

## LUMBERING HERE AS SEEN ABROAD.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* presents its readers with the following picture of lumbering on Puget Sound:

The demand for Puget Sound lumber is rapidly increasing, and the mills are all behind their orders. When a bill is wanted for a very large structure, the stuff has to be ordered several weeks in advance. The capital invested in the lumber business of the Sound district is over \$4,000,000. The machinery used in the mills is of the most modern make, gangs and circulars being employed. The sawdust is carried by machinery and emptied into the furnace as fuel. The waste is burned in unquenchable fire, as it is in Eastern mills. Though the annual output of Puget Sound lumber is 3,000,000,000 feet, and the industry has been prosecuted for quite a number of years, the timber already cut can hardly be missed. Several million acres of this timber land are accessible to Sound waters and the rivers flowing into them, and the building of railroads will open up to accessibility millions more. There are no freshets about the Sound to sweep away logs or mills. The tides of the Sound waters rise a given height year in and year out. The mean high tide is 14 feet, and the extreme high tide is three feet higher. Logs are always floated on a rising or a receding tide. The price of logs is uniform at all the mills, being \$5.00 a thousand for lengths under 60 feet, and from \$5.00 to \$12.00 between lengths of 60 and 140 feet. The price of lumber at the mills is also uniform, being \$10.00 a thousand for good cargo lumber, and from \$14.00 to \$22.00 for cedar dressed. Hardwood lumber is worth about \$25 a thousand. The building of railroads that are projected will call for a large amount of lumber, timber and ties from Puget Sound, and this demand is to be a great stimulant to production. The lumber interests of the Sound district are largely in the hands of powerful monopolists, who have the notion that a dark policy is the better one for them. They are averse to giving any statistics of production, and look coldly upon the immigrant. But the time will come when the solid shell of these monopolists will be broken, and the wealth of the Puget Sound region thrown open for the benefit of an immigrant trade. The completion of the Northern Pacific railroad will do the business for the monopolists.

## A BRIGHT FUTURE.

The hills between Walla Walla and Dry creek have nearly all been converted into waving grain fields. Thousands of acres between middle Dry creek and the Touchet are in grain and other thousands of acres are being broken up preparatory to the sowing of a first crop. Settlers, cabins and improvements are now seen where a year ago the badger and cayote had undisputed possession. The population of Walla Walla county is rapidly increasing. The crop prospect was never better, while the indications are that the prices of chief staples, wool and wheat will be as large or larger than they were last year. The growth and prosperity of our beautiful city is apparent on all sides. In every direction can be seen the shining new roofs of small cottages around whose doors play hearty and happy children. These houses are owned by their occupants who have come here to live, attracted by the beauty and healthfulness of the location and the opportunities offered to make a living and a little more. Our merchants generally say that they are doing more business now than they were last year at this season, while our mechanics are all as busy as they can be. Some of the proprietors of the numerous saloons cry dull times, but this is a song they sing every spring, forgetting the joyous tune they sing during the harvest and winter time. Our people are arousing and beginning to assert their power, to turn their attention from the money getting of to-day to securing assurance of the future. Had they done so sooner it would, possibly, have been better, but in the meantime they have gathered strength and power. Several of our leading merchants "branched out" years ago, by sending stocks of goods to other aspiring towns, but we are pleased to note that they are beginning to realize that by concentrating their efforts at Walla Walla they can make more present money while building up an unfailing and ever increasing future trade. Taken all in all, the future of Walla Walla county and city looks very bright.—*Union*.

In the United States, 187,030 men are employed in mining coal. The total output of coal, last year exceeds the previous year by 10,000,000 tons. The Seattle mines have greatly increased in capacity.

## THE ASSOTIN COUNTRY.

There is no part of Washington Territory where a new settler can settle down and grow up with the country with greater profit to himself than that part of Garfield county known as the Assotin country. It is fertile, very productive, with a climate second to none on the northwest coast, and a stock range unequalled anywhere. Timber and water is to be found almost everywhere, and the Blue Mountains furnish wood for lumber, fuel and fencing in inexhaustible quantities, and soon a market will be right at hand for everything that can be produced. In their gigantic efforts to develop the resources of the country, the O. R. & N. Co. are so liberal to the settlers in what are now remote localities, that the people are encouraged to making efforts that but a few short months since they considered themselves entirely incapable of. About a year since farmers began to settle in this Assotin country, and to-day there is a town glorying in the name of Assotin City.

The present may be considered to be the first season's shipment of grain from Assotin City, and in all about 375 tons have been carried away from there. This year it is estimated that 50,000 bushels will be raised in the locality, and the same amount from the Idaho side, making 100,000 bushels which will be ready for shipment after the next harvest—not a bad showing for a comparatively new country. In a few years they will boast of as many tons as they now do of bushels.

There is any amount of land yet to be taken up on both sides of the river, and in one week lately twenty land claims were taken up on the Washington side alone.

The banks of the river on the Idaho side being very steep, the grain is sent down to the water's edge in a chute. Five cents per bushel is charged for shunting, sacking, warehousing and shipping. There are some very energetic citizens located here, who are doing all in their power to bring this fine country into the prominence it deserves.

The new mill at Quartz creek, Klickitat county, has been finished. The machinery is in fine running order, and with a force of fifteen men they expect to make short work of lumber. The machinery is of first-class make and material, costing in the neighborhood of \$5,000. Klickitat possesses an almost inexhaustible supply of timber.

Much complaint is made by settlers in British Columbia because of harsh treatment by the government.

There is quite a demand for physicians among the Alaskan canneries.