

THE WEST SHORE

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WHITE RIVER, KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

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This was the valley of slaughter in 1855. Of the few settlers then living there, several were slain by the Indians in the war then waged against the whites all over Oregon and Washington. Others were driven into the fort at Seattle, which was in part defended by them, but mostly by the U. S. war vessel, whose commander nobly stood by the few settlers until relief and safety were assured. It was one of those many cases in which both our Army and Navy have defended our extending frontiers, winning few public laurels for their own brows, yet having the satisfaction of guarding the home of the lonely pioneer. This is largely their mission as soldiers of the Republic. Here have been drilled the officers and men who, on call, led in the Nation's defence until civil war ended in the Union preserved.

Twenty-two years finds the White River settlements extending up nearly to the mountains and through all the tributary valleys. The forests are slowly giving way to farms. Fine meadows, well set in the tame grasses, on which bands of choice dairy stock are thriving, contrast with the dense woods and tangled undergrowth of wild nature. Houses, barns and fences show a good degree of comfort and thrift on part of their owners, yet the depth and rich-

ness of the soil is the most marked feature. What has been cleared and cultivated in patches reveals the wealth of what remains in large areas in its primitive wildness. The river winds gracefully with gentle current, bending now to the range of hills on the right and now to those on the left, much like the beautiful rivers of New England. Autumn and winter storms of rain and snow often raise it quickly bank-full and overflowing, and occasionally fill all the valley, and enrich all the land with mineral and vegetable alluvium from the mountains and hills. This process has gone on for ages, until the whole valley, from the tide waters of the Sound to the base of Mt. Rainier and the lower peaks, is formed into a continuous bed of choicest soil for the grasses, the cereals, the vegetables and the fruits, which grow large and abundant wherever tested.

This geologic formation of the White River valley is a type of all the others, as the Black River, the Cedar River, the Squak, and the Stuck, which are tributary to it. Steamers run up the river from thirty to forty miles, bringing produce and lumber daily to the busy wharves at Seattle.

RAILROAD COMMUNICATION.

The narrow-gauge railroad, commenced three years ago, and now in the hands of J. M. Colman, Esq., is vigorously prosecuted by him, already taps the Talbot & Renton coal mines and brings their products thirteen miles

to the ship's deck and drops them into the hold. The six and a half miles of continued railroad, now in process of construction, to the Washington Lake or Seattle mines, so-called, is a rugged hill climb of 460 feet to the large coal bunkers at the mouth of the long tunnels of this well-tested and invaluable deposit of domestic and railroad steam coal. When completed, two months hence, and when some old rails are replaced by new ones, the road will have a capacity of carrying a thousand tons a day from the mines and discharging them on board the ship at a cost of 55 cents down to 30 cents per ton. This will be from one to two hundred per cent, cheaper than the present rates, and will place this coal in San Francisco in very close competition with the most favored coals of the Coast, and do much to displace foreign coals even in ballast.

VALUABLE LUMBER.

The forests of these alluvial valleys are mostly of deciduous trees. Ash, maple and alder, of excellent quality for house furnishings and for furniture in their natural colors, abound. It is found that the brown and white ash, and the curly and bird's eye maple, and even the alder, take a fine polish. The former rival the black walnut and the French walnut, in variety of style, richness of lustre and delicacy of grain.

A CHANGE IN FURNITURE DEALING; FROM IMPORTS TO EXPORTS.

Messrs. Hall & Paulson have ventured, this season, to erect an extensive

manufactory on the Bay and at the R. R. Depot, to make furniture from these native woods for the San Francisco market. Their orders increase for these goods. They send from 80 to 100 bedsteads per steamer, every ten days, to the market below, which begins to exclude those from the East. More laborers are thus employed here and more homes of the people made comfortable, and more money is kept in circulation among us. It is truly a noble enterprise for them and for the whole community. Instead of buying our furniture from Eastern manufacturers at such great cost, we can make it ourselves of better materials and employ boys and men at home.

Messrs. Stitson & Co., just opposite, have a large manufactory of sash, doors, mouldings and other building lumber, which they can furnish for the home trade and for export at rates that will arrest in part the large drain of funds so long suffered for the import of these things.

SEATTLE.

This city is thus building up itself in solid strength by home manufactures. Its enterprising men take hold of work that will employ the people and bring tribute to all classes of workmen. The example is a noble one for all our cities. Especially it ought to arrest the wanton destruction of these valuable finishing and furniture woods with which our forests on the alluvial land abound. In a short time a maple, an ash or an alder will be worth as much as the black walnut is in Illinois and Indiana. It is wrong to make fence rails of our fine cedar, or cut up our oak, ash, maple, dogwood, or alder, into fire wood. The day is coming quickly when these lumber trees will be worth from ten to one hundred dollars standing.



LUMBERING IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

Felling the Mighty Giants of the Forest.

Hotel, Wharf, Log-Schute and Boom at Snohomish City, W. T.—Photo by W. H. Davis.