

## THE PENNSYLVANIA OF THE PACIFIC.

REFERENCE to the Puget sound country is intended in this heading. The comparison of Pennsylvania with the sound country will apply in many respects. Both regions were heavily timbered by nature; both are of varied and rugged topography; both are blessed with temperate, pleasant and healthful climates; both are richly underlaid with coal and iron; both are adapted, in the highest degree, to the purposes of the manufacturer; and both are capable of supporting dense populations.

In other respects, also, they are alike; but in less degree, and in less noticeable manner. Otherwise there is a marked difference, and where that difference exists, it is believed to favor the Pacific section. The agricultural resources here are superior to those of Pennsylvania. There is a greater variety of mineral here, and the territory faces the seaboard, while the old Keystone state is veiled by New Jersey and Delaware. Already the direct foreign commerce of Puget sound exceeds, in number of ships and in tonnage, that of Pennsylvania, and is equaled in the whole country only by that of New York. Western Washington has also been compared with England, and it must be admitted that their climates, resources and capabilities are wonderfully alike. In ocean commerce, fisheries, and in some other particulars, the similarity to England is nearer than to Pennsylvania.

The outcroppings of coal were discovered by the earliest settlers at a number of points on or near Puget sound. Prior to the Indian war of 1855-6, they had been found at Steilaguamish, Whatcom, Renton, and Skookum-Chuck. A few tons were mined and sent to San Francisco. The coming on of the Indian war, the lack of money, and the sparseness of the population, prevented accomplishment of the enterprises, and for a number of years the intended opening of the mines was suspended. The first mine to be opened was that at Whatcom. The quality of its output was inferior, and its working was accompanied with difficulty and danger. Coal was high priced then, however, and anything bearing its semblance sold readily. For twenty years, ending in 1878, the mine was operated, yielding, in that time, two hundred and fifty thousand tons. An attempt was made to develop a mine on the Straits of Faca, twenty-one years ago. One small cargo, of four hundred tons, was taken to San Francisco, but the quality was so bad that the enterprise was abandoned. Along in the '60's the Newcastle and Squak coal deposits were discovered, and a few years later those of Carbonado, Wilkeson and South Prairie, and in the earlier '80's those of Cedar river, Black Diamond and Franklin. Nowadays a coal find is a common occurrence, re-

ports being continually afloat of new lignite, semi-bituminous, bituminous, cannel and anthracite veins.

The area of coal lands in the territory is hard to estimate. Authorities differ, the estimates usually ranging from three hundred thousand to twelve hundred thousand acres. Finds are reported in every direction, and mines have been opened up in eight counties. So far as known, King county is about the center of this great coal field. Its acreage of coal lands is greater than that of any other county, its varieties of coal are more numerous, and its mining operations have been carried on more extensively and for a longer period. This article will deal more particularly with the mines of King county.

At present, there are four large coal mines open in the county. In this connection, it may be well to state that a "mine" is intended to cover all the property at, or near, one point belonging to one company, and not a single opening, as is frequently understood. These mines are at Newcastle, Cedar Mountain, Black Diamond and Franklin, all on the line of the Columbia & Puget Sound railroad. These mines are very complete affairs. The companies owning them own everything in, on and about them, except the people and their few personal possessions. Though they lay off towns, they sell no lots. They not only dig coal at these places, but they cut lumber, build houses, keep hotels and run stores. They are landlords to their entire communities. This, however, does not imply a slavish condition of affairs among the inhabitants. No men are more sturdy, more independent, more jealous of their rights, than the coal miners of the Pacific coast. A majority of them have had experience in Europe and the eastern states. They know what they are entitled to and what they should have, and their demands invariably being reasonable, are usually complied with. They rest almost as secure in their little homes as if they owned them, and certainly much more so than the average tenant in the cities. They can rely upon holding their places during competency and good behavior. No subordinate or superior official will attempt to discharge them without good cause. This being so, they settle themselves down to stay in comfort. The family cottages are surrounded with lawns and gardens. Good schools and churches are provided. Organizations of United Workmen, Knights of Labor, Odd Fellows and like societies flourish. No class of men, except professional politicians, take more interest in politics than the coal miners. They make complete citizens of themselves, and generally are desirable and valuable additions to the population. Eight hundred men are employed at the four mines named.

At the mines, the companies are provided with all the apparatus necessary to work them fully and ad-