

Whidby and Camano Islands form Island county in Washington Territory, with Coupeville as the county seat. Whidby is about fifty miles long, by from three to twelve miles wide. It contains upwards of fifty thousand acres of fertile agricultural land, easily fitted up for cultivation, of which about ten thousand acres are natural prairies. Most of the prairie land is situated near the center of the island, while the marsh land is easily reclaimed. Most of it is north of Coupeville, large quantities being found in the Dugwalla, Oak and Crescent Harbor settlements, the best soil being here and near the center of island, while the southern part of the island has but little fertile soil and few farms. There are upwards of 12,000 acres of land in cultivation or pasture.

Rich strikes in placer mining are reported in Baker county. A ditch, now completing, by Vandevner, Ross & Co., will insure them twenty-five dollars per day to the hand as soon as it reaches their claim. Wherever water can be had for sluicing purposes from three to six dollars to the hand is being made with a rocker. Quartz bonanzas are reported there. Swayze Bros. cleaned up one hundred and thirty-five dollars from eleven tons of surface rock. Some of their quartz taken out lately is literally streaked with gold, assaying up into the thousands. Numerous other "clean ups" also make very fine showings, and the present season will undoubtedly prove a prosperous one for our mining districts.

The Willamette valley is 150 miles in length by 30 to 60 miles in width. Contains about 5,000,000 acres susceptible to cultivation. Lands here are mostly taken up, but can be purchased at a reasonable price from parties who have more than they can take care of. The Umpqua valley lies south of the Willamette valley, and is only about one-half its size, but is very fertile and well watered. The wool from that section has the best reputation of all Oregon wools. Markets are good, as Roseburg and Oakland, the principal towns, are connected by railroad with Portland, and they also have another outlet to the ocean by the way of Scottsburg and the Umpqua river.

Paul, in the Salem Record, writes from Yaquina Bay: "As a farming country I do not think that this will ever be very good; that is, for the production of wheat. I am told that oats do very well. Some are turning their attention to the cultivation of hops. Mr. A. W. Wright has some two or three hundred vines that look splendid. As to raising vegetables of all kinds this place cannot very well be beat. It is said to be as good a place for bees as there is on the coast. It is also well adapted to stock raising. We are anticipating lively times on account of the railroad that is being built from Corvallis to this bay, and sincerely hope that it may be pushed forward to completion at an early day."

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