

is near the river Spokane, under the direction of Messrs. Eels and Walker, sixty miles south of Colville.

At Waiilaptu there are two houses, each of one story, built of adobes, with mud roofs, to insure a cooler habitation in summer. There are also a small saw-mill and some grist-mills at this place, moved by water. All the premises look very comfortable. They have a fine kitchen-garden, in which grow all the vegetables raised in the United States, and several kinds of fine melons. The wheat, some of which stood seven feet high, was in full head, and nearly ripe; Indian corn was in tassel, and some of it measured nine feet in height. They will reap this year about three hundred bushels of wheat, with a quantity of corn and potatoes. The soil, in the vicinity of the small streams, is a rich black loam, and very deep. The land fit for cultivation along these streams does not, however, amount to more than ten thousand acres. This quantity is susceptible of irrigation, and in consequence can be made to yield most luxuriant crops. In many parts of it, a natural irrigation seems to take place, owing to the numerous bends of the small streams, which almost convert portions of the land into islands. These streams take their rise in the Blue Mountains, about forty miles east of Wallawalla, and are never known to fail. The climate is very dry, as it seldom rains for seven or eight months in the year. During the greater part of this time, the country, forty miles north and south of this strip, has an arid appearance. There are large herds of horses owned by the Indians, that find excellent pasturage in the natural hay on its surface.

There is a vast quantity and profusion of edible berries on the banks of the streams above spoken of, consisting of the service-berry, two kinds of currants, whortleberry, and wild gooseberries: these the Indians gather in large quantities, for their winter supplies.

At the time of Mr. Drayton's visit, there were at the mission only fourteen Indians, including men, women, and children. Those who usually reside here had gone to the Grande Ronde to trade, a distance of twenty-five miles.

The Grande Ronde is a plain or mountain prairie, surrounded by high basaltic walls. This is called by the Indians, "Karpkarp," which is translated into Balm of Gilead. Its direction from Wallawalla is east-southeast, and the road to the United States passes through it. It is fifteen miles long, by twelve wide; and is the place where the Cayuse, Nez Percé, and Wallawalla Indians meet to trade with the Snakes or Shoshones, for roots, skin lodges, elk and buffalo meat, in exchange for salmon and horses.

Mr. Drayton met with an old Indian at Waiilaptu, who was pointed