

The preliminary survey for the big canal from the lake at the mouth of Blue canyon to the mouth of Powder river canyon, south of town, was completed recently, and the route was found to be feasible. The project involves the division of the canal at a point near the mouth of Powder river canyon into two branches, the one for the east side of the valley to be carried across the canyon in a big flume, and taken thence around the bluffs by the cemetery and below the city reservoir, finally covering the sage brush lands out below the Gordon mine. The preliminary survey for the whole enterprise, however, will not be completed until the routes through the valley shall have been made, after which, the *Blade* is informed, active operations will be commenced for the speedy construction of the great dam and canal.—*Baker City Blade*.

Articles incorporating the Western Union Beef Company, with a capital of \$15,000,000, have been filed with the secretary of state at Denver, Colorado. The company is a consolidation of all the principal stock interests in Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Texas, among which are the North American Cattle Company, of Wyoming; the Brush Land and Cattle Company, of Colorado; Mecces Land and Cattle Company, Fort Stockton; the Live Stock and Land Company; the San Antonio Ranch Company, of Texas; and the Phoenix Farm and Ranch Company, of New Mexico. The principal office will be in Denver, with a branch in New York.

The plant which constitutes the Tacoma Bituminous Paving Company has been removed from California to Tacoma. This company is incorporated with a capital stock of \$200,000, is the only one in the sound country, and has built a rock crusher at a cost of \$20,000, on the Northern Pacific railroad, about eighteen miles from Tacoma, where the company owns fine quarries of trap and basalt rock. The crusher has a capacity of 150 cubic yards of crushed rock per day.

In the secretary of state's office last week the Mercury Mountain Mining and Smelting Company filed articles of incorporation, with J. A. Straight, N. G. Straight, of Eugene, and J. S. Fleming, of New York, incorporators. Object, mining and smelting cinnabar and other ores containing quicksilver, gold, silver, copper and other metals or minerals, in the mines of Douglas county, Oregon. Principal office, Portland. Capital stock, \$500,000, in shares of \$10.

The Quillayute valley, in Washington, is about twenty-five miles long and from five to seven in width, with a population of only three hundred people. The valley runs from northeast to southwest and faces on the Pacific ocean thirty-five miles south of Cape Flattery. It possesses a fine climate, fertile soil and abounds in game and fish of all kinds. The lands are unsurveyed and would afford elegant homes for perhaps five hundred families.

The stockholders of the Portland & Willamette Valley R. R. Co. met last week and elected the following board of directors: C. F. Crocker, W. E. Brown, D. F. Sherman, J. McCracken, R. Köhler, G. H. Andrews and W. W. Bretherton. The board organized by electing C. F. Crocker president; R. Köhler, first vice president and manager; D. F. Sherman, second vice president; G. H. Andrews, treasurer.

The shareholders of the Columbia & Kootenay Railway and Navigation Co. held their annual meeting at Vancouver, B. C., last week and elected their directors for the ensuing year, as

follows: H. Abbot, J. M. Browning and W. F. Salisbury. At a meeting of the directors held immediately after, H. Abbott was elected president, J. M. Browning, vice president, and J. D. Townley, secretary-treasurer.

The board of trade of Spokane Falls has adopted a commendable method of facilitating acquaintance with its tributary country. A number of excursions to such points as Moscow, Colville, Cœur d'Alene, Waterville, Clarke's Fork, etc., are planned and much interest is aroused in them. These will serve an important purpose in establishing close relations between those communities.

The drive of logs from the mountains down the North Palouse to Colfax, Washington, amounted this year to over 4,000,000 feet. This amount of logs is now on hand waiting to be converted into lumber during the present season. The mills of Colfax employ at the present time twenty-seven men constantly, and are turning off a product of 40,000 feet per day.

The hop crop in the Puyallup valley promises to be as large, if not the largest, ever known. Mild weather and gentle, warm rains have brought them forward wonderfully. Buyers are already there, also several English brewers' representatives, purchasing from owners. They claim that Washington hops are superior to any other.

The Ardena Land & Improvement Company has been incorporated, with a capital stock fixed at \$100,000, and will buy, sell and improve lands, and will operate a line of steamers between Gig harbor and sound points, and will build and operate a railroad from Gig harbor to Tacoma by way of the Narrows and Point Defiance.

During the past year there have been rafted down the Skagit river, in Skagit county, something over 10,000,000 feet of logs, about half of which are now in the boom. These logs are but a small portion of the output of that county, however, as there are four other rivers used, besides a standard gauge logging railroad.

Railroad building at Centralia, Washington, is quite active just now. There is a race between the Northern Pacific and the Hunt system in the construction of their respective roads from that place to Gray's Harbor, on the coast. At present the contest is about even and both parties are working for the lead.

The Oregon Iron & Steel Co. elected S. G. Reed, Wm. M. Ladd, T. B. Wilson, F. C. Smith and Martin Winch directors last week. The furnace of the company is now turning out over forty tons of pig iron per day, and the pipe foundry turns out from five to six hundred tons of water pipe per month.

Ellensburg has just placed \$50,000 of six per cent. bonds at \$1 02, and by a vote of 156 to six it favors issuing bonds to the amount of \$200,000, to be used in various public improvements, including sewers, new water works, the building of a city hall, the buying of an electric light plant, etc.

The name of that body of water heretofore known as Shoal-water bay, in Washington, has been changed by the government to Willapa harbor. It was claimed that the former name created a false impression, suggesting a flat, or very shallow water, which is by no means the case.