

But we are confident that this failure lays rather in the purchasers not getting quite as big a thing as was at first supposed, and not in the cause that the mine is entirely worthless. The best mining men who have been over the ground affirm that there is enough good ore there to repay the company back all they have expended on the property, and that tunneling and drifting in the right direction might yet reveal a bonanza.

Two attempts were made during the summer to open up the Willoughby & Ware property on Admiralty island, but in both cases the bonds were thrown up after developing the property to some extent. Now the original owners are preparing to erect a mill on the property next season, and as there is considerable good ore in sight, in all probability it will not be a losing venture.—*Free Press, Juneau, Alaska.*

IDAHO'S AGRICULTURE.

A gentleman writes us to inquire if we make any claims for Idaho as an agricultural state. Most certainly we do. Though she has vast mineral resources, we believe that Idaho will be known preeminently as an agricultural state. Agriculture is in its infancy here, yet this year's crops are reported as follows: Wheat, 3,469,300 bushels; oats, 2,140,860 bushels; barley, 1,150,450 bushels; corn, 407,400 bushels; rye, 640,900 bushels; grass seeds, 17,350 pounds; hay, 424,740 tons; potatoes, 1,850,900 bushels; other vegetables, 838,000 bushels; apples, 277,000 bushels; pears, 29,850 boxes; peaches, 34,850 boxes; plums and prunes, 34,350 boxes; grapes, 18,200 boxes; berries of all kinds, 76,600 boxes.

Live stock returned for assessment, which undoubtedly is much less than the true number: Thoroughbred horses, 1,113; graded horses, 21,428; native horses, 105,263; mules, 2,480; jacks and jennies, 206; thoroughbred bulls, 1,400; thoroughbred cows, 1,440; graded bulls, 4,322; graded cows, 21,067; range cattle, 350,225; work oxen, 1,422; imported sheep, 3,120; graded sheep, 65,500; common sheep, 317,274; Angora goats, 5,565; hogs, 38,074. Is not all this a pretty good showing as an agricultural state in its infancy?

For agricultural purposes there is no finer climate on the globe than that found in Idaho—and the same may be said of its soil. In Northern Idaho rains are frequent, and there is no resort to irrigation, which is necessary in Southern Idaho. Apples, pears, plums and prunes, both in quantity and quality, flourish in Idaho as in the most favored spots of the world. The amount of fruit raised per acre would seem fabulous in its statement to any one not familiar with the orchards of this young territory. One thousand bushels per acre is not an unusual average of the apple crop. The average grain crops can be stated at these figures: Wheat, forty bushels to the acre, and in some seasons the average is as high as sixty bushels; oats will average from sixty-five to seventy bushels to the acre; barley will average from forty-five to fifty bushels to the acre. Corn is not a first-class crop in Idaho. Potatoes, from 200 to 500 bushels per acre, and sometimes a thousand bushels to the acre; onions, the same as potatoes; hay, from four to seven tons per acre—an average probably would be a little more than five tons; of timothy, clover and Alfalfa, there are two crops in Idaho, and sometimes three.

The abundant pasturage, the great crops of hay, and her mild winters, make Idaho an exceptionally fine country for stock raising. So, as an agricultural country, we know of no section of the union, taking it all in all, that is the equal of Idaho. When a stranger is asked to consider our large crops, he should remember that Idaho, in distant ages, has been subjected to great volcanic overflow, which in the process of disintegration has left in the soil rich supplies of salts and minerals

which are the luxuriant support of plant and vegetable life.—*Boise Statesman.*

Tacoma enterprise proposes to shorten the journey between that city and Olympia. At present the quickest route is by steamer around the head of the peninsula on which Tacoma is situated, the trip taking three hours. It is proposed to build a street railway on Fifteenth street to the city limits and thence across the peninsula to the narrows, where it will connect with a line of steamers. This will reduce the time fully an hour. The motive power will probably be electricity. The building of this line is dependent upon securing a franchise on Fifteenth street.

Contract has been let for ties for the line of the Seattle & Northern between Anacortes and Sedro, and the line, which is all graded and for which the steel rails are now on hand, will be in running order by the first of July next. It will tap the Oregon Improvement Co's. coal mines on Skagit river, from which 1,000 tons daily will be forwarded to Anacortes for shipment. This coal is of a superior quality and will be in great demand. An extensive wharf is being constructed at Anacortes, which will become quite an important stopping point.

Notwithstanding the report that only a three-fourths crop was raised in the country tributary to Pullman this year, careful investigation shows a large yield, as the following figures indicate: 700,000 bushels of wheat, 75,000 bushels of barley, 85,000 bushels of flax and 50,000 bushels of oats, making a grand total of 910,000 bushels. Increased acreage and the recent heavy rains indicate that next year the crop will be still greater.

During the past year several unsuccessful attempts were made to strike natural gas by boring in the vicinity of Cle Elum and Roslyn, Washington. The experiment has not been abandoned, and it is reported that work will soon be resumed. The intention is to bore at different places in the bottom, probably as far down as Teanaway, unless the borings higher up should be successful.

Last week's WEST SHORE contained an article about the Cracker creek mines of Baker county, Oregon. The new \$150,000 mill of the Eureka & Excelsior Consolidated Mining Co. is now in full operation. The first run of ore from Eureka and Excelsior mines was started on the evening of Dec. 11th inst.

An opera house company has been incorporated in Seattle with \$250,000 capital. There are five incorporators and the object is to build and equip an opera house in that city that shall be one of the finest on the Pacific coast. Preparations for building have already begun.

The Nelson placer mine, seven miles west of Baker City, is one of the richest placers on the Pacific coast. It was sold for \$300,000 about a year ago. The final clean-up this summer is reported as the best ever made. The mine is worked by hydraulic process.

Milton Oregon is growing rapidly. This year 144 dwelling houses have been built as against 96 in 1888. Eighteen residences, a new bank building and several other business houses are now under course of construction.

The passenger trains west over the Northern Pacific are long ones and every car is crowded with immigrants, settlers and speculators who are bound for Oregon and Washington.