

FACTS CONCERNING OREGON.

HEALTHFULNESS OF THE CLIMATE.

The experience of the early missionaries, the employes of the Hudson's Bay Company, and the American settlers that followed them, during the course of a period of thirty years, is that the climate of Oregon is a healthy one. In comparing the rates of mortality in the Pacific States with that of some of the States east of the Rocky Mountains, the following facts are obtained; the deaths in Arkansas are at the rate of one person out of every 48; Massachusetts and Louisiana loses one in 57; Illinois and Indiana, one in 87; Kansas, one in 68; Vermont, the healthiest State on the Atlantic slope, loses one in 92; California, loses one in 101; Oregon, one in 172 and Washington Territory, one in 228. "The equable temperature, summer and winter, the absence of high cold winds and sudden atmospheric changes, render people less subject to bronchial, rheumatic and inflammatory complaints than they are in countries where the thermometer swings entirely around the circle. In July and August, as at the East, children are troubled with summer complaint, but the disease is ordinarily quite amenable to treatment, and seldom runs into dysentery.

POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.

Oregon is divided into twenty-three counties, viz.: Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Grant, Jackson, Josephine, Lake, Linn, Lane, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Union, Umatilla, Wasco, Washington and Yamhill.

Eastern Oregon comprises the counties of Baker, Grant, Lake, Union, Umatilla and Wasco.

MARKET FACILITIES AND COST OF TRANSPORTATION.

The Columbia river forms the northern boundary of Oregon, and is navigable to the Willamette, one hundred miles from the sea, at all seasons of the year for sea-going steamers; and for steamboats to Wallula, a distance of two hundred and forty miles, with two interruptions, one of six miles at the Cascades, and one of fourteen miles at The Dalles, where portages are made by means of railroads forming connections with the boats. Above Wallula the Columbia and one of its tributaries, the Snake River, is navigated to Lewiston, during periods of high water, a

point in Idaho Territory at the base of the Bitter Root Mountains, and over four hundred miles from the ocean.

The Willamette river is navigable to Portland, twelve miles from its mouth, for ocean steamers and sea-going vessels; and above Portland for river steamers as high as Harrisburg at all seasons, and during high water as high as Eugene City, a distance of two hundred miles from Portland, by the course of the river. The Yamhill and Tualatin rivers, tributaries to the Willamette, flowing from the west, are navigable during periods of high water to the interior of large agricultural districts situated in Yamhill and Washington counties.

The business of that part of Oregon drained by these waters employs about thirty river steamboats. All points of the Columbia from The Dalles down, and on the Willamette from Salem down, are in daily communication with Portland. San Francisco is the principal market for the products of the Willamette Valley, although a large trade exists with British Columbia and the lumbering districts of Puget Sound, large cargoes of wheat, flour and other Oregon products are also shipped to the Sandwich Islands, China, Australia, South America, New York and Liverpool, direct from Portland and Astoria. Farmers, as a rule, dispose of their crops to the mills located in their own neighborhoods, or to dealers in Portland who ship to foreign markets on their own account.

The price of most farm products in the Willamette Valley is regulated by the condition of the foreign markets. Those markets, however, are numerous, embracing all the seaport towns in all the countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean, so that notwithstanding wheat may be low in Liverpool, it might be high in China; or, if low in both these, it still may be high in South America.

The outlet of the sea enjoyed by the region of country drained by the Columbia and its tributaries, gives it an advantage in this respect over the sections in the interior of a continent.

PRICE OF FARMING LANDS.

In Western Oregon, lands sell according to its location, and surrounding circumstances. Land well drained, lying contiguous to a city or village, is always in demand, and bears all the way from 30 to 50 dollars per acre.

There is plenty of land that can be bought far below these figures, its value (as before stated) depending upon its location. Much of the hill land can be bought for a light figure above its price of entry.

GOVERNMENT LANDS.

In Eastern Oregon the amount of government land still vacant is very large. The section of country known as the Klamath Lake region, in the southwestern corner of Eastern Oregon, is as large as the state of Rhode Island. About half of it is the finest kind of arable prairie land, the remainder good grazing and timber lands, all well watered. This entire section of country contains but few inhabitants. In the northern part of Eastern Oregon, is a strip of high, rolling prairie land, ten or fifteen miles wide, skirting the northern base of the Blue Mountains, and extending from the Cascade mountains to the eastern line of the State, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles. It is reasonably well watered; timber convenient on the adjacent mountains, and well adapted to grain growing, grazing and dairying purposes. Its present number of settlers is very small. Vacant lands are still to be obtained in Grande Ronde, John Day's, Harney Lake and Des Schutes Valleys, in addition to which there are hundreds of small valleys distributed throughout the vast territory known as Eastern Oregon, containing bottom land of the finest quality for farming, and hill and table land unsurpassed for stock-raising purposes.

STOCK RAISING.

Much attention is given to the breeding of thoroughbred and good-blood stock in Oregon—horses, sheep, cattle and hogs; and in the eastern division of the State, to the breeding of fine mules also. Noted sires and dams have been brought from Kentucky and other States to improve the already good native stock of horses, and from these have sprung splendid racers, fast trotters and roadsters, and carriage and draught and work horses of such quality as to command the highest prices in the horse markets of California and Nevada. Durham and other famous breeds of cattle have been brought from Illinois, New York and New Jersey; also the best breeds of Spanish and French Merino, Cotswold, Southdown and other celebrated or favorite sheep from Vermont, New York, England