

The Seattle Telegraph-Seattle, Washington
Tuesday, December 23, 1890
• COAL LANDS
Miners at Work on 22 Separate Veins
Found in 16 Countries

Among the sources of wealth of the state of Washington her coal industry is the most important. The first discovery of coal on the Pacific coast was at Bellingham Bay, Whatcom County, over thirty years ago. The coal proved to be of high grade, and the mine was extensively worked for a number of years, until the measures were exhausted below profitable working depths. With the further settlement of the Pacific slope came the increased demand for coal, which stimulated prospectors to seek new fields. They have done their work well, for coal mines have been discovered in sixteen counties of the state and 22 veins are being worked, yielding an aggregate of about 3000 tons of coal per day, which, at the average price of \$4 per ton, delivered to the consumer, or on board vessels in our harbors, amounts to \$12,000 per day, or \$4,380,000 annually. The industry gives employment to about 4500 men in the mines and in handling the product.

COAL PRODUCTION

To give a more adequate idea of the amount of coal produced by the mines of Washington, if it was all piled in one pyramid it would make a mountain 250 feet square at the base and 1480 feet high. This would be a monument to exhibit at a world's fair beside which the Eiffel tower would sink in insignificance, and when we compare the usefulness of these two structures, we should be proud to say this is the monument of our state of Washington.

This amount of coal would, if used for steam power, produce 24,013 horse power during every hour of the year, or would cook three meals per day every day of the year for 1,335,000 persons.

THE MEASURES

If the reader is sufficiently interested to keep us company a short time while we trace some of the veins over the surface of the measures which produce this wealth to our state, we will point out some features which particularly belong to the measures of Western Washington, and if we have time we may take a look underground and learn something of the manner by which these stores are taken from the nation's vast storehouse, and it may be, if space permit to speculate upon the way by which nature's storehouse has been filled.

The best known coal is probably that from the Newcastle mine, which has been on the market for about twenty-five years, and the coal, which is a bright black compact lignite, is known in every seaport on the Pacific coast as Seattle coal.

Until about three years ago the mine was worked from a tunnel run in along the strike of the vein and the coal was brought out, put on board the cars at New Castle station, but all the coal above this level being worked out, hoisting works were erected about one and a

half miles farther east and a shaft sunk to take the coal out from the lower levels. The coal is found to improve in quality as a greater depth is reached and at the level of the present working, which is 1350 feet, or 300 feet below the level of the sea, the present output is a little more than 600 tons daily. The measures consist of six veins within a breadth of 700 feet. The veins strike south 76 degrees east, and have a dip of 42 degrees to the north, 14 degrees east and are interstratified with the carbonaceous sandstone and clay slate common to all the coal measures of the Pacific slope.

(From the Oregon Improvement Company Records)

OREGON IMPROVEMENT COMPANY

Seattle Department

The Columbia & Puget Sound R.R. Co.

The Franklin Coal Mines and Store

The Newcastle Coal Mines and Store

The O.I. Co.'s Saw Mills at Seattle

The Local Coal Business at Seattle

Seattle, Wash., Oct. 17, 1890
CONFIDENTIAL

Elijah Smith, Esq.
President, New York City

Dear Sir;

I acknowledge your letter of October 9th enclosing copy of telegram from Howard urging that no suspension of the mines takes place at the present time. As I have already telegraphed and written to you, we have yielded to the demands of the miners for 15 per cent increase.

We are doing very little work at Franklin, however, and limiting the work at the mine entirely to the driving of the gang-ways. This produces about 50 tons of coal per day. This work will be finished about the middle of January, if carried out at the present rate. At that time the mine will be in shape for extensive mining, and if a sufficient force could be put in there, could mine 500 tons of coal a day to advantage. It is our intention now to open this mine with negroes, and to bring them out so as to arrive here to commence work about the 1st of February.

The mining in the Newcastle mine we are pushing to the full capacity of the mine, and it is now running at an estimated rate of about 20,000 tons per month. Unless some unforeseen difficulty occurs, I think we will be able to keep this up, and as the market now stands, we will be able to sell the entire out-put as we produce it.

Yours Truly,
C.J. Smith