

five varieties of trout, and splendid specimens, from eighteen to twenty-four inches in length, may be caught by the score in a few hours' fishing. In the near future, when a railroad has crossed the Columbia at the mouth of the Okanogan, Chelan and its neighboring glaciers will attract the attention of the tourist world, and another great resort will be added to the attractions of Washington Territory.

AN IDAHO CAVE.—Last fall two Idaho cowboys, while on a round up, discovered a wonderful cave in the great lava plains on Snake river. A short time ago a small party of gentlemen explored the cave, which is twelve miles northwest of Shoshone, and is located in the heart of the great lava beds which cover that country for miles. A team was taken at Shoshone and the party started on a trip along a good road until a point five miles from their destination was reached, which was over the lava and sounded hollow when the horses' hoofs came down upon it. There is not a hill or mountain in sight for miles of where the cave is located. The place reached, the party came to an opening in the lava bed as of a shaft right on a level with the ground. On descending on a ladder ten feet long the party landed in a large arch shaped room. The entrance was about fifteen feet in width. The glare of the lamps which the party carried with them revealed a magnificent sight. The walls are lined with a stalagmite formation, which glistened in places like crystal. This lime substance is very hard and hollow and full of holes. At the roof of this room were hung great clusters of bats, which had sought this place as a winter resort. The party took out four of these blind bats and when on the surface turned them loose. They immediately flew into the cave again by instinct. After leaving this wonderful sight the gentlemen proceeded to explore the cave, and from their description of the path, it was by no means strewn with roses. They walked along over sharp rocks at places, while most of the path was of sand, slightly moist, and water courses could be seen all through. At other points they had to crawl on their hands and knees through small crevices. This cave was traversed for over a quarter of a mile, until they were brought out to the surface. Immediately beyond the first cave a concave of lava had formed for a distance of three hundred feet. At this point, by descending a natural stairway about thirty feet, they were ushered into another cave, grander and larger than the first one. Here they were in a mammoth room, fully fifty feet square, with the same formation, where a substance resembling soap-suds lined the walls, and could be pulled down in large sheets. This cave had many of these large rooms, and while exploring it the party walked on a downward incline all the way, until at one point they were about a hundred feet below the surface. Great piles of rock were scattered around in many of the large rooms. The full length of the second cave was not ascertained, but the men had gone through it for over three fourths of a mile, and were only prevented from going farther by the fall of rock at this point, which left a crevice too small to pass through, but by looking through by the light of their lamps they could see that the cave extended much farther. There is not a drop of water in the place, but water courses are plentiful, which inspires the belief that the cave was at one time the course of the Big Wood river. Rats were seen in great numbers. The gentlemen were highly elated with their trip, and describe it as being as much a curiosity as anything in the National Park.

FLAX IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.—The capacity of Washington Territory for the production of everything that tends to

build up a prosperous community is apparently boundless. Day by day resources are being developed that were once hardly dreamed of. Now comes flax, which has been tried and proved successful beyond the wildest and most sanguine expectations of the experimenters. While in Scotland in 1887, the proprietor of the *Statesman* learned many new things regarding this great article of commerce, and upon his return put some of his knowledge into practice. Learning that flax was only grown in this part of the Pacific coast for the seed, which is crushed solely for the oil it contains, we sent to Professor Hilgard, of the Berkeley university, in California, for seed to be sowed, with the principal idea in view of making it grow as tall as possible. Several packages came and were duly distributed to various parties, in as many different parts of the territory, with instructions as to sowing, etc. Among them was one to Governor Semple, who turned it over to Hon. George D. Shannon, of Olympia. The proceeds of this sample has caused a sensation in Dundee, Scotland. Possibly poultices were made from the other samples, for not a word have we received for all the trouble taken. But this one is enough, and Mr. Shannon not only can congratulate himself with having received a grand silver medal at the Portland Mechanics' fair, but also of having raised a quality of flax that will possibly make of Washington the greatest flax-growing country in the world. In a letter written to us by Mr. David H. Saunders, of Dundee, Scotland, appears the following paragraph:

The flax you sent by Mr. R. B. McKenzie is beautiful. It is equal to any I ever saw in the finest French districts. The fibre is silky, the staple is strong, and will spin into the finest thread or cambric. It is precisely the flax you require for your own mills in the eastern states. You will not grow enough of it for many a long year to overstock the market.

Mr. Saunders, in his letter, says a lint mill can be obtained for £120, or about \$600.00, and advises the formation of a company with \$1,000.00 capital. This amount would include the bringing out of an experienced man to run the machine, who would need simply but a reasonable prospect for employment. Thus it will be seen that a new industry and a profitable one can be inaugurated at a trifling expense. The mere "scutching" of the flax after being pulled is all that is required to fit it for market. All that is necessary at first is to induce a hundred farmers to raise two or three acres. Then, upon finding how it pays, they can increase their acreage year by year. The subject of using the bolls, or pods, for feed is a good one, and it has been proved to be famous for feeding to horses and cattle. As the flax alluded to was raised near Olympia, perhaps the people over there will take an interest in the matter, and encourage their farmers to sow some acres this year. We will see about the seed, and will subscribe \$100.00 or \$200.00 to the company they may form.—*Walla Walla Statesman*.

OREGON COUNTIES.—By acts of the recent legislature of Oregon, two new counties were created, making a total of thirty-one in the state. About three-fourths of Grant county, embracing all south of the line between townships eighteen and nineteen, and including all of the old Malheur reservation, have been set off into a new county, appropriately named Harney, since it contains the great Harney valley and lake. A temporary county seat has been located at the town of Harney, but a permanent location will be determined at the next general election. Harney forms an assembly district with Grant, and a senatorial district with Grant and Morrow. Sherman is the name of a county created out of the northeast corner of Wasco, and embracing that portion lying between the Deschutes and John Day rivers, and extending from the Columbia south to the line between townships two and three. The temporary