ERNEST HOFER TALKS OF OREGON.

The Ex-Iowa Editor Tells of the New Country That Has Dealt With Him—He Does Not Exaggerate Nor Withhold the Unpleasant Features That Every New State Has—But He Is Very Enthusiastic About the Pacific Coast Country—What One of the Leading Men of the State and a Member of the Legislature Says of the Willamette Valley.

[From the Iowa State Register, published by Clarkson Fros.]

EVERYONE who had to do with Iowa politics six years ago remembers Ernest Hofer, then editor of the McGregor News. He had a narrow escape of being elected State printer by the legislature in 1888. He was one of the strongest writers in the state, and his letters from Des Moines to his paper revealed the most hidden springs of political action in the state and capital; they set forth the personnel of the great men of the state, and made plain and simple the reasons for their policies, which were not always approved. Mr. Hofer has always set high standards in politics, and has lived up to them. He has had no patience with the small-bore politicians and place-seekers who infest every great political army. He is a politician and a successful one, but is a man of ideas rather than "schemes," in the commonly accepted understanding of that word. While he was in Iowa he was incapable of doing a mean thing, and his success in the far west is assurance that he has continued to live with high aim constantly before him, and that he has been true to the high aspirations that accompany true living. He has done a great deal in Salem, the capital of Oregon—where, with his brother as business manager, he is the managing editor of the DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL—to make the people of Iowa proud to own him as a product of the state.

In the last campaign his paper led the fight. His warfare against boodlers and all manner of dishonesty in public life, has made him strong in city, county and state. He was elected to the legislature last June by a very large majority, and will be one of the leaders in the coming session. Mr. Hofer has been visiting Iowa for several weeks and has been in Des Moines the past ten days with his wife and little sons, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Patrick of 659 Seventeenth street. Mr. Hofer talked about the country he lives in to a reporter for the Register in a way that will interest everyone.

MR. HOFER ON OREGON.

"No, sir; ours is not the land of perpetual flowers and sunshine," he said: "Any one going to the Pacific coast must be prepared to be disenchanted of this impression. No such region exists from San Diego to Puget Sound. Nor is there any spot so sheltered by mountains or favored by nature but that there is chilly, foggy, rainy, windy, disagreeable weather at certain times of the year. There are parts of the west coast, however, where products so wonderfully surpass any other section of our country that you may say that we have the only region that is distinctively different from all the rest of the United States.

"From the weird and wind-swept alkali canyons on the east, described in Mary Hallock Foote's "Chosen Valley," to the fertile soils on the Willamette prairies, where fields, originally tilled by the American Fur company eighty years ago, have yielded rich crops continuously ever since. Oregon is an empire of rich surprises, a storehouse of natural wonders. To a wanderer from monotonous prairies, her towering forests, snow-capped mountains, glittering waterfalls, golden grainfields and orchards of semi-tropical fruits are a continual revelation.

"Laying aside poetry and speaking from an experience in all parts of the United States, I believe we have naturally the best bill of fare to be found in all the world. Ulysses in the palace of Circe was not offered a banquet that in richness and variety can equal the food that an Oregonian can have on his table the year around.

NOT AN IRRIGATION REGION.

"Our county at our state fair this year showed 243 varieties of fruit, dried, canned and fresh. One idea I want to disabuse you of before we go any farther. Western Oregon is not an irrigation region. We produce everything by natural rainfall and largely employ the same farming methods in vogue here in Iowa.

"To give an Iowa a correct conception of the Pacific coast is not a slight task. Still as a native Hawkeye who went to the Pacific coast six years ago and has lived there with his eyes open, the other may prove of interest to millions of Iowa people. Oregon is the Iowa of the Pacific coast. Her early legislators adopted the old Iowa code in a lump. Our state is nearly twice as large as Iowa and is settled with a larger proportion of Iowa people than from any other one state. Oregon has in round numbers 400,000 people, 300,000 of them in the western, one-third of the state, that is separated from Eastern Oregon by the Cascade range of mountains. East of the Cascade mountains the climate is radically different. There is less moisture, the soil is lighter, the air dryer; grain growing, herding and mining are the principal industries. There are valleys of wonderful fertility in Northwestern Oregon. Immense quantities of the finest fruits are grown and shipped out of that country. Great irrigation ditches railways. Southeastern Oregon is almost an unknown and unexplored region.

MOUNTAIN SCENERY.

"From the dome of our state house citizens there is exhibited on a clear day, and we have almost uninterrupted clear weather in summer, a most splendid panorama. On the east is the Cascade range, one continuous succession of snow peaks. Mount Hood is the most beautiful and perfectly shaped mountain in the world. It is sixty miles from Salem and fifteen thousand feet high. As we are only a few feet above the sea level we get an imposing view. Sweeping north or south are the snowy peaks of Adams, St Helens, Jefferson, the Three Sisters and Ranier, the latter nearly 200 miles away. The nearer mountains in the coast range to the east and the foothills of the Cascades twenty to thirty miles away to either side of the Willamette valley, are shrouded in delicate mists and present ever changing views. We live in the land of perpetually transforming aerial hues, rosy mists and rainbows, while with the aroma of our fir clad forests and the spray of our waterfalls is mingled the cooling breath of the mighty Pacific.

OREGON PRODUCTS.

"That depends on where you are. In Eastern Oregon we have the greatest undeveloped silver mining region in the west. Hundreds of mines are worked and many quartz mills are making money at present reduced prices. Naturally we are silver men. Just as we favor protecting and promoting all our other great interests, we demand a government policy that shall constantly recognize our silver output. In Southern Oregon are big gold mines where hundreds of thousands of gold in wire, nuggets and free quartz are taken out. We have nickel, mica, slate, granite and coal in unlimited quantities but awaiting development. We have enough timber to supply the world, I presume Oregon has 50,000 square miles of primival forest suitable for the sawmill. Our fir, cedar, spruce and oak are now shipped by rail and by ocean to all parts of the world. The Willamette valley is composed of beautiful prairies interspersed with belts of evergreen and deciduous forests and intersected by clear mountain streams stocked with trout and salmon. Of course, hay and grain, fruit and vegetables, fuel and pasture are cheap and abundant. While all ice is made by machinery, ours is naturally a dairy country as butter can be made the year 'round without ice.

OREGON POLITICS.

"Politics? Are we Republicans? I should say so. Oregon set the pace for 1894 last June, when we carried the state by unprecedented majorities, and elected a legislature so solidly republican that not a straight democrat was chosen in either branch. Two years before the fusionists had the governor, attorney-general and one presidential elector. Oregon is vitally interested in a protective tariff. With 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 sheep, with millions of dollars worth of dried fruits, with the largest hay crop of any state in the Union, in addition to all the crops that you grow here, the farmer is interested in preservation of the home market as well as the manufacturer. Our state institutions are all built or provided for and are economically conducted. They are all located at Salem, the state capital, except the educational institutions, which are scattered in the rich and beautiful valleys of the state. Our school system is modeled on the Iowa pattern. Our state is well supplied with churches. Our population is very largely American, but our people are liberal and tolerant towards all shades of opinion and belief.

AS A COUNTRY TO COME TO.

"Would you advise any one to go to Oregon?"

"Not if you are doing well where you are. However, the territory that is really desirable to emigrate to is becoming very limited. Agents of transportation companies tell me there will be quite an immigration movement the next six months. The south, southwest and the Pacific coast are the only points of destination spoken of. The tide toward the Dakotas and Northern Canadian provinces has been checked. Many are returning to Iowa from those regions, as well as from Minnesota, Nebraska and Kansas. I have traveled since September in all these regions. Montana is getting no immigration, except in the mining towns. Where are the people to go to? South, or the Pacific coast? I can say with perfect assurance to your readers that Oregon possesses great advantages in a mild climate, great natural resources, a fertile soil and an intelligent, progressive people. Oregon has no state debt, does not believe in bonus or aid to any kind of any kind. It is as difficult to get bonds issued or to run a city or county in debt there as it is easy in some of the eastern states. Oregon delights in substantial conservation."

A MARINE CLIMATE.

"Portland and below, the principal cities, are in the Willamette valley, an almost ideal region, and possessing a marine climate. The valley is 150 miles long and from thirty to sixty miles wide. The river is a beautiful blue mountain stream, navigable by steamboats over 200 miles, it was named after Willamette an Indian chief, and is pronounced Will-am-et, accent on the second syllable. About this season of the year farmers are there plowing and seeding. Work is carried in the growing grain all winter. In April, May and June the crops mature, and by that time the dry season sets in and the ripe grain can stand in the field without injury. Our summers are clear and cloudless, no great heat by day and cool by night. You can plow, or sow, or plant vegetables any month in the winter and get a crop. The farmer has unlimited time almost to get his crops in, and such a thing as a crop failure or loss of crop from want of rain is almost an impossibility. The climate of the valley, summer and winter, is tempered by the Pacific ocean, only forty miles away, and sudden changes are out of the question.

ABOUT THE WEATHER.

"Western Oregon has neither extreme heat nor cold. It is not a good beer or whiskey country, not hot enough to create a demand for the former and not cold enough to form an appetite for the latter, although there is plenty to be had and the cheapness of apples and grapes gives us more than our share of wine and cider. Our winters are wet and disagreeable, as rainy seasons usually are, but for farm work or any kind of outdoor labor they are very pleasant. Our prevailing winds in winter are south and bring rain, in summer from the west and bring clear weather. The seasons merge into each other so gradually that the conditions for perfecting fruit crops are almost perfect and there is practically no limit to the amount of fruit that can be produced in Oregon. We grow the finest Bartlett pears as easily as Iowa does corn; and prunes easier than you do potatoes. In summer thousands of families go to the seashore or mountains and generally speaking we take life easier than other people in northern states. At Salem we have 44 inches of rainfall annually. In five years we have had one week of freezing cold weather and one heavy snowfall of about a foot that lay on nearly a week.

The Prune Crop of 1895

The prune growers of the Pacific Northwest can not commence too soon to arrange for caring and disposing of their prune crop of 1895. It is true that it is impossible to forsee whether the yield will be large or small, but it would be very foolish to postpone all considerations and arrangements for caring and disposing of the crop until the fruit is ready to be gathered.

There are very few persons in the Pacific Northwest, even among the fruit growers themselves, who realize the possibilities of the prune crop for the coming year. The prune crop for 1893 was light in Oregon and the present year the crop was considered almost a failure excepting in a few favored localities. Notwithstanding this the output of cured prunes in Oregon this year has been over 2,000,000 pounds while that of Washington has been about 750,000 pounds.

From the statistics collected for our prune number we find that there are in Oregon a little over 4,000 acres of prune orchards which will next year be six years old and over, about 3,100 acres which will be five years old and about 3,000 acres which will be four years old. If there should be a fair crop the orchards which are six yerrs old and over ought to yield on an average 2,000 of cured prunes per acre; the orchards five years old, 1,000 pounds per acre, and the orchards four years old or over, 300 pounds per acre. Even at these moderate figures the aggregate output of cured prunes in Oregon would reach 12,000,000 pounds. This amount may be considerably reduced by the shipments of fresh prunes and still leave enough to make 10,000,000 pounds of cured prunes.

Washington has 1,600 acres of prune orchards which will be six years old and over; 800 acres which will be five years old, and 1,500 acres that will be four years old. With the same average yield figured for Oregon, the output of cured prunes would be 4,450,000 pounds.

Idaho has 25 acres of prune orchards which will be six years old and over; 750 acres which will be five years old, and 400 acres which will be four years old. With the same yield as the other states per acre, the output of cured prunes would be 920,000.

It is possible that in both Washington and Idaho a larger proportion of the prunes will be shipped fresh, compared to those shipped from Oregon. After making full allowance for all that may be shipped and sold fresh it is entirely within the bounds of reasonable probability to assume that there will be enough fresh prunes left in the three states to make 12,000,000 pounds of the cured product.

These figures may be considered large but so far as the acreage is concerned they are certainly under the true figures in each of the states. The estimates of average yield can hardly be regarded as extravagant, as double the amounts stated are often secured.

It is probable, then, that there will be found three to four times as many prunes to take care of the coming year as there have been this year. If there had been a good crop of prunes this year we fear that there would not have been facilities for caring them. To care for the probable crop of prunes of next year will require the expenditure of at least a quarter of a million dollars in additional evaporators, graders, etc.

The disposal of the fruit to good advantage will require the adoption of good business methods both in caring and selling the fruit.

If the experience of the fruit growers of California, Florida, New York, Ohio, Michigan and other fruit-growing states is heeded, there must be a great deal more co-operation among our prune growers in order to insure satisfactory results.—Rural Northwest.

Cost of Prune Orchards

E. W. Allen, secretary of the Oregon state board of horticulture, gives the following figures relative to the cost of planting and cultivating an orchard until it comes into a bearing or paying condition: "The cost of the trees, 1x6, six twenty feet apart, together with the plowing, planting, and the necessary cultivation for the period of three years, is as a rule, of six to nine dollars per acre, providing the land is in thorough cultivation to begin with. The trees will usually commence to bear the third year and reach their full bearing about the seventh. One hundred and fifty pounds of green fruit to the tree is a fair average of an average yield, and 1½ cents per pound is a low price for the green fruit. The great success attained from the use of prunes is this year sold green would be easy, and the fruit will nearly pay the annual expense per acre."

THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY.

A Good Description of Oregon's Richest Fruit and Farming Sections.

Below is given a letter written by a man now living in Salem to a friend in the east, and is printed in the JOURNAL because it answers many similar questions that come to this office. He says:

The Willamette valley has been settled for more than fifty years and is not a howling wilderness filled up with wild Indians as many suppose. The question naturally arises, why is it not better settled, etc.? You must know that early settlers, half a century ago experienced great hardships, and after they got here were entirely cut off from the world, and that it is only within the past decade that Oregon has had the benefit of railroad facilities and contact with the markets of the world. The valley is 150 miles long, by 50 miles wide, and it is not too much to say that with its varying landscapes, its fertile vales and charming scenery, its crystal waters, no valley on the Pacific coast will compare with it. The Southern Pacific railroad runs through the center of the valley. Two other lines run parallel, called the "East and West" side roads. The Willamette river is navigable nearly the whole length of the valley, and steamers run down the Columbia fifty miles to the sea. The country is dotted with villages and railway stations, and innumerable wagon roads lead all over the country the same as in the more thickly settled states. Marion county, for instance, has fifty postoffices. Good, cleared lands can be bought at from $12 to $25 per acre and not but a few miles from transporation, but lands near Salem, the state capital, will cost somewhat more. The early settlers here were given lands in large tracts, more than they were ever able to till, and these big ranches are now being gradually cut up. The valley is composed of prairie and rolling lands, with some spots of timber, mostly along the river and foot hills, so persons can get it just as they want it. It is not necessary here to redeem land from the mammoth timber as in the Puget Sound country, although some of that is done, but there is still plenty of clear prairie land at low prices.

Since civilization began here there is no record of failure of crops. Rains come with a certainity not known in any other section of the Union, and there is no lack of water for any purpose. The valley is destined to become one of the greatest fruit countries in the world. As fine orchards are coming into bearing and more fruit is being raised here, the easier it is to find good eastern markets, and much green fruit is now being shipped east, as well as being sold from the trees to local dryers. Prunes and other dried fruits here, when put up in proper shape for market, are being sought from farm to farm by local and eastern buyers. Apples and prunes begin to bear the fifth year after setting out and hundreds of farmers dry their own fruits, while others patronise large dryers on shares, or pay for drying the same as a grain farmer takes his wheat to mill.

Clover and timothy can be raised here in abundance, and the hay crop is a valuable one to many farmers. The present low price of wheat will no doubt lead farmers to more diversified farming just as it did in the eastern states some years ago, and more general prosperity is sure to follow.

All small gains grow here to perfection. Potatoes yield bountifully and usually bring a good price, while vegetables of all kinds produce in abundance.

Butter poultry was never raised than in the Willamette valley, and we have no cold to fight against. Hogs and all kinds of stock are profitable.

Our school privileges are good here, and there is usually a demand for good teachers.

The early settlers here had no money and had none of the advantages we now possess, but by an energy and perseverance they built themselves comfortable homes, and are a fair criterion as to what others can do who will follow their example, even with limited means, and the more favorable circumstances. The results depend greatly upon the individual himself here as everywhere.

The Willamette Valley.

Fruit raising will surely become one of the leading industries in Oregon, and this is especially true of the Willamette valley, where all the conditions are very favorable to the progressive orchardist. In this valley fruit growing is the most promising industry.

It is the land of great opportunities. No better show is offered anywhere on the Pacific coast for the homeseeker. The resources of this valley will sustain large manufacturing industries of nearly every kind, of which it already has a goodly share. It will sustain ten times its present population in the farming, dairying, fruit growing and poultry business, and offering in all these lines advantages not to be had in other places.

To visit this wonderful valley and see it and its investigate conditions, is to locate here. In no instance have prospectors visited this valley, given it other than the best of reputation in regard to climate, soil and everything that goes to constitute a good country.

There is no country in the United States blessed by a more healthful climate than the Willamette valley. The climate possesses the distinctive position, not a matter, like when a mountain, there is no other such climate to be found in America. Chills and fever are unknown. It is a valley where hundreds have come yet have known no ill, neither does the traveler's chest chill one to the marrow, nor does the tornado hurricane lay waste the country or destroy life and property, but it is one continued balmy summer and one scarcely realizes that the seasons change.

The hills and valleys are covered with timber and interspersed with beautiful meadows of pasture and interlaced with beautiful blue mountain streams well stocked with fish. The center is nearly of the world famous Oregon fir and easily reached. Much of this valuable land is yet open to entry. Our good men shines and shake for want of land to keep coming to us. Irrigation is not necessary as the rainfall is sufficient to mature all crops.

Oregon All O. K.

A fact that most of us are aware of, and yet the occasional statement of which may be not entirely in vain, is that Oregon is a good state for most of those who are here to stay in, and a good state for the right kind of people who wish to better their condition to come to.

Large areas of soil are rich and adapted to a variety of products; yet only a small portion of it is as yet cultivated. Its climate is generally mild and healthy. It is in most parts well watered and timbered and supplied with fish and game. Certain portions are adapted to stock-raising on a large scale. It is a good dairy country. It has vast mineral wealth.

People can live here in the country very cheaply. Expensive houses and barns are not necessary. The soil yields bountifully with far less cultivation than in the eastern states. Stock needs comparatively little feed or care.

For a young, and in places, sparcely settled state, Oregon is well supplied with schools, churches and newspapers. It need be behind no other commonwealth in education or intelligence.

Oregon is out of debt. While there have been extravagant expenditures and needless waste of money by legislatures, the state administration has generally been wise and economical. Oregon has set California and Washington an example that they would have done well to follow. Taxes should be still lower. This will be the best advertisement.

Oregon has suffered in common with the rest of the country in consequence of ruinous financial legislation and will continue to suffer unless the proper remedy is applied. Yet it has as bright a future as any state in the Union. None, in fact, are in so good a position to fulfill our own state motion.

Visitors should be treated with intelligent concideration. They only look at the surface of things, which is as yet rough and crude, and in some respects uninviting. They must be allowed to investigate patiently, and learn what we who have long been here know, that there are a variety of things yet scarcely touched and resources beyond computation yet undeveloped, sufficient to invite and maintain here in Oregon half a million people—and then a million more.—Portland Sun.

Oregon Flour.

The Pacific Mail and Occidental and Oriental lines have been reaping a harvest in freight traffic since the war broke out in the Orient. One of the principal reasons of the crowded condition of vessels is the fact that demand for flour in the Orient has increased materially and Oregon products have been going to China from San Francisco. A gentleman interested in flouring business says that "the Portland flouring mills has contracted with parties in China to send 400 tons of flour by every steamer. The Portland flouring mills have houses throughout Oregon and they ship directly from the mills. It seems that the rush of freight on the Central Pacific and Northern Pacific lines is so great that room was not to be had for 400 barrels on every steamer. The result was that the Portland people had to ship by the Pacific Mail and Oriental and Occidental lines in direct competition with our own people. They are apparently holding up their end. It is a sad commentary on the enterprise of California to think that they are getting the overflow of trade which by right should all be ours. It is an equally disagreeabe truth that the flour could all be made in Oregon, shipped to San Francisco and then enter into competition with our own manufacturers. Instead of this, part of the supply comes from Washington.—San Francisco Press.

Salem and Marion County.

Salem, since it was made the capital of the state, many years ago, has been, for certain reasons, the principal town of Oregon except Portland. Salem is the best known town in Oregon outside of Portland; so it is no wonder it grows. The more people are informed of our resources, the more they will flock into Salem and the contiguous country.

There is no better town and no better surrounding country than Salem and Marion county. The town is full of opportunities; the county is full of the best farms in the United States.

If any eastern investor is looking over Oregon, he should not miss Salem, for one thing and Marion county, for another.—Portland Sun.

Oregon Stands Good.

In the crop report of the Agricultural department Oregon is credited in this manner:

While the average yield of buckwheat for the United States in 1894 was only a fraction over 16 bushels per acre, Oregon's average yield is put down at 38 bushels per acre. Maine's average was only a fraction of a bushel less than Oregon's but no other state was able to reach an average of of 25 bushels. The average in Oregon is very small, however compared with some of the eastern buckwheat growing states.

The average yield of potatoes in the United States this year is 64.3 bushels. The average yield for the past ten years has been 76.4 bu. Oregon's yield was 112 bushels, and was considered but half a crop.

The celebrated government chemist, Dr. Mott, after exhaustive analysis pronounces Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder "The Acme of Perfection."

The Land of Fig Red Apples and Pretty Girls.

Misses Mary and Flora Young, daughters of Mr. Walter Young, made glad the hearts of 50 relatives and upon her and his Anita and Fortunate Copeland on Tuesday of this week by presenting this office with a basket of apples. There were only eight in number, and looked like "apples of gold in pictures of silver." They measured each about one foot in circumference and weighed nearly eight pounds. They were grown on Walter Young's farm about three miles east of town. It is hardly necessary to say that the donors were fully as nice as the apples they brought. Florida.—Express Road Ass.

IN UNSETTLED OREGON

All About the Fine Government Lands.

ITS VALLEYS AND ITS TIMBER.

Sparkling Description by One Who Has Been There.

While acting as inspector of United States government surveys in Oregon, it has usually been in sparsely settled localities, sometimes totally uninhabited by man—in fact what may be aptly termed "the wilds of Oregon."

These localities in question, are within the mountains or their neer vicinity; some of them from ruggedness, extremely picturesque and grand; while others are densely covered with growths of fir, spruce, pine, etc., interspersed with park-like vales of striking beauty. All abound in multitudes of

LARGE GAME

animals, feathered game, and the many sparkling pebbly brooks and larger streams contain countless numbers of trout, grayling and salmon, if near the coast. Also

BERRIES,

such as salal, huckleberries of several kinds, gooseberry, black, sarvis, salmon, thimble and raspberries grow in great profusion everywhere in the "wilds of Oregon."

In answer to your request, I will say that of localities traversed by me, which may be of interest to persons looking for

A HOME

at first cost from Uncle Sam, that perhaps the most accessable and desirable "new regions" open to homestead entry are at present to be found in our youngest county, Lincoln. And as our maps do not as yet contain that county, it will be as well to state for the benefit of non-resident readers, that Lincoln county is constructed from the south end of Tillamook county and the west end of Benton county, extending along the coast from Tillamook county upon the north to Lane county upon the south, and having Toledo upon Yaquina bay for its county seat.

About the center of Lincoln county is the upper

DRIFT CREEK VALLEY

which at present contains about eight or ten families, with plenty of room for about a hundred more.

In places the valley is nearly a half mile wide, but in general is much narrower.

The bordering bluffs in great part, present a sloping surface that will admit of easy cultivation, or roadways to the upper slopes, benches and more extensive flats.

THE SOIL

of the valley bottoms is a rich alluvial deposit, no better being found in the world, and the surface is mostly covered with scattering growths of maple, alder and hazel, with cherry groves and a few scattered evergreens here and there.

At intervals occur small natural prairie-like meadows of grass, or fern glades just the right size for a building site and garden, ready cleared for the new-comer, and the adjacent bluffs contain thousands of feet of easily riven cedar or fir lumber for the cabin and fences.

The slopes facing the north and east usually have heavy growths of timber of the fir, cedar and other evergreen varieties; while slopes with a south and westerly aspect and the upper flats are generally destitute of timber and richly clothed in fern. The soil of these slopes and upwards is good and capable of rewarding the industrious tiller with rich and abundant returns for his labor.

At a point nine miles southeast from Toledo, the main stream of Drift Creek at low water—September—averages a foot deep by thirty feet wide, and at many points is rapid enough to supply small water powers for grist or saw mill, or for a factory with which to work up the maple, ash, cedar and other useful woods.

The stream and its branches are populous with

TROUT AND LAMPERS,

the latter being some larger than the common cross fish and of a beautiful clean deep orange color, also upon trial our party found them to be of delicious flavor and very desirable as an article of diet.

There are numerous branching valleys, which are but repetitions of the main valley, upon smaller scale however, and may be described in like language.

Between the upper and lower Drift Creek valleys is a rocky gorge, embedded by precipitous bluffs, and so nearly impassible that pedestrians are compelled to wade along the stream for about two of its length of five miles. Below this gorge the stream is much larger and by some is termed a river.

The lower valley is not so extensive as the upper one, and is bordered by mountain bluffs. It has a few lateral valleys, but owing to the close proximity of tide water and the Alsea Bay, all of the available land, or at least the good land in the lower valleys, is taken up.

South of the Alsea river is found the

CAPE CREEK VALLEY

which is somewhat smaller than the Upper Drift, but in no other ways its inferior.

It is much further from the county capital but is very close to

THE WATER

bordering upon it at the north and providing perhaps five miles from it southerly to the upper end of the valley.

Canal creek is a small brook and salmon stream, rather muddy looking where navigated upon by the tide, but elsewhere a gravelly, pretty enough stream, with numerous small branches.

Excepting those upon the western side of the valley, the slopes are all long and easy ascent; and the soils of the uplands and va are much like those of the upper Drift, a the same kinds of timber are to be found o much less of it, and poorer in quality. U the other hand there is to be found a mu denser growth of bushes in the lowlan while upon the uplands is to be found salal in its densest and thriftiest condition.

Canal valley and its branches, with the jacent slopes and fern benches can supply less than forty, possibly fifty families w homes, and to my knowledge, there are a half dozen claims taken, and only th actual settlers within its bounds at the pr ent writing.

Crossing a high divide southeasterly fr Canal creek, we descended by way of Sil Spring creek into the

FIVE FORKS VALLEY,

which is by far the roomiest valley in L coln county, and one of the, if not the pr tiest, in the state of Oregon.

Silver Spring Creek near its mouth form beautiful twelve foot perpendicular casca in volume, about six inches deep by ten wide in September.

The Five Forks river is as large as lower drift and is much like it in chara and contents.

It has numerous branches, some abou large as the main stream, all fine streams.

The several valleys vary in width fro few rods to a half mile. Generally they roomy and will admit of a continuous set ment along the streams. Right here I w to state all the streams mentioned in article have high banks over which no h water ever flows.

The bottoms of the Five Forks valley h numerous park like stretches, clothed in w meadow and fern; but in great part they covered with groves of maple, alder, che ash and hazel, with straggling large fir small evergreen glades at intervals. In instances are seen clumps of poplar or low, which as invariably denote patche bog or swampy soil, but such places are n

The soil of the bottoms is of the best, that of the uplands is but little inferior.

Some of the slopes and usually the t of the ridges and spurs have an abundanc large fir and cedar of good quality.

Nearly every bend of the larger stre could with small outlay, supply an water power for the various manufactur purposes necessary to an industrious growing neighborhood.

This region occupies the southeastern p tion of the county, and has within its c fines at present, not more than 25 or th families, while there is yet ample room at least a hundred and fifty more families locate and open up beautiful and valu homes.

At present the drawback to the Five Fo valley is its remoteness from tide water market; yet an easy graded wagon along the Alsea for ten miles connects north end of the valley and tide-water, the south end of the valley will be eigh ten miles still farther but also with a l road bed.

Upon the whole, I must confess tha more beautiful valley can scarcely be fo in the state, and when a

COAST-WISE RAILROAD

is built it will surely pass up this valley from its head cross into the Indian C valley which trends south to the Lincoln valley near its mouth.

In regard to the all interesting subject o

CLIMATE

these several valleys are about the same, be somewhat cooler in the summer than Willamette valley is, while upon the o hand the winter is a little warmer, with sibly more rain, and very little snow, usu no snow at all, excepting upon the adja mountain tops.

ORCHARDS

of small size are to be seen, which in part are young, yet a few are well alon years and give good returns in such vari as cherries, plums, apples and pears. W garden berries of all kinds which gro this latitude flourish with a prodigality si astounding to an easterner. It is

A PARADISE

to the good wife who delights in putti berries, preserves, jams and jells. A paradise to the sportsman let his penchan

BOW, GUN OR NET,

for the streams are full of funny denizens fresh water lobsters,—the groves and valle full of grouse, quails and other birds,— the upland glens and groves contain hund of deer, elk and bear. Should the h hanker after a cougar pelt, he has only to tour a dense cedar swale or dark moss glen, where with reasonable caution and patience, he will in a very few hours meet success.

If the settler is convenient to tide water launches his canoe or skiff, and paddles sailing with the tide soon reaches the b coast, and so he gets there at the ebb he harvests a boat load of clams and rock-oy or he can take hours of pleasure in pi over the feeding beds of salt water fish; a a seat for his pelt which makes a mov and oils the floor as well; or he may t salt-water bath, and return home upon following tide with a full boat and a h heart.

In conclusion, this entire region is a g SEA COUNTRY,

and inlets are numerous and always lo close to the hub. Every settler of any kn of time in the country has several (stands) of bees and some have many. Honey is excellent and is as common on t tables as bread.

With respect,

J. C. C., Lewis