

who ever visited its waters, to be the most remarkable roadstead on the shores of any ocean. It has 1,600 miles of shore-line and great numbers of land-locked, commodious, and defensible harbors. It can be entered by any wind, is scarcely ever obstructed by fog, and is the nearest point to the great ports of Asia of any harbor on our western coast.

With this brief statement of the geography, I will now consider the resources of this country; and at this stage of the proceeding, I am reminded of the discussions, which have occurred within twenty years, in which that country has been pronounced an inhospitable, cold, and barren country, fit only for Indians, wild beasts, and hunters. Why, sir, the climate of Puget's sound is milder than that of New York. You never find ice on its surface, or snow for more than a few days at a time on its shores; and our good friends in San Francisco have to go north to the Russian possessions to get ice. The resources of Puget's sound and the country on the Columbia river and on the Willamette are literally inexhaustible. The whole country in either territory west of the Cascade mountains has, for the most part, a fertile soil, a climate so mild through the winter that cattle do not require fodder, and seed can be sown from September to March; and then we have the glorious summers, which enable us to gather our crops without fear that they will be injured by rain. The forests on Puget's sound are a great source of wealth. At this time there are on that sound nine large steam-mills and many water-mills in operation, manufacturing lumber, and several large spar establishments. Seventy-five millions of lumber are now manufactured a year, more than half of which is sent to foreign ports. Spars are not only sent to Asia, the Sandwich Islands, and Australia, but to the navies of France and England; and they have been pronounced by the inspectors to be the best spars they ever