

Conference of this State. This institution of learning is worthy of special mention, being ably conducted by Prof. L. L. Rogers, and in no small degree contributes to the material prosperity of Ashland. The people of Ashland point with just pride to the fact that there is not a single saloon in their town, containing 842 inhabitants, it being impossible for a saloon keeper to obtain a license, by reason of an overwhelming public sentiment against the traffic, the people holding the opinion that the tax thereby saved is better applied in beautifying their homes and educating their children.

The mineral resources of Jackson county, although its mines have been continually worked for 29 years, are far from being exhausted, and, indeed, it is only within three years that efficient hydraulic machinery has been introduced. The Sterling mine, owned by Capt. A. P. Ankeny, of Portland, and Mr. Frank Ennis, the latter gentleman being superintendent, is without doubt, the most valuable placer mine in Oregon. It was opened several years ago at an outlay of \$100,000; although its yield is not definitely known by the public, the property is valued by its fortunate owners at \$2,000,000. The mine is situated on Sterling creek, about eight miles south from Jacksonville, formerly one of the richest mining camps in the county. It is estimated that 50 years will be insufficient to work all the ground owned by the company. Another large hydraulic mine, paying handsomely, is owned by a Chinaman on Applegate Creek; and still another owned by the Squaw Lake Mining Company on the same creek will soon be in working order, and promises handsome dividends. The aggregate yield of gold dust in Jackson county, since the discovery of the mines in 1852, is estimated by the best authorities at about \$30,000,000, and it is said that by the aid of modern appliances and powerful machinery the mines will produce quite as well in the future.

The fine stock of Jackson county is noted throughout the State as well as California, a number of horses having been sold at prices ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Wool is one of the chief exports, and wine, not inferior to the very best vintage of California, finds its way to the tables of those desiring it at a price not exceeding that of New

York cider; and grapes, remarkable for their flavor and excellence, are a drug on the market. The railroad, however, within the next year will tap this, the garden of the State, and an outlet for all its splendid products will enrich its population and inspire them with renewed industry.

Some of the grandest scenery on the Pacific Coast is to be found in the Cascade Mountains, which form the eastern boundary of Jackson. Crater Lake, Annie's Creek, Canyon, Rogue River Falls, and the Squaw Lakes, with their floating islands, are among the weird and wonderful spots that have inspired visitors with admiration, and which, when better known and more accessible, will be as much the objective point of tourists as the grandest peaks of the Tyrol. We present to our readers in this issue a number of beautiful sketches and engravings of buildings in Jackson county, the original photographs of which were kindly furnished us by Peter Britt, Esq., an artist of nature and education, and to whom we are under lasting obligations.

There are three papers published in Jackson county; the Oregon Sentinel, at Jacksonville, the oldest published in the State except the Oregonian, is Republican in politics; the Democratic Times also published in Jacksonville, and the Tidings (neutral) published in Ashland. Outside of Multnomah there is not another county in the State which has three such well gotten up and ably edited journals as the above mentioned.

One of Jackson county's greatest curiosities is the Great Sunken Lake, situated in the Cascade mountains, about seventy-five miles northeast from Jacksonville. This lake rivals the famous valley of Sinbad the sailor. It is thought to average 2,000 feet to the water all around. The walls are almost perpendicular, running down to the water and leaving no beach. The depth of the water is unknown, and its surface is smooth and unruffled, as it lies so far below the surface of the mountain that air currents do not effect it. Its length is estimated at twelve or fifteen miles, and its width ten or twelve, and there is a mountain in the center having trees upon it. It lies still, silent and mysterious in the bosom of the everlasting hills, like a huge well scooped out by the hands of the giant genii of the mountains in the unknown

ages gone by, and around it the primeval forests watch and ward are keeping.

Recently a party while visiting this spot fired a rifle several times into the water at an angle of forty-five degrees, and were able to note several seconds of time from the report of the gun until the ball struck the water. Such a statement seems incredible, but it is vouched for by very reliable persons.

The Jackson county assessor furnishes the following regarding the wealth of that county: Acres of land, 229,678; total value, \$816,449; average value, \$3.55; improved land, 113,000, value, \$670,602; average value, \$5.93; unimproved land, 116,678; value, \$145,847; average value, \$1.25; town lots, total value, \$55,911; improvements, \$273,530; merchandise and implements, \$385,564; money, notes, accounts, shares of stock, &c., \$550,550; household furniture, carriages, watches, &c., \$75,206; No. of horses and mules, 4,841; total value, \$163,486; average value, \$33.77; No. of cattle, 9,039; total value, \$86,820; average value, \$9.60; No. of sheep, 31,332; total value, \$36,125; average value, \$1.15; No. of swine, 9,525; total value, \$17,721; average value, \$1.65.

Gross value of property, \$2,461,362; indebtedness, \$594,892; exemptions, \$232,619. Total taxable property, \$1,633,851. Number of polls, 1,050.

The county's annual productions are as follows: Wheat, 300,000 bushels; oats, 350,000 bushels; barley, 100,000 bushels; rye, 3,000 bushels; corn, 40,000 bushels; potatoes, 60,000 bushels; apples, 100,000 bushels; peaches, 15,000 bushels; pears and plums, 15,000 bushels; hay, 30,000 tons; wool, 250,000 pounds; grapes, 150,000 pounds; butter, 26,000 pounds; cheese, 15,000 pounds; onions, 100,000 pounds; bacon, 400,000 pounds; lard, 80,000 pounds.

The amount of land passed from the government to individuals in the county is about 240,000 acres, and there yet remains in the hands of the government a large amount of land susceptible of profitable cultivation.

No place in Oregon offers so good a chance for rapid increase in value of land as Jackson county. Government land which can be had to-day almost free of charge, will be worth from \$5 to \$10 per acre in less than two years from now when the railroads, which are certain to be completed by that time, furnish an outlet for the surplus products of the county.