

OREGON AS SEEN BY A PHILADELPHIAN.

Mrs. P. B. Simmons, of Philadelphia, lately visited our State, and her observations, which can be relied on as being correct in every particular, are given in the *Press* as follows:

The unsurpassed natural advantages of Oregon, its mild, salubrious, equable climate, the varied productiveness of its soil, and its great mineral and other resources, have lately attracted much notice, and caused a large and steadily increasing emigration from the older States as well as from Europe. Oregon contains 95,274 square miles, and embraces, from its warm, sunny valleys, to its icy-clad mountains, every variety of climate found in our country; scenery, unsurpassed in any other part of the United States for attractiveness and variety, and a soil so productive that even the surface of the mountains, to a considerable extent, may be cultivated. Three distinct ranges of mountains, stretching across the State from north to south, and covered with mighty forests, afford an inexhaustible supply of timber. At the late State Fair twenty-six varieties of woods from Coos county alone were exhibited. The mineral wealth is very great, gold, lead, copper and iron having been found in large quantities, but as yet imperfectly developed. The gold yield has already reached a million and a half a year. Coal, the essential element in the development of mineral resources, abounds in beds of great thickness. Its rivers, lakes, streams and creeks teem with fish of superior quality, principally trout, salmon and sturgeon, and in its bays are shrimps, oysters, crabs, mussels and clams.

The water-power, so necessary in profitable manufacturing, is unlimited. No part of the Union is better supplied with natural power than Oregon; the falls of Oregon City alone being equal to over a million horse power and capable of great extension. At Salem, the water-power is estimated to be equal to that of Lowell, Mass.

Everything in the way of game can here be found, from the sage-hen to the grizzly bear; but, to find the latter, we are happy to be able to say, the uninhabited portions of the State must be visited. As to the rainfalls (with which they have been so abundantly blessed that the Californians, in derision, call them web-footed), the Oregonians seem well pleased. They say they are sometimes a little disagreeable, but in the end prove the greatest blessing, as their regularity in the absence of severe frosts always insures abundant crops and plentiful natural pasturage. The rains are always gradual. The rainy season proper is from the middle of November till May 1, with intermissions of days and weeks of fine weather, after that up till July 1 only occasional

showers. Oregon must surely be the farmers' paradise, for there has never been a failure of crops there from any cause. There is no rust or mildew, and no locusts, grasshoppers, chinch-bugs, or insects of any kind to injure the crops. Hail storms, hurricanes, whirlwinds and earthquakes have never been known.

Sheep raising is attended with great success. Oregon wool ranks high in the market. The wool clip for the season of 1878 amounted to six and a half million pounds. For wheat growing it is unsurpassed, as it always has an abundant supply of moisture. It is noted for its superior quality and large yield, and for being the heaviest wheat in the world, weighing from sixty-five to sixty-nine pounds to the bushel measurement. It commands the highest price in the Liverpool market. Thirty bushels per acre is an average yield without fertilizers, and with high cultivation very much larger. Stock raising is successfully pursued and very profitable, from the fact that the native grasses remain green during most of the year, and cattle are allowed to roam at large the greater part of the year. Ship building has been followed for some time with great success at different points along the coast. A steam revenue cutter, built by the Oregon Iron Works at Albina, for the United States Government, is said to be the finest vessel in the revenue service. Vegetables of every kind, of a superior quality, are grown in Oregon. The potatoes are especially fine. In the office of *The Oregonian* we saw eight potatoes which weighed twenty-two pounds, with an average length of eleven inches and a diameter of three and a half inches. They were of early rose variety. Mr. Bunion, of Benton county, raises potatoes of the same variety that weigh five pounds each. Indeed, potatoes are usually so long that farmers carry them piled up in their arms as they would billets of wood. The yield is from 150 to 300 bushels per acre. The potato disease is unknown, and the potato-bug has not yet made the tour of the continent. The onion crops are really enormous, yielding from 1,000 to 1,200 bushels per acre. Six squashes were on exhibition from Marion county, which weighed 1,256 pounds, ranging from 180 to 238 pounds each. California must look to her laurels.

As a fruit country, Western Oregon excels. Apples, pears, plums, cherries, prunes and quinces grow in great abundance, and are unusually fine. The apples and pears are simply immense. The Gloria Mundi variety of apple often weighs between two and two and a half pounds; plump, round and rosy, and as pretty as a picture. Some of the pears grown have weighed three pounds. Large as the fruits are, they still retain the beauty and flavor

of the smaller varieties grown in the East. So great is the yield of fruit that numerous fruit drying establishments have been erected. Plums and prunes have been found to be especially profitable for drying, as these fruits grow to a very limited extent in the United States, and large quantities have been heretofore imported. Many of the vegetables, also, and other fruits, are canned. Strawberries, raspberries, currants and gooseberries are of a very fine quality. A company is about being formed for the cultivation of the cranberry, at Olympia, the land near there being well adapted to that purpose. Oregon should be called America's El Dorado, for here they say *hard times* have never been known. This wonderful State is only waiting for the magic touch of the iron horse to make it the richest producing section in our country. There are millions of acres unoccupied and susceptible of cultivation listening for the Westward ho! of thousands of the young men who on our Eastern shores are striving for their daily bread, while here they might be monarchs of all they surveyed.

The Government offers a donation grant of 160 acres to every head of a family, male or female, or single man over 21 years of age, on payment of the registry fees, which amount to but a few dollars.

The State motto of Oregon is *Alis Volat Propriis* (she flies with her own wings), and it certainly is a very appropriate one, for with her resources she might be a world within herself.

When we consider that so recently as 1848 Oregon was admitted as a territory, and that she did not become a State until 1859, and though but sparsely settled, her yearly exports amount to over \$16,000,000, it seems extraordinary. The only drawback to Oregon is the want of railway communication with the East. The population of the entire State is but 150,000, and yet, in 1877, there was realized from the wheat, wool, salmon and hops, \$11,000,000 in gold. This will give some idea of what the State is destined to be when communication is cheap and easy.

Apples weighing a pound apiece are not uncommon here. We recently weighed a lot of seventeen which forces the scales past the sixteen pound mark.

A little fortune awaits the enterprising individual who will start an establishment for preserving the immense amount of different varieties of berries that are now annually going to waste in Coos county. The following are the most abundant there: Black, blue and scarlet huckleberries, blueberries, blackberries, sallow and salmon berries.