

form the *Columbia River*, which, having found a pathway down the *Cascade Mountains* and through the *Coast Ranges*, enters the Pacific Ocean. The course of the main stream separates Washington from Oregon.

10. Idaho and the eastern half of Washington and Oregon occupy the northern part of that great interior table-land that we crossed in Utah and found so barren. But here the great mountain ranges north of the Sierra Nevada are less high and are much broken, and they allow warm winds, laden with moisture, to sweep over them far into the interior. Hence there is abundance of rain, and the soil is productive.

11. In northwestern Washington, a wide break through the Coast Ranges lets the water of the ocean flow into the inner valley, and the lowest lands are covered. Thus is formed *Puget Sound*, full of beautiful forest-covered islands. There are many large bays and excellent harbors, along which are busy towns and cities. In Oregon, instead of bays and harbors, with fine sites for cities, the valley is drained by the *Willamette River*, and the largest cities are along its course. Extensive forests of pine and cedar cover vast areas. West of the Cascade Mountains, in particular, is one of the richest lumber districts in the United States.

12. In all this northern belt of States, the largest numbers of people are along the lines of railroad, opening to them the distant markets. The trains carry away not only metals, but vast quantities of wheat, cattle, and wool; for here, again, we begin to see vast wheat farms and grazing lands, such as we saw in North Dakota, but lost sight of when we entered the mining districts of Montana.