

last summer, provides that the Helena assay office shall be, in all respects, similar to mints, except that bars only, and not coin, shall be manufactured. This would effect a state of things which would allow Montana's gold and silver product to leave the territory ready to be transformed into coin. It would also provide a home market for bullion.

OREGON CITY WATER POWER.—The great falls at Oregon City have been purchased by a syndicate of Portland and Oregon City capitalists, who propose to promote the establishment of manufactories. The company has purchased the locks and adjacent water power, on the west side of the river, and seven hundred and fifty acres of the land adjoining. This land will be laid off into blocks for residence purposes. The company proposes to donate ground for mills and factories, and supply water power ten years free, as an inducement for the location there of various industries. The scheme for improvement also embraces a bridge across the river below the falls, for which purpose the city has voted to contribute \$1,000.00. The water power at Oregon City is the greatest and most accessible in Oregon, but it has hitherto been in the hands of parties who held it too high. Now there is every prospect that the power will be utilized, and that Oregon City will become the seat of many manufacturing industries.

TACOMA STATISTICS FOR 1886.—During the year 1886, there were shipped from Tacoma, fifty-four million eight hundred and sixty-three thousand and twenty-eight feet of lumber, and two hundred and nineteen thousand five hundred and fifty-six tons of coal. The output of the Carbon Hill and South Prairie mines was two hundred and thirty-one thousand two hundred and fifty tons. The mines at Wilkeson were not in operation. The company is putting in one hundred coke ovens there, twenty of which will be in operation in a few days. Twenty-two stores and public buildings were erected, the aggregate cost being \$80,000.00. The total expended for building improvements was \$195,000.00. Two electric light plants were put in at a cost of \$30,000.00. The city spent \$36,000.00 on streets, the Tacoma Land Company \$12,000.00 on harbor improvements, and the Northern Pacific \$30,000.00 for terminal facilities. Contemplated improvements include \$50,000.00 for a smelter, \$100,000.00 for brick buildings on Pacific avenue, \$100,000.00 for a large grain elevator, \$10,000.00 for a hospital, \$40,000.00 for a

hotel, \$100,000.00 for harbor improvements, and \$15,000.00 for a saw mill.

REDUCTION WORKS.—Besides the reduction works in Portland—described and illustrated elsewhere in this number—arrangements are being made to erect similar works in Tacoma and Ellensburg, W. T. The Tacoma Smelting and Refining Works has been incorporated for the purpose of constructing smelting works with a daily capacity of fifty tons. No work has been done as yet, but the chief promoter of the enterprise is a capitalist thoroughly in earnest in the matter. The Ellensburg Mining, Milling and Smelting Co. has been incorporated, and is now engaged in selecting machinery for a sixty-stamp mill and a smelter of eighty tons daily capacity. The erection of such works is a prime necessity in the development of mining in this region. So many rich ledges have been discovered, in widely separated localities, numbers of which have been worked sufficiently to demonstrate the extent and character of the ores they contain, that there need be no fear of a lack of sufficient ore for the works contemplated, even were their capacity doubled.

IRRIGATING CANALS IN IDAHO.—There are now no fewer than a dozen enterprises under consideration in Southern Idaho, covering over a million acres of land. The land so covered is sage brush land, and comprises some of the richest soil in Idaho. The main body of land to be so covered, lies between Boise and Snake rivers, and from four miles east of Kuna to the mouth Boise river, seven hundred and fifty thousand acres. The ditches to cover this large body of land are the Settlers' ditch, New York canal, two by the Idaho and Oregon Improvement Company, the canal of the Nampa Improvement Company, and an extension of the Strahorn ditch near Caldwell. The Settlers' ditch will cover what is known as the Five Mile creek and the Ten Mile creek country, and it is being constructed by the settlers under it on these creeks. The others are enterprises by capitalists, who will construct the ditches as an investment to sell water. The one in Lower Boise, on the north side of the river, is also an enterprise by the settlers, and will cover fifty thousand acres. At Emmettsville there are two ditches contemplated—one on each side of the river, to be taken out at the canyon near Squaw creek butte. No work has yet been done on these ditches, except to make the preliminary surveys. They will cover from fifty thousand to seventy-five thousand acres. Another one is to take water