



THE SHOALWATER BAY COUNTRY.

Shoalwater bay is thirty miles long and has an average width of six miles. The water in the bay is shoal, hence its name. However, in the channel there is from thirty to ninety feet of water. The bar, where the bay meets the ocean, is six miles wide, and is perfectly safe to cross at all times, and has a depth of water at low tide of thirty feet. Shoalwater bay abounds in all kinds of fish, such as sturgeon, salmon, trout, crabs, porgies, tom cod, herring and numerous other kinds, but is principally noted for its oysters and clams, of which there is no end, and of which there are several thousand sacks shipped annually. There are several large rivers emptying into it, all draining a most wonderful, fertile country, in which thousands of acres are only waiting for settlers to improve the opportunity offered by Uncle Sam to make themselves independent in a few years. The principal one is the Willapa.

North river rises in a spur of the Coast range mountains, and runs in a westerly course for sixty miles, and empties into Shoalwater bay at the northeast point, forming a sheltered bay. Little North river and Salmon creek are the main tributaries emptying into the main river, two and four miles respectively from its mouth. North river would be a navigable stream for many miles for the ordinary steamers that run on this bay but for some log jams. The main one is seven miles from its mouth, and is about 700 yards long. The lower one on Smith creek is not nearly so formidable. There is no reasonable doubt but that the government will appropriate funds to clear both creeks, as by doing so it opens up as fine a body of timber as there is on the coast, besides miles of tide and bottom lands. The bottoms are from one to one and a half miles wide, and are generally covered with a sparse growth of pine, maple and alder, interspersed with small prairies. The tide lands extend for about sixteen miles, and are usually timbered the same as the bottoms. Some good farms are already opened upon both rivers, mostly at the mouths, although the head of North river is being rapidly settled. There is a large scope of good farming land tributary to Smith creek, and about sixty settlers have taken claims. A road has been opened to the Willapa, and no doubt there will be a large immigration there this summer. The same general features govern Smith creek as do the North river. The principal enterprise now is stock raising, although experiments in all kinds of grain and hops prove that the country is an agricultural one. Fruits of all kinds also do well, as the orchards at the mouth of North river and Smith creek give abundant evidence. Game of all kinds is abundant. Deer, elk and bear are very plentiful; wild ducks, geese, pheasants and grouse are numerous in their season.

The Nema and South Nema are short streams, and are not navigable for boats larger than a plunger, and only a few miles for them. The general course of the Nema is westerly, and empties into Shoalwater bay on the east side, opposite Sealand. Their junction forms a small bay, or flats, as they are locally called. They are dry at low tide, but make very good oyster grounds. The general character of the ground is hilly, and covered generally with a heavy growth of fir, spruce and cedar. There is a large amount of tide land upon both rivers, and some fine bottoms. The bottoms are generally covered with a growth of alder, bear-berry and salmon-berry bushes. There

are no towns or villages upon either river, and only a few scattered settlers upon the most available and valuable tide lands and oystering points. The majority of the country is still open to the settler, and can be had either from the government or the Northern Pacific Railroad Company.

The Palix river rises in the same range of hills as the Nema, flows in a northwesterly direction, until it empties into Shoalwater bay. The general characteristics of the country are the same as the Nema, except that it has a proportionately greater share of the tide lands. There are a good many settlers on the Palix, though most of them are near its mouth, at a place called Bay Centre. Bay Centre is situated upon the west side of a peninsula, and is sheltered from the storms in nearly all directions. The bay formed by the Palix, and the natural formation of the ground, makes it one of the best, if not the best, oystering point on the bay. Bruceport, a few miles farther east, is also a tributary to Palix, both towns having the same interest, viz., oystering. At one time it was the most important town in the county, the county seat being located there, and was also the main shipping point for oysters.—*Astoria Columbian*.

THE OLYMPIC REGION.

The early departure of the expedition jointly fitted out by General Gibbon and the Oregon Alpine club, to explore the Olympic range, renders the following letter of C. S. Gilman in the *Tacoma Ledger* of special interest:

My son, S. C. Gilman, who is now making his headquarters at Gray's Harbor City, has been exploring Western Washington for more than a year past, and I was with him in the work during the last three months of 1889 in the Olympic country north of Gray's harbor, south of the straits and between the waters of Puget sound and the ocean. Three months' very hard work with suitable help, in which time we crossed the country both north and south and east and west, gave us an accurate knowledge of much of that region, and a good general knowledge of the whole. The north, east and south sides of that peninsula are occupied and quite well known, but the great interior and the coast lands westerly therefrom were but little known and were supposed to be all mountains and uninhabitable. This is a great misapprehension, though the mountains are there in great form. They do not reach the ocean, however, except by a low spur which extends along the south side of the strait to Cape Flattery. South of that spur or extension and between the main body of the Olympic mountains and the ocean is a belt of fifteen miles or more in width of the finest country to be found anywhere. It is in all shapes, from moderately level to sharp hills, all in view of both the ocean and mountains. Four large rivers, the Quinault, Queets, Hoh, and Quillyute run from the easterly part of the mountains westerly to the ocean across the good belt, the first-named river draining the mountains nineteen points within, about twelve miles of Hood's canal. Upon various sections of these rivers, both in the mountains and west of them, are very fine bottom lands from one to four miles in width, timbered but lightly with very small cottonwood or brush, and very cheaply cleared for farms. These valleys are not excelled by any in the state for hop raising or for any kind of agriculture. Numerous smaller streams are also there, all bountifully supplied with