

easily understood when it is known that the road would traverse a country in which at 11 miles west from Seattle the Renton coal mines would be tapped; at 15 miles large bodies of spruce, fir and cedar besides cottonwood in abundance; at 30 miles west bituminous coal fields "in place;" at 30 miles iron and limestone; in Snoqualmie pass anthracite coal and precious metals; at 60 miles west fir, cedar, ash and maple; beyond the Cascade range of mountains the grain fields of Kittitas and Yakima; along a great portion of the route inexhaustible water power and large quantities of fine agricultural land; and at the proposed terminus the great granaries of the Walla Walla country and its great demands for lumber, coal, fish and other products of the Sound country. It is stated that it is the purpose of the S. P. W. F. & B. C. road to construct 80 miles of the road in 1883.

COMMERCE OF SEATTLE.

The recital of the names and number of the fleet of vessels engaged in the carrying trade of Seattle suggests forcibly a large number of commercial outposts and dependencies, and with equal force suggests wholesale and jobbing houses with large capital and doing a large business. Suffice it to say that in this respect neither suggestion nor expectation is likely to outrun the reality. The "stocks on hand" of the leading firms are of themselves flaming advertisements of the commercial importance of the city of Seattle.

TAXABLE VALUATION.

The real estate of Seattle is assessed for the current fiscal year at \$3,319,538, the personal property at \$720,000; total \$4,039,538. Upon this sum a tax of \$21,015.21 has been levied. King county, according to good authority, has made a gain of 100 per cent. in the value of taxable property in the last five years, of which amount of gain, it is safe to say, the city of Seattle has contributed at least eight-tenths, if not more of the whole amount. It may be added here that it is equally safe to say that Seattle is no exception to the general rule, and that the assessor's figures do not approximate the real value of the property listed. The figures above quoted, as matters go, are liberal, but do not represent, we imagine, quite two-thirds of Seattle's real wealth. Portland, Oregon, it is claimed, is one of the wealthiest cities, *per capita*, on the American continent. Apply the rule by which this result is reached to Seattle and the same result is obtained.

EDUCATIONAL.

A community which has devoted so much money and energy to the advancement of its material interests—which has shown itself so self-reliant and determined in all that relates to its advance in the path of financial growth and progress, would not fail, it is only reasonable to suppose, in the conservation and encouragement of the great cause of popular education, Seattle supports in good style three private institutions of learning; Trinity (Episcopal) Parish School, The Sisters (Roman Catholic) Academy, and a Kindergarten. There are four public schools in the city proper, and one in North Seattle, or Bell Town. In June of the present year (1882), the question of levying a special tax for the purpose of raising a fund of \$25,000, with which to build a school house adequate to the demands of the constantly growing population, and worthy of the wealth and environments of the young city, was submitted to the

people, and decided in the affirmative by almost "a rising vote." A committee of citizens were sent to Portland to examine the school system, as well as the school house architecture, of that city, and the result of the vote and visit will soon be seen in one of the most commodious, elegantly equipped and ornamental structures of its class on the Pacific slope. (See illustration.)

THE UNIVERSITY.

At an early date in the history of Seattle, Mr. A. A. Denny, a pioneer, and one of the most public spirited citizens of Seattle, donated to the Territory a tract of land, ten acres in extent, for University purposes. The site of the University of California, at Berkeley, commands, perhaps, a view as varied and sublime as does the site of the University at Seattle. Both, by reason of their locality and their surroundings, are fitted to the nurseries of great thoughts and noble aspirations in the youth whose good fortune it may be to call either "Alma Mater." The former is liberally endowed and carefully nurtured by the State of California; the latter, from some unexplained cause, has failed to receive that consideration at the hands of the legislature of Washington Territory which it has a right to demand and should receive. The University building presents, from almost any point of view, an imposing aspect. The front, with its spacious portico and lofty Doric columns, suggests the antique. The building inside is commodious, and with the necessary repairs and improvements now being made, will be most admirably adapted to the work to which it is dedicated. Let us hope that the incoming legislature will do what is right by the Territorial University.

The failing health of Prof. A. J. Anderson's wife making a change of climate necessary, he resigned the presidency of the University in June last, to the regret of all residents of Seattle. He has been succeeded by Prof. L. J. Powell, ex-State Superintendent of the Oregon public schools. Prof. Powell is a strong man intellectually and physically, and takes to his new field of labor energy, capacity, enthusiasm and ability.

The Territorial University has recently been the recipient of material pecuniary aid from Mr. Henry Villard, and we suggest that it would be an excellent thing for some of the wealthy men of Seattle "to better his example."

THE YOUNG NATURALISTS.

A direct outgrowth of the high standard of popular education aimed at by the people of Seattle is found in the existence of an organization of young men, with the above caption. The association was organized January 1, 1880, with five charter members, and now numbers twenty-three. Since organizing they have collected a cabinet, embracing minerals, shells, birds, insects, and other departments, valued at at least \$3,000. The taxidermist's department is particularly interesting, and much of the work is of a superior character. In June last, the association chartered a schooner and made a tour of the lower Sound, accompanied by Prof. Gilman, of the Territorial University, and added many valuable specimens to their collection, especially in the fossil and zoological departments. A pleasantly situated building, originally built by Mr. A. A. Denny for a library, serves them at present for a museum, for which they are indebted to the liberality of the above named gentleman, whose son, aged 23, is the Nestor of the Young Naturalists of Seattle. They contemplate enlarging "their house" soon,

at a cost of \$300. The officers of the association are as follows: W. Hall, President; E. S. Meany, Vice-President; H. Jacobs, Secretary; F. M. Hall, Assistant Secretary; C. L. Denny, Librarian; A. E. Hubbard, Assistant Librarian; A. M. White, Treasurer; J. D. Young, Marshal.

CHURCHES.

The religious element of Seattle is represented by congregations of the following denominations: Episcopal (Trinity church, Seattle, and Chapel of the Good Shepherd, North Seattle), Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, Free Methodist, Roman Catholic, Congregational, Presbyterian, Baptist, Scandinavian Lutheran. In addition to these, "The Young Men's Christian Association" have an organization, with regular meetings, and also maintain a free reading room. Without being pretentious, the church architecture of Seattle is noticeably neat and attractive. Additions and improvements are being made to the Catholic church which when completed will result in a very commodious and handsome edifice.

LAKES WASHINGTON AND UNION.

About four miles east of Seattle lies Lake Washington, twenty-five miles long with a width of from two to five miles, and just north of it, connected by a stream which at an insignificant expense can be converted into a canal, Lake Union, three miles long and from one-fourth to one-half mile wide. Lake Washington has an average depth of from 60 to 70 feet. It is scarcely twenty feet above high tide mark. Romantic and beautiful in its location, in the purity of its waters, in its extensive area, in itself and in its surroundings, it challenges comparison with Tahoe in all the elements of picturesque loveliness, and surpasses that Mecca of the tourist in salubrity and equality of climate, in the length of its summers and in the mildness of its winters. Rainier looks down on it from the south-east and lesser peaks stand like giant sentinels all around its pine and fir and cedar clad borders. On the east side from sixty to seventy families have found fertile and productive homes, fruits and vegetables being produced in profusion, while the berry crop, embracing all marketable varieties, not only challenges but defies comparison. On the west side at the termination of the drive from Seattle to the lake, is the handsome homestead of Mr. McGilvery, where we spent half an hour pleasantly in conversation with that gentleman. He has been improving his place since 1865, and a handsome and picturesque, as well as comfort suggesting, place he has made of it. We understand that he has leased it to parties who will erect a first-class summer hotel and construct a trotting course on it. When proper facilities for the accommodation of guests are provided, Lake Washington will attract its thousands yearly. The United States government has appropriated \$15,000 towards the construction of a ship canal connecting Lakes Union and Washington with the sound. It is expected that the completion of this work will result in lowering the waters of Lake Washington about 15 feet. An immense body of agricultural land will by this process be added to the farms already in existence, and as another result, a drive equal to any in the world will be constructed along the shores of the lake.

AGRICULTURAL.

Our opportunities for examining, personally, into the agricultural resources of King county.

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