

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD AND OTHER LANDS.

The bulk of the agricultural lands of the Northern Pacific Railroad, in the Pacific Northwest, now in market, is situated in Yakima, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Whitman and Stevens counties, Washington Territory, and in Nez Perce county, Idaho. These lands are, for the most part, accessible, and within easy reach of transportation facilities, not only by way of the trunk line of the Northern Pacific Railroad and the Columbia and Snake rivers, but also by the branches of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company's system, extending from Walla Walla over the region south of Snake river, and from a point on the line of the Northern Pacific, 48 miles northeast of Ainsworth, through the territory watered by the Palouse and its numerous tributaries. Among the regions most desirable for settlement may be mentioned those watered by Crab, Rock, and Hangman creeks, in Stevens county, and by Thorne, Pine and Cottonwood creeks, in Whitman county. The soil is exceedingly rich and productive, and living water is found in almost every quarter-section. There are also extensive tracts of equally desirable railroad land in the counties of Garfield, Columbia, Yakima and Walla Walla.

The lands of the Northern Pacific Railroad, lying west of the Cascade mountains, are principally timbered. There are, however, large tracts in the valleys of the Chehalis, Cowlitz, Lewis, and Salmon rivers as well as on the plateau north of the Columbia, extending toward the Cascade mountains, which may be easily cleared and brought under cultivation. Here, all kinds of fruit and grain thrive equally well. On Puget Sound, too, there is plenty of rich bottom land that can be brought under cultivation at but little cost.

The Northern Pacific Railroad Company sells its lands on easy terms, and at low prices, assisting intending settlers in every way to find suitable locations.

Beside the Northern Pacific Railroad Company and the United States Government, the Oregon Improvement Company is the largest seller of land in the territory east of the Cascade mountains. This company owns 145,000 acres of carefully selected agricultural land in Whitman county, Washington Territory, and 20,000 acres in Grande

Ronde and Powder river valleys, Baker county, Oregon. These lands are particularly desirable, owing to their proximity to the Palouse branches, and the Grande Ronde branch of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company. They are sold on easy terms, at from \$5 to \$10 per acre.

The February number of the WEST SHORE contained complete statistics about land and land laws in the Pacific Northwest. We will mail a copy of it on receipt of 25 cents, or, send it and two other numbers of different dates for 50 cents.

Alsea Bay, Benton county, is the place to get a home. If you have no home, go to Alsea Bay, for there are one hundred settlers and plenty of land for one hundred more. Times have been better this winter on the Bay than ever before. The rush to Newport gave us a market for our vegetables, eggs, butter and honey at a very high price. This country, when cleared, is well adapted to farming, for the hills possess a rich soil and grass will take well on farms, and the hills when the brush is chopped off, make good pasture land. We have a schooner plying to the bay, owned by Capt. Lutjens. Strangers pass every day looking for land. Some locate, others pass on. Come we welcome you to the garden spot of Oregon. C.

The Blakely mill is the largest single sawmill on Puget Sound, and cuts on an average, in twelve hours, 110,000 feet of splendid lumber. Occasionally the tally boards in the evening show that 140,000 feet or more has been cut, but the average, week in and week out, is 110,000 per day. The new 65-inch circular, which is the largest on the Sound, has been tested and found to work to the satisfaction of all.

What is known as the Big Bend country, situated west of Spokane Falls and north of Sprague, contains about 80,000 acres of rich wheat and grass lands, with sufficient timber for farm purposes. At no time this winter have cattle there been without outdoor feed. The Indians have raised good corn in that locality, and many of the whites intend to make the experiment.

A ledge of iron has been discovered not far from Tacoma, and close to the railroad. The specimens found indicate the ore to be what is known as gray hematite, and it is thought to be rich.

COST OF LIVING IN 1849.

Whilst the Forty-niners made their money easily, they also had to spend it quite as freely. We were recently shown a bill of those old days. The prices are rather steep to say the least:

AUBURN, Dec. 12, 1849.

Mr. Fairchild—Bought of Wetzler & Co.:

12 lbs Rice@75 cts.....	\$ 9 00
9 lbs Meal@75 cts.....	6 75
11 lbs Sugar@80 cts.....	8 80
10 lbs Cherries (dried) @80 cts.....	8 00
10 lbs Peaches (dried) @ \$1.....	10 00
2 lbs Tea@\$1.50.....	3 00
77 lbs Pork@80 cts.....	61 60
85 lbs Beef (corned) @50 cts.....	42 50
10 lbs Raisins@60 cts.....	6 00
1 lb Candles@\$2.....	2 00
150 lbs Flour@60 cts.....	90 00

\$247 65

Paid,—WETZLER & Co.

The same bill of goods could now be bought for about \$38 50.

VALUE OF A TIMBER CLAIM.—Upon this point the *Post-Intelligencer* remarks as follows: Puget Sound is noted for its magnificent timber and its enormous supply, and yet comparatively few people have an accurate idea how much timber is to be found on a single quarter section of land. A friend of ours, who is a practical woodsman and a reliable man, informs us that he with others, perhaps more competent than himself, recently made a critical examination of 160 acres of land in the Samish section, about sixty miles north of this city. They went all over it most carefully, counted trees, computed contents, and reckoned up the vast quantity into 12,000,000 feet of sawed, merchantable lumber, or an average of 75,000 feet per acre. The stumpage on this tract at the low rate of 50 cents per thousand feet, would be no less than \$6,000, and at a common rate in the East—\$2—would be \$36,000. Is it to be wondered when such facts and figures are contemplated, that the timber lands of this country are in such demand? No farming lands anywhere to be obtained are at all comparable with them in value.

TEMPERATURE FOR 1880-1, AT LEWISTON.

Mean temperature for the entire year of 1880 was 49.5. Highest mean for any month (July) was 72.2. Lowest mean for any month (Nov.) was 31.6. Mean temperature for the entire year of 1881 was 51. Highest mean for any month (July) was 72.3. Lowest, (Jan.) 29.1. All above 0. Thus it will be seen that the difference between the highest mean of July, 1880, and July, 1881, was one-tenth of a degree, and the difference between the lowest mean of any month in 1880 and 1881 was two and five-tenths, and the difference in the average temperature between the two years was one and five-tenths. The above shows a uniform mild climate.