

The principal cities in the north-west are St. Paul, Milwaukee, Omaha, Salt Lake City, and Portland, Oregon.

LAND.—Government lands, open for settlement, are granted to actual settlers free, under conditions they reside upon and cultivate them. Applicants must be citizens, or persons of foreign birth who have declared their intention to become such, and over the age of 21, if single or the head of a family. To such persons 160 acres is granted.

The Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway, the Northern Pacific Railway, and other companies owning lands throughout the country, have large tracts for sale at prices varying from 10s. per acre upwards, according to quality and location. These lands may be purchased on credit on the following terms:—One-sixth of the purchase money to be paid down; the balance in five equal annual payments, with interest at 7 per cent.

CLIMATE, SOIL, AND PRODUCTIONS.—The average summer temperature of Minnesota and Dakota is similar to that of the Atlantic States, though it is somewhat colder in winter. The air is dry, pure, and very healthy. Malarial diseases, that are common to the more southerly states, are almost unknown here. In the States of Oregon and Washington, on the Pacific coast, the climate is not so dry, and resembles more that of Great Britain than any other part of the American Continent. Over a large portion of the country the soil is good, but in some parts it is more diversified, and in sections rocky and barren. It produces large crops of wheat and other cereals, as well as root crops of various kinds, apples and other fruits. Much of the country is covered with bunch grass, upon which cattle fatten, and keep in good condition. There is a large area of this kind of land, particularly in Montana, which is considered one of the best grazing countries in the world.

MINERALS AND TIMBER.—Coal is found in many places along the line of the Northern Pacific Railway. Gold and silver have been successfully mined for some years in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Iron, tin, copper, and limestone are also found. Timber scarce over a large portion of the country, but tree-planting is receiving every encouragement under the "Tree Culture Act." In the States of Washington and Oregon forests of excellent timber of large size are found, and the lumbering operations in these States are extensive and important.

MANUFACTURES AND EXPORTS.—The manufactures consist principally of the products of saw, flour, quartz, and woollen mills, foundries, machine shops, and works for canning fish. The exports are horses, cattle, sheep, wool, hides, provisions, breadstuffs, iron, lumber, canned fish, leather, and fruits.

AVERAGE RATE OF WAGES, COST OF LIVING, &c.—In Montana, Oregon, and Washington the rate of wages for every description of labour is high. Farm hands receive from £5 to £7 per month by the year, and from £10 to £12 per month during the harvest months, with board and lodgings. Women are scarce, and female servants get from £5 to £10 per month. Skilled workmen, from 12s. to 18s. per day; and miners, about 14s. a day. Board and lodging is high, and costs from 24s. to 30s. per week. Further east, in the States of Minnesota, Dakota, and Iowa wages are not so high, but the necessities of life cost less. Farm hands receive from £3 to £5 per month, and servant girls from 30s. to 40s. per month.

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