

ALDER CREEK, W. T.

Mrs. R. M. Graham, in a letter to us of recent date, says:

"Alder creek is a new country, or at least lately settled, but immigrants are coming in rapidly now, and we expect to see the population of this part of Klickitat county more than double the coming summer. There are now thirty-five voters in our precinct, owning about 16,000 sheep, 6,000 cattle, and about 500 head of horses, where six years ago the noble red man roamed undisturbed."

WHIDBY Island, W. T., raises the best potatoes on the coast. A lot of five hundred bushels of "the White Kidney" variety, recently sold at eighty cents per bushel at Seattle.

CORN can be raised profitably in Washington Territory, although it is not what might be called a corn country. The *Vancouver Independent* recently received a cornstalk twelve feet high, and one of the ears is a foot in length and three inches in diameter—good sound corn.

HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS.

With the establishment of reliable communication between Astoria and Tillamook bay, Shoalwater bay, Gray's harbor, Chehalis, etc., a section of country which may be classed among the most fertile and boundless regions of the west, is opened up to settlement. From all that can be learned respecting the coast counties of Oregon and Washington territory, no portion of the world presents more favorable statistics as to health, and the productiveness of the soil. The *Astorian* would arrest the attention of those in search of homes, and show to them that there is a paradise awaiting development. A large tract of fertile country, well watered, and with a fair portion of timber and open lands, may be found in the eastern portions of Clatsop, and western portion of Columbia counties also, and in conversation with a resident of that section a few days ago, Mr. Wm. M. Macoon, we are informed that a number of persons have recently taken claims there, and all have good prospects for the future.—*Astorian*.

LOON LAKE COUNTRY.

A NEW LOCALITY JUST OPEN TO SETTLEMENTS, WHERE A FEW HOMELESS CAN FIND LANDS FOR THEIR TAKING.

Loon lake is situated about six miles due south of Scottsburg, on a direct line in sections 12 and 13, township 23 south, range 10 west. It is about the shape of the letter Z, two and a half miles long, and varying in width from

a few rods to a quarter of a mile. Its outlet is Mill creek, which flows through a deep canyon and empties in the Umpqua river a few miles below Scottsburg. This lake is annually growing less, and in a few centuries will exist only in name. It was made thousands of years ago by a very large landslide filling up the bed of the creek many hundred, if not thousands of feet above its former channel. This slide is about one and a half miles long, and so perfect were its impediments that the waters, with all their powers, have made but little progress in its removal since, and as it is principally of stone, it will forever exist. The lake was, at the time of its origin, many miles in extent, but the debris, has been collecting from the main creek and its tributaries and forming valleys until it is reduced to its present size. The head of Lake creek can be reached at a distance of seven miles from the Umpqua river from Jesse Clayton's place below Cole's valley, at which place is it about 50 feet wide, with an average depth of one foot of water. This point is near the southeast corner of section 36, township 24 south, range 9 west. The bottom lands here are nearly a quarter of a mile wide, with a rich, alluvial soil. There are a couple of falls in section 6, the first of which are about eight or ten feet, and the lower one is twenty feet high. The valley above the falls is of various widths, and will, with its tributaries, furnish homes for from 20 to 30 families. The lower bottom is wider, but not so long, and will furnish homes for about half the number of the upper bottom. These lands are all to be cleared and are very productive, as is fully verified by the nice crops raised by the few settlers located there.

The timber is as fine for building purposes as can be found in any country, while the very best of saw timbers for lumber can be found in most localities, and the finest of maple and myrtle for cabinet work grow in abundance in the lower bottom. Water powers sufficient for mill purposes may be found in any section. At the present time the forests abound with elk, deer and bear, and the creeks are full of the finest of fish. There is a trail entering the upper bottom from Mr. Clayton's place; another to the lake from Mr. Walker's, near Elkton, and the third from Scottsburg. Neither of these trails are very distinct or well located, but are passably good. A good grade for a wagon road might be had from either or all of these points, and a considerable distance saved by a little investigation. This section of country we expect soon to see occupied by a thriving community of energetic settlers.—*Plainedealer*.

AN observing man has discovered a similarity between a young ladies' seminary and a sugar factory, as both refine what is already sweet.

THE GROWTH OF PORTLAND.

There is no city in America, of its size, that can show the same number of elegant business buildings as Portland. Smaller than either San Jose or Sacramento, she has more fine edifices for mercantile and manufacturing purposes than both of them together. On a recent visit to that city we noticed a great improvement going on along Front street, which is fast becoming, in the elegance and substantial character of its buildings, a formidable rival for Market street in San Francisco.

In 1870 the first rise in real estate came, and subsequent improvement of business property, took place in that city. That was purely speculative, and had its origin in Ben Holladay's railroad ventures. This was followed by a sad reaction, in which some very worthy men went to the wall. The present rise in values does not seem to be based upon speculation, for no one man has thrown into circulation any great amount of money. On the contrary, it is a legitimate consequence of the gradual growth and increasing wants of the vast expanse of territory of which Portland is the commercial and financial emporium.

Many ascribe this progressive movement to the great development of agriculture in the broad domain lying east of the Cascades, but this is hardly warrantable to believe. During the past season of grain shipments, fully one-half the Walla Walla grain was shipped direct from the Cascades to Astoria, where it was loaded for the United Kingdom; and Portland had no hand in its shipment, nor received profit from it in any way whatever. Yet in spite of all this loss of a trade long accorded to her, Portland grew and thrived in 1878 as she had never done before.

One of the principal causes of this remarkable growth of the city is this: In former years, when banks were few and two concerns held the financial destiny of the city between them, it was customary to allow interest at the rate of six per cent. on time deposits. The old fogies, who were content to earn small profits on their capital, left their money in the banks and let the city go ahead as best she might. The increase of the banks to seven in number has rendered this no longer practicable, and, finding the old channel of profit shut off, the depositors withdrew their money and began investing in real estate. Not less than thirteen millions of dollars have been thrown into general circulation during the past year, and the results thereof are plainly perceptible in the greatly improved condition of the northwestern metropolis.—*Tom Merry in the Inland Empire*.

THE breath of scandal is beyond the control of cardamon seeds.