

There is on display at Adkins' billiard hall samples of nicely matured ears of corn of three varieties and potatoes weighing a pound and a half a piece, grown by Mr. Webber in the Horse Heaven district, fifty miles southeast of here without irrigation and without cultivation, the seed having been put in the ground last spring since which time no attention was paid to the crop until harvest. We understand the crop was good on the average.

Horse Heaven comprises a region embracing several hundred thousand acres of land which lies very similar to the famous wheat lands about Centreville in eastern Oregon...

Up to the present year but few experiments had been made in farming in Horse Heaven, though it is now settling up tolerably fast and one gentleman has fall fallowed about 800 acres of for wheat.

The way to get there is to debark from the cars at Prosser and then take the direction given by one of Cummings & Durland's stage drivers--Geo. Steele, who says with reference to the stage road running up and down the Yakima Valley, "that end is the broad and easy way that leads to perdition--the other end goes to purgatory, but that straight and narrow road you see rising over the hill yonder goes to heaven--Horse Heaven."

In the early settlement of Walla Walla it was believed that nothing could grow along ~~old~~ except it was raised along the bottom lands, near the creeks, where irrigation was possible.

In the course of time an old gentleman who was freighting from Umatilla to the Boise mines became tired of hauling over the horrible road and concluded to turn out his animals at his camp on the site of the present beautiful little city of Weston. While

recuperating his stock there he concluded to plow a piece of the hillside and seed it to oats. While so engaged some of his friends asked him if he had gone crazy! And they assured him that oats could do nothing in that dry country adding, "They will all dry up."

The old gentleman is now a wealthy land holder at Weston and delights to tell how the oats did "drup up" when they attained a height of a little over his head and were loaded with heavy grain.

Today if a person gets up on the rolling prairie lands between Weston and Centreville he will behold the grandest wheat fields on the earth, extending much farther than human vision can reach.

And we are sanguine that in the near future Horse Heaven in Yakima county will not be excelled by the Weston and Centreville district--The Yakima Washington Farmer, Nov. 22, 1884.

Indian Corn

Signal--In an area embracing less than one-half of the Horse Heaven country over 2,000 acres have been planted with Indian corn this season...

---Times-Mountaineer, May 7, 1887

Horse Heaven

This great region lies on the west of the Columbia river. A large section of it is yet unsettled and only awaits the steady and enterprising farmer of the east to take possession of its lands and make it blossom as the rose. For some eight or ten miles back the land is somewhat broken and from here it becomes level and the eye can reach for miles and nothing can be seen except here and there a house, but tall waving bunch grass. Its productiveness is unlimited, but the scarcity of water prevents it from becoming populated more rapidly. Springs are numerous, which is a good indication of plenty of water though considerable depth will have to be gone before it can be reached. For the growth of trees it is unequalled as trees of immense size have been grown. For illustration, Captain Perkins has on his place a tree measuring some nineteen or twenty inches in circumference, which is but three or four years old. These trees are given no water except what nature provided for them, and moisture obtained from the ground. Abundant crops of wheat are produced. The Kelso brothers are farming on a large scale, farming several thousand acres every year. The wheat produced from this land is plump and well formed and saleable in any market at the highest prices. In locating a farm a man can locate in no better farming country than to pitch his tent in the Horse Heaven country. It will be but a short space of time, with the tide of immigration that will seek Washington territory this year, till this great region will be valuable. Quarter sections that can now be had for a song cannot, in a few years more, be purchased for several thousand dollars. So we say to those seeking homes, come to Horse Heaven country, that in a few years will be one of the richest agricultural countries in the territory-*Wallula Herald, February, 1889.

Horse Heaven

Much has been said concerning the country lying west of the Columbia river known as Horse Heaven.

Starting from the west side of the Columbia a gradual ascent is commenced which reaches some six or seven miles back where a plateau is reached, but somewhat broken in spots by small canyons. The nearer the summit of these hills the soil becomes more dark and less sage brush is seen. On the summit the soil is very dark, the best calculated for the growing of wheat and on this same land trees are produced in abundance. This broken range extends west for over 20 miles to what is called Badger spring. The eastern and western slopes of the Horse Heaven country is becoming populated rapidly.

Deeded land in this section ranges from \$5 to \$10 per acre. Government land is plentiful. The Horse Heaven country is about 70 miles long and 20 miles wide and comprises over 90,000 acres of good arable land, capable of producing over a million and one-half bushels of wheat yearly.

The soil of the eastern part of this region is similar to that of the western part. It is capable of producing cereals. The blue stem wheat is considered by a majority of the farmers as the most productive.

One great disadvantage the farmers are laboring under is the scarcity of water. The greater portion of them are compelled to haul water but we think this difficulty will be overcome. Owing to the many springs seeping from the ground in ravines, it stands to reason that water is in the ground, but what depth will have to be gone into.

Six miles west of Wallula is the place of Capt. Thos. Perkins. He has 480 acres of fine laying land as one would wish to gaze upon. The crop of wheat that he has sown shows every indication of producing abundantly. The finest timber culture in the Horse Heaven country, either in the eastern or western portion, is owned by Mr. Perkins.

The trees are in a thriving condition and average from eight inches in diameter, grown from seed planted six years ago. Among his trees he has one, locust, that measures 24 inches in circumference at the butt. Among his trees he has locust, maple, box elder and mulberry. He is planting out 6,000 young trees this spring.

One mile and a half west of Capt. Perkins is the farm of the Kelso brothers. These gentlemen are farming on an extensive scale. They have in this year 2,400 acres of wheat, a portion of it being sown last fall. They are making preparations to break 1,000 acres of sod this spring.

There is some difference in the western part. From Badger canyon you emerge upon an open plain; there being a grand view. For sixty miles to the west the eyes rests upon a level plateau which gradually slopes to the Columbia river to the south. Away in the distance is Mts. Hood, Adams and Rainier.

The country is yet new, the first settlement being made about six years ago. Water is scarce but springs are numerous.

Mr. Travis has on his farm trees that have an enormous growth in a short space of time. Crops can be put in and harvested without shadow of a fence. Rough lumber can be had at Cleveland, 40 miles distant, for \$7 and \$8 per M and at Prosser for \$14 per M. Wood is worth \$ per cord; coal \$5.75 per ton.

The pioneer of this country is S.M. Webber. He settled in this section in April, 1883 and had the choice of the country. He laid out the first road from Wallula to Prosser; has 320 acres of as fine land as can be found in Horse Heaven.Wallula Herald, March, 1889

The HorseHeaven Artisian Well-The county commissioners have made a supplemental contract with Thomas Corbett for the boring of an artesian well in the Horse Heaven section. Corbett is to begin work before the close of the present month.

The contract provides that the bore shall be eight inches in diameter at the start and if the formation of the ground through which the drill passes necessitates it may be reduced to six inches but no less. The contract with Corbett calls for boring to the depth of 300 feet for which he is to receive \$10 per foot for the first 100 feet, and \$5 per foot for the next 200 feet--Yakima Herald, November 14, 1889.

Horse Heaven

L.D. Lane of Kiona was in the city Wednesday and reports that the Horse Heaven and Kiona sections are anticipating great prosperity this year.

The crops and prices during 1891 were never better and this year there will be a largely increased acreage.

Mr. Lape has been farming the Beard place for several years past and says that he will have 1060 acres in grain this year and 2240 acres under cultivation before the end of the season, while the Kelso Bros. will have from 1500 to 1800 acres of crops--
Yakima Herald, February 4, 1892.

The reservoir at the Horse Heaven well is completed and the pumping machinery will at once be placed in working order for the accommodation of the settlers of that arid section--Yakima Herald, July 25, 1895.

Horse Heaven

The artesian well in Horse Heaven on the Bickleton-Prosser road and which cost the state and county some \$12,000 is after all proving of productive benefit to the farmers within a radius of eight miles.

A gasoline engine which requires sixty cents for fuel per day and run by one man operates a pump which brings the water from a depth of 400 feet. The man saves \$800 a year that he used to have to pay to have water hauled from the Yakima River..Goldendale Agriculturist--Feb. 13, 1896.

L.D. Lap of Kiona has just purchased a monster combined harvester and thresher which will be used in his big Horse Heaven wheat field. It will require 30 horses to pull the machine which cuts a 20-foot swath thr sing and sacking the grain as it goes--
Yakima Herald, July 30, 1896.

Kelso Bros. have ten sections of land in the Horse Heaven country and will harvest 35,000 bushels of wheat at least. They are building a warehouse at Badger on the N.P. railroad.

Mr. Kelso says the only thing Horse Heaven lacks is water by which he believes will be secured by means of wells. He has a project for the general establishment of wells throughout the country, underway and expects to make it a success.

Kiona, a little town on the railroad is situated as to draw the bulk of the Horse Heaven country trade. It is also connected with Sunnyside by a good bridge across the Yakima river.

Horse Heaven country is the base of operations for a number of Bonanza wheat growers. Some of the largest sheep men also reside there, W.H. Peatrose having 15,000 head. Last year 200 cars of wheat were shipped from the station and Badget which amount will be exceeded this year¹/₂--Yakima Herald, Sept. 22, 1898.

and at the same time the Yakima land office has reported
over 35,000 acres taken as horse ranges--the Walla Walla Union

Walla is becoming the doorway to the Horse Heaven country in Yakima, says residents of that town. Every day settlers are pouring through the place on their way to the government lands.

For years, since the time of the arrival of the white man, the vast table lands across the Columbia known as the Horse Heaven country have been used as stock range and thousands of horses have been raised on the fertile bunch grass lands..

But the settler has demonstrated that the country will grow grain as well as fatten cayuses and is therefore fit for a home.

Water and fuel are the two main drawbacks in the country.

The treeless plains contain little that can be utilized as firewood and moisture in quantities for practical uses lurks many hundreds of feet beneath the surface. However deep wells are being drilled and it is said that within a short time the settlers need have no fear from a water shortage.

Coal and wood can be shipped by railroad to Prosser and Kiona and transported to the farm houses in wagons.

A few farmers have resided in the Horse Heaven for a number of years and demonstrated that the land will produce hay and grain in paying quantities. But a peculiar thing is noticeable. Grangers plow their fields but once every two or three years. One of them said:

"The soil is too tight. It packs it to plow it and we get just as good if not better results by planting our grain on the ground with a drill. The yield of volunteer wheat is generally good. In threshing with a combined harvester enough grain is generally shattered to make a good stand of fall wheat. The winters are not severe, as a rule and there is practically no danger of freeze-out."

The Horse Heaven country contains over a million acres of land

Horse Heaven volunteer wheat is doing poorly this year. In some instances it wouldn't average over one sack per acre. Many of the ranchers will not even bother to cut the wheat.

One hundred persons living along the proposed rural route from Prosser to Mabton and return have affixed their signatures to the application. Tuesday the papers were forwarded to Senator Levi Ankeny who will endorse the application and forward the same to the department at Washington for final action--Prosser Record, August 5, 1903.

Horse Heaven

An open meeting was held at the Fairview schoolhouse in the Horse Haven (copy) district in Benton county last Friday, the object of which was to discuss the question of changing the name of Horse Heaven to something more euphonious and that would identify that section more closely with Prosser.

The movement was started by some of the residents of the Fairview district but the business men of Prosser are opposed to the change. Some of them attended the meeting and urged that no change be made.

They argued that the country is becoming widely known throughout the Northwest as a wheat raising section is down on the maps as Horse Heaven and that to change the name now would result in confusion and the loss of advertising.

Horse Heaven was give its present name in 1880 by James Kinney of Prosser the first settler here, who is still a resident of this city. He had lost his horses and after hunting for them for some time climbed a big hill opposite Prosser and found them grazing on the broad plain sloping from the crest of the hill to the Columbia river. Mr. Kinney, observing for the first time the fine feeding ground, naturally concluded that it was a heaven for horses, hence the name, Horse heaven.

The district is about 100 miles long from east to west with average width of over 20 miles. Practically every foot of the land is now taken, about one-fourth of it being in wheat. The annual precipitation is about 12 inches; the soil is very rich and crop failures are unknown. The Prosser Bulletin, May, 1905.

James Kinney, who has made so much trouble for Yakima county by fencing in the Horse Heaven road and who was forced to open it by a court mandate is fixing for a scrap with Benton county.

It is claimed that he has again ~~decided~~ fenced in the road and travelers are forced to open gates to get through.

Mr. Kinney is quite energetic, whether he is right or wrong. The story is told that he disliked the NP going across his land and one day he tore up some of the rails and dumped both them and tie ties in the river--The Prosser Record, Sept. 1905.

Horses to British Columbia

A Mr. Nelson, from British Columbia, has been here several weeks buying horses for that market. He started out during the week with several hundred head.

--Walla Walla Union, May 20, 1876

Livestock

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Kittitas county enjoys the reputation of having more fine horses than any other county in the northwest , and for this proud distinction she is largely indebted to Charles I. Helm, the well known horseman.

This gentleman has just returned from Wayne, Illinois, where he purchased a earload of Percheron stallions, which he says are a better average than any shipment he has ever made before.

This is born out in the opinion of Mr. Dunham, the proprietor of Oakl Lawn farm where the horses were purchased. (W.W. Dunham) Ellensburg Capital, March, 1891

George Dorfell has purchased the Kentucky stallion, Billie Harper, and this splendid animal now graces his stock farm on the Ahtanum-- Yakima Herald, March 12, 1891.

Horses

Of about 300 horses brought in to be inspected by Doc Plummer who was in Yakima last week for the purpose of buying animals for government use in Montana, only eighty-three were held over for closer scrutiny and but five were eventually purchased.

Four of these brought \$60 each and one sold for \$50. There were some very sorry looking equines paraded by the buyer--Yakima Herald, July 25, 1895.

L.G. Powell of North Yakima is in Pendleton for the purpose of purchasing eight or ten cars of hogs to ship to the Montana market. He will dispose of them at Helena and Butte and send out the consignment over the Washington and Columbia rail road and the Northern Pacific

Mr. Powell is associated with his brother in an enterprise which is rather unique. His plan of operation is ingenious and interesting. The enterprise consists of shipping horses to Honolulu and the two Powells have engaged in this business for the past 10 years and an average of 500 horses a year have been sent to Honolulu and other towns on the several Sandwich islands.- Yakima Herald, Dec. 12 1895.

Horses

Robert Highland, an old Akaska miner is in the city buying pack horses for use in the Yukon country--Yakima Herald, May 6, 1897.

Horses

Powell Bros. are buying horses to be used for packing in Alaska. They want animals weighing from 1,000 to 1,150 pounds. They shipped one car from this point last week--Yakima Herald, July 1, 1897.