

that are belted with forests and threaded with precious streams; hill and dale in most charming succession constitute the Western valleys, offering the strongest contrast to the much wider scope of country that these same snowy peaks look down upon towards the east. There the formation of the country is different, forests are only found in the mountains, or near them, to any great extent; streams dig deep channels through dry table lands, and the sage brush plain extends for hundreds of miles, often in contiguity with rich but narrow valleys. It is a region where rain seldom falls in profusion, the climate is dry, the Winters are colder and the Summers warm and parched. Yet this wide region has amazingly rich soil, and the all-prevailing bunch-grass is better feed than any grass we can cultivate. We are now simply illustrating the fact that this mountain wall separates two regions that are utterly dissimilar in climate and in all physical characteristics. In the very beginning of a description of this Northwest country it is necessary to have it impressed upon the mind that this difference in climate exists.

GREAT VARIETY OFFERED.

In the outset, too we must learn that every valley has its characteristics of soil and varieties of climate. Each of the Western valleys has peculiarities and especial advantages. There is a wonderful difference between Rogue River valley in Southern Oregon, and Umpqua valley North of it, both being bounded by the same ranges East and West. Umpqua, again differs materially from the Willamette valley, which is still further North, and has peculiarities far different from all the rest. Then again, the wide interior country offers very many different aspects and varieties of climate. These we allude to, but will not compare in detail now, but we wish to impress upon the minds of distant readers, for whose perusal these sketches are intended, that this is a wonderful country, extensive enough to cover great changes of climate and difference in resources, so that the new citizen has a wide range to choose from. There is not any other portion of the United States that within the same limit contains such great changes of climate and varieties of physical conformation, or that presents such unlimited resources that await development. It will be our aim to make all these characteristics plainly understood and so well illustrated that the readers cannot mistake the peculiarities of any section, or the immigrant fail to know the disadvantages he will have to contend with.

THE COAST REGION.

As you sail up the coast from San Francisco, you notice that the mountains that rise near the ocean shore after awhile become wooded, and that the forests are more dense and of much heavier growth as you sail Northward. The darker forests tell you that you are looking upon the shores of Oregon. All along the sea front rivers are putting into the ocean, or into bays, that are more or less settled. Through these gaps are scattered settlements and the richest of bottom land, covered sometimes with vine maple or alder, can be had for the clearing. On the South coast, where the forests are less dense, a considerable number of cattle are kept. In due course of this coast region will be a great dairying country, because the mists from the ocean preserve the pastures green all Summer and drive off the frosts and snow all Winter. Along where rivers or streams put in are fisheries and canneries that are busy in seasons when salmon run. Saw-mills are at work cutting up the interminable forests, and small vessels ply constantly from Rogue River, and Port Orford, the Coquille, Coos Bay, the Umpqua, Siuslaw, Alsea, Yaquina Bay, and Tillamook Bay, to San Francisco or Portland, and small ocean steamers are used in the same trade. Coos Bay is famous for lumber and coal, and it is claimed that more vessels enter there than to the Columbia river, but they are of course all small and adapted to that trade. Coos Bay will be an important point in the future on account of the immense trade that must be carried on there always for coal and lumber, though its agricultural lands are not extensive. But along the coast are settlements, and plenty of room for more, for good land waits the hand of the woodman, who has but to clear it to find its resources truly inexhaustible in his lifetime. Yaquina Bay is another point that promises much and claims much, as it is a good harbor for light draft vessels. It is connected by an easy pass through the coast range with the Willamette, and a projected railway holds out inducements to believe that before long there will be a business point of great importance there, that will be a place for the export of the products of the great Willamette valley that is so near by. There are numerous passes through the mountains from the Western valleys to the ocean, and it is safe to say that in due course of time the long line of coast will be occupied by a large and prosperous population. There is no reason why, as time passes and all the advantages of this coast region can be made available, the bays, nooks, valleys and benches of arable land should not be cleared and cultivated, for they are among the most productive lands we have, and being so near the ocean will have a market close at hand. Stock of all kinds thrive along the

coast, and that interest must increase. As we come North we first strike Curry county, which is scantily populated; then come to Coos county, with Coos Bay, which will be a very important point in all the future. Next is the coast line of Benton and Polk counties which lie chiefly in the Willamette, but on their ocean front is located an Indian reservation that keeps out white settlement except at Yaquina Bay and Alsea. There is a constant though not large stream of emigration finding its way into these coast counties, but they cannot divert the chief tide of emigration that flows steadily up the Columbia and fills up the great plains, valleys, and open hills of Eastern Oregon and Washington. We shall not pretend to be definite as to the resources and population of the coast country of Oregon, because the desire for settlement there is not so great as to other sections, but we have presented their case so plainly that no man who fancies such a location can fail to recognize all the advantages they possess.

UP THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

Reaching the Columbia river we can see the shores, after crossing the bar, covered with forests of fir and spruce and scarce a sign of cultivation to be discovered. On the south is Clatsop peninsula, with Fort Stevens, an earthwork on the point; Clatsop plains South of it are covered with farms. Here the soil is light and sandy, for the ridges that compose the plains are successive sea beaches that the ages have thrown up as barrier between Astoria and the sea. On the North, Cape Hancock frowns upon the entrance, its summit armed with 500 pound columbiads. The military post is inside the harbor under the lee of the cape. Close by is Ilwaco, a Summer bathing resort; fifteen miles across the bay is Astoria on a rocky point that pushes out towards the sea, while the Columbia river comes down past it in a grand flow that is several miles in width. Everywhere are densely wooded shores; occasionally we see saw mills, fisheries, canneries and once in a while a clearing or river town, and though we find but few signs of settlement we know that there are valleys among the Coast mountains that are peopled and cultivated, such as we have described as to be found where streams seek the ocean all along the coast. But there is far more object in cultivating and clearing land along the Columbia, as the growth of Astoria, the demands of commerce, the wants of mills, fisheries and canneries all make a remunerative demand for whatever the farmers of that region can produce. Hardy Swedes and Norwegians settle along these valleys and appreciate the advantages they offer. It needs hard labor to redeem such land, but when redeemed it is near market and must always grow in value.

One hundred miles from Astoria the Willamette river enters the Columbia, above and below which point the country is more open, as we have passed through the portion where the river cuts through the Coast Range and though the shores are wooded, and hills are in the near distance, there is more opportunity for settlement and cultivation than we found below. We are now taking a merely cursory view of the country so as to get a generally correct idea, but shall follow with more detailed description. It is necessary to understand that the Columbia will not greet your eye with an open country along its banks; that the cultivatable region is limited, and the land all along the river has to be cleared with heavy labor, but this will eventually be done, and these lands when cleared will possess immense value. Considerable bottom land is found along the shores of the Columbia, and on the Cowlitz that comes in from the North, and there are islands that overflow at highest flood which are also occupied. About twenty-five miles above the Willamette we are confronted by the Cascade Range, and the river emerges from the wondrous defile that it has created to effect its passage through the most formidable mountain wall to be found in North America. This great gorge of the Columbia affords the majestic scenery that has made the river so famous and well known. We have sailed over a hundred and fifty miles from the ocean to realize that Bryant in his youth, when he wrote of the "continuous woods where rolls the Oregon," had an inspiration that truly pictured the region that was then unknown save in a poet's dream.

Away to the South, cradled among giant mountains, lies the beautiful Willamette valley, the garden spot of the Pacific, the Eden of Oregon, extensive enough to build busy cities and maintain a vast population, and already demanding for its products the service of a great fleet of ships that come from all countries to ascend the Columbia and Willamette rivers and bear away breadstuffs to feed the peoples of the Old World. This great valley will be described in detail.

WESTERN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

Below the Willamette, on the North side of the Columbia is Kalama, the Southern terminus of the Western division of the North Pacific Railroad, that connects the Columbia river with Puget Sound at Tacoma. This road is over a hundred miles long, winds up the Cowlitz river past many fine farms, crosses a rough timbered divide that separates

the Columbia from the waters of Puget Sound, and then comes down over gravelly prairie reaches to the shores of the inland sea. A great deal of this region is susceptible of cultivation and is already settled by hardy pioneers who have undertaken to make the wilderness bear fruit. The Chehalis river rises in this mountainous country and works its way down to Gray's Harbor, navigable for some distance and affording a rich country for settlement all along its borders. The Chehalis country promises to become important in the near future. Along the coast to the West of this road is Shoulwater Bay, famous for its oysters that are sent to San Francisco and Portland, and possessing more or less good land along its shores that will support a large community. Small vessels sail from this bay to San Francisco and various other points. As we pass up the coast we find streams pouring into the ocean from the Olympic range, that rises between Puget Sound and the ocean, and on these streams are valleys where dairying and stock raising are successfully carried on. Bounding Cape Flattery we enter the Straits of Fuca, Vancouver Island and the British flag on one side, and the soil of Washington Territory on the other. This leads into what is commonly known as

THE PUGET SOUND COUNTRY.

Where many islands dot the water and furnish homes for many people. On the West as we enter is Port Townsend; down the bay to the left is the promising city of Seattle, that shows more activity than any other place on the Sound. Along the shores are saw-mills and ship-yards; iron mines are being worked, and preparations making for a rolling mill. The deposit of iron ore is immense, and in the future will be a source of great wealth to those who shall successfully work it. Back of Seattle, as also at many other points along the shores of the Sound, are found great beds of coal of excellent quality, and an extensive trade with San Francisco in coal and lumber constitute the chief industries of the country. At the head of the Sound are Tacoma, the terminus of the N. P. R. R., and Olympia, the State Capitol. The latter is the oldest town in the territory, and is a delightful place with some extent of farming country within easy reach. All around the Sound the shores are densely wooded, and the timber is sawed up into lumber or cut for spars and shipped to the ends of the world.

The Sound country is too moist for wheat to mature always with success, but is famous for oats, hay, potatoes and other vegetables. In the Puyallup valley, East of Tacoma, many hops are raised, and are highly appreciated at San Francisco because of their excellent quality. A barrel factory on an immense scale is now in operation at Seattle, and the wealth of forest will encourage all industries of that sort. There is a steady increase of population on the Sound, and no doubt its aspirations as a commercial point have something to do with this growth. All along the Sound fisheries and canneries are in operation when fish run up the streams. We do not find Puget Sound strictly within the boundaries of what we term the great Columbian region, and shall not deal with statistics and description as fully as with other portions of the Northwest. We have given a glimpse of the country and the people, the industries and the products, resources and developments, and it is a very attractive picture. It is an interesting region because of the facilities here afforded for commerce. The grand snow peaks that look down upon it—such as Tacoma, Mount Baker, and the serrated summits of the lofty Olympic range—formed a scene of grandeur that astonishes all visitors. The shores are rocky bluffs frequently, but level for some distance in many parts. The streams that put in on the East side have charming and fertile valleys, and are being cleared up and peopled by very enterprising settlers.

We have sailed up the ocean shore in fancy for five hundred miles; have visited the Sound country; have crossed the divide that separates the Sound waters from the Columbia; have entered the river from the ocean and sailed up its wooded shores and past its picturesque islands, until we found ourselves within the great canyon by means of which it has left the mountains in twain, and have thus had a very good introduction to the imperial region that we call the Pacific Northwest.

PRODUCTS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC REGION.

The exports of the Columbia reach more than fifteen millions of dollars annually. The fisheries on the Columbia alone, produce canned and packed salmon valued at three millions of dollars a year, and the lumber trade is extensive and must increase as time passes. Efforts are making for the propagation of fish in the streams by artificial hatching, so that the supply will be fully maintained for all time, and as the salmon from the Columbia is remarkably fine eating, the business can be depended on to support thousands of families and permanently enrich the country. But the coming settler is more interested in knowing something about the character of the soil

and the products to be derived from its cultivation, in which he will naturally expect to engage. He will also wish to know what demand there is for these products and to what market they are to be shipped.

WHEAT GROWING.

The great staple of production is wheat, which is naturally suited both to the soil and climate of every part of this region. The Willamette valley has been cropped in some parts for half a century, as some of the servants of the Hudson Bay Company abandoned the business of hunting and trapping as far back as 1830, and commenced wheat growing at the desire of the company. Since then the same fields have been in almost continuous cultivation, and the permanent qualities of the soil can be understood from a statement made to us by Hon. F. X. Mathieu, a wealthy merchant and farmer, who lives at Butteville on French Prairie, Marion county, who says he owns the first field ever sowed to wheat in Oregon, and that after it had been in continuous cultivation for half a century he summer fallowed it and had a yield of 35 bushels to the acre in 1879. This must have been superior soil, but it illustrates the great strength and productiveness of the land in the Willamette valley. Wheat, then, is the great staple of agricultural production. The present year this river will send forth vessels bound for all parts of Europe, carrying eight million bushels of wheat of a finer quality than any raised in the United States or California. The wheat of the Willamette valley brings a premium in Liverpool of five cents a bushel over the best grown in California, because the flour is of such unusual whiteness that English bakers mix it with darker and stronger grades to obtain a whiter and more desirable flour. Our wheat is a plump berry, and compares favorably with the best grown in England, or the choicest from the best wheat-growing provinces of Russia, and is higher priced than the choicest product of Minnesota, their "gilt-edged red winter." If the seed grown in the Eastern States is planted here it grows plump and full, and will immediately change and improve in appearance so that the Eastern grower who furnished the seed would not believe the product to be the same variety. To illustrate we will tell an incident concerning the first shipment of wheat ever made from Oregon.

FIRST SHIPMENT OF WHEAT FROM OREGON.

It must have been over twenty, and perhaps twenty-five years ago, that Mr. Joseph Watt, an enterprising man, who has done much to develop the country and its interests, thought he would try a shipment of wheat to New York. So he loaded a vessel, and in due time, after half circling the globe, it reached port, and the cargo was offered for sale. The appearance of the wheat was unusual. It was so white and plump and round that people wouldn't believe that it was a healthy product of the soil. An experienced miller gave a professional opinion that the wheat was damaged; that the cargo was wet and the wheat had swelled, so it was put up for sale under these discouraging circumstances, and the same miller had some one on hand to buy it for himself and he made a good thing grinding it, and the enterprising Oregonian who was trying in a loyal way to introduce the products of Oregon to the world, pocketed a loss of about \$8,000 as a reward for his enterprise. Having heard this story originally from Hon. John Minto, we afterwards inquired of Mr. Watt himself, and the above is substantially correct, though it is years since we heard it told. It illustrates, in rather a humorous way too, the quality of wheat grown in the Columbian region.

WOOL GROWING AND SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

We excel in another great staple that stands in the foremost rank of necessities of commerce. Wool growing has developed into an immense business, and the exports of 1880 of this product alone reached 8,000,000 pounds, worth over \$2,000,000. The enterprise of wool growers has introduced the best breeds of sheep, and our fleeces are graded up to a point where the wool has become of the most desirable quality for manufacturers and is eagerly sought by them. The value of sheep in a region that affords them feed the year round and offers immense ranges where they roam with only the care of a shepherd to keep them together can be imagined, especially when in addition to the natural increase of the flock it is seen that the fleece year after year pays back, with few exceptions, the entire cost of the animal. We can only allude to sheep husbandry briefly in this introductory chapter, but in connection with the detailed description that will follow we shall give facts relating to sheep husbandry as well as of all other branches of production, in each section of the Pacific North West. It is found that where wool is the main object, as is the case here, and where wethers yield the heaviest fleeces, that the common sheep, well bred up with Merinoes, is the most profitable, and in the grain growing regions of the Willamette valley sheep husbandry is found to be an essential aid to good agriculture.