

THE COLVILLE LAND.

A Rich Country Soon to Be Full of White Men.

FERTILE FARMS IN PROSPECT

A Description of the Valleys and Their Advantages—Fruit, Wheat and Cattle May Be Grown Abundantly.

The Colville reservation proper, as first set apart in the president's order of April 5, 1872, included the Colville valley, but on July 5, 1872, by executive order, the reserve was changed to its present location on the west side of the Columbia river.

As you travel west from Marcus, on the Columbia river, over the old Hudson Bay Company's trail, you climb steadily the first range of mountains between the Columbia and the Okanogan rivers until you reach the summit, some 5,000 feet above the sea.

The Curlew valley, or the Karamp valley, as it is known on the maps of the region, is a narrow valley about twenty miles in length, while its average width will not exceed one mile. It is fertile, well watered and well adapted to the cultivation of cereals, vegetables and stock raising.

In the upper end of the valley is Curlew lake, a beautiful sheet of water in whose depths sport several varieties of trout, while upon its unruffled surface float contentedly wild ducks and geese, with the noisy loon.

The San Puel, coming down from the mountains to the east and flowing through the southern end of the valley into a small lake, then out through a narrow gap in the surrounding hills into the San Puel valley, finally finds its way to the Columbia.

The San Puel valley, like the Curlew valley, is settled by the Indians and half-breeds, and the valley being narrow, with only twelve miles of its length in the cooled portion of the reserve, it is more than probable that all the available agricultural land will be allotted to them.

In order to get a general idea of the agricultural resources of the north half of the Hudson Bay Company's trail when it enters the Curlew valley and to travel down the valley over a good wagon road made by the Indians. It is twenty miles by this road to Kettle river, but the ride is interesting, especially if taken in the autumn, when every thicket on the hillsides presents a wealth of autumn coloring and from the roadside the whirr of wings is ever in the air.

Kettle river is the only stream of any considerable size upon the reserve. Its source is in British Columbia, about sixty miles from the international boundary line. After flowing by a devious route through British Columbia it finally enters the reservation at Midway, and then, describing a semi-circle of about twenty-five miles in length, it flows back into British Columbia at Carson, a new town on Grand Prairie. Here it parallels the boundary line for another twenty miles, and then again enters the reserve, flowing across the northeast corner of the reservation into the Columbia about one mile below Marcus.

The Kettle river valley also is settled by the Indians, and some of them have been upon their land ever since they can well remember. But back from the river, especially to the north, there is open bench land which the Indians have not touched, and here probably the best opportunity for a farm. This valley is shut in on the south and west by high mountains which naturally lessen the benefit of the day's light and shut out the warm sunlight so necessary to growing grain and ripening fruit.

Consequently portions of the valley are not adapted to diversified farming, but the valley is a good hay producer and the farmer, having sufficient hay to winter his stock with the fine range on the surrounding hills, will find cattle raising in this section a profitable business. About three miles farther up the creek, a narrow canyon shut in by high rugged mountains. There are only two ranches on the creek, one about four miles from where it flows into Kettle river, and the other about three miles farther up the creek. These ranches are located on the only part of the creek where there is width enough to the canyon to permit of any sort of ranch, owing to the fact that there is little sunlight in the summer and less in the winter shining into the canyon, they are only hay ranches. But between Terrace and Myers creek on the south slope of the mountains, there is open bench land, warm and fertile, backed by a fine bunchgrass range, where a few ranches will no doubt be located.

Later on as one of the finest stock ranches on the reserve. At present no one is living in the valley, although several ranches are staked off and a fence has been built around part of it. Surrounding the valley and immediately adjacent to it are open bunchgrass hills, while farther back the timber is open, with the exception of the north hillsides, which are invariably densely wooded with small tamaracks and black pine.

Leaving Ingraham Meadows, the trail follows an open valley to Bonaparte creek. This valley is four miles long, but in its widest part is not much over one-half mile in width. To the north of the valley there is a series of open benches of good agricultural land. South of the valley the mountains are heavily timbered with pine, fir and tamarack. No one is living in this valley, although it is excellent farming land, capable of producing a fine crop of hay. In fact, wild hay is cut in it each year by the Indians on Bonaparte creek, who winter their stock here.

Bonaparte creek, upon which is located the Tonasket boarding school for Indian children, is the principal creek on the Okanogan side of the reservation. It heads on the east side of Mount Bonaparte and after flowing about six miles along the eastern slope of the mountain, turns to the southwest and finally finds its way through low bunchgrass hills into the Okanogan. The valley in which this creek flows is settled by a few white men with Indian and half-breed neighbors. They have fine ranches and raise abundant crops of hay, grain and vegetables. They are as a rule now paying some attention to fruit growing, and some very fine orchards indeed can be seen along this creek and the Okanogan river. The summer is long, and it gets extremely hot in July and August in this part of the reserve, but the climate altogether is such that grapes, peaches, pears and apples grow large, ripen well and have a delightful flavor. The soil of this section is fertile, but irrigation is absolutely necessary, for what rain does fall in the summer is quickly evaporated by the heat before it ever reaches the ground. This valley, therefore, is invariably an abundant harvest. This section, that is, the Okanogan valley generally, will some day furnish to the rest of Washington its grapes, peaches and apples, and they will be sought for because of their quality and flavor, but it will necessarily be a distant day, for irrigation here is only in its inception. Transportation is hard, indeed, and time is needed to construct the dams, reservoirs and other works necessary to properly irrigate the fine fruit land lying along the Okanogan river.

In the Okanogan valley the government this summer surveyed about 100,000 acres of land, and practically three-fourths of this land can be termed prime agricultural land. Some of the surveyed land is timbered with pine, fir and tamarack, from which good, marketable lumber can be manufactured. There is at present but one sawmill on the reservation, located on Mill creek, and this mill is operated by the government for the benefit of the Indians. While as a rule the Indians will take their allotments along the river and creeks, there will be still a fine opportunity to acquire good ranches back from the river on the upland and benches. The bench land is as a general thing better adapted to growing cereals than the bottom land along the river and creeks. Fruit trees will do equally as well there as on the river, owing to the heavy soil, and that, too, probably without irrigation.

Myers creek heads on the north slope of Mount Bonaparte, and after flowing north about twelve miles in the reservation enters British Columbia and finally empties into Kettle river. In this valley, as in all of the creek valleys of the reservation, the Indians will take land. The few that are there at present are not so far advanced in farming as their brothers on the Okanogan, but probably this is owing to the fact that Myers creek is at a considerably higher altitude and consequently much colder. This valley also being shut in to the south by Mount Bonaparte, gets less sunlight than the better located valleys to the west of it. But, nevertheless, between Myers creek and the Okanogan is the finest stock range on the reservation and also after getting out of the shadow of the big mountain to the south the bench land is just as capable of producing beautiful crops as any section of the reserve. About 50,000 acres of land was surveyed on Myers creek last summer. Some of it is heavily timbered, but the most of it is open bench land and rolling bunchgrass hills. There is ample room in this section for white settlers, and no doubt some of the very best producing farms will be located here.

Around the base of Mount Bonaparte is the great hunting grounds of the Indians. They come to that part of the reservation from the Nespelem, in fact, from all parts of the reservation, in the fall to hunt and fish and lay in their winter's supply of meat.

Deer are plentiful on the reservation, and each fall the Indians kill great numbers of them. They kill all that cross their path; does, bucks and fawns alike go down before their rifles, and one would think that they would exterminate the game of this section, and indeed they would if it were not for the fact that the deer go into British Columbia in the spring and return again only in the fall.

There has been much speculation concerning the mineral resources of the reservation and many stories have been about telling of the rich mineral belt there is no doubt based upon the fact that on the British Columbia side of the line some very fine prospects have been found, and reasoning that what is on one side must necessarily be on the other, prospectors have set about stories of the richness of the mineral belt on the reserve. The facts in the case are that there is nothing known whatever as to the mineral resources of the reserve. Prospectors are not allowed upon the reservation, and when found there are escorted off by the Indian police and warned not to return. It is reasonable to presume that there is some mineral upon the reserve, but it is very possible that there is nothing there that would give rise to the incredible stories that are afloat concerning it. GEORGE H. CRAMER.

A DISAPPOINTMENT.

The Czar's Disappointment. London Letter. Out of this grabbing even czars may draw blanks. The birth of a daughter must be a weighty disappointment to Nicholas and his friends, for his next brother is as good as a dead man and the name of the new Michael has been seized upon by malcontents all over the empire as a sort of rallying cry, which is in itself as exasperating as it is meaningless. This failure to get a direct male heir means another year of dynastic uncertainty with the increasing danger of similar stories getting a foothold among the ignorant and superstitious millions of his subjects. It creates a sort of awkward dilemma, in which the nation of leaning heavily upon Germany and recognizing the old alliance friendship between Berlin and St. Petersburg may as well as not appeal to the young czar.

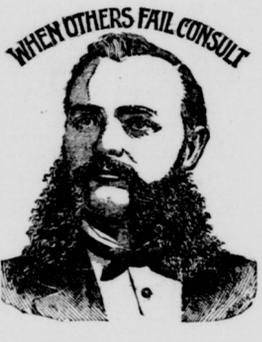
After leaving Curlew creek, traveling up the river to the great old station of importance crossed before reaching the boundary line is Terrace creek. This stream heads southeast of Mount Bonaparte and flows north through a narrow canyon shut in by high rugged mountains. There are only two ranches on the creek, one about four miles from where it flows into Kettle river, and the other about three miles farther up the creek. These ranches are located on the only part of the creek where there is width enough to the canyon to permit of any sort of ranch, owing to the fact that there is little sunlight in the summer and less in the winter shining into the canyon, they are only hay ranches. But between Terrace and Myers creek on the south slope of the mountains, there is open bench land, warm and fertile, backed by a fine bunchgrass range, where a few ranches will no doubt be located. Going up Terrace creek you climb steadily by an easy grade until you reach the summit of the last range of mountains between the Columbia and Okanogan. About twenty-five miles up the creek, the trail turns to the west up a small canyon, through which flows the west fork of Terrace creek. Five miles up this fork, you come out into an open valley three miles long by one-half to three-fourths of a mile wide. This valley is known generally as Ingraham Meadows, and will be known



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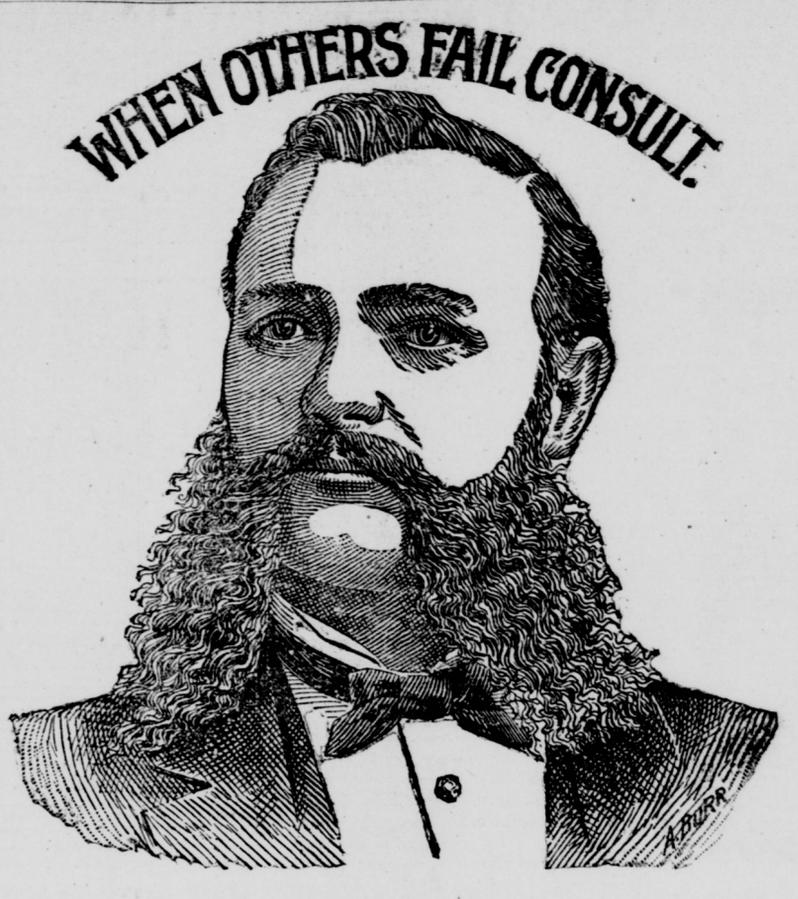
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THE POOR

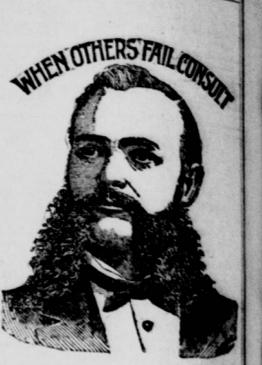
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