

# FROM THE WEST SHORE.

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## RESOURCES OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY, OREGON.

Clackamas County, lying on both sides of the Willamette River—the greater portion of it on the east side—contains one million fifty-four thousand acres of land, extending on the east to the summit of the Cascade range of mountains, and measuring forty-two miles from east to west and thirty-two miles from north to south. More than three-fourths of the above is adapted for grain, fruits and grapes. Seven hundred thousand acres of it is unoccupied Government land. More than one half of that is well adapted to settlement, and when once put in cultivation, will be fully equal to many of the older settled places of the county. It is subject to homestead and pre-emption settlement, there being no lands in the entire county subject to public entry. The O. & C. R. R. Company own about fifty-eight thousand acres, which they sell in parcels to suit at the usual easy terms. The land of this county may be denominated timbered there being but a small portion of what would be called by a western man—prairie. Some portions heavily timbered, yet large tracts where the timber is not thick or dense. The land may properly be called hilly, some portions quite broken. The timber most common is fir, of the several varieties, red, white and yellow. Along the streams, cedar, ash and maple abound. In the mountains spruce, hemlock and larch are found. As will be seen from the above list the prevailing forest trees are resinous and evergreen, some of which grow to the height of 300 or 400 feet and from eight to twelve feet in diameter. The streams of water in this county, several of which rise to the magnitude of rivers, are in what may be denominated canyons. The country between constituting an elevated plateau or rolling table-land. These streams afford almost unlimited water power.

On almost every quarter section of land pure living water is found. It may be taken as approximately correct that there are within the limits of this county half a million acres of land susceptible of cultivation; most of the re-

mainder, more than half a million of acres, affords luxuriant and abundant summer pasturage.

The land by thorough cultivation is wonderfully productive, yielding from fifteen to forty-five bushels of wheat per acre, according to the cultivation, and the wheat is of the very best quality. These lands are noted for their adaptability to the growth of fall sown or winter wheat. The yield of oats is from twenty to eighty bushels per acre. Rye, barley and flax grow well though not much cultivated. These lands are also well adapted to red clover, yielding from two to four tons per acre, and by the cultivation of which the farmer may prevent the exhaustion of his lands sown to grain, keeping up a regular rotation of crops.

As to fruit, for the production of

for the plow. When the land is cleared of the timber, and this has to be done once for all time, the nearness of these lands to ship navigation saves an annual expense which must be incurred in transportation of the products of land more remote from the marts of trade. Portland, the metropolis of Oregon, which is a port of entry where steam ships or sailing vessels arrive and depart almost daily, and with which Oregon City, the county seat of this county, is in daily communication both by railroad and steamboat, affords facility and cheapness of transportation, which amounts yearly to a considerable item worthy of consideration in selecting a home by the farmer. The distance from Oregon City to Portland is fourteen miles.

Iron ore is found on both banks of the Willamette river between Oregon

about eight tons per day, and is run continuously throughout the year, except when necessarily laid up for repairs. Limestone and coal are also found along the foothills of the Cascade mountains. The limestone is of a fair quality, but not equal to that found in other parts of our State; while the coal is believed to be equal to the best, but has not, as yet, been sufficiently tested to warrant an opinion as to its actual quality.

### FISH

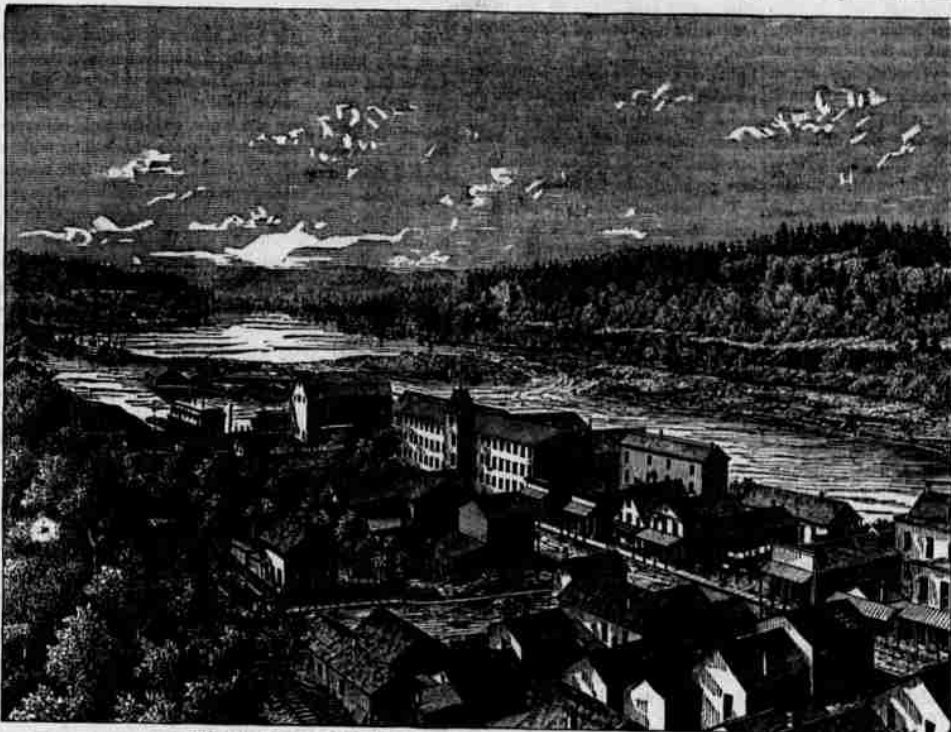
Of the finest quality abound in all the streams. While the Willamette and Clackamas swarm with salmon, the brooks and creeks are full of the smaller varieties, of which the most desirable as well as most abundant, is the far-famed speckled trout.

Of game, the county abounds in elk,

deer, bear, grouse, pheasants, pigeons and quail.

The school facilities are excellent, there being sixty-four school districts in which schools are taught from three to nine months in the year.

The Episcopalians, Baptists, Roman Catholics, Methodist Episcopal, Protestant Methodist, United Brethren, Old School Baptists, Congregationalists and Christians are all represented in the various parts of the county, and religious services are held by the various denominations.



SOUTH PART OF OREGON CITY, FROM THE CLIFF.—Photo by Buchtel & Stolts.

which Oregon is so noted, the apple, pear, and plum grow to great perfection on these hills. Some varieties of the cherry and the grape grow well, also strawberry, gooseberry, raspberry, currant and blackberry. The above remarks as to the crops apply to the hill lands, because they predominate in this county; though there is considerable extent of bottom lands with black alluvial soil in the county well adapted to the growth of such crops as are peculiar to such lands. There are sparse settlements spread over say two-thirds of the arable lands of this county, and in every settlement there are lands for sale at from three to forty dollars per acre, owing to extent of improvement, nature of soil and location.

As the lands of this county are timbered, it requires labor to prepare them

City and Portland, also in various other parts of the country in practically unlimited quantity. The Oswego Iron Company has a furnace eight miles above Portland on the river bank, and directly, and indirectly, gives employment to two hundred and fifty men, as miners, coal-burners, wood-choppers, teamsters, and operatives about the stack. The iron is all made with charcoal and is of a quality that commands five dollars per ton more than any other American iron, and ranks above "Scotch Pig" in the San Francisco market. This is the only smelting furnace on the Pacific coast, and was begun as an experiment; but it has already demonstrated the fact that this county will soon develop an industry that will give remunerative employment to a large population. The product of the furnace is

The water power facilities in Clackamas county are probably greater and more varied than all the other counties in the State combined. A number of streams flow into the Willamette on either hand which would furnish, if necessity called it into existence, an abundance of power to found the nucleus of manufacturing towns; while at the Willamette Falls in Oregon City there is at least one million of unused horse power which might be utilized; (not over five hundred horse power now in use) besides the above, the following streams within the county give opportunity to be, or are in part utilized: The Tualatin, Clackamas, Molalla rivers, and Clear creek, Rock creek, Butte creek, Milk creek, Milwaukie and Beale creeks, and Sucker Lake, and a

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