

A correspondent of the *Medical Lake Ledger*, in speaking of that beautiful body of water known as Clear lake, says: This beautiful and almost unknown body of fresh water lies only three miles south of the famous Medical lake, and is surrounded by beautiful scenery. In silent grandeur it rivals anything ever written or related of the wonderful lakes of Killarney. The waters cover an area of about thirty square miles, and the shores are of such beauty and grandeur that it is far beyond the compass of pen to correctly describe, or the most talented artist's brush to truthfully and justly portray. This lake has no visible inlet or outlet, and, therefore, the supposition arises that it derives its existence from some subterranean passage, presumably from Lake Pend d'Oreille or some of the great fresh water lakes farther up in the mountains. The visitor taking a small boat and rowing out upon this lake can see many fathoms into its bottomless bosom and behold the high granite bluffs of its rock-locked shores reflected back like a far-off mirage. A pistol's report or a hearty "hello" will sound and re-sound, echo and re-echo, until the listener is lost in amazement and carried far away into wonderland. Clear lake is surrounded by towering walls of granite, lime stone, free stone and the ever present gray stone of Washington. In some places the banks rise to a perpendicular height of 300 feet from the water's edge, and from the sun's reflection throw back a blue, mellow color that rivals the beauty of the horizon or eclipses the zenith.

Operations have been commenced at the Clackamas salmon hatchery under the supervision of United States Fish Commissioner Hubbard. Owing to the immense numbers of these fish taken from the Columbia river and its tributaries every year, the question of how to prevent their extinction has become a problem which has as yet defied solution. Numerous expedients have been resorted to, but each in its turn has proved utterly inadequate to accomplish the purpose sought. It is readily seen that to stop fishing operations entirely for a given period would result in only temporary success and would at the same time stop one of the greatest sources of revenue of the northwest. The artificial propagation of the fish seems to come the nearest to keeping up the supply of any means yet adopted, and it is with the hope that it will prove equal to the emergency that the government is maintaining this and other establishments of like nature. The high water of February destroyed a considerable portion of the apparatus used in the river at the Clackamas hatchery, and owing to delay in rebuilding racks, etc., work could not begin as soon as was desirable. It is the expectation of the management, however, that they will be able to put 4,000,000 young fish into the river as a result of the fall work.

Work has been commenced on the large mill and concentrator for the Bunker Hill and Sullivan mines, near Wardner, Idaho. The site is admirably adapted to the purpose, being within half a mile of the station on the Union Pacific railroad. The building will be 247 feet in length by 72 feet in width and 40 feet high, and the works will have a capacity of 40,000 tons per day. The tramway to be built is known as the Bleichert system, which has proved to be practicable where ordinary railways could not be built. It will be 8,820 feet in length. The machinery at the mill will comprise everything requisite for the work to be accomplished, and will all be of the most approved pattern. The power will be furnished by two turbine water wheels of a capacity of seventy-two horse-power each. This property is the greatest silver and lead producer in Idaho, and when the plant is completed Wardner can boast of having the largest concentrating mill in Idaho. These improvements are being made by Portland capitalists who also own the Bunker Hill and Sullivan mines.

On account of the repeated dropping of chunks of rock and dirt from the roof of the great tunnel on the Cascade division of the Northern Pacific railroad, the officers decided to build an arch throughout its entire length. Work has been progressing on it for about a year, and the cross timbers are now being put in between the uprights, which, when finished, will complete the work. During this time freight trains have not been permitted to pass through during the daytime, and but one passenger train each way has used the tunnel, as the smoke from the locomotives made it impossible for work to be carried on for some time after the passage of the train. Freight trains have been stopped at the ends of the tunnel to wait till operations were suspended for the day, when each would take its turn at going through.

Great excitement prevails in the upper Skagit river district, Washington, over the recent discoveries of rich silver ledges in that section. The Boston mine, which was recently purchased by a Montana syndicate for \$150,000, is one of the richest yet discovered. It is at an elevation of 7,000 feet, near the summit of the Cascades, and about a mile and a half from the railroad survey in the Cascade pass. It possesses a six-foot vein of clean silver ore which assays ninety ounces of silver to the ton. Many rich

strikes are reported in the vicinity, and especially on the divide and in the western part of Okanogan county, which has already established a reputation for great mineral richness.

Evidences of the existence of natural gas have been discovered about four miles from Albany, Oregon. A pipe was sunk in a marshy place on a farm near Knox's butte, and upon being withdrawn and a lighted match being applied to the opening a flame shot up several feet in height. These surface indications have been found also at Drain and Lebanon, though development work has not proceeded far enough at either place to show to what extent the gas exists. The presence of natural gas in large quantities has worked wonders in the states of Ohio and Indiana, and their prosperity would undoubtedly be equaled in Oregon were the same agent found here.

President Loomis, of the Ilwaco Railway & Navigation Company, is interested in a scheme to connect the towns of Sealand and South Bend, Washington, by telegraph. Sealand is at present the northern terminus of the rail division of the I. B. & N. Co. on Shoalwater bay, and to carry out the proposed enterprise a cable three and one-half miles in length will be required to connect the point with the mainland, where connection will be made with an overland wire to the latter place. The undertaking is a very important one to the citizens of both places and its consummation is eagerly looked forward to by both places.

Work has commenced on preparing the site for the erection of a new paper mill at Oregon City by the Willamette Pulp and Paper Company. The main building will be 160x62 feet in size, and will be used as the machine room, while an additional room 75x45 feet will be occupied by a pulp engine. One large machine for making newspaper has been ordered, and the rest of the machinery is on the way. The buildings are being erected with a view to doubling the number of machines when increase in business will warrant. The enterprise will be pushed as rapidly as men and means can do it.

The state board of equalization of Washington has completed its work and the report shows taxable property of the value of \$300,000,000. In making up appropriations the legislature estimated on a basis of \$1,500,000, and made a levy of three mills, which, on the increased valuation, will create a fund of \$600,000, or \$150,000 more than the requirements of the state for the year. It was a very agreeable surprise to the officers, and shows the wonderful progress the state has been making.

The Thomson-Houston Electric Company has been awarded the contract for supplying complete appliances for operating a line of electric railway between the towns of New Whatcom and Fairhaven, Washington. The Bellingham Bay Electric Street Railway Company is the owner of the road and franchises, and has also secured an extension of the right of way beyond Fairhaven toward the town of Lummi.

The University of Seattle has been incorporated for the purpose of providing a school for teaching the higher branches of learning. The institution will impart instruction in all college studies and make specialties of all departments of literature, law, medicine, music and the various branches of abstract and applied sciences.

Competent judges estimate that shipments of fruit from California during the present season will amount to 200,000,000 pounds, which, at an average price of five cents per pound, will make the tidy sum of \$10,000,000. Oregon and Washington farmers should ponder over this.

The Seven Devils mining district, which has become known as the richest deposit of copper in Idaho, is now in a fair way of having its fame heralded abroad as a gold producer as well, as rich finds of that metal have been made within the last few weeks.

The assessed valuation of property in Silver Bow county, Montana, amounts to \$16,500,000, of which amount the city of Butte is credited with \$11,200,000. This is a gain in the county of \$5,000,000 over the assessment of 1889.

A miner working a claim on Swauk creek, in Kittitas county, Washington, recently found five nuggets of gold, which aggregated \$550 in value.