

EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES

In a great and growing commonwealth such as Washington, it is natural to suppose a highly developed system of public education will be found, and it may be stated that no matter how high the expectations of the newcomer may be fixed in this particular, he will not suffer disappointment.

The common school system is conducted under the general direction of the State Board of Education and of the State Superintendent of Schools, and the courses of study as a rule, are uniform throughout the state. Each district however, has its own officers and retains control over its own local affairs.

The enabling act, admitting the Territory of Washington to statehood, provided a grant of public lands for common school purposes which approximates two and one-quarter million acres. This land the state offers for sale or lease, and the proceeds constitute a permanent and reducible fund which is invested in good interest bearing securities for the benefit of the schools. The interest on the fund alone can be used. It is estimated that when the common school lands have all been disposed of, the total amount of the fund will exceed \$25,000,000.

At present the schools are largely maintained through the direct taxation of property, and it may be said that there is no community in the state where a good common school facilities are not provided. In all the large cities and towns of the state high schools are maintained and thirty-one of these institutions now issue diplomas acceptable for admission to the University of Washington.

For the purpose of higher education the state has established the above named institution at Seattle; the College and Experiment Station at Pullman, and State Normal Schools in the cities of Bellingham, Ellensburg and Cheney. Other state educational institutions are schools for the deaf and blind at Vancouver; the state training school at Chehalis, and the school for defective youths at Medical Lake. All of these institutions are conducted in a highly efficient manner with results that are contributing materially to the uplifting of the standard of citizenship of the state. Application to officers of any of the above will secure information desired in relation to the courses offered, terms of admission, etc.