

Ill., in December. In 1875 he visited Oregon and in 1879 established himself in business in Portland. In 1883 he was instrumental in organizing the Veteran Guard in Portland, thus laying the foundation for the regiment of which he is now second in command. He was a member of the legislature in 1887 and procured the passage of the militia law now in force. He has held various positions in the Grand Army, and was last a representative of this department in the National Council of Administration. Col. Summers will manage the affairs of the department with his customary wisdom and energy.

LINCOLN COUNTY, WASHINGTON.

Davenport may be considered the gateway to the Big Bend country, which takes its name from the great bend in the Columbia river. The general topography is rolling, the lands becoming more hilly and rugged as the traveler approaches the Columbia and Spokane rivers, which lie several hundred feet below the plain of the prairie. The lands lying next these rivers for a distance of twenty to thirty miles out, are rich and dark and exceptionally productive, although more rolling than the lands farther back, but not difficult of cultivation. All kinds of grain, fruit and vegetables common to a northern climate are grown in abundance.

A few years ago, when the big bend of the Columbia was designated on maps as a "barren, sage brush plain," the thought of a railroad building through was regarded as a very doubtful possibility of the distant future. As settlements pushed in and the remarkable fertility of the lands was demonstrated, the probability of a railroad in the near future became all but certain. In the fall of 1888 the first preliminary survey of the Central Washington, a branch of the Northern Pacific, was made, and the following season the line was built. Farming, which had hitherto been carried on only in the most limited way, was then engaged in more extensively, and has since become the great leading industry, until the wonderful productiveness of the soil of these big bend lands have become known far and wide. The estimated amount of grain grown tributary to Davenport last season was nearly a million bushels. The Central Washington was wholly unprepared to remove the crop as fast as it was thrown onto the market, a fact which was heralded all over the newspaper world, directing the attention of eastern people, as well as that of other railroads, to the magnificent possibilities of our soil. Now the survey of the Great Northern has been extended into Davenport and west, and very soon will be prepared to divide the rapidly-increasing traffic with the present road, and other roads will not be slow in pushing in as the country becomes more fully developed. We might state here that the present branch of the Northern Pacific will eventually be extended on to Puget sound, forming the main line, owing to its shortness and more direct line to tide water.

Thousands of acres within a few miles of Davenport yet remain in their wild state, ready to respond to the hand of man, and can be purchased at a reasonable figure. While some government lands may still be found, the choice is, of course, all taken up. Good railroad lands, however, can be purchased all the way from \$2.50 to \$8.00 per acre. These lands are fast being taken up, now that they have proved so productive, and a few years hence Lincoln county, and especially the big bend, will take very high rank among the grain regions of the west.—*Davenport Times*.

SEALS AND DOGFISH.

In census bulletin No. 30, March 16, 1891 (Washington, D. C.), upon the "Wealth and Resources of Alaska," Superintendent Porter makes the following statement in his letter of introduction to Special Agent Petroff's report:

One of the most eminent authorities on Alaska recently stated it as his belief that the salmon, cod and herring fisheries of the territory would become of such immense value in the event of the entire destruction of the fur seal, which now preys upon the fish, that its extermination is a contingency that need not excite serious alarm.

As this subject of what influence the fur seal herd had and has upon the supply of food fishes for man, is one which has often been discussed during the last six or seven years among ichthyologists and naturalists generally at the Smithsonian institution and of the United States fish commission, it is not a new theme; but the verdict of experts here is diametrically opposed to the statement above made by Mr. Porter's authority as he quotes him.

Curiously enough, on page eight of his bulletin No. 39, appears the following suggestion by Special Agent Petroff, of the real and most destructive enemy which these food fishes have to encounter:

The waters of Prince William sound contain, perhaps, less fish than other sections of the territory, the most abundant species being the dogfish, which seems to have driven away the codfish and nearly exterminated the herring, upon which it feeds.

This is the same dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) that vexes the soul of the east coast fishermen from Massachusetts up to the Gulf of St. Lawrence; it is the same ill-favored sea wolf that these men recognize there as the most active and deadly enemy of the cod, hake and pollock. It is none the less destructive in the waters of the northwest coast and Alaska, going as far north as sixty-eight degrees north latitude in Behring sea, and ranging as far south as Cape Mendocino, coast of California. It is especially numerous and voracious all through the littoral waters between the Straits of Fuca and Kodiak, and it feeds largely upon young codfish from two to six inches in length, young salmon fry and herring.

Now, what has mainly prevented these dogfishes from so multiplying as to produce the same result of ruin to the cod and herring fisheries everywhere else in Alaska, as is declared to be the case in Prince William sound, by Special Agent Petroff, above cited?

Why, the fur seal. He is the chief and only pronounced hunter of the dogfish. Man rejects all fishing for that creature as unprofitable, except in a very small way for its oil; but the fur seal regards the *Squalus* as its especial and most toothsome game, and feeds upon its plump, oily body, with soft, gelatinous fins; bites off the head and usually rejects it, because the teeth are sharp and hard and unpleasant when involved in the slight mastication that this animal ever gives to its food. Of course, I do not deny that the fur seal eats cod, salmon, herring, wolfishes, sculpins and crabs.

A little reflection will teach most men that nature has kept a perfect system of checks and balances upon the relative status of all wild life, and that when man steps in to disturb that system of natural equilibrium he generally makes a blunder and strives hard to atone for it afterward. Of course, if we could protect the food fishes of Alaska from this dogfish, their own most natural enemy, and other enemies, as well as the fur seals can and do, then there would be no argument on that score in favor of saving these animals; but until we are equal to that task it is better to let the fur seal life remain, without reference to several other excellent and weighty reasons why it should not be greedily and thoughtlessly exposed to the positive danger of swift extermination by the hands of unchecked pelagic sealers.

If your readers who are really interested in the subject of the preservation of the food fisheries of Alaska will turn to a recent report upon "The Salmon and Salmon Rivers of Alaska," by Dr. T. H. Bean, United States fish commission, they will find in its pages abundant proof that the chief enemy today, and its only one, to the well being and perpetuation of this industry up there is man himself, and that the seals cut no figure in the trouble.—*Henry W. Elliot, in Forest and Stream*.

To show the interest taken by women in the enterprise begun in this issue of THE WEST SHORE under Mrs. Duniway's management, we present a few extracts from such letters as are regularly reaching this office.

Mrs. M. J. Hayden, Vancouver, Washington:

I am more than pleased to welcome our veteran leader back to her legitimate life work. Send THE WEST SHORE to my address, with bill. I will soon add more subscribers.

Mrs. Sue R. Keenan, East Portland:

Send along THE WEST SHORE with anything that Mrs. Duniway writes.

Mrs. Bruce, Talent, Oregon:

I hear that Mrs. Duniway is about to take a department in THE WEST SHORE. Please send me the initial number, and count me as a regular subscriber.

Mrs. Cummings, Wallula, Washington:

Don't let me miss a copy of THE WEST SHORE with Mrs. Duniway's department.

Clara S. Foltz, San Francisco:

I am delighted at the prospect of hearing once more from Mrs. Duniway in the capacity of editor. Don't fail to send me the salutatory, and count me as one of the regulars hereafter.

Dr. Paul Gibier, director of the New York Pasteur institute, has just made public the results of inoculation for hydrophobia during the first twelve months of the institute's existence, February 18, 1890, to February 18, 1891. There were 828 persons treated for dog and cat bites. Of this number 643 were bitten by animals that were not mad. In 185 cases the anti-hydrophobic treatment was supplied, hydrophobia of the animals which inflicted the bites having been evidenced clinically or by the inoculation in the laboratory and in many cases by the death of some other persons or animals bitten by the same dogs. No deaths caused by hydrophobia have been reported among the persons inoculated. Indigents have been treated free of charge.