

have been as nearly blown to pieces as we could be. One of the engineers let the boilers get empty; and just as he was going to let in a supply of cold water I happened to see it, and shouted out in time to save them from bursting; but it gave me such a turn I have not yet got over it."

"I, too, shuddered, and thanked God that the danger was past. Slowly we plowed our way homeward, having continually to work the pumps; and very hard and laborious work it was, in consequence of their being so choked with the swollen wheat. I noticed, too, that the captain and first mate seemed continually uneasy. I at length ventured to ask why, and learned, to my great fear, the cause. They dreaded that the wheat would swell so much from the water that had got among it, that it would damage the ship."

"Christmas Day—At sea. All of us had fondly hoped to have spent this day at home amidst friends and relatives. That great home day of all Christians. Alas! our good tidings of joy were sadly dimmed of their brightness, while we could not but be thankful that we were so mercifully spared to see another Christmas day at all. Toward night of this day the wind freshened once more into a fierce gale. The sea tossed the poor ship high and low, and we were in great danger. And our friends at home—warmly assembled at the Christmas fire, watching the bright sparks of the Yule log, partaking of the Christmas feast, all the more cheerful and merry Christmas, some few rearing wind outside their windows—were, perhaps, at that very moment wishing us, their dear friends, a merry Christmas; some few breathing a prayer for those then out on the raging sea."

Six long tedious weeks that Christmas voyage lasted, and we were weary in our waiting of previous. Many an anxious look had been cast for our arrival; many a prayer breathed from lips, the outpourings of honest, half-fearful, half-hopeful. At length we sighted the northern coast of Ireland, and the wild, rocky islets which bound the Irish Channel. How thankful we should have been but four weeks before to have sighted the most barren of the lot! We passed the Mull of Cantyre, with its light-house becoming its homeward, and gladly steamed along the Frith of Clyde. Here again the fog assailed us and became so dense that we had carefully to feel our way along. Carefully, however, as we went, we grounded forward. The steamer ran her bows upon a sandbank, and there we stuck. "At any rate, old Dad," I said, "it is not a case of sinking this time. We cannot very well get any worse."

"No," said the captain, who overheard the remark, "but she may break her back!" ordering at the same time a boat to be lowered and soundings to be carefully taken all around her. To our satisfaction we found the water very little deeper at the stern of the vessel; but, though we waited for high tide, and put on all power the steamer had, we could not move. At length the purser was landed in a boat, and, going to a farm house, procured a horse, and rode on to Greenock, where he obtained a couple of steam traps and sent them to our assistance. At length we arrived, and once more placed our feet on the granite pier at Greenock.

"Thank God!" was the exclamation fervently uttered from one and all as we climbed the steps and trod the earth beneath our feet.

Thus far all the steered passengers had shared all the dangers of the voyage; and we all agreed for the day or two we should be in Glasgow, still to keep together; and so we very quietly returned to our quarters, yet evident gratification, of the land-ward of the inn to which we betook ourselves.

After a hearty supper, and when all were all around the fire, and, lighting our pipes, talked over the late perils; and to show what influence our recent escape still had over us, with the exception of the purser, who very quietly retired to bed, we all drank from the effects of Scotch ale and whisky, and Andy, who got, not drunk, but excited, and wanted to fight us all round just for the fun of the thing. With these two exceptions, we all retired very gravely, soberly and thankfully to rest. Old Dad, standing up just as we were about to separate, said, very solemnly:

"Then are they glad because they are at rest; and so the Lord will, and they will be glad where they would be. Oh that men would there fore praise the Lord for his goodness, and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men!"

So ended my Christmas voyage across the Atlantic.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, W. T.

BY DAYTON

(Our Special Correspondent.)

The task of giving a description of Ping county after the Governor vetoed the bill creating that county would be a useless one. The same scope of territory and portion of Walla Walla county has now been set off as a county by the name of Columbia, with the town of Dayton as county seat. The new county, as it is now bounded, is a vast tract of excellent farming, grazing and timbered country, leaving the old county of Walla Walla a large and populous one yet. The county of Columbia is about sixty miles in length, and as to width I am unable to state, but it embraces the grand and fertile valley lying between Snake river and the Blue Mountains, and it is safe to say that the strip of actual farming land, which will equal any wheat land of Oregon or California, is at least thirty miles wide. Thirty by sixty of farming land will, if spread out on a map of equal distances, cover the real farms of any two counties in the State of California. As for the extent of farming land in the counties of Oregon, I cannot speak.

The natural features of this county consist of narrow creek valleys, or bottoms, from one-half to one and one-half miles wide, the creeks being skirted with cotton wood and other timber and high, rolling prairies of black, rich-looking sandy land. These creek bottoms, generally, are settled with apparently old farms, while the high prairie lands are scarcely touched as to farms or settlement. The high lands, however, have been thoroughly tested, and are found to produce heavy crops of wheat, barley and oats.

The town of Dayton is a beautifully situated village. It is on an almost level plat

of sandy land at the junction of two branches of the Tucia river or creek. There are about one hundred houses in the town proper, inhabited either for business or residences. The river running through it is a rapid, clear stream, and capable of running any amount of machinery. Run by this water-power are a splendid flouring mill, owned by Mr. Wait; a planing mill, a large and profitable woolen factory, and other valuable enterprises. There are two large stores of general merchandise, one stove and tin store, one drug store, one large wagon-maker's shop, many smaller establishments of the same kind, several blacksmith's shops, one good livery stable an excellent hotel, a butcher shop, two attorneys and two physicians. Under the law creating Columbia county, it is to be organized on the 1st of January, 1876. The election of county officers will take place between now and that time.

We expect soon to have a paper published in Dayton, when we can exchange views with more ease with you and other papers.

With all we have heard of the large pumpkin of the Sound country and the great turnip of Oregon, the Dayton vicinity is still in advance in the growth of enormous vegetables. We satisfied you that our Ruta-Baga turnip beat yours in weight. Now we have a common white turnip that measures in circumference 3 feet 1 inch and weighs 30 lbs. Beat that, and we will look around and see if we can't come again.

FOR THE WEST SHORE.

WHATCOM COUNTY, W. T.

BY EDWARD ELDRIDGE.

As there has been a steady stream of people travelling to the Pacific coast, both from the eastern portion of the continent and from Europe, within the last few months, far exceeding the average number in former years, most of whom come with the intention of remaining; and as many of them will doubtless see your valuable paper, will you permit me through your columns to give a brief description of Whatcom county, no portion of this coast offering greater inducements to those in search of home.

Whatcom county, the northwestern portion of Washington Territory, is about 50 miles from north to south, and about 150 from east to west. About one-third of this (the western portion) is rich agricultural land, unsurpassed in Washington Territory, being a rich loam resting upon a heavy clay subsoil. The eastern portion is in the Cascade Mountains, covered with some of the finest timber in the world, and rich with coal, iron and other minerals. A spur of the mountains reaches the water at Bellingham Bay, south of which is the valley of the Skagit, and north of which is the Nootka valley, or, more properly speaking, the valley of the Fraser, as the land between the aforesaid spur of mountains and Fraser river in British Columbia is chiefly level table land.

The Skagit river is the largest river in Washington Territory, and when cleared of obstructions, is capable of steamboat navigation for seventy miles. About eight miles up from its mouth is a jam of about a mile long, which completely blocks the river and retards settlement above the jam. Between the mouth of the Skagit and Bellingham Bay there are from forty to fifty thousand acres of marsh land or tide flats. A large portion of these lands have been dyked and cultivated, and are now considered as the garden of the Territory. There are hundreds of thousands of acres of rich agricultural land in this valley open to settlers, but, like other portions of the Territory, it has the disadvantage of being within the limits of the withdrawal for the N. P. R. R., where a homesteader can only have eighty acres and a pre-emptor must pay \$2.50 per acre. North of the spur of mountains reaching to Bellingham's Bay this disadvantage does not exist, as it is

beyond the railroad limits, and while the land is as good and easier of access, a homesteader can obtain 160 acres, and a pre-emptor pays only \$1.25 per acre. This part of the county is rapidly settling up, but there is room for thousands more.

In addition to the advantages the farmer can obtain here, no part of Washington Territory has better fields for the investment of capital than this. No county in the Territory has more or better timber than this, and yet there is not a saw-mill within the county. There are some fine water-powers here, and sites for steam mills on the front can be had gratis. A grist mill is greatly needed, and a woolen mill would be a lucrative investment.

Three miles back from Bellingham Bay is Whatcom Lake, about twelve miles long and averaging over two miles wide. This lake is 300 feet above the level of the bay. It has but one outlet, which empties into Bellingham Bay. There are upwards of a dozen first-class water-powers along this creek. The value of these water-powers, situated on a stream emptying into a fine harbor, when the Territory becomes populated, can be imagined by any intelligent mind.

There is a fine opening here for a manufactory to make sugar from sugar beets; also for a brewery or distillery. Every kind of clay can be found here, and the manufacture of earthenware would soon be a profitable business. Shipbuilding will soon be extensively carried on, on this coast, and Bellingham Bay can compete with any other place for advantages in that line.

We have plenty of wood, plenty of water, and the purest kind of air. Few places in the world possess as many of the elements necessary to constitute a pleasant home as this.

INFORMATION FOR IMMIGRANTS

In order to enable immigrants arriving in this State to obtain suitable lands and farms for settlement immediately after their arrival in Oregon, the publisher of THE WEST SHORE caused the following advertisement to be inserted in all the leading country papers:

Important Notice.

"Farmers and others having improved or unimproved farms to let or for sale can have them advertised free of charge in THE WEST SHORE, an eight-page monthly illustrated paper published at Portland. State location of farm, what improvements, price asked, name of owner, and where to inquire. Address: 'Publisher West Shore, Portland, Oregon.'"

Below will be found the answers received to the advertisement. The publisher of THE WEST SHORE is not a real estate or land agent, and therefore in no way undertakes the sale or negotiation for sale of any of these lands, nor does he verify the accuracy of the statements made therein, but refers purchasers to the owners or agents of same.

All bona fide owners of lands, who wish to sell or rent the same, can have them advertised free of charge in these columns.

Railroad Lands in Oregon.

The Oregon & California R. R. Company have a large grant of land from the United States Government, which they sell on very liberal conditions at the low price of \$1.25 per acre, payable in United States currency. The purchaser can pay cash, in which case he will be allowed a discount of ten per cent. on the purchase price, or he can have ten years' time in which to make up the same by small annual payments, with interest at seven per cent. per annum. In this case the purchaser pays down one-tenth of the price. One year from the sale he pays seven per cent. interest on the remaining nine-tenths of the principal. At the end of the second year he pays one-tenth of the principal and one year's interest on the remainder, and the same at the end of each successive year until all has been paid at the end of the ten year.

Government Lands.

Although surveys have been carried on for many years, vast tracts of public lands still remain unsurveyed. More government land is, however, now in the market than is likely to be taken up for a long time to come. There are three land offices in the State, located respectively at Oregon City, Roseburg, and La Grande (in Eastern Oregon), which afford the usual facilities to settlers wishing to avail themselves of the homestead and pre-emption laws. Under the "Homestead Law," every head of a family, male or female, or single man over twenty-one years, a citizen of the United States or having declared his intention to become such, can enter, on payment of the registry fees, ranging from seven to twenty-two dollars, eighty acres of any of the lands reserved by the government within the limits of the railroad grants, excepting lands bearing gold, silver, platinum or copper, and one hundred and sixty acres if the claim is situated outside of the latter. After five years bona fide residence upon and improvement of the land, the Government will give the claimant a regular title. Under the "pre-emption laws," persons possessing the same qualifications as claimants under the homestead law, may "enter" at a land-office, on payment of a fee of \$2.00, establish a pre-emption right, that is, a right to take a tract of eighty acres, if within the limits of a railroad grant, or one hundred and sixty acres, if without, whenever the land shall be offered for sale by the Government at \$2.50 per acre in the former, and at \$1.25 per acre in the latter case.

LIST OF LANDS FOR SALE OR RENT.

Benton County. 29 Acres, 10 miles south of Corvallis, well improved; will raise from \$500 to \$200 bushels of wheat annually. Terms, one-quarter down, balance in installments to suit purchaser. Address, JAMES BRUCE, Corvallis. 25 Acres, next to Monroe Corner, with town-site on the southwest. A comfortable location,

with house and barn. Price, \$30 per acre. \$3000 down, balance on time to suit purchaser. J. LOUMIS, Monroe.

151 Acres one-fourth mile south of Monroe. House, barn and orchard, nearly all fenced; 100 acres of it under cultivation. Also 10 acres timber land three miles east of Monroe. Terms reasonable. Enquire of Wm. Speer, on the farm.

120 Acres five miles from Monroe. 400 of it in cultivation, the balance grazing land with good soil. All fenced. Five houses and two barns. Orchard with varied fruit. Well watered and wooded; 500 of it can be irrigated. Price \$15 per acre. One-half cash, balance time. Address, ALBERT HUMPHREY, Monroe.

304 Acres seventeen miles south of Corvallis and one mile north of Monroe, on the stage route. All of the land under fence; 250 of it good tillable land, with new two-story frame house, two barns and small vineyard. Plenty of good running water and firewood on the place. Price \$20 per acre; terms easy. Inquire on the premises, or address, SAMUEL STANNUS, Monroe.

Columbia County.

655 Acres of good land at Sappage, in Columbia County; 25 miles from Portland, down the Columbia River. All fenced, 60 acres under cultivation, plenty of timber and good running water—\$12 per acre. For particulars enquire of the owner, on the place, THOS. McPHERSON.

320 Acres, school land. Price \$3 per acre. Inquire of EDWIN RUSSELL, at Bank of British Columbia.

Douglas County.

260 Acres, ten miles north-west of Roseburg. 60 acres under fence. 50 acres, good level land. Price—\$1,200. Inquire of S. W. CHANE, Roseburg.

218 Acres, eight miles north-west of Roseburg. 200 of it fenced, and all of it good plow land, with a good stock range, and orchard. Terms reasonable. Inquire of W. S. CHANE, Roseburg.

For rent or sale. Half section of land, seven miles north of Oakland. 300 acres under fence. 100 in cultivation. A good dwelling house, two stock barns, with privilege of mountain range Good water and lots of timber. Price—\$800 per year. WESLEY ALLEN, Oakland.

160 Acres, five miles from Drain Station on the O. & C. R. R., and seven miles from Yoncalla; 50 acres of good farm land, outside range for stock, a water power sawmill on the place. Plenty of timber and water. Price, \$10 per acre; terms easy. J. F. BRADLEY, Drain.

640 Acres, on south side of the Calapooia mountains, known as Estes Station. Place is well improved. Good two-story house, costing \$1,000; barn costing \$350; orchard and meadows. The entire farm can be bought for \$12 per acre, or 160 acres of it for \$10 per acre. E. A. ESTES, Comstock Mill.

Multnomah County.

20 acres, 2 miles west of the city; suitable for gardening and fruit raising. House and stable on premises. Price, \$1,800. Inquire of Dr. J. B. PILKINGTON.

100 Acres five miles east of Portland, on base line road, small house, all fenced. Price, \$2,000. F. B. GRAY, Portland.

80 Acres on Taylor Ferry Road, four and one half miles from Portland, suitable for raising vegetables. Price \$10.00 per acre. EDWIN RUSSELL, Portland.

15 Acres two miles east of Portland. Price, \$750 Address G. W. TRAVEL, Portland.

80 Acres nine miles east of Portland. Price \$600. Address G. W. TRAVEL, Portland.

Folk County.

A desirable stock farm, containing 600 acres, situated 1 1/2 miles from Dallas and 15 from Salem. All under fence, with house, barn, orchard, springs and running water. 100 acres tillable land, balance open oak timber land. Price, \$5,000; half cash, balance on time. G. H. LAMBERSON, Portland.

550 Acres, 8 miles north of Hills, Folk county. Price, \$6,000. Said farm is situated on the head waters of East Salt Creek, on the road leading from Dallas to the Grande Ronde reservation; is well watered by a nice brook running through the centre; also an irrigation ditch, running water into the door yard; 500 select fruit trees, together with a fine assortment of small fruits; good barn, etc.; dwelling house; plenty of fire-wood and rail timber. If purchaser desires, he can buy of the proprietor horses, cattle and hogs raised on the farm, together with farm implements, wheat, oats, hay, etc. Inquire of McMINN DODSON, Dallas, Oregon.

320 Acres seven miles north of Dallas, 50 acres of it in cultivation. Price, \$1,500 per acre. MARY H. BALL, Elk Horn.

Washington County.

100 Acres in Washington County, 8 miles west of Portland; 35 acres meadow land, 50 in cultivation, half of it fenced, good orchard, comfortable house, barn and other improvements. Price, \$3,500. Inquire of W. GRAY, corner of Fourth and Jefferson streets, Portland.

55 Acres seven miles south of Hillsboro, 14 miles from Portland. Price, \$5,00 per acre. Wm. DIKSON, Scholl's Ferry.

220 Acres, about 50 acres bottom land, 40 acres improved, balance open timber. Price, \$10 per acre.

150 Acres, about 60 acres bottom land and 5 acres beaver dam, in cultivation. Price, \$2,000; terms moderate.

100 Acres, unimproved land; about 35 acres bottom land and 7 acres beaver dam, balance open timber. Price, \$6,50 per acre.

57 Acres, splendid springs and brush water; about 60 acres beaver dam, 30 acres in cultivation, fair house and barn. Price, \$25 per acre; terms easy.

80 Acres, adjoining the above; about 40 acres beaver dam land, 20 acres in cultivation, splendid water. Price, \$16.25 per acre; terms fair.

The above tracts of land are situated from ten to twelve miles from Portland, on the road to Dayton. D. C. HATCH, Owego, Oregon.

Yamhill County.

640 Acres, all under fence, 1 1/2 miles from North Yamhill depot; 150 acres of it under cultivation, 200 acres rolling pasture land, 40 acres oak and ash timber. Terms, \$25 per acre, \$4000 down. Balance time. THOS. BROWN, N. Yamhill.

Washington Territory.

80 Acres, four miles from Seattle, W. T. Price, \$1,200. Address, G. W. Traver, Portland.

20 Acres in Camasa Valley, W. T. Price, \$150. Address, G. W. Traver, Portland.

11 Acres, one mile from Steilacoom. Price, \$200. Address, G. W. Traver, Portland.

200 Acres, 4 1/2 miles north-east of Vancouver; 18 acres in cultivation, 150 fenced, with house and barn. Price, \$2,000. J. H. ALLYN, Vancouver.