IN THE PALOUSE COUNTRY.

A Visit to a Region Where Wheat Yields From Thirty to Sixty Bushels to the Acre.

BY E. V. SMALLEY.

The name Palouse Country is applied to the region drained by the Palouse River and its feeders. It begins about ten miles south of Spokane and stretches southward to the Snake River, which runs through a deep canyon and receives no drainage to mention from the country north of it. In fact the Palouse drains the rolling, high plateau almost up to the brink of the precipice at the bottom of which flows the mighty Snake. The Palouse heads in the Cœur d'Alene Mountains and so do all the creeks that feed it. It has a course of about 150 miles. Its two main branches join at Falls. Soon after it has collected all its waters it leaves the fertile prairie country and comes out into the hot, dry, bunch grass plains. Then it tumbles down three hundred feet by a sheer descent into a crevice in the volcanic rock and soon after joins the Snake. The Palouse Country means the fertile belt of lava country and the desert. One merges gradually into the other in the outcroppings along the valleys of the streams and in the canyons of the Snake and the Palouse. There is no timber except a few scattered pines on the hill slopes along the streams and in the canyons of the Snake and Palouse. There is no timber except a few scattered pines on the hill slopes along the streams and in the canyons of the Snake and Palouse. There is no timber except a few scattered pines on the hill slopes along the streams and in the canyons of the Snake and Palouse. There is no timber except a few scattered pines on the hill slopes along the streams and in the canyons of the Snake and Palouse. There is no timber except a few scattered pines on the hill slopes along the streams and in the canyons of the Snake and Palouse. The Palouse you are in the great hot, dry basin that lies between the Columbia and the Snake. The surface of the Palouse Country is a succession of hills and ridges, covered with grass and wild sunflowers and lupins. The soil is a decomposed basalt, very rich in the ingredients that go to the making of all the small grains. Curiously enough the hill slopes and summits have not been washed of their fertility for the benefit of the valleys. On the contrary they are just as rich as the depressions between them. The region is very young, geologically speaking, which may account for this circumstance. The granite has been overwhelmed by successive floods of lava, and the different layers of basalt thus formed can be clearly distinguished from each other in the outcroppings along the valleys of the streams and in the canyons of the Snake and the Palouse.

The climate is as agreeable and healthful, taking the year round, as can be found anywhere in the United States. A short winter with moderate snowfall is followed by an early spring, beginning usually in February. In March the flowers are blooming and the plows going. There is no perceptible line of demarcation between the fertile country and the desert. One merges gradually into the other. The nearer the mountains the more rainfall; the further from the mountains the less rainfall, is the rule. As you go westward you descend steadily from an altitude of 2,800 feet and as you descend the summer heats up and the rainfall decreases. The melting snows and the June rains make the crops. After June no rain is expected until October. The farmer threshes his grain at his leisure and leaves the sacks in the field until he is ready to haul them to the railroad. Then, when the shipping season is at its height the warehouses will not hold half the grain and the sacks are piled high on the open platforms around the stations. In September and October columns of dust arising from the roads show where the four and six horse teams are on their way to the stations with their loads of grain. The dust is the only drawback to this wonderful farming country, but as it necessarily goes with a rich and easily tilled soil the people put up with it without grumbling. The autumns are the crown of the year—cool, perfect days and nights with a touch of frost. Much might be written about the remarkable grain crops of this region, but the story would repeat itself over and over again, in its accounts of reported yields of wheat, barley and oats, on the same lands year after year, with never less than twenty-five bushels of wheat to the acre and frequent crops of forty, fifty and even sixty bushels. If the land is allowed to lie idle after harvest it volunteers a crop the second year that would make a Minnesota farmer rejoice. Volunteer crops of twenty bushels to the acre are not remarkable. The favorite wheat is the "little club," which has a stout stalk of moderate length and a short, chubby head. Its growth is so even that the header, because it will cut a good deal more in a day and puts them to no expense for twine, is allowed to lie idle after harvest it volunteers a crop the second year that would make a Minnesota farmer rejoice. Volunteer crops of twenty bushels to the acre are not remarkable. The favorite wheat is the "little club," which has a stout stalk of moderate length and a short, chubby head. Its growth is so even that the header, because it will cut a good deal more in a day and puts them to no expense for twine.
Settlement in the Palouse Country goes back about twenty years, when a few pioneers from Oregon and California went into the district to raise stock. They tried a little grain and were astonished at the enormous yields. They began to raise a surplus of wheat and to haul it to the cliffs along the Snake River, where they sold it down sluices to the steamboats below. It brought only twenty-five cents a bushel, but there was a small profit in raising it even at that figure. At last the railroad came and the country went ahead with a rush, the value of lands doubling, trebling and quadrupling in a few years time and people crowding in from all parts of the United States to share the possession of this rich strip of agricultural land. Towns sprang up rapidly a few miles apart on the lines of railroad. Their number and size and their continued growth are the best possible evidences of the productivity of the region. A few of these towns only have lasted the railroad came and the country went ahead with a rush, the value of lands doubling, trebling and quadrupling in a few years time and people crowding in from all parts of the United States to share the possession of this rich strip of agricultural land. Towns sprang up rapidly a few miles apart on the lines of railroad. Their number and size and their continued growth are the best possible evidences of the productivity of the region. A few of these towns only have to the acre year after year, and from which the railroads carry the grain direct to the tidewater of the Pacific Ocean at Tacoma and Portland, where the ships come to receive it from all the great commercial ports of Europe. The only question the settler need ask is whether the land is worth what is demanded for it, and he will not be long in figuring on production and prices to make up his mind that it is. The Palouse is going to be one of the richest farming regions in the world when it gets old enough. Most of its people came in poor. They are fast paying off their debts, improving their farms, building good houses and barns and getting good stock. They or their children will ride in carriages and live in handsome houses in the midst of orchards. The teeming soil will make them rich. A region where every acre is tillable and highly fertile, where wheat, barley, oats and rye yield heavy crops, where apples grow and all root crops are run a line of the Union Pacific which traverses the Palouse Country diagonally, and has two branched, one from Saltese Junction to Winona Junction and one from Colfax to Moscow. The region is thus remarkably well supplied with transportation facilities. The population is American by a large majority, with just a sprinkling of other nationalities. At Union-town there is a large German colony, with a Catholic church and a convent school. Here and there a Scandinavian family is found. This sturdy foreign element has increased rapidly during the past two years and begins to show itself in the towns as well as on the farms.

PULLMAN.

It is next to impossible to describe this strange Palouse Country in language that will convey a clear idea of it to an Eastern reader, or, indeed,
possible to plow and the big headers will get in their work on the ripe grain. Now and then you see a tree claim, where the planted trees have made a fair show of growth, halting, however, at heights of about twelve or fifteen feet. From the highest summits you can see the pinnacled mountains on the eastern horizon and catch a glimpse of the huge pyramid of Steptoe Butte, which lords it over the whole region.

Pullman is one of the most flourishing towns in this queer, rich country. It stands on the South Fork of the Palouse where two minor valleys join the main valley. This gangion of little valleys made the town, for each was a natural avenue of country travel, and where they met was a good place for a country store at an early day before railroads came. The first store attracted another; then a tavern, a sawmill, a land agent, a school house and a church followed.

First the locality was called Three Forks, from the fact that the road coming up the Palouse from the older town of Colfax forked here in three directions. When the question of a formal name was discussed the selection fell on that of the famous sleeping-car millionaire, George Pullman. This was in 1881. Merchandise was hauled at that time from Almota, on the Snake River, and the small grain surplus of the region went out in that way. Wheat was worth twenty-five cents a bushel and the settlers only raised enough to give them a small credit at the stores for groceries and other necessaries of life. In 1885 the first railroad came, a branch of the O. R. & N. system, which started at Palouse Junction on the Northern Pacific, ran through the desert until it struck the fertile belt a little west of Colfax, and kept on to Moscow at the foot of the mountains. The N. P. at one time had a half interest in this line but gave it up, and with other O. R. & N. properties it passed into the hands of the Union Pacific. Then the Northern built down from Spokane and reached Pullman in 1887. The town was then put in a position to improve the natural advantages of its situation, and, although scourged by two disastrous fires, it has gone steadily ahead. It now has about 1,600 people.

Typical of its progress are the three school buildings which crown one of the hills—the little white one-story structure which served the needs of the first settlers, the two-story frame building of which the citizens were proud, ugly as it is, when the place had grown to have 500 people, and the big, handsome brick edifice just completed, with a tall tower, and with all the modern appliances and apparatus of education that money can buy and that can be used in a public school course. So young is the town that many children who began their education in the little white school house and continued it in the larger wooden structure, will now complete it in the new temple of learning.

The public school edifice is by no means the
only educational institution of which Pullman now boasts. An excellent military academy under the principaship of Major Walker, an old army officer, is well and successfully established in the town. Its pupils are handsomely uniformed and are thoroughly drilled and equipped. They come from all parts of Eastern Washington and from the neighboring State of Idaho. The Pullman Military Academy buildings sentinel one of the many hill-tops that look down upon the town, and on another stand the new buildings of the Washington State Agricultural College. This institution was secured for Pullman after a brusk contest with rival towns. A small brick building was put up last year to start the school and this year one of the wings of the main edifice is being erected. A farm house and barn have also been provided. By next winter the institution will be in pretty good shape. Labor will be provided in the fields and gardens for poor students and the cost of education, by the aid of the land endowment from the National Government, will be kept at a very low figure. With the growth of the State this college will become an institution of importance and will be of constantly increasing advantage to Pullman. With its military academy, its college and its public schools, Pullman has now a good right to call itself the educational center of the Palouse Country.

The artesian wells of Pullman are a feature of special interest possessed by no other town in the Palouse Country. About two years ago M. C. True, one of the most enterprising citizens of the town, determined to test his faith in the existence of water-bearing strata on the South Palouse at his own expense and proceeded to bore a well through the solid basaltic rock which underlies the town. The cost of drilling was four dollars per foot, which would have used up money pretty fast had it been necessary to go down far, but to the general delight of the town the well was pumped through the rock and its continuous flow forms a small rivulet. The flow of living water is so large that it would fill a hogshead in less than a minute. Everybody is free to help himself at this perennial fountain. The next move was for the town to sink a well to supply the new waterworks and fire-plugs. At about the same depth a like volume of water was struck, rising to the surface and pouring out in a steady stream. The water from this well is now pumped to a reservoir on the highest of the numerous hills overlooking the town and to a second reservoir above the Agricultural College. Pullman from this beneficent fountain now obtains ample water for fire protection, for domestic uses and for sprinkling its streets and refreshing its lawns and gardens. The pseudonym of the place should now be changed from Gem City to Fountain City. Science has here repeated the miracle of Moses. It touched the rock and living waters gushed forth.

The business street of Pullman is well built for two squares with brick. The largest store has a frontage of eighty feet on this street and of 160 on the cross street, and a wing forty by ninety feet. This is a general merchandising store in the fullest sense of the word, and it well illustrates the business methods of this region. The farmer wants to do all his trading with one concern, and he makes a yearly settlement after he sells his wheat. His bills run six months without interest, but after that time he is charged at the rate of ten per cent per annum. The big mercantile house looks after all his wants and will sell him pretty much everything in the whole scale of human needs, from a nursing bottle to a coffin. After harvest he turns over his wheat to the warehouses of the big firm and receives his credit, and sometime before the first of the following January he has a settlement. There are two of these huge mercantile establishments in Pullman, the McConnel, Chambers Company and the Pullman Mercantile Company. A census of the business houses of the town shows the following result: Two general merchandising stores, two banks, one grocery, three harness shops, one
Pullman does a considerable business in the sawing of lumber. The South Fork is too small a stream for running logs, but the Spokane and Palouse road was extended last year into the timber belt east of Moscow at the head of the streams that form Palatch Creek, and train-loads of logs are brought from that region and dumped into the pool by the Pullman mill.

PULLMAN BUSINESS INTERESTS.

W. G. BRAGG, AGENT PULLMAN LAND & INVESTMENT COMPANY.—One of the prominent and important corporations of the city of Pullman is the Pullman Land and Investment Company. It was incorporated June 20, 1892, for the purpose of buying and selling real estate. L. M. Hinger is president and T. D. Richardson is secretary. The company owns Fair View and several other additions, choice business properties, factory sites, and over 10,000 acres of rich farm lands. For choice residence lots their prices range from $50 up. The company has put up quite a number of neat and comfortable cottages during this summer, all of which are occupied; and we may add right here that there is not a vacant dwelling house in the city. Mr. Bragg is a live, energetic man, thoroughly posted on Palouse Country properties, and may be termed the leading real estate dealer of Pullman. He has recently closed several large deals, including one of $30,000 which gives him and the company he represents control of the choicest property in the vicinity.

McConnel, Chambers Company.—As dealers in general merchandise and grain the McConnel, Chambers Company is the most extensive commercial enterprise in the Palouse Country. It is an incorporated company with a capital of $100,000. Its officers are W. M. Chambers, president; W. J. McConnel, vice-president, and W. V. Windus secretary. Mr. Windus is also mayor of the city. With a stock of $125,000 they do an annual business of $400,000. Their stock consists of every conceivable article of merchandise that man needs "from the cradle to the grave." The company employs about thirty men in the store and office. Their annual grain business often reaches $1,500,000. For handling this they have eight warehouses varying in capacity from 100,000 to 250,000 bushels. The resident members of the company are Messrs. Chambers and Windus, who are also interested in other financial and mercantile establishments of Pullman.

VEDER & WINDUS, FURNITURE DEALERS OF PULLMAN.—Veder & Windus have a very extensive furniture establishment, and in that line as well as in pianos, organs, picture frames, mouldings, etc., meet the wants of the ever growing trade of Pullman and the increasing popularity of their store. They own the building in which their business is located, which is 55x100 feet, and two stories high. They carry about $10,000 worth of stock and do a business of $25,000 to $30,000 per year. They have now been engaged in the furniture business in Pullman for about three years, and in that time have become thoroughly well posted on the needs of the country in their lines, and are prepared to meet every want. Their stock is most complete—so thoroughly so that any householder, rich or poor, can be readily catered. They are close, shrewd buyers, attend strictly to business, and are thus enabled to sell at the most reasonable rates. In the music line they are agents for Decker Bros., W. J. Fisher, and Tres & Pond's pianos, and A. B. Chase's and the "Weaver" organs. Their patrons are assured of the fairest treatment.

PULLMAN MILITARY COLLEGE.—The Pullman Military College is a private institution owned by the citizens of Pullman. Its location here is due to the liberality of thought and purse of Messrs. W. V. Windus, E. H. Letterman, Dr. Webb, Farris Bros., Thos. Neill and M. C. Trua, who contributed the land and erected the buildings at a cost of $7,500. The school opened in October, 1891, with forty-six pupils, and from applications already in, the second year will commence with a register of at least 100. One of our illustrations in this number represents the buildings of this college, which stand in a high, sightly and very healthful locality. Maj. W. S. Walker is principal instructor in the institution. Perfect military discipline is enforced. The rapid advancement of the pupils of this college has already given it a reputation throughout the State and will be certain to make it popular.
Thos. W. Savage.—Of all the splendidly improved farms of the Palouse Country none rival that of Thos. W. Savage of Pullman. It is matchless in its beauty and environment. Situated about two miles from the city proper on a gently undulating plain, surrounded by a profusion of ornamental trees of variegated shades of foliage, with adjacent orchards bearing luscious fruits of many varieties, with multitudes of roses and flowers bedecking the well-kept lawns and crowding close upon the walls of the pretty farmhouse and loading the air with their sweet fragrance, its far reach of meadow and seemingly never-ending stretches of ripening wheat, oats and barley, it forms a picture so beautiful, so interesting that one having seen will not soon forget it. Mr. Savage has demonstrated that almost every variety of fruit, except those of the tropics, will flourish in the Palouse Country, and that an orchard as an adjunct to the business of raising wheat is very profitable. He takes a just pride in his farm, his ornamental trees, his orchard and his fine horses. He has one young pacer, for a half interest in which he was recently offered $3,000.

M. C. True.—Mark C. True was one of the first men to discover the riches of the Palouse Country, and having his selection of lands and locality, settled where now is the flourishing town of Pullman. Like all Palouse Country people he has prospered. He is identified with various enterprises. He owns the Palace Hotel property, valued at $85,000; the Palace Livery Stables, $12,000; some of the choicest business lots in the city, and some of the best grain ranches, one of which he recently purchased for $18,000. Mr. True is well and widely known as a thorough business man, and his ability is evinced by the successful manner in which he has simultaneously managed several large business enterprises for the past ten years or more. He is a public-spirited citizen and is thoroughly identified with the interests of Pullman.

The Pullman Mercantile Company.—The Pullman Mercantile Company, which was incorporated in November, 1890, is one of the strongest, financially, of any of Pullman’s prosperous business concerns. It has a capital of $50,000 and does an annual business of over a quarter of a million. L. M. Ringer is president; D. F. Staley, vice-president; and F. D. Richardson, secretary. All of the members of the company have long been identified with the interests of Pullman.

The Pullman Mercantile Company owns two stores. One, 40x80 feet, is occupied by a full and well selected line of hardware, tinware, stoves, etc. The other, 30x80 feet, is occupied by a stock of farm implements, machinery, buggies, wagons, etc. They do a business of $150,000 annually and enjoy a reputation unexcelled for uprightness and honorable dealing.

The Pullman State Bank.—The Pullman State Bank was incorporated in 1892 with a capital stock of $40,000. The officers and directors of the company are P. McGregor, president; D. C. Monroe, secretary and treasurer; T. L. Monroe, J. M. Hill and F. E. Carpenter. They are all residents of Pullman and only Pullman capital is invested in the corporation. The company owns two stores. One, 40x80 feet, is occupied by a full and well selected line of hardware, tinware, stoves, etc. The other, 30x80 feet, is occupied by a stock of farm implements, machinery, buggies, wagons, etc. They do a business of $150,000 annually and enjoy a reputation unexcelled for uprightness and honorable dealing.

W. G. Bragg is one of the most thoroughly posted men in the Palouse Country. Especially is this so with regard to values of lands—the chances for investments and for settlement. Those desiring such information will do well to call on or write to him. He will cheerfully answer all inquiries.

Thomas Neil.—Thos. Neil is one of the rising young business men of Pullman. He is clerk of the City Council, has various and substantial interests in the city, conducts a lucrative real estate business and finds in the Palouse Country ample field for energy and enterprise and the need of prosperity which is the reward of these qualities.

First National Bank of Pullman.—On this issue will be found an engraving showing the headquarters of the First National Bank of Pullman, Washington. It is a worthy institution, financially strong, and satisfactorily meets all the requirements of Pullman’s growing trade.
PALOUSE CITY.

Sixty-eight miles south of Spokano, on the North Fork of the Palouse River, is the handsome, well-built, prosperous town of Palouse City, which is growing rich on its lumber manufacturing operations and its trade with the productive farming country lying all around it. This was, next to Colfax, the oldest town in the Palouse Country. The facilities it possessed of running logs down the river from the mountain slopes in sight on the eastern horizon created a settlement at an early day, where small mills sawed boards and planks for the pioneer farmers that made their way thus far into the wilderness. Stage roads were opened to Lewiston, the parent town of all this region; to Colfax, down the Palouse, and northward to Spokano and Cheney, on the main line of the Northern Pacific Railroad. When the Spokane and Palouse branch was built, reaching Palouse City in 1887, the place had about 500 inhabitants. It took a lively start at once. The demand for its lumber was no longer a merely neighborhood one, and shipments began to all the towns on the new road. Another mill was built. Farmers steadily came in to occupy the lands of the open, rolling plains until they were all taken and then the settlers arriving from the East began to push into the foot-hills of the mountains. To the surprise of all people familiar with the sterile pine belts of Minnesota and Wisconsin, the pine lands proved to be as rich as the prairies when cleared. Indeed, in dry seasons heavier crops of wheat and oats are now raised on the gentle slopes of the mountains that have been logged and burned over on his 160-acre claim his whole claim is salable for from $15 to $20 an acre, proving the uncleared part is fairly well timbered. If wild lands are worth so much in this far-away country, the Eastern reader will ask, what are good improved farms valued at? They will be astonished at the answer: Good improved farms, under fence, well-tilled and with fair buildings, command as high a price per acre here as in Southern Wisconsin; yes, as much as similar farms being as far east as Ohio. You would have to pay $45 an acre for such a place in the vicinity of Palouse City, and a neglected tract, its capacity for producing small grains. It seems never to wear out. In its chemical constituents it is almost identical with the soil of the plains of Sicily, around the base of the volcano of Etna, which have been cultivated in wheat since the earliest dawn of history and which were one of the granaries of Imperial Rome. It is very light and easily tilled, is of great depth and stands a

mountains. Thus it has turned out that farming, which was once supposed to be limited by the line of the pines east of the Palouse Country, is practicable and profitable for fully thirty miles further on as fast as the trees are taken off the land. The logging more than pays for clearing. Homesteaders now abound in the mountains where the Palouse and the Potlatch head. I am glad to be able to say that these valuable pine lands have not fallen into the hands of speculators. The homeseekers got ahead of the pine barons of the East who hire men to go upon Government claims and to turn over the title as soon as they have proved up. The settlers themselves are the loggers. They gradually clear their claims, hauling the logs to the rivers and selling them to the mill men below. When a man has proved his claim and burned over on his 160-acre claim his whole crop of fifteen to twenty bushels to the acre all through the Palouse Country. It costs no more to take fifty bushels to the acre off your fields than to take only fifteen, except the additional cost of threshing. You can readily see that with wheat selling at only fifty or sixty cents per bushel here the Palouse farmer is much better off than the Minnesota farmer who gets twenty-five cents more per bushel for his crop, but a light snow-fall causes him to take fifty bushels to the acre and in bad years is lucky to get twelve bushels.

This is the most wonderful soil in the world in its capacity for producing small grains. It seems never to wear out. In its chemical constituents it is almost identical with the soil of the plains of Sicily, around the base of the volcano of Etna, which have been cultivated in wheat since the earliest dawn of history and which were one of the granaries of Imperial Rome. It is very light and easily tilled, is of great depth and stands a drought well. In fact, the moisture it holds from the snows of winter makes the crop, the rains in the growing season being few and far apart. A heavy snow-fall means a heavy crop; a light snow-fall a light crop; but a light crop here would be called a good crop in any wheat country east of the Rockies.

The first settler to build a house on the present site of Palouse City was James A. Smith, called "Modoc" Smith, who opened a general merchandise store in 1875 by Wm. L. Powers, who is still a leading citizen of the town. The first sawmill was put up in 1875 by Farnsworth, Worley & Co. The town was named by W. P. Breeding, who opened a general merchandise store in 1875, with two partners, W. P. Ragsdale and A. Higgins. As a rule, the early settlers of Palouse have stood by the town and are now its most prosperous business men. The capital to erect the handsome brick blocks which now line the main street, to build the manufacturing con-

THE NORTHWEST MAGAZINE, SEPTEMBER, 1892.
cerns and to put up the many pretty dwellings which cover the hill slopes north of the business district, has nearly all been made right in the town. Very few people have come in with money. In brief, the town has preserved on its own resources, and every sober, industrious man who has stuck to his business has made money.

From a recent article in the Spokane Review is copied the following brief statement of the special advantages of Palouse City:

"There are several good reasons for belief that Palouse may become the largest town in the Palouse Country. All other towns depend entirely upon agricultural resources. Palouse has as rich and extensive an agricultural region tributary to her as any other town. In addition to this she has a river and lumbering industry, and mining resources. The value of the river can not be overestimated. It floats logs, supplies waterpower and furnishes the outlet for drainage. This alone gives the town a great advantage over any other in Eastern Washington outside of Spokane, but nature has done more. For sixty miles up the river extend great basins, twenty miles in width, terminated by impassible mountains and bounded on the east side by ranges of high, rough buttes, which jet out as advanced guards. The mountain buttes are densely timbered and almost impossible. At the mouth of this enclosed basin is located Palouse, its only natural supply point. Parts of the basin are densely timbered with splendid trees, while other parts are well-watered level stretches. Magnificent farming lands along the river, containing rich deposits of gold, silver, iron and mica mines. Probably no other section of the same extent in the United States embraces such rich and varied resources. This basin is naturally and can be made exclusively tributary to the Palouse range of buttes. On the north it is cut off from Parnamint, and the range of buttes on the south from Moscow. A railroad running up the river from Palouse will tap the whole district and bring all the trade to this town. So much for the natural advantages of the location of the town as a distributing point."

Palouse City is a picturesque place, with its narrow winding river, its hill-slopes dotted with pines and its compact mass of dwellings, stores and churches, intersected from end to end by the broad, well-graded and macadamized avenue of Main Street. Most of the town is north of the place, and are thin at first, growing denser as greater elevation is reached on the mountain slopes. Most of the trees are mountain pine, but there are considerable areas of white pine which will cut over two million feet on each quarter-section of land. The ordinary mountain pine on the foot-hills will cut from 750,000 to 1,500,000 feet per quarter-section. At the present rate of sawing, the timber which can be run down the river will last, it is estimated, seventy-five years; and when it is gone logging railroads will reach parts of the great forest which are too remote from the river to make use of its current for floating the logs to the mills. The total cut of the Palouse City mills last year was 12,000,000 feet, and for this year's cut 12,000,000 feet of logs were contracted. Another mill can find profitable business here and the opportunity is worth looking into on the part of the lumbermen of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Ever since the first settlement of Palouse City there has been more or less digging for placer gold along the upper Palouse and the mountain creeks that flow into it, and nuggets and gold-dust have always been a standard commodity at the stores in exchange for goods and at the banks in exchange for currency. Chinamen are the regular miners, but in the winter farmers often take a hand in the work of washing the gold-bearing dirt, glad to put in their leisure time in a way to earn at least fair wages. The First National Bank of Palouse purchases about $25,000 of gold every year. According to the official report of the United States Mint at San Francisco this Palouse gold-dust is 340 fine, which is probably the highest average of any gold-mining region in the world. In character the dust is very

**VIEW FROM CHANEY BUTTE, EAST OF PALOUSE CITY, WASH., SHOWING**
course, in flakes of the shape and size of fish scales, which would indicate that there is a large loss of the fine dust owing to the incompleteness of the system of mining at present in vogue. Frequently nuggets valued at from $5 to $20 are washed out. At the Northwest Industrial Exposition at Spokane, in the fall of 1880, a Hoodoo nugget was exhibited which was worth $80. The gold-dust is found in gulches through which small streams flow into the river, and also in what is supposed to be the old bed of the river. After clearing off several feet of soil, pay dirt is found lying on top of a stratum of rock. The placer grounds are in what is called the "Hoodoo District." Further up in the mountains is the Ruby Creek district, where some very promising discoveries of silver ore have lately been made. J. P. Velmer, of Lewiston, has a mine there which he believes will prove to be a great property when worked. It has been opened far enough to show clearly the width of the vein and the character of the ore, but it is still too remote from transportation for the problem of its development to be a simple one. In the Bear Creek district, twenty-five miles up the river, are rich deposits of excellent mica. One mine of this valuable mineral was developed by Senator W. J. McConnell of Moscow, and has been sold to a syndicate for a reported price of $60,000. Three promising lodges in the same vicinity were located last fall by George Sheldore, Mark Howe, C. T. Cross and William Goodyear. The work of developing these claims is now going forward, and the prospects are flattering. The mica is of excellent quality, and there appears to be plenty of it.

On Meadow Creek, about twenty-five miles east of town, a group of iron mines were located in 1850 by I. I. Hughes, now of Colville, Wash. There are three distinct veins of ore, one of which is a veritable mountain of iron. It is thirty feet wide and has been traced in a ravine to a depth of several hundred feet. A sample of the ore was sent to the Tacoma Smelting and Refining Company and the assay showed sixty-five per cent of iron. The deposit is too far from a railroad to be worked at a profit. When a railroad is built up the Palouse into the mountains from Palouse City, important mining resources in gold, silver and iron will be developed. Here is a future resource which Palouse City has not discounted at all and which may sometime add largely to its population and business.

Palouse bonded itself last year for $25,000 for public improvements, spending the money mainly on waterworks and on the grading and sewerage of the business street. The waterworks are a combination of the Holly and the direct-pressure systems. The reservoir has a capacity of 100,000 gallons and is 200 feet above the main street. This would, in case of fire, supply four streams from the hydrants for three hours and give time to get up steam for the direct-pressure machinery. There are five stand-pipes and nineteen hydrants and the fire department has two hose-carts and a hook and ladder. The waterworks have not been given over to a corporation, as in many new towns, but are the property of the city. The electric light system is owned by a company of which Henry Bassett is president. There is also a telephone system.


PALOUSE CITY BUSINESS INTERESTS.

W. H. Lichty & Co., Loans and Real Estate.—The senior member of the above firm, W. H. Lichty, has had considerable experience in financial enterprises, and a successful career. He was formerly connected with the banking business in Kansas and in the employ of the McKinley, Lanning Loan and Trust Company of Hastings, Nebraska, and Philadelphia. For a time he held a responsible position in the Hastings office, from which he was transferred to the main office in Philadelphia. He was succeeded in his position at Hastings by his brother, Joseph S. Lichty, now his associate in business in Palouse City. About three years ago the Lichty brothers decided to go into business on their own account, and after thoroughly looking the country over for a suitable location cast their fortunes with the town of Palouse. The firm has ample capital. Its financial connections are with the best institutions of the Middle States, and its credit is practically unlimited. In the department of loans the firm has done an extensive business and report most satisfactory collections. In their real estate department they have a limited number of improved and unimproved farms and about 10,000 acres of timber lands, and also town property, improved and unimproved. The Lichty's are esteemed, not only as successful business men, but as prominent and influential citizens of Palouse. They will cheerfully answer any correspondent seeking information about the Palouse Country.

First National Bank of Palouse.—The First National Bank of Palouse ranks among the soundest financial institutions in the North.
The Palouse Mill Company.—That which is at present the largest lumbering concern of all the mills of Palouse City. This company is among the leading capitalists of the country.

The president, A. M. Cannon, is a prominent banker and distinguished citizen of Spokane. L. C. Wheeler, vice-president, is a prominent merchant of Palouse. C. T. Cross, cashier, is a native of Great Britain, and learned the banking business with the celebrated Bank of Manchester, England. He has been in the United States ten years and is well known in banking and financial circles throughout the Northwest. Among the stockholders are Henry Failing and H. W. Corbett, of Portland, and B. Lombard, of Boston. We present in this number an engraving of this new bank building, into which they have just moved.

The Palouse Mill Company.—That which made a thriving town of Palouse provided she had no other resources, would be her logging and milling industry. The place in the future must develop in to an important manufacturing center. It is at present the lumbering center of the Palouse Country. The total cut of lumber the past season amounted to at least 12,000,000 feet, and 15,000,000 feet of logs have been contracted for this year. A short time since the Palouse Mill Company was organized with a capital of $87,000 and has acquired control of all the mills of Palouse City. This company is at present the largest lumbering concern in Eastern Washington. It is now building an immense wood-working factory. In this issue will be found an engraving of the mill and works.

First National Bank, Palouse City.

It was incorporated in 1880 and succeeded the first bank established in Palouse, which ran two years as a private enterprise, under the style of Bank of Palouse. The stockholders are among the leading capitalists of the country. The president, A. M. Cannon, is a prominent banker and distinguished citizen of Spokane. L. C. Wheeler, vice-president, is a prominent merchant of Palouse. C. T. Cross, cashier, is a native of Great Britain, and learned the banking business with the celebrated Bank of Manchester, England. He has been in the United States ten years and is well known in banking and financial circles throughout the Northwest. Among the stockholders are Henry Failing and H. W. Corbett, of Portland, and B. Lombard, Jr., of Boston. We present in this number an engraving of this new bank building, into which they have just moved.

St. Elmo Hotel.—The St. Elmo Hotel is one of the best hotels in Southern Washington. The house was built by a company at a cost of $23,000. It has fifty guest rooms, a number of fine sample rooms, and is well furnished throughout. P. J. Clinton, the proprietor, has had many years’ experience as a hotel manager, having been formerly in the business at Lake Point, now Garfield Beach—Great Salt Lake, and Stockton, Utah. By his able management he has made the St. Elmo the popular house of the Palouse Country.

PUBLIC SCHOOL, PALOUSE CITY.

The Forum has received several letters from the East from parties expecting to come to this State or Oregon, and asking about the climate, temperature, soil and productions. Although it is tiresome to the people of this country to hear recapitulated every few weeks the advantages of this marvelous country, we think our readers will agree with us that it is best to answer such questions in the Forum and send copies to the Eastern intercourse.

A happy combination of soil and climate has made the Palouse Country a grain producing country unrivaled in the world—a vast garden spot. The principal productions of the country are wheat, oats, barley, rye, flax and corn in all kinds and all varieties of the arbor fruits, large and small, grow here with a luxuriance unequaled. Wheat is the staple agricultural product, yielding from thirty to forty bushels per acre, and weighing from five to nine pounds more than the standard bushel of sixty pounds. Oats rank next to wheat, yielding from fifty to eighty bushels per acre. Barley next with a low average of sixty bushels per acre, and is a very profitable crop, commanding a very high price. Besides the amount used in our cities for brewing purposes a vast amount is shipped East. The other cereals are successfully raised and yield abundantly, flax being a particularly good and remunerative crop. It is not necessary to cut grain here when ripe, it having been known to stand for weeks without shelling or being otherwise damaged. Grasses of various kinds grow luxuriantly, timothy being one of the staples, some fields attaining the height of five feet. Clover, blue-grass, and alfalfa also flourish as if they were indigenous to the soil. The native grass called bunchgrass, which grows in bunches from twelve to eighteen inches high, is very nutritious, cures in the stalk and retains its original nutrient until the new crop appears. Vegetables of every variety are produced in the greatest profusion, being exceptional in yield, quality and flavor. The yields are so immense that we will not attempt to give them, leaving that for some future time.

The fruit industry may be said to be yet in its infancy in this region, but our climate and soil are adapted to this branch of production, as has been demonstrated by the raising of nearly all fruits grown in the temperate zones. Prunes, apples, pears, plums, peaches, cherries, grapes, apricots and berries of all varieties and of elegant flavor grow almost to perfection, and are fast becoming one of the great resources of the country, hundreds of acres of orchard having been started in the last five years; and being readily accessible to the great Idaho mining regions and the city of Spokane, our markets are the best in the world. A failure in any crop is yet to be experienced in the history of fruit-growing in the Palouse Country. Orchardists come forward with a rapidity that astonishes our Eastern fruit men. The fruit drying and preserving industry is fast becoming one of importance to the country.

Though usually mild, the winters are occasionally severe enough to kill back the overgrown peach tree, but the crop is more certain than in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and other famous districts. Can be carried in many localities, but is not a specialty. The smaller varieties do well. Sweet potatoes of fine quality are grown in the southern part of the country along Snake River, where the temperature is several degrees warmer in all seasons than in other parts of the country.

We are promised a seed time and harvest, and in this favored region the promise is fulfilled to the letter. The spring sowing is done from February to June, and fall seeding is done from September to November.

The harvest season commences in July and lasts three months, or until the crops are secured,
Two years ago the click of the thresher and the whistle of the thrasher were heard far into the winter, but last season the farmers were better prepared, and although the amount of machinery was almost doubled in some sections of the country, the dusty hats of the harvest crews were whitened by the silvery flake from the heavens. Cloudless skies and perfect weather mark the harvest time. The farmer sows to the limit of his seed time without thought of failure in harvest, and is yet to be disappointed; and is this season sure of one of the most abundant harvests the mighty Palouse Country has ever known, and perhaps the marvelous E. S. Northcutt yield of 107 bushels of wheat grown on one acre in 1891 will be excelled. A failure of crops has not been experienced since the early settlement of the country, and insect pests are unknown either in grain or fruit. Less than a score of years ago much of the land from which this abundance voluntarily springs was considered valueless, being marked "unfit for cultivation" on the township maps returned by the United States surveyor. To-day it is one of the most productive portions of the world. -Farmington Forum.

SOME STRIKING STATISTICS.

It may be doubted if any other test of a people's worth and civilization is equal to that of the interest or lack of interest shown in the public schools. Whitman County, which embraces most of the Palouse Country, has 137 school districts, 170 school houses, and employs 200 school teachers.

For the year ending July, 1890, she has expended $150,505, $60,282 having been paid to teachers and $90,223 expended on buildings.

For the year ending July, 1891, she expended $129,842 for her public schools, $45,158 being paid to teachers and $84,684 being expended on repairing school houses.

For the year ending July, 1892, she has expended $99,834 for her public schools, $41,102 being paid to teachers and $58,732 expended in building and repairing school houses.

The assessed value of all property in Whitman County was, in 1888, $7,685,320; 1889, $7,338,776; 1890, $11,230,886; 1891, $16,683,724, and in 1892 it will reach $20,000,000.

THE NEW TOWN OF JOHNSON.

Eleven miles south of Pullman on the Gensee branch of the Northern Pacific, nestled in a green valley, with swelling hills, covered with grain fields on three sides and a big bulging butte cultivated almost to the top on the other, is the new town of Johnson. When I went over this line two years ago on my way to the Palouse Country the place was called Johnson's Siding and consisted of a grain warehouse and a sidetrack. About a year ago the owner of the land, Jonathan Johnson, made up his mind that the rapid growth of the surrounding country in population warranted something in the way of a town at this point. He laid out a few lots, talked the matter up with his neighbors and secured the publication of a few notices in the Spokane papers. The result was remarkable, even in this land of quick development. In a few months' time a thriving village sprang into life. Merchants and mechanics came in, a school house and two churches were built, a bank was opened and a newspaper established; for without printer's ink nothing is expected to flourish in this country of intelligent enterprise.

There are now in Johnson the following business concerns: Two general merchandise stores, a hotel, a lumber yard, two grain warehouses, a drug store, a furniture store, a livery stable, two blacksmiths, a chop mill, a harness shop, a hardware store, a grocery, a printing office, a tinner, a barber and a meat market. Here, the reader will note, is a well-equipped village standing on what was farm land a few months ago. The interesting feature of this rapid growth is the fact that it did not arise from railway construction. The railroad was built through the place five years ago and went on to its terminus at Gensee, eighteen miles distant. Six miles away is the town of Colton and three miles further on is Uniontown. Both these places had an existence as country trading points before the advent of the railroad. In fact, Johnson may be said to be the creation of Mr. Johnson himself. He was a busy, successful farmer and his mind and his time were fully occupied with his avocation when the railroad was built.
across his land, so that he was satisfied for the time with a side track at which he could sell his corn and barley. As he prospered year by year, however, and began to have more leisure he asked himself the question, "Why should there not be a smart little town here?" Mr. Johnson is an energetic man and it did not take him long to put his idea into action after he had once got it formulated.

Last year 250,000 bushels of wheat were shipped at Johnson. More land is tilled this year than in any other. Nearly all the first settlers of this neighborhood are in the second generation of American descent. It is sown in the spring and harvested early in August. The early settlers imagined that the valleys, or flats, as they are called, contained all the good grain land and the first settlers had a namesake, and there are many depressions in the general level of the country. As they gradually ventured to extend their fields up the slopes of the hills they discovered that the hill land was more productive than the low land. They kept on until they covered that the hill land was more productive than the low land. They kept on until they covered the hill land was more productive than the low land. They kept on until they covered the bottom of the canyon, and the climate of the narrow valley is wholly different from that of the grassy plains above. In fact, it is a semi-tropical climate. There are no late or early frosts and the hot sun and the warm soil ripen the fruit so quickly that it is in market for the middle of July at the latest. Zigzag roads cut in places into the basaltic rock descend from the tableland along the sides of the precipices to the farms on the bars. Much of it is brought down the railroad at a cost of $2 per ton. The railroad is hauled up the cliff-side and on to Pullman and Johnson for shipment to Spokane.

There are no late or early frosts and the hot sun and the warm soil ripen the fruit so quickly that it is in market for the middle of July at the latest. Zigzag roads cut in places into the basaltic rock descend from the tableland along the sides of the precipices to the farms on the bars. Much of it is brought down the railroad at a cost of $2 per ton. The railroad is hauled up the cliff-side and on to Pullman and Johnson for shipment to Spokane.

Wheat is the great staple crop. It is sown in the spring and harvested early in August. The early settlers imagined that the valleys, or flats, as they are called, contained all the good grain land and the first settlers had a namesake, and there are many depressions in the general level of the country. As they gradually ventured to extend their fields up the slopes of the hills they discovered that the hill land was more productive than the low land. They kept on until they covered the hill land was more productive than the low land. They kept on until they covered the bottom of the canyon, and the climate of the narrow valley is wholly different from that of the grassy plains above. In fact, it is a semi-tropical climate. There are no late or early frosts and the hot sun and the warm soil ripen the fruit so quickly that it is in market for the middle of July at the latest. Zigzag roads cut in places into the basaltic rock descend from the tableland along the sides of the precipices to the farms on the bars. Much of it is brought down the railroad at a cost of $2 per ton. The railroad is hauled up the cliff-side and on to Pullman and Johnson for shipment to Spokane.

The rainfall is much heavier than in the low land. They kept on until they covered the bottom of the canyon, and the climate of the narrow valley is wholly different from that of the grassy plains above. In fact, it is a semi-tropical climate. There are no late or early frosts and the hot sun and the warm soil ripen the fruit so quickly that it is in market for the middle of July at the latest. Zigzag roads cut in places into the basaltic rock descend from the tableland along the sides of the precipices to the farms on the bars. Much of it is brought down the railroad at a cost of $2 per ton. The railroad is hauled up the cliff-side and on to Pullman and Johnson for shipment to Spokane.

There is no wild land anywhere near Johnson, and denser settlement of the country means the division of the farms into sections. Mr. Johnson is afraid that the prices of land here may frighten intending settlers, but every acre is richly worth what is asked for it. For a quarter-section, broken and fenced with barbed wire, from $30 to $80 an acre, depending upon its relative location to the railroad or some established town.

In the fall of 1890 the proposition involving what is known as the Yakima Irrigation and Improvement Company started a ditch at a short distance from the Kiona Sta., on the Cascade division of the Northern Pacific, and by following the bend lands above and along the Columbia River has reclaimed about 100,000 acres of land. This land was purchased from the Northern Pacific company. In addition there are various tracts comprising an area of 15,000 acres that are controlled by the same company. Among the tracts already completed and in process of construction is about sixty miles, and all the lands referred to above are located where water can be supplied by the Kiona Sta. At a point a mile west of where the Northern Pacific road crosses the Columbia River the new town of Kennewick has been established and already a $20,000 hotel is in process of construction that will be finished by the fifteenth of November.

The farms on which these irrigated lands are sold are the same as those in force in the land department of the Northern Pacific Railroad.