

former, many have been introduced by parties, which trap on their way thither and return with cattle. Although there were but a few head of them four or five years before, in 1841 there were upwards of ten thousand. The whole country is particularly adapted to grazing, which, together with the mildness of the climate, must cause this region to become, in a short time, one of the best-stocked countries in the world.

The price of cattle may be quoted at ten dollars a head; but those that are broken in for labour, or milch-cows, command a higher price; and in some places in the Willamette Valley they have been sold for the enormous price of eighty dollars. Every endeavour is made to keep the price of cattle up, as labour is usually paid for in stock.

The price of labour for a mechanic may be set down at from two dollars and a half, to three dollars a day; and there is much difficulty to procure them even at that rate. The wages for a common labourer is one dollar per day. The price of wheat is fixed at sixty-two and a half cents per bushel by the Company; for which any thing but spirits may be drawn from the stores, at fifty per cent. advance on the London cost. This is supposed, all things taken into consideration, to be equal to one dollar and twelve cents per bushel; but it is difficult for the settlers so to understand it, and they are by no means satisfied with the rate. There is a description of currency here, called beaver money; which seems to be among the whites what blankets are among the Indians. The value of the currency may be estimated from the fact, that a beaver-skin represents about two dollars throughout the territory.

In speaking of the Willamette Valley, I have viewed its advantages for raising crops, pasturage of stock, and the facilities of settlers becoming rich. There is, however, one objection to its ever becoming a large settlement, in consequence of the interruption of the navigation of its rivers in the dry season; which renders it difficult to get to a market, as well as to receive supplies.

The salmon-fishery may be classed as one of the great sources of wealth, for it affords a large amount of food at a very low price, and of the very best quality: it does not extend above the falls. I found it impossible to obtain any data to found a calculation of the quantity taken, but it cannot be short of eight hundred barrels; and this after the Indian manner of catching them, as before described. The finest of the salmon are those caught nearest the sea.

The settlers and Indians told us that the salmon as they pass up the river become poorer, and when they reach the tributaries of the upper Columbia, they are exceedingly exhausted, and have their bodies and heads much disfigured and cut, and their tails and fins worn out by