

## SHOALWATER BAY.

One of the portions of the new state of Washington that will soon come to the front is Shoalwater bay, the first ocean port north of the Columbia river. Its name was given it because of the large margin of shoal water around its shores, and has served to prejudice the bay as a harbor in popular estimation. It is, however, an excellent bay for commercial purposes and offers a deep channel, extensive anchorage ground and perfect security for large vessels. Recent soundings in the harbor and on the bar showed a channel inside from thirty to fifty feet deep at mean low tide. The lowest place on the bar at dead low tide was twenty-seven feet in the south channel, and twenty-six in the north, there being two wide channels clear across the bar. Old seafaring men who were present expressed the opinion that eventually the north channel would be the deepest. Both channels are straight, and ships often sail in without a tug. From deep water outside the bar to anchorage inside, the distance is about seventeen miles. Soundings were made across the bar every thirty feet, and it was found that only once did the lead strike at twenty-seven feet.

These soundings were made for the purpose of learning the true state of affairs by gentlemen interested in the Pacific, Chehalis & Eastern road, projected to run from from the bay to a connection with the Northern Pacific at Chehalis and thence eastward across the mountains. Some weeks ago the company filed the plat of Pacific City, the proposed terminal point on the north bank of Willapa river, a short distance above the point of its discharge into the bay. The plat has been withdrawn for the purpose of replatting on a more liberal scale, and lots are not now on the market. There is a channel thirty feet deep in front of the town site. The shallow water strip is used for oyster cultivation. The population of that region, numbering about 500 adults, is almost exclusively engaged in oystering and its accompanying pursuits. At Bay Center there is a population of fully 300 people, all engaged in this industry. Shoalwater bay oysters are noted for their size and flavor, and the supply is considerably short of the demand. The bulk of them goes to San Francisco, and the remainder to Portland and the sound. The business is very profitable, and men are making small fortunes at the business. One prominent owner has made the statement that he had made \$12,000 this year from his oyster beds, they being farmed out to men who gather and ship them. Beds are being extended every year, and planted and attended to with great care, and as their value increases will be handled scientifically. Eastern lotaters have already been planted there, and are growing finely, and will soon be of sufficient size to send to market. Great quantities of crabs are also gathered and shipped to market. There is also a large salmon cannery there which has been run at great profit.

At present the means of getting to and from the bay are totally inadequate and very inconvenient. The usual route from Portland is down the Columbia to Ilwaco and thence by rail to the bay. From Puget sound it is generally reached by way of Gray's harbor, a stage line connecting those two bodies of water. Small coasting vessels handle its products at present. When the new railroad is completed to Chehalis, it will become the highway of travel and traffic, and the rich resources of that region will be given an opportunity to be developed.

## BUTTE'S MINING FUTURE.

The mining outlook in Montana is indeed flattering. Not a day passes that does not witness the consummation of some new deal in mining property. A few years ago it was rumored in mining circles that the Colusa, at Meaderville, was worked out. The Mountain View, too, was thought to be purged of its

valuable ores. To-day these two properties are worth millions of dollars, where a few years ago they were not worth hundreds. Since people have learned that these and other properties owned by large companies are showing up immense bodies of ore, a grand rush is being made for outlying ground and companies are being formed for working the same. A few old drones, many of whom never saw a mine till they came to Butte, sit about the saloons and other warm places and tell wonderful stories about the shallowness of the veins of this vicinity. These men have never done much work toward developing the resources of this or any other camp. Some of them have owned valuable ground, but they were not aware of the fact, because it requires at least a little work to determine the value of property. However, since the Anaconda, Boston & Montana, Butte & Boston, Colorado and other large companies have taken hold of these locations and developed them, affairs in the mining industry have changed for the better, and the old-timers who originally owned some of the best mines in this vicinity, but threw them away because the mining laws required them to do \$100 worth of work yearly on each claim, now walk about and kick themselves because they did not know it was there and hold onto them. If the amount of ore now in sight in some of the developed mines in Butte is a criterion by which to judge the future of this city, Butte will be a "rusher" twenty-five years hence—just the length of time consumed in bringing about the present status of affairs. As an illustration of the simple manner in which veins of rich ore are sometimes discovered in and about Butte, it may be mentioned that several have been encountered in the very heart of the city by persons excavating for foundations for houses. The Crystal gambling house covers one of these veins. It runs east and west like the other ledges hereabouts. This same vein was struck in the cellar of G. Maule's new building, which is about 200 yards due west of the Crystal. This ledge is said to be the richest in mineral of any yet discovered within the city limits. The Destroying Angel, which is being worked through a shaft at the corner of Montana and Galena streets, was also discovered accidentally. Since its discovery, about three months ago, several thousand dollars in gold and silver have been taken from it, although the family living near the shaft object to miners digging and hammering in their cellar during the wee sma' hours of the night.—*Miner*.

## OREGON AND VIRGINIA.

A letter in the *Virginia Orange Observer* by Prof. R. H. Willis, of The Dalles Academy, sets out briefly what Oregon has to offer the people of Virginia as an inducement to come west and seek a home. It says: I see your Texas correspondent's glowing letter about the advantages of the "Lone Star State," and it suggests to me to write something about Oregon. There is now an immense tide of immigration to Oregon and Washington, several thousand per day for some time during the summer, but probably a little less now. The cold climate of the northern tier of states from Dakota east drives thousands of persons to seek the balmy breezes of the Pacific slope, and really it is hard to find a climate more pleasant than this. The winters and summers are short and mild, and the springs and autumns are long. Last winter we had here less than three inches of snow in all, that was an unusually mild winter. Generally there is snow enough for sleighing once or twice—i. e. in Eastern Oregon and Washington. West of the Cascade mountains snow is uncommon. The Pacific coast is not low and swampy, like the Atlantic, but the mountains come right down to the ocean, and hence there is scarcely any malaria.

Oregon is a fine state for grain, fruit, and stock-raising; and