



A canal is being constructed to irrigate 20,000 acres of sage brush land along Lost river.

The gross value of property in Clackamas county is \$3,844,146, including 326,549 acres of land of an average value of \$4.25 per acre.

The assessment list of Josephine county shows a total valuation of \$563,885. The chief item is that of land, of which there are 55,889 acres.

A new saw mill has been put up on Hinton creek near Heppner, Oregon, to supply the great demands for lumber created by the improvements in that region.

About 140,000 bushels of wheat and 130,000 of oats and barley were raised in Rogue river valley this season. Plowing and seeding are now in progress and a largely increased acreage is indicated.

The assessor's returns show that the property of Umatilla county is valued at \$4,892,271, embracing 42,209 acres of land at \$21 per acre; 12,632 head of horses at \$40; 11,292 cattle at \$22.50; and 240,951 sheep at \$1.33.

The mills owned by W. S. Byers & Co. at Pendleton, Oregon, have been extensively enlarged and fitted up with the gradual reduction process machinery. Their daily capacity is 500 barrels of flour, and the total cost of placing them in their present condition was \$200,000.

The sinking of a small artesian well is in progress on the highlands of Wasco county, between Five Mile and Three Mile creeks. If a good flouring mill is secured, it will be a great inducement to settlers to take up farms on those uplands where the soil is fertile but water scarce.

E. Willis, who lives near Miller's station in this county, raised a crop of club wheat this year that yielded between 40 and 50 bushels to the acre. After the first crop was cut, a second crop sprung up, matured and the heads are well filled. Mr. Willis also raised 300 bushels of potatoes, known as the Garnet Chili variety, on one acre of ground. He brought a bushel of these spuds to town. One of them weighed five pounds and an ounce, and four of them weighed 17½ pounds.—*Albany Herald.*

It has been ascertained that the Nehalem is navigable for twelve miles and has a depth of sixteen feet on the bar at mean low tide. The valley of the Nehalem is one of the richest in natural resources in the state. Great beds of coal have been discovered and are being developed, dense forests of fir, spruce, hemlock and giant cedar cover the valley and mountain sides, magnificent meadows for dairying and soil of unsurpassed fertility for the production of grain, vegetables and fruit, exist along the stream, and good water power for manufacturing can be found. A town named Coalburn has been located at the head of navigation, and has every prospect of becoming a place of importance.



The new city laid out on Gray's harbor at the terminus of the projected railroad, covers between fifty and sixty acres of ground, and fronts for half a mile on the harbor.

A new town has been laid out in Yakima county, near Ellensburg, comprising about forty acres. It is pleasantly situated on a bench on the south bank of Yakima river. The name is yet to be selected.

On the great bend of Skagit river a new town, named Avon, has been laid out, and has already a store, postoffice and hotel. This is designed as being the future shipping point for the Olympia marsh.

The hop crop in Puyallup valley this season amounts to 6,000 bales, or 1,110,000 lbs. This is about one-half the yield estimated early in the spring, based upon the largely increased acreage, and is nearly 500,000 pounds short of last year's crop. Nearly the entire product has been disposed of at prices ranging from 14 to 19 cents, while last year the great bulk of the crop brought from 50 cents to \$1.00 per pound. Large crops and high prices can not be expected every season, and hop growers do not feel discouraged by the results.

The town of Colville laid out last spring in Stevens county has made great progress. It lies in Colville valley, three miles from the old fort and twelve back from the Columbia river, occupying a plateau just where the prairie and forest lands meet, and having a clear mountain stream flowing through to supply water and power to turn machinery. There are two general merchandise stores, one feed stable, one restaurant and boarding house, one blacksmith shop, one wood-working shop, a jewelry store, school house, two saloons, a large brewery, and a number of residences. The immigration Colville valley will receive the coming season will largely increase the size and importance of this growing young town.

Hanaford valley is a region but little known by the outside world. It lies in the edge of Lewis county, some twelve miles northeast of Tenino, and contains about 8,000 acres of good agricultural land, only one-third of which is taken up by settlers. The remainder is in the hands of speculators, belongs to the Northern Pacific, or is still open government land upon which locations can be made. The surrounding hills are covered with fir and cedar, and when cleared of timber make good farms, often sloping gradually to the south and offering splendid locations. Coal is found in great quantities in the hills adjacent to the valley, and a company has been incorporated to develop some of the veins.

Many other coal claims have been taken. A railroad seven or eight miles in length is being talked of, running from the mines down Hanaford creek to Centerville on the Northern Pacific.

A party of the Northern Pacific transcontinental geological survey has been in the Cascades for several months, in charge of R. U. Goode, assisted by Prof. T. S. Brandegee as botanist and forestry expert. These gentlemen have given the Yakima *Signal* many facts developed by their explorations. According to their measurements the height of the various passes through the Cascades are as follows: The summit of Natchez pass is 4,900 feet above the level of the sea; Tacoma pass, 3,430; Sheets pass, 3,606; Stampede pass, 3,695; Yakima pass, 3,625; Snoqualmie pass, 3,110; Cowlitz pass, 5,200. The elevation of Yakima is 990 feet, and that of Ellensburg 1,500. The elevation of Ainsworth, at the mouth of Snake river, is 350 feet.

One important discovery made by Mr. Goode's party is that Mount Adams is several hundred feet higher than heretofore supposed, while Mount Tacoma is 190 feet lower. The height of Mount Adams is ascertained to be 12,300 feet, and that of Tacoma 14,250 feet above the level of the sea. The forestry expert finds that the trees of the Cascade mountains are greater in variety than in any other part of the United States, if not in the world. In the entire Rocky mountain region there are not more than ten or twelve varieties while in the Cascades there are ninety-two which may be classed as follows: *Pinus ponderosa*, or yellow pine (three leaves); *Pinus contorta*, or black pine (two leaves); *Pinus albiculis*, or ridge pine (five leaves); *Pinus monophylla*, or mountain pine (five leaves); *Parotsuga*, or red fir; *Abies grandis*, or white fir; *Abies nobilis* (very rare); *Abies amabilis* (very rare); *Abies sub-alpina* (very rare); *Larix occidentalis* or western larch; *Larix Lyellii* (discovered by Prof. Lyell); *Picea engelmannii*, a spruce; *Tsuga pattersoniana* and *Tsuga mertensiana* (hemlocks); *Juniperus Virginiana*, *Juniperus communis* (cedars); *Taxus brevifolia* (yellow cedar); *Thuja gigantea* (white cedar). Mr. Goode has also obtained a list and samples of all grasses and other vegetation peculiar to this region.

LINCOLN COUNTY.—In dividing the county of Spokane and erecting the western portion into a new county called Lincoln, the legislature has created a political body that before many years will be one of the most influential in the territory. In population and products Lincoln bids fair to rival any purely agricultural county. It contains an area of 8,000 square miles and a population variously estimated between 4,000 and 5,000, the majority of whom live in the eastern end; yet it was chiefly because of the vast and sparsely settled region to the west, which will be overflowed with immigrants another year, that the new county was created. This region is known as the Big Bend country. From the *Spokane Chronicle* we gather the following facts about this region, and especially that portion farthest to the west known as the