

THE FRUITS OF OREGON.

Taking into consideration our temperate climate and regular seasons, with so few vicissitudes of heat and cold, it might be supposed that Oregon offered great advantages for the cultivation of fruits of all kinds, and the supposition is borne out fully as to the productiveness and richness of what fruits each part of the great state can cultivate, but all parts of the state can not grow the same fruits with equal certainty and success. This fact depends upon the difference in climate that distinguishes the various geographical divisions of Oregon and apply to Washington Territory, also, though not entirely, because Oregon to the south has many of the characteristics of California whilst Washington is entirely to be northward of this state.

The subdivisions of the Pacific Northwest are naturally as follows: The coast region from California to Vancouver's Island on the north, is tempered by the seawinds and ocean currents and though warmer towards the south has similar climate and products. All this stretch of coast is between the coast mountains and the sea and comparatively shut off from the interior. They claim that this region will produce apples, pears, cherries, plums and prunes, in the greatest perfection and is the natural home of all the small fruits—say strawberries, currants, gooseberries, raspberries and blackberries, but the same may be said of all the country included in Oregon and Washington. The valleys between the Coast and Cascade ranges possess the same qualities as the coast counties and to the south—in Umpqua and Rogue River Valley—can grow peaches and grapes, the latter in perfection, as is evidenced by the profusion of each that is found in Rogue River Valley this season. They claim to be able to make wine to compete with the best vintages of California, and certainly they can grow peaches to absolute perfection, a quality that will stand them in good stead within a year or two when this early fruit can be marketed to the northward to advantage, which will be when the railroad system is complete from British Columbia to California.

The difference in climate—Southern Oregon being warmer and sunnier the year round—gives this beautiful valley a proficiency in growing fruits and all

other things that need sun by day and the breath of summer by night, while the Willamette Valley is so swept by ocean breathings that its summer nights are positively delicious to the tired mortal who courts slumber. Nights that require blankets in midsummer do not encourage peaches or grapes to mature to advantage, and so the northern portion of the whole region west of the great Sierras pays, for its delicious summer nights, by having to import peaches, grapes and some early vegetables, but no one is found to complain of the season which brings the harvest hand such perfect and refreshing slumbers and relief from the toils of the day; "tired Nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep," has priceless value.

The balmy nights are peculiar to all Oregon, north, south, east and west, but the degree of cold does not effect the growth of fruit east of the Cascade Range so directly as in the Willamette Valley. Soon as you cross the Sierras you perceive a different climate and see a change of products. At The Dalles, and even at White Salmon and Hood River—which are mid way in the mountains, but subject to the climatic influences from the east—the peach orchards commence to bear well, and through the eastern country grapes succeed in favorable location—location has much to do with success in fruit culture every where. It must not be supposed that neither peaches or grapes can grow in the Willamette Valley, for both are found in every locality and can be grown with some success by every one who has a home plot, but we speak commercially when we say those fruits are not grown here to a profit, though perhaps we are mistaken with regard to grapes in some instances. Peaches thrive and bear well along side any house, on any side of it, while they do little when planted out in open orchards and are apt to have curl leaf and ripen little or no fruit. So of grapes, they ripen so late in the season that the frost often catches them in October, before they are fit to gather. So we conclude that Western Oregon and Washington are not, save with exceptions before noted, the natural home of these fruits.

We read lately that California capitalists are investing enormously in fruit culture, and putting up establishments for canning and drying all the fruits they have. They say all Europe offers

a market they cannot hope to over-stock for all time, and the extent of the fruit trade now existing there, and predicted for the near future, is so enormous that we are led to consider the capacity of our section in that connection and wonder how it comes that so few new orchards have been set out and so little progress made in putting up fruit for export. The resources of the future includes fruit growing on an increased scale no doubt, and it is well enough, for the benefit of the present Oregonian and the tens of thousands who are coming here, to look this important matter in the face and see what value it must possess.

All the hill regions of this country and especially the mountains spans and foot hills, offer great inducements for fruit growing, because nearly all staple fruits do best on such locations; but the orchardist should carefully scan each locality so as not to plant an orchard where late spring frosts will spoil crop prospects. We can grow in this valley as fine apples and pears as the world has ever seen, and probably our pears can beat the world, or at least cannot be beaten in the world. We can produce currants, gooseberries, strawberries, blackberries and raspberries, with any other country. Cherries with us are simply superb in right localities, and thrive well in the yards of many citizens of Portland. Plums and prunes grow here in richest profusion and perfection and so far no curculio has ever been known on this coast. Southern and eastern Oregon can grow peaches to commercial advantage also, and can supply the world as well with all the fruits we have named as attaining excellence in this valley. Here then, you can perceive what a great future awaits fruit production. When the roads projected are constructed to the eastward and we can send direct to eastern cities as they now do in California, our fruits will supplement theirs, because grown three to five hundred miles north. The world will be our customers and millions of dollars will be paid annually, within the next decade, for Oregon fruits.

Another feature we have not touched is that owing to climatic influences the fruits we can grow to advantage possess unequalled flavor. It is true of both fruits and vegetables grown here that they have a finer texture and far more delicious flavor than California products