

31,858, indicating a population of 127,432 at four to one, or 159,290 at the old ratio of five. That portion of Idaho which it is proposed to include in the State of Washington cast 3,300 votes, showing a population of 13,200 or 16,500, according to the ratio used. It is evident that the proposed State had last fall a population ranging between 140,632 and 175,790. Several thousand have come in since, and before a State government could be organized the above figures would be increased fully one-third. The value of assessed property in Washington in 1884 was \$51,008,484, as compared with \$44,107,567, in 1883. At that rate of increase it would exceed \$60,000,000 before the earliest moment when it could be called upon to support a State government.

It certainly required an expert to discover that for 400 miles along its course the Columbia has no tributary offering all the requisites of a salmon hatchery. This stream, which fairly teems in the early summer with the most royal of all salmon, has no place upon its banks where these fish may be cheaply and successfully propagated by artificial means. The expert, Mr. Livingston Stone, requires the whole side of a newspaper to impart this information. He found one place, he tells us, where the conditions were all favorable but one, which was the trifling matter of the absence of the salmon proposed to be propagated. He finally winds up by telling us what we all knew before—that the site of the old hatchery on the Clackamas is as good as can be found, since the difficulty of obtaining pure water may be overcome at no great expense. Let some regulation be made whereby a sufficient number of breeding salmon can manage to run the gauntlet of the two thousand nets spread for them on the Lower Columbia, and Clackamas will again be filled with the royal Chinook as in days of yore, and artificial propagation of them be commenced under favorable conditions. This we have always known; but now that an expert has told us so we will know it better, perhaps, and do something.

THERE is a wealth of suggestion to the Oregon Immigration Board, and any other organization which may be effected in the Northwest for inducing and aiding immigration, to be found in the operations of the California Excursion Association. For several years the association has been running monthly excursion trains from Chicago to Los Angeles, and carrying immigrants and intended settlers in emigrant cars and at emigrant rates, but with accommodations hardly inferior to those to be found in a Pullman. They have brought to Los Angeles every month 150, 200 or even a larger number of immigrants, principally from the so-called Western States, and most of whom have settled in Southern California. The association has now turned its attention to the northern portion of the State, and has perfected arrangements for similar excursions over the Union and Central Pacific roads to Sacramento, to begin early in the spring. The success of this association is worthy of consideration by those who aim to accomplish the same end.

A CORRESPONDENT urges upon us the importance of shade trees, not only for the private residence but the public highway. The white maple of Oregon and Washington, he contends, is of quick growth, and superior in beauty and wealth of shade to the favorite maples, oaks, chestnuts, elms and locusts of the East. "With its shapely trunk and branches and its large leaves," he says, "I can conceive of no tree giving more shade or of greater beauty. The fallen autumn leaves furnish a natural mulch. The teamster and the farmer enjoy the shade in summer, and all kinds of stock find beneath its protection a retreat from the piercing rays of the sun." It is a valuable suggestion. Beautify your homes and line the highway in front of your farms, and you will add ten times as much to their market value as the time, labor and expense amount to, besides rendering yourself more contented, your home more attractive to yourself and children, and doing much more to bring sunshine into your life than you can now be made to believe. It is the treeless, barren, desolate farm whose occupants are never contented, and from which the younger generation flee as from a prison. More trees and comforts at home mean less pedro and poker in the neighboring town.

THE military authorities at Fort Keogh have decided to bore an artesian well at that point. This makes the third in the Yellowstone Valley. If good flowing wells can be bored one of the problems of the West has been solved. There are millions of acres of splendid soil in regions where the rainfall is too light for agricultural purposes, and so situated as to be beyond the reach of irrigation ditches taken from the watercourses and natural reservoirs of the country. If such land can be successfully irrigated by means of artesian wells, the cultivable area of the country will be widely extended. It is lack of water, and not sterility of soil, that renders Nevada so valueless for agriculture. Supply Nevada with water and she will furnish homes for a million of people in a few years.

A REDUCTION of emigrant rates between St. Paul and Portland, from \$45 to \$30, has been brought about by the Northern Pacific, whose officials strongly urged it before the Transcontinental Association. The company wisely believes that immigration into this region should be fostered, and that it is good business policy to offer it all the encouragement possible. Agents of the company are now in Europe, and it is confidently predicted that foreign emigration direct to the Pacific Northwest will be much larger this year than ever before.

THE daily and weekly Walla Walla *Statesman*, published by Colonel Frank J. Parker, is a model newspaper in every respect. The *Statesman* has been identified with Walla Walla from its infancy, and much of the prosperity of that city is the result of its enterprise and energetic championing of every progressive public measure. It deserves the liberal support it receives from the citizens of the Inland Empire.