotin was detached from Garfield County and is now the most easterly county of the State. At no time has her population exceeded 2000. Today it is over 5000, most of the increase coming in the past two years. Farming and stockraising were, in the early days, the primary occupations. Besides the increase in these industries has since been added lumbering and fruit raising, with the certainty of extensive mining operations in the near future. Land that heretofore was left vacant for the want of good roads have been rapidly settled up by the most desirable class of settlers who are today building up homes with still more to come. Three saw mills, two of them erected during the past summer, are rapidly converting into all kinds of lumber the steadily rising timber of the mountains and higher altitudes, their end product being used by her own people, together with many thousands of dollars' worth that is yearly shipped in from the coast.

Result of Systematic Irrigation.

The tide that recently set in toward Eastern Washington is adding fresh exhilaration to this county's growth. The possibilities here presented to new residents for fruitgrowing would alone accomplish this, but the fact that the capital long ago realized the great opportunities in this direction with the advent of transportation facilities with the best markets, our lowlands are now being raised on account of lack of moisture, will, when irrigated, produce abundant crops of all kinds of fruit, from peaches to the hardiest varieties of apples, almonds, English walnuts, peanuts and sweet potatoes can be grown here to perfection.

The first and grandest experiment in irrigation on a large scale dates back to 1898. A level tract of about 2000 acres, lying in the northeast corner of the county opposite Lewiston—a body of land that was at that time covered with sage brush and considered worthless without water—is today a veritable garden of beauty, thanks to the Lewiston Water Power Company. This district has been appropriately called Vineland. Its soil is of a volcanic-alluvial formation and exceedingly fertile when irrigated, as it now is. The water is carried to the land by a canal, which is now being completed at a cost of \$100,000. So far, the results in this search of profitable investment and pleasant home locations in a warm and beautiful climate, with every small tract into which it was divided has been purchased by the 1500 people now residing there. The products of last year from trees from three to four years old returned handsome profits, amply fulfilling the earlier predictions of its most ardent supporters. A magnificent steel arch bridge, costing \$200,000, now spans the Snake River and connects the States at this point, and a pipe line system, at a cost of \$400,000, affording a 200-foot pressure, supplies the town of Clarkston with pure water. The Clarkston company has recently filed a water right on Grand Ronde River, for the purpose of generating electric power for manufacturing and lighting purposes. This town forms a part of Vineland and is destined at no distant day to be a center of commercial and manufacturing importance. Rights of way and depot grounds are now owned there by the Northern Pacific and O. R. & N. systems, the extension of whose lines into Asotin County is by the logical outcome of the present somewhat complex railroad situation in this part of the West.

Another Large Tract to be Opened.

Still another irrigation enterprise is under way and bidding fair to meet with flattering success. In a beautifully situated section of country, known locally as the Forks of the Asotin, lies a flat of fertile land, from six to ten feet in depth. Three thousand acres of this flat have recently been purchased and a company with ample capital is now pushing to completion an irrigation canal that takes George Creek, the head of the outlet, and is expected that the land will be placed on the market early in the Spring. This new district will afford excellent opportunities to men of small means, who wish to embark in fruitgrowing, poultry, dairying or hogs. Alfalfa grows luxuriantly in this locality, and a small tract, say of five acres, will furnish an abundant forage for as many hogs and cows as a man will find time to attend to. With irrigation it is safe to say the finest apples and peaches the West produces will come from this new district. In a few years, fruits of this kind, as is well known, do better and are of superior quality when grown in a colder climate. Moreover, injurious insects that are so hard to eradicate in a

warmer climate are of little annoyance to orchardists when the Winter's frosts are sufficient to keep them down. Cherries, peaches, apples, plums, and small fruits may also be raised in large quantities. Being only three miles from the timber, fuel will be but a small item of expense. Grazing lands lie all about the district, making stockraising a profitable adjunct. It is safe to predict that here also in a very few years hundreds of happy, contented homes will be located, surrounded by the best of fruits and milk products, with schools and churches and a flourishing town that will be the trading center for a large expanse of fertile land that reaches back in gentle ascent toward an undeveloped country to the west. The temperature of this new district is about 10 degrees cooler than that of Vineland.

Native grass affords splendid pasture for stock, and the raising of good cattle, horses and sheep is, and always will be, one of the chief industries of the county. Cereals, such as wheat and spring barley, are here and there throughout the county abundant. The climate of Walla Walla is salubrious, the best wheat land in the world. It is so enormous in depth that it is inexhaustible. In its cultivation, which has not been going on for over 40 years, it has not been found necessary to resort to fertilizers. Summer-fallowing and deep plowing produce wonderful results. The soil is not all of one grade; it is more like breakfast bacon—strikes of lean and streaks of fat, but all good. The yield of wheat varies from over 50 bushels to the acre, on thousands of acres near the Blue Mountains, which have been cultivated for more than 20 years, to 20 bushels to the acre on land near the Columbia which has been cultivated half as long. All wheat is grown without irrigation. Wheat is the great staple, the other grains, except corn, being grown with equal success. The nights are too cold for corn. Besides grains, vast quantities of fruit are grown to perfection. The fruits, which embrace all the varieties common to the temperate zone, are generally grown on lands which can be irrigated, though much fine fruit is grown on land which cannot be irrigated. Vast quantities of superb vegetables are shipped to the mining regions of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Large amounts of the fruits are shipped in refrigerator cars to Chicago, New York and intermediate points, while hundreds of tons are dried and packed for shipment by the most approved methods. During the fruit season of 1901 the shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables from Walla Walla aggregated over 750 carloads.

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Garfield County.

In Some Years the Wheat Crop Has Averaged \$300 Per Acre.

With a good climate, productive soil and fair market facilities, Garfield County offers to the industrious homeseeker with a small amount of capital, opportunities probably unsurpassed by any other county in Washington, or any region of the Pacific Coast. Climatic conditions are especially favorable to agricultural pursuits, owing to the low altitude, the soil is capable for farm work during both Fall and Spring seasons. The harvest season is also very favorable, as there is but little rainfall in July and August. Much of the soil being a light alluvium, it is easily worked and in prime condition at any time of the Fall, Winter or Spring during the absence of freezing weather. The "open Winter" is the rule here, and farmers have been known to plow and seed in every month of the Winter season.

The soil is perfectly adapted to the raising of wheat, barley, oats, fruits, berries, and almost every kind of vegetable bottom and low lands, the cereals attain a prodigious size and the quality of cereals is phenomenally large. Speaking of the physical condition of this county, topographers have referred to it as "rolling hills." In the higher altitudes the soil is better adapted to grain and the harder fruits and vegetables. Along the creek bottoms and low lands, the more tender varieties are successfully grown. Sweet potatoes are raised on the Sucker River Valley; but it must be admitted that they are not so sweet or so fine in flavor as those shipped from Southern points. Apricots, quinces and nectarines are also grown, and some years the yield is abundant.

The country season generally brings to this country one or two "cold snaps," which last from three days to two weeks. The mercury will drop to zero, sometimes a few degrees below, but the cold is broken by the warm coast or "Chinook" wind, which finds its way from the Pacific Ocean across the Cascade Mountains, sweeping away snow and ice and frequently sucking from the ground every particle of frost along its pathway. After the chinook has prevailed three to four days, the frost may be resumed anywhere in the lower altitudes.

Remarkable Yields of Grain.

The remarkable yields of all kinds often recorded of vegetables and cereals in this region sometimes are doubted by the Eastern reader. Here are a few statements, the reliability of which may be established beyond the shadow of a doubt. From 20 acres near the town of Clarkston, 150 bushels of Pomeroy, cut and threshed alfalfa is raised, 150 bushels of alfalfa, an average of 81 bushels. Oscar Long, whose general address is Pomeroy, has raised on his 100-acre field of White Winter barley an average of 80 bushels. M. F. Goss, whose postoffice address is Pomeroy, has raised on a 200-acre tract in Clark County 45 bushels of T. C. Frye, or Marengo, raised half a dozen squashes which averaged 71 pounds. A. M. Hayes, of Mayview, pulled from a little less than one eighth of an acre 130 bushels of onions. John G. Fitzsimmons, of Pomeroy, dug from one-tenth of an acre 120 bushels of Early Rose potatoes. Hundreds of other yields nearly, if not quite, as good as those mentioned above could be cited. The fruit and garden truck are correspondingly large. Strawberries are ripe in the gardens along the creeks at this writing, November 11. The early crop came in about May 20. Home-grown to-

matons are still for sale by dealers in the town of Pomeroy. These items will serve to give the reader some idea of the capabilities of our soil and climate, and the possibilities attendant upon better methods of farming than are now in practice. The boundary of Garfield County on the northeast, north and northwest is Snake River. The lands lying along and near this watercourse are admirably adapted to the growth of fruits, berries and vegetables. The climate is ideal, and there is an inexhaustible supply of water for irrigating purposes. The southern part of the county embraces a large tract of the Blue Mountains, which rises to an elevation of over 1000 feet above the level of the Snake River. This portion affords an abundant supply of timber for the country below, besides excellent summer range for horses, cattle and sheep.

The area of the county is 725 square miles. Its population is about 6000. The assessed valuation is nearly \$2,000,000, and indebtedness about \$450,000. There are substantial improvements in the way of good roads, properly constructed bridges, and a new county courthouse and jail, which cost \$30,000.

The prices of farm lands range from \$5 per acre for the poorest up to \$25 per acre for the best. Little vacant or "Government" land of any value is to be found in the county. Native grass affords splendid pasture for stock, and the raising of good cattle, horses and sheep is, and always will be, one of the chief industries of the county. Cereals, such as wheat and spring barley, are here and there throughout the county abundant. The climate of Walla Walla is salubrious, the best wheat land in the world. It is so enormous in depth that it is inexhaustible. In its cultivation, which has not been going on for over 40 years, it has not been found necessary to resort to fertilizers. Summer-fallowing and deep plowing produce wonderful results. The soil is not all of one grade; it is more like breakfast bacon—strikes of lean and streaks of fat, but all good. The yield of wheat varies from over 50 bushels to the acre, on thousands of acres near the Blue Mountains, which have been cultivated for more than 20 years, to 20 bushels to the acre on land near the Columbia which has been cultivated half as long. All wheat is grown without irrigation. Wheat is the great staple, the other grains, except corn, being grown with equal success. The nights are too cold for corn. Besides grains, vast quantities of fruit are grown to perfection. The fruits, which embrace all the varieties common to the temperate zone, are generally grown on lands which can be irrigated, though much fine fruit is grown on land which cannot be irrigated. Vast quantities of superb vegetables are shipped to the mining regions of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Large amounts of the fruits are shipped in refrigerator cars to Chicago, New York and intermediate points, while hundreds of tons are dried and packed for shipment by the most approved methods. During the fruit season of 1901 the shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables from Walla Walla aggregated over 750 carloads.



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IRRIGATED FARMS IN THE YAKIMA VALLEY, WASHINGTON.

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Ample Transportation Facilities.

The Snake River being navigable, affords good transportation facilities along its course. A branch of the O. R. & N. Railway taps the center of the county, thus affording adequate market facilities for produce. No other institutions are more worthy of attention in the county, it is a well-kept school, in the county there are 29 districts, maintaining good schools. The people generally display a commendable interest in educational work. Wages of teachers average \$45 per month, and the school districts are mostly free from debt.

Pomeroy is the county seat, and the only town of any importance in the county. It is situated on the Pataha Creek, at the terminus of the O. R. & N. branch line. It is the market center of the county and commands almost the entire trade of the people. Its shipment of grain annually is greater than that of any other point in the State. It has a population of 1000. In July, 1901, the business portion of the town was swept away by a fire, which destroyed brick frontage on Main street of 750 feet. The town has a first-class fire protection system, and a gravity water system for irrigating purposes. Today there is a large number of stores, a four mill and other business houses to correspond. There are six different church denominations, and a number of schools. Today there are 400 pupils enrolled. The assessed valuation of the town is \$10,945. The tax levy for 1901 is only seven mills, and the city is free from debt. There are many beautiful residences, and residence sites innumerable yet to be improved.

There have been years when the wheat crop of Garfield County would not be so good. The average yield of wheat is \$300 per acre; a total profit of \$100 from all county purposes. Today there is no boom phrases or "glittering generalities" have ever been indulged in to catch the unwary or bring disappointment to the investor. It is not likely that many opportunities exist here whereby things can be grabbed that will increase in value ten-fold in a fortnight. But if you want to make a comfortable home by honest toil, we say come and live with us. PETER MCCLUNG.

WALLA WALLA COUNTY.

Land Cultivated for 40 Years, Yet Fertilizers Are Not Used.

Situated between the Snake River, on the north, the Blue Mountains on the east, Oregon on the south, and the Columbia River on the west, is one of the richest agricultural regions on earth. The greater part of this area is the political division of the State of Washington called Walla Walla County. The county contains 11,500 acres. Of this area all but 4,915 acres have been taken under the different land laws. Most of the remainder is of an interior character. The census returns give the county 18,800 inhabitants. The Assessor returns a total valuation of property, for taxation, on a basis of about one-third the real value of \$8,501,417. On this valuation the tax levy for 1901, is 95 cents of each \$100, for state purposes, and 85 cents on each \$100 for all county purposes.

The surface of Walla Walla County is a rolling prairie, covered, generally, with bunchgrass. Many streams head in the Blue Mountains and flow into the Columbia River. Walla Walla County to the Columbia. Their banks carry a growth of cottonwood, birch, alder and kindred woods. The streams have a heavy fall and their waters are, or can be, used to supply power for mills and factories. The soil is composed of materials which make it

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store is established. Wallula Junction is a railroad town at the junction of the Northern Pacific and O. R. & N. Co. roads, which is supplied with the usual hotels, shops and stores. An establishment for the canning of fruits and vegetables, and the making of jellies and jams, would find unlimited material for its machinery and employes, while its export market would be the populous mining regions of Idaho, Washington and Montana. The home market is a rich field for first-class goods. There is no canning establishment in Walla Walla. As the soil and climate of Walla Walla are eminently adapted to the raising of sugar beets, and as the water power is convenient and abundant can be utilized to drive electric machinery, a factory to convert beets into sugar would prove a profitable investment. Abundant material to supply a starch factory is grown. The thousands of tons of straw which are now annually burned should be converted into paper. A soap factory would pay. So would a shoe factory. P. B. J. Walla Walla.

YAKIMA COUNTY.

In No Other Place in America Is Agriculture So Profitable.

Nowhere is there a better illustration of the wonderful prosperity the North Pacific Coast is enjoying than in the Yakima Valley. Nowhere is it more generally enjoyed by the people. Nowhere in the

whole country, as we believe who live here, can be found the evidences of more substantial improvement. Our prosperity rests, we think, upon solid foundations—upon the marvelous fertility of the soil, upon an inexhaustible water supply, and upon a demand for Yakima products that is never satisfied. The Yakima Valley heads in the Cascade Mountains north and east of Mount Rainier. It extends east and south through part of Kittitas County, and then in the same general direction across Yakima County—the largest county in the State to the Columbia River, a distance of approximately 100 miles. It varies in width from two to thirty-five miles. That portion of it which is in Yakima County is all in the arid region. The average annual rainfall is seven inches. In all this territory not so much as a spear of grass grows without irrigation; yet so perfect is the water supply, so cheaply and easily is it put upon the land, that the Yakima Valley is a vast garden spot so uniformly and lavishly productive that there is probably no other spot in America where agriculture is so profitable, or where the value of agricultural products is so great in proportion to the population. Certainly there is none where vegetation depends for moisture upon the caprices of the elements. A few illustrations from life may be presented to substantiate this statement: G. L. Allen, County Clerk, sends his hay from his 150-acre farm about \$200 worth of products of various kinds, and sold them, and now has on hand 5000 boxes of apples, worth from \$1 to \$1.25 per box, which he took from the orchard last year, and sold at this price, raises on his 40-acre farm hay, hops, apples, pears, prunes, etc. This is a highly improved farm, and has over \$4000. B. Sanford, of Toppenish, last season cleared \$5000 off 80 acres of leased land, which he had in potatoes. A 10-acre tract adjoining the melon-patched was bought last Spring for \$200, and the purchaser has sold the fruit crop on it for nearly \$3000. These are not isolated cases. A hundred more like them could be given. And they can be given not only this year, but every year. Such enormous profits in farming have widely advertised the Yakima Valley, and the consequences have been a rapid increase in the population. It is not far from the truth to say that the number of people in the county has increased at least one-third in the past three years. These big returns, the immigration, and the strong demand for farm lands, have had their natural result in the increased prices of land. Farms that sold three years ago for \$50 to \$75 per acre have sold since for \$100 and \$125, and many that are highly improved have brought as much as \$200. And even this is not considered an extravagant price for the soil, which can be made to produce more than \$100 per acre in some instances more.

Products of Yakima's Rich Farms.

Hay, hops, potatoes, fruit and livestock are the principal products of the Yakima Valley, and each of these products is the standard in the markets of the Sound and Alaska, whence comes the demand for everything the Yakima farmers can produce, except the hops. The value of last year's potato crop is estimated by dealers at \$200,000. The hop crop weighed 2,000,000 pounds, and at 10 cents a pound is worth \$200,000. The alfalfa crop is estimated at 200,000 tons, worth more than \$1,200,000. A train of cars 100 miles long would be necessary to transport this single Yakima crop. There are 5000 acres of bearing orchards in the county, apples, pears, peaches and prunes predominate. The value of this fruit cannot be less than \$250,000. This makes no allowance for the green stuff shipped out by express during the last six weeks of the Summer to the markets at the rate of \$1000 to \$1200 per car. Much of this consisted of melons, green corn and other vegetables. Three hundred thousand pounds are owned by Yakima farmers, and the mutton and wool products of these flocks have transformed many poor men into citizens of independent means in the past few years. About \$1,000,000 cattle are raised in Yakima farms. The dairy industry, though yet in its infancy, has reached such proportions that the butter output

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process will continue until the tillable portions of Yakima County will have a population at least five times as great as it now has. The Yakima Valley has been skillfully worked up to their capacity of production the results have been such as to warrant the statement that a population of 1,000,000 people could be supported that now here might live in the valley, contented and prosperous to a high degree. Five and 10-acre farms, or gardens, as they might better be termed, are now supporting many families comfortably, and in the course of time a larger farm than that will be a rarity. The prosperity of the farmers and stockraisers of the valley has been quickly reflected in the town of North Yakima, which is the metropolis of the entire region. More than 100 dwelling-houses have gone up here in the past two years, and although rents are high, there is still a demand which cannot be supplied, apparently. The number of stores has increased rapidly, but last season saw unprecedented activity in the building of business houses. There are now under construction, or completed, within the last four months, about \$1,000,000 worth of brick and stone blocks. The Odd Fellows are building a two-story brick 50x119 at a cost of \$15,000. L. H. Clog is putting up one 100x141 at a cost of \$20,000. Another one at a cost of \$15,000 each. These are on Yakima avenue. Half a dozen others on the side streets have just been finished. They are cheaper buildings, but are all creditable structures. Plans are being made now for several residences which will be more costly than any now standing in the city, and the number of business houses to go up next season is no less than have been put up last year. North Yakima. W. W. ROBERTSON.

SKAMANIA COUNTY.

Portland Capital Opening Mines in the Bald Mountain District.

Skamania County, with a frontage of 40 miles on the Columbia River, is what its name implies—a wonderland, comprising within its borders Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens, the former 15,700 feet and the latter 9250 feet high. It is a vast domain of varied resources, with a population of 2000. The western portion is adapted to agriculture, and many improved farms are to be found back of Cape Horn, the output of which consists principally of clover and timothy hay, potatoes and livestock. In the many valleys leading back from the Columbia River, farmers to the east, can also be found the prosperous farming communities, and especially in this so the Wind River Valley. In the extreme eastern portion of the shire, between the Big and Little White Salmon Rivers, the county is adapted to the raising of fruit, and the soil is well adapted to the raising of fruit. Here many strawberry patches are returning annually handsome profits to their owners, coming as they do from the Bald Mountain, Copper Creek, the famous Hood River berries across the river.

Within the borders of this county are private forests of cedar, pine, hemlock, spruce and alder and red fir, unmarred by the ax or saw. Only a few mills are in operation, the Oregon Lumber Company leading from whose five miles of a continuous stream of lumber pour into the Columbia River. The Storey & Keeler Lumber Company will take the principal part of their logs from the Wind River Valley, having just completed the Wind River vast improvements at an outlay of thousands of dollars. This mill will have a capacity of 60,000 feet. Near Stevenson, the Nelson Creek Company is in operation with a daily output of 25,000 feet.

Gold,