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Vacant Lands and Ditches.

(Written for THE ASTORIAN.)

When traveling over Clatsop plains, I ascertained from reliable settlers there, that there are large amounts of very superior vacant lands lying all along and east of the settlers domain on the plains for over sixteen miles, or to the high lands south of the tide lands upon Youngs bay, Lewis and Clark and Skipanon inlet. Those lands are mostly hilly or valley, well watered, exceedingly rich and fertile, healthy and capable of affording the very best of homes to industrious persons. Taking them all together they are far superior to the lands of old Pennsylvania, Virginia, and New York in their first settlements. Everywhere on these lands, as well as near the plains, whenever the land is burnt or cleared up, the wild grass, and often wild white clover, mats the land all over. On the tops of the highest hills the soil is deep, black, porous and mellow.

The underground is all alike everywhere, under, salmon berry, alder, vine and frequently soft maple, and chittim. Much of these lands is covered with cedar, spruce hemlock, yellow fir and large alder. The country beyond the falls of Youngs river is more open and easier to clear, very rich and well watered. But the gem of the whole is an unsurveyed valley and slope of the hills, on Nekanicum river, which rises near Saddle mountain, and is about fifty yards wide before it broadens out at its confluence with the ocean not far north of Tillamook head. The length of the valley is twenty miles and the bottoms about a mile wide. These bottoms are exceedingly rich, mellow and deep black soil. The slopes of the hills are like those I have described in this northerly direction, the growth of the timber and under brush is the same as elsewhere described.

At Tillamook head is safe and good anchorage for all coasting vessels, where produce in all this region could be loaded and sent off to home or foreign markets. Stone coal, as I heard, is washed down this river from the great coal seams along the hills of the Nehalem and other valleys. Beyond all reasonable doubts, there are localities in Clatsop county now vacant and ready for homestead settlers, to the amount of more than eighty thousand quarter sections of rich, excellent lands, most of which is nearly unknown to the masses of the people.

In upper and lower Nehalem valley are more than fifteen hundred of these quarter sections. What inducements are held to capitalists to pierce this rich section of Clatsop county with the Astoria and Winnemucca railroad. Surely this road will be made ere long.

All the marsh lands, lying along the base of the hills, and contained in the 32 sections of the settlers on Clatsop plains, can be ditched and the surplus water drawn off towards Skipanon outlet. The labor would be great, but the worth of the lands thus drained would be incalculable. On much of these lands the cranberry is growing luxuriantly, and most of these lands can thus be utilized. Red top grass would take hold upon all these marsh lands, and mat them down so that stock can run over them anywhere. Timothy also grows finely on all the Clatsop lands that are moist. The tide lands in all this region of country can be dyked, and reclaimed from tide overflowing of them in extreme high tide. It is useless to say what these lands, anywhere in twenty or thirty miles of Astoria, will be worth, before two decades shall pass away.

Some persons seem to appreciate them now, while others sell them off at less than a tenth part of what their worth will soon be. I am satisfied that immense quantities of the sugar beet could be

raised anywhere in this section of country, from which thousands of tons of good sugar, and many ten thousand gallons of good molasses could be made here. And to the amount of potatoes, and all garden vegetables and soft fruits, that could be produced from these extended tracts, of rich, mellow lands, can not be estimated. What a difference between these products here, at the superior markets at hand; and those far in the interior, that are nearly eaten up in expenses, bringing them to this market. And now, my kind friends of Astoria and Clatsop county, who have treated me so kindly for the past eighteen days, I close out my sojourn amongst you for the present, and will return to the land of Webfoot.

What I have written while here, concerning your city and county, and their present condition and future prospects, I have penned with good intent to benefit foreigners who, I hope will come among you shortly, and help build up your good country here. I have not visited your locality for any hope of gain, but to do good and not harm. D. N.

FACTS AND SCRAPS.

The crops are booming.

Some Swiss birds carried disease.

Tilden and Bishop is the latest Ohio idea.

Boston has a successful school of art needlework.

Minnesota millers are now shipping direct to Europe.

A Swiss is buying land in Nebraska for many of his countrymen.

The Chicago Tribune says that the next president will be from Illinois.

A Pennsylvania paper complains of sectionalism in the state legislature.

The Milwaukee Sentinel, a Carpenter republican organ, does not want Grant.

This must be a new ticket. A Wisconsin editor says:—"Tilden and—hell!"

It is discovered that Pompeii was great on flax. But the volcano flaxed Pompeii.

Philadelphia is to have a school for silk culture. There have been at least two silk raising manias in this country.

A western exchange would like to know what becomes of the conscience fund at Washington? Profundity.

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Notary Public for the State of Oregon.

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N. B. Parties having real estate, furniture or any other goods to dispose of either at auction or private sale should notify me soon as convenient before the day of sale. No storage charged on goods sold at Auction. E. C. HOLDEN, Auctioneer.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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PRACTICAL BOOT AND SHOE MAKER.

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Manufacturer of Boots and Shoes. All kinds of repairing neatly and promptly attended to. MAIN ST., - ASTORIA, OREGON.

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Agent for the Golden City Chemical Works. B. W. Payne & Son's Steam Engines. Fay's Wood Working Machinery.

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Capital paid up in U. S. gold coin \$300,000.00. Assets, Jan. 1, 1879 594,954.50. Income, 1878 333,450.03. Premium since organization 2,487,464.74. Losses paid 1,334,833.44. Losses paid by Oregon branch in six years 162,243.29.

I. W. CASE, Agent, Chenamus street, Astoria, Oregon.

\$67,000,000 CAPITAL.

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Meals, 25 cents; at all hours.

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Meals served in Italian, French and American styles to order.

The table will be supplied at all times with the best the market affords.

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Board and lodging per week \$6.00. Board per day 1.00. Single Meals 25.

The table will be supplied at all times with the best the market affords.

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Fresh oysters, and other delicacies of the season, served in every style.

Opposite the Telegraph office, Squemoque street, Astoria, Oregon.

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FISH, POULTRY AND GAME. In the season.

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ALSO:

Watches, Jewelry and Cutlery.

Besides a choice lot of TOBACCO, CIGARS AND PIPES.

Wines and Liquors, Stationery and Fancy Articles.

Which we are offering at the lowest living prices. Very respectfully, JAMES MCGEE.

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My endeavor will be, by prompt attention and fair dealing, to please my patrons.

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As he has direct from San Francisco by every steamer, all kinds of vegetables, such as

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