

OREGON.

A Graphic Description of the Resources and Natural Advantages of this Grand Commonwealth.

Oregon lies between the 42 and 46 degrees of north latitude. The most westerly point is in longitude west from Greenwich 124 degrees and 45 minutes, and the most easterly point is in longitude west from Greenwich 116 degrees and 40 minutes. From north to south the distance is 275 miles, and from east to west about 300. It contains 36,274 square miles, or 23,376,000 acres of land. Of this, in 1888, there were 1,283,004 acres under cultivation. Oregon has a continuous navigable water front reaching from the northern boundary line of California, northward along the Pacific coast to the mouth of the Columbia river, thence up the Columbia along the northern boundary of the state nearly to its eastern limit. Of this distance, 300 miles are along the shores of the Pacific ocean, and 270 miles are along the navigable waters of the Columbia river. Beginning at the southern boundary, the counties that border on the ocean are Curry, Coos, Douglas, Lane, Benton, Tillamook, and Clatsop. Those that border on the river are Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Wasco, Gilliam, Morrow, and Umatilla. The Columbia river furnishes a harbor considered one of the best and safest on the world. South on the coast of the state of Oregon, fifty miles, is the bay of Tillamook, which affords a harbor for smaller vessels, such as are engaged in a coasting trade. Thirty miles further south is the bay of Clatsop, which affords a harbor for larger vessels, which will not admit coasting vessels fit to navigate the sea. Thirty miles still further south is the harbor of Yaquina, into which large steamers pass regularly in the transportation of freight and passengers to and from San Francisco, California. Twenty miles south of Yaquina is the Alsea river, which affords admission to coasting schooners, which are doing a very fair business. Twenty miles south of Alsea is Siuslaw, a good harbor for coasters, from which point a great trade is carried. Forty miles below the Alsea is the mouth of the Umpqua river. Here is a good harbor, and a large amount of shipping is done from this point, consisting of lumber, salmon, and agricultural products. Twenty miles south of this place is Coos bay. This is the finest harbor, a regular line of coasting vessels, which admit vessels to do a good business in the way of lumber, coal, and agricultural products. About fifty miles further south is the mouth of the Rogue river. This is a harbor sufficient to admit vessels of all sizes of fair size which are carrying lumber, dairy products, and agricultural products. There are many small streams putting into the ocean of sufficient size to admit small coasting vessels, which put into them as occasion may require. It will thus be seen that there are nine ports of entry on the coast of Oregon that afford abundant outlet to the sea for the shipment of all the productions which the coast country now has, or ever will contribute.

The Cascade mountains, extending north and south, divide the state into two grand divisions, the Eastern and Western Oregon. The first division embraces the counties of Wasco, Crook, Lake, Klamath, Morrow, Gilliam, Grant, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Baker, and Malheur; and the second division embraces the counties of Clatsop, Columbia, Washington, Clackamas, Marion, Linn, Yamhill, Polk, Tillamook, Benton, Lane, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Josephine, and Jackson.

Western Oregon has an average width of 120 miles, and comprises the most thickly populated and wealthy portion of the state at this time. Eastern Oregon has an average width of 280 miles, comprising a vast territory, a large portion of which is at present sparsely settled, and whose inhabitants are principally engaged in rearing cattle, sheep, and horses. Along the coast extends a range of mountains from three to four thousand feet in height, covered with timber, a great part of which is suitable for lumber. Streams put down from this range into the sea, along which there is a great deal of land fit for cultivation and for grazing purposes. At some points these mountains reach down to the ocean, but for the most part there is considerable country between the mountains and the beach.

Between the Coast Range and the Cascade mountains, lie the Willamette, Umpqua, and Rogue River valleys. The first two are separated by a short and low range known as the Callapooia mountains. Umpqua valley is named from the river which drains it, which stream flows through the Coast Range and empties into the Pacific ocean. Rogue river drains the valley of the same name. It also pierces the Coast Range. The surface of the country from the Callapooia mountains to the northern boundary of California is divided by low hills and valleys, the whole fertile and adapted to agriculture, fruit growing and grazing purposes.

THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY. The Willamette is the principal valley in the state and constitutes the wealthiest portion of Oregon. It is drained by the river of the same name, which stream is navigable a distance of 125 miles from its mouth. It flows northward about midway between the Coast Range and the Cascade mountains, and empties into the Columbia river at a point about 100 miles from the ocean. The valley begins, so to speak, at the Callapooia mountains on the south, and extends to the Columbia river on the north, a distance of about 130 miles. It has an average width of 60 miles, not including the mountain slopes, and comprises one beautiful sweep of valley, containing about 7500 square miles, or 4,822,000 acres of land, all of which is highly fertile. From their sources in the Cascades flow westward the Clackamas, Molalla, Padding, Santiam, and McKenzie rivers, and empty into the Willamette. The Coos, Fork is an important branch of the Willamette. From their sources in the Coast Range flow eastward the Fruiland, Chelameh, Yamhill, La Creole, Luckiamute, Mary's, Long Tom, and Albany rivers, which also empty into the Willamette. These are all streams of importance, several of them navigable, and each drains a considerable country in the foot hills valuable for agriculture, fruit, stock, and timber. At about the center of the Willamette valley is the Minto pass over the Cascades. Through this pass the Oregon Pacific railroad company is constructing a railroad which will traverse Eastern Oregon, and probably join the Union Pacific. The Oregon Pacific reaches deep water at Yaquina bay, and is in operation about 140 miles of road, from Yaquina bay (which is about midway of the Oregon coast) over the Coast Range east to the town of Albany, across the Willamette river. The flanks or slopes of all the mountain ranges are covered with forests of fir, cedar, and oak, immensely valuable for lumber. The following, taken from "Lane's History of the Willamette valley," published in 1855, is so concise and accurate that we incorporate it here: "The Willamette flows, as has been stated, parallel with the coast, from which it is distant, in the mean, about fifty miles. From Eugene City the distance to the nearest point on the coast is fifty miles; Corvallis, 42; Albany, 48; Oregon City, 65; Salem, 51; Portland, 62; all these towns lie upon the river. The summits of the Coast Range are at distances varying from 20 to 38 miles from the sea, while the mean distance of the Cascade range from the Pacific may be set down as 110 miles. The mouth of the Willamette is in latitude 45 degrees and 32 minutes north; longitude, 122 degrees and 45 minutes west of Greenwich. The southern extremity of the valley is approximately in 43 degrees and 40 minutes north latitude. The states of Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, and Massachusetts, are in nearly the same latitudes.

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