

FISHERIES

Quinn's cannery, about a mile below Oak Point on the Oregon side of the Columbia, was destroyed by fire on the first of November.

Ten tons of live Baltimore oysters were recently transplanted near Victoria. This is a work that should not be confined to one section.

The Williams cannery at Tacoma was not as successful this season as anticipated. After 200 barrels were salted and 2,000 cases packed, the salmon run ended, leaving cans for about 15,000 cases to be held over.

Reports from the Alaska whaling fleet are very discouraging. Up to the twenty-eighth of August five vessels had caught ten whales, while the remainder of the fleet of thirty-eight had none. The ice was very bad and whales were seen outside Point Barrow but twice. The *Cyane* went ashore five miles north of Point Belcher and is a total wreck. The fleet is expected to return in a few days, and then the full catch of the season will be known.

The salmon run in Rogue and Coquille rivers has been unusually large and the season is now at an end. Recently 3,200 were caught in two hauls of the seine at E'ensburg and the cannery there after using up all its material for canning, salted fish in great quantities. On the Coquille about 10,000 cases have been packed and some 1,300 barrels salted. This industry is increasing rapidly on the southwestern coast of Oregon, where there are yet a number of fine salmon streams upon which canneries could be profitably located.

A car containing 10,000 young carp arrived in this city on the fourteenth of November, having been sent out by Prof. Baird, U. S. fish commissioner. To all parties on the coast who apply for them for the purpose of stocking ponds fifty are given free of charge. Now is the best opportunity farmers will probably ever enjoy to obtain a supply of these excellent food fish for breeding upon their own premises. They require but little care and in two years become large and valuable.

Since the above was in type we have learned from the gentleman in charge that the carp have all been distributed. This is an evidence that our people recognize their value.

The fisheries of Alaska are only exceeded by the fur industry in importance, and are increasing so rapidly that they may take the first rank in a few years. The extent of the whaling interests is well known. The principal food fish are cod, halibut, salmon, herring and oolachon (eulachon). The last named are extremely oily and are caught by the natives in great numbers, who extract the oil and use it for food grease, as some tribes do whale oil. These fish are also dried and then burned for candles, being on that account known also as the candle fish. The oil has been bottled and exported to some extent and is pronounced superior to cod liver oil for medicinal purposes. This fish is most abundant in southern Alaska and British Columbia. At present the salting and canning of salmon is the leading industry. Seven canneries, situated at Kenai, Pyramid Harbor, Cape Fox, Karluk, Chilcat, Carter bay, and Klavack, are in operation this season and the result of their labors is not yet known. At

Killiknoo the Northwestern Trading Company has a large establishment for extracting oil and drying fish. They produce large quantities of herring oil, cod liver oil, porpoise oil, whale oil, dried cod and dried herring. Fish are also dried and salted at Takon, Sitka, Naha bay, Bartlett bay, Unga island, and Choumagin islands. The black cod, a superior food fish about which little has heretofore been known, abounds from Cape Flattery to the Arctic ocean. The fish is very fat and oily, some of the native tribes catching it for its oil in the place of oolachon. Under the auspices of the United States Fish Commission James G. Swan has recently made some experiments in salting the black cod which have been highly successful, and 500 pounds of the fish have been sent to Washington. An effort was made thirty years ago by Captain Brothie to secure a cargo of these fish at Knight's island, but as the natives have a superstitious regard for them he was prevented from accomplishing his purpose. There is an opening here for an extensive and profitable industry. In 1878 a few shad were planted in the Sacramento river, and now this fine fish is occasionally caught in the waters of Puget sound, British Columbia and Alaska.

FLATHEAD RESERVATION AND MISSION.

Probably the most contented of reservation Indians in the United States are those occupying the region embracing the Flathead lake and valley of the Jocko, in Montana. These Indians have been continuously under the religious instruction of the missionary fathers of the Catholic church since early pioneer times, and it can be said of them that they have never given trouble to the white intruders. In the matter of education and the practice of agriculture and the industrial arts they are the equal of any save the Creeks and Cherokees, and are nearly self-sustaining. These facts will appear in the report of Senator Vest and the Indian Commission, where the contrast with the condition of many other reservation tribes will be vivid. The following facts about the Flathead reservation are collated from a Missoula exchange:

The Jocko valley, where the reservation headquarters are located, is one of the loveliest spots in Montana. Streams of clear, crystal water flow past the agency buildings and behind the mountains rise rugged and high. A beautiful moss-banked stream flows swiftly along between the agency and the Jocko. On both sides of its banks the land is fenced in, and substantial log houses and smoke-colored lodges alternate as far as the eye can reach. Here a golden stubble-field, with stacks of wheat in the center; next a green meadow, from which the grass has been cut clean and smooth; then a corn patch, and a vegetable garden, all making a picture of rare beauty, which the eye loves to dwell upon. Then the Indians (for every foot of land belongs to them) galloping along with their gaily colored blankets and head-dress of feathers nodding in the wind, lent an additional charm to that scene of beauty in the peaceful looking Jocko valley. The agency buildings and surroundings are as clean-kept and neat as a parlor. No wonder Major Roman is held in such high esteem by both Indians and whites. An honest, upright man, he is peculiarly fitted for his difficult position.

A three-mile drive from the agency over the grazing lands brings us to the Jocko. The river banks are covered with moss, which grows down to the water's edge; tall pines, larches and firs at intervals, throw their shadows over the clear, rippling waters, and over many a deep trout pool, where the Indians can always be seen fishing. All along the river bottom the trees stand well apart, with rich pasture covering the spaces between. The drive of fourteen miles down the fertile Jocko valley is one of interest. Well-tilled fields belonging to the Indians and half-breeds are passed. Log and frame houses are to be seen on every ranch, some of them belonging to white men who had married squaws, for by such a marriage a white man acquires the privileges and immunities of an Indian untaxed. The entire Jocko valley, with its panorama of beautiful scenery, its Indian lodges and farms, is spread out to the railroad traveler, for the Northern Pacific winds its way through the river valley.

St. Ignatius Mission was established by Father de Smet in the year 1853, when the lower Kalispel Indians came up and settled in the Mission valley. The Indians who occupy the Flathead reservation are composed of Kalispel, Pen d'Oreilles, Flatheads, and Kootenais, as follows: Pen d'Oreilles and Kalispels, about 1,000; Kootenais, about 350, and Flatheads about 150. The old log church, built at the beginning of the Mission, was replaced in 1859 by the present frame building, built by Father Manetery, which is capable of accommodating about 1,000 Indians. There are two boarding schools; the one for the girls is conducted by the Sisters of Providence. There are five sisters and four lay sisters. The boys' boarding school is conducted by the fathers, there being three fathers and four lay brothers. The Indian children, besides being taught a common school education, are also instructed in manual labor of all kinds, the boys learning carpentering and other trades. The girls are instructed in housework, needlework and other accomplishments, in order to make them tidy housewives. The fathers are instructing fifty Indian boys, and the sisters about the same number of girls. Two new school houses are being constructed, one for the girls, 50x45, two stories high, and another for the boys, in the shape of an L, having a double front of 66x66 feet, and two full stories high, with a mansard roof. These school houses are put up at the expense of the mission fathers. The girls' school house will cost fully \$5,000, and that of the boys will not fall short of from \$8,000 to \$9,000. The present residence of the sisters was built in 1865, and that of the fathers in 1876. The mission buildings are surrounded by smiling gardens of fruits and flowers, vegetables, hemp, broom-corn, and tobacco at least four feet high. Cabbages, squashes, and other vegetables attain a wonderful growth in the mission gardens, the best vegetables being in a garden which has been cultivated for the past twenty-five years.

A new flouring mill on Willow creek, Madison county, Montana, has begun operations.

Preparations are being made to begin the manufacture of pottery at the large brick yards near New Tacoma.

The steam flouring mill at Colton, Whitman county, W. T., has been completed. It has a capacity of 125 barrels in twenty-four hours.