

cod fisheries of Alaska will supply the greater part of the United States with the staple commodity. The New England fishermen are turning their attention to our cod banks, and the time is not far off when the sea in the neighborhood of the Shumagins will be whitened with the sails of ships, large and small, engaged in a lucrative industry. At present, however, there are only three individuals or companies engaged in fishing on the Shumagin banks, and these have their stations on Popoff island, which lies to the eastward of Unga, and separated from it by a strait only about one mile wide. Owing to thick weather I was unable to visit these stations, but have it from reliable authority that the annual catch is from one to one and a half millions of fish per season. These fish will average about eight pounds each, but of course lose considerable of their weight in the process of curing, so that the catch may reasonably be estimated at not more than five million pounds of the marketable commodity. These cod fisheries give employment to a fleet of about thirty sail, large and small, and the number of persons employed may be guessed from the fact that the fish are caught singly, by no other means than that of a hook and line. It is confidently expected, now that these prolific banks are known to have commended themselves to the favorable attention of New England fishermen, that the catch will be largely increased from year to year until it rivals, if it does not exceed, that of the famous eastern fishing grounds.

A FLOATING ISLAND WONDER.—Situating high up in the main Rocky mountain divide in the eastern part of Idaho, just south of the boundary line between that territory and Montana, and a few miles west of the Yellowstone National Park, is Henry lake, a beautiful sheet of crystal water, having an area of about forty square miles. The contour of the lake is oval, and the wooded banks bear a luxuriant growth of mountain grass. On a casual examination there appears to be no outlet to this lake, but closer observation reveals a small creek issuing from the southwestern side, which is the beginning of the north fork of that mighty artery of the northwest, Snake river. On this lake, sometimes on the north side and sometimes to the southward, or wherever the breezes chance to bear it, is a curious floating island. It is about three hundred feet in diameter and has for its basis a mat of roots, so dense as to support large trees and a heavy thicket of undergrowth. Decayed vegetation adds to the thickness of the mat and forms a mold several feet in thickness. On the edge of the floating forest, in summer time, may be seen a luxuriant growth of bluejoint grass, the roots of which form so compact a mass as to support the weight of a horse. Any number of men have no difficulty in walking about on it. Farther back among the trees one might build a large house and make a garden and do whatever he pleases. He would be just as solid and safe as though there were not one hundred or two hundred feet of water beneath. There is a willow thicket near the center of the island, and scattered among these willows and contiguous to them are a number of aspens and dwarf pines. These catch the breezes which float over the island and act like sails on a boat and move the nearly two acres of land hither and thither over the forty square miles of water. This shows why one may one day see the island on one side and the next day on the other side of the lake. Henry lake is exceedingly picturesque. Around it rise snow-capped peaks, among which are some of the highest of the continent's back-bone, partly covered with a verdure of forest and grass, and showing here and there formations of granite and unique basaltic columns. During the hunting season the waters swarm with wild fowl. There are beaver, too, and plenty of large game may be had in the adjoining mountains.

PORTLAND, SEATTLE & NORTHERN.—Last fall articles of incorporation were filed in Seattle for the Seattle & Northern R. R. Co., by Elijah Smith, president of the Oregon Railway & Navigation Co., and other officers of that company, which have recently been withdrawn and the Portland, Seattle & Northern incorporated. The former articles did not provide for a line from Portland to Seattle, which is included in the new. The object of the company is to build an extensive system of roads to be operated in conjunction with the O. R. & N. Co. articles of incorporation provide for the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from a point at or near the city of Seattle in a general southerly direction to a point at or near Portland, Oregon, a distance of one hundred and sixty-five miles. A railroad and telegraph line from the city of Seattle in a northerly direction, via the town of Whatcom, to a point on the northern boundary of Washington Territory, at or near the town of Blaine, Whatcom county, a distance of one hundred miles. A railroad and telegraph line from the point of connection with the last-described line of railroad at a point near where it crosses the Skagit river in Skagit county, thence up Skagit river, following the general course thereof to the mouth of Sauk river, thence in a generally easterly and southerly direction by the most practicable route to Spokane Falls, a distance of about three hundred miles. A railroad and telegraph line from the second above-described railroad, at or near where the same crosses the Skagit river in Skagit county, thence westerly, via Fidalgo island and Deception pass, to Adversity head, on Whidby island, W. T., a distance of about thirty-five miles. The capital stock is \$5,000,000.00, divided into fifty thousand shares of \$100.00 each. It is provided that the number of trustees shall be seven, and that Elijah Smith, James H. Benedict, J. S. Stelney, John P. Hoyt, H. W. McNeill, Fred E. Sander, and T. J. Milner shall be first trustees, and shall manage the concerns of the company until the third Tuesday in May, 1889. The prominence of the gentlemen engaged in this enterprise, and the magnitude of the interests involved, give much assurance that it will materialize in some tangible form before long.

LAKE PEND D'OREILLE MINES.—John Cromie returned to Wallace recently from the Chloride camp on Lake Pend d'Oreille. He went in there several weeks ago to prospect, and expects to return to-day. He has been a very successful miner and prospector in this country, and his impression of the new camp will interest all in this section. There are two towns in the new district—Chloride and Weber. Weber is near the Weber mine, situated in a narrow canyon, and in many respects is similarly situated to Burke. There are not many men in this place, and little or no excitement. The excitement is centered at Chloride, about five miles from the lake. Mr. Cromie says it reminds him very much of Eagle in the early days. A great many buildings are being erected, and it is estimated that three hundred men are actually at work in the town. All told there are about five hundred people in the camp. The town can boast of one general merchandise store, which is run by W. J. Shelton, a well known Coeur d'Alene. Saloons, of course, predominate. Coeur d'Alene has furnished two-thirds of the present population. Mr. Cromie had with him a specimen of ore taken from a new strike made in the lower tunnel of the Weber. It is antimony and silver, and will run two hundred and forty ounces of the latter. A new steamer to ply on the lake, owned by St. Paul parties, was to make her first trip Wednesday. Timber is abundant, and a saw mill will soon be turning out lumber. Mr. Cromie states that it is impossible to predict the extent of this discovery. There is no work being done on any of the claims except the Weber, and this is show-