

Earthquake 1866

The shock of the earthquake that was experienced here last week was also very sensibly felt at Fort Simcoe. It seems to have been much more severe at Simcoe than here.

--The Dalles Mountaineer, Dec. 14, 1866

Geology

Bibliographical

Yakima is entertaining this week two distinguished gentlemen whose presence here will no doubt conduct to the very material advantage of this section.

The enterprising people of Yakima have gone boldly ahead with the calm assurance that whatever was wanted that could not be found above the earth's surface was most certainly beneath it.

The government has come to our aid and sent men of science here who will direct our efforts. These gentlemen are professors, Israel C. Russell and I.S. Diller, geologists of note who are commissioned to make a geological survey with special reference to the location of coal and artesian water.--Yakima Herald, April 7, 1892.

Geology

The governmental geological survey party has been working around North Yakima for the past few days after zig-zagging across the country to the Columbia, down through the Horse Heaven country and over the reservation to Mt. Adams.

Mr. Storow informed the Herald representative that the surveys had been very complete. The artesian basin through the Moxee country has been found remarkably perfect, but this was not the case in the Horse Heaven district and the reservation where the formation was very much broken.

It is the opinion of the engineers that no artesian water will be found in the county and state well near Prosser and that further prosecution of the work is money thrown away.

Mr. ~~Storow~~ Storow states that the location must have been chosen by a person without the least knowledge of the conditions required.

From here the party will work up the Ahtanum to Soda Springs and then across country to Ellensburg, taking in the Natchez, Selah and Wenas valleys--Yakima Herald, May 12, 1892.

Geology

The investigations now being made in the Yakima valley by Professor Israel C. Russell of the United States geological survey promise to be productive of interesting knowledge concerning that ancient history and formation of the region.

While the fact was long ago established that the entire section lying north of the Blue mountains and between the Cascades and Rocky mountains formed in prehistoric days the bed of one of the great lakes which at that time almost entirely covered the western portion of the American continent, no authorized exploration of the ancient lake bed or classification of its fossils has ever before been attempted and it is small wonder that Professor Russell now finds it a most interesting field and the knowledge he gains from the closed leave of nature's book is the most valuable to scientists.

The time of this lake dates back to the younger days of the world when the great basin, including Utah and Nevada was covered with a vast body of fresh water; when the valley of Oregon and California formed the beds of immense sweet water lakes; when the mighty Colorado river had not yet carved out its awe-inspiring canyons but flowed majestically over a fertile plateau; when the Snake and Columbia rivers had not been formed and when the shores of these lakes were covered with a rank growth of semi-tropical vegetation and inhabited by monstrous animals unknown to mankind except through fossil remains.

Afterward, through the long centuries of the glacial period which crept down from the north destroying vegetation and driving animal life farther in the southward, these waters were transformed into vast icefields, but the records left by the former ages were not destroyed.

After the lapse of further centuries, when the lakes had been releas

Geology

Hon. Gardner G. Hubbard of Washington, D.C. and Major Powell, director of the U.S. geological surveys, will arrive in Yakima on Wednesday or Thursday of next week.

Major Powell, it will be remembered, won added laurels by being one of the three who made the famous and only known journey down the 250 mile canyon of the Colorado river.

There were nine of the party who started on the voyage of discovery.

Four turned back owing to the difficulties that presented; two were drowned ; by Major Powell and two companions braved every danger and surmounted every difficulty and finally pulled through all right.

Mr. Hubbard, as the Herald readers generally know, is largely interested in the Bell telephone and is the principal stockholder of the Moxee company--Yakima Herald, November 17, 1892.

Geology

Long geology and gold article in Herald, August 28, 1895.

The U.S. geological survey party, under the charge of George E. Hyde, has finished its work for the season in Kittitas county and gives the altitude of Ellensburg at 1,577 feet above sea level; Cle Elum 1,911 feet; Roslyn 2,222 feet; Liberty postoffice 2,417 feet; Mt. Stuart 9,470 feet; Mt Rainier 14,519 feet.

All past records place Mt Rainier's height at 14,444 feet which shows it is either growing or the elevations taken in the past have been wrong.

This places Rainier beyond question, the highest mountain in the United States, the height of Mt Shasta being 14,440 feet-Yakima Herald, Dec. 10, 1896.

The geological survey party which has been working in Kittitas county for some time past have moved camp to the upper Natcheez where the topographical surveys in this county will begin. The work will be continued all summer--Yakima Herald, July 1, 1897.

Referring to the bill he introduced for a \$50,000 public building in North Yakima Hon W.L. Jones said to a Republic Reporter Monday.

I think we shall be able to get through an appropriation in a year or two. There was no report of the public building committee made at the last session and this winter Tacoma, Seattle and Spokane will have the right of way. But Yakima's time will come.

"Did you accomplish anything of note in the way of irrigation legislation?" He was asked.

"We procured an appropriation of \$100,000 for a geological survey, a liberal part of which will be spent in this county in surveys of the arid and semi-arid portions. Prof. Newell, chief of the division of hydrography, formerly of Arizona, will be out here to

superintend the business, he informed me this season. Surveys will be made on the Antanum, Cowyche, Wenas and other tributaries of the Yakima and the practicability of diverting waters from the Natchez into other streams will be determined..."The Yakima Republic, July 29, 1900.

J.R. Woodley of Spokane has leased 1,000 acres of oil lands near Rosalia, including part of a townsite.

He has organized a local company to push prospecting and will have abundant capital to develop the properties if the expected oil showings are encountered--Yakima Herald, Jan 10, 1901.

Much excitement prevails at Spokane and Rosalia over the alleged discovery of natural gas and petroleum fields near the latter point. Professor Fulmer of the state agricultural college has begun a scientific investigation. Boring machinery has been sent for and the farmers think there are "millions" in it.

It is even asserted that the Standard Oil company has a large-sized finger in the pie--Yakima Herald, Jan. 3, 1901.

Ellensburg, March 19, 1908-The oil find craze struck this vicinity again a few days ago and caused considerable excitement. So far as the rumors can be traced there is nothing new in the situation.

Rev. Smith who is reported to have claimed to have found oil now denies he found oil but says he has hopes.

I.B. Taylor can boast of nothing more substantial than hopes. The only sign of an oil field is the deserted drill on the ranch of Benjamin Hicks which was once operated by the Kittitas Oil company.

Henry Landes, state engineer, stopped off in North Yakima on his way to the coast to visit the quarry site selected here for the rock crushing plant. In company with County Engineer W.J. McIntyre, Mr. Landes went out to the quarry site and informed himself on a few details wanted by the state board of control.

Mr. Landes came here from Walla Walla where he looked into the merits of that place for the second rock crushing plant to be established in the state. The Yakima Herald, July 28, 1909.

The United States Geological survey has just published a report on gas and oil prospects near Vale, Ore. and Nyssa in Malheur county, Ore. and near Payette and Weiser, Ida. by C.W. Washburn, geologist.

Active prospecting for gas and oil has been carried on in Malheur county for about three years. In 1909 seven companies were operating in the field, 15 wells had been drilled and drilling was in progress on eight new wells.

At one plant in Ontario a well contains gas in sufficient quantity to maintain 12 jets for lighting a house and to supply a cooking range but no well in the region has yet made a commercial output of gas or oil.

Mr. Washburne states that the field bears no geologic resemblance to any other oil or gas field in the U.S. but expresses the opinion that the chances for developing a gas field are good.

The report, which includes a map of the field, is contained in the survey's bulleting 431-A and may be obtained by applying to the Director, U.S. Geological Survey, Wash., D.C. Yakima Republic, Dec. 9, 1910.

Geology-Landmarks--Mountains
earthquakes.

Ellensburg, July 26--A very strange story comes from the high peaks of the Cascade mountains, telling of an occurrence that has set all the mountaineers to talking and thinking, too.

The strange tale was brought to town yesterday by C. M. Snow, the pioneer of the Teanaway and now a well known sheep man. He says that some time within the last two weeks one of the high peaks

that has stood like a sentinel at the head of Ingalls creek has split in pieces and tumbled into the canyon at its side.

Well up toward the summit is a ~~little~~ lake about 80 x 200 feet and of unknown depth which is familiar to all who know that country. This little lake is fed by the eternal snows above it and lies almost at the apex of the Cascade mountains.

A few days ago Mr. Snow went to the lake and having occasion to go further up, was surprised to find his way blocked by boulders, some large as a business block, lying in the trail. His first thought was that someone had put in a blast, but on going higher up he found that one of the great peaks, just above the little lake, had literally split and part of it had fallen toward the lake but did not block it.

It is his opinion that the remarkable upheaval was brought about by the great earthquake that was recorded a couple of weeks ago.. The Ellensburg Record, July 27, 1912.

How high are we here in North Yakima? is a question often asked and while many can approximate, very few know the exact figures.

According to data furnished by the U.S. Geological survey, North Yakima is 1070 feet above sea level. It is 70 feet higher than the Scudder ranch in the Moxee, where the government weather observatory for that valley is established.

All of the figures represent the altitude of places where weather readings are taken for the government.

The river falls considerably in the distance between here and Sunnyside which is 740 feet high. There is a drop of another hundred feet to Prosser and Kennewick has an altitude of only 368 feet.

With Seattle 123 feet and Tacoma 321 feet above the sea, the earth's crust which makes the Cascade range slopes down to its eastern side of the valley almost to sea level, again in the valley of the Columbia.

Going from North Yakima various points include:

Tieton 2,000; McComber's ranch 2,182; Russell's ranch 2870; Gold Creek 2,600;umping Lake 2,400. The

The altitude at the station at Fort Simcoe is 1427 and in the Cowiche 2,874. Spokane is 1,943 feet above the sea--The Yakima Herald, Nov. 27, 1912.

Currant Flats, Aug. 29--Credit for having found the first actual mountain oysters which were probably delectable morsels centuries ago goes to Joe Eberhardt, lookout at Quartz mountain and Pat Shea who packs supplies for the shepherders working for J. Sanders of Ellensburg.

These two men have found a bed of petrified oysters on top of Red mountain. At first they thought the formation merely rocks but on examining closely and breaking them open they found the tiny animals inside in a petrified state of preservation. The bed proved quite extensive and a number were gathered to be kept as curiosities.

Hence they came or how long they have been there is a matter of conjecture but Eberhardt and Shea now have evidence to substantiate their claims that the mountain oyster is an actuality--The Yakima Daily Republic, August 29, 1925.

End, Ore. April 24, 1926- Rock casts of large trees hurled to the earth and covered by a flood of lava probably a thousand years or more ago have been found on Paulina mountain, 25 miles southeast of Bend.

Some of the casts formed when a sea of molten lava crushed the old forest to the earth and chilled against the green surface of the giant pines are nearly 100 feet in length.

The basalt casts are hollow, the lava-encased trees having burned away the fiery rock chilled into a tree mask. One of the casts, that of a giant yellow pine bears in the interior traces of a lightning scar on the ancient tree. Persons crawling into have been able to trace this scar for more than 30 feet. Some of the tree casts are four feet in diameter..

The discovery of petroleum in the Natchez pass was made by prospectors sent out by Paul Schulze of the Northern Pacific Railway company. Every effort is being made by these men to keep the details of the find from the public, but that the genuine article has been found there can be no doubt. Additional pack saddles, provisions and other munitions for a longer stay in the mountains arrived the latter part of last week and the prospectors again departed for this wonderland which, in addition to the oil, is rich in anthracite coal, gold, silver, copper, iron and plumbago. The Natchez country alone is more than capable of making North Yakima one of the most prosperous on the Pacific coast-Yakima Herald, August 15, 1889 (Natchez spelling noticed for first time)

John Clemans has a quarry of fine sandstone on his place,
on the Wenas, which he proposes to develop. He will soon have some
of the stone hauled to Yakima for the inspection of builders. Mr.
Clemans has also a bed of excellent potter's clay on his ranch
which will one of these days prove of much value. June 28, 1889

It is not generally known but there are great beds of moss agate between North Yakima and the Columbia river. These were discovered by W.W. Minner who secured many specimens of this translucent stone as large as the palm of a hand and distinctly showing the vegetable formation within.

Yakima Herald, December 11, 1890.