

FISHERIES.

The salmon cannery at Bandon, near the mouth of Coquille river, was consumed by fire on the 25th of May.

The run of salmon in the Columbia, which was very light for the first six weeks of the season, has been heavier for the past few weeks.

A new floating cannery, known as "Spratt's ark," is now in operation near Victoria. She is 144 feet long, 33½ feet beam, 9 feet hold, and cost \$65,000.

On Sequim bay is a cannery engaged in packing clams. About twenty Indians are employed, and as many as 200 bushels of clams have been gathered in one day.

It is estimated that the ten canneries on Fraser river will pack 100,000 cases of salmon the present season. The force employed in the industry consists of 300 white men, 700 Chinese and 1,200 Indians.

The Northern Pacific is making preparations to supply the east with fresh salmon and other fish from the coast. They will be shipped in refrigerator cars the same as fruit, dressed beef, etc., and a large business will no doubt spring up.

The fish commissioners, in 1878, put some young shad in McLeod river, California, and the next year a few were seen in the Sacramento and others in the Columbia. Their number has been observed to increase each year, until now they are frequently caught at Astoria. The shad is pronounced the finest fish for the table that exists, and we certainly hope that their propagation on the coast will be aided until they become a valuable factor in our fisheries.

Those of our readers who are experimenting with carp ponds will be interested by the following item from the *Industrialist*, a paper published by the Industrial College of Manhattan, Kansas:

"On Thursday our carp were changed from pond No. 2, where they have taken their long winter's sleep, to the breeding pond No. 1. During the whole of the long winter past, the pond containing these carp has been apparently a solid mass of ice, without so much as one "air hole;" and, moreover, these fishes have not been fed since some time in October last. For these reasons we undertook the examination of this pond with some misgivings. Our doubts, however, rapidly gave place to feelings of another sort after we had pulled out fourteen handsome fellows, several of which were, by actual measurement, eighteen inches in length. These carp, it will be remembered, are a few days over two years old."

The birth of a sea lion in Barnum's menagerie is considered of enough importance to be telegraphed over the country, and yet the fishermen of Coquille river have found it necessary to inaugurate a war of extermination against these pests. The sea lions that infest the waters at the mouth of that stream annually destroy thousands of salmon, to the great detriment of the fishing interests. A lion weighing 300 pounds will consume his weight in fish in a very brief time. Two men have been employed to shoot these gormands at the rocks they make their headquarters. The plan of the campaign is to kill the males first, with the idea that the females will remain with the young and not endeavor to escape. Then the mothers will be shot, and finally the infants. If Barnum wants a choice assortment of baby sea lions he had better send in his order promptly. They are easily captured, for so far from fearing

the approach of human beings they appear to enjoy their society. It seems cruel to kill the little creatures, but they would soon become as destructive to fish as their parents. The salmon annually consumed by lions at that point would keep a large cannery running the whole season.

IDAHO.

A town named Petersburg has been laid off on the line of the Oregon Short Line, in lower Boise valley, which has good prospects of becoming a trade center.

Moscow has organized an elevator and warehouse company with a capital stock of \$25,000, preparatory to handling a large amount of grain when it becomes a railroad point. North of the town about twelve miles is a section of rich, arable land through which flows Gold creek. Wood and water are abundant, and there is much good land still unoccupied.

The rush to Wood river this year is greater than ever before. Formerly none but miners and traders were afflicted with the "Wood river fever," but in the immigration this year are capitalists and many farmers with families settling upon the thousands of acres of arable land. The Oregon Short Line has rendered that region easy of access, and it will not be long before all the available land will be taken. There are many fertile valleys and prairies in Idaho, some requiring irrigation and others not, that have remained unoccupied because their value was unappreciated. Some of these are now being rapidly settled upon and all will attract the emigrant in a few years.

Camas prairie, in Alturas county, Idaho, is the largest of the many bearing that name in the northwest. The title is derived from a plant with a bulbous root, which grows in abundance on all these mountain prairies. The root forms one of the staple articles of food for the Indians, who gather it in great quantities in the summer time and dry it for winter use. The soil of these prairies is a rich alluvium, easily cultivated, and yields good crops of vegetables, hay and grain. The prairie above alluded to is favorably situated for supplying the market of the Wood river country, and for that reason offers special advantages to settlers. Of it the *Belleuve Sun* says:

Many do not recognize the coming importance of Camas prairie. It is now a very important factor in the trade of this city, and is being constantly increased by the new settlers coming in. After reaching Willow creek, all is new ranches, clear across Camas prairie to High prairie, and the ranchers are busy putting in grain and vegetables, and it is fast assuming the appearance of a regular farming country. A large number of farms are being improved and fenced, and nice frame houses adorn nearly all of them, the settlers being of the thrifty class, who take just pride in their homes, and most of them have settled here within the last year. The prairie is perfectly level, and is a fine watered country; every four or five miles a beautiful mountain stream flows towards the south, emptying into and forming the Malad, one of the branches of the Snake. It is into the Malad that Wood river flows. The prairie is about fifteen miles wide by sixty in length, and is at present covered with a fine luxuriant growth of grass, so high that it even now waves in the breeze, being the most luxuriant along the northern foothills, where the sun strikes from the south, and it is here that the principal settlements are now being made. It is the most free from frost, but the rest of the valley will soon sustain a dense population. It has room for fifteen thousand people in the near future.



EASTERN WASHINGTON.

YAKIMA COUNTY.—One of the most valuable sections of Washington still awaiting development, is the county of Yakima, lying between the Cascades and Columbia river. It is through this region that the Cascades division of the Northern Pacific is now being surveyed, to connect Eastern Washington with Puget sound, and give a direct line from the latter to the East. That such a road will be built in a few years, either by the Northern Pacific or some other company, and possibly by both, is beyond question. The country that would thus be developed is capable of supporting such a road independently of through traffic. Yakima county is one of the largest in the territory and has a population of only 4,000. The best agricultural lands lie within the Yakima Indian reservation, which contains 600 sections of as fine soil as can be found on the coast, about 300,000 acres of which are natural meadow, and the remainder good arable land requiring irrigation of a comparatively inexpensive character. They lie along the Yakima, Satas, Topnish and Simcoe streams. Mountains abounding in timber furnish shelter on the south and west. At some time in the future this reserve must be thrown open to settlement. Outside its limits there are thousands of acres of land awaiting the plow. Atahnam and Moxee valleys lie in the center of the county. The former has an average width of five miles and is thirty miles long. It is excellent land and the surrounding hills furnish a grazing range of a superior quality. Hops are the best crop, though grain is a staple. The value of the hop product in 1882 was \$60,000. Yakima City, the county seat, is situated on the edge of the reservation, at the junction of Yakima river and Atahnam creek. It has a population of 500, good business houses, a fine public school, a Catholic school, several churches, two newspapers, a bank, and the U. S. land office for that district. Moxee valley is about twelve miles long and five wide, and the soil only needs irrigating to produce in abundance. A ditch to be twenty-five miles in length and cost \$40,000 will soon be completed, and will furnish sufficient water to irrigate 20,000 acres of land. The ditch company has located 7,000 acres under the desert land act, and there is land left for other enterprising men. Kittitas valley lies twenty-five miles to the north of Yakima City, and for fertility of soil, beauty of location and healthfulness of climate has no superior anywhere. It contains more than a million acres of fine farming lands, with a large quantity of natural meadow. On the west side of the valley is Ellensburg, a thrifty town of 500 inhabitants. There are five flouring mills and four saw mills in the valley. Grain and hay are the main crops produced, and the yield is enormous. This valley is not at all inferior to the reservation in the value of its soil. In speaking