

almost reached it, lies Lake Washington, a beautiful sheet of clear, sparkling water, twenty-five miles in length and from two to five miles wide. Giant forests hem it in and fringe its pebbly shores, while snow-topped peaks look down upon it from the summits of the neighboring mountains. There is not in the whole West a more beautiful spot nor one more attractive as a summer resort. A few years later, when Seattle has expanded and grown in strength and population, her wealthier citizens will seek the banks of this beautiful lake to build their palatial homes. Across the lake, on the east side, many families have settled upon fertile tracts of bottom lands, where fruit, berries and vegetables yield abundantly. Between the north end of the lake and the Sound lies Lake Union, three miles long and from one-fourth to one-half a mile in width. A small stream connects the two lakes, and a company has been formed to construct a ship canal from the Sound to Lake Washington by way of this smaller lake and the connecting stream. This will not only give access to the great lake to vessels of every class, with the consequent advantages to the various marine industries, but will drain a large body of marshy land and add that much to the cultivable area tributary to the city. This is one of the most important projects now in contemplation, and is only delayed by the usual dilatory action of Congress. The surveyed and platted limits of the city already touch both of these lakes.

The hotels of Seattle are superior in all their accommodations. This combines with the fact that the city is the converging point of all steamers plying on the Sound, and therefore the natural and most convenient starting place for any and all points along that great "Mediterranean of America," to render the Queen City the rendezvous of travelers and all who desire to spend a few days in enjoying the beautiful scenery and invigorating climate. Both as a place of residence and a halting place for tourists, Seattle will increase rapidly in favor, and in the future, as in the past, no one will have aught but words of praise to speak of the "Queen City of Puget Sound."

TOO MUCH LAND "CLAIMED."

WHERE can I find vacant land? is the first question asked by our immigrants. We have been asked the above question, and we have been ashamed to be compelled to say that, although a large part of the country is still wild prairie, somebody pretends to claim "everything in sight." The old settlers are a little too greedy in trying to hold so much land. It would be far better if our laws were such that no one could hold over 160 acres of land. To make land valuable, to make our schools what they should be, and to elevate the condition of our society, requires a settler on every quarter section of land. Men are every day seen looking for a home, but there is no use of their coming this way, for we do not believe there is a foot of vacant land within ten miles of Palouse City. But we know of a great many quarter sections of land not occupied, not cultivated, not paid for—just "claimed."—*Palouse Boomerang.*

CLARKE'S FORK MINES.

THE effort to secure the right of way through the National Park for a railroad to the Clarke's Fork mines, in Montana, is attracting much notice to that region. The Billings *Herald* contains the following letter from W. F. Stone, a gentleman thoroughly competent to express an opinion: "Since my recent return from Cooke City to Billings I have been asked a great many questions in regard to Cooke, its advantages, location, etc., and the country surrounding it. In order to give a general reply to these inquiries I enclose the following brief sketch: The New World mining district is located in the southeastern portion of Gallatin County, the National Park forming its southern boundary. The Clarke's Fork and Stillwater rivers find their source near the center of the district now developed. The minerals found there, so far, are gold, silver, copper, lead and molybdenite. There are some placer diggings, but they have never been thoroughly prospected. The gold quartz is almost universally free milling, and some is quite rich. The silver, in which this district abounds, is mostly galena, and it is found in large quantities. Some mines with scarcely any work done, such as the Daisy, show a vein of 60 feet of ore, assaying from 50 to 500 ounces in silver, with traces of gold. Most of the galena ores are smelting. The district abounds in lead and iron and everything necessary for flux. A great many experts think that concentrators will be used successfully, as we have an abundance of wood and water. The camp (Cooke) last year numbered about fifteen shacks; now we have over 200 buildings, some of which would be a credit to any of our Western towns. There are two smelters in operation, with a combined capacity of at least seventy-five tons per day, two sawmills, a planing mill, a bank, a blacksmith shop, three general stores, a clothing store and seven saloons. Between 300 and 400 people wintered there. A good school will be in operation by the 1st of June. The district has not been prospected ten miles from Cooke, and not very thoroughly within that distance, and for all those who are looking for a chance to invest, I do not know of a more desirable locality in the Northwest. We are almost sure to have a railroad by the beginning of next November. We have demonstrated beyond a doubt that the winter is the season in which to mine, freight and perform all such labor—in fact, for everything but prospecting. It is difficult to describe so rich and extensive a mining camp in one letter, but I may condense the matter by saying that, in my opinion, it bids fair to eclipse any mineral district in the United States."

THE assessed value of property in the new county of Skagit, Washington Territory, is \$885,000. This county was cut off from the southern end of Whatcom in December last, and it is indicative of the remarkable growth of that region that this valuation is \$171,000 in excess of that of the whole county of Whatcom prior to the division. Some 250 land claims have been filed in Skagit county this spring.