

OREGON AND WASHINGTON AS A FARMER'S HOME.

The first mistake an immigrant makes is in expecting to find here even more than the most enthusiastic writer ever promises. Descriptions of the climate, soil, products, and prosperity of Oregon, are true. The facts appear in the figures which are in our commercial reports and journals. But the farmer who proposes to move hither from Iowa, or Kansas, or Dakota, imagines this to be a prairie region like those interior States. He comes and finds hills, mountains covered with forests, hard to be cleared off, while east of the Cascades, he finds high and dry prairies and deep ravines, with hardly a tree in sight. In the Willamette valley he will find a few prairie sections from two to twenty miles square, like those of the Missouri valley, but the soil is of a lighter color resting on clay, and is less inviting to the eyes than the black loam of the Western prairies. His ideal of large farms or open lands into which he can put the plow and run furrows one or two miles long the first year and gather the harvests, is not met.

Even the treeless plains of Eastern Oregon and Washington are much broken up by present or former water courses. The outlook is rough. Work, patience, time, energy, and the outlay of cash, are needed to make farms here, as well as in the Middle and Eastern States. These plain facts destroy the poetic ideas of the new immigrant. He also becomes dissatisfied with the mild rains of winter and the dry air of summer. The woods and mountains seem too dark and rugged, and the rivers and bays too densely fringed with forests for him to penetrate, and too deep amid the canyons for him to enjoy their isolation. In a word, the Pacific Northwest is not the interior northwest of his imagination. It is not the paradise of which he is in search. It is a country for hard work, economy, courage and enterprise, every day and every month in the year. It is a country in which the farmer must use his pencil and keep his account-book, of the cost of every acre and its income; the gain or loss on every animal; the expense of raising of every ton of his harvests, whether hay, oats, barley, wheat, corn, vegetables or fruit, and the expense per mile of transporting

them to the markets of the world. If the immigrant is not prepared to study these questions, or is not willing to make these close calculations of profit and loss, item by item, he mistakes the resources and advantages of Oregon.

His second mistake is an adverse opinion formed on a wrong standard of judgment. It is a fact that the exports of flour, wheat and other cereals, from the Columbia river increased annually 38½ per cent. for eleven years from 1869. It is a fact, that the value of the average annual productions of the State per person, is \$80, reckoning the population at 177,000. Counting the number of voters at 40,800, the average is \$37 per man.

It is a fact, that the products of Oregon and Washington can be annually transported to the markets of Europe from our seaports several dollars cheaper per ton than the products of the Mississippi valley can be transported from the lake or river ports of that interior. It is a fact, that the cost of carriage to our seaports is less than the cost of carriage to their lake and river ports.

It is a fact, that the farmer in Western Iowa and Nebraska can not afford to raise corn or wheat for distant markets, while it is a fact that the wheat and flour from Oregon and Washington are sent to Europe, Asia and Australia, in annually increasing fleets of ships. It is a fact that the farmers of the interior west can and do afford to sell out their estates and buy improved farms in Oregon and Washington at an advance upon current rates, and that the limit of profit upon these yearly exchanges has not yet been reached. It is a fact, that our soil and climate have not failed of a fair harvest of the cereals, vegetables or fruits, for thirty-one years, as the writer can testify from his own observations. The farmer can take his homestead, or buy his land in the interior east of the Cascade mountains, and transport his grain on the Columbia at \$6 per ton to the ship, or \$8 per ton from Lewiston, Idaho, 400 miles, handling it six or eight times, which is at the rate of 18 to 25 cents per bushel, and do his own carting to the river at the rate of 3 to 21 cents per bushel, according to the distance from the landing, and receive a dollar per bushel on a yearly average at the ship. Eastern Oregon and Washington lands will, if properly tilled, give a ton of wheat per acre. Or, the farmer can

choose the woodlands of the Willamette, lower Columbia, Cowlitz, or Chehalis, or Puget Sound basin, near tide-water and ship navigation, and clear, fence, plough and sow these lands at an average of \$25 to \$100 per acre. For example, if it cost 18 cents per bushel, or \$6 to transport a ton of 33½ bushels to the ship, this is equal to the interest on \$60 per acre, and \$8 per ton is equal to the interest of \$80 per acre.

It is possible by rotating crops and good cultivation to raise 50 bushels per acre of wheat. This has been done on the hill lands of Clackamas county.

It is possible to raise in these valleys, 250 to 340 bushels of potatoes per acre, which range from 25 cents to \$1.10 per bushel at the ship. Fowls, eggs, butter, cheese, fruits and many other edible products of the garden and the farm, are easily raised and transported to market. The English, German, Welch, Scottish, Swedish, French and Italian farmers and gardeners, soon make rich farms and comfortable homes in these valleys. They are eager to get the title to these fine forest-covered hill lands. A few acres cleared, support the family, while the balance of the timber and wood land increases in value every year. With these facts well known to residents here, the adverse opinion of the new comer and his hasty departure, will not only prove his mistake, but his loss, as it has proved the great sacrifice and loss of many others, who have come and staid a few months or years, and then returned to California or the Western States, and finally, made their home on the Pacific Northwest, tired and disgusted with their frequent removals elsewhere. The wise thing for the immigrant is to study all these facts and figures before he starts, then if he decides to come, let him settle down to the hard work of making his home here and he will succeed.

Sorghum of a superior quality, to that raised in the Mississippi valley, has been successfully grown in the Yakima valley. W. T. The cane when cut was six feet high and the sap crystallized in ten days without chemical treatment. Good sugar and syrup from Yakima valley cane will before long form one of the items of exports from the upper country.