



THE FAR WEST

WHILE WE SLUMBER.

It is not a pleasant duty to speak frequently of the plodding methods of so large a proportion of Oregon's population, but it requires awakening. We are too conservative—too much like the man who does not advertise doing business alongside the man who does. We say, in effect, to the outside world, "If you wish to buy some goods drop into our store and we will look about and see if we have anything you want." But the customer does not come to us when he knows what he wants is in the adjoining store. This "moss" we carry about is to our state as the cobwebs are to the store which is too conservative to make a show of what it has in stock. The truth is that we need stirring up. The conditions now are different than when "our stock and grain were growing while we slept." While we now sleep our neighbors are enjoying the morning sun of prosperity and advancement at our expense. While we slumber our neighbors on the south are garnering our wheat and shipping it as California wheat; taking the products of our grist mills and branding it "California Flour;" plucking our prunes and labeling them "California Fruit," gathering our apples and naming them "California Mountain Apples." Upon the cars in this state our apples, pears, and peaches are frequently sold by the train boys as California fruit. Oregon potatoes go east as a California product, etc. Not satisfied with appropriating our products, California robs us of the good name of those things for which we have established a high reputation. California dog salmon are canned and labeled "Columbia River Salmon"—all while we slumber. Our latest production, *cascara sagrada*, or chittim bark, is known in the market as solely a California product. Upwards of twenty tons of this article of commerce have been shipped this season from Benton county alone. A druggist of Eugene wrote to firms in New York as to the price they would pay for the bark shipped direct from that town, and was not a little astonished when the reply came back that the Oregon chittim bark was worthless, and they only purchased that sent and raised in California. Such is a leaf from a true historic page of events in one article raised in this state for which another gains the credit. The fact about chittim is that Western Oregon produces almost all the bark of this kind that is gathered on this coast. Our neighbors on the north are not less active, but more scrupulous than our California friends. By their system of financial legislation Oregon is being drained of its available capital by Washington, which also attracts the large amount of eastern capital now seeking investment in the northwest. Again, Washington is an energetic advertising competitor. It does not believe that the money invested in a large sign is so much capital wasted. The Washington merchant is wide awake while too many of our Oregon business men are taking a conservative nap upon the counter, "allowing the business to run itself." Nature has done her part by Oregon and it now rests with the people whether it shall be the grandest state in the Union or become distanced in the race for commercial supremacy.—*Corvallis Gazette*.

Near the mouth of the Wenatchee river, Washington, caves containing large quantities of a superior quality of onyx have been discovered. A marble dealer of Spokane Falls noticed a few specimens of the stone in a collection of samples of the various minerals of Kittitas county, and inquiring the location of the place where the stone was found set out on a prospecting trip and had no difficulty in finding it. He found a number of caves in which were many stalactites, which, upon being broken proved to be beautiful onyx formations. There are about 320 acres of unsurveyed government land included in the area where the mineral is found, and a company has organized at Spokane Falls and taken up a number of claims for the purpose of developing the find. The ancients prized the onyx very highly for cameos, and some of their productions have never been equaled by modern engravers. The Washington onyx is beautifully colored, the banding being sharply defined. The stone is extremely hard and takes a very high polish. The principal source of supply of the United States for this material has been Mexico, and large amounts have annually been expended in securing it for decorations for interiors of residences and public buildings, and the prospects of a paying business being secured by the owners of the new find are considered good. The town of Waterville, in the western part of Douglas county, will be made the base of operations by the company, which has been capitalized at \$250,000.

A book that will prove of much interest to residents of the northwest is "The Bridge of the Gods," a tale of Indian life in Oregon 300 years ago.

The author, F. H. Balch, has woven a story of deep interest out of the materials supplied by legends, well known historical facts and authenticated customs and habits of the races that occupied the great Columbia basin when the Caucasian race first visited it. Not only is the story entertaining in itself but so closely has the author adhered to facts, that it may well be called a true picture of aboriginal life in Oregon two centuries ago. It shows careful study of the subject, and he is to be congratulated upon the fact that his imagination has been used only to weave into one piece the scattered threads of fact, rather than, as most writers upon western topics do, to create the facts themselves. In one particular he is a little at fault. In justifying his "Confederacy of the Wanna" he states that in 1856 a great combination of the Indians from the British possessions to California was made against the whites. In this he is in error. It is true that the Yakimas, Klickitats, Cayuses, Walla Wallas and Spokanes, all living in the Columbia valley, did combine against the whites, and that at the same time there was war in Southern Oregon with the Rogue River tribe; but these two wars were simultaneous rather than conjunctive and grew out of totally distinct causes. The Puget sound Indians also engaged in hostilities, but it was never shown that they did so because of any combination they had made with the Yakimas. It is a question, also, if he would not have come nearer the truth had he placed the Klickitats at the head of the confederacy, instead of the Willamettes, since the slight evidences left for us to judge from seem to point to them as the most warlike of all the Columbian tribes in former times. Published by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago.

There are at present in the United States, exclusive of Alaska, 586,216,861 acres of unoccupied government land, of which amount 282,772,438 acres have been surveyed. Alaska contains 869,529,600 acres, less than 1,000 acres having been entered. Montana has the largest area of unoccupied land of any state or territory in the union, having 56,196,312 acres unsurveyed and 9,611,315 acres surveyed. New Mexico comes second with 55,360,326 acres. Nineteen million acres of agricultural lands were transferred to actual settlers during the year. The lands patented to states on account of education, internal improvements and public buildings during the year 1890 amounted to 539,779 acres. During the year patents were issued to the number of 117,247 as against 70,141 for the corresponding period last year. Mineral and mill-site patents were also increased from 913 in 1889 to 1,407 in 1890. The area of coal lands granted in 1890 nearly doubled that of the previous year. In 1890 there were 224 patents, covering 33,473.72 acres, and in 1889, 155 patents, covering 17,096.80. The total receipts from public lands have been \$7,470,370.31.

The committee on Indian affairs of the lower house of congress has reported favorably on a bill granting the right of way across the Poyallup Indian reservation in Washington to the Tacoma & Seattle Air Line Co. This organization filed articles of incorporation last February and immediately put a party of surveyors in the field for the purpose of establishing a line between the two cities, but found it impracticable to do anything until a grant across the reservation was secured. The favorable report of the committee is almost equivalent to a grant of the privilege, and as the company has ample funds at its command work on the road will probably be commenced as soon as the formalities are completed. The intention is to construct a line of railroad and equip it in a manner that will admit of trains being run at a high rate of speed, so that not to exceed forty minutes' time will be consumed in making the trip between the two places. The distance by the new line will be a little over thirty miles, which will require very fast running to make the trip in the time contemplated by the managers.

Incorporations have been effected in Washington recently by the following named companies: Poyallup Savings, Loan & Trust Co., of Poyallup; capital, \$25,000. Spokane & Western Railroad Co., of Spokane Falls; capital, \$10,000. West Kootenai Mining Co., of Spokane Falls; capital, \$1,000,000. Pacific Loan & Trust Co., of New Whatcom; capital, \$200,000. Denver Land Co., of South Bend; capital, \$75,000. Port Angeles Gas, Electric Light & Power Co., Limited, of Port Angeles; capital, \$300,000. Sunset Warehouse Co., of Sunset; capital, \$3,500. Meyers Land & Improvement Co., of Roslyn; capital, \$25,000.

The horse car street railway system of Salem has been purchased by a syndicate of Chicago capitalists. Three miles more of road bed are to be built at once and the whole system changed for operation by electricity. Salem already has one electric line.

The citizens of Milton, Oregon, have organized an association for the purpose of advertising that section of the state. A large amount of immigration literature will be sent out, calling attention to the advantages Umatilla county has to offer.