

Rexburg, Idaho, will have a 50-barrel flouring mill, erected by a stock company composed of citizens of that place.

Eight hundred thousand pounds of fresh salmon have been shipped east over the Canadian Pacific from Vancouver, B. C., this year. This business will be largely increased next season.

At Sitka, Alaska, the shortest day in the year, December 21, is only six hours long, the sun rising at nine and setting at three. The longest day, June 21, is eighteen hours, the sun rising at three and setting at nine.

A party of hunters recently discovered a seven-foot vein of anthracite coal in the mountains in Lewis county, Washington, three miles south of what is known as "Big Bottom." It is about twenty miles from the big beds of anthracite at the head of the Cowlitz river.

The Atlanta lode, which has produced over \$3,000,000, and which was considered one of the richest mines in Idaho when work was suspended several years ago, has been sold to London capitalists. Every claim is secured by a United States patent. The price paid is \$600,000.

The Canadian Pacific Timber & Lumbering Co. has been incorporated in British Columbia with a capital stock of \$500,000. The company has secured valuable timber lands and will erect a large saw mill in New Westminster, the officers being prominent business men of that city and Vancouver.

The Umatilla Irrigation Co., with a capital stock of \$1,000,000, has been incorporated by S. P. Sturgis, S. Rothchild and C. H. Leadbetter. The object is to irrigate 100,000 acres of land lying to the north and west of Pendleton, Oregon, and to supply 2,000 horse power for manufacturing purposes in that city. Preliminary surveys are being made.

The Oregon board of immigration has issued a very handsome pamphlet describing the city of Portland and its surroundings, embellished by numerous excellent engravings of business blocks, schools, churches, factories, residences, scenery, etc. This kind of immigration literature is the most effective, and produces far better results than the same amount of money spent in cheap trash, which fact the board is beginning to realize.

Victoria and Nanaimo capitalists are arranging to erect a hotel at the latter city next spring, to cost \$40,000. Nanaimo is the coal center on Vancouver island about seventy-five miles north of Victoria. The country around it is quite wild and picturesque and it is becoming a favorite resort for tourists during the summer. A good hotel will add much to the attractiveness of the locality. Preparations are now being made for the construction of an electric street railway in Nanaimo.

The Junction City Coal & Mining company was incorporated at Port Townsend, Washington, last week, with a capital stock of \$1,000,000. What promises to develop into the best mining property in Western Washington has been discovered by its promoters within twenty-two miles of that place. The prospectors and stock holders of the new corporation have been out for thirty days on a tour of exploration, and returned last week with specimens that will assay twenty per cent. copper and sixty ounces in silver, besides samples of the finest quality of bituminous coal. Expensive machinery will be put in, as soon as it can be procured to develop the mine. The outlet of the company will be Port Discovery bay, and wharves will be erected this winter or in the spring.

About six months ago a plumbago mine was located at Samish lake, on the line of the Fairhaven & Southern railroad. The mine is a most promising one, and considerable development work has been done. A tunnel has been run sixty-two feet through the ledge, and the end is not yet in sight. Several shipments of the mineral have been made to Tacoma, where it has been tried for paint making purposes, and as a lubricant it has given excellent satisfaction. Assays show that it contains eighty-five per cent. of pure plumbago. Samples have also been sent to New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, and the assays received have been most satisfactory. A stock company has been formed to still further develop the property. There is little doubt that this is a most valuable property, and one which will prove a bonanza to its owners.

Work on the Coos Bay & Roseburg railroad is being pushed rapidly. An additional force of 500 Chinamen is to be put at work immediately on the grade. Rails for thirty miles of the track are now on the way, and sixty miles more will be shipped soon. Between Marshfield and Coquille City the line passes through a section rich in coal and timber. It runs up the Coquille to Myrtle Point, and thence up the middle fork of the Coquille. There is plenty of timber and coal all the way to Camas valley, and from there to Roseburg the line passes through a rich agricultural country. It is expected the first section of thirty miles will be in operation by the first of April next.

The Columbia Railway & Navigation Co. has been incorporated in Portland with a capital stock of \$5,000,000 for the purpose of building a line down the north bank of the Columbia to the mouth of that river, with branches to Chehalis valley, Gray's harbor and Shoalwater bay. This is considered a Union Pacific enterprise, the terminus on the river being the town of Frankfort, just opposite Astoria. As the Union Pacific is now building a line to Puget sound that will run down the river as far as Kalama, it would only have to build from the latter point to Frankfort, less than fifty miles, to have a line from Portland to the mouth of the Columbia. This road would be of undoubted advantage to Portland, but the citizens are still more interested in securing rail connection with Astoria on the south side of the river, and will work earnestly to that end.

The most extensive and costly mining enterprise undertaken in California for ten years is now nearing completion a few miles above Oroville, in Butte county. It is the work of the Golden Gate Company, which will lift the Feather river from its bed and carry the whole volume of the stream in an enormous flume for nearly a mile. Work has been going on constantly for eighteen months. The flume has been completed, but a huge dam will have to be built across the river. The main work of exposing the bed of the river for a mile will have to be deferred until next year. The Feather river is the richest gold-bearing stream in California, and it is estimated that the gravel in the river bed will yield over \$500 per linear foot. This was the amount realized by a company which worked a small section of the river bed in Oroville, although they lost much gold through poor appliances.

The total value of all taxable property in Montana this year as reported by the state board of equalization is \$116,767,204. In the total of \$68,256,944 for real estate is included acre property and town lots and improvements; also railroad property. The total of personal is \$48,510,260. The following table shows the result by counties:

COUNTIES.	REAL.	PERSONAL.	TOTAL.
Beverhead.....	\$ 1,500,454	\$ 1,458,025	\$ 2,958,479
Cascade.....	5,914,801	1,971,098	7,885,899
Choteau.....	1,705,117	3,178,588	4,883,705
Custer.....	1,460,771	4,382,694	5,843,465
Dawson.....	1,321,900	2,162,383	3,484,283
Deer Lodge.....	3,351,914	5,226,696	8,578,610
Fergus.....	638,485	2,226,405	2,864,890
Gallatin.....	2,825,485	2,006,524	4,832,009
Jefferson.....	2,435,244	1,577,147	4,012,391
Lewis and Clarke.....	21,063,133	7,091,265	28,154,398
Madison.....	1,347,032	1,632,086	2,979,118
Moagher.....	1,777,559	1,069,116	2,846,675
Missoula.....	7,092,240	2,907,322	9,999,562
Park.....	2,696,378	2,310,255	5,006,633
Silver Bow.....	9,676,401	6,658,232	16,334,633
Yellowstone.....	1,369,928	1,803,262	3,173,190
	\$68,256,944	\$48,510,260	\$116,767,204

A company known as the Washington Stump Extracting Co. has been organized at Tacoma, Washington. The object is to engage extensively in clearing land ready for settlers, with the idea of inducing a larger immigration. The farmer who comes from even the most heavily timbered regions in the east is easily discouraged when he begins to contemplate the forests of Western Washington. Most people, therefore, who come with the expectation of farming, turn their attention, where possible, to other pursuits. This fact is now thoroughly realized by those who have studied the situation most carefully, and it is every day more and more apparent that something must be done to encourage the farming element. A resident of Tacoma has invented a machine for pulling stumps which is said to accomplish its object more successfully than any yet introduced. This company will manufacture and use this machine, and it is claimed that clearing can be done for about one-fourth the amount now required for that purpose. The enterprise is one which must commend itself to every property owner in the cities and towns west of the Cascades, for if the claims can be substantiated, more can be done by a little effort in this direction to settle and develop the state than will be done in half a century if the work of clearing is left to the settlers themselves.