

REPORT OF CAPT. A. T. PINGSTONE.

FORT COLVILLE, W. T., Oct. 24th, 1883.

CAPTAIN J. C. AINSWORTH, PORTLAND, OREGON:

DEAR SIR—In your letter to me of June 18th, you ask me to give you my views about the timber on the navigable waters of the Columbia River, in British Columbia; also, the feasibility of running logs down the Columbia to some point above the mouth of Snake River.

First: A large amount of very fine timber, such as White Pine, Cedar, Fir, Spruce, Cottonwood, Hemlock and Tamarack, may be selected from a point twenty miles below the head of the lower lake, thence to the extreme head of the upper lake. The most of the good timber is to be found on the streams making into the lakes. From the mouth of the Upper Columbia River to Laporte, a distance of sixty-four miles, the country is a dense forest; cedar abounds, there is also hemlock, fir, tamarack and some white pine; the quality of the timber is excellent.

Second: there is nothing to prevent logs from being driven down the Columbia River, from the lakes to White Bluffs, where a good and secure boom could be put in that would save all the timber. At White Bluffs there is a large eddy where rafts could be easily made, and run from thence down to the Northern Pacific Railroad and the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company's Steamboat and Railway lines. As to the time when a drive should be started down, experienced raftsmen state it should not be started until after the top of high water, so that the driftwood will not interfere with the boom, floating bodies following the center of a falling stream; or, if you wish to use your boom during high water to catch driftwood, a large amount of valuable timber could be secured in that way. As regards the cost of placing a suitable boom in at this point, in my estimation it would not cost less than ten thousand and may be twelve thousand dollars. I believe that in from two to three years enough driftwood could be caught to pay for the cost of the boom. From White Bluffs down to the railroads rafts could be taken at all times of the year, excepting when there is ice in the river.

I remain, yours very respectfully.

A. T. PINGSTONE.