

men alone. There are between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 invested in the business, and the value of the season's pack, at the low rate of \$5 per case, is \$3,250,000. It can easily be understood how thriving must be a community supported by such an industry; yet this is but one of its advantages. Situated as it is at the mouth of the Columbia, with a good harbor and a custom house, it is the natural gateway of Oregon for all ocean commerce; and with a railroad connecting it with the Willamette Valley, a road that has been surveyed and may soon be constructed, Astoria will become an important shipping point for wheat and other valley products, and will no doubt become the stopping place of many vessels that now sail past its docks and go 100 miles inland to receive their cargoes at Portland. The facilities for shipbuilding on a large scale are very superior, and as a manufacturing point, especially of flour for foreign shipment and lumber for markets at home and abroad, she possesses great advantages. Two saw mills are located there.

Outside of the city Clatsop County has an area of 1,400 square miles. The surface of the country is chiefly mountainous, but many streams flow through, along which are areas of fine agricultural land. Even back from the streams, almost everywhere, the soil is excellent and well adapted to cultivation, when the ground has been cleared of its dense growth of timber. Clatsop Plains, a strip of land lying along the sea shore, which has been settled for thirty-five years, is the largest body of agricultural land in the county. The soil is light and sandy, and produces vegetables, grain and small fruits in abundance. But little wheat is raised, oats and barley being the principal cereals. Hay is the chief crop and dairying the leading feature of the farming business. The soil is well adapted to hop culture, though that industry is not yet carried on there. The same is generally true of the ranches on the Nehalem, Lewis and Clarke, Young's and other rivers in the county. On these streams and in the mountains are large areas of vacant land, covered with timber, still open to settlement.

In the vicinity of Saddle Mountain, where rise the Lewis and Clarke, Nekanikan and North Nehalem, there is a large tract of desirable land. These streams diverge but slightly for a number of miles, and the ridges between them are easy of ascent. The streams are lined with bottom lands, which near their sources become several miles in width. In the whole region there are probably 500 square miles of excellent land, the meadows of these streams being the richest possible, and the soils of the intervening slopes equal to any upland. It is all timbered. For vegetables, hay, dairy products and small fruits there is a sure market at high prices. From end to end the county is covered with a dense growth of magnificent timber, and hundreds of men make money by logging into the streams from the claims of settlers and selling the logs to mill men at Astoria. Much charcoal and cordwood are also taken from the claims. In the Nehalem Valley, lying partly in Clatsop and partly in Columbia, is the largest body of the most desirable timber and the greatest extent of valley land. Great induc-

ments are offered there for settlers to locate and enjoy the benefits of the railroad when built through that section of the county. Coal of a superior quality has been discovered in the southern portion of the county, and it is probable that whole region is underlaid with seams of that valuable material. Iron ore has been found in several places to the east, and it probably exists in Clatsop as well.

TILLAMOOK COUNTY.

One of the most inviting of Oregon counties is Tillamook, as yet but thinly settled and almost entirely undeveloped. It lies for about seventy miles along the coast, reaching inland as far as the summit of the Coast Range Mountains, and having Clatsop adjoining it on the north and Benton on the south. From the mountains a number of rivers of considerable size and many smaller streams flow down to the ocean. The Nehalem flows out from Clatsop and enters Nehalem Bay at the county line; the Wilson, Trask and Tillamook flow into Tillamook Bay, and the Nestucca and Siletz enter the ocean direct further to the south. Along all the streams are many thousand acres of valley and bottom lands, the greater portion of which are as yet unsettled, and in the uplands lying along the coast, between the streams, are vast tracts of splendid grazing land, fitted, also, for agriculture when cleared, that remain still in their primitive state. The largest and oldest settled section of agricultural land is Tillamook Valley, surrounded by mountains on the north, east and south, and sheltered from the ocean winds by a range of high hills that rise between it and Tillamook Bay, it possesses the most delightful climate of the whole coast of Oregon. Back of the fringe of timber, a mile or two deep around the bay, the valley opens in a fine variety of prairie, woodland, knoll and ravine, stretching away for miles, to climb at last the easy and wooded slopes of the Coast Range. Three or four rivers come down from the mountain through narrowing arms of the valley, gathering the bright, pure waters of hundreds of mountain rivulets and brooks. The best of the valley land (meaning that which is prairie and most easily cleared) is, of course, occupied by settlers already there. But there is room for thousands of homesteads on Government land which can be put in cultivation at an expense of a few dollars per acre, which, if at first more encumbered and troublesome to subdue than prairies of Eastern Oregon, is, when once in cultivation, far more valuable.

Twenty miles south of Tillamook Bay is the Nestucca. The river has about ten miles of tidewater, with splendid soil on both sides of the stream for twenty miles up from the bay. The bottom land is narrow, not more than three-quarters of a mile wide on an average, but the foothills are low, with numerous small streams running down from the main mountains, on which there is considerable good land, as good as there is in the State, vacant. The country has no mills, although there is quite a demand for lumber, which has to be shipped from Yaquina by steamer. The timber is mostly dead from fires, but there