

are considered to be hardly worth cutting over. Forests yielding 100,000 feet and upward are common all around Puget Sound. The wood of the firs and cedars, unequaled for lightness, straightness of cleavage, and resistance of moisture, and stronger than oak and more retentive of spikes and tree-nails, will supplant all other material for ship-building on both shores of the Pacific Ocean. Last year, Puget Sound exported above 150 million feet of lumber, 20 millions of lath and shingles, and an immense amount of masts, spars, and piles. This product of the as yet scarcely scarred forests of Washington Territory was sold in California, South America, Australia, Japan, China, the East Indies, and Europe. It furnished lading to 113 ships, 491 barks, 45 brigs, and 87 schooners.

CLIMATE OF PUGET SOUND.

The unbelief in the favorableness of the climate of Puget Sound, which prevails as much in England as it does in the rest of Europe (although England has through the Hudson Bay Company occupied for over two hundred years the country of which the Sound is a part), and which prevails all over the United States, excluding the half-dozen counting-houses of gentlemen once connected with the fur trade, may demand the record proof of meteorological observations kept by scientific men to show that the country is not bleak and inhospitable. Such proof is at hand. Surgeon Alexander Rattray, of the Royal Navy, has published a Meteorological Abstract for Esquimalt, Vancouver Island, for the year 1860-61. Esquimalt is three miles from Victoria. Both are on almost the extreme south end of Vancouver, and each is considerably south of Bellingham Bay, the principal seat of the American coal-mining operations. Rattray says: "This abstract goes far to prove that we enjoy, as a rule, fine weather. Of the three hundred and sixty-five days of the year no fewer than one hundred and eighty-seven, or fifty-one per cent., were fine, the remainder being dull, showery, rainy, etc. During the winter months, fine weather accompanying frost is by no means uncommon or of short duration. Rain fell on one hundred and eighteen days, or once in every three and one-eleventh days; most heavily and frequently during the winter months from October to February. Snow fell on twelve days only, and then neither heavily nor for any length of time. The thermometer fell only eleven times below freezing during the year—a good indication of the mildness of the winter.