

The sand bars of the Fraser river have long been known to be rich in gold, but no means for securing it have ever been devised. The scheme of turning the river from its channel, as was done with the Feather river, in California, could not be used in this instance, as the volume of the river is too great, and in places where the richest bars are located the banks are of such a nature as to render the undertaking too formidable. Two miners, of New Westminster, have recently invented a machine which they claim will enable them to work these bars as easily as though entirely above water. The machine consists of a scow on which are fixed a boiler and engine, which furnish the power for operating a set of buckets much the same as an ordinary marine dredger. The endless chain carrying the buckets is so arranged that it can be raised and lowered to suit the varying depths at which it is desired to work. The material brought to the surface is dumped into sluices, where it is made to pass over riffles and blankets supplied with quicksilver, which takes up most of the gold as it passes over. After leaving the scow the tailings fall into a second sluice which lies on the bottom of the stream and which is also provided with blankets and riffles. This second sluice is also supplied with a rotary brush, which, together with the action of the current of the stream, carries away all the gravel and sand, the quicksilver taking up what gold may have been missed by the first sluice. The submerged sluice is provided with steam appliances by which it is easily raised to the surface for examination. The inventors are now engaged in constructing a machine which they intend putting to a practical test in the near future. Should it prove to be a success there are other streams where it could be made to do good work.

Sir Philip Miller, the great English horticulturist, writing in 1740, said: "The best method to have cabbages good is to procure fresh seed from abroad every year, for it is apt to degenerate in England in a few years." The above is a simple illustration of the fact that the best seeds will rapidly degenerate under unfavorable conditions. The wise will take heed, therefore, and buy their seeds of D. M. Ferry & Co., Detroit, Michigan, whose world-wide reputation as the best and most reliable, as well as the most extensive seed growers and dealers, is due to the fact that they take advantage of every circumstance of climate, soil, methods of culture, selection of seed plants, etc., to procure the best possible seeds and keep them up to that high standard. Send your name to the firm's address, and you will receive a copy of their Seed Annual for 1891 free.

Application has been made to the British Columbia parliament for a charter to build a railroad from Kamloops northward, by way of the north fork of Thompson river, to the Cariboo country. The company making the application has an abundance of capital, and should permission be granted will begin work immediately and push it to an early completion. The Cariboo is one of the richest mineral sections of British Columbia, but is at present practically shut off from the outside world, the only means of ingress and egress being by freighting teams and stages. A railroad operating in that section would give a wonderful impetus to its growth and development, and large areas of country now lying wild would be reclaimed and converted into one of the best producing sections of the whole province.

The Boise Water Company, of Boise City, Idaho, is engaged in sinking an artesian well on a piece of land located near the state penitentiary in that city. At a depth of eighty feet a flow of water was obtained which registered ninety-two degrees. Drilling was continued, and at a depth of

112 feet a second vein was struck, with a temperature of 115 degrees. The force of this stream was sufficient to throw the water out at the top of the well, rendering it necessary to tap the well some distance below the surface for the purpose of carrying the water away, so as not to interfere with the drilling, which will be continued to a considerable depth, with the hope of securing a flow of much higher temperature. The water is perfectly clear and strongly impregnated with sulphur.

About fifteen miles south of Ellensburg, Oregon, are located extensive borax mines, which are being worked by San Francisco parties. Last year they shipped 400 tons to San Francisco, which found ready sale at nine cents per pound. They keep forty to fifty men steadily employed. The mineral is found in chunks varying from a few pounds in weight to half a ton. This mine is considered one of the best producers known, the quality being far above the average.

The city of Vancouver, B. C., furnishes employment to 6,613 hands in conducting its business, pays wages to the amount of \$4,108,000, and has \$26,030,900 invested in enterprises of different kinds. The capital of banks doing business in that city aggregates \$35,000,000. The real estate within the corporate limits is valued at \$10,000,000, with improvements in buildings amounting to \$5,000,000. The property belonging to the city government is valued at \$650,000.

Northrup, Braslan & Goodwin Co's catalogue of northern grown tested seeds, in addition to being a handsome specimen of the lithographer's and engraver's art, is a notable one, in that every variety offered is true to nature. This is a new departure that should be appreciated by every purchaser of seeds. Mailed free on application to Northrup, Braslan & Goodwin Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

C. M. Sheldon and D. Beckett, who were formerly in business in the town of Goldendale, have opened a new grocery store in the old J. D. Geoghegan stand, corner Seventh and Main streets, Vancouver, Washington. While in Goldendale they made many friends who wish them success in their new departure.

The steamer *Typhoon*, which was built by J. B. Montgomery, at Portland, last year, and which ran a short time on the Portland-Albina route, was burned at Hoquiam, Washington, on Sunday of last week. She was valued at \$12,000 and was the fastest boat on Gray's harbor.

Coal oil is reported as having been found near the town of Hubbard, in Marion county, Oregon. A company has been formed with a capital stock of \$300,000 for the purpose of sinking wells to ascertain whether it can be secured in paying quantities.

Residents of Hoquiam, Washington, have organized a company for the purpose of building a railroad from that place into the Quinault country.

One of the largest shingle mills in the state of Washington is to be erected on the Chehalis river between Montesano and Melbourne. Its capacity will be 150,000 shingles per day.

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