

of said Snake river to the place of beginning. This will be a great convenience to settlers in the Wood river country.

Two parties will soon leave Lewiston to survey government lands in the northern portion of Nez Perce county and in Shoshone county. There are large areas of valuable agricultural land in those localities, which will soon be occupied. The land office at Lewiston is thronged with men looking for desirable locations. All the land within twenty miles of that city will soon be taken, and it is to be hoped that the reservation will shortly be thrown open.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Great activity is now displayed in the three leading industries of the province, fish, coal and lumber.

The advantages and resources of this province are attracting considerable attention in Canada and England. Since his official visit Lord Lorne has spoken and written much in regard to the country, and many sketches made by him have been engraved and published. The fertility of soil, beauty of the scenery, wealth of resources, and the mildness of its climate as compared with Canada and even with England, are winning for it many ardent admirers. Immigration has begun to show a marked increase, and the government has appointed an immigration agent with headquarters at Victoria. Many Canadian mechanics have already come out this spring, most of them under contract for \$3.50 to \$4 per day to work on the Canadian Pacific, while many families are coming to take up land for agricultural purposes.

## ALASKA.

The movement of miners to the Alaska mines has already begun.

The steamer *Hassler* is being fitted up at San Francisco for the survey of the Alaska coast.

The Alaska Commercial Co. has bought out the Western Fur Co., its English competitor.

The increase in freight and travel to Alaska has compelled the Pacific Coast S. S. Co. to enlarge its facilities and make more trips.

Three excursions to Alaska will occur during the summer months, and will no doubt be enjoyed by as large a list of passengers as the steamers can accommodate.

## MINING.

It is proposed to try a new process for saving fine gold on the bars of Snake river.

A six-foot vein of coal has been found north of Cathlamet in Wahkiakum county, W. T.

The coal mines on Skagit river are being thoroughly prospected by a San Francisco firm.

The U. S. Grant mine, one mile from Virginia City, Montana, is spoken of as one of the coming bonanzas.

The Ingersoll mine in Blackburne district, Montana, is highly spoken of. It is expected that a smelter will be erected there this summer.

Hydraulic mining will be inaugurated this spring on Salmon river, Idaho, where there is

much ground favorably situated for working by that process.

Since the first of February considerable work has been done in developing the Black Diamond coal vein on Pine creek in the Umpqua country. The coal found is said to resemble the Cumberland.

The working force in the Carbonado mines is 300 men, and the daily output 490 tons. A new engine has been procured, and an additional force will be put on to increase the daily yield to 800 tons.

The Silver King mine in the Sawtooth mountains has been sold for \$100,000 to parties in Hailey, Idaho. The ore is very rich and there is said to be enough in sight to pay for the mine four times over.

The mines of Montana district, around Neihart, Montana, are being well developed. The chief properties on which work is being done are Queen of the Hills, Homestake, Sampson, Fitzpatrick, Blue, Maude S, Ora La Platta and Van Cotta.

The Lodonia ledge, about twelve miles from Prineville, Oregon, has been tapped by two tunnels, the ore showing a working test of \$30 per ton gold. A ten stamp mill will soon be erected by the Pioneer company.

This is a very favorable season for the miners along Klamath river. The low stage of water has allowed them to put in their wing dams and begin work on the river bed much earlier than usual, and they are already taking out pay gravel.

The Stoddard group of ledges were discovered in 1880, and are situated on a high mountain near the headwaters of the middle fork of Salmon river in Idaho. There are four valuable locations, the Gelena, White Dog, Greyhound and Blue Grouse.

One of the richest strikes yet made on Wood river is the Emma ledge, discovered by two men in Bullion while excavating in the side of a hill in that town. The ore is remarkably rich, some of it being covered with wire silver. The *Hailey Times* says they refused \$50,000 for the location.

Although but little more than the work required by law has been done on the ledges of Oro Fino district, a few miles from Deer Lodge, Montana, the general impression is that they are valuable. Three of them have recently been bonded and will probably be thoroughly prospected this season.

Twenty years ago the Cordova was located at Phillipsburg, Montana, worked to the depth of twenty feet and abandoned. Recently the Hope company acquired it, sunk the shaft twenty feet further and struck an excellent body of ore. A smelter and concentrator will be erected if further developments justify.

The mines at Mineral City, Idaho, have been organized as Washington mining district. The main ledges are the Black Maria, Daniel Boone, Egan (recently discovered and very rich), Northern Belle and Rising Sun. The first two are being thoroughly developed, and are exhibiting splendid bodies of ore.

At Butte City, Montana, several rich developments have recently been made. In the Moulton the richest strike yet made in that valuable mine has been reported in the 300-foot drift. Both the Alice and Magna Charta have made rich developments. The eighty stamps of the Alice have been running constantly since the first of January.

The quartz ledges of Barton's gulch, near Virginia City, Montana, are showing rich ore and are beginning to attract considerable attention. The Black Eagle, Gray Eagle, True Fissure, Zebra, Old Union, Palmyra, Little Annie and Agricola have had considerable work done on them, and others are being prospected. The ledges carry gold, silver, copper and galena, and are true fissure veins.

## THE LAND LAW.

Secretary Teller recently gave a definition of the word "settlement" as regards a pre-emption claim, which is of interest to a class of land jumpers who think a man has not taken possession of his claim until his cabin has been erected. The secretary says:

"Residence is not essential to a pre-emption settlement. A settler is one who does some act on the land indicative of an intention to claim the benefits of the law. Although the erection of a house and residence therein may manifest such purpose, in connection with other acts, yet there may be a valid settlement without residence. To fell trees, to plow or fence the land or lay the foundation for a house, or do any other act which clearly manifests a purpose to convert the land into a home, will, if followed by residence, give the party a pre-emption right which relates back to his first act. No definite time within which residence must commence is fixed by law. It must, however, be within such reasonable time as to manifest a purpose to comply with the requirements of the law and to retain and not abandon the tract. In such case his right will not be forfeited."

In regard to cutting timber on homestead claims, the commissioner has recently decided as follows:

"When it is clearly evident that a homesteader has settled upon his claim, intending in good faith to make a permanent home thereon and to improve and cultivate the land entered, he is permitted to cut such timber as must be removed from the land in the process of clearing it for cultivation. If the amount of timber so cut from that particular portion of the claim which the homesteader contemplates clearing for immediate cultivation should be more than he requires for fencing, buildings and other improvements upon his claim, he is permitted to dispose of such excess of timber so cut. Any other timber upon the claim cannot be sold until the claimant has perfected his title to the land embraced in his entry. The question whether the land is being cleared for legitimate purposes is a question of fact which is liable to be raised at any time. If the timber is cut for any other purpose, it will subject the entry to cancellation, and the person who cut it will be liable to civil suit for recovery of the value of the timber, and also to criminal prosecution for violating the law in such cases provided."

The secretary of the interior has decided that an application to amend a homestead entry is a matter of right only when necessary to correct a mistake, clerical or otherwise, which would result in depriving a settler of his actual home or valuable improvements, and if allowed in any case it should be as a matter of executive discretion, to enable him to take the full quantity allowed by law, and to avoid a conflict with other asserted claims.

The department has decided that, where a single woman makes a homestead entry, and afterwards marries, her husband, in the event of her death, cannot purchase in his own name, under the act of June 15, 1880. The question as to whether a husband in such a case is an heir, is one to be determined by state law and not by the department.