

## THE WEST WITHOUT CALIFORNIA

## WASHINGTON

Washington and Oregon, the two states that complete the Pacific Coast of the United States between California and Canada, are both schizoid territories. The Cascade Range runs north and south like a spine through both states, about a quarter of the way along their west-to-east dimension. On the western, maritime side, where the ocean is cooled by the Japan Current, it rains—a fact that provides for many well-worn jokes about the weather. The Coast Ranges and the parallel Cascade Range are heavily forested. In the well-watered valleys the trees grow large and the grass is green. On the Olympic Peninsula of Washington may be found the only rain forest in the United States. But on the eastern side of the mountains it does not rain.<sup>1</sup> The Cascades, which rise as high as 14,000 feet, make an effective barrier to the wet weather coming in off the Pacific, so the whole of eastern Washington and eastern Oregon alike lies in a rain shadow. Much of the country is essentially desert. It is nevertheless fruitful desert, if one can bring water to it; eastern Washington, since the carrying out of the Columbia Basin project for power and irrigation, has water. The hills that lie athwart the Columbia River in the southern-central part of Washington run east and west, so they present many gentle south-facing slopes providing good air drainage (important protection against frost) and excellent exposure to the sun in this northern latitude. The soil is a sandy loam or silt loam allowing deep root penetration; it is hostile to phylloxera, so the vines can grow on their own roots. Summer temperatures may rise over 100 degrees Fahrenheit; winter temperatures may sink be-