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A MIDSUMMER PICTURE.

Not long ago the fields were waving in luxurious green, sending up their myriad heads of bloom to bend in swelling waves before the sea-winds that swept the valley, and catching inspiration from wind and sun and shower, the emerald hues were changed through July to glowing sapphires, to be soon melted into gold. The harvests of the valleys, hills and plains, seen from some unusual height, seemed like rich mosaic inlaid upon the landscape by the patient plow. Man plowed and harrowed in the seed, and then stood by to watch the wonder-work of nature, which swept the earth with miracles of sun and rain, and brought the spring-time to its aid; and when the growth gave promise, sent the warm thrill of Summer o'er the land to ripen the emerald heads that June had fed with showers, leaving Summer suns and midnight dews to perfect the grain for the coming harvest.

Then comes man again to save what nature has bestowed. The scene has changed from quietness and Summer beauty to toil and weariness. Thousands of harvesters are gathering and binding the grain in sheaves, and noisy threshers are cleaning out the seed from chaff and straw. Where lately the waving grain was a scene of perfect beauty, there are, perhaps, long rows of shocks piled, or, if the thresher has done its work, there is a pyramid of sacked grain that tells of the almost finished harvest. While the fall-sown grain is being gathered, the later planted fields are turning to ripeness and waiting their turn to be cut down. It is a season when the farmer's toil lasts from dawn till dark, but he works to save all the promise of the year. It is not easy to realize the farmer's work, unless you journey through the farming districts in harvest time, and see busy

hands reaping the grain, and the assembled neighborhood exchanging labors at threshing time.

The midsummer picture is a pleasant one, because it speaks of peace and plenty. As we see the loaded wagons hauling the newly-threshed grain to the warehouse, we follow it in thought through the channels of commerce to see it finally distributed to rich and poor in far distant lands. Deep loaded ships make their voyages over the oceans and up the great rivers to bear away our products to feed toiling millions in other lands. Just now the farmer works with more earnest will, because he knows that the world has need of all his products, and will pay well for them, and with this riddle of the future solved for him, his hours of toil are lightened. There can be no happier picture than this afforded of a whole land bending to the harvest and saving the prolific wealth that labor has produced.

CROPS FOR 1881.

In Linn county, Nimrod Price harvested 2,400 bushels of wheat from 60 acres of land. This is the 22d crop from the same land in 26 years. In that time it was in meadow twice, and fallow twice. In Umatilla county, David Bolen harvested 38 bushels of wheat to the acre. His oats stood six feet, and in some spots, six feet nine inches high. Boston Darr, near Weston, Umatilla county, harvested 52 bushels of barley to the acre. T. J. Gallagher's 242-acre field in the Greasewood country, (Eastern Oregon,) averages 25 bushels of wheat to the acre—885 bushels of barley was the yield of 18 acres. R. Ginn, near Weston, harvested 34 bushels of wheat to the acre. W. M. Steen got 1,986 bushels of oats from 30 acres—and 1,840 bushels of barley from 20 acres. S. P. Purdy got 985 bushels of barley from 30 acres. John Ridenauer's 10-acre field of oats on Pea Ridge, yielded 750 bushels.

A. J. Wise's wheat yielded as follows: Fall wheat, 45 bushels to the acre; spring 33, and volunteer, 27 bushels. The Prospect farm, (a Portland concern,) harvests 40,000 bushels of wheat.

Thirty bushels to the acre is the general average of wheat in Umatilla Co., Oregon. In Eastern Washington it is as follows: Around Pomeroy, 38 bushels; Walla Walla, 33 bushels; Waitsburg, 30 bushels; Dayton, 27 bushels; Moscow, 25 bushels; in the Palouse country, generally 30 bushels.

S. Ramsby's 40-acre field of wheat on Molalla Prairie, Marion county, averaged 23½ bushels per acre; C. W. Noblett's 16-acre field of wheat near Needy, Clackamas county, averaged 25 bushels per acre. Hon. Allen Embree's field of oats near Dayton, W. T., yielded 98 bushels per acre. J. Garner's (Smith's Club Wheat) in a field near Colfax, W. T., yielded 40 bushels to the acre. Dr. Blalock's farm, near Walla Walla, yielded 70,000 bushels of wheat, some of the land going as high as 50 bushels to the acre.

OREGON TWINE is fast gaining a reputation abroad as being the best in the market; and to Albany belongs the honor of having the only twine manufactory on the Pacific Coast. Linn county, and in fact most of the Willamette Valley, is well adapted for flax culture, and when placed in competition with samples from Holland, Australia, Russia and Ireland, Oregon flax came off victorious. There are fields in Linn county this season where the flax stands nearly five feet high.

A LARGE natural cave has been discovered at the head of Williams creek, in Josephine county, Oregon. It consists of a series of subterranean caverns or chambers, through which a person can walk for some 400 or 500 yards from the entrance, and there are still chambers beyond, the entrances to which are too small to admit a person, but could be enlarged sufficiently, it is thought, by a little labor with pick and hammer.

VALUE OF WALLA WALLA PROPERTY.—From the assessment returns we find that the value of real property in this city is \$914,790; personal, \$1,078,850; making a total valuation of property the city of \$2,000,640, a gain over last year of \$279,230.