

THE INDIAN TOTEM STICK.

There left this city, on the through freight train to Kalama yesterday morning, a veritable Indian totem stick, which in its way is something of a wonder, although in several sections of British Columbia and Alaska these may be seen in the old camps of the early Indians. This stick has been lying at the wharf in this city for the past four or five days, and has elicited much comment from many who mistook it for a heathen god, and, indeed, from the ghoul-like caricatures with which it is profusely covered, the ordinary spectator is apt to form such an opinion, incorrect as it is. This curiosity was brought from Queen Charlotte's Island, between the island of Vancouver and Alaska, some six or seven years ago, and left at the Hudson Bay Company's wharf in Victoria. When Mr. C. H. Prescott, of the O. R. & N. Co., visited that place some days ago, in company with Senator Edmunds and others, he conceived the idea of transferring it to Portland, and accordingly it was put on board one of the steamers for this city. The huge log on which the rude engraving is made, is of white cedar. It is about thirty feet long and three feet across at the larger end. Among several hieroglyphics at the larger end, are two carvings of fish, and the representation of an eagle's head and neck, with wings on the side. The next section, as it may be called, represents a wierd human face, with large cheeks and a prominent nose. On the cheeks are some eagle's talons. The third section represents similar carvings, while on the fourth is shown a large alligator. It is well carved, and occupying a larger space on the log or stick, seems to cling to it like a living reptile, with its legs astride the log. Its teeth and claws are well and plainly outlined, and everything considered, the representation of the alligator is more correct than any of the others. Further along are chiseled in the wood, the heads of men and wild birds and beasts. From the larger end to this point, there is a barbaric blending and commingling of these carvings, one having scarcely been begun until it is succeeded by something else. Finally beyond these is the remainder of the stick, a distance of about nine feet, which, while the former portion is semi-circular in form, and hollowed in the back, is narrowed to the thickness of but little more than a foot. At intervals of one foot are circular rings which run entirely around it.

And now comes the information concerning it. The narrow ends of such sticks are placed deeply and securely in the ground near the wigwam of the head chief of the Indian tribe, and this serves to represent the implements or insignia of government and command of the Indians, much the same as the flag of any country is to be fought for and cherished and revered. These may be found in a few sections on the upper coast.

At the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C., may be found several curiously engraved and printed totem sticks, though none of them are as large as the one in question. They aptly recall the words of the poet, Longfellow:

And they painted on the grave-posts
Of the graves, yet unforgetten,
Each his own ancestral totem,
Each the symbol of his household,
Figures of the bear and reindeer,
Of the turtle, crane, and beaver.

In after times, these rude carvings originating with the early North American aborigines will be

very valuable as curiosities. The stick in question is reputed to have been carved some fifty years ago, and in only one place was it noticed to be rotten and decayed.—Tacoma Ledger.

ILLIMITABLE RESOURCES.

Mr. John McCafferty returned Saturday last from his prospecting tour over the Puget sound coal fields. He reports having had a very rough but propitious trip. Over a week was put in visiting the different coal fields. The journey on foot and on horseback, through the almost impenetrable magnificent forests, back from the sound, was tedious and discouraging, but the purpose of the trip was successfully accomplished. About eighteen miles south of Renton, three sections of fine coking coal land was obtained, with which Mr. McCafferty is well pleased, and speaks very highly of the timber and coal thereon. About fifty acres of the land is covered with a growth of curly maple, which alone is a fair investment. A number of tests have been made of the coal, from these sections, which prove, beyond all doubt, that it will make an excellent quality of silver coke. A company has been formed to reduce the coal to coke at the coal fields, operations to begin shortly. It will then be shipped from there to Montana, to be used in working the large quantities of base metal ores, a number of veins of which, near Butte, Mr. McCafferty is interested in. The railroad line, which has been already surveyed, and construction of which will be begun on the 26th inst., runs through one section of the land. This is going to be a large and profitable business for the northwest, as large quantities of coke are consumed yearly in the smelters of Montana, and in almost every manufactory where a blast furnace is used. The coke, if it proves to be as good an article as is expected, can be shipped to the mines of Mexico, Arizona, Utah and even to Colorado, and compete with the eastern markets, especially as there is not a good quality of coke made in the eastern states.—News.

A FEATHER IN ALBANY'S CAP.

J. M. Nolan, Esq., one of the most enterprising merchants of Albany, Oregon, decided last spring to close out his business in that city and move elsewhere. In a conversation with one of our correspondents a few days since, he said that after traveling all over the Pacific Northwest he has decided to remain at Albany, as, backed as it is by solid agricultural wealth, he considers its future prosperity assured. He is now enlarging his premises and making arrangements for receiving an immense stock of fall goods.

In the matter of fancy goods for the holiday season, our dealers can not do better than to draw from the immense stock of the St. Paul Book and Stationery Co., St. Paul, Minnesota. They give careful attention to orders by mail, and are not undersold.

A new iron cinch rigging coming into general use among stock men has been shown us by W. M. Mann, of Helena, Montana. It is a very simple contrivance, but extremely valuable, for, when attached to an ordinary saddle it renders it impossible for a fractious horse or "bucking cayuse" to move the saddle in the least. Mr. Mann, the inventor and patentee, is an old stock saddle maker, and is prepared to furnish proof of all he claims from the testimony of the best stock men in Montana.

We have received a map of New Tacoma, published by C. P. Ferry, Portland. It is a complete map of the city and its additions, is neatly gotten up, and is very valuable to one interested in New Tacoma real estate.

The best photos, all styles and sizes, are taken by Abell. Gallery, west side of First street, between Morrison and Yamhill.

To obtain the most artistic views of scenery in the Pacific Northwest, go to Davidson, southwest corner First and Yamhill. He has the only complete assortment in this state.

The St. Paul Book and Stationery Co. come before our readers for at least a share of their patronage. They have a very large and complete line of miscellaneous, standard, illustrated and juvenile books, blank books, papers, envelopes, and all kinds of stationery articles, photograph and autograph albums, Christmas, New Year and birthday cards, and fancy goods for holiday and other trade. They say that they will not be undersold, and that orders by mail will receive prompt and careful attention. By all means give them a trial.

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