

but in many instances long ditches would have to be constructed, which will require considerable capital, but it will pay the "biggest kind" for mining purposes alone, besides such ditches could be made so as to cover large areas of excellent agricultural lands and thus be made permanent and profitable investments.—Boise City *Republican*.

From Mr. Henry Bateman, who recently arrived here from the Okinagan country, where he has been on a semi-prospecting and land hunting tour, we learn that there have been some rich quartz ledges found in that country. He says that although there has been no extensive work done on the ledges, the surface rock is all good ore and will pay a large profit above mining expenses. There were only ten or twelve miners in the country when he left, but while coming this way he met a number going into the mines and some have started since his return here. The mines are situated on the fifteen-mile strip of Moses' reservation, lately thrown open to settlement. Mr. Bateman is of the opinion that there will be at least 1,000 people in that country by this time next year. The military officers who have been over that section of country are so favorably impressed with the richness of the mineral deposits that General Miles has written to the authorities at Washington, advising them to pay for the fifteen-mile strip and buy the entire reservation. Senator Jones, of Nevada, a well-known and successful mine owner, has sent a prospecting party to the mining district to prospect for ledges. The prospectors are trusted and tried mining experts, and upon their decision Senator Jones will rely. The party was put in the field at an outlay of \$3,000 and is provided with every facility for thorough prospecting. There are several old ledges in the Okinagan country which were discovered ten or eleven years ago and on which shafts have been sunk fifty or sixty feet, which the discoverers did merely to work out the assessments, but they had no show to work the ore as the ledges were on the Indian reservation. There is no doubt that when the entire reservation is thrown open and settlers begin to flock in, mines will be discovered that will make Washington territory rank with the best mineral producing countries in the known world.—Cheney *Tribune*.

## FISHERIES.

The Coquille Packing Co. is erecting a building at Parkersburg, to be used as a cannery and storehouse. It will be in readiness for the fall run of salmon in the Coquille river.

Two canneries have been erected just west of Tacoma, and are now being fitted up with machinery. They will be ready for business by the time the fall run commences, and will give employment to some 300 men. "Tacoma Salmon" will be a new brand in the market.

At Clinton, six miles from Moscow, Idaho, John Wolf has a pond containing about 5,000 German carp, both large and small. Two years ago he procured seven from California at five dollars each, and this is the natural increase. The fish sell at the pond for a dollar each, and Mr. Wolf asserts that they pay better than wheat.

All canned salmon seeking an eastern market has heretofore been sent by way of San Francisco, and as the rate from Astoria to that city is twenty cents per case, the packers of Sacramento fish have had that much advantage over the Oregon canners. As soon as the Northern Pacific is completed, fish from the Columbia can be forwarded to Chicago and New York as cheaply as from the Sacramento, and then our packers will have opened to them a large market which has been practically closed in the past.

Spencer T. Baird, the U. S. Fish Commissioner at Washington, has written as follows to Hon. M. C. George: "In compliance with your request, I have sent Livingston Stone, the officer in charge of the McCloud river station, to make a thorough exploration of the Columbia river, with a view of determining at what points hatcheries can best be established for the purposes of increasing the supply in the Columbia river." This is certainly a step in the right direction, and the next thing to do is to establish the hatcheries as soon as Mr. Stone selects the proper location. It now remains to be seen how much delay will be caused by red tape. It generally takes the government two years to accomplish as much as a business man can do in two months.

The canning season on the Columbia ends by statutory provision on the thirty-first of July. On the eighteenth the following resume of the season's business was given by the *Astorian*, the best authority on the salmon industry on the coast:

The present season has been most singular in every respect. Starting with an unprecedented amount of gear, with a most unfavorable market, an inability to effect satisfactory sales, and a general belief in a short catch, the canneries have throughout been in a most unsatisfactory position. The price of fish was set at the start at a figure considerably in advance of the price paid last season. This had the effect of bringing up sufficient fishermen from the Sacramento to catch during May and June all that came into the river; during these months an attempt was made more than once to lower the prices, those who had their all in the business being unable to see how the high price of the raw material and the low price of the marketable article left any margin for profit. From seventy-five cents to one dollar was paid for fish, and all that has been packed up to recently cost, on an average, ninety cents a fish.

Up to June 15th it was believed by many that the pack would not exceed 400,000 cases; probably it would be just as well, taking everything into consideration, had events made good the prophecy. But the increased number of canneries and the extraordinary diligence manifested in catching the fish ran the figures up rapidly, so that on the first of this month there were 340,500 cases reckoned as being put up; the pack for the season of '82, to same date, being reckoned at 292,912. From the way the salmon have been coming in since the 1st instant, more especially during the last week, it is evident that the pack will be fully up to last season's figures; should the canneries all run to their full capacity to the first of August this season's pack will exceed that of '82.

It is not their intention. The general idea seems to be to fill all the cans on hand, or at least to use up all the tin plate in stock. Several of the canners have refused fish this week, except to a certain limit. Others, who are short of cans, take a specified number, and when they are disposed of spend the remainder of the day in making cans.

The extraordinary run of this month has not been equaled in size and numbers since 1879. It has been no uncommon thing for the fishermen to bring in a hundred to the boat, and, of course, the price at once fell. Since Monday, fish have been selling at figures far below what would have

been looked upon as a fair price twenty days ago. Thirty cents, and from that to fifty, has been the figure, and on yesterday's steamer went a large crowd of fishermen who refused to catch at those prices.

The state of affairs is very unsatisfactory. A man who has invested a large amount of capital, and who has been filling his cans with ninety-cent fish all the season, can not feel very complacent over matters when they come swarming in now in such numbers as to exceed the capacity of the canneries to dispose of them, and at the same time the question in his mind whether it is best to keep on even on thirty-cent fish or to knock off altogether and quit for the season. We do not wholly agree in the opinion that the knowledge that there is an unusual pack on the Columbia river this season is going to keep the price of fish down. The market for salmon, both in this country and in England, depends, of course, primarily on the price at which it leaves the house of the retailer, but it depends in a greater degree on the demand. In this particular, fortunately for our staple, the demand is a growing one. A good many exaggerated reports have been made concerning the large stocks now on hand in England. These stocks are not as large as represented, and it will be the first of November before the season's pack reaches England. The large percentage which, this season, goes on consignment, renders this an important item in its final disposition. Of course, to those who have made sales, the matter is final.

The present result of the season that is now closing will have great influence on future business. It demonstrates the fact that the salmon are not "giving out," for no better or bigger salmon have ever been caught in the Columbia than are now heading up stream to spawn. It will tend to legitimize the business and make it partake more of the nature of usual lines of trade than has heretofore been characteristic. The time has gone by when a man could make a fortune in one season on the Columbia river, but the time will never be when by the same care and diligence applied to ordinary branches of trade, a man cannot make money. That the business is now overdone is evident.

## COLUMBIA RIVER LANDS.

It is with pleasure we again record the successful cultivation of the lands along the Columbia river, running back some twenty miles, which have been universally condemned as "too dry." Three years ago a company was organized to experiment with these lands, and a tract of over 5,000 acres was secured in the northwestern portion of Umatilla county. Amid all the prophesies of failure the owners of Prospect Farm went systematically to work and astonished everybody by raising a crop of wheat averaging nearly twenty-five bushels to the acre. "You can't do it again," was the cry that met them whenever they boasted of their success. They did do it again, and the people began to change their opinion about that class of land. Many claims have been taken up by settlers and by men desiring to farm on an extensive scale, and the probabilities are that there will be a great demand for land of this character. The present season was the driest experienced here for years and if ever crops may be expected to fail in that region they should have done so now, and yet on Prospect Farm the crop is turning out thirty bushels to the acre, and near Alkali a farm of 1,000 acres on the same kind of land and in the same dry region is averaging twenty-five bushels to the acre. There are thousands of acres of this land open to settlement or purchase, and in a few years there will no doubt be a continuous line of farms upon what has always been considered no better than a desert or at best fitted only for the grazing of sheep and cattle.