

overstocked markets will not be in sight for years. But little corn is raised here. Wheat, oats and barley are staples; and in the acreage yield of wheat and oats this state leads the Union, while in barley it is second and our neighbor Oregon is first. Hay is a valuable crop, it being worth in winter season as high as \$30 a ton. In time this state will outrival California in the production of fruits. Prunes, plums, apricots, pears, apples and all berries grow to perfection. Hop raising is also the source of immense wealth. It is estimated that this crop alone will bring into the state this year over \$2,000,000.

I might stop now and you would no doubt conclude that this is a wonderful country. But if I should stop now it would be a half told tale. Washington has lumber for the world, and she has land enough left when the forests are cleared away to support millions of people. In addition to these sources of wealth, however, she has another source of natural wealth, a source which it will take ages to exhaust—her minerals. She has extensive beds of steel and iron ores equal to those of Pennsylvania; her land is underlaid with great strata of coal, similar to the beds of Pennsylvania and Alabama, and in themselves worth millions; large beds of graphite have been found; lead is mined in several places and the output is fast increasing; while gold and silver are drawing miners here from all parts of the ore producing West. Building stone of excellent quality is easily found and clay for brick and pottery manufacture can be had for the digging.

Nature has endowed this great Northwest with her richest blessings. She has made Western Washington one vast storehouse for her wealth. And then to top it all she gave her Puget Sound, that most magnificent body of water, where the vessels of the civilized world may find a haven in which to freight themselves with produce for the remotest parts of the globe. What nature has left undone man is doing for her. Time was when one great railroad claimed tribute from the people of the state, but, thanks to eastern enterprise, and forethought, which sees the brilliant future for this great region no less than a dozen new roads are building in this state today. Three of these are building into Chehalis. All the great transcontinental roads are reaching for this section and whether they build in from the north and first strike Puget Sound or come in from the south by way of Portland they will necessarily be extended from one to the other. All must follow practically in one route and Chehalis is so situated between the mountains that she will get them all. We now have the Northern Pacific. The Union Pacific is building through the town. The Great Northern has asked for right of way. Three great transcontinental lines! Beside these the Northern Pacific is building out of here two roads to the Pacific Ocean, one to Gray's Harbor and the other to Willapa Harbor. The later road is to be extended east of here and through the Cascades, where it will tap the richest coal fields in the Northwest.

Eastern capital is making this country yield that which Nature has provided her with so bounteously. A country blessed as this one is with such great natural wealth and beset with such magnificent scenery, would cause the most discontented to grow enthusiastic over her future. The energy which has been aroused by this enthusiasm is pushing Washington forward as she deserves to be. During the past ten years her population has increased 365.30 per cent, and she has advanced from the rank of forty-second in population in 1880 to thirty-fourth in 1890. A magnificent growth!

Washington is indeed the gateway to Asia. The want of a foreign market does not stare her in the face. We can build the ships from our mighty forests to carry our produce

thither. There 900,000,000 people await our products, and we are nearer to Asia by 6,000 miles than England, our greatest competitor. "When," as a great orator once remarked in a Nebraska state contest, "all these grand conceptions shall be realized in human consciousness, etc.," then will Washington "take her place among the nations of the earth."

What of the climate? Well, for my part, that is the only disagreeable feature. The summers are all that the most fastidious could wish for. They are simply perfection. Winter is different. No doubt you can recall the days of early spring in Nebraska when it rains and is cold and cloudy and disagreeable generally for days at a time. When you don't know whether it's going to rain, or snow, or blizzard or what it's going to do. Well, that is what the winter here is like, excepting that it is generally so mild that you need seldom expect anything but rain. We get plenty of rain, though. Last year when I came to the coast in November, on my first trip, it was drizzling in fine style and it kept it up until May. The oldest inhabitant, of course, said it was the worst winter for years, just as he does each winter in Nebraska when talking to a stranger. It's the same old story, rain, rain.

The days are cold and dark and dreary,  
It rains until I grow quite weary.  
It stops awhile, then begins to pour;  
It stops again, then rains some more,  
And the days are dark and dreary.

As to whether I would advise people to come out here or not I will say that if a farmer has enough so that he can have a little money left when he gets here so that he can get located and get a start—if he is persevering and wide awake he will prosper. I am not one of those who would urge all to come, even if they would. But I will say with all my heart that I do not believe any place offers so many opportunities for young men of energy and spirit to work their way to the front as does Washington. The brain, muscle and energy of the East is what she wants and none others need apply.

DAN. W. BUSH.

#### CURRENT COMMENT.

The American Archaeological Society, at this writing, has \$60,000 pledged out of \$80,000 necessary for the explorations of the site of the oracle of Delphi and the purchase of the village of Kastri. Owing to the overtures made by the French, the date of the American option expires on November 18 but it is thought that a sufficient sum of money will be secured to carry on the operations and secure treasures which will exceed in value and importance those of Olympia. The Athenian Society of Archaeology is prosecuting a series of excavations on the site of two temples nine miles northeast of Marathon, formerly supposed to be dedicated to the goddess Themis, but now thought to be the remains of an ancient and less old temple of Nemesis. A beautiful statue of a youth, a horse carved in stone and various fragments of statues and figures."

The above article, besides being of interest to those that desire to know what progress the American Archaeological Society is making in its work, illustrates very nicely the point made in last issue of THE HESPERIAN, viz: the necessity for preserving the treasures that are being continually unearthed. If the Archaeological Society succeeds in purchasing the site of Delphi it will probably prove to be the richest site that has yet been explored. But of what use would it be to explore this region if the treasures found there were not to be protected?