

**The Benefit of Railroads.**  
It is not alone in the increased facilities for travel and freight transportation, nor the rapid development of unoccupied territory, that railroads are beneficial. The Railroad World, which is good authority on such subjects, states that the railroads of the country give employment to 400,000 persons, and that five times that number depend upon the railroads for support. It is also estimated that between \$300,000,000 and \$400,000,000 are annually paid to employes and to persons who furnish the companies with supplies of various kinds. The authority above quoted adds: "This vast business has sprung up in the lifetime of one generation, and its growth is still rapid. What another quarter of a century will develop in this field, would doubtless seem fabulous could it now be foretold."

**Lady Correspondents.**  
Representative Acklin and his sense of honor, as a story goes, are in a predicament. Not long ago he and his affairs were the subject of a lively sketch in a Washington letter to a southern newspaper. He got leave of absence and went to the city where the paper is published with the intention of securing satisfaction from the editor. The latter declined to accept the responsibility, but thrust it upon the Washington correspondent. Acklin demanded the name of the correspondent, and was given the address of a well-known lady writer. He returned to Washington in a dilemma. He cannot fight a duel with a lady, so now he wants the name of her best friend.

**NORTH RIVER VALLEY.**  
A Fertile Section of Washington Territory.  
DESCRIPTION OF A COUNTRY OF VAST NATURAL RESOURCES—A FINE FIELD FOR INDUSTRIOUS IMMIGRANTS.

Believing that a brief description of this little-known section of Washington territory will prove of interest to intending immigrants, I send you the following: North river empties into Shoalwater bay five miles northeast of Bruceport. Passing by the high lands at the river's mouth, we come to a fine large tract of open tide-land, consisting of several thousand acres covered with fine bunch grass, affording one of the best stock ranges in Pacific county. Continuing on up the river, the hills and timberlands gradually close in, until the country bordering the river assumes a rough and rugged appearance, which continues until the first fall or rapids are reached, when the hills become less abrupt and gradually recede, giving greater width to the bottom lands bordering the stream. The river has been explored for some 30 miles above the fall, and there is alder and vine-maple bottom land of the very best quality, easily cleared, sufficient for 200 families at the very least. The lower part of this valley is not more than eight miles from Shoalwater bay. The river is navigable at common high tide for boats drawing five feet of water, for fully six miles, and a good wagon road can be constructed at a small expense to any part of the valley above. The soil is

**A RICH SANDY LOAM.**  
Deep and entirely free from rock or gravel, and will produce all kinds of grain and fruit, except grapes, corn and melons, as well as any place upon the Pacific coast. The climate here is cooler in summer and warmer in winter than in localities further inland, there being seldom any snow. During a residence here of over 25 years, I have never seen ice over four inches thick, and that only during three winters. Many winters ice does not freeze thicker than a window glass, while grass remains green the year round. Upon a new range, such as the North river bottoms will afford,

stock would need no feeding whatever. I noticed in the Oregonian last summer a statement that it cost \$20 per ton for freight from Walla Walla to San Francisco, which I suppose is correct. Freight from Shoalwater Bay at present is but \$4, making a difference of \$16 on every ton of freight shipped. Supposing that the farmer ships one ton of freight per year for each acre of ground, the difference in freight alone between here and Walla Walla would in many localities on the North river more than pay for clearing his land in one season, to say nothing of the advantages of timber for building and lasting advantage of being near ocean navigation. There are thousands of acres of land now lying vacant in the North river valley, of which a man who understands the business can get an acre

**READY FOR BURNING**  
In from three to four days time. There are thousands of places upon the coast and further inland, already settled up and improved, that have no part of the natural advantages of the North river valley. Shoalwater bay is acknowledged to be one of the best harbors between the Golden Gate and Puget Sound. The North river has an immense tract of the richest and easiest cleared land on the Pacific coast, with splendid water power and the best of timber. Its many natural advantages form its strongest recommendation to men looking for homes and men of capital who wish to improve what nature has already bestowed. I doubt if there is any place upon the Pacific coast that is more free from fever and ague and all malarious diseases than Pacific county. There are three oyster companies now in the bay who have vessels running to San Francisco; also about two vessels arrive per month for lumber. There is a railroad in contemplation to connect Shoalwater bay with the Columbia river. Thus it will be seen that there will always be a chance to ship produce. There are also three stores here, which generally keep such assortments as are usually found in country stores. Everything, in fact, upon the North river appears destined by nature for the convenience and prosperity of a large and thriving settlement and manufacturing town. The lower fall at the head of tide-water will furnish power for

**MILLS AND FACTORIES**  
While the valley above can supply them with material. Thus Nature has done well her part in furnishing those natural advantages already found in this section. Extensive productive lands are the first requirement for a thriving, prosperous settlement; good chances for transportation next. These the North river valley possesses. Vessels drawing eighteen or twenty feet of water can enter Shoalwater bay. Produce can be shipped cheaper from here than from Astoria. Thus, what it costs the farmer in eastern Oregon or Washington territory for freight down the Columbia to Astoria would be clear profit to the farmer here. A large majority of the people of Pacific county have been, and are at present, engaged in the oyster business, which accounts for the large amount of valuable land lying vacant. Another reason why the North river valley has not been settled up before now is, that the country is unsurveyed, and supposed to be partly within the limits of the Northern Pacific railroad grant. This, however, instead of being an injury, I consider an advantage to people who desire to locate lands. Had the valley been surveyed it could, and no doubt would before this, have been gobbled up by the speculators. So that men wanting claims could not get them. As it is, as soon as a few settlers locate here they can hire a surveyor and run a preliminary line up the river, fixing the section corners, thus enabling them

**TO LOCATE CLAIMS**  
With the certainty of coming on government land when the country is officially surveyed. The cost of running such a preliminary line would be but a trifle. There is an abundance of wild game, such as elk deer, and bear, ducks and geese. The streams abound with fine salmon and mountain trout, while Shoalwater bay is justly fa-

mous for its oysters and many kinds of shell-fish, which combined form a bill of fare to suit the most fastidious taste. Some persons who have been here looking at the country evidently expected to find claims already located for them fences built, roads cut, etc. I agreed with them, and just here would say that the fewer of such men we have on North river the better. We want men with families who will buckle into clearing land, and who as pioneers are not afraid to undergo some privations while commencing on a new place. With an emigration, or better still a colony of such men, the North river valley would in a short time be one of the gardens of the Pacific coast, teeming with busy life, while ruddy health casts its cheerful glow, and prosperity rewards the energy of the pioneer.

**NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.**  
**SALEM FLOUR.**  
TO OUR CUSTOMERS.  
In Asking for Salem Flour See That You Get it!  
Salem Flouring Mills, Bakers,  
With Centennial Medal printed on every sack.  
**NONE OTHER GENUINE.**  
SALEM FLOURING MILLS CO.  
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**FOURTH OF JULY AT GATHLAMET.**  
The Anniversary of our Independence will be celebrated at the above named place.  
**First Class Music Furnished.**  
An Oration Delivered During the Day.  
All Kinds of Refreshments to be had on the Grounds.  
**DANCING THROUGH THE DAY AND A Grand Ball at Night.**  
Every arrangement made for the entertainment and comfort of the public. All are cordially invited to attend.  
H. HALLETT, Proprietor.

**MRS. H. A. DERBY.**  
Has just returned from San Francisco with the finest selected stock of  
**MILLINERY GOODS,**  
Ever offered in Astoria. Embracing every novelty in the line.

**Dr. Warner's Health CORSET**  
Can only be purchased in Astoria at Mrs. Derby's, Main street, between Squemoque and Jefferson, Astoria, Oregon.

**I. W. CASE,**  
IMPORTER AND WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN  
**GENERAL MERCHANDISE,**  
Corner Chenamus and Cass streets, ASTORIA - OREGON.

**Kid Gloves of Every Kind.**  
  
**3 BUTT'N KIDS.**

**JOUVINS, PEERLESS,**  
And other best grades.  
Would invite special attention to this stock.

**GEORGE ROSS'**  
**Billiard Room.**  
The only Billiard Room in the city where no liquors are sold.  
NEW TABLE JUST PUT UP. GEORGE ROSS has a cosy place and keeps on hand the best brand of Cigars. Also, social, caty nuts, etc. Opposite Altona Chop House.  
GEO. ROSS, Proprietor.

**WM. UHLENHART.**  
Occident Hotel Hair Dressing Saloon.  
ASTORIA - OREGON.  
**Hot, Cold, Shower, Steam and Sulphur BATHS.**  
Special attention given to ladies' and children's hair cutting.  
Private Entrance for Ladies.

**WE STILL TAKE THE LEAD!!**  
—IN—  
**SPRING DRY GOODS.**  
**Best Stock and Lowest Prices!**

To which we call particular attention.  
**OUR FANCY GOODS ARE COMPLETE.**  
In Hosiery, Lace, White Goods and Embroidery,  
**WE ARE THE BOSS.**  
**OUR CLOTHING AND FURNISHING GOODS**  
Are all of the Latest Styles and Designs.  
We offer extra inducements this season to purchasers, and although we are not selling AT COST, we defy any house in this city to compete with our prices. We mean it! Come, give us a call and see for yourself what we can do for you.  
**B. HAMBURGER.**  
MAIN STREET, ASTORIA, OREGON.

**NEW SPRING and SUMMER STOCK JUST OPENED.**

**A. VAN DUSEN & CO.**  
Have just received a full line of Spring and Summer goods of the very finest quality, which were bought during the recent tumble in stocks, when cash commands a premium, and are therefore prepared to sell the same at less rates than the same quality goods can be purchased elsewhere. These goods consist in part of  
**Clothing, Gent's Furnishing Goods, Hats and Caps, Ladies Dress Goods, Muslins, Prints, Hosiery, Boots and Shoes, Rubber Boots, Oil Clothing.**  
In addition to the above have laid in a full stock of  
**BUILDERS MATERIALS, NAILS, PAINTS, OILS, ETC.**  
The quality of our  
**CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE, LAMPS, ETC.,**  
Cannot be excelled and our prices defy competition.  
**Family Groceries and Provision a Specialty. Oregon City Imperial Extra Flour at \$5 50 per Barrel.**  
**WARDS CLATSOP BUTTER ALWAYS IN STORE.**  
Agency for Singer and White Sewing Machines. Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express office, corner of Cass and Jefferson street.

**LOOK HERE!**  
The **I X L**  
**ONE PRICE CASH HOUSE OF ASTORIA,**  
IS THE PLACE TO PURCHASE YOUR  
**DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, BOOTS, SHOES, ETC., ETC.**

—AT—  
**EXTRAORDINARY LOW FIGURES!**  
Our stock cannot be surpassed in Price, Variety, or Quality by any store in the city, and we can, and WILL, undersell all competition.  
We are now receiving NEW GOODS per every steamer, and have just laid in an extensive line of  
**LADIES LINEN SUITS,**  
Which will be closed out cheap. Remember these are no mere assertions, and ask you to call and satisfy yourself. **We Mean Business.**  
**COHEN & COOPER.**  
I X L STORE.

**AN IMMENSE STOCK —OF— CLOTHING,**  
OF THE LATEST STYLES And Patterns OF ALL SIZES, AT  
**N. LOEB'S,**  
Main Street, Astoria.

**Ice Cream, Strawberries and Cream.**  
I have always on hand all kinds of Fresh and Pure  
**FRENCH AND AMERICAN CANDIES.**  
**MOLASSES TAFFEE, CHOCOLATE CARAMELS,**  
AND ALL KINDS OF  
**FRESH CAKES.**  
Also, Fresh Fruits, Such as  
**STRAWBERRIES, CHERRIES, PEACHES, ORANGES.**  
**LEMONS AND LIMES.**  
**WEDDING CAKES**  
Made to order, and all kinds of Wedding Cake Ornaments at  
**S. SCHMEER'S CONFECTIONERY,**  
**OPPOSITE THE BELL TOWER.**

**COLUMBIA BREWERY,**  
**JOHN HAHN, . . . . PROPRIETOR,**  
**ASTORIA, OREGON.**

**Manufacturer of and Dealer in Lager and Bottled Beer.**  
The Columbia Brewery has every facility, and using none but the best materials and employing experienced brewers, will warrant satisfaction in filling all orders. Orders from abroad promptly attended to.

ARCTIC SODA WATER.