

HOOD RIVER, OREGON

FAMOUS FOR ITS STRAWBERRIES, APPLES AND OTHER FRUITS

HOOD RIVER, Or., May 10.—(Special Correspondence.)—We Americans consider there are two requisites for happiness in this world—"health and wealth." We desire health that we may gain wealth, and having gained wealth, we seek to retain health. Hood River seems to be an ideal location for obtaining and retaining both. Here is a community of business men and farmers, wide-awake, energetic, intelligent and progressive. Here are women and children with bloom of health and symmetry of form, pleasing to the eye and the envy of the feeble and decrepit. Here are people who have prospered through having located where local advantages are so favorable, and each one is an immigration agent to tell an alluring story of why Hood River is to be preferred to any other place. Optimism is the rule and pessimism the exception and the spirit is contagious. Optimism is one of the diseases which is not to be feared or avoided, as it develops the best in the physical and mental of mankind.

Has Many Attractions.
"Come to Hood River," they say, "and drink in the ozone of our mountain air; bask in the sunshine of our months and months of cloudless skies; drink of our cool water from snow-capped Hood; eat of our delicious fruits; gaze upon the grandeur of our scenery, the lovely Columbia River and the snow-capped peaks of Adams and Hood to the north and south. Till the soil and note what golden harvests are yours. No fear of drought, for there is an abundance of water to irrigate the land throughout the valley. Our winters are just cold enough to give us the pleasures of sleighing and skating, and our Summers warm enough to bring to the greatest perfection our fruits, including the season, which are peaches, cherries, pears, prunes, peaches and apples. Our streams abound in fish and our mountains in game."

Has No rival.
Hood River is the name of the river having its source at the base of Mount Hood, and emptying into the Columbia. It is a rapid mountain stream with a large flow of water, but is nowhere navigable. It is capable of developing much power, but is being only utilized for heating sawmills from the mountains. Hood River is the name of the town which has now a population of about 1200, but which had no existence prior to the completion of the O. R. & N. Co.'s railroad. It has water and rail connection, being 64 miles from Portland and 22 miles from The Dalles. It is the shipping point for all the Hood River Valley produce, from four to five miles wide and 15 to 20 miles long, and is rapidly being settled up with small farmers, on ten and 20-acre tracts, and these lands are being set to strawberries and fruit trees, which returns large profits on the investment. The total population of the valley is now about 4000 and increasing from year to year. The land slopes back from the Columbia River to an elevation of about 300 feet, and there forms a table land extending back into the mountains. The abundant water of the creeks are brought out on this plateau, and distributed to the fruit and berry raisers, thus enabling them to have positive assurance of annual crops, no matter how dry may be the season. The natural and only present outlet of the valley is by and through the town here, and as a consequence it has no rival for commercial supremacy.

A Populous Valley.
Let us assume that the average income of the lands of the valley is only \$100 to the acre, which is a conservative estimate. I will give later in this letter what proves a very low estimate, the present number of acres producing crops is only about 1200. The average yield of the valley is about 50,000, so that the valley will eventually support a population of from 25,000 to 30,000 people, and the annual sales reach several million dollars, instead of as now only about \$250,000. These figures may seem to be extravagant, but it must be borne in mind that the products here are not dependent on the demands of a local market, but extend almost to the entire globe, and as a consequence there is practically no limit to the market.

A Rapid Development.
The writer has personal recollections of the Hood River Valley when the only means of transportation was by the river; when there were no transcontinental railroads, and the only market was a local one, easily given by the Columbia River. It is now the town of Hood River was in large farms owned by the Coes, the Watsons, the Smiths and others, and only a short distance back from the river were hundreds of acres of wooded and untilled land covered with a growth of pine and underbrush. The new residents in the valley then may have had a conception of the present settlement here, but would have been deemed visionary to have prophesied so rapid a development. It was largely owing to the experiments in strawberry culture, proving lands considered worthless to be very profitable, which gave to the Hood River Valley its fame, and to its possessors fortunes.

A Busy People.
A trip through the valley, among the farms, is a most enjoyable one. The fruit trees are in bloom, the rows and rows of strawberry plants are bright green, and in every field are seen men, women and even children, busy at their work, taking advantage of this favorable weather to get the ground in proper shape, the fields free of weeds, so that later, when irrigation commences, there shall be no interruption to the rapid growth of the strawberry vines and the bloom and maturity of the berries. About the middle of May the strawberries will begin coming into market, and it is estimated that this year there will be 125,000 crates of strawberries shipped.

Plenty of Work.
During the strawberry season about 300 pickers are hired to pick the fruit, but for about twice that number. Hood River is a popular place for enjoying an outing, and the families come here to pick berries and at the same time enjoy the invigorating effects of the climate.

KITCHENER, DIPLOMAT.
His Fine Tact Won Both French and Boers.
M. A. P. in N. Y. Mail and Express.
I have often written that I regard Lord Kitchener as one of the ablest diplomatists of his time. Nobody who watched events at the time ever forget the masterly tactics by which Kitchener got his own country and France out of an extremely tight place at Fachoda. For Marchand and his gallant French comrades were half dead with fever and hunger when they arrived at Fachoda, and Kitchener, grasping the situation, sent them doctors, drugs and wine; and in this exchange of courtesies passed one of the most perilous crises in the relations of two great nations that ever occurred. Talking to a high officer who had been in South Africa, the other day, I was amused to find how Kitchener repeated something of his Fachoda performance at Vereeniging with the Boer leaders. Kitchener as one of the ablest diplomatists of his time. Nobody who watched events at the time ever forget the masterly tactics by which Kitchener got his own country and France out of an extremely tight place at Fachoda. For Marchand and his gallant French comrades were half dead with fever and hunger when they arrived at Fachoda, and Kitchener, grasping the situation, sent them doctors, drugs and wine; and in this exchange of courtesies passed one of the most perilous crises in the relations of two great nations that ever occurred. Talking to a high officer who had been in South Africa, the other day, I was amused to find how Kitchener repeated something of his Fachoda performance at Vereeniging with the Boer leaders.

Quite a large number of persons are employed as "pickers," and are paid by cent a box, or wages by the hour. It is better work than picking, and persons who cannot pick profitably do well in the packing-rooms.
"When does the picking season commence?"
"About May 20, and is at its best about June 10, and ceases about July 1."
"Do the growers haul the camping out-

the irrigating ditches, trim the vines and do other things and earn a man's wages."
"The season for attending a strawberry farm is about six months, from April to October, which leaves six months which can be utilized in some other way. Most of the unoccupied lands in the Hood River valley are covered with a growth of pine, oak or brush timber and this can be cut down, grubbed and burned, during the idle season. These unoccupied lands can be bought at prices ranging from \$10 to \$150 an acre, depending upon location. When the same land is cleared and set out in strawberries or bearing fruit, it is worth from \$150 to \$500 an acre, the difference in the price between wild and cultivated land being represented principally by the labor put on it. Thus a man clearing a ten-acre tract could put

themselves home. The future of Hood River looks good to me."
Transportation Facilities.
Rapid and reliable transportation facilities are of great importance to a fruit-growing district, and in this respect Hood River is admirably situated. The products can readily be shipped over four transcontinental railroads—the Union Pacific, Southern Pacific, Great Northern and Canadian Pacific, besides being in easy reach of water transportation north and south along the Coast.
Value of Co-Operation.
The fruitgrowers here have learned from past experience that success is largely dependent upon co-operative organization in the distribution of their products.



A VIEW OF HOOD RIVER, OREGON

THE COLUMBIA RIVER AND MOUTH OF HOOD RIVER ARE SEEN.

fits from the station to the farm, and back again?"
"Yes, it is customary to do so, by nearly all the growers, and cooking-houses are also provided in some cases. The growers try to make it as pleasant and profitable for their pickers as possible."
"What wages are paid on the farm?"
"The men get from \$1 to \$1.25 a day and board, and girls, to do housework, can earn from \$3 to \$5 a week."
"Is there much demand for this class of work?"
"Yes, greater than the supply. Farmers are looking for men every day, and the demand for girls and domestics is almost impossible to supply."
Securing a Home.
"If I were to come to Hood River and want to buy a tract of land for growing strawberries, or apples, where would you advise me to buy, what would be the cost, and what would be the probable profits?"
"Much depends upon the state of your finances. If you have enough money to buy what you want and pay cash, and I would advise you to buy an improved piece of land, but if not you can do better to rent. By industry you can then make enough money to later buy and own a tract of land without going in debt. There are hundreds of acres of strawberry land which the owners will rent, for from \$5 to \$10 an acre, in advance, and which will return to the renter, when set to berries, \$150 to \$250 to the acre. It

and hence the Fruitgrowers' Association here has been a prominent factor in the fruit industry of the valley.
Large Number of Telephones.
At the telephone exchange in Hood River are nearly 300 subscribers, and constantly increasing in number. In proportion to the population of only about 1200, this is probably the largest list of subscribers of any exchange on the Coast.
The Lumbering Industry.
There are seven sawmills in and near this town, the combined amount of lumber manufactured each year being about 4,500,000 feet, the number of men employed about 400, and the payroll about \$250,000 a year. The lowest wages paid are \$2 a day for 10 hours' work, and the season lasts about ten months. Fir lumber is the principal kind manufactured.
Two More Hotels.
The increasing business here has about reached the limits of the hotel accommodations, and two new hotels are talked of here, one for commercial men exclusively, in the center of town, and the other a tourist hotel, on a slightly elevated land formerly embraced in the Coe farm. Hood River is growing, and some fine residences are in course of construction, and plans for more have been drawn. Probably 100 new buildings will be erected here this Summer.
Berry Pickers Wanted.
The berry crop of Hood River last year was about 57,000 crates, and to gather the

Gravel, sand, sediments in the urine, are cured by Oregon Kidney Tea.

RESTORES DEAD TO LIFE
Wonderful Experiment of New York Physician With a Dog.
NEW YORK, May 13.—Rating an interesting question as to when life in animals actually becomes extinct, Dr. Robert C. Kemp, who has been conducting experiments here for two years, has found it possible to restore a dog to life after its heart had stopped beating for 16 minutes. After an examination the animal was officially pronounced dead, yet Dr. Kemp, by massaging its heart, so far brought it back to life that it lived 24 hours, and meanwhile it was so far restored to the use of its faculties that it ate and drank. In one of 23 experiments in this character, Dr. Kemp has succeeded in "restoring dogs to life," and he is convinced that in the case of human beings under different conditions the proportion of restorations would be greater. In the case of the dogs he ascribes their death after an interval of from two or three to 24 hours not to failure of his treatment, but to the fact that the dogs could not be prevented from tearing away the bandages.
Only one such experiment has been tried on a human being, and in that case it was not successful.



GATHERING STRAWBERRIES AT HOOD RIVER, OREGON—FOUR THOUSAND PICKERS WILL BE IN DEMAND THERE.

is estimated that a man and family can take care of ten acres and hire no help except during the picking season. Water for irrigation costs from \$3 to \$5 an acre, per season. The cost of picking and grading two dozen boxes of berries is 25 cents, and the average yield through the valley is 150 crates to the acre, which sell at from \$4 to 1.50 a crate, or an average of about \$1 a crate, which leaves a profit above all expenses about \$100 an acre. Ten acres in strawberries will bring in \$1000 or more a year. There is no place where a man with an industrious wife and children can succeed so well, as at Hood River, on a small farm. A woman, as an example, can tend to

about 15,000 acres of fruit and farm land. This ditch will have about 300 feet elevation above the bed of the river, and will be capable of developing an immense power. It will cost something like \$300,000, and is to be pushed through to completion. The upper end of Hood River Valley is now in parts a virgin forest of fine timber, but as soon as these trees are cut out the farmer will follow with the ax and grubbing hoe, and orchards and strawberries will be planted there. We have the soil and the climate for strawberries and apples, and it needs only capital and energy to develop the country, and the people are coming in rapidly and making

fruit about 2000 pickers were employed. The total acreage of full-bearing vines this year is closely estimated to be 300 acres, with about 600 acres more of new yards which will each bear a small crop. The number of crates of strawberries that will be shipped from Hood River this season is estimated at 100,000 crates, and that at least 400 pickers will be given employment. Persons desiring information about securing work had best address the Davidson Fruit Company, at Hood River, and the camp should be pitched at least ten days before picking commences, in order to avoid the great rush of pickers which comes later.

were to be given plenty of the best. The Boers naturally enjoyed to the full this feat after a famine—the soldier always does let himself go when there is an interval between starving and dying and the ordinary enjoyment of life—human nature demands these records—and the Boers were acting accordingly to the variable history of warriors in no spare were junketings, and even an exchange of friendly toasts and short, the way was prepared for an approach to the great debate on peace or war in a spirit more benign and more Christian than would otherwise have been the case. And so Kitchener won by the wily arts of diplomacy as much as by the sterner methods of the sword. Perhaps that is one of the many reasons why the Boers always liked him.
BUSINESS ITEMS.
If Baby Is Cutting Teeth.
The surest and best and safest remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, keeps all pain, cures colic and diarrhoea.
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REASONS FOR REFERENDUM
Arguments in Support of Opposition to Portage Road and Eddy Law.
PORTLAND, May 12.—(To the Editor.)—In justice to my associates I want to say in regard to the referendum petitions on the portage railroad act, corporation grant of capital-stock annual license or tax law and exemption amendment act wiping out all exemption from taxation and execution that we went into this matter on business principles only, believing that the state is overtaxed and that the new corporation tax, which is a double tax, is a rank injustice to the growing mining interests of the state, at which we have good authority the bill was particularly aimed. We have the best of evidence that the portage railroad bill was a mere political trade in the race for Federal office, and two of Multnomah's representatives in the Legislature have stated within the past ten days that this was the case, and that they only voted for the bill because it was political, and not because they believed in the measure; that they knew it was a bluff and a makeshift inadequate to meet the requirements of traffic, just as the old portage road 20 years ago was inadequate, not self-sustaining, and had to be abandoned. The War Department has prac-

tionally settled this question by declining to settle the right-of-way matter until a meeting of Congress, and now has a board of engineers on the ground with orders to proceed with the building of the canal and locks between The Dalles and Celilo. The money is up, and a canal is the only practical method of Columbia River transportation. Why, then, should the taxpayers of Oregon, already overburdened, put up more money for a useless toy railroad and interfere in an enterprise strictly belonging to the Federal Government, when that Government is building a permanent all-water way to the coast, and especially when it will take \$500,000 more than the appropriation made to complete the portage road, which will be a dead horse by the time it can be built? Is there not good reason to repeal such a bill, save the money or invest it in something better after we have paid our Lewis and Clark bills?
Notwithstanding contrary assertions, we cannot but feel that the corporation tax bill and exemption amendment bill were passed to make up the loss to be incurred by the portage railroad bill in the political race, and for these reasons took steps to invoke the referendum. We may fail, but a few days will tell the story, and I may state that we are traitors to the interests of Eastern Oregon, but today I sent to the County Clerk of Baker County petitions to refer the portage bill, signed by 800 voters, and more are coming in every day. Even here in Portland hundreds are signing the petition, and reports from Southern Oregon show equal interest there. They take the ground that it can harm no one to put the questions to ballot, and especially when the emergency of the last constitutional amendment was made.
One very interesting point in connection with this matter was given me this afternoon by one of the widest-known attorneys in Portland, who told me that he was in Salem at the time the portage bill was passed. He thanked us for calling for the referendum on the bill, stating: "The portage bill was passed at the instance of the corporations who hope by building the road to retard the construction of the canal between The Dalles and Celilo by the Federal Government the same as the held back the work at the Cascades by the old portage road and other schemes, 15 years ago, without any benefit in rates. If the portage road is built, the work of the Government has already started in 20 years. I believe the people will vote the portage bill down at the polls in 1904, for it will be no failure in securing the referendum to the referendum petition on this act."
W. C. COWGILL.

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