

THE INLAND EMPIRE.

A VAST REGION OF DESERT DEVOTED TO GRAIN AND FRUIT.

The Big Bend Country Fertilized by Volcanoes—Its New Wheat Fields and How They are Cultivated—The Wenatchee Valley and Its Famous Apples—High Prices for Orchards—About Lake Chelan—Queer Features of Farm Life and Money Making in the Great Northwest.

(Special Correspondence of the Desert News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

WENATCHEE, May 28.—For the past week I have been moving about through different parts of the inland empire. I entered it from British Columbia by the Great Northern railway, going first to Spokane. From there I traveled both east and west, and I am now here on the Columbia river in the Big Bend country at Wenatchee in the Wenatchee valley.

OUR INLAND EMPIRE.

I despair of giving you an adequate conception of this part of the United States. The inland empire was to a large extent a desert until a few years ago, and now, it is only in the northwest that the people have begun to appreciate its value. The formation is so curious that one should see it for himself to properly know it. In brief, it includes the vast region lying between the Bitter Root and Cascade mountains which are drained by the Columbia river and its tributaries. It comprises most of Idaho and a large part of eastern Washington and Oregon. It equals in extent all of the New England states, together with New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

As I passed through on the railroad I saw many ranged little stations of wooden one-story houses. The only large structures I saw were wheat sheds and elevators with huge and there a flour mill. These sheds are filled with grain at the time of harvest. They will not hold the grain, and the overflow is stacked up in bags outside. This inland empire is now producing wheat in one year, and still the Big Bend country has been hardly touched. The state of Washington alone produced 24,000,000 bushels last year, and the prospect is that it will do better this.

THE NEW LANDS OF THE WEST.

I have been writing considerable about Canada and its wheat belt. The Canucks have an empire yet to develop, and they think that Uncle Sam has reached the maximum of his farming possibilities. There has never been a greater mistake. We are discovering new lands every year, and some of the best parts of our country are yet to be reclaimed.

A great deal of the Big Bend region can be farmed without irrigation, and there are reclamation projects on hand which will reclaim millions of acres. This very land through which I have been riding could have been bought about a decade ago for five or ten cents an acre. The Northern Pacific Rail-

way five years ago, but it is now as extensively cultivated as any part of the Union. There are about 12,000 acres under water, and something like 5,000 people live in the town of Wenatchee and in the region adjoining. New orchards are being set out on every available spot. Five hundred thousand trees were planted last year and a great number this spring.

FIVE ACRES ENOUGH.

The most of the orchards here are small. The average is, I should say, not over five acres, although some reach as high as thirty or forty. The farmers say that five acres is about all one man can properly attend to, and that this is enough to make a good living for himself and family. They claim that an orchard of that size, well irrigated, will yield more in money than the eastern man gets from a 220-acre farm. I hear of instances of orchardists making \$500 and upward per acre. One farmer, John, tells me that John Rupp made \$1,250 clear two years ago from three acres, and at the same time had his living expenses. A year ago Rupp's tract netted \$1,800, and it is now rented at \$600 cash in advance. I was shown a six-year-old apple orchard the other day within a stone's throw of this town which has yielded 1,250 boxes of apples in one year. The fruit was especially fine and it sold for \$2.50. That was the product of a single acre of land.

In addition to apples, the people here

ple country is rapidly developing. Thirty thousand boxes were sold by one man there last year to be sent to Burlington and Clinton, Iowa. The apples brought \$1.30 a box on the ground.

AMONG THE ORCHARDISTS.

I took a carriage and drove up and down this valley the other afternoon. It is now one series of orchards from end to end. The houses almost adjoin one another, there being one to every five or ten-acre tract. As a result, the valley is more like a great orchard village than the ordinary farming country. The houses are so close together that the women can walk a few steps and

talk to their neighbors. Every house has its own telephone and the rates are from \$1 to \$2 a month with no restrictions as to the number of conversations. Most of the houses have pipe connections with the irrigation works, so that each house has its own hydrant, and most of them have bath rooms and all modern conveniences. An electric light system is now being put into this orchard district, and within a short time nearly every one of these cottages, the average of which did not cost more than \$1,000 to build, will have its own electric light system. The rural delivery system furnishes daily mails, and the school buildings have been so located that no child has more than a mile

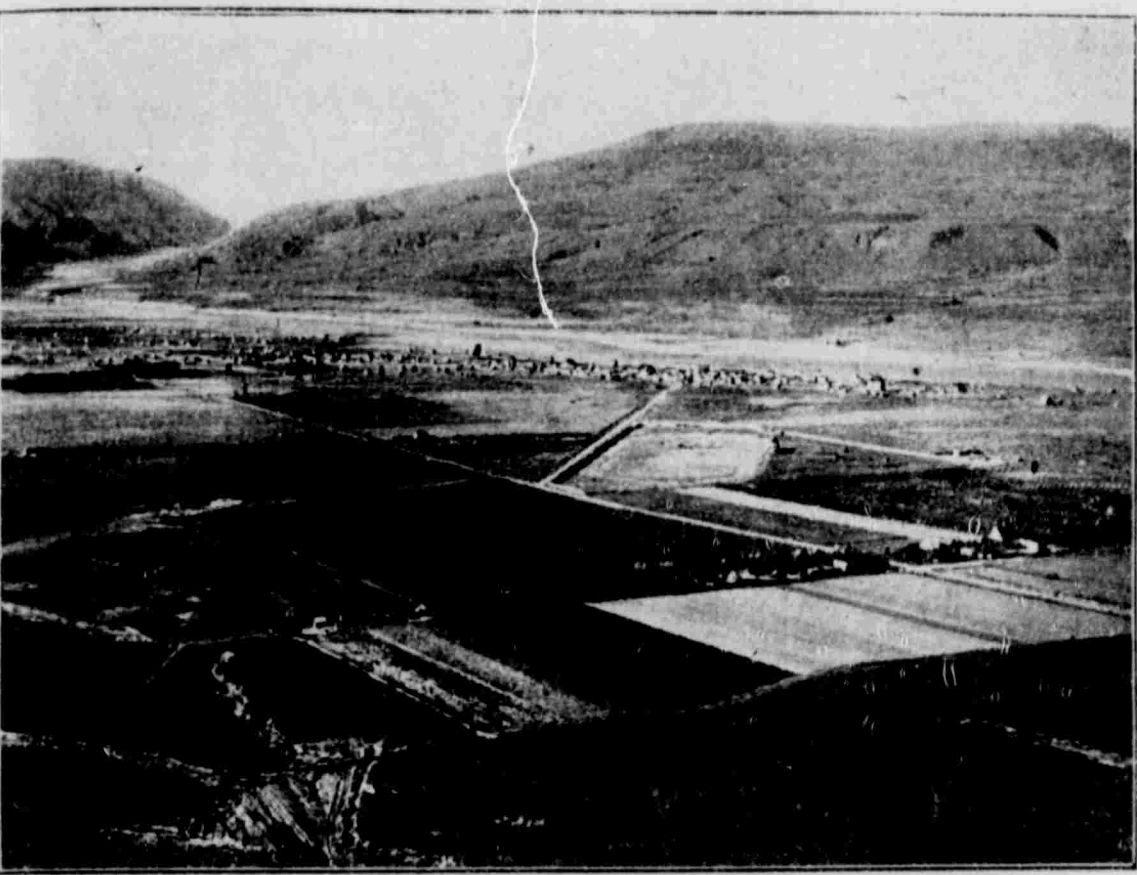
to walk to school. In addition a system of country omnibuses is now being organized to bring in the school children from the outlying districts.

PLOW THIRTEEN TIMES A YEAR.

These Wenatchee people know how to make fruit. They keep their plows going from one end of the season to the other. One man tells me that he plowed his orchard 13 times last year, and the most of the holdings are kept as clean as a kitchen garden. The few slovenly orchardists I have seen show the lack of cultivation. Their trees have a rough bark and they are not one-third as large as those in the well tended orchards. Trees grow much faster here

than in the east. On the Apple Ridge of Virginia one seldom gets fruit from an orchard in less than six or seven years, and it is 10 or 11 before the apple trees are in full bearing. Here apples fruit at five years, peaches at three and apricots at about the same time. The crops vary somewhat from year to year. I know of one man who had 10 acres which he wanted to sell at \$8,000, of which \$1,000 was to be cash and \$4,000 on time. He failed to find a purchaser and kept on with his cultivation. His crop last year netted him \$4,000, and he is now looking about for an additional orchard to buy.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.



IN THE GREAT WENATCHEE VALLEY.

Where Land is Worth From \$200 to \$1,000 Per Acre—Photographed for the Desert News by Frank G. Carpenter.

land, and it has millions of acres which are yet to be settled. This territory was once a vast sea, almost one-fourth the size of the United States proper. It is more than 700 miles wide and 1,000 long. It was penned in by the mountains, and its waters rose until they finally broke out through the canyons which now form parts of the Snake and Columbia river valleys. They cut their way down to a depth of 2,000 feet, and drained the sea, leaving an immense plain of alluvial soil 2,000 feet above the level of the ocean.

LAVA AND VOLCANIC ASH.

This soil of the inland empire is made of the dropping or silt washed down from the mountains. In addition a vast amount of volcanic ash, which is one of the best fertilizers known, has been made from Canada. Barren lands are now selling to farmers for \$12 a ton. They are used largely for orchards and grain raising, and they form a food for the land which will last for many years. The inland empire has the same constituents in its soil but its ashes come from volcanoes.

In crossing the Big Bend country I saw lava everywhere. In some places the plains are covered with it, and in others it rises into bluffs and broken fragments strewn with sulphur. Along the Columbia river there are streams of lava which look as though the molten mass had hardened as it rushed against the wind. In other places it has turned to a gravel, and again it has split up into angular shaped rocks of even size, looking for all the world as though it had been run through a stone crusher to make paving material.

It is hard to imagine a more desolate, sterile land than this, when undeveloped. There are no trees, no green bushes and all is black and bare. It is a desert, and no one would imagine that it would raise enough to feed a Jack rabbit. Still right in the midst of such territory vast wheat fields are now to be seen. There are patches of green everywhere. Farmers have grown up in the midst of the bleakness and the desert itself is yielding 40 and more bushels of wheat to the acre.

"DRUNKENNESS"

Cigarette and Tobacco Habits Cured by TRIB.

Guy Supinger writes: In request of your letter that I received at Valley, asking me how I was getting along with "TRIB," I must say it is fine. I began taking it the next day after receiving it. "TRIB" is all right and I recommend it to all as a cure for liquor and tobacco. I remain.

We give you an absolute guarantee with every treatment. Price \$12.50. Doull Drug Co., F. C. Schramm, Cor. 1st St. and Main St., where the cars stop. Sole Agents.

J. H. KNICKERBOCKER, OPTICIAN. Scientific Eye Testing, Glasses Properly Fitted, Expert Watch Repairing. Removed to No. 227 South Main Street.

road company owned a vast quantity of it, consisting of alternate sections for 50 miles along its track. It has the lands examined by scientific experts, and on the basis of their representation a great deal of the concession went for a song. The same lands are now worth \$20 and upward per acre. They are producing wheat, and it is believed they will continue to yield for a generation without fertilization. The lands along the Great Northern railway are equally good, and the whole region will rapidly settle.

Take the bleak and bare hills just opposite this town of Wenatchee. They are being cut up into farms and will soon be covered with wheat. A short time ago you could not have given them away, and now they are worth a good price as farming lands. They are cultivated without irrigation, and to the surprise of the scientific witnesses are producing wonderful crops.

GRAIN FROM THE DESERT.

I find that grain is now being grown all along the Columbia and here and there almost everywhere throughout the inland empire. The land is handled on a mighty scale, the finest of agricultural machinery being used. There are steam plows now turning the soil which will cut nine furrows at a time, and steam harvesters, one of which will reap and thresh 50 acres of wheat in a day. Such machines cut a swath 14 feet wide and deliver the grain in bags. The expenses of cultivation are so reduced that wheat is now grown at a cost of 25 cents a bushel, which means a net 100 per cent profit. I hear all sorts of fairy stories as to big crops. Farmers say single acres have produced 70 bushels of wheat, and one quarter section is cited as turning out 10,000 bushels of oats in one year.

Speaking of the wheat along the Columbia, I had a chat the other night with Mr. T. A. Davies, general manager of the Columbia and Okanogan Steamship company, whose boats run about 150 miles up the Columbia and Okanogan rivers, through a country not reached by the railroads. He says that his vessels brought more than a million bushels of wheat down to the Great Northern at Wenatchee last year, and that a great part of the country is being put under wheat.

The farmers haul the grain to the river landings and pile it there in bags in mounds. At one station last fall 25,000 sacks, containing 50,000 bushels of grain, were brought in for shipment, and there were stacks of bags all along the river. In many places the river runs two thousand feet below the level of the wheat fields, and the bags are carried down to the boats on aerial trains, the wheat carrying the empty cars back.

Mr. Davies has now seven boats on this river carrying wheat, fruit and passengers. He tells me that the country is rapidly settling, and that from the shore of the river eastward is a vast expanse of wheat fields. There are also dairy farms, and farther up mining settlements. The cattle country begins at the mouth of the Okanogan, and beyond it is a rich mining region. All along the river is a little valley devoted to fruit, somewhat similar to the Wenatchee valley, where this letter is written. These are being opened up to settlers, who are planting orchards, and thus developing what promises to be one of the great fruit-raising regions of the United States.

IN THE WENATCHEE VALLEY.

I can give you the best idea of this section by describing what is going on here in the Wenatchee valley. This is situated in almost the center of Washington state, at the junction of the Great Northern railroad with the Columbia river. It is about a hundred miles from the Pacific ocean and two hundred miles south of our international boundary. On the west of it are the Cascade mountains, and on the east flows the wide Columbia, into which the Wenatchee empties at this point. The valley is narrow, but it is cut up into irrigated orchards, which are watered chiefly by the Wenatchee river. The most of it was sage brush four or

claim to be making their fortunes out of it. A Mr. Simmons has an apricot orchard which has already netted a profit of \$300 per acre, and it is said that Dan Wood picked year before last 1,200 boxes of cherries from sixty-five trees, and sold them at a dollar a box. His sixty-five trees covered less than an acre, and the total one year's receipts from that amount of land were \$1,200. The same orchard netted only \$300 last year, so the crops are evidently variable. I hear some extraordinary fairy stories about peaches and plums, but there seems to be no doubt that, with a big discount for exaggeration, this region has great possibilities.

HIGH PRICED LANDS.

The lands which will raise such fruit are, however, comparatively scarce, and all lands here are sold at high prices. The raw prairie of the valley near Wenatchee, if it can be irrigated, brings \$250 an acre, but this is including a perpetual water right for which the companies charge about \$50 per acre. Lands which have been brought under cultivation and planted in trees sell for much more. The general increase is \$100 more per acre for each year dating from the time the trees are planted. At this rate a 2-year-old orchard if not far from Wenatchee ought to be worth \$400, and a 3-year-old \$500 or \$600. Orchards in full bearing are worth what they will bring, ranging all the way from \$700 to \$1,000 per acre. These are the prices given me by the real estate men and the citizens here and they seem to think them not extravagant. They say it is all a question as to how much the land will pay on the investment, and that an orchard of five acres which will bring to \$500 a year ought to be cheap at \$5,000. At the same time, if I were buying, I should consider the chances of scale and other fruit diseases, and would knock off a pretty penny for blights and bad seasons. It is fair to say, however, that an irrigated property never suffers from drought, and that the trees here are the most healthy of any I have seen.

The prices I have given are those asked for lands near Wenatchee. I am told there are many valleys running north and south all along the Columbia river which can be irrigated, and which will bear fruit as well as this valley. These lands are cheap, varying in value according to their distance from the settled country. Some of them can be bought for practically nothing, and there are some government lands left. At present the only outlet for such valleys is by the river steamers, but attempts are being made to induce the Great Northern railway to run a branch up the Columbia river valley, and if this is done every one of these regions will be rapidly settled. At present I doubt whether all the valleys have a population of 25,000, and I am told there is enough land to fix homes to ten times that number.

WENATCHEE APPLES.

The Wenatchee valley is known as the home of the big red apple. Its fruits are always scarce in the eastern markets, and they bring the highest prices. Some of the best apples are produced in New York and Boston at \$4 a box and a box holds less than a bushel. Such apples bring \$2 a box at this station, and it costs 75 cents per box on the fast freight to get them to Boston.

The apples are noted for their fine color and flavor. They have no blemishes, and are evenly good throughout. Some of them are of extraordinary size. One shown by C. A. Harris at the Portland exposition weighed 39 ounces and was 13 inches in circumference. That was raised near Lake Chelan, just above here. At Portland, Wenatchee took more premiums than any other region, capturing 35 out of 55 gold medals awarded to this state for prize apples. I have not been to Chelan, but I am told that the shores of that lake are bordered with apple trees and that a great ap-

June, The Month of Roses and Brides Suggests a Visit to This Magnificent Store.

WHERE CUPID DOES HIS SHOPPING



EVERYTHING about this store is inviting to the young couple. The array of House Furnishings we have is new, up-to-date, artistic and good. The immense stock makes choosing an easy task. The policy of the store to keep prices down and quality up is in favor of the purchaser and the uniform courtesy and intelligent suggestions of our salesmen will make your shopping trip to this store a pleasant memory.

Rugs, Carpets, CURTAINS, Draperies!

We show more Rugs than any western house. EVERY KIND of Rug you want is here.

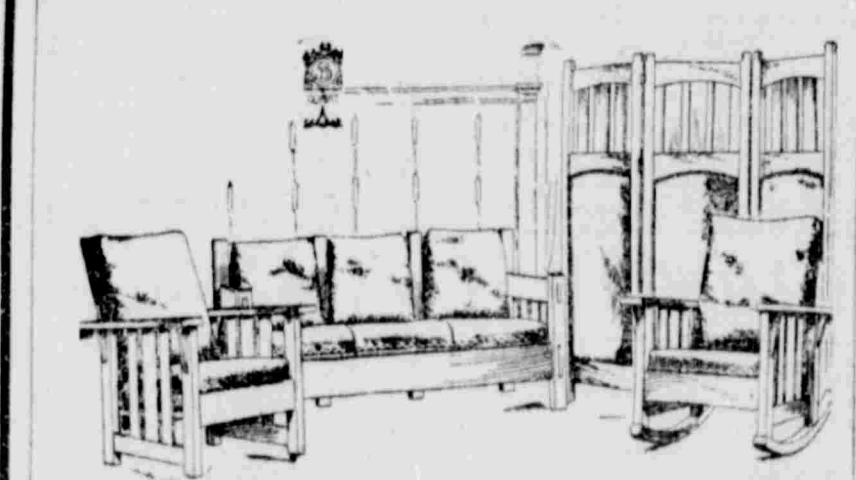
If you wish we will make you a rug from a carpet pattern made for that purpose, but we recommend the ready-made rug. Prices from \$12.50 to \$25.00. We have a good line of carpets in all grades and prices, and guarantee you perfect matching and workmanship in laying and sewing them. We are especially anxious for you to see our Carpets and Draperies. Our line is so complete and so many beautiful, yet inexpensive things are found here. Portiers \$2.50 to \$50 each. Curtains . . . 60c to \$115. And everything we carry has our guarantee of quality.

Parlor, Dining Room and Kitchen Tables

You can't keep house without these, and while you are getting them, don't make any mistake. You always get the best here.

You can't keep house without these, and while you are getting them, don't make any mistake. You always get the best here. PARLOR TABLES FROM \$3.50 to \$75.00 each in all kinds of wood and a big variety to pick from. DINING ROOM TABLES in all sizes—round or square, extension or plain, solid oak, weathered oak or mahogany. From \$4.00 to \$120.00. KITCHEN TABLES—In these we have the plain, small tables, tables with leaves or without, and a treasure kitchen table with drawers and bins handily arranged, from \$1.25 to \$35.00.

If we enjoy the largest business of any furniture house in the west, it is because our many years of honest service has merited the public's confidence.



Beautiful Mission Furniture.

It represents the highest type of the furniture makers skill. The beauty and simplicity of nature, skillfully designed. Every piece a masterpiece. You should see the line we carry before you finally purchase.

You can find anything in the line of home furnishings at this store. If you get it here you can depend upon it—the quality will always be greater than the price asked would indicate.

Bedsteads, Springs and Mattresses!

In this department we have an IMMENSE Variety to choose from

IRON BEDS are much in favor. They are light, strong, durable, sanitary and in appearance are beautiful. Priced from \$30 to \$350.00 each. IRON BEDS can be had in every grade from plain to fancy and stylishly constructed. From \$2.25 to \$50.00 each. We carry Utah made springs and mattresses and make to order or clean old mattresses. Our workmanship is superior.

STOVES and RANGES!

We sell the UNIVERSAL RANGE. It is a FRIEND maker for us

Every Range is guaranteed to be as represented by us. It is made of the best steel, with a lining of asbestos between the walls. Keeps the heat in and consequently uses less fuel to cook with. It will last almost a lifetime. It is a fine looking range; has handsome nickel trimmings which are easy to keep clean, and is just a little bit the best stove sold in Utah. There are several sizes. Universal Stoves from \$13.00 to \$45.00. Universal Ranges from \$30.00 to \$75.00.



Dressers, Chiffoniers and Wash Stands!

You can select full set or a piece and have the assurance that in most cases you can match up when ever you desire.

Plain fronts, circular fronts, bevel plate mirrors on Dresser and Chiffonier, square or oval frame, oak (golden or weathered), mahogany or maple. If you are particular to be in style, come here. We show the very latest designs: Dressers from \$10.00 to \$150.00. Chiffoniers from \$7.00 to \$15.00. Wash Stands from \$2.00 to \$25.00.



CHAIRS and Rockers!

Nothing gives more tone to the dining room than good chairs—it is economy to get good ones—The difference in price is so little.

We have any kind you want—and to match any furniture you select. Priced from \$4.00 to \$300.00 a set. Parlor rockers and chairs form an important part of a well-furnished home. Our variety here is great. Plain or fancy oak or mahogany. Upholstered if desired. Priced from \$1.25 to \$25.00 each.

\$125

H. D. N. WOODEY FURNITURE CO