

three are portable. In this connection it should be remarked that these directory lists, as far as sawmills are concerned, deal almost exclusively with stationary mills, only those portable mills being admitted which seem to be of some importance to the general trade. Of the dealers reported from California, 113 are wholesalers, 238 are retailers and seventeen commission.

Fort Benton people are now enthusiastic over the proposed construction of two new railroads to the city. Their confidence that the road will be built seems well grounded. The Northern Pacific people have shown their intention of building a road from Billings to Benton by making the preliminary surveys, and by further sending out a corps of 100 men to locate the route. This work was begun at Benton last summer. It seems reasonably certain that the road will prove a paying investment. It will provide a means of early access to a magnificent section of Montana, the development of which will be of vast importance to the commercial interests of Benton. The construction of a road from Benton to Lethbridge in connection with the Canadian Pacific seems even more certain. The proposed road known as the "Galt" road, from the fact that Sir Alexander T. Galt, of Montreal, is the leading spirit of the enterprise, will run over a narrow gauge by the way of the Sweet Grass hills to Lethbridge 185 miles distant. The local capitalists interested are Messrs. G. W. and C. E. Conrad. The route has been surveyed, the stock has been subscribed and it is believed that the road will be under active construction in the spring. When these roads are finished the Manitoba road will undoubtedly be forced to run its line into the city. Three railroads in the city will work wonders for Benton's growth. Her citizens already see a return of the commercial prestige enjoyed by Benton when there were no railroads to interfere with traffic on the upper Missouri river.

The surveyor general of Idaho, referring to the operations that had been entered upon for procuring data on the subject of the projected plan of irrigation in that territory with government aid, says that enough has already been reported to warrant the belief that more than 6,000,000 acres can easily be reclaimed from dry, arid plains and made to produce from \$30 to \$50 worth of hay, grain and vegetables per acre. Without this comprehensive system of canals and storage reservoirs to bring abundant waters upon this wide extent of arid plains Idaho has now nearly reached its limit in agricultural prosperity. The surveyor general also remarks upon the likelihood of speculators endeavoring to secure water rights necessary for the success of the project, when it is found that the government is likely to inaugurate the work of irrigation. He expresses the opinion that the immediate enhancement of the value of land now a desert waste would be so great as to far more than refund the cost of irrigation, and that the work is of such a character as should be undertaken either by the federal government or by the territory or state, in order that the greatest good may result to the greatest number.

A good deal of active development work is being done in the Okanogan country, Washington. The most important improvements of the year have been made at the Arlington mine, on Ruby hill. This mine is owned by an incorporation of Portland men, having a capital of \$1,000,000. It is the most extensively developed mine in that region. The material for erecting a mill is on the ground and much of the construction work is done. The mill will be one of the best in the northwest, and will have a capacity of eighty tons of ore a day. It

will cost, when completed, at least \$250,000. The foundation, which is now completed, cost \$150,000. Work on the mill has been suspended for the present, but will be resumed as soon as the weather will permit. The brick for the structure are being manufactured on the ground, 400,000 having already been made, 300,000 more being required to complete the work. There are now 2,000 tons of ore on the dump. It is understood the Arlington mill will crush fifty tons per day of the Arlington ore, and thirty tons of the ore of other mines, in order to assist in the more rapid development of the camp.

The first annual meeting of the British Columbia Cattle Association was held in Kamloops the first week in December. There were about forty members present representing the different stock sections of the province. The secretary read the following reports from the round-up captains of the different divisions referred to, showing the number of animals branded under their supervision during the year: Thompson river division—Spring branding, 407; fall branding, 195. Kamloops division—Spring branding, 1,775; fall branding, 547; total, 2,322, at an average cost of 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents for each animal. Shuswap division—Spring branding, 50; fall branding, 30. Nicola division—Total number of calves branded during the season, 1,677. Expenses incurred, \$417; making an average cost for each calf of about 25 cents. The number of cattle branded in the other districts was not given. Several subdivisions were formed, and after a general discussion the association adjourned.

Columbia river sturgeon fishing is developing into an industry of considerable proportions. The fishing is better this year than ever known before. There seems to be no limit to the amount of fish which can be secured, and on the 150 miles between the cascades and the sea there are probably not less 500 men engaged in catching sturgeon, and many of them are making better wages than during the salmon fishing season. The sturgeon fishing business is only in its infancy, the first shipments east having been made last year. There is a great demand for these fish there, and it is probable that another year will see more firms engaged in the business of shipping them. The amount of sturgeon used in the local market is comparatively small, but large quantities are shipped to San Francisco.

The Indians have been congregating for over a week, and at this writing are having a high old time over on the west side of Guemes island, at their rancheria. Every canoe that has passed here has been loaded down to the water's edge with all kinds of presents to be given away at their potlatch, and we are told that over 400 Indians are now camped there. All kinds of Indian games are going on, singing, speech-making, etc., and perfect order is kept by Indian policemen. Any one under the influence of liquor is promptly stowed away in the skookum house, and it is safe for any one to go and see how a potlatch is carried on.—*Anacortes, (Wash.) Progress.*

At Inglewood, a town on Lake Union, near Seattle, a valuable discovery of iron ore is reported. It is brown hematite, and from the crude assays thus far made it is believed to run between fifty and sixty per cent. metallic iron, which is as rich as the best mines in the world produce.

The linseed oil mill in Portland has been running night and day since the middle of September. It uses about 600 bushels of flaxseed every twenty-four hours and turns out from 1,300 to 1,400 gallons of oil per day.