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Oregon and Washington Timber.

The following excellent article is from the *Mississippi Valley Lumberman*, published at Minneapolis, and bears good testimony to the value of our forest resources:

It would scarcely be possible to exaggerate the extent and value of the forests of this region. East and west of the Cascade mountains there are large tracts of timber lands, which the lumbermen have not yet invaded. Many such tracts will be brought within the reach of markets on the completion of the transportation lines now in course of construction. In the Blue mountains and on the eastern slope of the Cascades the supply of timber is more than sufficient to cover the local demand. It will yield a large surplus for shipment to the level timberless territories lying eastward. But west of the Cascade mountains, and especially in Washington Territory, the lumberman must look for the material which will keep his mills at work without fear of exhausting the supply. The finest body of timber in the world is embraced between the Columbia river and British Columbia and the Pacific ocean and the Cascades. At a low estimate, one half the growth of this Puget Sound district consists of trees which will yield 20,000 feet of lumber to the acre. The approximate quantity therefore, in this tract alone, the area of which is nearly as large as the State of Iowa, is not less than 100,000,000,000 feet. During the last 35 years the aggregate cut has been perhaps not more than 2,500,000,000 feet, leaving a supply of 157,500,000,000 feet from which to draw. The principal growths are fir, pine, spruce, cedar, larch and hemlock, although white oak, maple, cottonwood, ash, alder and other varieties are found in considerable quantities. Three kinds of cedar, two of fir, and three of pine are indigenous to the country. The fir, however, exceeds in quantity and value all the other species combined, and the cedar ranks second in this respect. Trees attain an unusual development, both with regard to height and to symmetry of form. Perhaps nowhere else are they found so tall, straight and gently tapering as to fit them peculiarly for ship's spars and masts. The yellow fir is frequently 250 feet in height; the pine 120 to 160 feet; the silver fir 150 feet; white cedar, 100 feet; white oak, 70 feet, and black spruce, 150 feet. Cedars have been found of 63 feet girth and 120 feet in height. The sugar pine of Oregon is equal to the best cedar. Ordinary sized trees yield 6,000 to 8,000 feet of lumber each, and many as much as 15,000. Of this are made railroad ties, boards, deals, fencing, laths, paling, tickets, barrel staves and heads, household furniture and ship timber. The product of the saw mills is shipped to San Francisco, the Sandwich Islands, Mexico, the Pacific coast of North America, Australia, and even to England and France, China and Japan. The first saw mill was built on Puget Sound in 1851, with a capacity of 1,000 feet daily. In 1853 a steam saw mill was erected at Seattle which could cut 8,900 to 10,000 feet per day. The business has since greatly increased. The largest saw mill of the fifteen in operation on Puget Sound is that at Port Ludlow with a capacity of 200,000 feet per day. The other mills are situated at Fort Gamble, Port Madison, Port Blakely, Port Discovery, Seabeck, Uxalady, Tacoma and New Tacoma, and the remainder at Seattle. The aggregate daily cutting of these mills is over 1,000,000 feet. Some of the logs sawed are enormous in girth and sometimes 115 feet in length. Planing mills are attached to most of these large saw mills and dressed building lumber is obtained as required. Each mill is admirably situated, with a view to economical production, and nearly every one of them comprises a town of itself, with stores, shops, steam tugs, lumber vessels and dwellings owned by the companies. It is the custom at these mills to wait for an order and then to saw the lumber to fill it. Sometimes a fleet of half a dozen large vessels may be seen at the same time loading lumber just cut by the saws of these great mills. Ship building in connection with this business, is also an important feature.

The export of lumber from Puget Sound during 1881 amounted to 174,176,700 feet, valued at \$1,718,226. Of this, 41,760,700 feet valued at \$394,066, were shipped to foreign ports and the remainder coastwise. Owing to competition and to the great facilities of production, the price of lumber has steadily fallen in recent years in spite of the fact that the demand has constantly increased. The average price in 1881 was \$9 50 per thousand feet.

The existing conditions of lumbering at Puget Sound could not be more favorable. The forests remain for the most part in virgin condition, except for a distance from the streams and estuaries; the shores are not so abrupt as to prevent easy handling of the timber; the harbors are numerous, deep and well sheltered; the hardships, losses and delay incident to every step in the process of logging are less than in any other section of the world. The forests remain for the most part in virgin condition, except for a distance from the streams and estuaries; the shores are not so abrupt as to prevent easy handling of the timber; the harbors are numerous, deep and well sheltered; the hardships, losses and delay incident to every step in the process of logging are less than in any other section of the world.

Pushing forward along the line, the future metropolis and manufacturing center of the northwest the thriving city of Spokane Falls, is reached. It is but little over two years old and has reached its present growth by the energy and enterprise of a few far-seeing, shrewd men, who, in its immense, easily-handled and unlimited water power, foresaw its manifest destiny. The city and its advantages cannot be properly described here,

and its importance demands a separate article which will shortly be given to the world through these columns.

From Cheney the line runs through a country timbered with pine and containing many lakes, which with the bunch grass makes it the best stock raising country now unoccupied in Eastern Washington; on either side of the line the purely agricultural country commences and here let us advise all newcomers who may be hunting for homes not to be discouraged by what he merely sees while on the road and for this reason: the railroad must necessarily seek the easiest grade and in order to attain this the dry beds of old rivers and creeks have to be used as offering elevation; as is the case in all the river valleys. In this section the land is rough, and bordered on either side by the black basaltic rock of the country has had a depressing effect on the new settler until he is taken in hand and the character of the country explained to him. That personal experience will bear out the statements of the generally good quality of the land let the following figures show. The sales of railroad land in the Cheney office for the month of March, 1882, amount to \$23,472.05; sales of town lots for the same month \$4,605.00; and for the current month of April up to the 13th the land sales jump to \$21,091.64 or almost as much in one-half of the time as in the preceding month. In a little over two years the sales of land and town lots here have aggregated \$1,362,500. Fast as the land is being taken up, there is vast practically unlimited acreage only waiting the advent of the industries to equal any other portion of the United States.

Leaving Spokane Falls behind us the cars run through a most beautifully timbered prairie country very little of which is apparently taken up and then we enter the Lacustrine country which extends from Washington Territory through Idaho up to and beyond the Montana line; here the basaltic formation which has been such a characteristic of the whole country on the Cascades gives out and granite slate and other formations come in.

The very lakes of the country suggest vast mineral deposits and if this were not evident, the numerous pyrites of ore to be seen in every rough shanty, hotel and saloon on the road would soon convert the most sceptical. The ores are more of the argenteiferous glauconite and copper silver glance containing sulphurates and cheerful indications of chloride of silver.

We here venture the prediction that within the next decade the country bordering on and tributary to Lake Pend Oreille will become one of the principal silver producing countries of the world; what has been discovered so far has been merely by an accident and no man worthy of the name of "prospector" in the Nevada, Arizona or Colorado sense of the word has yet been attracted to this vast mineral field.

The parties who have stumbled over the riches from which they have obtained their specimens are actually ignorant of the first principles of prospecting, to say nothing of mining; they cannot even tell the equator what the formation is, granite, syenite, quartz, porphyry, or limestone; they will say "its mountains," in the most insane and exasperating manner.

Ledges of galena two or three feet in thickness have already been found and in one instance a gentleman highly connected with the company advanced one thousand dollars to have the ore shipped and worked, but it appears the Indians, on whose land the mine was found, refused to let the men work and ordered them off. An attempt will again be made the present summer to obtain the required amount and will no doubt be successful, for the Indians are few and any attempt on their part to resist the whites in their efforts to develop the country will result in their own destruction. — *Walla Walla Statesman.*

Over the Northern Pacific.

It is a little disheartening to the newcomer travelling along the line of the Northern Pacific in search of a new home to discover the apparent desolation of the country he is whirling over. This desolation is more apparent than real, for the soil possesses in the greatest abundance all the elements of fertility, and barbarism must, according to the very nature of things, give way to the pushing nervous civilization of the nineteenth century and fill up the now desert with thousands of happy homes. What the country now is all our western country has been until peopled by a new and enterprising people. The sage-brush—that token of desolation in itself a sign of the fatness of the land, and is almost a household word in the Western States and Territories that sage-brush will not grow on a poor soil. The fact that trees have been set out along the line and are thriving as well as the bountiful bunch grass, is corroborative of this undeniable fact. "Wheat will grow wherever there is bunch grass" is now a proverb, and for miles it makes a perfect award.

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PUGET SOUND.

Fact and Fiction—History and Romance.

Correspondence Oregonian.

SEATTLE, JUNE 17, 1882.

I spent fully two days in the Portland Library rooms lately, trying to find out why Puget Sound was so called, but without success. Wilkes, in his journal, makes no mention of it; the encyclopedias are silent; Vancouver's records could not be found, and the lesser historic luminaries, from Swan to Victor, either didn't know or forgot to make mention of the circumstance. Mr. Ozer was also at a loss. I came very near giving up the hunt in disgust. Fortunately, however, a Sound man came along, and forthwith expatiated with local enthusiasm on the qualities of Vancouver's dashing lieutenant, Puget, who had the honor to make the first survey of this magnificent body of water, and was regarded as a consequence with a sure and lasting immortality. Great honor was never purchased so cheaply, and, indeed, Puget's case is an example of the inexplicable freaks of fortune. His old camping ground is pointed out to strangers from the deck of the passing steamers, and it does seem a pity that it is not marked with some device that would attract attention. The work he did in 1792 when he made the survey, will last for all time, and perhaps the day is coming when it will be considered that his bones, which are now mouldering in some English churchyard, should be laid at the head of the waters which he was the first to explore, and that the great mountains which he marked and located in the world's history of topography should be the sentinels that stand guard over his grave.

DESCRIPTION.

The Sound is a winding, tortuous body of water of irregular width, and having an extreme length of 110 miles. It was first entered by Vancouver in 1792, although Kendrick, the American, who, in 1783 sailed up and down Charlotte Strait, must have known of its existence, and perhaps approached it. It covers an area of 12,000 square miles, and it was considered by the first white navigators to be the mouth of the long-sought-for river which connected the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The fabulous De Fuca, who sailed many days inland, thought that he had actually entered that river, and, in fact, the term "river" much more justly describes the Sound than any other word. It is, in truth, a broad Danube, hemmed in by green, sloping banks, dotted with islands, and receiving from either side the waters of a half-dozen tributary arms, which in turn resemble smaller streams. It has its iron gate at Stellacoom, and its crags and fastnesses everywhere. The mountains crowd so close on its waters that there is no room for great valleys and rolling plains, but the ships which come to its bays need not go away empty, as the hills are full of iron and coal, and the slopes are covered with cedar and fir. Though Vancouver and Puget may have been disappointed when they found that none of the far-reaching arms of the Sound clasped hands with the Atlantic, still when they contemplated the grandeur of the surroundings, the munificence of the harbor and the varied resources of the country, they must have felt that they had discovered a new El Dorado for the human race, and although they sailed away without finding the much-sought-for passage to the Indies through the American continent, still they did the world a service equal to it when they announced the discovery of the Sound.

TRADITIONS.

Fish and game being plentiful, the original inhabitants of this region were, of course, likely to be numerous and powerful. The tribes that occupied the immediate neighborhood of the Sound were rather stupid and lazy, but not so those who dwelt along the Skagit and other turbulent streams. These people were warlike, and produced some fine specimens of Indian humanity. The Makah tribe especially, who dwelt further down by Cape Flattery, are said to have been, physically and mentally, the finest race of Indians known, and perhaps their dangerous life-chasing the seal for a living—may account for this. The Sound Indians were very superstitious, and they have some traditions which are worthy to be reproduced here. Perhaps the biblical smack of these legends may be due to the zeal of the pious Jesuits, who were on the lower Saskatchewan as early as 1785, and were in Northern California in 1690, and who could easily spread a religious story to these points from those points. But be that as it may, the fact remains that the Indians have some striking traditions, and I will give a few of them as they were recounted to me. The most curious is that concerning the deluge and the preservation of the human race. It goes on to say that for a long period the earth was visited by rain, and finally all the heights were covered, and all living things were destroyed save one person alone, who escaped

SEVERAL GOOD POINTS.

Hon. W. D. Hare owns a good farm in Washington county, and having retired from the Astoria Custom House, now devotes himself to the farm. He has a magnificent Holstein bull, and will have two heifers of the same breed if they come safely from the East. He is satisfied that the Holsteins answer well for dairy use, and excel all for cheese, and he proposes to test them fully. Having cleared off and burned a wood lot, he has sown grass seed in the ashes, and now has a splendid pasture. He keeps a band of sheep, and when they were allowed to run out nights and winter he got 44 pounds of wool from each, and last season he tried housing his sheep, and this spring took 74 pounds of wool from each, and he had as many lambs as he had ewes, which shows well how it pays to have good pasture and shelter stock. We consider this satisfactory proof that good farming pays; for Mr. Hare plows to the beam and has winter wheat that gives astonishing promise. We commend his example in more than one respect to others.

Holsteins are popular with dairymen all the East, and grow in popularity here. Mr. J. B. Knapp has lately bought the Holstein bull of R. C. Geer, who has had it several years, for his dairy herd down on the Columbia river.

to Mount Ranier. When there he stood waist deep in water and was about to be swept into the flood, when his lower parts were changed into stone, and he became rooted to the ground. When the waters subsided the Great Spirit cast him into a deep sleep, and took a rib from his body and created a woman, and from them sprang the human race. Another relates to the

SAVIOUR OF MANKIND.

Who sailed down the Sound towards the ocean in a canoe of copper, and who called all the tribes to the beach and taught them the doctrine of the resurrection of the body and the immortality of the soul. These doctrines were not acceptable to some warlike tribes in the interior, and they waylaid the Savior near the mouth of the Stellagumish, and impaled him on a tree. After his death he reappeared to numerous tribes, and in this way proved his theory to be true. These two stories are very religious, and some suspect that the fathers of the Saskatchewan missions imposed them on the tribes; and this could be easily done, as communication between the Fraser people and the Saskatchewan folks was as frequent as that between the Sound and the Fraser river tribes, and, moreover the same traditions are found in these two regions. The Sound Indians have also the story of the stealing of fire from heaven, just as the ancient Greeks had, with this difference, that a coyote did the job for them instead of a Prometheus. They claim that at one time the waters of the Sound reached to California, and the present bounds were the result of an upheaval of the earth's crust. The coming of the salmon is likewise wrapped in tradition. There is a splendid field here for the antiquarian and the lover of traditional history.

ENGRAVING AND TATTOOING.

The Puget Sound Indian was not an architect or a sculptor by any means. No remains can be found of his handiwork in this direction. He did not even scratch sun-faces on the rocks as the Columbia Indians did, and he neither dug caves or built mounds. The Olympic mounds, it is true, have been the source of speculation to the learned moss-backs, but as it was agreed by the engineers and scientific men years ago that these mounds were never the result of ocean currents and whirlpools meeting, when that point was under water, they might as well be dismissed. Though not a builder, the Sound Indian was a cunning engraver, and some of his handiwork in this respect, now possessed by collectors, is equal in finish and design to that of our most intelligent goldsmiths. Silver bracelets, armlets and badges have been shown me which are chastely and elegantly finished, and which contain evidence of great taste in the workman. It was as a tattooer, however, that the Sound Indian was a success. Instead of a family badge or device, each household had its own sign neatly and deftly printed on the arm and breast, and some of them are most fearfully and wonderfully made. I saw a dirty old chief at Tacoma who had a seal, a salmon, a god, a cross and a canoe on his arm and breast, and he claimed that these symbols had been in his family for a thousand years.

A SAIL AHOY!

It is all very well to study and read and post yourself on the history and resources of Puget Sound—to know just when the first white man entered it, and when the first saw mill was erected, and how many million feet of lumber is cut along its shores in a year, but this is very poor satisfaction compared to the pleasures of a sail down its winding channels these hot days. Taking the boat at Olympia and running past the narrows, or past the Sound, at Stellacoom, thence to Elliott's Bay and under Mount Ranier, and thence to Seattle and round Point No Point until Mount Brown comes in sight is a ride which, for genuine pleasure, cannot be equalled. The cool sea breeze is always blowing, and mosquitoes and other pests are not known. Everything tending to the comfort of the traveler is supplied, and as charges are reasonable, there is no excuse why pleasure seekers should not come this way. Fine steamers, grand scenery, pleasant people, cool winds, great mountains and romantic traditions, should certainly make the Sound trip the most popular summer journey that can be taken. Try it and see for yourself. — B.

The country on Pataha City on all sides down to Snake river, and to Alpowa landing is all taken up and rapidly being placed in cultivation by a good class of citizens. Alpowa ridge, Pataha Flat and the Asotin country, which until the past year or so was only considered as being fit for grazing purposes, turns out to be the best kinds of wheat land, and the creeks and gulches tributary to Snake river are in demand for fruit raising purposes, as the absence of late severe frosts and the warmth of the valleys bring fruit to an early and splendid perfection.

Wenatchie Matters.

Correspondence Walla Walla Union.

WENATCHEE, W. T., June 1, 1882.

Freer & Miller have a beautiful place here located on both the Wenatchie and Columbia rivers, where former joins the latter almost at a right angle. The prairie here is almost entirely treeless, is covered with sage brush and has a very gentle slope facing to the east. It is a perfect paradise for fruit, particularly for grapes and peaches. The fruit trees are small as are also the grape vines. This prairie, proper, has about ten sections of land and is about two miles in width and extending down the Columbia about ten or twelve miles, the lower end being rocky and gravelly, with occasional clumps of rocks rising, in some instances to fifty or more feet. The rocks here are of a peculiar formation, being a kind of soft sand stone. The disintegration of this rock is very rapid and the soil is more or less mixed with it. Irrigation is a necessity. It is the most difficult of soils for water to penetrate, as a consequence, the farmers have to be made very close to each other. One notable feature it possesses is the fact that the locality is free from late frosts in the spring and early frosts in the fall.

Hitherto there have been no white families in this valley. This spring several families have come in to make homes, and as soon as the mountains can be crossed there will be four or five located here. Water, for irrigation, can be taken from the Wenatchie river in abundance. The Wenatchie mountains extend to within a quarter of a mile of the Columbia, which gives the prairie a V-shape, the sharp point being down the river. Here are homes for 20 or 30 families. The country is not surveyed, consequently the settlers are all squatters. This is a drawback they hope will be soon removed.

There is talk now of placing boats on the Upper Columbia. It will take at least two boats to navigate the river above Priest Rapids. There are several places where strong currents will have to be overcome; the most notable of which will be met at Rock Island, some 50 miles above Priest Rapids. A little blasting there will place the river in navigable condition from Priest Rapid to Kettle Falls; at that place there is a fall of nearly 70 feet. The steamer "49" used to run from the Little D lies within 30 miles of the Big Bend gold mines. At the upper landing there are several miles of cascades, similar to the Lower Columbia cascades, though on a much smaller scale.

There is a large district of country opposite this point that is susceptible of development to the line of grain raising; which is bound to be settled if the claim of Moses is declared void. This should be done by all means, as the tribe of Moses is so numerous that they are seldom found on either in winter or summer. Moses stopped the long march to collect the rents that Wallace & Phelps gave him to allow their cattle to remain within the bounds of the reservation.

Gray's Harbor.

In an article on Chehalis valley, the *Seattle Chronicle* says, that which may properly be termed a portion of the Chehalis valley, as it is the outlet of the river thence, is now attracting considerable attention. It is a miniature inland sea of salt water, connected with the Pacific ocean by a deep channel from one-half to three-quarters of a mile in width and a mile long. The harbor is from three to ten miles wide, and extends inland twenty-two miles. At low tide the channel is nineteen feet deep in its shallowest place. The entrance to the harbor is said to be clear of rocks, bars and reefs, and the navies of the entire world could find safe anchorage therein. The country immediately surrounding Gray's harbor is an excellent stock grazing range and is especially adapted to the dairy business. Except on the low lands and tide flats, the country is not, strictly speaking, adapted to agricultural pursuits.

An attractive and very prominent feature of the Gray's harbor country is the fact that the ocean beach for miles and miles above and below the harbor entrance is as smooth and level as a floor—the hard sand being scarcely susceptible to the imprint of a horse's hoof. The famous drives at Long Branch or Newport cannot rival the natural roadway that extends from the channel 25 miles north, and south 15 miles to Shoalwater bay. This fact, coupled with the delightful summer climate, health giving properties of the ocean breeze, the scenic beauty and grandeur of the surroundings, will make of Gray's harbor one of the most popular summer resorts on the Pacific coast.

Only few hours' ride back into the interior will take the sportsman and tourist to the finest hunting grounds in the Territory, where elk, deer, bear and grouse are too numerous to be interesting. It is believed that there are 5,000 elk ranging on the headwaters and streams and tributaries leading up in the Olympic range, and putting into Gray's harbor. Fish, both salt and fresh water, are abundant. It is simply a "paradise for sportsmen."

The country is now being opened up by the enterprise of Astorian and men from Pacific coast, W. T., and will undoubtedly receive a large share of immigration. We are in receipt of a letter from Mr. Glenn Peterson, one of the oldest settlers in Chehalis country in which he says that a noticeable amount of immigration have already begun to come, and that more are expected. That country has all the boundless resources that make up an empire, and is deserving of the attention of all who wish to secure a home for themselves and their children.