

“30,000 feet per acre—from sixty to one hundred and twenty thousand feet being the more common yield. The Puget Sound lumber, which is now exported to the extent of about one hundred and eighty million feet annually, besides piles and spars, finds a market at San Francisco, Callao, Valparaiso, the Sandwich Islands, Australia, and China. Many cargoes of spars have been sent to Europe, principally to France for the use of the French navy. The standard size for lower masts for that market is 120 feet long, and 42 inches in diameter one-third of the distance up from the foot—and this after being hewn into octagonal shape.”

Mr. M. H. Frost, member of the Washington Territorial Legislature from Snohomish county, in a letter upon the products of his district now before me, says: “The amount of timber per acre differs very much, varying from fifty thousand to two hundred thousand feet per acre of fir. *The cedar timber remaining* will yield from twenty thousand to sixty thousand feet per acre. It is superior to the best of pine for shingles, tubs, and pails, and only inferior to it for doors, sash, blinds, and finishing lumber. I think it safe to estimate the vacant land in Snohomish county at 400,000 acres, that will yield eighty thousand feet per acre, leaving the farming lands on the river-bottoms out of the question. I do not include in this estimate the mountainous portion of the county, which in many places is clothed with a heavy growth of fir and cedar, which in time will be brought down the rivers.”

The soil which bears these monarch firs and cedars is washed by the Pacific Ocean. More than two hundred miles east of it, the chief engineer of the reconnoitering party sent out in July, 1869, to examine the proposed line of the Northern Pacific Railroad, saw the brothers and sisters of these trees, and thus reported upon them:

“Around Lake Pend d'Oreille, and for some miles westward, and all along Clarke's River above the lake, as far as we traversed it, there is a magnificent region of pine, cypress, hemlock, tamarack, and cedar timber, many of the trees of prodigious size. I measured one which was 34 feet in circumference and a number that were over 27 feet, and saw hundreds as we passed along that were from 20 to 25 feet in circumference, and from 200 to 250 feet high. A number of valleys containing large bodies of this character of timber enter Clarke's River from both sides, and the soil of these valleys is very rich.”

Over hundreds and hundreds of square miles of area does this unequaled timber exist, astonishing for its size, perfection, and durability.