

There is, in the judgment of those who have handled or worked it, no better lumber for general building purposes than fir. It makes siding, flooring and shingles equally as well as it does heavy square or round timber. For interior work it is especially fine, being susceptible of a beautiful polish.

A vast amount of fir lumber shipped from the sound is sent to foreign countries, where it is used for all sorts of purposes with great success. Fir is used along the Pacific coast, both in North and South America, the latter being a large consumer.

In the United States, while the use of fir has been confined largely to the region west of the Rocky mountains, there is a growing demand for it elsewhere, as the tests mentioned above indicate. For some time past heavy freight rates barred fir timber out of the eastern market or the market of the middle west. It has always been almost impossible to place it on sale in eastern cities because it cost more to haul it from the coast than the price for which other lumber could be purchased. For this reason pine and hemlock were used and are now used instead of fir.

Lumbermen are anxiously awaiting a reduction in transcontinental freight rates which will allow their product to compete with other woods in eastern and western central markets. They claim that if there were a material reduction in freight rates that they could supply the whole country with lumber for an almost indefinite time, the supply being practically inexhaustible.—*Seattle Times*.

[Portland mills already send this lumber as far east as Denver in large quantities.—Ed.]

WASHINGTON IN 1890.

The census of 1890 will show some wonderful changes. The central line of population will be much nearer the Mississippi river than it was ten years ago. A series of maps like those contained in the last census, of gradations in color to indicate the changes in density of population, wealth and other important facts will present a curious contrast with the maps we now have for the census of 1880, or that of 1870. Over 16,000,000 acres of land were sold in the last fiscal year under the operation of the homestead and timber culture law. More than 124,000,000 of acres have been settled on in the last ten years, representing a greater area than the states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan. The greatest changes have been made in the northwest group of states and territories comprising North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Idaho and Wyoming, where nearly 80,000,000 of acres have been settled since the last census was taken. In the southwest group, comprising Kansas, Colorado, Missouri and New Mexico, nearly 40,000,000 of acres have been occupied. On the Pacific coast 25,000,000 of acres more have been settled, and 15,000,000 acres must be added for the southern states on both sides of the Mississippi. Along the Pacific roads over 20,000,000 of acres have been opened in the last ten years. In other words, the government and the Pacific railroads have opened for settlement in the last ten years a territory larger than the New England and middle states and South Carolina and Georgia combined; larger than Germany or France, and over twice as large as Great Britain and Ireland.

In the census of 1880 Washington had a population of 75,000, but the report next June will increase these figures to 325,000, a gain of more than 400 per cent. Then the only railroad in the territory was the Northern Pacific line from Kalama to Tacoma, the little narrow gauge from Tenino to Olympia, and a few miles of road in the vicinity of Walla Walla. Then (in 1880), the largest city was Seattle, containing a modest population of 4,000. That city now has 40,000 inhabitants. The next

in size was Walla Walla, boasting of 3,500 people. Tacoma then had a population of 600, now a center of vast enterprises, containing a population of 30,000. Spokane Falls was then a village of 200 people, surrounded by alkali deserts and supposed to be settled by a few cranks who were predicting for their town, in future time, the center of great railroad interests. Their predictions have been realized. The Northern Pacific rolled its great transcontinental line into town. A net work of roads extends from Spokane to various countries of Eastern Washington and Idaho, and the city has now a population of 25,000. At the present ratio of increase Washington, in 1900, will be inhabited by 1,200,000 people and our state will still be traveling onward to moral destinies.—*Tacoma News*.

The heavy tax payers of Whatcom county, Washington, are paying up well. The Cornwall Railroad & Land Co. is assessed for \$16,152—about one-fifth of the assessment roll of the entire county. This does not include their electric and water works. The Fairhaven Railroad & Land Co. will next year come in for a heavy tax, values having taken a leap recently in Bellingham and Fairhaven. The lands in the lake country will also be elevated a notch by the assessor, to correspond with the enhancement in values. The townships of Blaine, Lynden, Nookachuck and Ferndale will this year show an enormous increase in valuation. It is reasonable to estimate that the assessment roll of Whatcom will for the year 1890 show an increase from four million dollars for last year to six million dollars.

The Lummi Indian reservation, five miles west of Whatcom, contains 14,000 acres of the finest land in the county, most of which is held in severalty by a band of roving Indians, numbering about 110, many of whom are said to be subjects of British Columbia. They do not utilize the lands in agricultural pursuits, nor are they prospering under the enforced civilization of the white man's government. Death is rapidly gathering them to the happy hunting grounds of the "sweet hereafter." The state legislature should ask congress to enact such laws as would permit these Indians to judiciously dispose of their lands. The intelligent portion of the tribe might be allowed to sell, if they desired, but it would be better for the state or general government to sell their lands to the highest bidders and use the funds for the maintenance of the Indians. As it is now the vast and fertile Lummi Indian reservation is of no value to the Indians or the whites, and is only used as a smuggling rendezvous.

The fifth annual convention of the Sunday school workers of Oregon will be held in the Christian church, McMinnville, commencing Tuesday, April 15, and closing Thursday, April 17, 1893. While this is a mass convention, and all interested in Sunday school work are most cordially and earnestly invited to be present, yet, to insure representation, each Sunday school in the state is requested to select two or more persons pledged to attend. All those expecting to be present will confer a favor by sending their names to Rev. J. Hoberg, McMinnville, that accommodations may be provided for them.

The newspaper business of Spokane Falls is experiencing great activity this month. Previously but two daily papers had existed there—the morning *Review* and the evening *Chronicle*. The first of March the evening *Globe* began publication, and on the ninth the morning *Spokesman* appeared. This is a bright, newsy publication, and it has no trouble in finding popular favor. *New State News* is announced to appear before the end of the month. Spokane is one of the best newspaper towns in the west. This is one of its marks of superior enterprise.