

men, "He was from the United States, whither he departed after his short sojourn among us." Nanaimo must for all time maintain her present flourishing condition from the one fact that her vast stores of as yet undeveloped wealth are practically inexhaustible.

On the trip by water from Victoria to Nanaimo there is one point worthy of special mention. This is Dodd's Narrows, a narrow passage barely 100 feet in width, where the tide ebbs and flows with fearful force. All regular steamboats on this route pass through this channel, and it is not infrequent during spring tides for boats to be kept waiting for hours for the turn of the tide.

Crossing the Gulf of Georgia from Nanaimo the steamer enters the murky waters of the Fraser, one of the great rivers of the West. Here the traveler sees the salmon canneries of the Fraser, only excelled in magnitude by the world renowned canneries of the Columbia River. It is at this season that these canneries are being tested to their fullest capacity, and the dexterity with which the numerous attachés of these institutions handle the thousands of fish which are caught daily is marvelous. With practically one movement of his knife, the grim butcher, covered and bespattered with blood like some fiend incarnate, removes head, entrails and dorsal appendages of the succulent salmon, and in a wonderfully brief time the fish is canned, sealed, cooked, labeled and boxed ready for shipment to England at \$5.50 per case.

Sixteen miles above the mouth of the Fraser is New Westminster, a flourishing city of some 3,000 people. This city was formerly the capital of British Columbia. New Westminster enjoys the trade of the rich mineral and agricultural country which is drained by the Fraser. The many substantial improvements noticeable during the past year in New Westminster indicate a feeling of confidence among the wealthy inhabitants in the future importance of the city. In conclusion it may be well to add that, taking into consideration the prevailing depression in all departments of business throughout the country, nowhere is there noticeable more pleasing evidence of prosperity than in New Westminster. E. G. JONES.

TACOMA OIL COMPANY.

WHILE the *Oregonian*, the leading daily of the Northwest, is scoring the business men and capitalists for their lack of enterprise and want of foresight in not investing money in manufacturing enterprises that will aid in building up Portland, the business men of Tacoma are setting an example which will strongly emphasize the point the *Oregonian* is seeking to make. The people of Tacoma realize that all healthy growth must come from within, or, at least, find there its chief impulse and support; that the individual and collective enterprise of its citizens is the great fountain from which flows the life blood of a city, carrying health into every portion of its system and promoting a vigorous growth. These men have done everything in their power to build up the city of Tacoma, having built substantial business blocks, encouraged enterprises of every description, not only verbally but substantially, and are prepared to lend

a helping hand to any industry that may seek a location there. Not only this, but they have originated and established industries of their own, of which the Tacoma Oil Company promises to become the most important.

Evidences of the existence of coal oil in quantity in the Puyallup Valley have been noticed and commented upon from time to time, but it was not until last March that a company was organized to sink a well and fully test the question. The idea quickly became popular, and as a substantial result may be mentioned the laying, on the 11th of July, of the corner-stone at Elhi of the first oil derrick in this region. The derrick will be one of the best ever built in the United States, and great results are anticipated when, within the next three or four months, the well will be completed. The ceremonies were participated in by a number of prominent citizens of Tacoma and other places. The remarks of Judge Hamilton on that occasion will convey a good idea of the plans and expectations of the promoters of this great enterprise. He said:

GENTLEMEN—The corner-stone of this structure now being laid by my friend, Mr. Thompson, is a beginning of a great work—a work full of bright promises to this whole region of country. It promises more material development and prosperity for Western Washington than all other enterprises thus far begun or even mooted. [Several in the crowd responded "That's so."] And I confess to some feeling of pride at the work going so rapidly along, and I look forward with pleasure to the happy achievements it is destined to work out. When I first came to Elhi some months ago to examine the country, with a view to its oil producing character, I became convinced that oil existed here in large paying quantities, and so informed my friends. I found nearly all skeptical on the oil question, but that did not discourage me. I went to work and gradually, one by one, the multitude fell into line, until now, in a word, all are believers. So far as I am informed every man who has felt sufficient interest to come out here and examine for himself has gone away convinced that a great oil reservoir is stored away a thousand or fifteen hundred feet below where we now stand. * * * All the evidences point to this as an extensive, rich oil field. It is along the great petroleum belt on which all the oil so far discovered in America and Europe has been found. Take a map of the world, and on it mark all the oil producing districts, then draw a line from one end to the other, and you will find it passing through this valley. Men of scientific attainments, of well-established character, have examined this country and tell us that all the geological indications point to this as an oil territory. Practical men of long and varied experience in oil regions tell us this is the right place. But machinery cannot be bought nor wells drilled without money, and a great deal of it. The machinery for this well has, however, been bought, and, what is better still, it has been paid for. Although there is not quite enough money in the treasury to pay for drilling the well, it will be placed there as fast as it is absolutely wanted. People begin to appreciate the merits and importance of the enterprise. The best men in the Territory and in Oregon are now subscribing for stock and paying in their subscriptions. * * * The success in the oil business has been truly marvelous. It had been known to exist in Pennsylvania for years before a man could be found with sufficient pluck to sink the first well. It was then thought a daring experiment, but it proved a great success, bringing about results which, in their influence, are beyond computation; and I expect the results of this effort will be enormous for good all over this country. I expect to see a flowing well here within sixty days, and I expect the announcement of such a well will send a thrill of joy to every heart west of the Cascade Range. It will enhance the value of every man's property a hundred per cent. It will cause a thousand other wells to be sunk in this valley within the succeeding ninety days. It will build up towns and cities. It will give employment to the unemployed, give money to the moneyless, and instead of poverty and depression will be joy and prosperity. The more wells the better; there is room enough for all. I shall be glad to see any man or party of men who can command the capital commence a well and drill till a flowing well is struck in any part of this valley. It is an easy thing for a man to sit down and talk, and fault, criticize and slur others, but it is an altogether different thing to put his shoulder to the wheel and accomplish a good work. To L. F. Thompson will belong the honor of being the president of the first oil company, and of having laid the corner-stone of the first oil derrick west of the Cascade Mountains, and it is fitting that it be so. He is one of the oldest settlers in the county. He was a member of the first Legislative Assembly of Washington Territory. He was one of the most vigilant and active of the pioneers during the Indian war. He is at present a director in the Merchants' National Bank. He has accumulated a handsome fortune which is free from mortgage plasters, and he has always paid his debts dollar for dollar. This is a pretty good record, gentlemen, and it is right that such a man should be at the head of such an enterprise.

The officers of the Tacoma Oil Company are L. F.