

tion of its breadth, forming very much the same kind of trench as the Columbia would leave, if it forsook its present channel.

From the observations subsequently made at the lower end of the Grande Coulée, there is, however, reason to believe that it was at one period the bed of the Columbia. The fact of there being large boulders of granite at its lower or south end, while there is no rock of similar kind except at its north end, would warrant the conclusion that they had been brought from the upper part of it. There were a great number of stones, having the appearance of being water-worn, lying in its bed, at the south end, as if they had been brought down by the current of a rapid stream.

The Coulée is too much impregnated with saline matter to permit crops of grain to be raised on it; but it would be admirably adapted for the raising of cattle and sheep, there being abundance of water and plenty of good grass here, and for twenty miles on each side of it.

They left the Grande Coulée by passing up the east cliff or bank, at a place where it was accessible for horses, and which was much stained with sulphur. Soon afterwards, they were overtaken by Mr. Maxwell, from Okonagan, which place, although twenty-five miles distant, he had left in the morning. They rode five miles farther, and encamped at a small pool. Mr. Maxwell was kind enough to supply them with two horses, which enabled all the party to mount again.

On the 13th, they started at an early hour, and passed over a gently-rolling prairie country, affording excellent sheep-pasture, but entirely destitute of trees. During this day, Lieutenant Johnson met with another untoward accident: on getting off his horse, he neglected to tie him, and the beast ran off to overtake the rest of the party. The consequence was, that the artificial horizon was broken to pieces, with many other articles contained in his saddle-bags. After travelling fourteen miles, they reached the "Coulée des Pierres," where the prairie terminated. This has features somewhat similar to those of the Grande Coulée, the rocks being basaltic and precipitous. They passed through the Coulée for two miles, when, turning at right angles, two more miles brought them to the Columbia, whose banks were here thickly wooded.*

On the 14th, after pursuing the same general course as the river for four miles, over spurs of hills, they reached the Spokane, which was three hundred feet broad at its mouth, but which, like the Columbia, was at the time much swollen. Opposite to the mouth of the Spokane, there are rocks in the Columbia, beneath the surface of the

* On the banks were found a singular species of Trillium, almost stemless.