

# A CHURCH AND COMMUNITY SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY WASHINGTON

MADE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
EDMUND deS. BRUNNER  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF TOWN AND COUNTRY SURVEYS

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS SURVEYS



NEW YORK  
GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY

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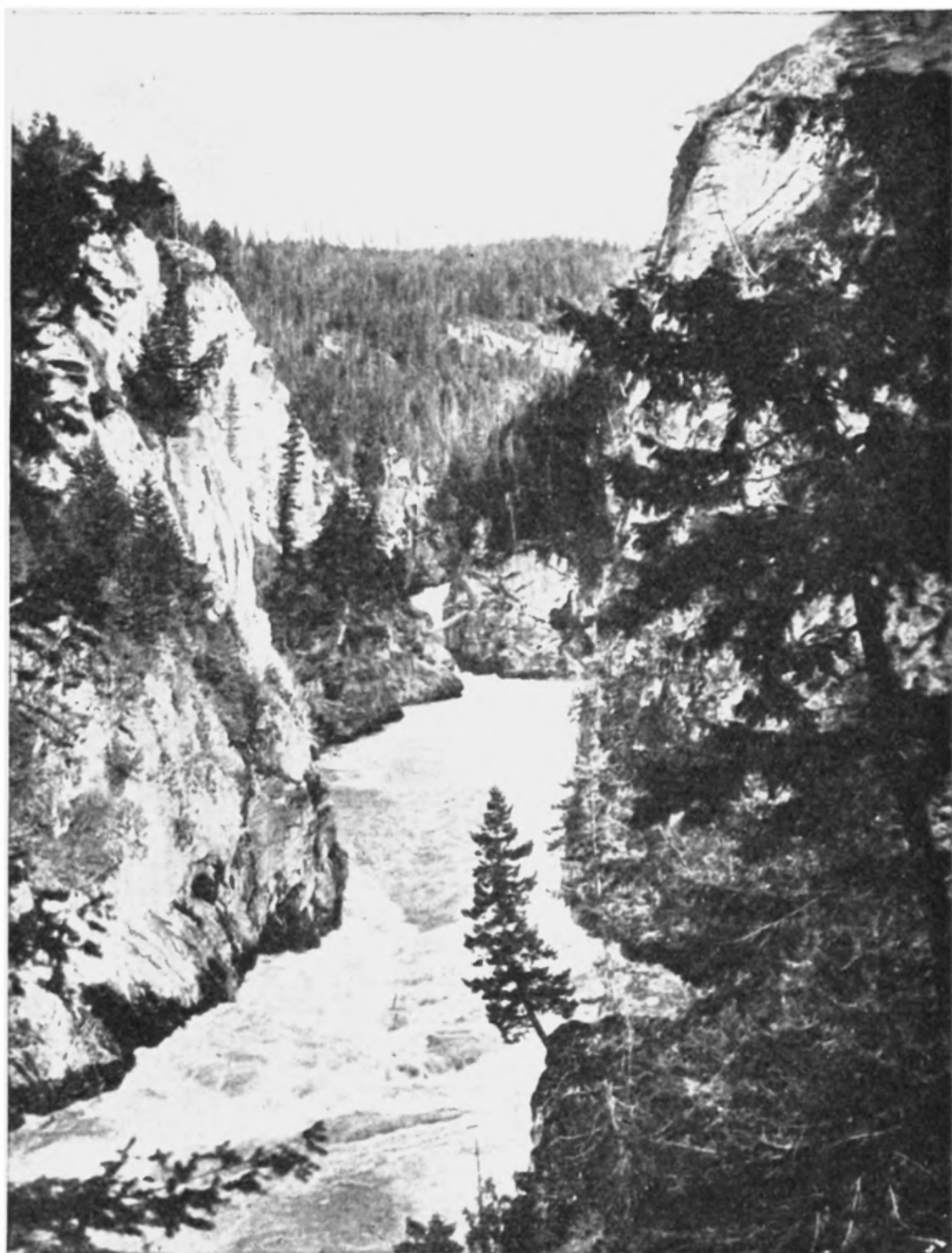
A church and community survey  
of Pend Oreille county, Wash-  
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WHERE THE WIDE PEND OREILLE RIVER NARROWS TO LESS THAN  
TWENTY FEET WITH A MINIMUM DEPTH OF 150 FEET.



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DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF TOWN AND COUNTRY SURVEYS

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS  
MAPS AND CHARTS

COMMITTEE ON  
SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS SURVEYS

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GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY

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## FOREWORD

**T**HIS pamphlet is one of a series which present the results of a Church Survey in the field of Town and Country, begun under the auspices of the Interchurch World Movement, and completed by the Committee on Social and Religious Surveys. From among the one thousand county surveys which the Interchurch had undertaken and in which considerable progress had been made, a limited number were selected for completion on an intensive plan, in the belief that these would throw light upon some of the more important problems of church and community life. The selection was made with great care. Certain fundamental factors were examined in all of the counties in which a survey had been undertaken, so that outstanding abnormalities might be avoided, or proper account taken of them. Agricultural, educational and religious officials were consulted, State and Federal census reports studied. The counties selected are so distributed over the United States as to afford fairly typical specimens of Town and Country Survey for all the great regions into which the country is divided. It must be recognized, however, that no county can be completely typical of any larger area in respect to every situation.

These studies have been made from the point of view of the church recognizing, however, that economic and social conditions affect church life. The community has, therefore, been studied as well as the church. Communities have been located and defined, their economic background investigated, their population analyzed. Those factors which enter into the make-up of the social mind, such as social life, public opinion, leadership, means of communication, social affiliations and community spirit, have all been evaluated. Community activities, particularly those dealing with amusement and recreation, have been recognized and noted. The schools and their contribution to community life have been taken into account. And all has been from the point of view of the church.

The study of the church has been made from the point of view of its history, its equipment, its financial system, its members and their occupations, its services and their type, the parish, organizations such as the Sunday School, the Young People's Societies and their program.

## FOREWORD

An intensive study has been made of the distinctly rural areas and of those centers of population which have less than five thousand inhabitants. In the cases of towns larger than this, an attempt has been made to measure the service of such towns to the surrounding countryside.

Spiritual results in church work are not measurable by the foot rule of statistics. This survey does not deal, therefore, with the spiritual product of any church in the lives of individuals, but with community conditions and the mechanics of administration which are instruments for carrying on church activities and spiritual work.

The reader must understand that figures have often been given in percentages as aids in comparison. He should be cautioned, however, against being misled by percentage figures where the number of cases happens to be very small.

The aim of the survey is distinctly practical. It is hoped that it will prove to be of value not only to the churches and communities of the county surveyed, and to church boards and societies operating therein, but also to social and educational agencies which are interested in rural work generally. It is also believed that the situations discovered and the problems emerging in each of these surveys will be found to bear sufficient resemblance to those in other counties within the same region, as to render the policies and programs proposed of definite value beyond the boundaries of the areas that have been intensively studied.

The results of these surveys will ultimately be published in twelve volumes, three of which will treat individual counties illustrating a survey method in a single rural geographical and political unit. The Pend Oreille County volume is one of these three. It will be followed by similar studies of a middle western and a far western county.

The remaining volumes will treat of outstanding problems in several well defined regions such as the South, the Range and the Northwest, on the basis of surveys in two or more representative counties in each of these regions. There will also be a final volume summarizing the total results of all these studies.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE Director of the Town and Country Survey Department for the Interchurch World Movement was Edmund deS. Brunner. He was likewise the Director of this Department for the Committee on Social and Religious Surveys.

The original survey of Pend Oreille County was conducted under the Rev. Nathan Fiske, Survey Supervisor for the Interchurch World Movement. The Rev. S. N. Pendleton was the county leader.

The field workers of the Committee on Social and Religious Surveys were Dr. and Mrs. Edmund Brunner. During the summer of 1921 they visited the county and verified and brought up to date the work previously done. They are also the authors of this report.

Valuable help was given by the Home Missions Council and the Council of Women for Home Missions through their Sub-Committee on Town and Country Survey and also by the Joint Committee on Utilizing Surveys, which was appointed by the Home Missions Council and the Federal Council of the Churches for the purpose of co-operating with the Committee on Social and Religious Surveys in endeavoring to translate the results of the Survey into action. The members of the Joint Committee were:

### *Representing the Federal Council of Churches*

Miss Anna Clark	C. N. Lathrop
Roy B. Guild	U. L. Mackey
F. E. Johnson	A. E. Roberts
A. E. Holt	C. E. Schaeffer
Fred B. Smith	

### *Representing the Home Missions Council and the Council of Women for Home Missions*

Alfred W. Anthony	Rolvix Harlan
L. C. Barnes	R. A. Hutchison
Mrs. F. S. Bennett	Miss Florence Quinlan
C. A. Brooks	R. W. Roundy
C. E. Burton	W. P. Shriver
A. E. Cory	Paul L. Vogt
D. D. Forsyth	Warren H. Wilson

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A CHURCH .  
AND COMMUNITY SURVEY  
OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY  
WASHINGTON

# A CHURCH AND COMMUNITY SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY WASHINGTON

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCING PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

**P**END OREILLE COUNTY is part of America's fast disappearing frontier. It is a county to stir the blood. It is at once a challenge, a tragedy and an inspiration—a challenge because of the great tasks awaiting accomplishment in every realm of human effort; a tragedy because of the inadequacy of the present social machinery; an inspiration because of the heroism and devotion of those who have led, and who are now leading, it forward.

North of the county lies British Columbia. Its eastern boundary fronts the State of Idaho. To the south and west lie Spokane and Stevens counties. The county measures seventy miles from end to end and has an average width of twenty miles, the total area being 1,361 square miles. The beautiful Pend Oreille River flows swiftly northward through the entire length of the county. From its western bank especially, the hills rise sharply, many of them tree-covered, to an average height of 4,000 feet. To the north and east of the river lies the Kaniksu Forest Reserve which has an area of 570 square miles. Unfortunately the soil along the river is not of the best, being a heavy, sticky clay that hardens and bakes as summer advances. There are however a number of excellent pieces of land in the county, many of them along the passes back in the hills. Much of the farm acreage, actual and potential, is cut over timber land now being taken up by homesteaders.

### HISTORICAL

Pend Oreille is the youngest county in the State of Washington. Out of the thirty-nine counties in the State it ranks thirty-first in population and twenty-seventh in size. Originally a part of Stevens

## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

County, it was organized in 1911 and Newport, the largest town, became the county seat. It is located in the extreme southeast corner of the county at the gateway of the Pend Oreille Valley. Prior to its separate incorporation, the territory included in Pend Oreille had received little attention from the administration of Stevens County. Newport was one hundred and twenty miles from the seat of this county, and there were other reasons for the incorporation. Because of the peculiar character of the situation, which brought about its incorporation, the new county found itself with much to do. Transportation, agriculture and education all had needs of a most pressing character. Compared to the ideal county, Pend Oreille is still backward, but judged by its achievements in the last decade, few counties in America have made greater progress.

The County Commissioners are the governing body of the county. Responsible to them are the usual county officers, such as treasurer, assessor, health officer, etc. The budgets of all public activities are viewed by the commissioners who have the official right of revision, and who combine them into one for the entire county. Roads, schools, the County Health Nurse, the County Agricultural Agent and other interests and individuals are assigned proportionate amounts. Then there is, of course, the judicial machinery of the county courts.

Northeastern Washington has developed rapidly. In 1870, Stevens County which then included Pend Oreille had 734 people. In 1910 a total of 25,297 was reported, of whom approximately one-quarter lived in the territory now known as Pend Oreille County. The population is largely American. The fifteen and seven-tenths per cent foreign-born are largely Swedish and German; and speak English. The total population according to the 1920 census figure is 6,363. The apparent decrease from 1910 is accounted for by the fact that a large number of railroad construction hands and others engaged in temporary projects, were in the area at the time of the 1910 enumeration. Actually there has been a slight increase in population in the last decade.



## CHAPTER II

### CHARACTERISTICS OF ECONOMIC LIFE

#### TRANSPORTATION

**T**HAT roads and transportation condition economic progress is true anywhere, and it is especially true in a frontier region such as Pend Oreille County, where the transportation situation explains many characteristics both economic and social.

The County Engineer's map shows 550 miles of road. Thirty-nine miles are improved highway, constructed and maintained by state and county funds. Of the other roads, one hundred miles are classed as improved, which means often that they have merely been graded. The remainder of the roads are unimproved and are impassable during the winter months, as well as during seasons of thaw or exceptionally wet weather. Transportation, therefore, from the valleys lying back from the main highway which, like the railroad, parallels the river, is uncertain at the best. Not only does this constitute an economic handicap, but during a great part of the year it spells social and religious isolation. The county is, however, working at the road problem. During 1920, a little over \$62,000 was spent for bridges, for road improvement and maintenance. The money was raised by taxation and by revenue from automobile licenses. The county has not yet been bonded for roads. Next year a large state appropriation will be available, which together with Federal funds being expended on a road which leads to British Columbia, will insure at least \$150,000 for road improvement in the county.

Apart from the Great Northern Railroad, which crosses the southeastern tip of the county, with Newport as its only station, the only real transportation which the county enjoys is the branch line of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, which traverses nearly its entire length and gives every point direct connection with Spokane. There are also two automobile stage lines operating in the county.

#### INDUSTRY

Lumber is "king" in Pend Oreille County. Many a farmer considers cord-wood as his best crop! At the height of a good season,

## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.



SAW MILL, DIAMOND CITY



BUNK HOUSE AND KITCHEN IN BACKGROUND, DIAMOND CITY



BEGINNING OF AIR LINE FROM DIAMOND CITY TO THE RAILROAD COMPANY HOUSES IN DISTANCE



FEEDING LOGS UP TO SAW MILL, DIAMOND CITY

## CHARACTERISTICS OF ECONOMIC LIFE

the lumber camps and saw mills employ as many as 3,000 men. During the summer, ten logging companies are operating. In the spring of 1921, much cut timber in stock was unsold. High freight rates and general market conditions have been influences in this depression. However, the mills started again early in the summer of 1921. The lumbering industry attracts, of course, considerable seasonal immigrant labor. There are no adequate figures on the number of immigrants in Pend Oreille County and they of course fluctuate with good times or bad.

In the extreme east central part of the county, ten miles from the railroad, the Diamond Match Company has effected a large development. Here in a pocket of the hills a virgin forest has been converted into a busy lumber town, and where a year ago the blending music of the wind in the trees, and the water of the dashing mountain streams were the only sounds, today the screech of the saw mill and the pounding of the logs, as they come down the flume and splash into the receiving pond, are continually heard. Bunk-houses, and a dozen small frame family houses cluster in a little clearing on the hillside. A school has been erected and a baseball field cleared. A new community is in process of building. The story of Diamond City is typical of that of many of Pend Oreille County's settlements. They center around a saw mill, or they are the service stations of logging camps operating back in the hills.

In addition to the lumber industry and agriculture, there is one other important industrial development, namely, the cement mine and mill at Metaline Falls. Here in the wildest, most beautiful and most northerly part of



METALINE FALLS, CEMENT PLANT

the county, a cement mine is located which is working what is said to be the largest deposit of cement rock in the world. This mine with its accompanying mill employs 125 hands.

### AGRICULTURE

Agriculture in Pend Oreille County is in its infancy. Many of the farmers are still in the homesteading class. While cut-over



## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

land can be purchased for from ten to twenty dollars an acre, the cost of clearing it approaches one hundred dollars per acre, so that the homesteader has much to contend with in every way after the initial purchase of the land. With the type of soil in the county, it is extremely difficult for a farmer to develop a farm so as to meet the interest charges on the investment, the necessary payments on the principal and still make ends meet. It is not an infrequent sight to see an abandoned farm house, but, at the same time, progress is being made and farming is distinctly on the up grade. This improve-



NO REFORESTATION HERE. LAND LIKE THIS COSTS \$10-20 AN ACRE AND \$100 TO CLEAR



HOMESTEADER'S LOG CABIN

ment is the result of sturdy American heroism on the part of men and women, who, in the spirit of the early pioneers have turned their backs on conveniences such as the eastern farmer considers necessities and have conquered the wilderness.

As is always the case under frontier conditions, practically all of the farms are operated by their owners. Of the 586 farms in Pend Oreille County, all but fifty, or ninety-one and one-half per cent, are farmed by the owners. Forty-four farms, or seven and one-half per cent, are operated by tenants and six, or one per cent, by managers. Of these tenants thirty-seven are native white and seven are foreign-born white. It is estimated by the county agent and by bankers that ninety per cent of the farms of the county are mortgaged.

Statistics on agriculture for the year 1920, are as follows:

## CHARACTERISTICS OF ECONOMIC LIFE

The total land acreage of the county 871,048. The land in farms equals 119,496 acres, nearly fourteen per cent of the total land area. Improved land in farms totals 42,921 acres, or a little less than one-third of the total. The average farm contains 203.9 acres, of which about seventy-three per cent are improved. The value of all farm property is \$4,205,130, the average value per farm being \$7,176. The average value per acre is \$25.77.

The estimated acreage of important crops in the year 1920 is distributed as follows:

Cereals .....	3,787
Hay and Forage .....	13,629
Vegetables, mainly potatoes .....	425
Orchards and small fruits .....	140
Woodland .....	59,103



A PEND OREILLE VALLEY GRAIN FIELD. COUNTY AGENT, HUPP, ON RIGHT.

The total value of animal and dairy products was \$241,675 and of all field crops, \$404,433.

Agriculturally the hope of the county is in the transition from general farming to dairy farming which is now taking place. It also seems that there might be opportunity for the growing of excellent seed potatoes.

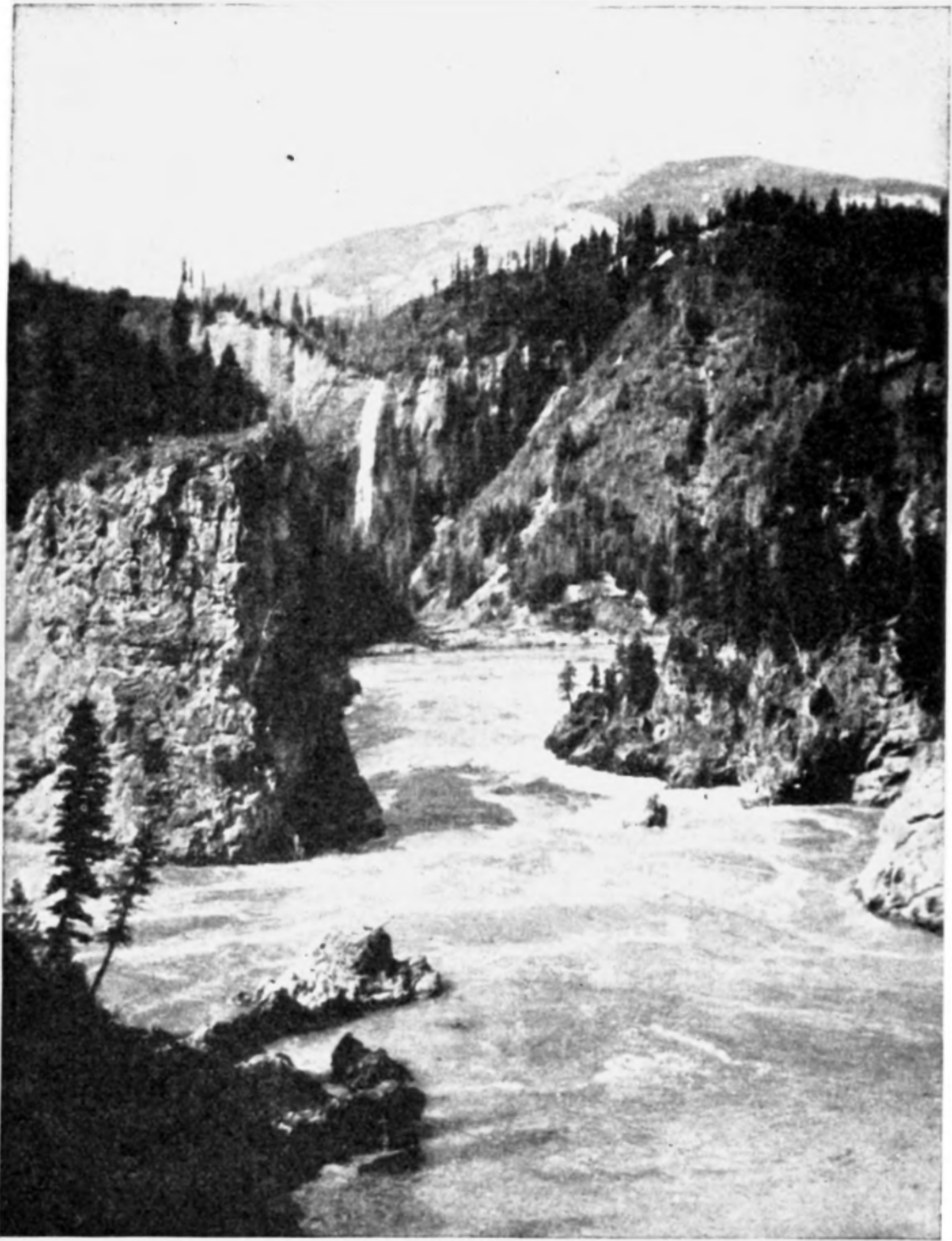
### *Coöperation among Farmers*

Farmers coöperate among themselves to a great extent. There are three coöperative stores—Grange controlled, and patronized chiefly by farmers. These are located at Newport, Usk and Ione. Two of these stores are comparatively new, but the managers report them as being successful, and the patrons are fairly well pleased

## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

with results. The store at Ione is several years old and seems to be assured of permanence.

The County Agricultural Agent has been able to market seed potatoes from the county for a small group of farmers and this may



ONE OF THE GREATEST POTENTIAL WATER POWER DEVELOPMENTS IN  
THE WORLD

develop into a larger and more profitable business in the future. This coöperative sale brought in larger net returns to the farmers than if they had sold separately. There is one coöperative creamery at Newport which has thus far been successful, but it needs more support, and, above all, more milk from the farmers. For the year ending December 31, 1920, the creamery sold 78,125 pounds of butter and 3,584 gallons of ice cream.



## CHARACTERISTICS OF ECONOMIC LIFE

The County Fair Association conducts a yearly exhibit of farm produce, and the Grange has ten branches throughout the county.

### *Farm Advisor*

Pend Oreille has no Farm Bureau but there is a county agricultural advisor, who has played a large part in the agricultural development of the county. The county agent visits farmers, and promotes group meetings, supplies articles for newspapers and supervises whatever special projects the farmers may undertake.

On the whole agriculture in Pend Oreille County is in a state of transition—a transition from timber to farm land, from general farming to dairying, from lack of organization and understanding to coöperation between town and country.

Club activity was promoted by a county club leader, employed and paid by the county in 1917, 1918 and 1919. This year the county agent under whose supervision the work has always been, has assumed full charge.

The greatest economic asset of Pend Oreille County is as yet under developed. It is water power. As the broad Pend Oreille River approaches Metaline Falls, it grows steadily narrower until just beyond the town, it rushes into a narrow gorge varying from ten to twenty feet in width, and reaches a depth of 150 feet before tumbling wildly down to a new level. Engineers estimate that the water power possible of generation at this point exceeds, by several hundred per cent, the power generated at the great Keokuk Dam across the Mississippi River.

### *Summary*

It will be seen, therefore, that the main resources of this as yet undeveloped county are timber, agriculture and mining. The total taxable property for the year 1920, was valued at \$6,126,685. This includes, among other items, the following: Acreage, \$2,675,965, personal property, \$1,060,670. The total county expenses for the year ending December 31, 1920, were \$458,396.78, over 7 per cent of the total tax valuation. This shows how the county has risen to meet its needs..

### KALISPELL RESERVATION

There is one distinctive population group in Pend Oreille County—the Kalispell Indians. They are located on a reservation of the same name east of, and across the river from Cusick. The reservation contains approximately 5,000 acres, all of which is under government supervision. There are only twenty-one households and one hundred Indians on the reservation.

Owing to intermarrying, tuberculosis and inadequate knowledge

## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

of the laws of sanitation and health, the population of the reservation is decreasing.

The Kalispells are very poor. Until the present agent, but recently on the field, arrived, little had been done to encourage them in any permanent work, such as agriculture. While poor, temporarily, these Indians rank high morally. The position of



INDIAN CABIN

woman is that of the normal Indian of today. There is no drunkenness. Gambling, however, is quite popular among the men, especially every summer when a big carousal, known as a "potlatch" is held. At this time several hundred Indians from other reservations are drawn to the Kalispell territory. Last year the situation was such that the sheriff had to take a hand. The present agent however is discouraging gambling as well as dances. There

are no criminals among these Indians. Approximately half of them wear modern dress. Three-quarters of their number are illiterate. Seven of the Indian children have attended non-reservation schools, and the tribe is proud of those who have thus been educated. The tribe is ministered to, religiously, by the Roman Catholics, a priest from Stevens County holding intermittent services in an attractive little chapel that has been built on the reservation. The Kalispells are "a people of the present." They have preserved no traditions, and as a tribe look forward to no future.

### CHAPTER III

#### FOREST AND FIELD

**T**O some, the words "lumbering" and "Washington" suggest radicalism. It is not to be denied that there is radicalism in Pend Oreille County but it is not of the dangerous variety. Employees in the lumber industry realize that, at the present time, the man who has a job is fortunate. Taking advantage of the prevailing commercial depression, the managers of the camps and mills have discharged the less desirable class of laborers. There is but little welfare work being done in the camps, and with one or two notable exceptions, very little recreation is provided for the men. One of the exceptions is a highly successful baseball team which the Diamond Match Company has promoted among its employees. It is remarkable that even in a more settled community such as Dalkena, nothing has yet been done, so that community life there is little more than a monotonous round of work and rest, except for the dance, pool room, card game and what little recreation the school can furnish.

Radicalism in the lumber camps therefore is quiescent. But in the cement industry it does not exist. No chapter on industrial relations would be complete without referring to the cement mine at Metaline Falls. Here for ten years there has been a busy industrial community. During this period there has not been even a suspicion of a strike, and that despite the fact that there have been labor troubles in the county. This condition is due to the enlightened policy of the management, which not only maintains an attractive hotel, but also furnishes to married employees well planned bungalows equipped with all modern conveniences at a very nominal rent. Wages have been reduced in the lumber communities as well as at the cement mine, but at the latter place the company reduced the hotel rates for its men in the same ratio as it reduced wages. The mine is worked daily by three eight-hour shifts.

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY

To the outside observer, it would appear that the present feeling between town and country is a serious potential drawback to the

## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

development of the county. Between the individual farmer and the individual town people there can be no doubt of good feeling, but when a native estimates the situation in the large the feeling between these two mutually dependent portions of the county is classified as "good enough", "fair", "pretty good" and similar terms that indicate reservations.

The farmers of Pend Oreille County are more radical than the average. This is partly because of the bitter struggle many have had



COMPANY HOUSES, METALINE FALLS,  
WASHINGTON.

to meet their obligations. They have been disappointed, and some would say deceived, as to the actual cost of farm land. Few but the initiated realize that the clearing of land costs from five to ten times as much as the land itself. This has been an initial cause of dissatisfaction. One is not surprised therefore to find in one part of the county a branch of the Industrial Workers of the World that has a majority of farmer members, and in another community to learn that the Non-

Partisan League is the chief factor in community development.

The Non-Partisan League, whatever its mistakes may have been (and there have been plenty), has done some good things in North Dakota. There, at least, it had a constructive program built upon an intimate knowledge of existing conditions. This knowledge has been lacking in the work of the League in other states. As a result its organization has been built more upon imaginative than actual grievances of the farmer. The League has failed to realize that no permanently progressive program can be carried out on the basis of oratorical attacks upon "big biz". Most of all has the League been unfortunate in this particular county in representing Newport as the nearest representative of "big biz". This among other things, has set the farmer, and particularly the organized farmer of the Grange, against the Commercial Club of the town.

It is an unfortunate situation. Newport is not "big biz". It has no more influence upon the price of farm products than any other small town of 1,000 inhabitants. The real attack upon the economic abuses bearing down upon American agriculture must be carried into communities many times larger than Newport. The business



## FOREST AND FIELD

men of Newport know this. The County Agent belongs to their Commercial Club. He never allows them to forget their economic dependence upon the country. He sees the interrelation of town and country, while too many of the farmers do not. It must be admitted, however, that the Commercial Club has made mistakes in dealing with the situation. It is more apt to work "for", than "with" the farmers of the county. An outsider gets the very decided impression that both sides in this incipient antagonism are actually close together, and that all friction could be avoided by the adoption of slightly different methods on both sides.

## CHAPTER IV

### SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

SOCIAL life in Pend Oreille County centers in fourteen communities, of which Newport, the county seat, is the largest. In character these communities are simple in the extreme. A hotel, the postoffice, a store or two, a garage and a few houses, all of them near the railroad station or siding, make up the average community center which one sees north of Newport. There are, of course, a few exceptions.



CROSSROADS AT USK

Delkena is a town of 500 people, dominated by a lumber company. Ione has some 600 inhabitants and a fuller social life than many a town four or five times its size. Metaline Falls, the cement town, is the northern terminus of the railroad. Small as most of these centers are, and meager as is their social life, they represent what the farmer and the lumber-jack have. They are far enough apart to have district boundaries, and the sphere of their influence is well defined. Community lines are closely adhered to, so far as activities and trade are concerned. A dance, baseball game or moving-picture show brings people from miles around. The number

## SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

and population of the communities in Pend Oreille County is given in the following table:

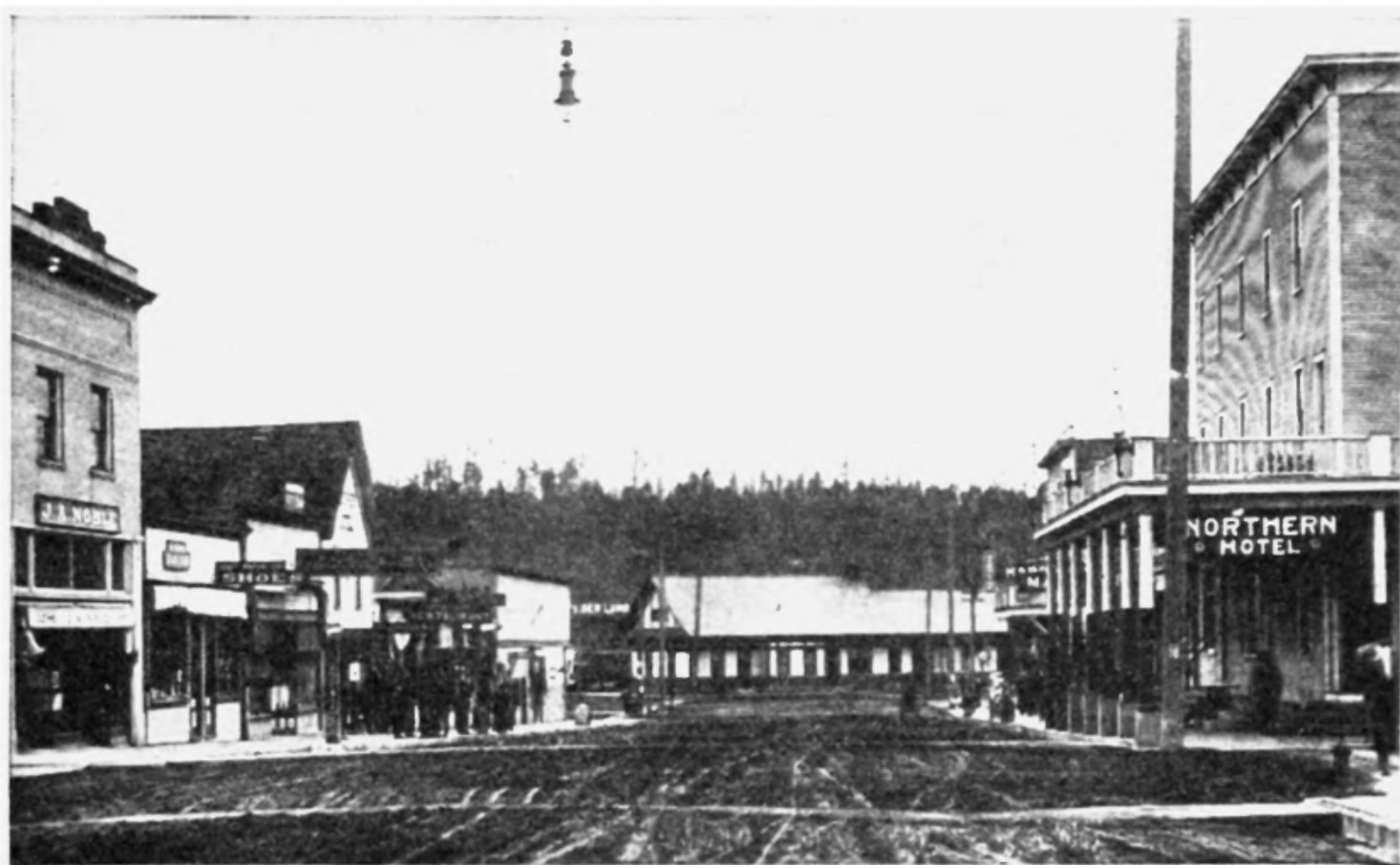
	Community	Total Population
1.	Blue Slide .....	300
2.	Tiger .....	235
3.	Camden .....	116
4.	Cusick .....	550
5.	Dalkena .....	500
6.	Ione .....	850
7.	Locke .....	200
8.	Lost Creek .....	100
9.	Metaline .....	150
10.	Metaline Falls .....	350
11.	Newport .....	1,800
12.	Ruby .....	100
13.	Scotia .....	125
14.	Usk .....	486

Ione may be taken as a type of many of the communities in the county at their best. It is the second largest town, and possesses assets such as are not owned by any other community except Newport. It is typical, however, in other ways. Its population is constantly changing. Started in a boom, the town has suffered a relapse, made a recovery and now, in the present depression had another relapse. Lumbering is the chief source of income, two hundred being employed in it. The main crops are wheat, oats and hay. Grange, church and school lead in directing public sentiment. There is a good school and newspaper, the only one published in the county with the exception of the *Newport Miner*. Ione has a small hospital—a much better institution than any town of 600 inhabitants can reasonably expect to possess, but totally inadequate to the needs of the existing situation. There is community spirit but the recreational facilities are as yet limited to two dance-halls, four pool-rooms, one bowling-alley and one moving-picture theater. There is a baseball team in the school, two lodges and two churches. The church situation in Ione is dealt with in another part of this survey. The community shows what usually happens as any hamlet takes its haphazard course of development into a village.

Newport, the county seat, has passed successfully through the vicissitudes with which Ione is still battling. Naturally it is the center of much of the life of the county and from the social point of view it is unfortunate that it is located at the extreme southeastern corner. Surrounding it, is some of the best farm land in the county. Newport is the only community that has an attractive social life all the year round. An annual Chautauqua is held and a winter Lyceum course. The Commercial Club is active, and the schools are good. There are numerous social organizations which are

## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

the main influences in directing public opinion. The *Newport Miner* is published here and is a splendid example of a country-town newspaper. There is real community spirit, developed largely by the Commercial Club. The high school has an orchestra. There is a boys' club sponsored by one of the churches but run on a strictly community basis. There are organized athletics in the school, and the town has nine lodges, an American Legion post and eleven other social organizations. There are two moving-picture theaters, four pool rooms and there is also one dance-hall. The streets are wide and the public buildings, while by no means palatial,



MAIN STREET, THE COUNTY SEAT, C. & N. W. STATION IN THE DISTANCE

are substantial and attractive. In addition to the court house there is a city hall, which includes a rest room for farmers' wives. Newport believes in itself, and is a progressive and aggressive north-western town.

The other social characteristics of the county will be considered topically in connection with the other communities of the county.

### *Leadership*

Strong leadership is essential for progress anywhere. Too often life moves along on a dead level, and there is no one who can be counted on to foster progress. Communities must have people whose natural qualities are such as to give their suggestions weight and their examples a large following. Much of the progress in Pend Oreille County must be attributed to a few brave spirits who had the courage to set out and do things in a new county. When Pend



## SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Oreille was separated from Stevens County in 1911, the problem of creating the county's organizations was difficult. The task of building a real civilization in Pend Oreille is still enormous. But the county could not have made the progress it has without leadership in its communities. Ten of the fourteen communities report leaders, divided by occupation as follows: business men, six; professional workers, three; farmers, three; pastors, two; women and men of other occupations, nine.

### *Community Spirit*

To those who conducted this survey it appears that especially in county affairs the citizens of Pend Oreille have lively interest in



THE HIGH SCHOOL, NEWPORT

progress. Everybody seems to stand for county improvements and the tax rate is nearly six per cent on a valuation that is said to be nearly fifty per cent. That intangible thing known as community spirit is a great aid to real progress, and in eight of the fourteen communities its effect is distinctly noticeable. This has been developed by the Grange, by other farmers' organizations, and by clubs. The people have also been drawn together by their great struggle to work out together a stable civilization on the frontier.

### *Schools*

School buildings are forty-two in number, and were valued, in 1919, at \$151,510. There are three consolidated school districts, two four-year high schools and seven junior high schools, giving either two- or three-year courses. Agriculture is taught in the eighth

## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

grade of all schools, and in all high-school grades. The average term is nine months. The only Parent Teachers' Association is at Newport. The schools play a real part in the community life of the county. Under the direction of the county superintendent are ten community centers which have been kept going since the war and are putting on programs. There is an annual field day and a contest in declamation for all the schools of the county which arouse keen interest. Some of the schools have exhibits at the county fair. The State of Washington has a high standard for its teachers, and the majority of the schools in this county are well taught by trained workers. The appearance of the buildings is attractive. All the schools are in good repair, and almost every school has some playground apparatus. One community, and one county fair have been held. The schools cooperate with the County Agricultural Agent, the Grange, the Red Cross, and other agencies.

The county has four teachers' cottages. The school district library contains 5,193 volumes. There is one Indian school under the supervision of the federal government.

In 1919, there were 1,672 children of school age in the county, with an enrollment of 1,478, and a total of sixty-six teachers. The total expenditures, for the year 1920, were as follows: General school fund, \$98,982.37; Bond redemption fund, \$20,538.21; Building fund, \$12,376.69.

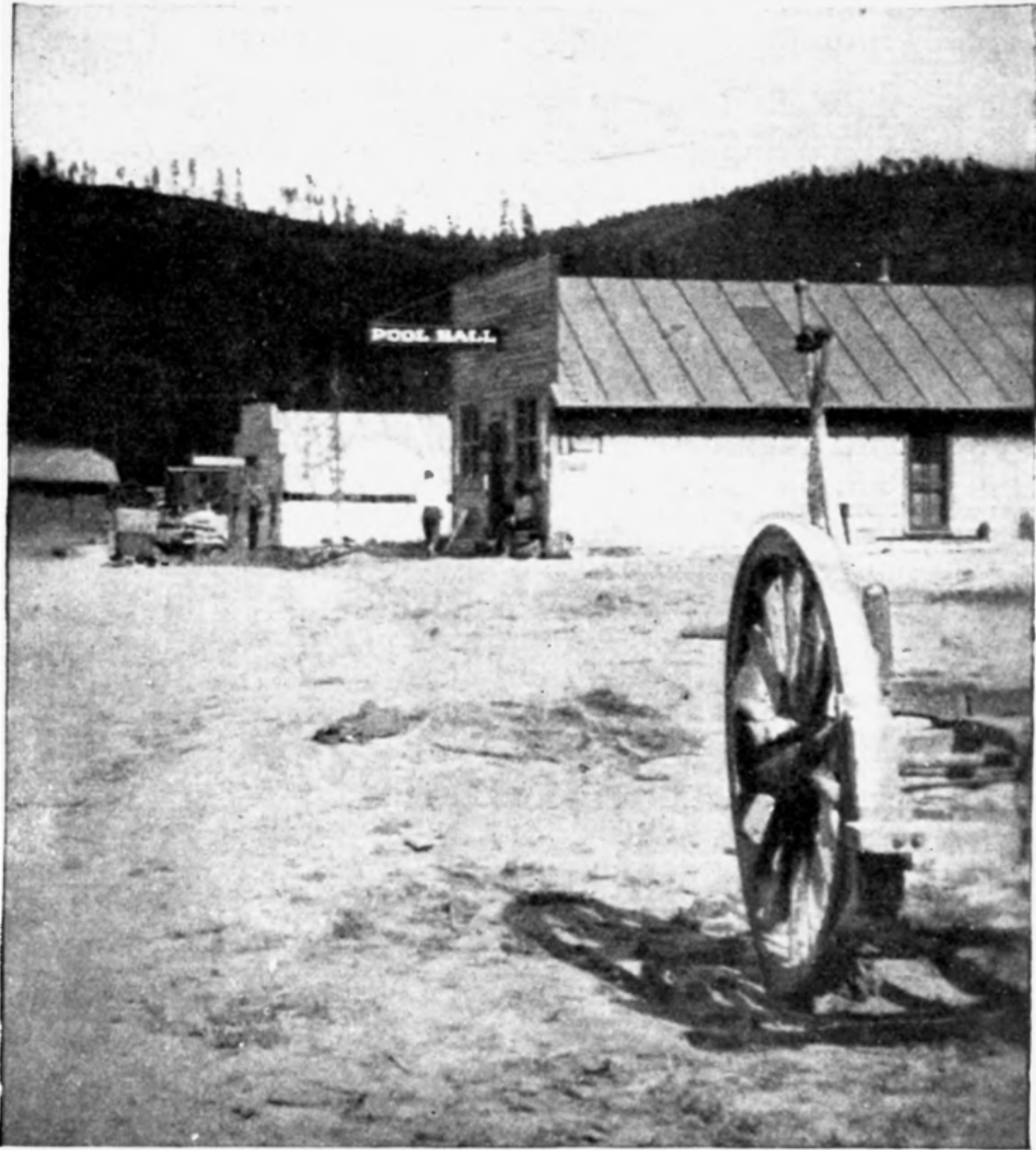
### *Health*

The health situation is interesting. As in other fields, needs here are great, but there are several progressive doctors in the county. A public health nurse served the county until June, 1921, and this service should be made permanent. There is great need of a good public hospital in Newport. The present institution is small, private, and sometimes takes vacations. When it is closed, the nearest expert medical care available is in Spokane, fifty miles away. The health records show a prevalence of tuberculosis, heart disease and goiter. The first is to be explained by the exposure to which the people are subjected, and by the extremes to which they go in matters relating to house-ventilation. Doctors state that either there is none, or there is over-exposure. There is need for public health education. Heart disease is attributed to the strain of life in the frontier region. Goiter cases are still a baffling mystery, and are being studied at the present time by the State University.

There is need for more than one public health nurse in the county. Distances are so great that one nurse operating from Newport can hardly reach all the communities, render the assistance

## SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

that is necessary and particularly train the young mothers as to the care of their children. According to the doctors, this last type of training is one of the most outstanding needs of the county.



LOST CREEK AND ITS POOL ROOM

### *Social and Recreational Life*

The social and recreational life is typical of the frontier. There is no Saturday half-holiday in town, nor on the farm. The chief recreations are Saturday night dances, lasting until well into Sunday morning, and, in summer, Sunday afternoon baseball. On the whole, the moral influence of the dance is not good, but it is a time-honored, simple and easy form of recreation. It will hold sway until something better supersedes it. Sunday baseball is the natural outgrowth of the lack of a Saturday half-holiday. Baseball games are accompanied by a great deal of gambling, nor is this the only type of gambling that exists in the county. In many communities money changes hands over almost any game. Some small communities have pool-rooms. The Ford motor car has come to be



## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

a factor in the recreational life in the county and considerable traveling is done.

Apart from the recreational facilities at Newport there is little else in the county. At Ione the minister opens his library to villagers and farmers alike. At Locke there is a girls' club in connection with the Sunday school, formed for the purpose of studying modern English and discussing current events. The contribution of the schools to the recreational life of the county has already been indicated. The situation is summarized in the following table:

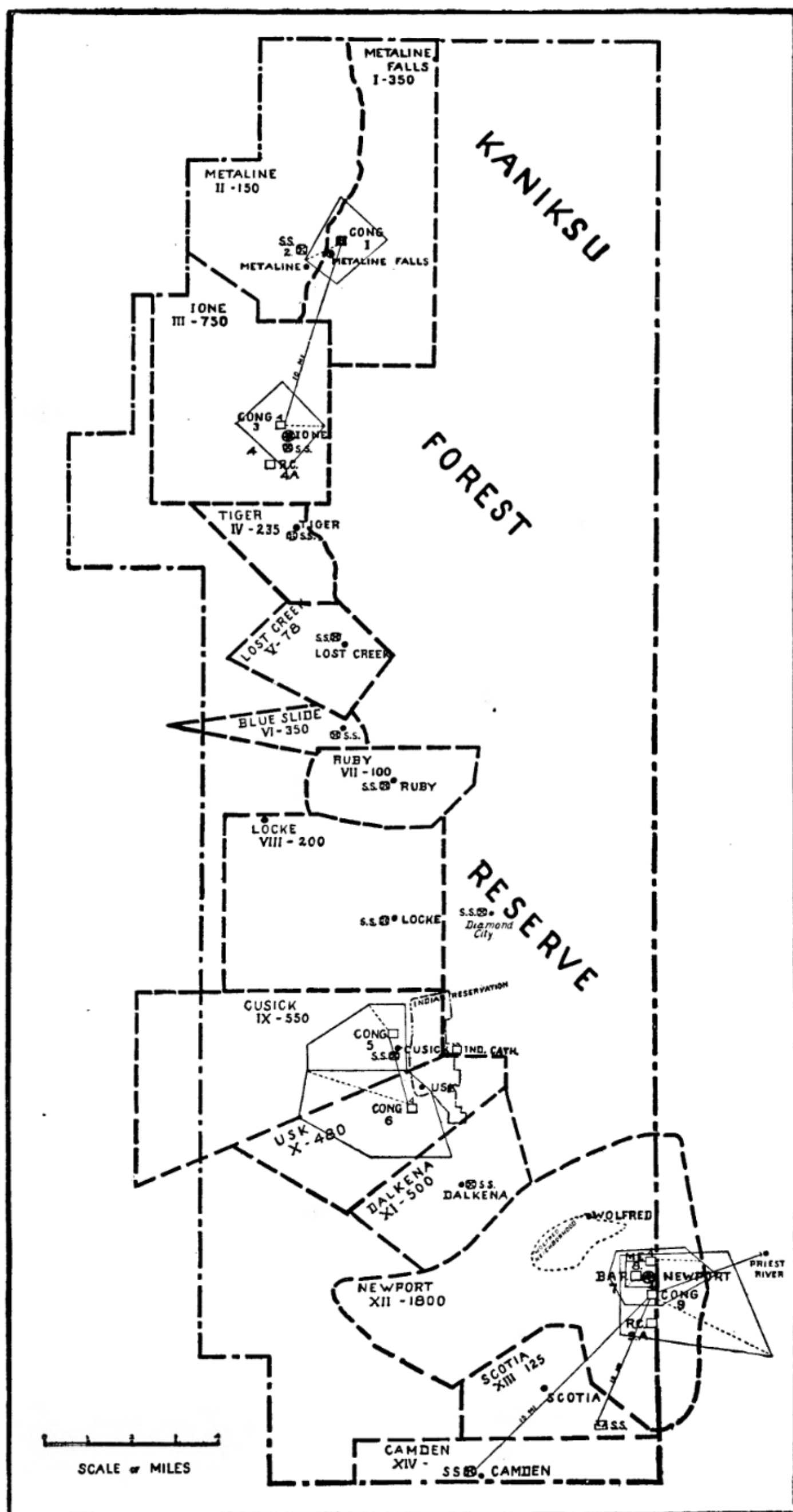
				Total Number of Places or Or- ganizations in the County
Number of communities in county.....			14	
" " " with dance-halls .....			5	6
" " " " movies .....			3	4
" " " " pool-rooms .....			6	13
" " " " other buildings available. ....			8	11
" " " " organized athletics .....			6	7
" " " " band .....			1	1
" " " " orchestra .....			2	2
" " " " community singing .....			0	0
" " " " miscellaneous recreational events .....			3	0

The miscellaneous recreational events mentioned in the above total include concert, Chautauqua and school entertainments.

The lodge is the chief interest of some of the population, and its memberships total more in most of the communities than do the church membership. However, quite frequently, the lodge is largely the concern of but a small proportion of the membership. This is also true, to some extent, of the Grange. However, five communities out of fourteen have no Grange, lodge or other social organization.

The Grange, with its ten branches, has a total membership of one hundred and ninety-six. Two communities have a total of thirteen different lodge organizations, with an average membership of fifty-nine and a total membership of seven hundred and sixty-nine. There are seven clubs including a commercial club, civic improvement club, card clubs, study club, boys' and girls' clubs. There are seven other miscellaneous social organizations with an average membership of twenty-eight and a total membership of one hundred and ninety-six.





PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

## CHAPTER V

### THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION

**C**ONDITIONS such as are portrayed in the foregoing chapters present a tremendous opportunity to the church. The potential congregation numbers seven thousand people who have the true pioneer spirit, so closely akin to that of men and women who, from the time of Abraham, have pioneered in new lands and in new pathways of thought and action. By faith in a great future, they have leveled trees, cleared fields, founded homes, built schools, begun community life.

Facing this situation we find the church with organized congregations in only one-third of Pend Oreille's communities and with only twelve per cent of the population within the membership of any church, Protestant or Catholic.

The first detailed figures on the religious life of the county are furnished by the government religious census for the year 1916. Then, the total Protestant church membership was 374, including forty-eight Baptist, 217 Congregationalists, and 109 Methodists. The total Roman Catholic membership for that year was 279. At present, there are seven organized and active Protestant churches, three separate Protestant Sunday schools two white Roman Catholic churches and one Roman Catholic Indian Mission. The Protestants, through comity arrangements, have divided the county as follows: The Congregationalists have missionary responsibility for the entire county outside of Newport, where the Methodist, Baptist and Congregational churches continue to divide the field. Therefore the county has seven churches, five of them Congregational. Of these seven, three are in Newport and the others in Usk, Cusick, Ione and Metaline Falls.

#### EQUIPMENT

Of the churches under consideration five own their buildings. One Congregational church uses an edifice which is the property of the Methodists, and another of the same denomination worships in the school auditorium. With one exception, a concrete building, all of these churches are constructed of wood. The seating capacity of the main auditoriums totals 925 and averages 185. The total

## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

seating capacity, however, is 1,375 with an average of 275, some of the churches having extra rooms that can be used when necessary. One building, recently renovated, is in excellent condition, all others are in fair condition. One village church owns a stereopticon and another a moving-picture machine. The latter is used twice a month, the former occasionally. There is no additional social equipment. Three of the churches are one-room structures, one has five rooms and the other seven. Two churches have horse-sheds. The total value of the five buildings is \$15,000, an average value of \$3,000.

There are three parsonages, all connected with village churches. Their total value is \$2,100, making an average value of \$700. The



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, NEWPORT

condition of the three parsonages is reported in one case as "fair" and in two cases as "good". None of the churches has any other building used for church or community purposes, and no church has any property-income.

### FINANCE

Four of the seven congregations use a budget system for all money raised. Two use the single, and two the duplex envelope system. The other churches receive monthly or quarterly payments from their members. Three of the congregations are aided by home mission boards. One church is allowed \$150 yearly, and two open country churches on a circuit receive \$180 each year. Five churches are located in villages and two in country hamlets. The receipts of these churches are given in the following tables:

## THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION

	Village	Country	Total
Total amount raised .....	\$6293.54	\$621	\$6914.54
Average per church .....	1258.71	311	987.79

A typical dollar is raised by the following methods:

	Village	Country	Total
By subscription .....	\$ .64	\$ .67	\$ .64
“ collection .....	.27	.28	.27
“ all other methods .....	.09	.05	.09
	<hr/> \$1.00	<hr/> \$1.00	<hr/> \$1.00

The proportion of money raised by subscription is fairly high, and runs about the same for both village and open country churches.

### HOW THE CHURCH DOLLAR IS RAISED

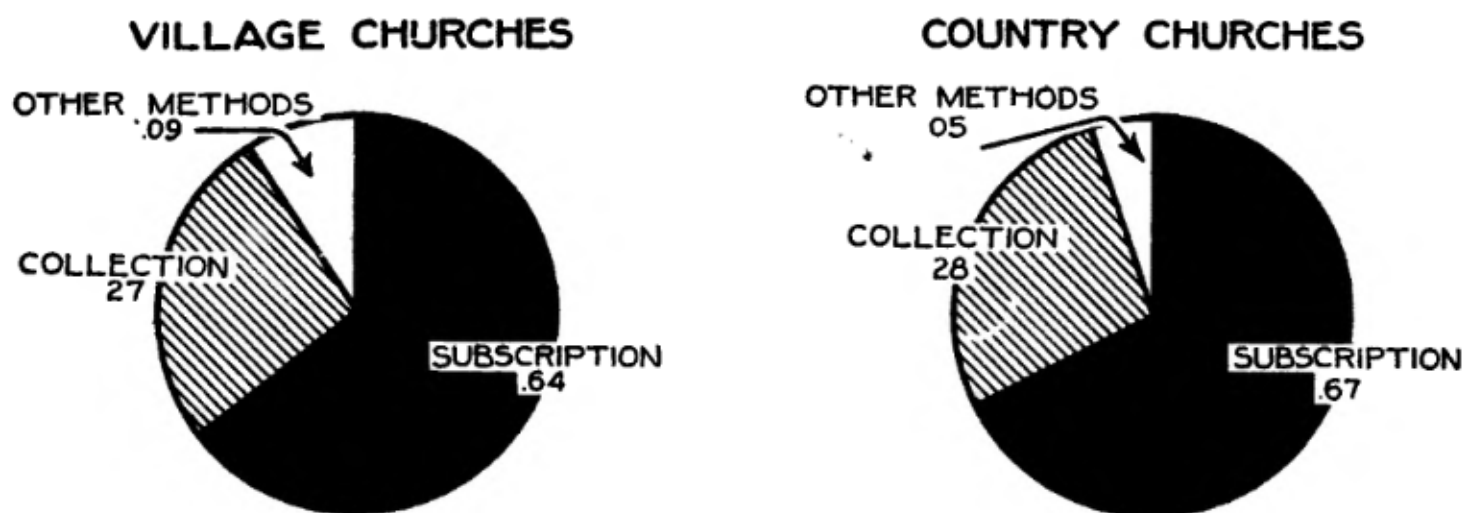


CHART I

### *Expenditures*

The total amount of money expended by the church treasurers for the year preceding the survey was \$6,920.54. Five thousand four hundred and fifty-one dollars went for salaries, making seventy-eight per cent of the total. Eight hundred and eight dollars and sixty-four cents, or twelve per cent of the total, was contributed for missions and benevolences. Six hundred and sixty dollars and ninety cents, or ten per cent of the total, went for other miscellaneous local expenses. A typical dollar is expended for the following purposes:

	Village	Country	Total
For salaries .....	\$ .79	\$ .76	\$ .78
“ missions and benevolence.....	.12	.10	.12
“ all other purposes .....	.09	.14	.10
	<hr/> \$1.00	<hr/> \$1.00	<hr/> \$1.00



SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

The following table shows disbursements per active member for the various causes:

*Yearly Disbursements per Active Church Member*

	Village	Country	Total
For salaries .....	\$19.15	\$27.71	\$19.67
“ missions and benevolence.....	2.86	3.76	2.92
“ all other expenses .....	2.21	5.06	2.39
	<u>\$24.22</u>	<u>\$36.53</u>	<u>\$24.98</u>

Viewed against the background of life in Pend Oreille County with its hardship and sacrifice, its uncertainty and its present state of development, these figures on per capita giving, which are higher than those of many counties in more prosperous regions, speak well

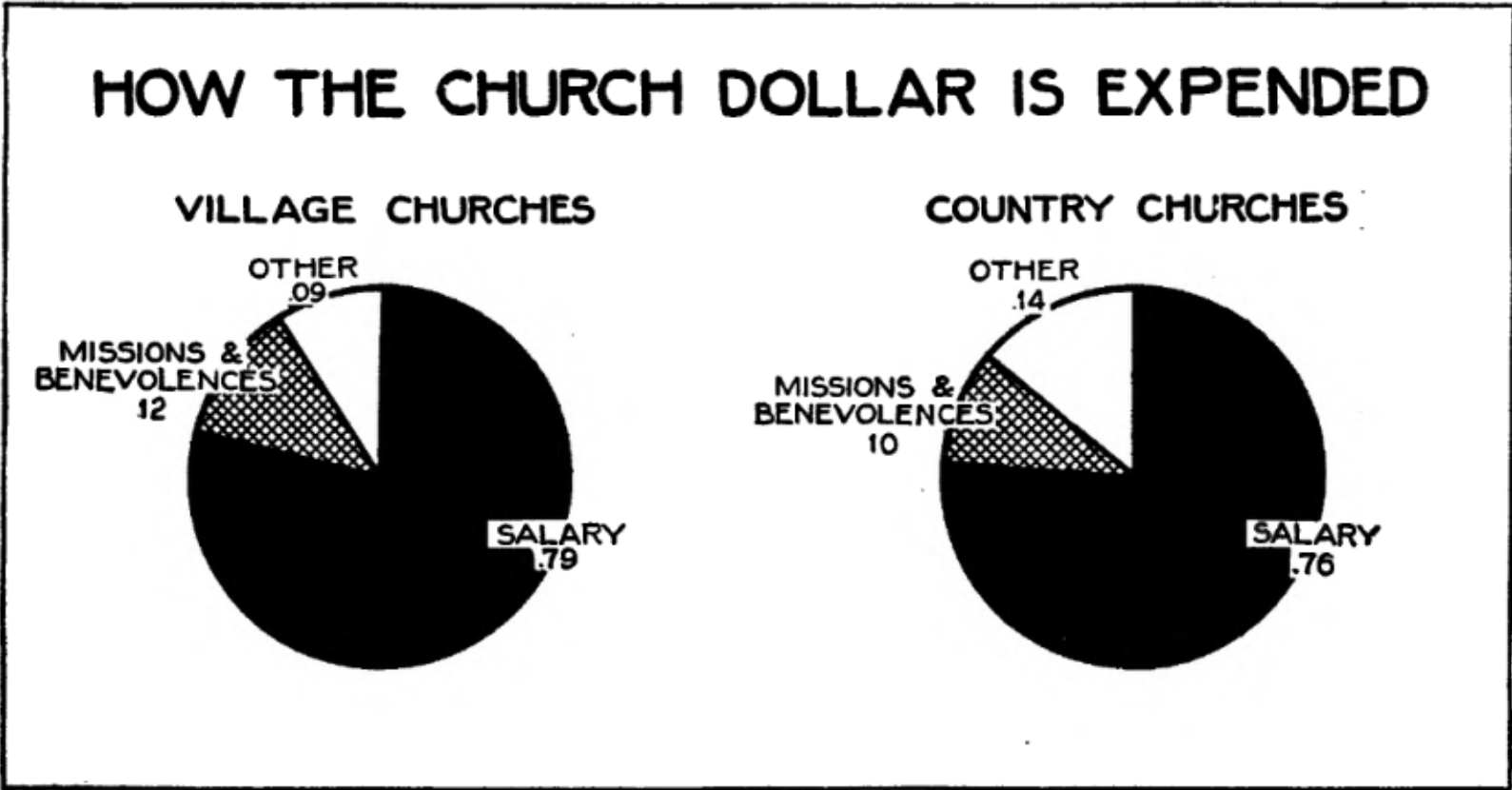


CHART II

for the loyalty and devotion of those whom the Church has reached, won and held. This is especially true in the case of the county churches.

MEMBERSHIP

The total number of people on the church rolls is 341. Since 1916, there has thus been a slight decrease in Protestant church membership, from 374 to 341. Of the total 341 members, 277 are active. An active member in this study is “one who attends church at least occasionally and contributes toward its support.” Sixty-three are non-resident members, not living in the immediate locality in which the church is located. As is usually the case in a section where the church is only making a beginning and where memberships are small, practically all the resident members are

## THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION

active. An analysis of the total church membership is shown in the following table:

### *Membership Classification*

	Village	Open Country	Total
Total enrollment .....	321	20	341
Net active members .....	260	17	277
Non-resident members .....	61	2	63
Inactive members .....	0	1	1

A division of the resident church membership of the county shows the following age and sex groups:

Number	Per Cent
Males over 21 .....	29%
Males under 21 .....	5%
Females over 21 .....	55%
Females under 21 .....	11%

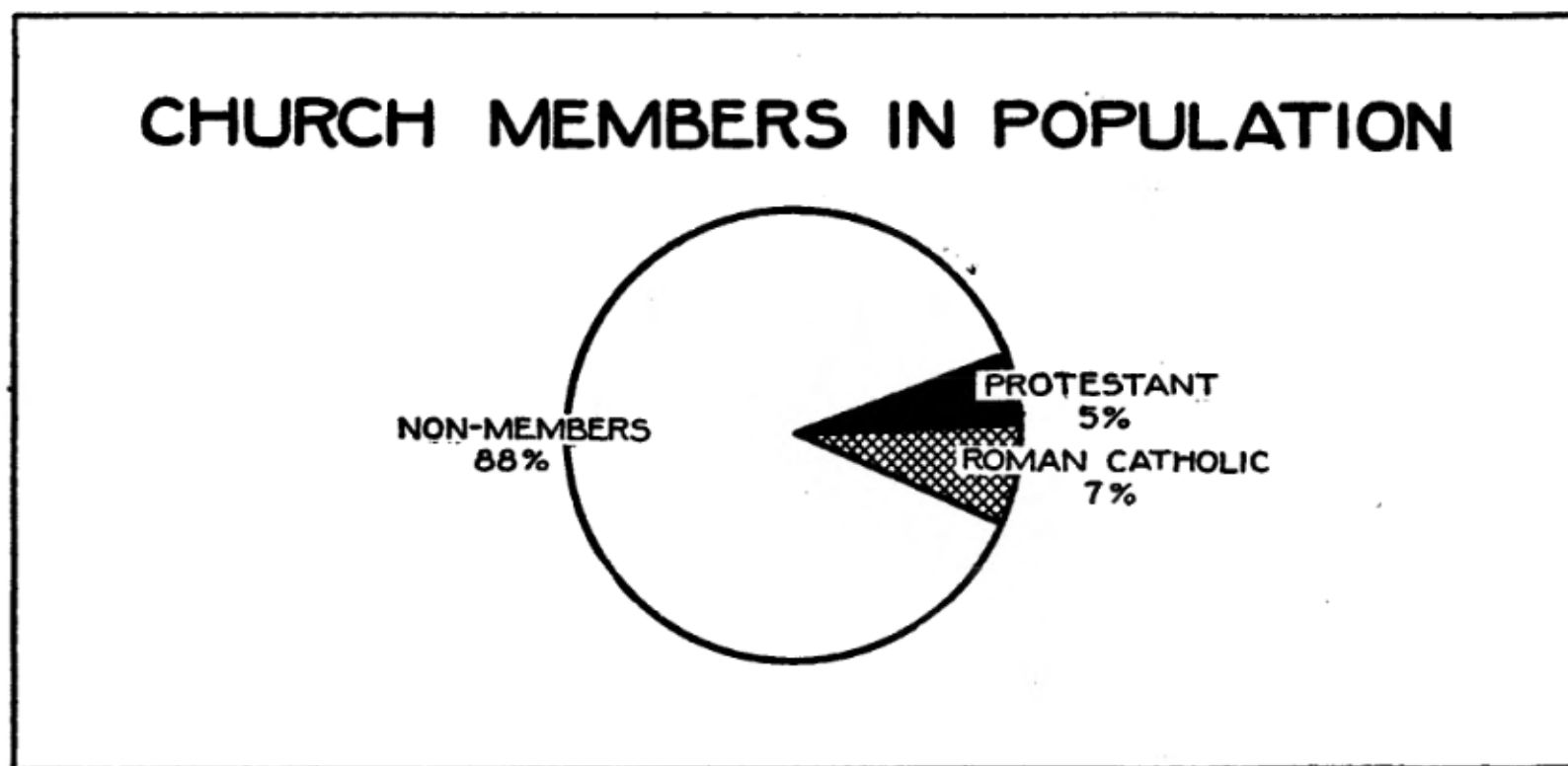


CHART III

Of the seven churches in the county, four village churches are gaining. Only one church gained more than ten per cent during the past year and one between five and ten per cent. The net gain of the other two was less than five per cent of the previous active membership.

The various occupations of the members of the churches of the county are as follows:

	Village	Open Country	Total
Retired farmers .....	1	..	1
Operating farmers .....	12	7	19
Renters .....	1	1	2
Laborers .....	3	..	3
Business and Professional .....	36	1	37
All others .....	36	8	44
	<hr/> 89	<hr/> 17	<hr/> 106

## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

There are 581 farm operators in Pend Oreille County according to the 1920 Agricultural Census and of these only nineteen are on the church rolls. This shows the tremendous task of the churches in enlisting members among the farming population.

### MINISTERS

Originally, four ministers served the seven organized churches. They also gave time to a number of separate Sunday schools. One man, in summer, had as many as eight preaching points. At present, however, one charge is vacant, so that for the seven thousand people in Pend Oreille County, scattered over an area of 1,400 square miles, there are only three Protestant ministers. None of them have time for lumber camp work, and the only religious service that the



DR. VEAZIE AT ENTRANCE TO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, IONE

men in the lumber camps receive is what a lumber-jack preacher, who covers the entire territory of the Inland Empire, can give. Naturally each camp receives very little attention.

None of the ministers follow any other occupation than their chosen profession. All of them are consecrated, energetic men, fully alive to the tremendous opportunity confronting them but physically unable to cope with the situation owing to the tremendous extent of the territory to be covered.

One of these ministers, Dr. Walter C. Veazie, deserves special mention. Surrendering an important state-wide position in his denomination, he took up work at Ione, eleven years ago. His church there includes in its membership former adherents of seventeen denominations. He is a modern apostle. Until a breakdown overtook him three years ago, he met twenty-two preaching appoint-

## THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION

ments a week, not all, of course, in different communities. Today, at the age of seventy-five, with the growing faith of a Christian, he maintains his leadership in the two northerly communities that he serves, and hopes for the time when he may see the Church of Christ aggressive and triumphant throughout this county to which he has given the richest years of his life.

Two of the three ministers receive salaries ranging between \$1,500 and \$1,750; the other two churches pay lower salaries. These figures include \$250, the cash value of parsonage-privileges for the three pastors who have a home as a part of their income.

Short pastorates are the general rule in Pend Oreille. During the past ten years one church has made seven pastoral changes; three churches have made five; one church four; one church two. Only one charge has kept its pastor during the entire ten years.

### *Unevangelized Area*

As might be expected from the situation described in the foregoing statements, there is much territory within the county, not included in the boundaries of any church parish. The extent of the parishes is shown on the map. Three of the village churches barely extend their activities beyond village limits. Two, however, do take in some of the surrounding countryside. Many of the communities are entirely untouched save for the organization of a Sunday school and some credit must be given to these Sunday schools that have begun in unevangelized areas. The extent of the neglected but inhabited area in the various communities is shown in the following table:

Community	No.	1	60	Square	miles	unevangelized
"	"	2	61	"	"	"
"	"	3	71	"	"	"
"	"	4	17	"	"	"
"	"	5	215	"	"	"
"	"	6	115	"	"	"
"	"	7	27	"	"	"
"	"	8	73	"	"	"
"	"	9	46	"	"	"
"	"	10	22	"	"	"
"	"	11	33	"	"	"
"	"	12	88	"	"	"
"	"	13	30	"	"	"
"	"	14	28	"	"	"
Total for County...			886	"	"	"

### ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCHES

All seven of the regularly organized churches in Pend Oreille County have Sunday schools. At the time of the original Inter-church World Movement survey there were, in addition, three separate Sunday schools which continued to meet throughout the



## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

year, and a number of others that were held during the summer months when the roads were passable. The ten Sunday schools regularly held, enroll a total of 655, which is twice the total church enrollment, and is an encouraging sign. These two schools are equally divided between village and open country. The table which follows gives the situation in detail:

Location	Number of Schools	Total Roll	Average Per Sunday School	Total Attendance Typical Sunday	Average Attendance	Per Cent of Roll
Village .....	5	428	88	295	59	69%
Open Country	5	227	45	147	29	64%
	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 655	<hr/> 66	<hr/> 442	<hr/> 44	<hr/> 67%

Attendance at the village schools on a typical Sunday is equal to sixty-nine per cent of the total Sunday school roll, and in the open country schools it is equal to sixty-four per cent.

Five of the ten schools, all located in villages, have either monthly or quarterly mission study, and these five, plus two open country schools make regular missionary offerings. These are sent to the regular denominational boards and are also given for special causes. Decision Day is observed by four schools, but with uncertain results.

There are no Sunday school classes to prepare for church membership. Seventeen members of village schools are attending school or college beyond high-school grade. A total of nine scholars from village schools joined the churches during the past year. Five Sunday schools out of ten make definite offerings to increase attendance through contests, rewards and other methods. Two village schools have a total of twelve organized classes. In the Sunday schools of the county are forty-three teachers. Four village schools have departments organized.

Sunday school picnics are held by four village schools and one in the open country. In addition, three schools have other social times for the Sunday school, as a whole, and five schools have one or more classes holding socials. The remaining facts in regard to Sunday school organizations are as follows:

Schools with	Village	Open Country	Total
Leadership training .....	3	0	3
Organized classes .....	2	0	2
Cradle roll .....	4	1	5
Home department .....	2	0	2
Teacher training .....	1	0	1
Sunday school papers .....	5	4	9
Library .....	5	1	6
Number open all year .....	5	5	10

## THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION

Since the original survey was made, responsibility for the county has been assigned to the Congregationalists. The Inland Empire Sunday school missionary of this denomination has, in the last few months founded nine new Sunday schools, six of them in communities which previously had no religious services, one at Diamond City, a new industrial community in the Forest Reserve and two in remote sections of two communities which previously had other religious services. The missionary is endeavoring to reach each of these new schools at least once a month, and, as often as possible, twice a month. When he comes, he conducts preaching service. These nine new schools have a total enrollment of 308, an average of thirty-four and an average attendance of twenty-five. There are thirty-three classes in these nine schools, an average of nearly four per school. The work is so new that there has hardly been opportunity to departmentalize it, organize classes, or set up some of the usual activities in connection with Sunday school work. This will come as leadership is developed and as the schools gain confidence in themselves and begin to grow. It will be seen that the total Sunday school enrollment of the nineteen schools in the county is almost 1,000. This, by all odds, is the most hopeful single fact in the religious situation.

It must be frankly stated, however, that some of these schools may not survive. There are points in the county where religious work has been abandoned. This is only to be expected in a frontier county, where population fluctuations may wipe out the whole teaching staff and resident leadership within a month and it becomes necessary to reconstruct the entire organization. There can be no final substitute for a resident minister or, at least, a resident missionary.

The seven churches of the county have eight organizations, three for women, three for young people, one for boys and one for girls. The women's organizations are ladies aid societies. That for the boys is a club, that for the girls, a choir. Three of the seven churches are without any organization at all, except the Sunday school.

### THE PROGRAM

The churches of Pend Oreille County hold services as follows: Three have four services a month, one has six, two have eight, while one which has been pastorless for more than three years has only intermittent services.

Union services are held in the county seat. The Methodists joined with Congregationalists in union services five times during the past year and with the Baptists once. In addition, the Methodist,

## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

Baptist and Congregational churches hold union meetings during the Week of Prayer.

Related to a more general church program, we find the following activities: One church is interested in a special piece of missionary work; three are doing some local charitable or benevolent work; two are doing special missionary work; two are interested in furthering some civic work; one in a definite piece of agricultural work; three have social affairs outside of those conducted by their organizations; three have some definite educational work; three are interested in cultural improvement; three are endeavoring to do special work with young people outside of that done through their organizations, and five celebrate national holidays. Two churches of the seven claim to carry on nothing in the way of a more general church program.

### THE PAR STANDARD

One of the developments growing out of the Interchurch World Movement was the adoption of the "Par Standard for Country Churches". This standard was worked out and approved by the Town and Country Committee of the Home Missions Council, and submitted to a large group of the survey workers of the Interchurch World Movement representing every State in the Union. These people had all done field-survey work, and were familiar with the varieties of conditions existing in America. It should also be stated that, in addition to investigational experience, these men had been country ministers, and knew intimately the problems of the rural parish. There was unanimous agreement that this Par Standard should be placed before the country churches of America, not as an ideal far beyond their accomplishment, but as a goal which a church might, in all reasonableness, expect to attain. Since that time one denomination, and the home mission departments of two others, have adopted the Par Standard with slight adaptations for their own purposes.

It should be stated that no attempt has been made to give comparative value to the points in this Standard. So far as the table shows a resident pastor on full time counts as much as horse-sheds or parking space. Obviously, this is a weakness in the Standard, but it was drawn up, not for the purposes of comparative evaluation but for the purposes of suggesting minimum achievements for a country congregation of average strength.

The points covered in this Par Standard for Country Churches are as follows:

## THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION

Adequate Physical Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up-to-date Parsonage</li> <li>Adequate Church Auditorium Space</li> <li>Social and Recreational Equipment</li> <li>Well Equipped Kitchen</li> <li>Organ or Piano</li> <li>Sunday School Room</li> <li>Stereopticon or Moving-Picture Machine</li> <li>Sanitary Toilets</li> <li>Horse-Sheds or Parking Space</li> <li>Property in Good Repair and Condition.</li> </ul>
Pastor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident Pastor</li> <li>Full-time Pastor</li> <li>Service Every Sunday</li> <li>Minimum Salary of \$1,200.</li> </ul>
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Church Budget Adopted Annually</li> <li>Every Member Canvass</li> <li>Berevolences Equal to 25% Current Expenses.</li> </ul>
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coöperation with Other Churches in Community</li> <li>Systematic Evangelism.</li> </ul>
Parish	Church Serves all Racial and Occupational Groups.
Religious Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday School Held Entire Year</li> <li>Sunday School Enrollment Equal to Church Membership</li> <li>Attempt to Bring Pupils into Church</li> <li>Special Instruction for Church Membership</li> <li>Teacher Training or Normal Class</li> <li>Provision for Leadership Training.</li> </ul>
Program of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized Activities for Age and Sex Groups</li> <li>Coöperation with Boards and Denominational Agencies</li> <li>Program Adopted Annually, 25% of Membership Participating</li> <li>Church Reaching Entire Community.</li> </ul>

An analysis has been made of the seven churches in Pend Oreille County with the following number of points to the credit of each. It is possible for a church to reach a total of twenty-five of the points enumerated on the Par above by taking answers to questions from the blanks used in this survey.

1 church	shows a total of 19 points
1 " " " " "	15 "
1 " " " " "	14 "
2 churches show	" " " 9 "
2 " " " " "	5 "

A further analysis of their standing shows that the churches of the county total seventy-six out of a possible score of 175. All of them have Sunday school enrollment equal to church membership, and all of them have Sunday school sessions throughout the entire year. These are the only items on which all churches are alike. The weaknesses are: the lack of social equipment, the low benev-



## SURVEY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH.

olence contributions, and the failure to have special instruction for church membership and special leadership training in connection with the religious educational program.

The churches reaching the highest number of points are all located in villages.

### THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES

The Roman Catholics have two "white" churches in Pend Oreille County—one at Newport and the other at Ione—and hold services every other Sunday. There is but one priest in charge of the entire county work and he lives at Newport. In addition a Roman Catholic missionary from Stevens County preaches at the Indian chapel on the Kalispell Reservation. The Roman Catholic is the only denomination rendering religious service to this reservation, and all its inhabitants are said to be of that faith. According to the Religious Census of 1916, the total number of Roman Catholics in the county was 279. At present the total is approximately 450, of whom 260 are connected with the village churches at Newport and Ione, and the remainder scattered throughout the county.

## CHAPTER VI

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PEND OREILLE being a frontier county embraces everything that one is accustomed to associate with that term. It is progressive, growing, virile, ambitious. It keeps pace with the best traditions of the old frontier and of those pioneers, who, decades ago, cleared the great Middle West and turned it into the granary of the world. And yet there is a difference—a difference that, in all respects save one, favors Pend Oreille County. Poor as it is, and great as are its tasks, it employs a County Agricultural Agent, a County Health Nurse, and believes in and supports community work



COMPANY HOUSES, DALKENA

in the schools of the county. There is a strong social spirit, a belief in the future, almost a spirit of "my might hath gotten me this". In one respect only is the county backward and that is the religious. Pend Oreille, though a frontier county, has a twentieth century outlook, but the church of the county is a church with the old frontier program of the nineteenth century.

Granted that a resident minister will again be secured for the Usk-Cusick charge, only three communities, in a stretch of seventy miles, have ministers. One or two centers such as Dalkena, for instance, are quite large enough to support a church if aided by a home mission appropriation. Be he never so faithful, the Sunday school missionary responsible for this county, along with territory elsewhere,

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cannot possibly give it the attention that it needs, in order to make stable and permanent the work he has begun, and which he is following up so earnestly.

The failure of the church to seize, win and hold this county has resulted in aggravating the natural indifference of the people and in undermining the influence of the church. In most of the communities the voice of the church would have no effect on any issue before the people, for such a voice would be nothing more than the feeble utterance of a few people in a Sunday school. Even in the towns where there are resident ministers the real power of the church is doubtful, highly as the people honor their pastors. Until a year ago, there had been no statesmanship shown in the administration of the religious situation. One might as well expect three men to clear the farms of the county and build an economic empire, as expect three or four men to capture the same area for the Kingdom of God. It is just this present situation which demonstrates the heroism of certain individuals, and the incapacity and weakness of the church as an institution.

The first act of church statesmanship in relation to this county was the assignment of the area to one denomination to develop, following the original survey by the Interchurch World Movement. Congregationalism has the field; and in that field, stretching fifty miles from Newport to Ione, are nine communities with over 2,500 people and not a minister resident among them.

Church work in this county cannot be of the conventional kind. The county is too new; the population is ever changing. Hence the people, not expecting to stay, hold back from affiliation and responsibility. The minister must be content to preach to small congregations and many of them, rather than to hundreds in a single place. He must be ready to build up a new corps of workers almost overnight, when those he has move away. But always, he has before him the need and the potential power of seven thousand strong, self-reliant, pioneering Americans. The Gospel of Jesus Christ in all its fullness is the outstanding need.

The problem from a religious point of view is comparatively simple. It is a problem of more men of the right type and of a broader, more aggressive program, matching the spirit of the people. Apart from Newport, there is little enough going on in the county and a full-orbed Christian program would simply compel attention. The vacant pulpits at Usk and Cusick should be filled. Another man should be sent to strengthen the work in the north, from which the present hero of the cross must soon inevitably

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retire. Tiger could then be added to the Ione-Metaline charge. The Methodist pastor at Newport is a devoted worker and presumably his church is interested in the Christianization of the county in which it exists. Without disturbing comity arrangements he might well be released to help Congregationalism in meeting the challenging opportunity of the unreached areas in the three communities nearest to Newport. Then a missionary with a moving-picture machine should operate from the center of the county, equipped with a car in summer and a team in winter. He should be an all-round man, who would carry out a program similar to that of the Young Men's Christian Association rural or county work, but who would take special pains to exalt and emphasize the spiritual aspect of his work. During the proper season there should be assigned to him another worker, possibly a student, who could carry the same sort of service to the lumber camps. This sort of investment of men and money would be far more effective than the present arrangement. It would be spending, in order to get, in the best sense of the term. It would be strategy beyond reproach. The present situation is a tragedy in the face of the need and the opportunity. For that same reason it is an inspiration and a challenge.

The objection may be raised that this program is too expensive. As a matter of fact it calls for little more than does the present plan. It is the least that the church can do, and still hope to measure up to the situation. Congregationalism has a splendid opportunity to justify the comity arrangement, further the use of the same plan elsewhere, and thus promote activities that will work out to the lasting good of the people and the church in Pend Oreille County.

Quite apart from the present, this plan is the least the church can do, if she desires to play fair with the future. Pend Oreille is already at the threshold of new life and progress. When the water power development begins the county will grow with leaps and bounds. There can be no surer guarantee of the success of the church in the future than to have a program *now* that meets the needs of the people, that begets confidence, that wins not individual souls alone, but also the life of whole communities for the Master.

These, then, are the outstanding conclusions and recommendations growing out of the study of the facts which have been presented in this survey.

The following matters of secondary importance also call for consideration.

The fact that there are only twenty church members among



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586 farmers in the county shows the necessity for the church to specialize on this occupational group. The progressiveness and interest on the part of the farmers, coupled with their frontier spirit prove them to be an especially desirable group for enlistment in the activities of religion.

A number of the communities in Pend Oreille County have college men and women living in them, either in the summer vacation or throughout the year. Facing the great needs of this county, the college girls especially could work out, to great advantage, the principles of the Young Women's Christian Association "Eight Weeks' Clubs." These are designed, by that organization, to bring to girls of a local community as much of the leadership and as many of the activities of the Young Women's Christian Association as can be secured during the eight weeks of the summer vacation when these college women are in their home communities. There is a feeling in Pend Oreille, especially in the county seat itself, that those who have educational and economic advantages are forgetful of the needs of those who are not so fortunate. This could easily become the first rift in the fine neighborly spirit which characterizes a frontier community, but the carrying-out of such a suggestion as here made would be most useful in preserving the democratic spirit and better still in making for religious and social progress.

The incipient antagonism between town and county should, by all means, be removed. A county as young as this one, as progressive and as loyal, cannot afford to be split by grievances, real or imagined. To think of the attractive little village of Newport with its 900 inhabitants, which has been selected as the county seat, fostering a lack of understanding of the problems of the countryside, is sheer nonsense. Nowhere are town and country more interdependent than in Pend Oreille County. The Grange and the Commercial Club should come together for conference and in a spirit of mutual understanding formulate a policy for the development of the entire county.

One is struck with the terrible waste of natural resources going on within the county. This does not refer to the hundreds of thousands of unutilized horse-power at Metaline Falls, so much as to the utter absence of any reforestation on the part of the lumber and match companies, which are converting the forests of the county into useful products. The county contains glaring examples of the well-known carelessness of America: the using up of the resources which nature cannot, of herself, furnish us again for a century.

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### CONCLUSION

The transition in agriculture which will take place when once the water power of the north is developed; the keen social consciousness of the people as already manifested in matters relating to health and education; the agreement between town and country on a common program: these things are coming and will make Pend Oreille a county as rich, resourceful, and useful as it is now brave and beautiful. But the keystone of this arch must be a church that, with statesmanlike vision, will reach the whole county with a Gospel presented in terms of its life, and with a program that will leave no region, and no part of the abundant life which the church is charged to bring to the world, uninfluenced or untouched by its ministry.

