

THE  
STORY OF  
**LINCOLN**



**COUNTY**  
WASHINGTON  
1909

By **RICHARD F. STEELE**

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STEELE

LINCOLN COUNTY A. Y. P. COMMISSION

J. R. DAVIDSON    A. L. SMALLEY    E. L. FARNSWORTH

(Reardan)

(Sprague)

(Wilbur)

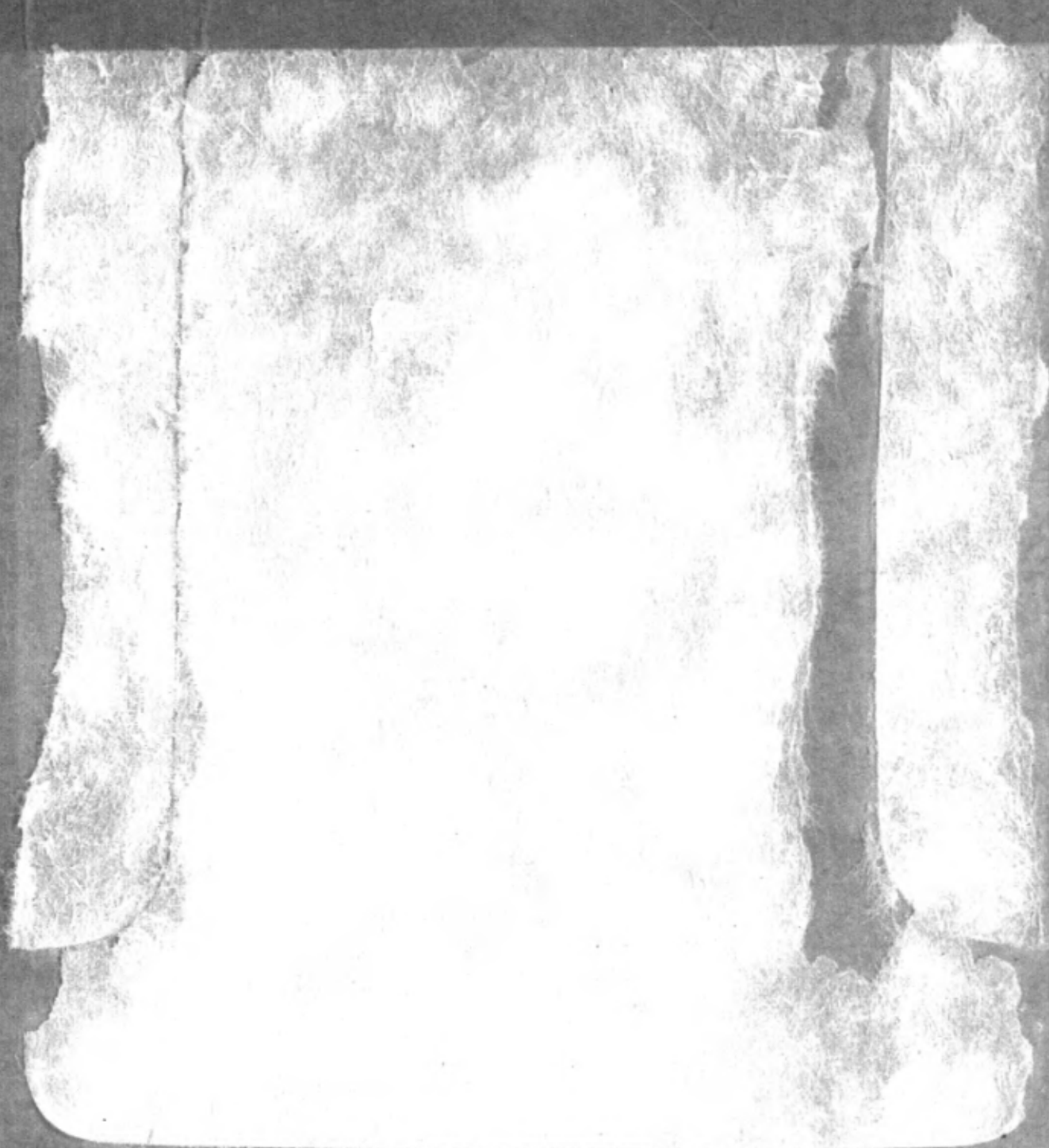
Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

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To Governor M. E. Hay,  
With compliments of  
The Author



"Each climate needs what other climes produce,  
And offers something to the general use;  
No hand but listens to the common call,  
And in return receives supplies from all."  
— Cooper.

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STORY OF

# LINCOLN



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By RICHARD F. STEELE

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# Garden of the Big Bend



INCOLN COUNTY has no big trees. The most stupendous of this Gargantuan flora are in California. Lincoln County has no wonderful oyster beds; no countless "acres of clams;" no magnificent harbors fringed with salt marshes, homes of the passive shrimp and edible crab; no tumbling torrents teeming with sock-eyed salmon. None of the marine or lumber glories, clouded, perhaps, with superabundance of fog and rain, is prominent in Lincoln County. Those who are seeking the homes of such industries need read no further in *The Story of Lincoln County*.

But for the *sagacious investigator of profitable facts* this book has much in store. The opening paragraphs were simply in the nature of that frank confession and open candor which will be continued throughout. So now we come to consider the many varied industries and resources indigenous to Lincoln County, and in most profitable profusion.

What are they?

Tabulated, regardless of relative importance, the more prominent ones are:

Grain.

Hay.

Dairying.

Fruit.

Horses.

Cattle.

Hogs.

Poultry.

Gardening.

Bee Culture.

Here, then, are ten profitable industries, any three of which might be judiciously combined in intensified farming. This practical conjunction is made possible by the superior marketing facilities of Lincoln County and the arable, enduring qualities of Lincoln County's soil. And what is



## THE SOIL OF LINCOLN COUNTY?

It is volcanic ash in a superlative degree, for there are varying grades of this famous soil of which the visitor from the East hears so much. In some localities of Eastern Washington it is a stronger, more durable soil than it is in other sections of the state. Mark W. Harrington, former chief of the United States Weather Bureau, in speaking of the soil of the Inland Empire, including Lincoln County, said:

The soil is very fertile. It seems to be a kind which is perpetually fertile. In the whole world I know of only one locality which has a similar soil. That is the north of China, in the two provinces of Shansi and Stensi, west of Pekin. This is the original home of the Chinese, from which they spread out over the rest of China. The soil is wonderfully fertile, for though it has been cultivated for 4,000 years, it remains unchanged and to me this soil seems to be the same, from which I am led to believe it is inexhaustible. Another characteristic of the soil is the small amount of water required to raise crops."

By many people this soil has on hasty inspection been called "sand." Others have sapiently pronounced it "dust." But it is neither. "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet," and volcanic ash remains, after the unscientific layman has had his say, the most productive and wonderful specimen of arable soil known in the world. Place a grain of sand under the microscope. To the eye it appears to be a piece of quartz, crystal or basaltic rock. Examine with the same glass a quantity of "dust." Here is a heterogeneous confusion of no particular denomination.

Now, on one of the dry days of summer cast your eyes toward a distant roadway. The hasty observer will exclaim:

"There must be a team coming. I see a cloud of dust."

Gather a few atoms of this so-called "dust." Place them under the microscope. Presto! Each atom resolves itself into a perfect kernel of soil, covered by a moisture-preserving shell—like a kernel of wheat—strong, fertile, enduring—the identical soil described by Professor Harrington, the same quality of soil that in one section of Italy has withstood the drafts of agriculture 2,000 years, the same volcanic ash of Lincoln County.

In Minnesota and the Dakotas a yield of 18 bushels of wheat is considered a fair average crop. Within the boundaries of Lincoln County an average of 40 bushels an acre has been harvested from land twenty-five years under cultivation. Record crops of 50 and 55 bushels have been made. Eighteen bushels of "volunteer wheat"—self-sown grain—has been gathered from an acre of land which had received no cultivation whatever.

Lincoln is bounded on the north by Ferry County, and the Spokane Indian Reservation, separated by the Columbia and Spokane Rivers; on





Combined Harvester at Work



the west by Douglas and the new County of Grant; on the south by Adams and a portion of Whitman Counties, and on the east by Spokane County. The southern part of Ferry County, which lies to the north of Lincoln, is a portion of the Colville Indian Reservation soon to be thrown open for settlement. The area of Lincoln County is 2,299 square miles, or about 1,246,248 acres. The mean elevation is 2,000 feet above sea level. One of the highest points is at Creston, 2,500 feet. Geographically illustrating the size of Lincoln County, General Tyner said:

“If a single county in Delaware or Rhode Island could be enlarged to the dimensions of Lincoln County, the balance of either of these states would not afford room enough on which to hold a world’s exposition.”

### SOMETHING ABOUT WHEAT

At present the principal products of Lincoln County are wheat, oats, barley, cattle, hogs, fruit and vegetables. In the past wheat, of course, has been the top-liner in the bill of the play. While it has been proved that 25 bushels of wheat to the acre may be grown here without rain during the summer, the yield is larger if more moisture falls. The average annual precipitation is 14 inches. The rainy season begins in September or October. November, December, January and February witness the greatest rainfall; March and April are variable while May and June are often showery and cool. With rain in June a grain crop far exceeding the average is assured. But for a fair crop a June rain is by no means necessary. Nearly half the wheat is sown in the fall, remaining in the ground during the months of the greatest moisture, and is harvested during the driest portion of the year. Rust is unknown and storage is not actually necessary for grain in the sack. Thousands of sacks may be seen in the fields, dropped from the harvester, with no other covering than the blue sky. Harvesting begins about July 4th. With combined harvesters half a dozen men cut, thresh and sack, ready for market 25 to 40 acres of wheat per day. Harvest is closely followed by seeding for fall grain. The growing of winter wheat possesses a number of advantages. Seeding is done in the fall when the farmer is not crowded with work. The grain ripens from 10 to 20 days earlier.

Let it be carefully noted that Lincoln County wheat is the best milling wheat in the state, and that the manufacture of flour from this grain has already become one of the leading industries of Lincoln County. There are large flouring mills in many of the leading towns and a considerable portion of the home wheat crop is shipped in the form of the manufactured product. At one period during this spring of 1909, while wheat was bring-



ing \$1.22 in Chicago, it was selling to the mills in this section for \$1.20. While this is exceptional, it is a fact worthy to be noted by the homeseeker.

Just here we will cordially admit that statistics are mighty dry and uninteresting reading. We are out here at the Seattle Exposition to enjoy ourselves and not for the purpose of studying arithmetic. That is, unless the statistics present something new and startling. Well, see here. Of the total wheat crop of the State of Washington, Lincoln County has produced annually, in an average of ten years, one-fourth. In March, 1909, wheat prices in the local markets of the county topped one dollar per bushel. The present annual yield of the county is 8,000,000 bushels. The total assessed valuation of all real and personal property in the county in 1908 was \$21,815,997. This shows that at one dollar per bushel the wheat crop alone of this county for one year was worth nearly 40 per cent of the county's entire valuation. And the per capita valuation is considerably greater than that of any other county in the state. But the total valuation of the improved farms upon which this wheat was grown is only \$11,112,350. So we see that a fair wheat crop alone, at present prices, is worth two-thirds of the assessed valuation of the land from which it is annually cut.

These compelling statistics are not given in a spirit of braggadocia. They are merely submitted to the reader as food for thought. They tell a story that is new in the history of wheat culture; a story that can be duplicated in no other state in the Union.

It should be carefully noted by the reader, as an index of the future, that the Washington Water Power Company is now building a large dam in the Spokane River, directly north of Reardan, in the construction of which there are at present employed 336 men. From Reardan to the dam 24 four-horse teams are daily hauling 100,000 pounds. And because of the exceptionally heavy loads and machinery hauled an 18-foot road of gravel and cement is being constructed. When completed this will be the finest roadway in Lincoln County, and will afford the people of Reardan a beautiful 15-mile boulevard down the shady Spring Creek Valley. When completed this dam will cause a 74-foot fall in the Spokane River, developing 30,000 horsepower, four units, with overload of 36 and 40, which will be used in generating electricity for distribution throughout the Big Bend country by high tension lines. For lighting and power purposes this will be utilized in the towns and on the farms. To Spokane an emergency line will also be run for use in case of accident to the city plant. By September of the present year the initial unit of the plant will be installed, and others so soon as possible.





Farm Residence of Andrew Wagner

# Other Things than Wheat



It is fortunate that Nature has not conferred all of her most valuable gifts on one section. But it is evident to the actual resident of, as well as to the casual visitor to, Lincoln County, that this particular locality has received a superabundance of good things at the generous hand of Nature, and that some of the most sagacious people of the East have availed themselves thereof. In Lincoln County the air is pure and invigorating; the climate healthful. For the reason that every summer night the cool air descending from the mountain ranges lowers the temperature, summers are not excessively nor humidly hot, and sleep, consequently, is refreshing. Cyclones and tornadoes are unknown. Prevailing winds during the winter months are from the northwest, and the warm air of the Coast tempered by the famous and justly appreciated Japan current, is conveyed eastward across the Cascade Range, thus softening the extreme cold that prevails during winter seasons beyond the eastern boundary of Washington, yet in the same latitude as is Lincoln County. Here the average winter is mild and open; there are few idle days for the industrious farmer during any portion of the year, and at its close he finds ample reason to congratulate himself on the results of well-directed labors.

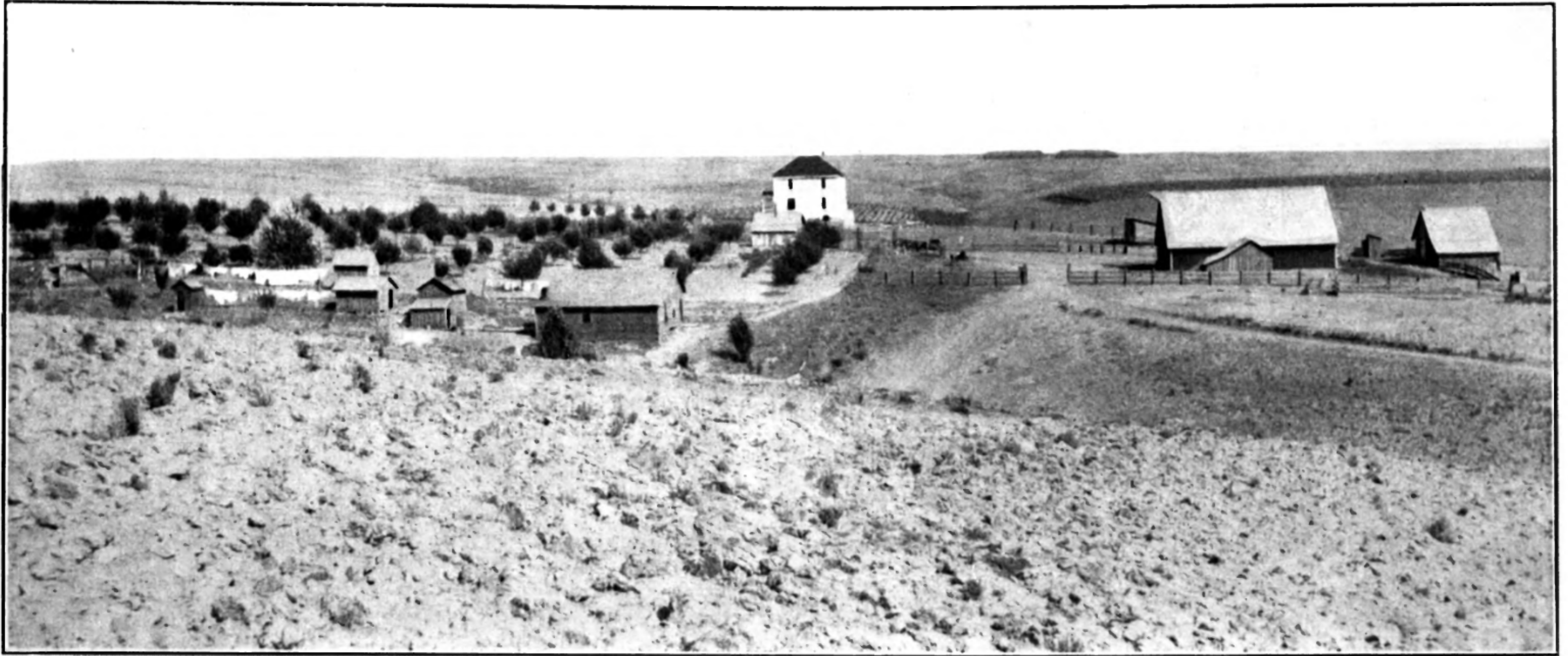
While there are in the northern part of Lincoln County small stretches of timber, the bulk of the country consists of rolling prairie land. There are, too, in the north some mineral deposits, and this section, comprising the finest fruit lands in the state, is abundantly watered by Hawk Creek and the Columbia and Spokane Rivers. The remainder of the county is traversed by many creeks and dotted with sparkling lakes teeming with different varieties of fish. Of these streams Crab Creek is the most important. Its source is near Reardan, and it trends southwesterly a distance of 150 miles. Lake Colville is a beautiful sheet of water in the southeast portion of the county, two miles west of Sprague. It is about nine miles in length. Fishtrap Lake is another popular fishing ground east of the same city. Writing of this famous recreation, made historic by a long line of anglers from Izaak Walton to Grover Cleveland, Judge W. T. Warren of Davenport, says:



"When it comes to sport, Crab Creek, Hawk Creek, Welch Creek and the lower Spokane River furnish us with the finest trout fishing, while there are numerous lakes which teem with bass, pickerel, perch, sun-fish, tinch and carp. Geese and ducks are plentiful in certain portions of the county, while grouse, pheasants and prairie chickens are to be found in abundance along the streams and in the timber."

Of the total assessed valuation of the County of Lincoln, \$21,815,997, the two railway systems, Great Northern and Northern Pacific, pay taxes on a valuation of \$4,020,691, which is nearly one million dollars in excess of the total valuation of other personal property. Of the total number of acres in the county, 1,246,248, considerably more than one-half consists of improved farms. In respect to transportation facilities Lincoln County is highly favored. The Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Washington Central and a short line running out from Davenport to Dennys, cover 170 miles. There are a number of surveys for other contemplated and highly probable lines, including the "North Coast." Convenient stage lines connect the more remote portions of the county with railroads. A number of electric lines are already projected and surveys made. The county is now traversed by the Big Bend Electric Light & Power System, providing cheap and ample power for a number of the principal cities. This is an internal improvement that will constantly increase in value. Twelve different telephone lines, as shown by the books of the assessor, connect with hundreds of residences in the farming communities. From their home residences a majority of Lincoln County farmers are enabled to secure by 'phone market reports from Spokane, Seattle, Portland and Tacoma, and even so far distant as San Francisco and Los Angeles through connection with trunk telephones.

The term "intensified farming" finds no more perfect demonstration than in Lincoln County. The transition period between specialized wheat growing and general farming has been passed. Numerous owners of tracts of land less than half a section are now directing their attention to other crops and other industries. Most satisfactory profits are found in dairying. There are remunerative possibilities in hay lands. Conditions for successful fruit culture are ideal; there is an active and perpetual demand for honey, and one which is sure to become a leading factor is the poultry industry. Horse and cattle raising has already assumed large proportions among the wealth-producing interests of Lincoln County. The assessed valuation of the horses for 1908 was \$430,875; cattle, \$71,475; hogs, 9,660; and poultry, 5,890, all totaling a half million of dollars. For the Lincoln County "porker" or "mutton" the Spokane markets are always ready with the highest prices. Successful stock raising goes hand in hand with the



O. G. Williams' Farm Residence



hay ranch. There is no cereal, no vegetable, no fruit known in this latitude that is not raised to perfection in Lincoln County. It has been claimed that corn was an impossibility. This is untrue. The past two years has witnessed an increase of 25 per cent in cultivated acreage of all kinds of crops, and, conservatively estimated, an increase of ten per cent in the price of land.

Pure water, cheap, nutritious forage, equable climate and fertile soil, all conditions necessary to successful dairying, are to be found in Lincoln County. To the minimum, therefore, is reduced the cost, and dairy products bring the most lucrative prices. To supply the demands of the three largest cities in the state, Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma, there is not one-half enough butter manufactured in Washington.

As a workman is known by his chips so, too, is the product of an industry judged by the size of its "plant." It is only two years since this county had a total assessed valuation of agricultural tools and machinery of \$178,024, greater by \$2,000 than that of any other county in the State of Washington. During the past two years there have been significant additions to this sum of values in the way of combined harvesters.

"Good Roads" is a potent shibboleth among the farmers of this favored section. The introduction of automobiles—and at the present writing many a rancher has one—has awakened keen interest in the important subject of highway improvement.

Market truck-farming is destined to become a profitable industry. Today it is reaching out westward from Spokane, in the vicinities of Meadow Lake, Cheney and Medical Lake, and yearly drawing closer to the boundary of Lincoln County. Spokane is the entryport of the state for the visitor from the East. It is bound to become a city of magnificent proportions; its increasing demand for the products of the truck farm is at once apparent. Potato yields are enormous and they form no small portion of this county's agricultural resources.

### SOME PRACTICAL TIPS

The Odessa Commercial Club recently prepared a handsome folder setting forth in attractive form the principal advantages of the Odessa country. As many of them apply equally to all sections of Lincoln County—although especially so to Odessa—we have transplanted a portion of them to the pages of "The Story of Lincoln County:"

Good markets.

No crop failures.

Finest climate in America.

Good schools and churches.

No heavy expense for clothing.

Fine farming lands can be had at low prices.

The soil is very rich and produces all kinds of grains and vegetables in abundance.

The best farmers expect from 25 to 40 bushels of wheat to the acre as a general thing.

Good land is worth from \$20 to \$40 per acre according to location and distance from market.

We seldom have a winter in which plowing cannot be done at some time during each month.

During the past eight years Lincoln County has produced more wheat than any other county in the United States.

The soil is easily tilled and, the seasons being long, one man can farm many more acres here than he could in the East.

Nowhere is land more plentiful, cheaper, more productive, crops more certain, climate more genial, life more agreeable.

Both fall and spring wheat is raised, the former kind being sown in September and October and the latter in March and April.

Good milch cows are worth \$50 and up; good horses, \$75 to \$200 and up; cayuses and ponies for saddle and light work, \$15 and up.

Wheat can be raised nearly one-third cheaper than in the East, the average cost of production here being only a little over 25 cents per bushel.

Many of our largest ranchers use combined harvesters which head, thresh and sack the grain all at the same time. From 24 to 36 horses are used on these machines, which are operated by five men and cut from 30 to 50 acres per day. The cost of harvesting in this way is estimated at about 3 cents per bushel.

Farm laborers receive from \$25 to \$35 per month; harvest hands, \$2 to \$4 per day; common labor, \$1.75 to \$2.50 per day; carpenters and mechanics, \$3 to \$4 per day; domestics, \$15 to \$25 per month. The demand for domestics, housekeepers and farm hands far exceeds the supply and no one who is willing to work need fear lack of employment.

CAUTION: Don't judge the country by what you see in passing through on the railroad. The good land lies back on the hills and except at the very bottom, Crab Creek Valley, through which the Great Northern railroad runs, is rocky and mountainous and tends to give one who is not acquainted with this condition a poor impression of the county as a whole.

## THE NEW ORDER OF HOME LIFE

Wonderful today are the many changes and modifications of the ranch life of 25 years ago. Not only is this true of Lincoln County but it is true throughout the state. The average distance between Spokane and the cities and towns of this county is covered by a railroad ride of ninety minutes. Nearly all the advantages of city life are enjoyed by actual ranchers—not townspeople exclusively. They have free mail delivery,





The Old Kellum Place—Now Owned by the Big Bend Land Co.

electric lights, telephones and house-heating plants. Some of the out-of-town homes are more attractive and more conveniently appointed than are many pretentious urban residences.

No county in the state possesses better country school facilities, while the residents of no other county take a deeper interest in that paramount subject, education. There are at present in the county 5,902 children of school age, of whom 5,210 are enrolled. Divided among 147 school districts are 210 teachers, with high schools in a number of the principal cities. These teachers are for the most part supplied from graduating classes in normal schools. Intelligent, hospitable and enterprising are the people of Lincoln County.

## Thriving Cities and Towns



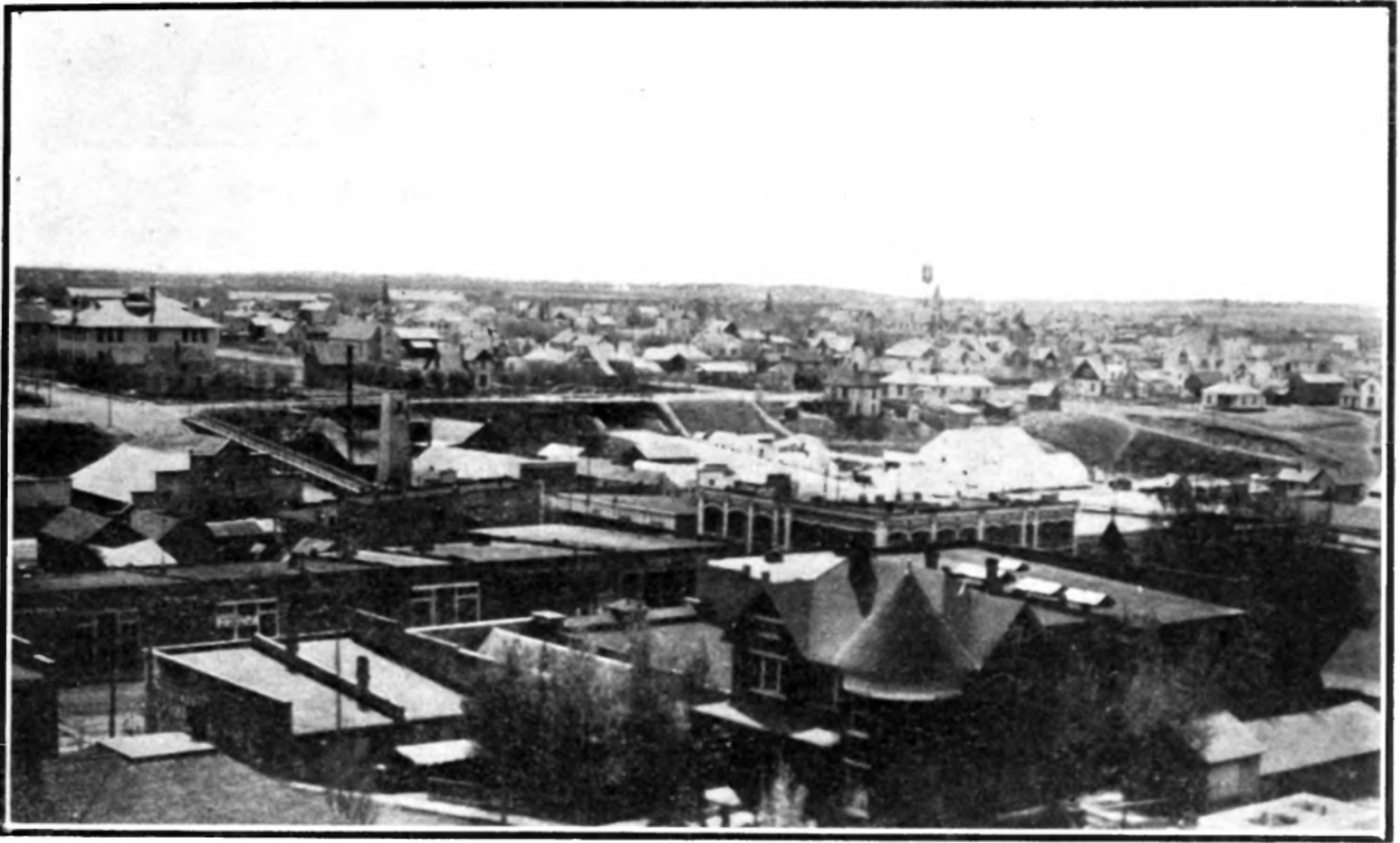
WHILE Lincoln County has, at present, no one great metropolitan city, it contains a larger number of prosperous, attractive and growing towns affording the highest types of urban homes than any other county in the Inland Empire. On one railway line, the Washington Central, there are five prosperous towns which are rapidly gaining in municipal importance. These are, west from Cheney, Reardan, Davenport, Creston, Wilbur and Almira. Between these are the ambitious settlements of Mondovi, Rocklyn, Fellows, and Govan. On the line of the Great Northern railway, west from Spokane, are Edwall, Harrington and Odessa, with Waukon, Blue stem, Mohler, Downs, Irby and Lamona as intermediate stations. On the Northern Pacific, the pioneer railroad of this territory, is Sprague, the oldest city in Lincoln County, and second to none other in the county in business enterprise and progressive citizenship. Here we have 19 railway shipping points, eight of which are under municipal administration and enjoying all the advantages of such public utilities as only a municipality can give.

### DAVENPORT

This is the capital city of Lincoln County with an enterprising population of 2,500. It is situated in the northeast portion of the county, 47 miles from Spokane, in one of the most favored agricultural regions of the



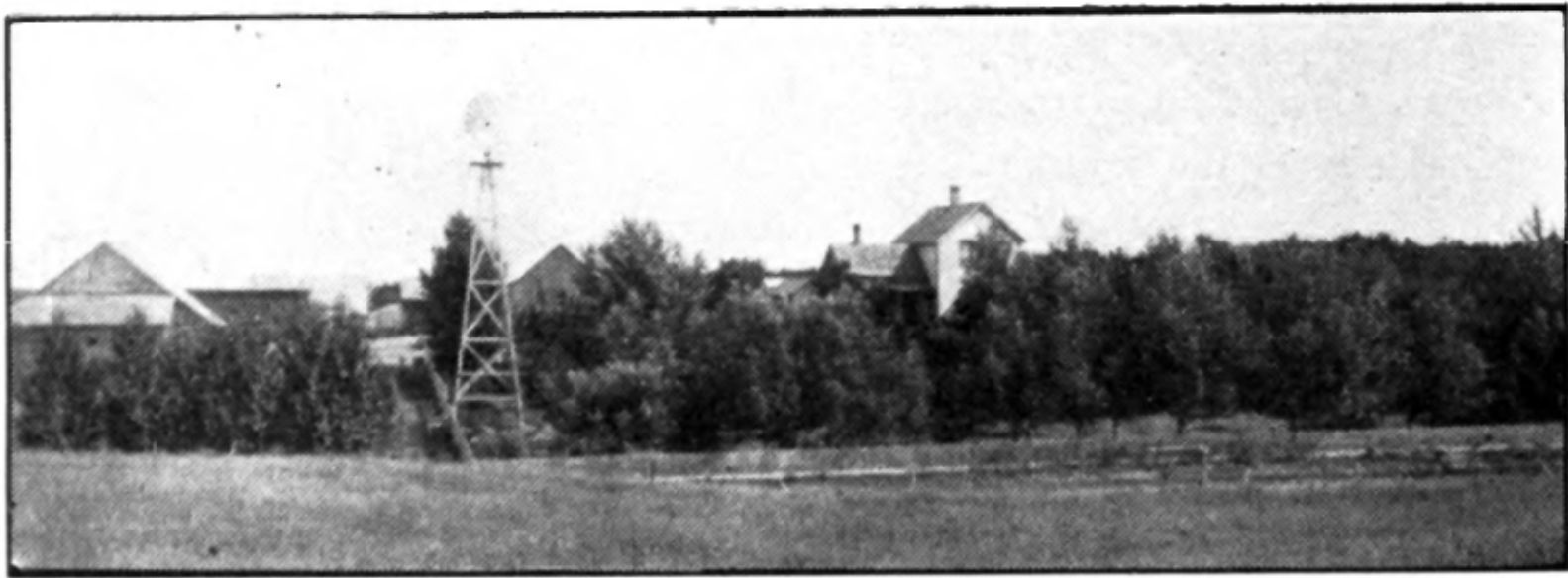
state. It is a city of pleasant homes, good schools, numerous churches, cultured society and commodious business buildings. For miles on every hand extend the farming interests, and from them Davenport derives her large and constantly increasing trade. It is also the supply point for the



Birdseye View of Davenport



Morgan Street, Davenport



Farm of J. H. Nicholls, adjoining Davenport

Cedar Canyon Mining District. It has a 24-hour electric service, two banks, volunteer fire brigade of 60 men, numerous clubs and fraternal orders, and the citizens are now seeking the location of a Carnegie library. The county court house building, an imposing structure commanding a fine view of the entire city, was erected at a cost of \$80,000. The average annual shipment of wheat from Davenport tops a million bushels. This progressive county seat of a progressive county is rapidly developing along substantial lines and it offers superior opportunities for new and profitable investments.

## SPRAGUE

Sprague, a city of 2,000 population, is one with an interesting historical past as well as a promising future. It is situated in a most eligible location, 41 miles west of Spokane, on the Northern Pacific railway, in the southeast portion of the county. To the north and west of Sprague lie some of the most productive and well tilled lands in the state. Not only is Sprague one of the most important wheat-shipping points, but the roller mills here annually manufacture thousands of sacks of flour for foreign exportation. One grain firm in this city alone has handled in one season half a million bushels of wheat. Sprague is supplied with all modern social and business conveniences, including



Myrtle Hospital, Sprague



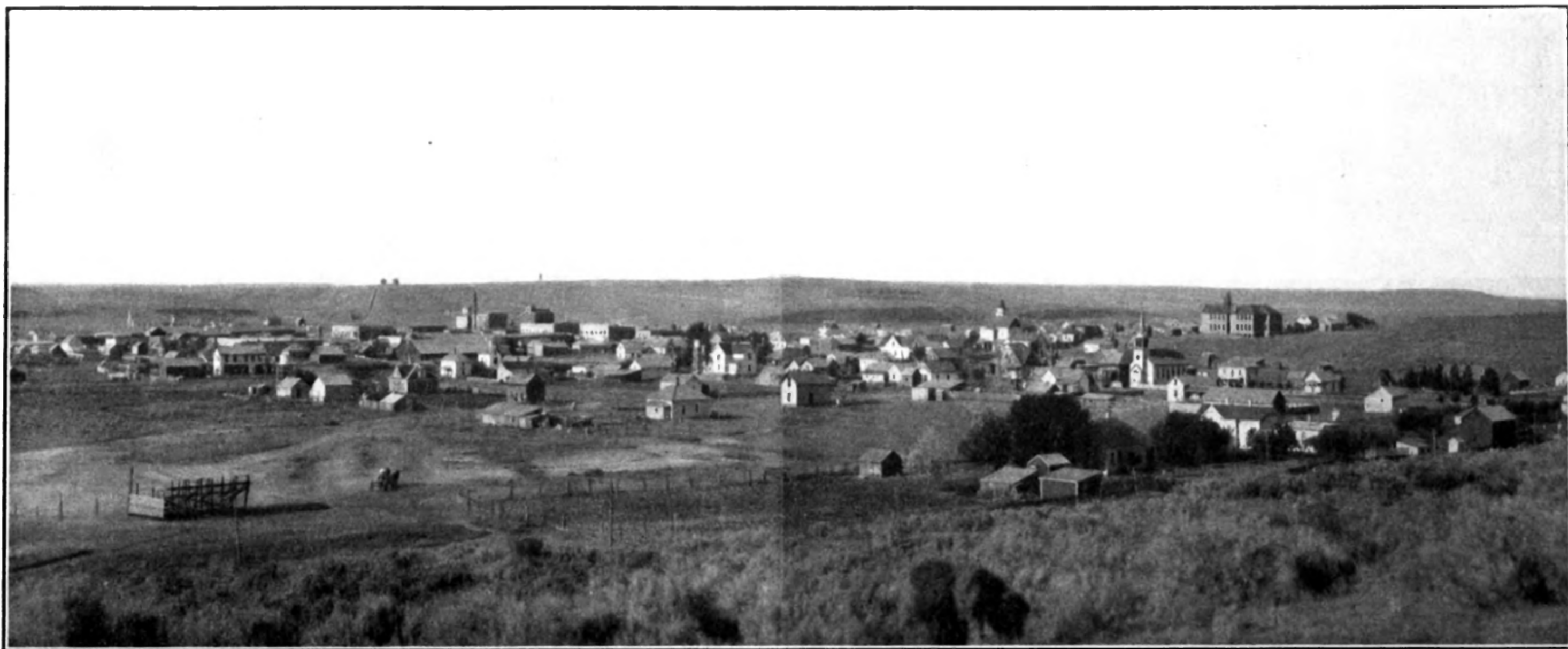
electric lighting, costly municipal water plant, two banks, graded and high schools, Myrtle Hospital, newspaper, circulating library, substantial business blocks and home-winning, attractive residences. The surrounding country is rolling prairie, some of which is admirably adapted to orchard purposes and all of it to wheat, other cereals, gardening, small fruits and live stock.

Near Sprague is the only Shetland pony farm in the state. A bunch of 20 of these docile and friendly little equines is now on exhibition on the Exposition grounds. The Washington Shetland Pony Farm is a project of Mrs. E. C. Hamley, who is a devoted admirer of the horse and particularly of the midget Shetlands. In the purchase of the stock, which comprises the stud at Sprague, Mrs. Hamley has spared no pains to secure the best breeding results obtainable. At the head of this large band of little horses is Homo Parvus, sire Prince of Wales, the greatest sire of Shetland winners in the world, and himself the winner of first prizes wherever exhibited. One of the Shetland mares is "Erda," sired by a son of "The Lord of the Isles," perhaps the best pony ever bred in England. All of these ponies are the highest of high-bred Shetlands. This unique industry is in line with the superior facilities offered by Lincoln County as a live stock center.

## WILBUR

Here is a city of 1,500 inhabitants and one of the most progressive and up-to-date of any on the line of the Washington Central railway. For many years it was the home and business headquarters of Governor M. E. Hay. Aside from being one of the most important grain-shipping points in Lincoln County, it possesses a large flouring mill, bank, seven churches, free library, electric lighting and water systems, beautiful city park of one hundred and twenty acres, high school, first-class newspaper, commercial club and some of the finest business blocks and most attractive residences in the county.

The "close-in" country adjacent to Wilbur is of the very best for diversified agricultural purposes. Experience has conclusively proved that a family can do well on a comparatively small tract of land in Lincoln County. Probably it will not be long until many of the extensive grain farms in Wilbur's vicinity will be broken into small tracts on which will be practiced intensified farming. It has been amply demonstrated that 40 to 80 acres of land properly managed will insure independence to any man willing to work. High prices for products of the dairy and hen-house, fruit and garden truck, point the sure way to satisfactory profits for those willing to supply the reliable market demand.



Birdseye View of Odessa



## ODESSA

On the main line of the Great Northern railway, 77 miles west from Spokane, is Odessa. Judged by its favorable location and from a business viewpoint there is no better locality for the homeseeker or investor than in Odessa and its surrounding territory. In the midst of a great farming district, constituting a portion of the Big Bend, famous as one of the greatest

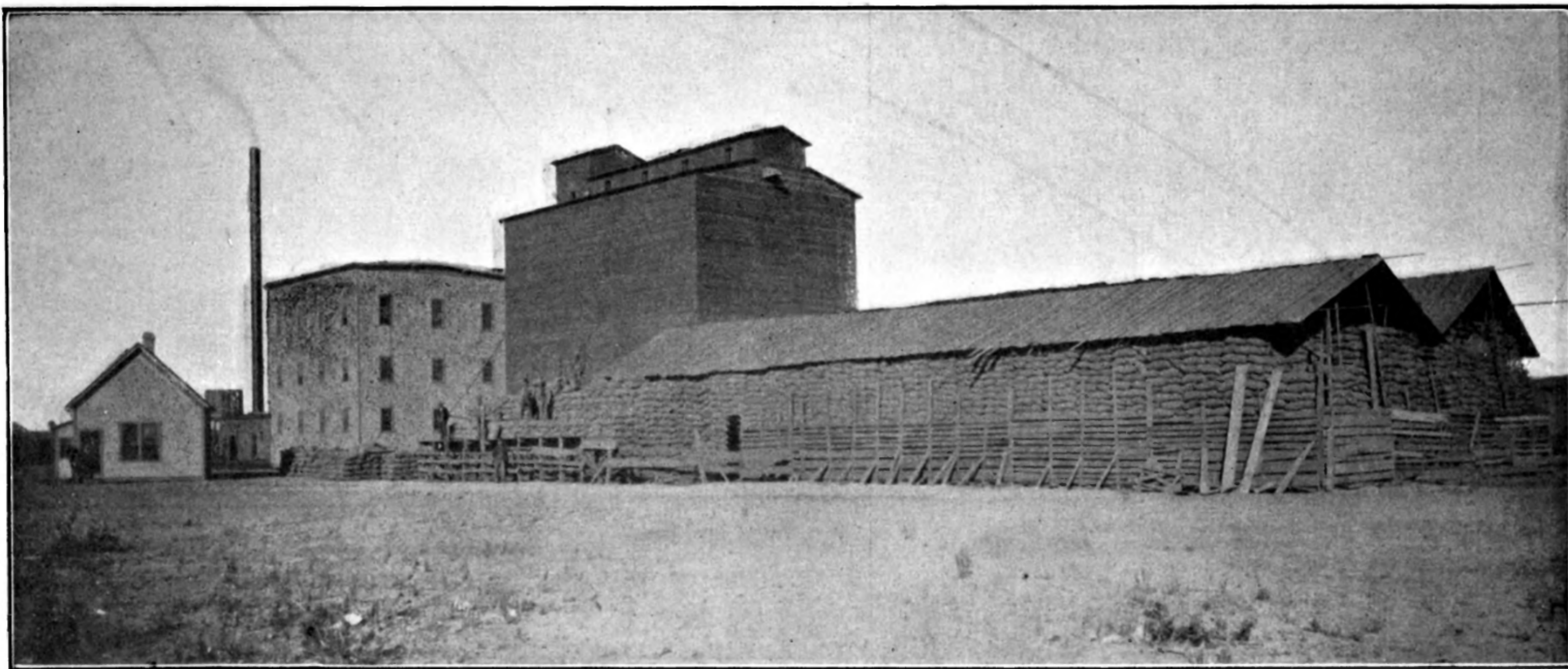


First National Bank Block, Odessa

wheat producing sections of the United States, lies Odessa, a city of 1,500 inhabitants and only ten years of age.

Odessa claims for its mercantile establishments more feet frontage of brick business blocks than any other town on the Great Northern between Spokane and tidewater. It has a flouring mill of 400-barrel daily capacity. The annual wheat receipts at this point total 1,500,000 bushels which, with other farm products, swell the annual income of the Odessa farming country to over \$1,200,000.

In the schools nine teachers are employed and the district has over \$30,000 invested in school property. The religious element is represented by six church denominations. Fine homes adorn the residence district of the city; the town enjoys excellent mail service and has three passenger trains each way daily, with telephone exchange and farmers' lines branching in every direction.



Odessa Flour Mill—250,000 Bushels of Wheat in this Pile.



## REARDAN

Two miles westward from the line separating Spokane from Lincoln County, is Reardan, a city of about 1,000 inhabitants. It is surrounded by a rich farming country which materially contributes to its importance as a most eligible trading point. From many miles around the city grain is delivered to Reardan for shipment, especially from that garden spot, the Crescent country, which supports a large population and where may be found as great improvements in the line of handsome country houses as in the same extent of territory elsewhere in the county.

Of all the Lincoln County towns along the line of the Washington Central railway Reardan shows the greatest degree of municipal improvement during the past two years. Prominent among the solid industries of the city is a 450-barrel flouring mill. There are several general merchandise stores, bank, an excellently conducted newspaper, handsome auditorium and lodge room, a number of church edifices and two fine brick school buildings. Adjoining the town on the east is a public park. Seven years ago the town was incorporated. In 1903 the people subscribed \$5,000 to build a wagon road from the falls north of Reardan to the Cedar Canyon mines in Stevens County. The city now enjoys an excellent trade from that district.

Tributary to Reardan is the large lumber plant of the Chamokane Lumber Company, which owns 23,000 acres of pine timber. Although this fine body of timber lies in Stevens County, the manufacture of it will be in Lincoln County.

At present the product of this mill is being hauled to Reardan from whence it is distributed by rail to all parts of the United States, but before the birth of a new year one or more railroads will be built down the Spokane River which will open up immense resources in addition to the manufacture of lumber, which are now lying dormant, or being developed on a small scale. Among these is mining and fruit raising, and the latter, while now being exploited in a remarkable manner, is destined to increase an hundred-fold until the whole Spokane Valley in Lincoln County will blossom as the rose.

## HARRINGTON

Eligibly located on the main line of the Great Northern railway, 51 miles west from Spokane, is the flourishing city of Harrington. It is the metropolis and principal shipping point of the "Harrington Wheat Belt," famed throughout the State of Washington for wonderful acreage produc-

tion. Harrington is not one of the older municipalities of Lincoln County, but it is one that has made gratifying progress since its inception, having now a population of about 1,200. There are in the town six large grain houses and one flouring mill. The combined capacity of these cereal depots is over one million bushels. In the matters of drainage and eligibility for building operations the town is remarkably well platted. The principal business thoroughfare, Third Street, runs directly north and south, with a gentle northward slope. On the east is School Hill, a most attractive residence location. On the southwest is another residential district which is being rapidly improved with elaborate and architecturally handsome homes. Prominent among the ornate brick buildings in Harrington are the Opera House block, city hall and hotel. There are here a number of general merchandise stores, three banks, superior fire department, newspaper, electric lighting, excellent municipal water system, telephone exchange and nearly all business enterprises are well represented. The city is within a short distance of the geographical center of the county, 16 miles distant from the county seat and 25 miles northwest of Sprague. The elevation is 1,900 feet above sea level.

## CRESTON

At the foot of Brown's Butte, a gently sloping hill and prominent landmark along the line of the Washington Central railway, lies Creston, in the center of the "Brent's country," one of the exceptionally rich farming sections of Lincoln County. West from Davenport, the county seat, the distance is 30 miles; the elevation is 2,500 feet above sea level—hence the name of Creston. It is an incorporated city of about 500 people, supplied with nearly all of the modern adjuncts of a typical Big Bend shipping point and business center. The greater portion of farming land in the vicinity of Creston can be surpassed nowhere for strength and fertility of soil. For diversified agricultural purposes the "lay of the land" is ideal. The rapidly increasing importance of Orchard Valley, or the "Peach country," along Hawk Creek, for which Creston is the shipping point, contributes a material impetus to the business activity of Creston. It is an incorporated municipality with bank, newspaper, flouring mill, lumber yards, excellent schools and churches and a variety of mercantile enterprises.

## ALMIRA

Rolling westward, 15 miles from Wilbur, on the Washington Central, we reach Almira, the last Lincoln County town on the line of this road; a lively, bustling city only a short distance from the Grant County boun-





Orchard and Home of Henry Meisner

dary. Almira has upward of 700 people and wheat and stock-raising are, at present, the chief industries of the surrounding country. It is the shipping point annually of nearly one million bushels of wheat, some of which, of course, is contributed by the new county of Grant on the west. There are in the town three churches, good public schools with a fine library in connection, newspaper, artesian wells, new and well-appointed city office building, numerous prosperous business enterprises and many well-kept and home-like homes. The eligible location of Almira, near a boundary line and in the midst of an agricultural area unsurpassed in the Big Bend, invites the careful attention of all homeseekers and prospective investors in that most reliable and safest of securities, Lincoln County lands.

### EDWALL

Thirty-one miles west from Spokane, and twenty miles east of Harrington, is Edwall—the old Peter Edwall ranch—upon which has now grown a substantial, flourishing little town of nearly 400 inhabitants. Here are a bank, newspaper, four churches, fraternal orders, excellent graded schools, numerous attractive town homes, several general and special merchandise stores and, last, but not least, several artesian wells of the best water in the Inland Empire. While the land around Edwall is the best quality of strong volcanic ash and peculiarly adapted to wheat-raising, the proximity to markets makes the Edwall country an ideal one for intensified farming. The whole Edwall district in fact is in a most prosperous condition, while the farm houses are among the best in the state.





# Fruit That Captures Prizes



HAT invincible combination, ideal climatic conditions and a wonderful, fertile soil, has crowned with success unqualified the toil and well-directed enterprise of the Lincoln County horticulturist. In a state already famous for orcharding no finer fruit is grown than has been packed in various sections of this county. For Lincoln is a county of, not one, but many available fruit belts. Horticultural experts from the Wenatchee, Yakima and Hood River countries have pronounced the soil of Lincoln County fully as good as that of the localities mentioned for purposes of successful fruit culture. In several respects, especially drainage, Lincoln County land is superior to much of the vaunted "government irrigation districts."

Lincoln County fruit culture has passed beyond the experimental stage. While the county has what are called "fruit belts"—and most prolific ones—there is no portion of it from the Columbia and Spokane Rivers on the north to the Whitman County line on the south, which is not susceptible to practical and profitable orcharding. True, there are other localities in Washington whose residents have more largely specialized fruit culture. Yet in these very districts which have been made known through the medium of costly publicity bureaus in London, Paris and Berlin, the fruit is of no better quality than that grown in Lincoln County.

At the National Apple Show held in Spokane in December, 1908, the "Peach country," Lincoln County, for the first time came into direct competition with other widely advertised fruit districts of the state and obtained third prize in the World's Competition. Results were remarkable. W. E. Brayton of Peach, state horticultural inspector for that section, carried off first prize for the best 10 boxes Winter Banana apples, the award being 7 7-10 acres of land in Eden Orchards, near Sprague, valued at \$800, together with 100 apple trees from the Richland Nursery. Other first prizes won by the Hawk Creek country of which Peach is the central point, were as follows:

Best box Winter Banana apples, Felix Pugh.

Best 3½-tier Winter Banana apples, Felix Pugh.

Best Plate Exhibition: Ben Davis, J. R. Hill; Dutch Mignonne, W. E. Brayton; Fall Pippin, Iowa Blush, Missouri Pippin, Swaar and Wallbridge, J. R. Hill.

Second prizes, best plate exhibitions: Grimes Golden, Mammoth Black Twig and Gano, J. R. Hill.

Third and fourth prizes, best plate exhibitions: Willow Twig, J. R. Hill; Winter Banana, W. E. Brayton; Yellow Bellflower, Northern Spy, Rhode Island Greening, Gravenstein and Baldwin, J. R. Hill.

W. E. Brayton took fifth prize for the best plate exhibition of Jonathans.

Time passed in waiting on the growth of an orchard is by no means time thrown away. By cultivating small fruits and vegetables between the trees in a young orchard, or by raising poultry, one will find no difficulty in making a comfortable, independent living while developing a profitable orchard. In numerous instances in Lincoln County sufficient has been realized in this way to pay for the land. A commercial crop may be gathered from peach trees within three years from planting; from apple trees in from five to six years.

The successful fruit grower is a specialist. Consequently conditions for success, though easily learned, must be patiently observed in order to achieve the highest degree of success. Yet ordinary intelligence and industry will accomplish wonderful results. Let it be carefully noted by the reader that the cost of preparing fruit land, purchasing and planting trees in Lincoln County is much less than it is in other fruit sections of the state. To the question: "Can a competence be gained in fruit culture in Lincoln County?" the answer is emphatically, "Yes." But, then, in every business on earth much depends upon the man.

It is only fair to say that the present principal fruit section of Lincoln County is Orchard Valley. This is a district devoted entirely to fruit culture, and it lies in the north part of the county near the mouth of Hawk Creek. Peach is the central, postoffice, town. Around Peach are clustered about forty families who are, in the main, successfully directing their attention to the growing of apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plums, cherries and the smaller bush fruits.

These profitable fruit farms are limited in acreage but wonderfully productive. These are sandy bottom lands more than 1,000 feet below the upland wheat fields. Much of this land is susceptible to gravity irrigation, but as fine fruit as is grown anywhere is here produced without mechanical irrigation. Each recurring season Orchard Valley farmers ship carloads

of strawberries, apples, peaches and pears. The first crop of strawberries is marketable in June and July; in October a second crop matures. A few acres of fruit-bearing orchard are sufficient for one man, or the average family, to successfully manage. At present, along the river and canyon bottoms, there is yet considerable available fruit land which, while it may now be difficult to irrigate, will in time be supplied with ditches and planted to fruits and berries.

All of these fruit farmers are in comfortable circumstances, and their lands are yearly becoming more valuable.

While the past ten years has witnessed the greatest development in the Lincoln County fruit industry, Mr. Robert Neal was the first to engage in it, about 19 years ago, on the Columbia River. Not many years since the Orchard Valley flat was an open waste on which, the year round, ranged horses and cattle. Even then it was a beautiful spot, overlooking the Columbia and sheltered on both sides by timbered hills and grassy glades. Now this natural beauty is enhanced by elegant homes and fruitful orchards—scenes of thrift and enterprise. Altogether the Peach country is one of the most prosperous and happy neighborhoods in Lincoln County.

Two miles east of Sprague, on the line of the Northern Pacific railway, is Eden Orchards, another rapidly developing fruit section. By experts this soil has been pronounced as good as any in the State of Washington for orchard purposes. Still, throughout the entire county there is hardly a farm to be found which, for any length of time has been occupied, that does not possess its orchard sufficient not only for the wants of its owner, but also to enable him to add to his income by sale of fruit.

In summing up the fruit resources of Lincoln County it may be said that she has the record of standing third in the National Apple Show contests which were open to the world.

## CONCLUSION.

From whatever source Lincoln County has been investigated, the report, invariably, has been favorable. Nearly a decade since, long before the county had made the wonderful progress which it has, the Northern Pacific Bulletin said:

“While Lincoln County has never claimed to be a fruit country (which statement would not at present be borne out by the evidence), there is hardly a farm to be found which has been occupied any length of time, which does not possess its orchard sufficient not only for supplying the wants of its owners, but also to enable him to add to his income by the sale of fruit. Certain localities are especially famous for their fruit, the warm, sandy river bottoms where irrigation can be easily applied being utilized almost exclusively in this direction.



"As many as 10,000 quarts of strawberries have been taken off a single acre. Lincoln County is especially famous for its apples, which possess keeping qualities of a very high order. It is not unusual to find Ben Davis apples and Newton pippins from Lincoln County on the markets in good condition in June and July. Aside from its grain and fruits the county is noted for its dairy products, the native grass being extremely nutritious, while alfalfa is a very profitable crop. Poultry, also, is raised quite successfully, and the farmers are learning that the poultry yard can be counted upon to furnish a very considerable addition to their revenues. The farmer who knows how to handle bees is also sure of a handsome income from this source."

Nor is this county so largely composed of the most arable prairie land devoid of magnificent scenic attractions. Mr. George W. Curtis, the well-known writer for Chicago papers, has said:

"Hell Gate is where the waters of the Columbia River dash down through a rocky gorge, whose perpendicular walls rise hundreds of feet above the water's level. Here in the center of the stream are two giant pillars of rock, grim and foreboding; they stand like evil sentinels over this angry flood that sweeps irresistibly through the narrow gate at their feet. With a ceaseless roar the river forces its way through these gaps, tearing its waters into froth and foam and bearing the flakes like silent sails on toward the sea. Ere the confines of these spectral rocks are reached, the water, like a troubled spirit, recoils, leaps, bounds, circles and eddies—then, like a maddened beast, springs against the immovable walls of rock and loses itself in the seething maelstrom below."



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PROGRESS and attendant Prosperity of Lincoln County have not been forced. Attainment of these has been possible because of its natural advantages of fertility, access to the best markets and unusual facilities afforded for successful pursuit of nearly all branches falling under the general head, "Agriculture." Nature has supplied few regions more liberally than she has Lincoln County. Here you will find fertile fields which grow cereals, vegetables, forage and nearly all kinds of fruits. Nor is it necessary to transport these products to distant mills and factories. In time the fruits of her orchards will be properly cared for at home, as is already much of her wheat crop.

While there is at present an active and ready Eastern market, home preparation of Lincoln County's products is destined to give employment to thousands of her people, and the expense of transportation of raw products avoided. This will certainly secure to her the greatest share of the wealth which she produces and rapidly advance her in development and material prosperity.