

POPULATION, AREA, ETC., OF NORTH IDAHO.

The question has been asked concerning North Idaho, what is the area, how much available land for settlement, her present population, and her latest vote on the question of annexation? We have gathered up the statistics as close as we could at this late date, and what we give are as near correct as can be made, without a new census of the population, the last having been taken about two years ago. The gross area of the section of North Idaho embraced in Brents' bill, to form a part of the state of Washington, is about 35,000 square miles. The pre-emption filings embrace 261,600 acres. The homestead filings embrace 146,349 acres, and the timber-culture filings embrace 42,747 acres; surveyed land open for settlement, 600,000 acres; unsurveyed and susceptible of settlement 300,000 acres. A great portion of the remainder of the whole area is rugged and mountainous, with here and there small patches that might be settled for agricultural and stock-raising purposes, but it contains several rich mining districts, and may be regarded as rich in minerals, and is covered with excellent timber. The population of the four counties of Nez Perce, Idaho, Shoshone and Kootenai, at the last census of the spring of 1880, was returned as 6,983. The increase since then has been principally in Kootenai and Nez Perce counties, with considerable increase in parts of Idaho county. The closest estimate of the aggregate increase in the four counties gives 4,400, so that it is safe to say that the present population of all the counties of North Idaho will aggregate 11,400, exclusive of Indians. About one in four of this population will be voters at the ensuing election.

The assessed valuation of property will not fall far short of \$2,500,000 and if a proper valuation be placed upon the railroad property, this will be increased \$1,500,000.

The towns that have obtained any celebrity are Lewiston, Mt. Idaho, Grangeville, Pierce City, Florence, Washington, Genesee, Moscow, Cœur d'Alene, Westwood, Ventnor and a few others that are coming into being.

Of rivers, it has the Salmon, Clearwater, Spokane, Pend d'Oreille and Snake and their innumerable branches, all draining the mountains lying east of the inhabited portions of North Idaho, and flowing west; the Salmon and Clearwater rivers emptying into the Snake river, and the Spokane and Pend d'Oreille running into the table lands of Washington Territory. Besides these rivers, there are many creeks flowing in the same direction. Several of these streams furnish water transportation for timber, lumber and wood from the mountains to the settled country both in North Idaho and Washington, and are convenient channels of commerce for the use of settlers.

The vote of our people in the fall of 1880 on the question of annexation to Washington as a state, was 1,216 for, and only seven against. Owing to a storm on election day less than 1,300 votes were polled in all the northern counties on any question or for any office; more than 800 are known to have remained away from the polls by reason of the storm.

All the plow land of North Idaho is as rich and productive as that of any portion of the northwest. In fact it has produced, as far as seeded, the highest average yield of cereals per acre of any of the states and territories in the union, as the reports will show in the agricultural bureau. The climate is mild; the stock gathering in the winter, from the ranges, all that is required to keep them in good condition, and they make the best of meat for the butchers. At Lewiston, last winter, at no time has the thermometer ranged lower than six above zero, and only in one instance at that point. The general range during the winter is between freezing and 50° above zero. The snow fall is seldom more than one foot in most parts of the agricultural country, which usually remains but a short time before it is cut down by the prevailing warm wind commonly called "Chinooks."—*Teller.*

LUMBERING ON PUGET SOUND.

The great timber region of the territory lies west of the Cascade mountains, and takes in substantially all the country to the Pacific ocean from the Columbia river on the south to British Columbia on the north—from 140 to 220 miles long and from 110 to 150 miles wide. There can be found fir, pine, spruce, hemlock, oak, ash, alder, maple, cedar, cottonwood and numberless other varieties; these named, though being more than nine-tenths of the whole. They cover, perhaps, two-thirds the whole country, about 15,000 square miles or 10,000,000 acres. The yield per acre varies immensely, ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 feet per acre to 60,000 and 80,000. Where the fir timber is particularly heavy and fine, the quantity per acre occasionally runs to 100,000, to 150,000 and even 200,000. Whole quarter sections can easily be obtained that will average 50,000 feet per acre, or 800,000 feet to the 160 acres. We think it safe enough to average the timber product of the 10,000,000 acres at 30,000 feet per acre, and aggregate it 300,000,000 feet. In addition to this, the country east of the Cascades, which comprises two-thirds the whole territory has standing upon it at least 100,000,000,000 feet. Adding the two parts, we may safely assume the standing tim-

ber of the territory to be equal in quantity to 400,000,000,000 feet. The annual cut does not at present exceed 250,000,000 feet, at which rate we have a supply good for 1600 years. The cut, however, will from this on increase rapidly, until in 1887 probably 500,000,000 feet will be cut, and in 1892 perhaps 1,000,000,000. In Wisconsin and Michigan the annual cut is now 4,000,000,000 feet, at which rate our timber supply would last only 100 years. But other things are to be taken into account in considering the timber supply, its duration, etc. The people are more wasteful of timber than anything else. There can be no doubt that more is ruthlessly destroyed every year than is cut for sawing and sale. Between the clearings of the farmers and the fires of the forest this is accomplished, the one effort of too many otherwise sensible men on this subject being to rid the country of its timber—its greatest wealth—in the shortest possible time. One more remark on this point and we are done. The standing timber in the territory of Washington, as above calculated, is fully equal to the consumption of the whole United States during the past hundred years, and its value at \$10 per thousand feet is \$4,000,000,000, or more than the value of all the taxable property in the combined states of New York and Pennsylvania in 1882. Is not this a property worthy the utmost possible consideration?

Along the Columbia river are a number of sawmills, as also in the Cowlitz and Chehalis country, between the Sound and the river. With a single exception these are small affairs. At Gray's Harbor, on the ocean coast, a large mill is in course of construction, and that others will speedily follow there and elsewhere in the wooded regions is certain. The chief and heavy lumbering on the Pacific slope is done right here, within a radius of sixty miles of Seattle, and the principal part within thirty. The leading mills of the Sound, when all worked, have a cutting capacity easily enough of one million feet per diem, or three hundred millions per annum. Three of them cut each over one hundred thousand feet per day, and a fourth is being put in condition to cut over two hundred thousand, while the first three referred to, when works now under way are completed, will cut 450,000 feet a day between them. Several of these mills are truly immense establishments; working over a hundred men, having logging camps working a hundred more, and having from one to four steamboats, and from six to twenty sail ships in their service belonging to the same owners. They are surrounded by whole towns, in which are hotels and stores, schools, churches and secret societies, and a population of men, women and children from two hundred and fifty to five hundred in number.—*Post-Intelligencer.*