

the year around for the shipment of freight to Portland, Astoria, or points up the Columbia river. And recently, to more fully develop the great wheat belt of the Waldo hills country, and build up the manufacturing interests of Salem, the Salem and Waldo Hills Railway has been incorporated with good prospects of success.

CHURCHES, SCHOOLS AND SOCIETY.

Being the first settled, and for a long time the most populous and wealthy county in the State, and having withal the advantage of the State capital, Marion county may well be expected to possess, as it has in fact, a larger development of all the means of culture and refinement. While this argues nothing to the disadvantage of surrounding counties, any one of which would have made equal progress with Marion, if equally favored by fortune, yet it does show that the people of this county have fully appreciated their advantages, and with proper public spirit labored to make the most of them.

Salem is emphatically a city of schools and churches; and in all other parts of the county the church and the school, religious and secular instruction and improvement may be found together.

The annual meetings of the State fair, the sessions of the legislature and the supreme court, bring people and money to Marion county, and it all assists in the progress and improvement of the people. The press is ably represented by the daily and weekly *Oregon Statesman*, and the daily and weekly *Talk*, both published at Salem; while the wide awake *Appeal* sheds forth its light from Silverton, and faithfully serves its patrons in the Waldo hills region.

STATISTICS.

From the census of 1880, we learn that at that time Marion county had a population of 14,801; that the number of farms opened was 1,452; that the number of acres in actual cultivation, was 159,264, and the number in permanent meadows, orchards, and pastures, was 34,890; that the number of horses in the county was 5,734; the number of milk cows, 4,348, and the number of other cattle, 6,051; while there were 35,230 head of sheep, and 13,808 swine. In that year the crop of wheat reached 1,065,886 bushels, and of oats, 693,630 bushels. And in the same year the farmers sold 163,458 pounds of wool;

224,000 pounds of butter; 15,784 pounds of cheese; 8,520 pounds of honey, and 67,000 pounds of hops, while the fruit crops brought in \$54,448, and all other farm productions, \$1,511,336.

INDUCEMENTS FOR SETTLEMENT.

The foregoing facts furnish to the settler looking for a location, the most satisfying reasons for or against his location in this county. Lands are for sale at all prices, ranging from highly improved homes on the prairie near Salem, at fifty dollars per acre, to the undisturbed brush and forest lands in the foothills and mountain slopes, eight, ten and fifteen miles from the railroads, at two dollars and a half per acre, for railroad sections, and public lands as a free gift to homestead settlers.

We can add in conclusion, from a personal knowledge and residence in the county, that nowhere is life and property held more sacred and secure; that the climate of the county is indisputably a most healthy one; and that the people themselves, (a most important element to consider in selecting a home,) are social, hospitable, generous and public spirited, and anxious to help any man who will help himself.

ESTIMATING THE FUTURE.

Mr. T. F. Oakes, Vice President of the Northern Pacific railroad, is reported as estimating the earnings of the company during the year ending June 30, 1883, at \$6,100,000, and during the year following at \$7,997,500. Of the latter amount, Oregon and Washington are expected to yield \$1,262,500—\$400,000 from the transportation of coal at \$2 per ton, \$500,000 from the transportation of wheat at \$5 per ton, and the remainder from stock shipments. The rate of \$5 per ton is named by Mr. Oakes as the one rate to the Pacific ocean. This report indicates that the powers that be, intend to reduce the freight charges on wheat from Eastern Oregon and Washington, \$3 a ton, or nine cents a bushel. If they do that, we believe they will double the product of this country within a year after the reduced rate is announced.—*W. W. Union*.

CLIMATE.—To those parties who desire information as to our climate, we would state that our summers are generally dry and bracing, and our winters very much warmer than a similar latitude east of us. Many winters pass over without any sleighing, and snow never lies more than three or four weeks. The air is clear and pure. People coming here from the East are usually delighted with our climate.—*Western Leader (Umatilla Co.)*.

A FRUIT RANCH ON THE COLUMBIA.

We have before made mention of what Amos Stark is doing in the fruit business at Columbus, and now give the result of the crop for 1881. His orchard consists of 40 acres, but 20 acres are young trees, not yet bearing. The peach crop this year amounted to 3,000 bushels, from which he will realize nearly \$2,000. He has dried about four tons of peaches, has shipped and sold 40 sacks of peach seeds at 3 cents a pound, and has yet on hand 1,000 pounds of seed. Besides that, he raised 200 bushels of potatoes, 30 tons of hay, and wagon loads of watermelons, of which he sold about \$100 worth. Mr. Stark has about 100 acres of just such land as his orchard, with a plentiful supply of water for it all and as fast as he is able, will devote it to the culture of fruit. There are up and down the Columbia river, thousands of acres that can be made to produce in like manner.—*Goldendale Gazette*.

EAGLE valley, Union county, is truly a garden spot of great promise. The climate of this fertile spot is very mild, more so than any other portion of Eastern Oregon; and corn, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, grapes and melons, grow finely and attain a great size and excellency unequalled. The late Joseph Gale sold \$2,000 worth of produce raised on 16 acres of ground; D. Nichols raised on one-quarter of an acre of ground 10,000 pounds of potatoes; C. Craig raised 2,000 pounds of potatoes on one and one-eighth of an acre; M. Reeves raised 2,000 pounds of grapes; G. E. Holcomb sold \$250 worth of vegetables from two-and-a-half acres. There was raised in the valley this year, 60,000 pounds beans, 75,000 pounds of potatoes, and other products in proportion.

THE Indian reserve in the Malheur country occupies a vast tract of magnificent country, which is now lying dormant and useless, for the reason that the Indians are not sufficiently strong in numbers to utilize it, even if they possessed the energy and disposition. The move now being made to reduce it, or to have it abandoned wholly, will meet with universal approval among those interested in that section, and cannot in any degree interfere with the well being of the aborigines. They do not use the land at all, and could not if they possessed all the modern improvements and appliances in working it. Beyond a doubt this land should be thrown open to settlement by the whites.

TOBACCO is said to thrive in Haystack, Grant county, with proper cultivation. If people will use the weed, and likely they will so long as there is any to use, it is better to raise it at home than to buy from abroad.