

TOPPENISH

and the Yakima Indian Reservation

Issued by

The Toppenish Commercial Club

TOPPENISH, WASHINGTON

September 15, 1922

Toppenish and the Yakima Indian Reservation

The purpose of this little folder is largely invitational. Its mission is to extend a greeting to the reader and urge him to visit the City of Toppenish and investigate in his own behalf the remarkable district of which it is the trading and distributing center. The Toppenish Commercial Club has no lands for sale and no industries to promote. It is interested in the general welfare and development of the community it serves, and it is particularly concerned in urging upon all prospective homeseekers the desirability of personally looking over the district and securing all the facts at first hand.

No attempt at detail, therefore, will be made in this publication. The possibilities of the city and its surrounding territory will be discussed briefly and somewhat in a general way, with the hope that the reader who is interested may be induced to visit our community and verify the statements here presented and secure for himself such additional information as he may desire.

The City of Toppenish, chief center of the Yakima Indian Reservation, is located on the main line of the Northern Pacific Railway about midway of its course across the Reservation. Its population according to the 1920 census returns, was 3120, while local estimates place the number of its inhabitants at the close of 1922 at 3600. The gain during the period elapsing between 1910 and 1920 was 95 per cent.

Toppenish is in every respect a modern little American city. It has ten miles of paved streets, municipal water and sewer systems, public library, and is well served in the matter of street and residential lighting.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

A splendid system of public schools has been developed, including grade buildings and four year high school.

A new high school including class room, gymnasium, manual training and domestic arts units has been completed during the present year. The entire high school plant represents an investment of \$200,000.00, and is regarded as one of the most modern and complete structures of its kind in the Northwest.

The buildings are located in the center of a ten-acre campus which has been improved and beautified with broad sweeps of lawn, trees and shrubbery. Ample outdoor recreation facilities are provided for the students.

There are six church organizations in the city and five church buildings. A new church of the Methodist denomination to cost \$30,000.00 is now in course of completion. Other denominations represented are the Christian-Congregational, Catholic, Episcopalian, Christian Science and Adventists.

THE YAKIMA INDIAN RESERVATION.

The Yakima Indian Reservation occupies the major portion of the south half of Yakima county, and a small part of Klickitat County, Washington. It embraces in its entirety one million, one hundred thousand acres of land, ranging from the highly fertile valley sections, now rapidly being brought under cultivation, to the more rugged forest and mountainous districts, extending well up into the foothills of Mt. Adams. Its extreme dimensions are sixty-five miles east and west and thirty to forty miles north and south.

TRANSPORTATION.

The Reservation is traversed along its eastern border by the main

line of the Northern Pacific Railway, following a general northwesterly line from the southern border to Union Gap, the gateway to the upper valley.

Important branches of the Northern Pacific extend from Toppenish eastward to Sunnyside and Grandview and westerly from the same city to White Swan.

IRRIGABLE LANDS.

The irrigable lands of the Reservation comprise about 200,000 acres which have been assigned by the engineers of the Government for development purposes to the following units or projects:

The Yakima Reservation project containing about 120,000 acres.

The Toppenish-Simcoe project, adjacent to White Swan, containing about 25,000 acres.

The Satus project, in the southeastern portion of the Reservation, containing about 40,000 acres.

The Ahtanum project above Union Gap, containing about 10,000 acres.

SOIL.

The soil of the irrigated districts is composed largely of a mixture of ash or dust of volcanic origin, sedimentary deposits washed down from the mountains and surrounding hills and disintegrated basaltic rocks which through ages have undergone a gradual disintegrating process. Combined with accretions of decayed organic matter in varying quantities, it possesses great fertility, is remarkable for its moisture retaining qualities and is easily and readily tilled.

CLIMATE.

The climate of the region is characterized by long dry summers, moderately cold winters with a snow fall varying from a few inches to two feet. January is the month of snow and two to three weeks of sleighing and skating are about the average.

The growing season extends from April to October. The maximum summer heat occurs from July 1 to Aug. 15, but the absence of moisture from the atmosphere, operates against excessive discomfort from the heat, and the summer nights invariably bring a pleasing and invigorating coolness.

PRODUCTS AND YIELDS.

The chief products of the Reservation include all temperate zone and semi-tropical crops, but the chief mainstays of the district are alfalfa hay, potatoes, grains, sugar beets and orchard products, with dairying as a growing and profitable industry.

SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The Utah-Idaho Sugar Company has three factories in the Yakima Valley; one each at Toppenish, Yakima and Sunnyside. The Toppenish factory is the largest of the three, costing \$1,250,000.00, with a capacity of 650 tons of beets per day yielding 1800 to 2000 one hundred pound bags of refined, granulated sugar, equal in every way to the finest cane sugar and impossible to tell therefrom.

INDIAN ALLOTMENTS.

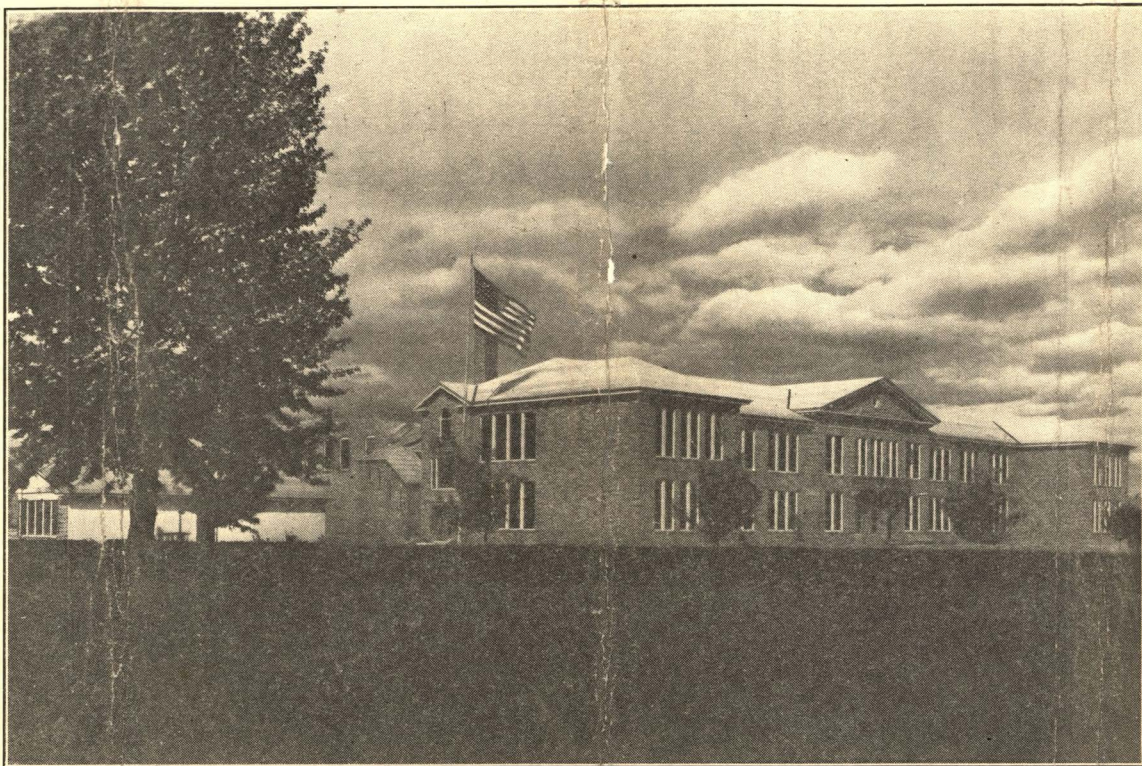
The irrigable lands were allotted to Indians in severalty, in tracts averaging eighty acres. Through the sale of deceased Indian lands or lands of competent Indians for which deeds have been issued, there has passed into the hands of the whites between forty and fifty thousand acres.

Lands of Indian allottees are leased through the agency at Fort Simcoe. Sales of the lands of deceased Indians are held several times each year, the tracts being sold after appraisal, under a system of sealed bidding.

Additional information will be gladly supplied upon application.

TOPPENISH COMMERCIAL CLUB.

Toppenish, Washington,
Sept. 15, 1922.



TOPPENISH HIGH SCHOOL

Class room unit in foreground. Gymnasium unit in rear. Cost of construction \$200,000.00.