

spot. I might, with propriety, dwell for a moment upon its picturesque and beautiful landscape. Directly back of the village the ground rises considerably, forming a kind of "steppe" or plateau, from which the prospect is one of the loveliest on which my eye ever rested, diversified by all that is wild, rugged, and sublime, in forest and mountain scenery, or soft and smiling in lowland and meadow, river and plain; all that the bounty of nature or the skill of man combined can furnish to surprise or delight the eye and the taste of the beholder. In the distance, yet looking as though within reach, are the snowy peaks of the Rocky mountains, whose frosty mantle defies the hottest sun of summer. Nearer at hand is a vast ocean of forest, variegated with every hue known to the foliage of trees, whether deciduous or evergreen. At your feet are a thousand appearances of industry, wealth, and prosperity, and before you are the valleys of both the Wallamette and Columbia, spreading and winding afar, and almost wearying the eye with countless varieties of aspect and innumerable forms of loveliness.

Amongst the other forms of industry at Vancouver, ship building should not be omitted. There was a ship yard there in 1834, where several vessels had been built, and where all the vessels of the Hudson's Bay Company were repaired. The neighboring forests abound in timber adapted to naval purposes: such as oak, cedar, spruce, and firs, of gigantic growth. There is, in particular, an extensive forest of white oak within a small distance of the fort.

I found that a canal had been commenced at the falls of the Wallamette by the company, for the purpose of making the head of water available for practical purposes—the propulsion of machinery, &c.

Families who had settled in the valley of the Wallamette continued under the government and control of the Company, receiving therefrom, on loan, all the stock, stores, and implements of agriculture, in consideration of which they stipulated that all the marketable products of their farms should be sold exclusively to the company. Oxen and cows were furnished in like manner, it being the settled policy of the company not to sell or kill any cattle until the country should become well stocked.

All these circumstances indicated a disposition to form permanent interests and establishments; on the part of this great association and its members and servants; and I was assured that, whatever may be the result of the disputed question of sovereignty and occupancy, most of the people of this territory will remain quietly fixed in their residences.

The fisheries of this territory have been comparatively neglected by the Company. They might be made immensely productive and profitable, for there are several species of fish, particularly salmon, which swim in countless numbers in the Columbia and its branches, and are easily taken and prepared for exportation. Formerly they put up 500 or 1,000 barrels of salmon per year at Vancouver alone, and a much larger quantity at Fort Langley.

The trade of the Company consists of furs, lumber, flour, fish, grain, and potatoes. The amount of traffic in furs I have no accurate means of computation; but that it is enormous may be safely inferred from the fact that a single individual at Astoria, in 1834, collected more than 1,800 beaver skins, although that post was nearly deserted.

The furs and peltries are shipped to London. Other exports find a ready market in California and the Sandwich islands: such as fir boards