

General News.

A 10,000 hotel is to be built at Spokane Falls this summer.

The number of immigrants arriving at Castle Garden during May was 90,019.

The Idaho Nez Perce Indians have sold \$30,000 worth of horses this spring at an average of \$13 each.

The product of bullion from the quartz mines of Idaho will this year exceed by one-half the product of any former year.

Moses Taylor, one of the merchant princes of New York City, died a few days ago, aged 76 years. He leaves an estate valued at \$50,000,000.

A corps of surveyors are running new lines through Yakima county, and railroad officials are talking of building in that region.

The steamers and locomotives of the O. R. & N. Co. will burn coal exclusively when the immense wharf at Portland is completed.

A fire on Wednesday, last week, entirely destroyed the residence of George Z. Trite, on Pike street, Seattle. The furniture was saved. Loss, \$3,000; no insurance.

The small pox excitement, so far as Seattle is concerned, has entirely abated. The two members of the Nellie Boyd troupe have nearly recovered and no new cases have been developed.

Mr. Schrogg, a bishop of the Mennonite church in Dakota, has been sent in advance to secure good locations for eleven colonies who wish to come to this territory. They are principally Russians.

McReavy Bros. have opened a logging railroad on Hood's canal costing \$10,000. The locomotive will cost \$5,000 more. It taps a 4000 acres tract of fine timber, from which 30,000 to 50,000 feet can be cut daily for ten years.

B. F. Copeland, of upper Hangman creek, in Spokane county, recently discovered some excellent gold and silver bearing quartz. It has long been known that color could be obtained anywhere along Hangman creek.

Henry Villard and party arrived at Glendire (M. T.) on the 7th, surveying the N. P. R. R., which is in fine condition and fast nearing completion. Crops all along the line are in splendid condition, and towns and villages grown wonderfully the past year.

The water reached 26 feet, one inch above high water mark, on Wednesday night at Portland. Both the Willamette and Columbia rivers were still rising. The lower streets are under water, with worse prospects. The railroad on the Columbia is badly damaged.

Travelers on foot, on horseback and in wagons pass through Ashland, Or., every day, most of them going northward. The prospect of short crops in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys is driving more than the usual number from California into Oregon and Washington Territory.

An excursion trip to Alaska will take place in August, during which pleasure seekers will have a grand chance of visiting one of the most wonderful countries in the world. The round trip tickets have been placed at \$35, and it is thought that many will avail themselves of this unusual privilege.

The largest stick of timber ever cut on the upper Sound was taken out of Ike Ellis' logging camp near Olympia, last week. It was 66 feet long, 52 inches in diameter at the smaller end; straight and clear, without limb or knot. The stick measured 15,300 feet, and took fifteen yoke of oxen to skid it to the railroad.

A Little Rock special says a band of vigilantes have been chasing eight horse thieves in Missouri for two weeks. Three have been captured near Kerbyville and lynched. The other five escaped, but one has since been killed, one mortally wounded and a third captured and in jail. The other two are now hemmed in on White river, and will be captured and lynched.

G. C. Phinney and Dr. James Grange, recently from the mines in British Columbia, have bought of Beach and Druitt the extensive marble mining claim on the Skaget river, paying therefor the sum of \$4,000. Dr. Grange will go up the Skaget to examine the mine. He will be accompanied by several practical miners, and will at once take out a quantity of marble for immediate shipment to San Francisco, where Messrs. Grange & Phinney have already made a contract for 1000 feet of the product of the valuable mine. The marble is said by leading eastern experts to be of a very superior quality, and to take an excellent polish.

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 our 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. As a low estimate, one-half the growth of the Puget Sound district consists of trees which will yield 20,000 feet 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 nearly 160,000,000,000 feet. During the last 25 years the aggregate cut has been perhaps not more than 2,500,000,000 feet, leaving a surplus of 157,500,000,000 feet from which to draw. The principal growths are fir, pine, spruce, cedar, larch, hemlock, although white oak, maple, ash, cottonwood, 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 symmetry of form. Perhaps nowhere else can they be found so tall, straight and gently tapering as to fit them peculiarly for ships' spars and masts. The yellow fir is not infrequently 250 in height; the pine 120 to 160 feet; the silver fir 150 feet; the white cedar 100 feet; white oak 60 feet and black spruce 150 feet. Cedars have been found of 63 feet girth and 120 feet high. 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, pickets, barrel staves and heads, household furniture and ship timbers. The product of the sawmills is shipped to San Francisco, the Sandwich islands, the Pacific coast of south America, Australia, and even England, France, Japan and China. The first sawmill was built on Puget Sound in 1851, with a capacity of 1,000 feet daily. In 1853 a steam sawmill was erected at Seattle which cut 8,000 to 10,000 feet per day. The business has since been greatly increased. The largest sawmill of the fifteen in operation on Puget Sound is at Port Ludlow, with a capacity of 200,000 feet per day. The other mills are situated at Port Gamble, Port Madison, Port Discovery, Port Gamble, Seabeck, Utsalady, 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 larger sawmills, 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, steam tugs, lumber vessels and dwellings owned by the companies. It is the custom at these mills to wait for an order and then 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 41,780,700 feet, valued at \$395,926, were shipped to foreign ports, and the remainder coastwise. Owing to competition and to 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

on Puget Sound could not be more favorable. The forests remain for the most part in virgin condition, except for a distance from the banks of the streams and estuaries; the shores are so abrupt as to prevent easily handling of the timber; the harbors are numerous, deep and well sheltered; the hardships, losses and delays incident to hard winters are unknown; logs may be floated down the river without danger of the sudden rise and the breaking of booms. By clearing the river channels of drift, logs may be run out long distances, and rafts may be towed with ease on the Sound with only the ebb and flow of the tide to consider in moving them to points of shipment. In this way loggers bring logs from all the bodies of timber along the shore line to the mills, and dispose of them at fair rates to the owners. This gives employment to hundreds of workmen. There are still many desirable places for establishing not only sawmills, but factories for the manufacture of barrels, pails, house trimmings, doors, sashes, blinds, mouldings and every other article made of wood. These opportunities are not confined to Puget Sound. They exist along the harbors and bays of the entire coast of Washington Territory and Oregon, and are only used as yet to a comparatively small extent. For some purposes, and particularly in the manufacture of beautiful household furniture, the ornamental woods of Oregon are unsurpassed.

RARE CHANCE!

To the Immigrant or Speculator. The undersigned now offers his farm for sale, adjoining the water front of the celebrated Ship Harbor, on Fidalgo Island, Whatcom county, W. T. The place is largely composed of fresh water marsh and alder bottom; 16 acres under cultivation; cabin, hay and grain sheds, with other improvements, making it a very desirable farm. The property has other advantages—existing and prospective—which may be seen upon examination. Call and see the place. The subscriber will give full particulars by letter if desired. Address A. L. GRAHAM, 5th Anacortes, Whatcom Co., W. T.

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