

LINN COUNTY.

The following brief description of the resources of Linn county and advantages of the city of Albany, of which we furnish a number of illustrations in this number, is from the pen of A. T. Hawley:

The city of Albany lies nestled in the heart of the Willamette valley, and it has a rich country north, south-east and west of it, a river on one hand and a railroad on the other. Its entire aspect is one of thrift, permanence, prosperity, and steady growth. It is the county seat of Linn county, which embraces area, say, forty miles long by seventy miles wide. Not being a parallelogram, the acreage is estimated at about one and one quarter million acres. A very large proportion is valley land, generally characterized as sandy loam. Successive cropping for many years has unquestionably impoverished the soil. In a conversation I held this morning with a gentleman who evidently knew what he was talking about, he said that the need of phosphate of lime is beginning to make itself apparent. If such is the case, it only remains for somebody to go to work and find a marl bed. This valley was an arm of the sea once, and the marl is here somewhere. The valley proper is from fifteen to twenty miles wide, extending easterly from the river to the foothills, where the face of the country changes, and is diversified by small valleys with soil of rich loam and rolling hills abundantly productive of rich natural pasture grasses. The county extends to the summit of the Cascade mountain range, the slopes of which are finely wooded. But little, if any, vacant land is found until those portions of the foothills thirty miles back of the river are reached.

PRICE OF LANDS.

Farms within three miles of the town of Albany are held at \$100 per acre, from thence the price declines to \$50, and thence on down to \$5. A fair average may be set down at from \$20 to \$25.

RUST IN WHEAT.

But the appearance of rust in wheat fields has had the effect of making some people believe that the end of all things, agriculturally speaking, in Linn county, is at hand. I am inclined to think that such views are fallacious. The rains for the present season were exceptionally heavy and late, and most of the grain was spring-sown, and from the best information I can obtain, the fall and winter-sown grain was unscathed. The farmers of Linn county are learning the same lesson that Californians have had to pay for so dearly, and they are taking advantage of the present fine weather to get in their crops. If it is only spring-sown wheat that is liable to rust, the farmers of



No. 1 ENGINE HOUSE, VICTORIA, B. C.

Photo by R. MAYNARD.

Linn will require more storage room next season.

TAXABLE PROPERTY.

The assessment roll for 1879 foots up \$6,784,800; indebtedness, \$1,825,346; exemption, \$471,600—total sum upon which taxes are levied, \$4,490,854. The rate of taxation is as follows on the one hundred dollars: State, 70 cents; county, 60 cents; school, 30 cents; total, \$1.60. It may be mentioned in this connection that the tax-roll for 1879 foots up some \$200,000 less than that of 1878.

EDUCATIONAL.

Linn county makes a good showing in her public school department. There are 87 school houses in the county of the average value of \$579.13 each. The number of teachers employed is 140. Wages paid teachers run from \$20 per month to \$100. Probably a fair average would be \$45 for male teachers and \$33 for females per month. The number of school children enrolled is 5,367; the per cent. of attendance does not show so well, the average being a little less than half of the whole number enrolled.

FARM LABOR.

The wages paid to farm laborers range from \$25 per month with board, the year round, to \$1.50 per day in harvest time.

TIMBER LAND AND SAW AND FLOURING MILLS.

One-third of the area of Linn county is timber land, the principal varieties being fir, (or Oregon pine,) white pine, maple, ash and oak. Home manufacturers convert the ash, oak and maple into very attractive furniture. There are in the county fifteen saw-mills, with cutting capacities ranging from 5,000 to 15,000 each per day. The price of lumber ranges from \$8 to \$14 per thousand. There are nine flouring mills in the county, one with the capacity of 300 barrels per day, another 150 barrels, and the remainder running down to custom mills.

TOWNS.

There are numerous towns in Linn county. Albany, with 3,000 inhabitants; Harrisburg with 700, with an agricultural implement manufactory; Brownsville, 600, with a woolen factory employing from twenty to forty hands the year round, and manufacturing superior blankets, cloths and woolen goods generally, with the principal sale depot in Portland; Scio, 500; Lebanon, twelve miles east, 400, to which latter point a branch of the O. & C. R. R. will be run in time for the next year's crop. Tangent, Shedd, Halsey, and Peoria are other small towns in the county.

MANUFACTORIES.

Albany manufactures furniture, linen twine from flax raised in the county,

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