

be completed to Gray's harbor, and will be thirty-eight miles long from Shelton. When this new road is completed, the town of Shelton will expand rapidly, and will become a place of considerable commercial importance. The country round about has farming valleys and prairies, besides extensive logging interests. The population of Mason county is three times greater than it was a year ago, and is increasing steadily.—*Tacoma News*.

**SAND COULEE COAL AND IRON.**—Recently, a number of gentlemen interested in the Montana Central, the town of Great Falls and the great Manitoba road, visited the coal mines of Sand Coulee, near Great Falls, to investigate their value and extent. The party included Col. Broadwater, Messrs. Paris Gibson, Toole, Bratnober, Vaughn, Fanning, Napier, Gen. Green and Major Ronan. The visitors made a careful examination of the tunnels which have been constructed to mine the Sand Coulee coal. As they proceeded along those subterranean chambers, they observed, with admiration, the immense masses of coal, in layers from six to fifteen feet thick. In some places, there were layers, six to seven feet thick, of clear coal, without any intervening earth. The works, as yet, are on a moderate scale. There are no vast caverns or almost interminable tunnels, such as are common in Pennsylvania, but enough progress has been made to supply the Great Falls market, and to demonstrate what seems to be an inexhaustible supply of good coal, in a locality which can be reached by railroad in about fifteen minutes from Great Falls. The coal and the coal deposits were examined closely by Mr. Bratnober, Mr. Fanning, and others who visited the field for the first time. The mines were found to yield coking, household, blacksmith and steam coal. The coking coal serves for the manufacture of coke, which is of such absolute importance in all smelting operations which require fuel that is entirely free from sulphur and other impurities. In Montana, there will be large consumption for this coke, which will be produced in accordance with the most approved methods. The house coal is well known in this city and locality, where it is now in steady demand, and serves for cooking purposes as well as for general use. It makes a very good fire. It is not stony nor sulphurous, and readily flares up. When it is picked, like Pennsylvania coal, it will be without a single drawback for household use. The blacksmith coal which Sand Coulee produces is clean and bright and free from sulphur.

Sand Coulee also yields, in abundance, coal which is adapted for the production of steam. This makes a clear, white ash, and does not clinker. There is no sulphur in it to form cakes with other substances on the bars. It produces a large volume of heat at a moderate cost, and is thus well calculated to provide the factories that will spring up here, and elsewhere in Montana, with cheap fuel, which will enable them to successfully compete with like establishments in the eastern and western states. The visitors were also greatly interested in the valuable vein of iron which lies underneath the coal vein. Below this iron deposit is limestone, so that in the Sand Coulee fields, all the elements for the production of iron on economical basis are at hand. The combination of coal, iron and limestone is as remarkable as that in the southern states, where like materials exist in proximity to each other, resulting in the great prosperity of such favored places as Birmingham, Alabama. On the way, Mr. Gibson showed the visitors the fine ledges of building stone which abound in the Sand Coulee district, yielding material of great beauty and durability. Mention was also made of the lime kilns in the neighborhood, which are in operation.—*Great Falls Tribune*.

**CAMAS PRAIRIE, IDAHO.**—The tender light of an afternoon sun bathed the landscape in mellow tints as we obtained our first view of Camas prairie, from the summit of the Cottonwood hill. The scene spread before us was one of entrancing beauty. At our feet lay the broad and beautiful prairie, with its undulations and gently swelling slopes, softened, by distance, into the appearance of a great, tranquil, inland sea. Stretching away to the eastward, the dense greenness of its vegetation merges away into the dull gray of the foothills, which, in its turn, vanishes into the blackness of the timber-clad mountains in the background. The eye, at first, rests with feelings of refreshment, upon the luxuriant hue of the vegetation with which the prairie is decked, until the very intensity of its verdure becomes painful, and we naturally turn, for relief, to the grand old mountain ranges, which form such an appropriate setting for this gem of the Pacific slope.

Looking to the southward, the snow-capped peaks of the Salmon river mountains loom grandly up, their serrated summits rising, tier above tier, till they are themselves overtopped by the weird and fantastic forms of the Seven Devils, whose majestic heights, sharply penciled on the horizon, and clad in all the chaste