

from becoming raging torrents in winter to overflow the valleys. The valuable timber may all be removed as commerce needs it, without destroying the young growth by destructive fires, the prevention of which is demanded by every consideration of prudence, economy, and climate; and the thoughtful citizens of Marion county should take a leading part in securing legislative action to protect the timber wealth of the county.

The mineral resources of the county are as yet wholly undeveloped, untouched, unexplored and barely known to exist. Gold, silver, lead, coal and limestone, have been found in the Cascade range within the county, and some attempts have been made to discover the extent of these mineral deposits; but so far with indifferent success. The finest specimens of gold and silver bearing rock which we have ever seen, were taken from a vein of quartz on the North Santiam river. But a large outlay of capital is necessary here, as in all other mineral regions, to explore these mines by proper shaft and tunnels, to lay bare their concealed wealth. That this will be done when the mining business becomes more settled and freed from the disturbing elements of gambling speculation, and interest on money depreciates to the standard of older countries, we have no doubt.

The soils of this county produce finely all the cereals and vegetables cultivated in this region; wheat, oats, flax, barley, rye, buckwheat, potatoes, turnips, beets, peas, pumpkins, &c. Fruits flourish in all parts of the county, but especially in the oak hills region south of Salem, and in the Waldo hills. The soils in the prairie are a rich loam, while in these rolling hill regions, they show a larger percentage of mineral properties. The soil in the timber belts resembles more the soils of the uplands, than it does that of the prairies in close proximity; clearly showing that the forests have not been so productive of *humus* or vegetable matter, deposited in the soil, as the grass covered prairies.

A splendid exhibition of the capacity of Marion county soil, may be seen at the seed store of Mr. Dickinson, near Salem, where all varieties of garden seeds are produced in great quantities and of the finest quality, to supply the demands of the State. A visit to these gardens, or to the capacious storehouse in Salem, will richly repay all persons

interested in such matters; and the conscientious care manifested by the proprietor, in cultivating only the best, and saving and putting up only perfected seed commends his goods to the patronage of all.

There is considerable alluvial bottom land in the county along the Willamette, Santiam and Pudding rivers. This land is a very rich, warm, sandy loam, and produces immense crops of potatoes, carrots, beets, and in fact everything the farmer cultivates. It is also utilized at some points for hop yards, and produces this crop to great profit. We know of one man near Silverton who purchased a piece of such land on Silver creek, going in debt for his whole outfit, land, hop roots, and everything; but, by hard work and attention to his hop yard, cleared enough on his hop crop in three years to pay for everything in full, and put him out of debt, with a fine home and independent for life.

Marion county is amply supplied with that prime necessity to the highest development of agriculture and the mechanic arts,—a general diffusion of springs and streams of water. The mountain streams coursing through the county in various directions, furnish convenient supplies of water for farm and domestic uses, and also economical power for saw mills, flouring mills furniture factories, etc. The water power developed from the Santiam and Mill creek, and used at Stayton, Aumsville, Turner and Salem, has been worth more to Marion county than a million dollars in money donated to her people. It has employed great numbers of people for years, in the saw mills and flouring mills it has operated, and in the old woolen factory, besides furnishing a home market for wheat, wool and timber. And the value of this water power has just commenced to be felt. As time rolls on, one factory, and one mill after another, will be set in motion by this tireless inexpensive power of gravitation, raised in fogs and vapors to the mountains and sent down in the snows, rains and crystal streams, to the busy wheels in the valley, until thousands of people and millions of money will find employment by this agency. At Silverton, also, there is another valuable water-power which was the original means of starting a town at that point, and indirectly building up a prosperous place. And when we go back into the

Cascades, we find millions of horse-powers awaiting the hand of enterprise to turn the water upon some overshot or turbine, and commence the manufacture of lumber, furniture, etc. All this is wealth to Marion county.

GRAZING AND DAIRYING.

Grazing cattle for beef is not now so extensively carried on in this county as formerly, yet, Messrs. Coolidge & McLane, of Silverton, and others have many large herds. Grain fields have to a great extent taken the place of pasture fields. While all the farmers raise more or less stock, having an occasional beef and some bacon for sale, yet the stock business is not now what it was away back in the fifties. Sheep, also, for both wool and mutton, are raised to profit in all parts of the county; while many flocks, notably those of Messrs. John Minto, T. L. Davidson, and others, have become celebrated all over the Northwest for the purity of their blood and the fineness of their fleece.

Butter and cheese of the best quality is largely produced in several parts of the county, but principally in the Waldo hills region and the oak hill country south of Salem. The dairies and cheese factories of Messrs. Ankeny, Cranston, and Calvin Geer, have secured a wide reputation for the excellence of their products. The field for dairy and cheese making in this county is an inviting one. Cheap lands can be had in the foothills, where, by slashing off the light fir brush and sowing grass seed on the ashes of the burn, a rich and permanent crop of pasturage is easily secured, with ample supplies of hay for winter use. In the same way, and on lands too rough for the plough and reaping machine, but with rich soil, pasturage can be cheaply secured for sheep husbandry, and just where the sheep will have perfect health.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

Marion county, like all new countries, is blessed with a goodly number of these centres of "great expectations." Salem the county seat and capital of the State, is of course the central point in all matters of trade and public interest. Much of its interest is well shown in the illustrations of this article.

All the State institutions, except the university, and agricultural college, are located at Salem. The State capitol and offices, penitentiary, insane asylum, school for the deaf mutes, and orphan