

NOTES OF THE NORTHWEST.

The extension of the Wood River branch of the Oregon Short Line to Ketchum has been commenced. The Philadelphia Smelting Company is backing the movement financially.

The Maiden Reduction Company has been organized to construct a smelter in the Maiden District, Montana. Capital for the enterprise was furnished by the miners of the district and the business men of Billings.

The Maginnis Mining Company has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$500,000. A mill, with a capacity to crush from fifteen to twenty tons of ore per day, will be erected immediately in the Maiden District, Montana.

Lieutenant B. A. Colonna, of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, is making a thorough survey of the Straits of Fuca. He has received permission from the Dominion Government to erect marks, signals, etc., on Vancouver Island.

A planing mill, with a full set of wood-working machinery, has been added to the industries of Weston, Or. Graham & Son, the proprietors, propose at no distant day to add machinery for iron work, so that agricultural implements and machines can be repaired, and to erect a chop and feed mill.

The sealing season off Cape Flattery has closed with a total catch nearly twice that of last year. The fleet consisted of seven American schooners and a number of English vessels. The season this year began in January and lasted until the 1st of June, when the seals departed for their Arctic feeding grounds.

Title deeds for the right of way for the proposed branch of the Oregon Short Line to Boise City have been secured and delivered to the attorney of the company. Contract for the grading has been let and a large force is now on the ground. Boise will soon rejoice in being united to the great railway system of the country.

A chief of the Makah tribe, named Peter, has purchased the schooner *Letitia*, a craft of thirty tons, and entered her at the Port Townsend Custom House. The captain of the little vessel is Jeff Davis, a full blood Indian, who was educated at the Agency school. The *Letitia* will engage in the coast trade along the Sound and Straits of Fuca.

The new steamer *Alki*, for the coast coal trade, has been completed at Bath, Me., and will soon sail from New York for San Francisco, passing through the Straits of Magellan. She is 201 feet long, 22 feet 7 inches breadth of beam and 16 feet depth of hold. The saloon is handsomely furnished, and she possesses stateroom accommodations for fifty passengers.

Clatsop County has increased rapidly in population, wealth and business enterprises during the past four years. In 1880 there were 970 votes cast in the county, 1,206 in 1882, and 1,792 in 1884. In the city of Astoria 881 votes were cast, while 1,292 ballots were deposited at the recent election. At the usual rate of five inhabitants

to each voter, this will give a total population of 6,460, exclusive of some 2,000 Chinamen.

It has been reported that a contract for 200,000,000 feet of lumber, for use on the Panama Canal this season, has been awarded to a combination of the Puget Sound mills. The annual demand upon the seven mills of the combination is 300,000,000 feet, and they are working but nine hours per day, and to fill this contract they will be compelled to run continuously night and day. It will add \$2,000,000 to the value of lumber shipments, load 300 large ships, and give employment in the woods and mills to 2,000 men in addition to the present working force.

Sixteen miles from Caldwell, Idaho, mining is being done in a portion of the old bed of Snake River, which has recently become exposed by a change in the current of the stream. The gold of Snake River is fine "flour gold," and consequently difficult to work, but in these new diggings nuggets and coarse gold are reported. At intervals along the river, for several hundred miles, the banks are being worked by the use of a number of newly devised machines for saving the fine gold, several of which are reported as working very successfully. The indications are that, as these new processes become better known, mining along the whole course of the stream will be engaged in profitably by thousands of men.

Lower Yakima, that portion of the county in which the Northern Pacific is at work, is settling up quite rapidly. At Prosser Falls, about midway between Yakima City and Ainsworth, the town of Prosser is springing up, in the midst of a fine agricultural country. The falls have a descent of thirty feet, and furnish abundant power for manufacturing, as well as unrivaled facilities for irrigating the land on both sides of the Yakima below that point. South is the fine bunch grass region known as "Horse Heaven," which is now being rapidly taken up for agricultural purposes, while north lies a vast stretch of bunch grass uplands. Several irrigating enterprises in various portions of Yakima County will soon open to cultivation thousands of acres of land.

To show what can be done with the land on the Umatilla Reservation, it is only necessary to tell of the operations of "Hank" Vaughn. Only fourteen months ago he began work on a tract of over 2,000 acres, which was then unbroken and unfenced prairie land, similar to thousands of acres around it. He now has 900 acres of wheat, 480 of barley, 15 of oats, 30 of vegetables, 160 of pasture, and 600 broken for fall seeding. He expects to clear \$22,000 by his year's operations on this wild land. To accomplish this result required energy, judgment and sufficient capital to pay for help, procure the best machinery, etc., and it demonstrates what can be done by the right kind of a man, with a few thousand dollars for capital, in the magnificent region lying at the northwestern base of the Blue Mountains.

Attention is now being turned toward the Aleutian Islands, off the west coast of Alaska, as suitable for stock ranges. The area of the whole group is in the