

This is due, of course, to the proximity of the ocean and the direction of the prevailing winds, which come from the warm Japan current that touches this coast. Corn is not largely raised, though a good quality of grain matures when it is grown. Good wheat and rye are produced. Hop fields are among the most profitable agricultural productions of the Chehalis valley, and the crop is constantly increasing in volume and importance. Most of the fruits common to the Pacific slope flourish in the Gray's harbor country, apples, pears, cherries, grapes, plums, prunes, etc. Orchard-*ing*, as a business, has not received much attention, but where fruit trees have been cultivated they have yielded gratifying results, and clearly established the fact that fruit may be raised to advantage. All the farmers have more or less fruit, and the handsome specimens produced indicate the possibilities of that locality in the fruit business. Like the other branches of industry, this is now in its infancy, and little more has been done than to prove that excellent fruit can be profitably grown on the hills and in the valleys tributary to Gray's harbor. For a new country, the large production of honey is surprising, and the condition of the apiaries indicates that bees flourish and do profitable work.

The extensive supplies of valuable timber are the cause of the rapid development that is now taking place in the region around Gray's harbor. The saw mills that have been erected during the last five or six years have infused life into all kinds of business and put in operation forces that had been lying dormant. These manufacturing institutions are those best suited to pioneer work, and now that commercial relations have become established, a brisk business is being done in all other lines. New enterprises have been induced to follow the opening made by the lumbermen, and the variety of the manufactured output, as well as the volume, is being constantly increased. The lumber business is still of the greatest importance. There are some nine saw mills constantly cutting timber, which is furnished from the country along the streams flowing directly to Gray's harbor, and the daily output of lumber is about half a million feet. This is shipped direct by water to San Francisco, the freight rates being so much cheaper than from Puget sound ports, that the difference yields a very appreciable profit to the manufacturer. Most of the log supply for the mills is obtained from the settlers, who have large quantities of timber on their claims. The mill companies own timber land, but it is not necessary yet to invade that very extensively, for the settlers have an abundance of timber and find it very profitable business to sell their logs to the mill companies. A boom company was organized this season, and boomed for two hundred million feet of

logs constructed on the Chehalis river. This company consists of jobbers and mill men, and is for mutual benefit. Many logs have gone out to sea annually, and have been lost, by the breaking of booms at the mouths of the streams tributary to the Chehalis; but this trouble will in future be obviated by the boom company. Operations in the woods begin about the first of March and continue till December ordinarily.

The principal timber of the Gray's harbor country is the fir, but spruce, cedar, pine and such hard woods as oak, maple, ash, etc., are in the forests and of good quality for manufacturing purposes. The spruce grows to enormous size, some trees twelve feet in diameter having been cut, but their comparatively short length brings their lumber yields much below the average fir, which is extremely tall, as well as of huge trunk diameter. The spruce lumber has a special use for small boxes, which the coarse grain of the fir will not supply. The cedar of this locality makes good shingles, but as yet shingle making is not engaged in to any great extent, lumber being more profitable.

The fishing business of Gray's harbor is important and growing. The chief fish are the silver and steelhead salmon, salmon trout, sole, rock cod, black cod, smelt, herring, dog fish, ground shark and sturgeon. The small streams teem with brook trout. Of edible mollusks, there are several varieties of clams, and oysters are being successfully cultivated and promise soon to become an important article in the commerce of the harbor. A company was organized this year to prosecute deep sea fishing for halibut off Gray's harbor, and the prospects for developing an extensive business in this line are very flattering. This will draw to the towns of the harbor considerable outside capital and furnish employment for a large number of men. Many fishermen from the Atlantic coast are turning their attention from the exhausted fishing grounds off the shores of New England to the fresh grounds of the North Pacific, and the gratifying results obtained from the experimental halibut fishing the past season are sure to cause the transfer of a considerable portion of the fishing interests from the northeast coast of the United States to the northwest coast, and Gray's harbor is so favorably situated with respect to these fisheries, that it is likely to become the New Bedford of the Pacific. The fisheries of the North Pacific promise to become of more importance than that perennial bone of contention in the North Atlantic.

The chief fish of Gray's harbor is the salmon, and hundreds of men are employed in the work of catching and canning it. The operations of the salmon fishermen extend from the mouth of the harbor to the extreme limit of tide water on the several tributary streams; and they fish at all times of day, floating in