

took the cars for Weiser, of which I shall speak in my next.

VI.

We took the train from Ontario to Weiser, where we were met by the citizens and properly provided for, and after dinner most of our company rode out to look over the country and returned in the evening bringing limbs with the fruit adhering to them, intending to take them home with them to show that the capabilities of this country for fruit growing had not been over-stated, but finding that the fruit would loose off in the journey, we were contented to substitute some good photographs of the same thing for the original. There is no doubt but for fruit culture this country can have few rivals, though much of it is yet undeveloped.

Irrigation is obtained from the Weiser, a branch of the Snake river, which from appearances will afford an abundant supply for many years to come.

Land under irrigation is sold for twenty-five dollars per acre, which includes a perpetual water right, but subject to an annual maintenance fee. This town being situated on the Snake river is noted for its fish, and particularly its sturgeon, of the size of which many fabulous tales are told, weighing as much as 1,100 pounds, but as we were not favored with a sight of the living reality, we were obliged to content ourselves with a photographic view of one, which lying in front of a brick wall, we were able to compute its length as eleven feet. These fish I am told, when cured and smoked, finds a ready sale in the mines as "smoked hallibut" but I think anyone who has seen a genuine fish of the latter kind would not be so easily deceived, nor do I think it can be the same as our eastern sturgeon, which I have seen many times jump nearly six feet out of the water of the Delaware, falling like a log on the surface with considerable noise. It seems to me that the fish I have described would be unable to perform such feats.

Having now attained the northern limit of our trip, we began to retrace our steps, and our next stopping place was at Payette, which we had passed in going up. This is situated near a river of the same name, a branch of the Snake river, and from which the water is obtained for irrigation. After resting we were taken out for a partial view of the surrounding country, which from having been longer developed than some other parts gives evidence of the results. We were taken through the nurseries of Whitney Bros. and Tooley, and saw many varieties of shade and fruit trees growing very luxuriant, also white, black and English walnuts as well as the American sweet chestnut, these last in bearing condition, though not set out, being the first we have seen. The health and beauty of the fruit trees in the latter nursery was quite noticeable, and also his system of irrigation, which though not new or infrequent, was here carried out to perfection. The latter passed along the head of the field, from which opposite each row tubes were placed made by nailing four boards about two inches wide together and fastening a cover at one end with a screw, so that it could open or shut by turning, thus saving much time to the operator and enabling him to control the supply of water with ease, for I found that too much water sometimes produces as bad results as too little.

On this trip we passed a very fine field of corn, and as this is not considered a corn country it is the more remarkable, but of this I shall have more to say hereafter. In the evening we had a reception at our hotel, being called upon by the prominent citizens of the place with their wives, and we had a very enjoyable time. The next morning we went out to visit the colony of New Plymouth and its surroundings, and here we found a most delightful society composed of persons of temperate habits, mostly