

The Moses Reservation.

The piece of land that is soon to be thrown open to settlement is thus described by an old resident in a letter to the *Harrington Times*, and we reproduce it, as it gives a full and clear account of the section:

EDITOR TIMES:—The Moses reservation will soon be open for settlement, and for the benefit of your many readers, I will give a short description of the country:

This section, which lies in the western part of Stevens county, is bounded on the north by British Columbia, on the east by the Okanogan river, on the south by the Columbia river, and on the west by Lake Chelan, Stahekin creek and the Skagit river. It has been very little explored by the white people, and contains, according to the survey made by Lieut. Simons of the U. S. engineers' corps, 4675½ square miles, or 2,992,240 acres, which consists of rich valleys, fertile uplands, and has long been known to possess extensive mineral reserves, recent discoveries indicating that the country is rich in this respect.

For live stock this section of Washington territory is undoubtedly the best country on the Pacific coast. This may seem to be a broad assertion, but nevertheless is a fact. The stockmen and Indians who have lived there for years, have allowed their cattle to roam at large all the year, and very seldom stock suffer in cold weather and does well in open air all winter without shelter other than nature provides.

In the winter of 1880-'81, when the general loss of eastern Washington and Oregon was about 80 per cent., in the Okanogan country it was not more than 2 per cent. on the reservation. Phelps & Wadleigh (since dissolved) had about 12,000 head of cattle, Palmer 1000, and many others who became rich during the year 1881. This Okanogan must not be construed or mistaken for the town of Okanogan, a settlement in Douglas county, but the Okanogan river. The climate cannot be surpassed, the weather being generally delightful. The winters are short, snow seldom falls before January, and sometimes lays on one or two months, but usually disappears in a few days or weeks.

The speedy melting of the same is due to a somewhat remarkable phenomena, the chinook wind.

The spring begins in February with warm rains and continues till May, then there are occasional showers until October. Vegetation is kept fresh all the year, by the night dews and morning mist or fog. July and August are the warm months, but even in the hottest days the nights are cool and pleasant. There are large tracts of timber land which the woodman has not invaded. Many such tracts will be brought within the reach of mankind when the Columbia river is opened for navigation, and the lumberman can look to this region for material to keep his mill at work without fear of exhausting his supply. The principal growths are pine, fir, tamarack and cedar. There are two kinds of cedar, two of fir and three of pine. The pine, however, exceeds in quantity and the fir marks 2A. Cedars have been found 16 and 18 feet in diameter, and pines 12 to 14 feet. Fir is found so tall and straight and gently tapering to fit them for ship masts and spars. Ordinary sized pine trees yield from 1500 to 6000 feet of lumber and many others of these could be made into railroad ties, boards, fencing, palings, pickets, household furniture and ship timber. There are large groves of cottonwood, birch, alder and willow along the water courses.

The mineral wealth of this country has not yet been fully developed, except in the northeast part at the foot of Lake Osyoos, where the pioneer quartz discoverer of eastern Wash-

ington lives, H. T. Smith, who owns the greater portion of the Eagle mine. This mine was lately bonded for \$12,000, and it is the intention of the company to put a 10 stamp mill there shortly. The rivers and creeks all contain more or less gold. Smilkameen creek placer mines have the finest gold that has ever been found in any placer mines in the territory. It assays at \$19.80 per ounce, whereas the Columbia river is only \$14 to \$16 per ounce.

Vegetables of every variety and of the finest quality are produced. At the ranch of Mr. Thorp, I saw potatoes, onions, cabbage, turnips, carrots, squashes, beets, parsnips, cucumbers, melons and tomatoes. At H. T. Smith's orchard, fruits of a remarkable size and beauty are grown, especially apples, pears, plums, cherries, prunes and grapes. Of the smaller fruits, such as strawberries, (these too are growing wild and plentiful in this section, the Indians dry them for winter use) blackberries, gooseberries and currants of large size and fine flavor are also abundant. Grain of all kinds do well and the country abounds in large meadows.

It is a well watered country and contains numerous large creeks and springs. The largest are the Okanogan and Conconully which empties into the Okanogan. Smilkameen empties into the Okanogan lake and the Twiff empties into the Methow. On all of these there are fine valleys where from ten to forty families could find fine farming land. For trapping and hunting this section is a paradise. No section in this territory can excel it for large or small game.

It is best to go on horseback and with packs, although there is a wagon road to the foot of Lake Osoyoos. Wagons have to be taken apart to be ferried across and horses have to swim. This road crosses the Columbia about four miles above the mouth of the Okanogan river, or three miles below Foster creek. From Harrington, the distance via the Wild Goose Bill and government road, is about 140 miles to the foot of Osoyoos lake. The Okanogan river is 80 miles from Harrington and the Methew is six miles below the mouth of the Okanogan.

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