

with fir and cedar, which works up into lumber for all building purposes. As the country grows older, and settlements become denser these bodies of timber will become mines of wealth.

The county is drained by the Umpqua river, with its north and south branches, and all their numerous creeks and affluents. Springs of pure cold water break out of the hills in all directions, and there is no part of the county which is not abundantly supplied not only with pure healthy water for all purposes of the farm and household, but also for water power to drive mills and machinery.

One of the best springs of mineral water on the Pacific Coast, breaks out of the hills at Snowden, on the O. & C. railroad close to the town of Drains. Here Dr. Payton, an able and experienced physician, has erected a fine hotel and other accommodations to which hundreds of invalids annually resort for the use of this mineral water.

MINERAL WEALTH.

The mineral wealth of Douglas county probably exceeds that of any other county in the state. And while it has been known to exist for years, yet for lack of the means of transportation, and the want of capital at lower rates of interest than has hitherto prevailed, there has, so far, been very little done to develop this natural resource of wealth. Sympathizing with the spirit of the whole Pacific slope, the first object of all prospectors of the county has been to find mines of gold. These have been found in this county, it is true, and many rich mines are known to exist which are yet untouched for want of water to wash down the hills, yet the real and sure mineral wealth of Douglas county consists in the more commonplace commodities of coal, lime and hydraulic cement. Many quartz veins bearing silver have been found, but none so far, that will justify working at the present prices of labor and machinery. Copper and nickel have also been found, but no permanent workable mine has yet been opened. Veins of valuable coal have been found both in the Calapoia range, and on the route of the railroad proposed to connect Roseburg with Coos Bay. Large and valuable deposits of lime and cement have been found in the neighborhood of Oakland, and although sufficiently tested to prove the intrinsic value of the limestone and cement rock, yet no opening has been made to work the mines as a business.

But the most notable undertaking to develop mines in this county, is that of the Quicksilver Mining Company which is now working the "Nonpareil Mine," in the vicinity of Oakland. This company has expended on tunnels, shafts and openings of the mine, and in reduction furnaces, probably over \$100,000. After a long battle with all sorts of difficulties, most of which resulted from the want of competent and experienced men to build the furnace and manipulate its working, the company are just now beginning to reap some reward for their persevering efforts and generous outlay of capital. One hundred and twenty-five flasks of quicksilver worth thirty dollars a flask, have recently been shipped, and the outlook for the future is very encouraging. Near the "Nonpareil" is the "Bonanza," also a quicksilver mine, owned by the Douglas Quicksilver Mining Co., with a nominal capital of \$100,000. This company has not yet commenced active operations on its own account, but has leased its mine for ten years to the other company, which has opened

the mine to the depth of two hundred feet, and which shows abundance of rich ore. The cinnabar ore in these mines varies in quality from three to twenty-five per cent. of a yield of quicksilver, which is considered rich rock.

PRODUCTIONS AND INDUSTRIES.

The soil of Douglas county, especially the rich alluvial bottoms along the rivers and creeks, produces immense crops of wheat, oats, barley, corn, flax seed, and all the cultivated vegetables of this latitude. Douglas, and its neighbor, Jackson county, is the only region of Western Oregon where corn can be raised at a profit. In the Willamette valley the nights are rather cool for this grain, which demands about one hundred days of hot weather for its perfect maturity.

In the line of live stock, Douglas was for a long time one of the leading counties of the state, but as the grain fields have absorbed the rich natural meadows, the area of pasturage for cattle has so diminished as to materially reduce the number of cattle raised. In sheep husbandry, Douglas is still the banner county of the state in proportion to its area; and must annually turn off at least a quarter of a million dollars' worth of wool. Formerly large quantities of hogs were raised and the pork converted into bacon; thus condensing the crop into the smallest and most valuable bulk, so as to facilitate transportation; and many is the team, with its jolly driver, we have seen hauling bacon all the way from Douglas county to Portland, two hundred miles, before the railroad was built, and making a round trip, returning with the years' supply of groceries, in about two weeks.

In the matter of fruits, Douglas county is a most fruitful land. On the first settlement of the valley, the settlers found strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, grapes and plums growing wild in abundance. Of the cultivated sorts, apples, peaches, pears, plums, apricots, cherries, and the whole line of berries, are produced in great quantities, and of the finest quality. The finer varieties of California and foreign grapes are being introduced, and seem to stand the climate well, and produce fruit of fine quality.

In the matter of manufacturing industries, Douglas county has, so far, but little to show. The great mass of her population having been engaged in the quiet pursuits of farming and stock-raising, there has been but little demand for the industries and pursuits developed and necessary to a denser and more cosmopolitan population. Still, a beginning, sufficient to show the value and profitable employment of capital in this line, has been made. Mills for the manufacture of lumber exist throughout the county, and fir and cedar lumber for all home demands, and the construction of the railroads is being produced. Vast quantities of oak exist, which can be and will be utilized for agricultural implements and furniture. And for the finer articles of cabinetwork, the evergreen myrtle and wild cherry furnish a material of great strength, solidity and beauty, and capable of taking on the highest polish.

Of the miscellaneous arts and manufactures, such as flouring mills, breweries, tanneries, and the like, their establishment keeps up with the growth of the county.

TOWNS AND POPULATION.

The population of the county is now about ten thousand, and increasing with a steady, healthy growth. And it has resources to employ and support a population as large as the State of Connecticut.

The principal towns are, Roseburg, Wilbur, Oakland, Gardiner, Drains, Scottsburg, Myrtle Creek, Canyonville and Riddleburg. Roseburg is the county seat, a flourishing town of about two thousand people, and one of the healthiest and prettiest villages in Oregon, reminding the traveler of the neatness of the New England villages. Oakland is the next largest town, a place of considerable importance, and the center of the present mining interest of the county. Drains is a flourishing village at the north end of the county, and the point where the traveler leaves the railroad to cross over to the towns on Coos Bay via Scottsburg. Gardiner is the seaport of Douglas county, which, although not on the ocean, is accessible to deep water vessels. It was once a city "of great expectations," but the construction of the railroad on the inland route of commerce has cut off much of its trade. Wilbur is the educational centre of the county and the seat of an academy under the control of the Methodist denomination, and offers a complete course of instruction in all scientific and classical studies. It is most beautifully located in a grove of wide-spreading oaks, which give a picturesque charm to the landscape. "Myrtle Creek," so called from its location on that creek, and in the vicinity of a great forest of the evergreen myrtle trees, is a town of large local trade, and is making a steady growth. Riddleburg is a new town lately sprung up in a day on the extension of the O. & C. Railroad, and is located in the center of a rich and productive region. Canyonville is the gate to a forbidding defile through the Umpqua mountains, and through which "fighting Joe Hooker," when only a lieutenant, made a government road away back about the year 1850. In this vicinity is found the veins of gold, silver, copper and nickel; and the time will come when Canyonville will be the centre of a great mining district, employing thousands of busy people.

Douglas county can boast of some of the largest and most prosperous business houses in the state outside of the city of Portland. The houses of S. Marks & Co., and Abrahams & Co., at Roseburg, would be a credit to any city of a hundred thousand people in the eastern states.

RAILROADS AND TRANSPORTATION.

The transportation facilities of Douglas county consist of the outlet to the ocean at Gardiner, which requires hauling by teams to Scottsburg and transfer by river steamer to Gardiner, to make it available; and by the line of the O. & C. Railroad, which now extends almost through the entire length of the county from north to south. The work of extension is now in progress, and several heavy tunnels are necessary to let the road through into Rogue river valley beyond. But these will be completed and the whole line finished through so as to connect Portland, Oregon, with San Francisco, California, by the end of the present year. Then the great travel and trade between the two states will pass through the county. Another line of railroad is projected from Roseburg to Coos Bay by the valley of the Coquille river. This promises to be of great value to the county in developing the vast resources of coal and timber along the line, and affording a short and direct connection with ocean-going ships. Ex-Gov. Chadwick is at the head of this enterprise, and is supported by gentlemen with ample capital living in San Francisco.

Altogether the prospects of Douglas county are second to no portion of Oregon or the Pacific Coast, and her people have every reason to congratulate themselves on "the good time coming."