

A disastrous fire occurred at Wallace, Idaho, on July 27, which swept the entire business portion of the town and causing a loss of four or five hundred thousand dollars. The fire originated in the kitchen of the Central house, and was soon beyond the control of the fire department, the water supply being entirely inadequate, the flames swept everything in their course from the river to the hills, including many residences as well as all the business houses. One man, an Italian, named Antonio Demerio, was burned to death. Wallace was built in a triangular flat between the hills, and was the trading center and pride of the Cœur d'Alenes. Like Spokane Falls, and many other towns, it can lay its calamity to a defective and inadequate water supply. For when the fire occurred, the firemen responded promptly, and had only begun to control the flames when it was discovered the water supply was exhausted and the town was at the mercy of the flames. Of course it will now provide better arrangements, but after it has been once destroyed and nearly half a million dollar loss sustained. Many of the business houses opened next day in tents and improvised quarters and will rebuild at once, though the insurance was small and the losses will fall heavily upon most of them. Assistance was offered by neighboring towns, which was declined with thanks, and the citizens of Wallace now begin life anew upon the smouldering ruins of their former beautiful and prosperous little city.

In counting upon, and rather boasting of, the abundant food supplies in Alaska, the *Alaskan* says: In winter the natural food supplies of the natives is herring oil, venison tallow, venison, halibut, dried salmon and dried sea-weed. A plug of sea-weed resembles a large plug of tobacco. It is a wholesome food and is eaten either raw or stewed. Only one or two kinds of food are used at a meal. Natives are not accustomed to baking bread, and little bread is used. Pilot bread, purchased at the stores, takes its place. Springtime is the season of fish-eggs, an abundance of which are dried for winter use. June is the time for edible greens from the woods. Bushels of cranberries and salmon berries are gathered in the summer and the fall. A variety of wild berries grow in great profusion. Indications are that there will be a bountiful supply of salmon this season.

Some mysterious railroad grading is claimed to be going on in Tacoma, Washington. The Hart Company is nominally behind the work, but it is thought the move really means the Southern Pacific is quietly gaining a northern terminus at that point. The work is progressing daily, as does the guessing as to what it really means.

The Port Blakely mill, of Washington, will enter competition for the honors for big timber at the Columbian Exposition at Chicago. It has a stick of timber for exhibit which is one hundred and fifty feet long and fifty-two inches square, and contains 33,800 feet of lumber. It will take a train of five flat cars to transport it.

The following officers and directors of the Portland Smelting and Refining Co., whose works are located at Linnton, Or., have been elected: President, John McCracken; vice president, H. B. Oatman; secretary, C. F. Bunker; managers, Wm. Selover, J. C. Moreland, Chas. Hegele and A. H. Johnson.

It is stated that Ashland, Oregon, will ship 10,000 boxes of peaches this season. Still it is said the crop was cut off fifty per cent. by the late frosts.

A fishing company which has been organized at Vancouver, B. C., with a capital of \$50,000, is composed of leading business men and capitalists from Toronto and Montreal, and practical fisherman from the east have been engaged. Deep sea fishing will be pursued, and the catches put on the market fresh and salt.

Of 400,000 shares of the Oregon & Transcontinental Company, 211,557 shares, or more than a majority, were deposited with the Farmers' Loan & Trust Company in exchange for shares in the North American Company. This insures the success of the scheme of liquidation and the formation of a new company.

It is refreshing to hear of a western city which is pleased with the census returns. The *Albany Herald* says: "Albany has no reason to dispute the result of the census enumerators' work. Seven thousand is a very good representation for population. There is no growl to make."

William T. Wallace died at Wolf creek, Oregon, recently, aged seventy-seven. He crossed the plains in 1845 with a wife and family from Missouri. They raised twelve children, and have lived in Rogue river valley since 1859. Mrs. Wallace still survives her husband.

The sash and door factory of C. M. Johnson, of Tacoma, Washington, was burned July 28. The loss was \$60,000, with partial insurance. One hundred people are temporarily thrown out of employment by the fire.

It is now said a new industry will spring up for the manufacture of rope, twine, paper, etc., from hop vines. Experts have made a test, and it is said they are well adapted to those purposes.

Prunes are a very profitable crop on the Pacific coast, especially in Oregon and California. One man in the latter state expects to realize \$10,000 from his crop this season.

A large deposit of glass sand has been discovered near the mouth of Lewis river, Washington, which it is said would prove very valuable to a glass factory.

The contract for building the new chamber of commerce of Tacoma, Washington, has been awarded to A. B. Adams, of Tacoma, for \$167,400.

Vollmer is a new town on the proposed extension of the Spokane & Palouse railroad to Lewiston, Idaho. It is named for John P. Vollmer.

Fifteen new brick buildings are in course of erection in the burnt district of Pullman, Washington. Others will be erected before the winter.

The state of Wyoming will hold its first election on September 11th. Idaho follows on the first of October.

A \$10,000 addition is to be made to the Union, Oregon, public school building.

A board of trade has been organized at Palouse City, Washington.