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GOV. NEWELL'S OBSERVATIONS.

The Empire to the North—A Valuable Letter.

ED. ASTORIAN:

Sir.—I have pleasure in complying with your request to provide THE ASTORIAN with an account of my observations made in that portion of Washington with which the people of your city, especially, have important business and social relations, and intercourse, and where your able and independent journal has many, and intelligent patrons, which lies within the angle formed by the junction of the Columbia river with the Pacific ocean, comprising the counties of Clark, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Pacific and Chehalis. This vast country, which has an area of ten thousand square miles—six millions of acres—lies east of the Cascade mountains and is within the Puget Sound Basin, being possessed of all the physical characteristics and peculiarities which attach to that renowned region. Four fifths of the surface is, or has been, covered with dense forests of the fir tree, yellow and white, cedar, spruce, hemlock, pine, ash, cotton wood, alder, and vine maple. The full grown fir, the chief of all the trees, will average in size, when full grown, five feet in diameter and two hundred or more feet in height of wood fit for lumber, whilst many single specimens are much larger, being from eight to fifteen feet in diameter and proportionately high, capable of yielding from twenty to twenty-five thousand feet of lumber each. The average production will be fifteen thousand feet with ease. An expert from one of the mills recently reported from twenty to forty million of feet to the section—one square mile—upon some of the best. Altogether it is computed that there are twelve millions of acres east and west of the Cascades. The wood is compact in fibre, firm, elastic, and bituminous, is adapted to all ordinary uses, and especially to ship building in all its parts from foundation to peak, and on account of length to keels masts and spars. One "stick" was recently floated for use at Boston, a spar, of one hundred and forty-four feet six inches, another, one hundred and two feet long being fifty inches at smaller end. Many are much larger and longer. Cedar of fine quality and great size ranging from two to twenty-five feet in diameter. They will ordinarily measure with the fir. Hemlock of similar magnitude is sparse, spruce in greatest abundance of equal average dimensions grow near the coast, where all trees are larger, and of better quality than elsewhere. Cottonwood attains equal size, it is a tough, compact fibrous, pulpy material adapted to barrel making, and might profitably be used in making coarse paper. Ash and oak are dwarfed and there is a conspicuous absence of deciduous eastern trees. The evergreens described, have but few branches which incline downward; little foliage, are nearly of uniform size well towards the top, and have but a superficial setting in the soil, without tap root, their support being largely atmospheric. The forests are unbroken by winds which never prevail violently, hence, the stupendous growths of centuries stand erect, as when in bygone ages they first peeped from the earth. Numerous saw-mills, varying in size from a portable, to one, the largest size in the world, at Port Ludlow, four hundred and forty feet long, for lumber two hundred and twenty feet if needed, and has a general cutting capacity of one quarter million feet daily. Many of the mills have their own ships, which convey their productions to Asia, Australia, the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of North and South America, France, England, and the Nile. This timber description may be applied to the entire Sound country. Coal of excellent quality is found in almost every direction, much of recent discovery. There was on exhibition at the Clark county fair, a huge boulder of compact formation, it abounds in the Black Hills, and a fair sample was taken lately from a bank on the Wynoochee; that it will be developed in many contiguous localities is well assured. Iron, bog and hematite, may be turned up almost any where, magnetic of the very finest quality, fit for fine cutlery, is mixed in inexhaustible profusion in all the gold bearing sand at, and below Gray's harbor. A large copper supply has been long known to exist north of the Chehalis toward the Olympia range of mountains. A friend informs me that he has possession of a specimen of galena discovered near the same locality. Insufficient machinery only, and absence of gold, has caused a sus-

pension of mining operations, for that metal is easily observed in all the Pacific sands north of the Columbia with a constant accession to the supply. The timber country when cleared and cultivated has a rolling or high hilly surface, and is capable of conversion into the very best of agricultural and grazing lands. This is plainly manifest in a thousand examples in Lewis county, which is largely improved contiguous to the region under consideration and may properly be used for illustration, being one of the very best anywhere. Clark and Cowlitz also verify the statement. In numerous instances clearings in many places along the rivers and on the plains attest the fact by excellent and beautiful farms from the woods. White clover is irreplaceable and of spontaneous growth, good soil, abundant shade, running streams of pure cold water make this entire body of land well adapted to raising livestock, especially neat cattle, sheep and swine. Red clover, also hard, Kentucky blue, and other grasses flourish. The clover stays in root a score of years, as demonstrated, and resists protracted drought to an incredible degree. Vegetables and fruit cannot be excelled in size and perfection, otherwise all the fruits of the latitude flourish. Many kinds are very superior, especially those having smooth skins and pits; grapes, cherries, plums and prunes, of which last I found on exhibition at Vancouver fair particularly for sample, dried, being well cured, soft, sweet and well flavored. It is claimed that they are superior to the foreign fruit, which I doubt not, for they command an advanced price over all others.


But I do not advise any person to seek to obtain a farm in the forest, proper; on the contrary, I advise against such folly. It is advisable only to cultivate forest land where the timber may be thin or destroyed by fire, or cut off by loggers or contiguous to other land. The cost will largely over-balance the profit of such proceedings. There is an abundance of bottom lands here and of prairie land beyond the Cascade mountains of the best quality awaiting occupation and labor to yield early and abundant returns. Furthermore it is a willful and unwarranted destruction of a great gift of God designed for posterity as well as for this generation of men. Timber is a specialty and should not be disturbed for agricultural purposes only, it being more valuable as it stands, and will stand, in that state, than fifty or an hundred years of grain, fruit or grazing crops considering the cost of production which they each involve year after year with the repeated failures of seasons. The farming lands are to be found upon the river valleys, beaver dam bottoms, and alluvial formations. Generally those abound on all the rivers, when combined of thousands of miles in extent, which I will designate so that your distant readers if so inclined, can trace them upon the maps. The Lewis, Salmon, Kalama, Cowlitz, Grays, Wallcut and Chinook and other waters which empty into the Columbia; the Willapa, North, Smith, Cedar, Capalix, Neuma, Lassell and Bear, which run into Shoalwater Bay; the Johns, Elk, Satsop, Wynoochee, Wiska, Hoquiam and Umpquias, tributaries to the Chehalis, which thus pour their waters into Gray's Harbor. Some of these lands, especially on the Cowlitz and Chehalis, are already cleared and in full cultivation, producing grains, grasses, vegetables and fruits in great luxuriance. Much of this surface, especially on the tributaries of the Willapa and Chehalis, are in their natural condition, being covered with a dense growth of alder, elder, vine maple and smaller bushes which are easily cleared, and then cleared by firing. An industrious and dextrous man can clear one acre in a week or ten days, or can hire it done for ten or fifteen dollars an acre, when simply by sowing grass seed he can in one year secure a crop. The soil is made up of a deep, fertile mould, inexhaustible, adapted to all grasses, vegetables, fruits, wheat, rye, barley, flax, hops, tobacco and broom corn. Tide grass, a perennial, grows naturally on all marshes, is very nutritious and is sought after by cattle, who may live upon it exclusively during the winter season. Butter is largely produced and its manufacture will soon, with its natural concomitant cheese making, become the chief industry of all these valleys. A very great extent of the marshes upon the coast is unusually well adapted to the cultivation of cranberries, which grow vigorously, and I will state it is not needful

here to raise water for their protection by overflow, for neither early or late frosts ever affect them, the sun does not shine with sufficient intensity of heat to scald, and as yet no insect has invaded their domains, but little turbing and no dyking or sanding is required. A company of experienced gentlemen from New Jersey, skilled in their cultivation, and familiar with all requirements of soil, and atmospheric conditions from long and profitable experience have purchased eighteen hundred acres of bog land in Pacific county at a cost of thirty thousand dollars, and are about to employ two hundred and fifty hands to prepare and plant twelve hundred acres. It may be observed that the entire Sound region abounds with localities equally adapted to cranberry cultivation, an industry which I commend to men of small or large means as promising great profit.

The water system of this extensive region is a most important feature of its resources and advantages. The Cowlitz river is navigable for fifty miles, which by clearing obstructions, easily effected, would be doubled. This stream empties into the Columbia, a majestic river, and conspicuous throughout the world for its immense dimensions of waterway, and draining an area of four hundred thousand square miles, from the main body of which, as it passes by your prosperous city, is obtained the chief salmon supply which provides the world, aggregating in value annually the enormous sum of three millions of dollars, thus employing seventeen hundred vessels and five thousand men. Another chief river is the Chehalis, which rises near the Sound and winds in its various courses nearly an hundred miles to the sea. A more beautiful river, navigable for sixty miles, deep, silent, strong, with its bold, rapid tributaries from the mountains rushing to their destination, all overshadowed by the ever enduring verdure of the forest is as yet undiscovered. All of these waters are useful, not only for navigation and commerce and their living inhabitants, but also for shooting and floating the timber which borders on their shores. Baker's Bay, one of the safest and most convenient of harbors, lies just within the bar of the Columbia. Shoalwater Bay and Gray's Harbor, upon the Pacific front, but a few miles apart, cover conjointly an area of ten thousand acres, each having a conspicuous, safe and easy inlet from the sea, with twenty feet of water upon their respective bars at mean low tide and deep waters with safe harbors within. Shoalwater has been famous for oyster productions, and promises again to become the chief oyster-bed of the coast, there being a proper admixture of fresh and salt water for their growth, and convenient depth for using rakes. At this season they grow vigorously and spawn freely, and so give promise of assured abundance in the future. Gray's Harbor is prolific in the supply of crabs and variety of clams, salmon, halibut, sturgeon, bass and trout abound variously in the salt and fresh waters. Shad recently introduced are excellent in quality and comparatively abundant. The climate is mild in winter and summer, free from extremes, without severe winds, thunder storms, or any violent atmospheric disturbances. The rainy season may be disagreeable to persons not accustomed thereto, yet the rain fall is not excessive and does not exceed that of the Atlantic states, whilst it is entirely free from the snow, sleet, hail and violent gales which oftentimes afflict the east. To the rains are due mainly the immense vegetable growth which is peculiar to, and exists only on the Pacific coast. As a summer sea-side resort no place can surpass the strand and contiguous shore lands from Gray's Harbor to the Columbia. Covered with a thick, vigorous body of Scotch pine, growing upon gentle undulations, matted with perpetual natural sward, a drive way of great width upon the compact, solid sands of the sea-shore for a distance of forty miles in a straight line, with the ever rolling and ever sounding sea on the one side, dense forests of perpetual verdure and the snow-clad Olympians on the other, no place can claim more beautiful, grand and healthful surroundings. These conditions are especially noticeable on Peterson's Point, at the southern spit of Gray's Harbor, at North Cove, beyond Shoalwater Bay and at Ocean Park, hard by, at which place a laudable and successful effort is in operation by the Methodist denomination to establish, under the supervision of the same sagacious and enterprising members who

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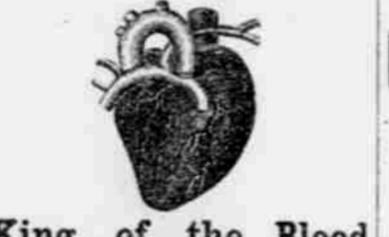
The countenance is pale and leaden-colored, with occasional flushes of a circumscribed spot on one or both cheeks; the eyes become dull; the pupils dilate; an acute tenderness runs along the lower eyelids; stools, slimy, and unfrequently sometimes bloody; a swelling of the upper lip; occasional headache, with humming or throbbing of the ears; an unusual secretion of saliva; slimy or furred tongue; breath very foul, particularly in the morning; appetite variable, sometimes voracious, with a gnawing sensation of the stomach; at others, entirely gone; floating pains in the stomach; occasional nausea and vomiting; violent pains throughout the abdomen; bowels irregular, at times constipated, at others, unfrequently tinged with blood; belly swollen and hard; curved tumor; respiration occasionally difficult and accompanied by hicough; cough sometimes dry and convulsive; anasarca and dropsical swellings of the feet; temper variable, but generally irritable. Whenever the above symptoms are found to exist.

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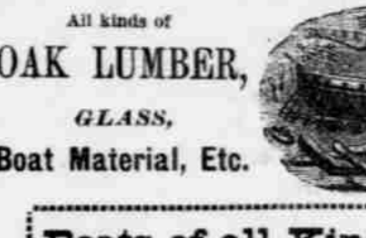
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