

Lands are for sale at all prices, ranging from highly improved farms near Salem for \$50 and even \$100 per acre, to the undisturbed brush and forest lands in the foothills and mountains at \$2.50 per acre to purchasers, or a free gift to homestead settlers.

Salem, the county seat, is the capital of Oregon, and disputes with Astoria the honor of being the second city in size in the State. It contains the capitol building, the Willamette University, the county buildings, two large flouring mills, oil works, foundry and machine shops, furniture factory, and many fine public, business and residence buildings. The water power at Salem is very extensive and valuable.

The other principal business centres are Silverton, Stayton, Jefferson, Gervais and Aurora. The county is well supplied with shipping facilities. The O. & C. crosses it from north to south near the river, while a narrow gauge division of the O. R. & N. traverses its entire width from northwest to southeast. The Willamette furnishes an independent waterway the entire year to Portland and the Columbia River towns. The advantages of securing land in old and well established communities are leading many to purchase improved farms in Marion County, while many more are settling upon the Government and railroad lands in the foothills.

LINN COUNTY.

Linn County extends from the Willamette River to the summit of the Cascade Mountains, and lies between Marion and Lane counties on the north and south, having Benton for its neighbor west of the river. In its area of about 2,400 square miles it embraces bottom lands, high prairies, foothills and mountains, having the most extensive prairies in the Willamette Valley. The best agricultural part of the county is a strip or belt bordering on the Willamette River, an open, fertile prairie region, thickly settled with thrifty farmers. This belt is from twelve to twenty-five miles wide, and is one of the finest wheat and oat growing regions in the State. East of this is a belt from ten to twenty miles wide, which is hilly and undulating, diversified with small valleys, in which are many quiet, pleasant homes. The uncultivated lands in this section are for the most part covered with brush and timber, such as oak, fir, ash and maple. The next belt, comprising the remainder of the county, and extending to the summit of the Cascade Mountains, is a mountainous region, almost wholly unsettled, and, in fact, generally unfit for settlement. It is covered with large forests of fine timber, which in time will become extremely valuable. The entire county is finely watered by large streams, of which the principal ones are the Willamette River, North Santiam and South Santiam. Besides these there are numerous small streams, all rising in the Cascade Mountains and emptying into the Willamette or its tributaries. The water in these streams is clear and pure, and furnishes abundant water power for manufacturing purposes. The Oregon & California Railroad enters Linn County on the north, about six miles east of the Willamette River, and runs about ten miles

southwest to Albany, and thence south and southwest about thirty-two miles to Harrisburg, a mile above which point it crosses the Willamette and passes on south through Lane County. There is a branch railroad from Albany east to Lebanon, a distance of fifteen miles, where it connects with the narrow gauge road running west of, and parallel to, the O. & C. These roads, with the Willamette River, afford transportation facilities both by rail and boat.

As in other counties in the valley, the vacant Government land is confined almost exclusively to the foothills and mountains. Improved lands in the valley section can be purchased at prices varying from \$15 to \$40 per acre, though many farms would, if sold at all, command a higher figure. The desirable land in the foothills and in sections more removed from market and transportation can be purchased at from \$5 to \$25 per acre. There is considerable land well adapted to hop culture, and that industry has already taken strong hold upon the county.

The county seat and chief business centre is Albany, a live town of 2,800 people, lying on the west bank of the Willamette. It possesses good water power, which is utilized by flouring mills, saw mills, sash and door factories, chair factory and a number of other industries. It lies on the line of the O. & C. R. R., and is reached by boats on the river at all seasons of the year. Other towns are Brownsville, where is a woolen mill which is one of the leading manufacturing industries in the State; Lebanon, which contains a flouring mill, sash and door factory and grain elevator; Harrisburg, containing a saw mill and flouring mill; Scio, possessing a flouring mill; Halsey, Shedd, Crawfordville, Tangent, Peoria and Waterloo.

LANE COUNTY.

Lane County, with its area of 4,500 square miles, much of it fine agricultural land, is the largest one with any portion of its surface lying within the valley, and is one of the most productive in the State. The central portion of the county occupies the upper end of the Willamette Valley and the mountains that bound it on the south, while the remainder extends to the summit of the Cascade on the east, and crosses the Coast Range to the Pacific on the west. The valley portion is composed mainly of level or slightly rolling, fertile prairie, bordered next to the mountains with low foothills, covered with grass and scattering oak, pine, fir, maple, alder and other varieties of timber. Each river and creek flowing through the valley is fringed with a narrow strip of timber, consisting of fir, maple, balsam, ash, alder, cedar, etc. The mountain ranges on the south, west and east are heavily timbered with forests of fir, pine, cedar, hemlock, spruce and other varieties of giant growth. Besides the valley land, which never fails to produce abundant crops of wheat, oats, barley, rye and other cereals, as well as vegetables and fruits of nearly every variety, there is a good deal of splendid farming land along the rivers and smaller watercourses in the mountains, and in the foothills are many thousands of acres of valuable land belonging to