

canoes are paddled up the streams to the vicinity of the field of labor, and are hauled out of the water upon the bank, where the family camp is pitched and domestic arrangements of the most primitive character made for a sojourn of a few weeks.

Every member of an Indian household who is not absolutely incapacitated by being of too tender or too tough an age, goes into the fields and labors for the common fund. An expert hop picker will fill three boxes in a day, but the average is about two boxes to the hand, the price paid being \$1.00 per box. In working the pickers either stand or sit as they choose, and the latter is the most common position assumed. The vines are cut near the ground and then the pole is loosened from the ground and lowered with the vine, supported a short distance from the ground upon a frame. About three pickers to the acre is the average of hands employed. There are fully 6,000 hands at work in Puyallup valley, of whom four-fifths are Indians, who are the

cleanest and most industrious pickers, being steadier and indulging in less talk and frolicking than their white co-laborers.

When the boxes are full they are gathered up and loaded upon a long wagon rack, and are drawn to the drying house, which is generally a two-story structure, having a sharp, four-sided roof, with a ventilator at the apex. The hops are taken in at a door on the second floor, and are spread out to a depth of three feet upon a floor consisting of slats covered with burlaps. A fire is maintained beneath them and the heat passes up through the hops and out of the ventilator at the top. From twenty to thirty hours are consumed in drying one "flooring," the hops losing about three-fourths their weight in the process. The last thing done is to

burn a few pounds of sulphur under them, the fumes from which impart to the dull hops that golden yellow which makes their appearance so attractive. They are then carefully raked into an adjoining room to cool, after which they are lowered to the floor below for baling. Until recently baling was done by hand, but now most growers use horse power with their baling machines. The bale, which is generally four feet long and about two feet square on the ends, and weighs from 185 to 200 pounds, is encased in burlaps to protect the hops in handling. Care has always to be taken not to let the bales come in contact with moisture, or else the hops will begin to "work," and become damaged goods.

It costs about nine cents a pound to raise and cure hops, and anything above that amount received by the grower is profit. Prices are low and fluctuating this season, ranging from ten to fourteen cents. In 1882 the phenomenal price of \$1.00 per pound was received, but twenty cents is

about the average, at which rate hop growing is an enormously profitable business, netting about \$200 to the acre. A special train of eighteen cars left the valley by the Northern Pacific on the eighteenth of the month, conveying a consignment of 1,300 bales, or 243,000 pounds, of new hops direct to London. Sixteen of these cars were loaded by E. Meeker & Co., the most extensive growers in the valley.



CAMP OF HOP PICKERS.