



Stand by for a message Happy New Year

THE OLD YEAR is valuable for the experience we have gained; the New Year for the opportunities it has in store. To all of our friends we extend the season's greeting. It is our hope that they will prosper in a material way and gain greater wealth and contentment than they have known before. Poised on the threshold of normalcy, we are about to enter a period of better regulated living, more industrious production and sounder merchandise values than any of us have seen since the World War.

With the NEW YEAR our greatest hope is about to dawn.

GLIMPSE OF DOUGLAS COUNTY RESOURCES

One ordinarily thinks of Douglas County, the great stretch of valleys, hills and mountains, with their almost innumerable streams, do not enter into the vision, but rather we are inclined to consider only a few of the many factors that go to make up the resources of what is really an empire itself. Having its eastern boundary at the summit of the Cascade Mountains on the east, Douglas County spreads out like a great fan to the south, north and west, and again narrowing down as the coast line is approached, comprising within its confines a greater area than that of Delaware and Rhode Island combined and more territory than is boasted by the State of Connecticut, or 4922 square miles of the grandest country to be found on the Pacific Coast. The distance from Mount Thielsen, which towers far above all other nearby peaks of the Cascade range, on the extreme eastern border of the county, traveling as the airplane would fly in a northeasterly direction, to where the waters of the Pacific Ocean lave the western line, is more than 150 miles. According to government surveys, Douglas County is 84 miles across, north and south, at its widest point. These figures will give the reader some conception of the magnificent country that we shall attempt to describe in this word picture of a vast section of Oregon that is too little known to the world, and also by its residents of our own state. It is to create an interest in this practically undeveloped section of Oregon that this story is written, because the resources are so abundant and the people who live here are entirely insufficient in numbers to properly develop the latent resources that await labor and capital. Rich beyond the wildest imagination in timber, minerals, orchard and farming land, which await industrial activities, this part of Oregon is capable of maintaining a population of a million there now are untilled acres and primitive forests, some of the timber lands still remaining unurveyed.

This project was finally abandoned as unwise, not from lack of water, but owing to the wild nature of the river it was deemed unwise to undertake such a stupendous task.

The North Umpqua rises in Diamond Lake, 5182 feet above sea level. This beautiful lake, several miles in length and of immense depth, is created by the eternal snows on Mt. Thielsen, a little to the east, more than 9000 feet high, whence have their source a number of mountain streams which feed the lake with an inexhaustible supply of pure, crystalline water, and thence through the channel of the Umpqua flows toward the sea.

The South Umpqua River, almost as large as the North Umpqua, has its source in the southeast part of the county, near the summit of the Cascades, flows in a northerly course until it joins the North Umpqua at a point about seven miles northwest of Roseburg, this city being situated between the two streams and on the bank of the former.

General Topography

Douglas County is made up of towering mountains, rolling hills, and valleys innumerable. The greater area is covered with fire, pine, cedar and spruce timber, with a great deal of oak on the lower foothills. All of the valleys are narrow, lying along the water ways, and are generally open country. A great deal of the acreage of the valleys is under cultivation, or in many instances devoted to grazing. Springs and small creeks abound throughout the county, and practically all of the county is drained by the Umpqua River. When the first of the early pioneers explored this section of the great Northwest they found this valley occupied by the Umpqua Indians, and thus the county was named in honor of the aborigines. The great area drained by the Umpqua River is an attractive section of country. Its varied natural resources appealing to everyone who sees this part of the State, and visitors are charmed with the wild mountain scenery, the verdant forests, the rich valley and hill lands, and even climatic conditions.

A Few Statistics

While the area of Douglas County exceeds that of the State of Connecticut, only about 25,000 people were found in this vast country when Uncle Sam took the last census. It will be seen by this fact that there is at this time no appreciable crowding but, on the contrary, there is lots of room for other people to make homes and enjoy with those already in the county the blessings and privileges that all here

revel in. More than one-fifth of the population lives at the county seat, Roseburg, which is a beautiful little Western city with lots of life and push, charmingly situated at the confluence of Deer Creek with the South Umpqua River, and nestling at the foot of wooded hills. The town, incorporated in 1872, has a population of approximately 6000, is only 487 feet above sea level and has a tax valuation of \$3,298,880. The distance from this city to Portland is 200 miles by rail, while San Francisco lies 572 miles to the south. As the airplane flies it is 51 miles to the Pacific ocean. The city has four banks and three fine, modern brick school buildings, the High School being the pride of Southern Oregon. The total bank deposits are about \$2,500,000. All of the leading secret organizations have lodges here, and the Masonic fraternity and I. O. O. F. own spacious buildings of their own which are a credit to the city and the lodges they represent. There are seven churches in a dozen years the city has sprung from a frontier town to a modern city with many miles of paved streets, electric lights and an excellent water system, and boasts of many advantages not enjoyed by other localities.

There are ten banks in the county outside of Roseburg, and resources of these institutions total \$2,105,000. There are 139 school districts in the county, with eight union high schools, while the people annually raise for school purposes more than \$215,000. The population of Douglas County is 92 per cent American born, and this fact alone makes it a most desirable locality for people seeking an ideal place for making homes and educating their children.

There are ten newspapers published in the county, one of which, the News-Review, is a daily. Drain, Oakland, Sutherlin, Myrtle Creek, Riddle and Glendale, all of which are in what is called the up-river country, each have a creditable newspaper. At Gardiner and Reedsport, at the mouth of the Umpqua River, excellent publications are issued which adequately represent those prosperous and rapidly growing sections of Oregon and Douglas County.

Public Buildings

Roseburg is a progressive place, and this fact is best shown in statistics that the city has a magnificent federal building that would do credit to a much larger place. This structure of brick and stone, it houses the Roseburg postoffice, the United States Land Office, the Forestry officials for this part of the national domain, and the county agricultural

agents offices. The latter office is also considered a federal department since the government pays a part of the expense of maintaining the service.

Another public building that is a credit to the town is the Armory, built some years before the war as a home for the Fourth Company of the National Guard. It is a spacious structure, especially designed for the purpose, and has an immense floor space for drill or team work, besides offices and rest rooms. Above the main floor is a balcony capable of seating several hundred spectators. At the beginning of the world war, or at the time America took up arms, the personnel of the Fourth Company to almost a man volunteered their services to the government in defense of the flag, and many of the men were among the first to be sent overseas.

The Oregon Soldiers Home is located in this city, and here veterans of the civil and Spanish-American wars may find a home. This institution is situated on a beautiful plot of ground bordering on the river, and there the aged veterans find shelter and the best of care. A commodious brick hospital building has been erected of late years so that the men may be given scientific care when ill. Trained nurses are in constant attendance, and the entire institution is maintained with the precision of military discipline. To be eligible to enter to the institution veterans must have been a resident of the state for one year preceding request for admission.

The Southern Pacific Railway Company line crosses the county north and south, and since the rail connections were made with San Francisco and Portland in the early eighties the old time stage coach has disappeared and these been forgotten save by a few of the pioneers who helped to open this veritable paradise to a younger generation. Not only has the creaking freighter been relegated to the misty past, but the pack train that at one time in the early history of Douglas County served as the means of transportation in carrying food and supplies to the sparsely settled region of the great Umpqua Basin, is remembered by a still smaller number than those who recall the ox or mule teams and heavily loaded wagons.

These pack trains, consisting of fifty to a hundred mules, loaded at Scottsburg away back in the forties and fifties, and then with the old bell mare leading the van wended its way in single file over the uncertain trails

along the Umpqua River to the interior mining camps located on the streams of the valleys, among the foot hills, and in some instances far back on the western slope of the Cascade range.

The March of Progress

Following the completion of the railroad between Portland and San Francisco the natural resources of the county began to develop, although the process was slow, agriculturists and stockmen not coming in fast enough to make and appreciable showing. These people who were here engaged in stock raising to a great extent, the mild climate and open winters being conducive to cattle and sheep, grazing on the ranges all winter. For many years a great deal of wool was shipped from this section, but as grain acreage increased the flocks diminished to a considerable extent. Freight rates were high and often cattle and sheep were driven out to markets; in this way the growers saving considerable. Exports of farm and range products were excellent during the earlier period of settlement, but for some reason grain growing fell off materially fifteen to twenty years ago. Old timers allege that in the eighties and nineties crops of oats and wheat were raised to great advantage on farms that afterward were devoted to stock. The yield is alleged by these early farmers to have been good, 40 bushels of wheat being a common thing. Although the acreage in grain appears to be comparatively small at this time, it is quite probable that fully as much is grown now as in former years, but increasing demand to indicate that less is grown now than formerly. Changing conditions of late years have turned things around considerably, so that with the subdivision of many large ranches a few years ago and the planting of the tracks to fruit, other factors in the development of the county commanded attention, and in this way several thousand acres of choicest lands were diverted from grain growing and given over to various sorts of fruit.

The fruit industry brought a new era to Douglas County, and as considerable effort was made a few years ago to herald the possibilities for the orchardist in this county, homeseekers were attracted this way and practically all of the small tracts quickly settled upon by a thrifty class of people from the east and south. This increased population stimulated business to a marked degree, some new towns springing up as a direct result

of so many settlers coming in, most of whom had enough money to get started in their undertakings. Not only were new communities built up, but population, in the pioneer towns and cities of Douglas County increased materially, Roseburg itself growing from a village of a couple of thousand to its present proportions. Rocked streets and impossible mud in winter gradually disappeared in favor of replacing the primitive thoroughfares of the towns, until at the present time there is perhaps no town in the county but that has kept abreast of the progressive era in these matters.

Statistics of the last year indicate that the wheat sown in Douglas County for that season was practically 15,000 acres, two thirds of which was fall sown. In the same year more than 14,000 acres of oats were grown and the report shows that 1700 acres of barley was sown. Rye is grown in a few localities, the acreage being 396. Corn is a good crop in this county, nearly 5000 acres being grown in 1921. Alfalfa is grown to a limited extent, although it does splendidly on river and creek bottom lands, the report showing only a trifle more than 1000 acres being cut in 1921.

Nearly 18,000 acres of hay were cut in 1921, and the acreage for this crop is generally greater in the county than for any one other crop. In addition to the grain and grass hay cut, may be added the 1000 acres of alfalfa, which gives a total of about 23,000 acres. The demand for this crop usually exceeds the local supply.

There are over 10,000 acres of orchards in Douglas County, the most of which is in bearing, but it is conceded that young orchards not enumerated will bring the total area planted to trees to a much larger figure. Prunes are the principal fruit grown in the county, the soil and climate here being peculiarly adapted to this fruit, and practically 6,000 acres are devoted to that staple crop. Apples come next with about 3,000 acres in trees, largely in full bearing, while the remaining area devoted to fruit is divided among pears, cherries, peaches and walnuts. All of the small fruits are grown here and yield immense crops, everbearing varieties of raspberries and strawberries continuing to produce until latter part of November or first of December. This season raspberries were on sale in local stores the first of December.

Some Possibilities

There are in Douglas County more than 2,000,000 acres of land, including the timber lands, much of which lies on the mountain slopes. The

assessment rolls show that only a trifle over 400,000 acres are comprised in the farms, and it also shows that the number of farms total only 1743. In other words, there are about two and three quarter millions acres in the county undeveloped. A great deal of this land lies on the foot hills and in the valleys, but perhaps the major portion is covered with a dense growth of merchantable timber that awaits the sawmill and transportation to market. There are thousands of acres of land here that will make homes for industrious families and provide a good living for them. A great many of the big cattle ranches and sheep ranges are susceptible of subdivision, which would also give room for a lot more people to build up attractive and paying properties. This thing has been done with marked success in the Sutherlin and Garden Valley sections, where ten, fifteen and twenty acre farms occupy the country that was, only a dozen or fifteen years ago, roamed by sheep and cattle, affording a limited income to one or two men. These same localities are today among the most enterprising and prosperous communities of the entire county. Luxuriant orchards, in the midst of which nestle attractive and comfortable homes, are paying these people a splendid living, and there are hundreds of them. The progressive and modern little town of Sutherlin with a population of seven or eight hundred, is the center of one of those communities built up on a former sheep pasture. Untold acres of unexcelled land also lies idle along the creeks and rivers, and by a system of irrigation that will one day in the near future take definite form, can be made to "blossom as the rose." In fact, irrigation, while not essential to profitable crops here, will add untold wealth to the assets of this county. There are a few farmers and fruit growers already utilizing the water nature so lavishly provides, and to a great advantage, and they do not hesitate to say that two or three applications during the heat of the summer will more than pay for the installation of the water systems they have installed. In most instances these tracts under irrigation are supplied with water pumped from creek or river by a gasoline motor.

Opportunities also await the stockman, as thousands of acres of open hill land are available for grazing sheep and cattle, and since the winters are so mild, with little or no snow, stock requires scarcely any feeding. In fact, there is hardly one winter in ten that is severe enough to make feeding imperative. The experience of stockmen is that it is well to provide feed for a couple or three weeks, so that in event the weather becomes cold enough to retard grass, or snow lies on for a few days, that they can pull their sheep and cattle through without losses. Wool is generally a good price, and lambs bring top quotations in the