

THE WEST SHORE.

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FOR THE WEST SHORE.

REMARKS ABOUT OREGON.

BY DAVID NEWSOME.

There are many things of vital importance to persons emigrating to Oregon which they do not or cannot sufficiently know before coming here. In the first place, there is really but little correctly known abroad of this State. I have a pretty fair chance to know this from the multitude of letters which I receive from persons in "the States" and from questions propounded to me by immigrants on their arrival amongst us.

There is another matter of serious detriment to our country here. Many persons soar into the regions of fancy, draw upon their fertile imaginations, and give sketches and descriptions of Oregon highly wrought. They represent Oregon as a paradise, and most of us as angels. Others come here with inflated ideas of acquiring quick fortunes, whether they have capital or brains to begin with or not. Some, again, suppose that if they can only reach here O. K., they can look for and expect more from us than, in fact, we can bestow. It is true that, to persons in actual distress, there are none kinder, more feeling and generous than the Oregonians. But in the common affairs of business each one is expected to "paddle his own canoe."

Again, the geography and topography of this State seem to be but little known abroad. If persons will examine the map of the United States, they will see that Oregon contains 96,250 square miles, or 61,000,000 acres of land. If this surface was, like Illinois, section by section, rich, level land, then there could be a great many farms made upon it. But we must consider that it is greatly diversified. We have valleys, little hills, big hills, and cloud-capped, snow-capped mountains; sage plains, some barren, some canons (pronounced "kanyons"), and some gravel lands that are of not much account. Again, we have vast grassy plains in Eastern Oregon, good for sheep, cattle and horses, but a very large portion of it not suited for farming. Yet, in mining, stock-raising, fruit-raising and gardening a hundred thousand persons could

live well in Eastern Oregon by industry and proper economy.

It is true that the very best portions of Oregon for extensive farming are in the great Willamette valley—timber and prairies alternate—and present much of the appearance of the fine sections of Illinois. Here, farming can be done to profit and on a large scale. But it is true that all the available farm lands, and much of the farm lands for timber, have been taken up. The two valley railroad grants from Congress includes a large amount of lands on both sides of them in alternate sections. But before these grants were made nearly all the good lands were taken up under the old Donation Act of Sept. 27, 1850. The first principal settlement here was made by the Methodist missionaries in Salem in 1834. From that point the settlements have radiated till all the good sites are taken up.

Immigrants have come to me here and wished me to show them farm lands, with good timber and prairie adjoining, near the railroad or the Willamette river, vacant and ready to be taken up at Congress price; and if I could not comply with their requests, they would become displeased. Upon the maps at the land offices much of the lands in Oregon are yet vacant. True; but this surface comprises our mountain lands, covered with tall timber, and in their bowels lie gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, cinnabar, marble, limestone and gypsum. Water-power abounds everywhere in all these mountain districts. There are yet some lands in such districts that might be utilized for grain, fruits and gardens. But as we ascend in altitude we come into colder regions. It is more in altitude than in latitude that the cold predominates. From the point where these lines are penned I see, first, the earth covered with a carpet of green and some hardy flowers in bloom; next, the fog hills, covered with snow three inches deep; and next, the barbest settlements up the western slope of the Cascades, covered with snow two feet deep—only twenty-five miles off. And on the summit of the lofty Cascades—the Sierras of Oregon—Mount



VIEW ON THE WALLA WALLA RIVER, W. T.

where towns, mills, schools, navigation, railroads, good markets and good society abound, than to pass to the districts not having these advantages. In the southwestern counties of Oregon vast coal fields, timber, fisheries, gold, silver, iron, copper, marble and cinnabar abound. A very large amount of vacant lands are there, subject to homestead or pre-emption claims. We have only about one person to every 400 acres of land in our State.

Our fisheries are an endless source of wealth; and all the great valleys of Western Oregon and Washington Territory are underlaid with a thick vein of superior coal.

Discoveries constantly being made prove this assertion. The great source of wealth here, but little appreciated as yet, are our immense bodies of fir, spruce, cedar and pine timber. Our water-powers are a wonder to all discerning persons. Capital and brains are needed to utilize them, and erect factories, machine shops, foundries, fisheries, ship yards, rolling mills, nail factories, woollen mills, etc., and to push our commerce to foreign lands.

One evening the subject of noses and their characteristics was under consideration, and the discussion assumed an earnest aspect. In the midst of it, Will P—, whose nose was not exactly Roman in structure, said, "I wonder what makes my nose so flat at its end?" Sticking it in other folk's business!" promptly replied Charley T—. The discussion closed for that evening.

Coleridge was acknowledged to be a bad rider. One day, riding through a street, he was accosted by would-be wit: "I say, do you know what happened to Balaam?" Came the answer sharp and quick: "The same as happened to me. An ass spoke to him!"

"The tailor makes the man?" emphatically declared a village philosopher. "No, Sir," replied a by-stander, "it is dress that makes the man." "Then what does the tailor make?" "Well, perhaps from ten to fifteen dollars profit on a suit."



Hood, monarch of mountains, whose top is covered with eternal snows, rears its head in majestic grandeur, 12,600 feet above the bosom of the Pacific Ocean.

Upon the western slope of the Coast Mountains, and along the ocean for over 200 miles, are large boundaries of timber and brush lands, very rich, well watered and productive; healthy, and capable of being utilized in many ways. The timber is excellent; vast coal mines abound; there are oyster, salmon and cod fisheries; and upon the marsh or tide lands fine wild grasses for hay and grazing.

Now, we see that the most valuable, and in every way the most desirable portions of the rural districts of Oregon are taken up, and now owned by the pioneers of this coast. Persons, therefore, coming now must go back into interior districts and endure the privations and toils of pioneer life, or buy second-hand land. And here let me remark that all original land titles here are good. We have no Spanish grants and contested land titles. The United States have been, or are now, the sole, original proprietors of lands here. Buyers of second-hand lands can trace up titles, and can see from the records whether there be mortgages, liens or any local incumbrances upon any lands in question. Taken altogether, there is a great diversity of ways and means by which persons can acquire comfortable livings here and enjoy it well.

Really, the resources of Oregon are almost boundless. It would require a book of 100 quarto pages to go into minute details of all our diversified resources. But the paramount object should be with all persons here now or coming here, to follow some honest calling for a living. I know of no section of the United States where frugal, industrious persons can live easier or better than they can live here. But loafers, gamblers, pickpockets, drunkards, and idlers generally, we have no use for, nor will we welcome or show countenance to them.

Lands in the farming districts of Oregon can be had at very low rates. Persons of means can do better to buy improved or unimproved lands in the settlements,



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