

Young Women Schoolteachers Homesteading in Northwest

Special Correspondence.

SPOKANE, Wash., April 1.—Much of the romantic and historic in conquering a new country has its incuse in the Spokane district, embracing eastern Washington, northern Idaho, northwestern Oregon, western Montana, and southeastern British Columbia, where the homesteaders are building a veritable empire on the sagebrush-flats and river benches, and in the virgin forests in outlying sections. The lure of the unknown, which has sent thousands to the Pacific northwest, has been productive of the fighting spirit and those who have vim and energy and red blood in their veins are making success.

Most of them are from the congested cities in the east. They come west to improve their condition—to win and by persistency, perseverance, and application they are gaining homes and independence. Some have had battles in the west, which while the settlers are open hearted and hospitable, are

place for drunks or for the easy going, who look to the winds to blow success in their pathway.

Probably the most ambitious and plucky settlers in the district, called the inland Empire of the Northwest, are young women school teachers, who were won and won by F. M. Cross, then studying law in Minnesota. After graduating he came west and sought fortune by the homesteader route. He bought a claim and built a cabin, and when a school was opened near his place he was chosen to teach the youngsters in the neighborhood. Opportunity put on its best smile when the second school was organized, and Cross dispatched a long letter to the girl in another state, urging her to come to Spokane, where they were married.

WOMAN HUNTS AND FISHERS.

It was planned that both could teach school and "prove up" on the homestead. After passing a few days at a nearby lake, Cross fell sick and died. His widow, the young woman, continued her work, afterward buying her homestead. Mrs. Cross took up the work where her husband had left it, and now she is teaching his school and acquiring ownership in the claim. She will be rich in a few years, for as soon as moisture is sufficiently applied to her holding the farm will bring from \$20 to \$300 an acre as orchard land.

The Misses Fogarty, formerly of Boston, are proving up on a joint claim of 20 acres in the Sullivan Lake district in Stevens county, Wash., where they

were also teaching the ranchers' children, when these young women pass much of their time in the open, baking and hunting. Both are experts with the rifle. Their parents are with them two months in the summer, and three months in the winter. Their costs are several thousand dollars, spent in getting the land as rapidly as it is cleared, and her life is a happy and contented one.

SHE LIVES IN A TENT.

Mrs. Winifred Brownlee, formerly of Pennsylvania, who came west to regain her broken health, has checked the ravages of tuberculosis by living in the open in the hills in the Metaline district, where she is housed in a tent. She has 160 acres of land, much of which is timbered, and many of her pioneer supplies. Mrs. Brownlee is an enthusiastic sportswoman, and her ladder is well supplied because of her skill with rod and line and fowling piece.

Rebecca M. Henderson, a certified teacher of Jones, formerly connected with the Spokane high school, is literally carving a home out of the forest. After building a shack in the forest of the Pend Oreille river district, 40 miles from the nearest railroad, she organized a school, her six pupils being children of neighboring ranches. The settlement, called Blue Side, is in the extreme northeastern part of Washing-

ton, where provisions and mail are delivered by packhorse and starved riders. Miss Henderson holds 160 acres of land, most of which is heavily timbered. The way logs alone will not get through the timber, she has cut several thousand dollars, spending the time in getting the land as rapidly as it is cleared, and her life is a happy and contented one.

Mrs. Hester Palmer, 72 years old, has

200 acres of land in Walla Walla valley, Ore., south of Spokane, in the heart of the yellow pine belt in the Blue Mountain district. She crossed the plains from Missouri 20 years ago with a mule train. Mrs. Kate Brill, formerly of Illinois, has a homestead in the same district.

ARE NOT HERMITS.

Their lives are on the line of communication with Spokane and Colville and are frequent visitors in both places.

Mrs. U. S. Anderson also has a homestead in the Sullivan Lake district.

This plucky young woman is proficient with rod and gun, among the trophies

of the chase being several bear and deer killed in southern British Columbia. Her shack

is a substantial structure built on a

seasoned log, and equipped with a fireplace, a covered veranda, and screened windows for light and ventilation, also a name carrying water from a spring in the hills. Mrs. Ad-

erson spends several hours a day in the saddle, on her horse called U. S. A., with her dog Jack as her companion, in the toothpicks and in the timber.

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It is not desired to convey the impression that these women and scores of others holding claims are wholly isolated or that they are living like hermits. That is not true. They have their social pleasures, and at times have visitors who remain for weeks. Then their cabins are furnished with an eye to comfort and most of them have pianos or other musical instruments

and carefully selected libraries. They too frequently visit their relatives and acquaintances in nearby towns, making the journeys in their own conveyances or by getting a "lift" from the traveling provision stores and pack trains. Others living on the lines of railway communication ride in style

among the railroads, and are a farthing or two

more than the average.

For one thing, he began more

of standard works and translations,

and in the journeys in their own conveyances or by getting a "lift" from the traveling provision stores and pack

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