

is some yellow fir which is green near the river, enough to run a large mill for years, and good water power near at hand, immediately at the head of tidewater. There is a small bay with nine feet of water at low tide. The county is receiving many settlers, but there is yet much vacant land, where industrious men can make for themselves good homes.

The prairie lands or high plains, stretching up and down the coast for nearly sixty miles and back to the mountains for twelve miles, are the easiest reached, and but for the ferns and brakes that grow in profusion, absorbing the moisture and killing off other vegetation, would make the finest farms. As it is, the vine maple bottoms are the most desirable. With the exception of its dairy products, timber and fish, the county has but little to export. Agriculture has made but little progress, owing chiefly to a lack of transportation, but partly to the fact that with a few cattle, a fishing rod and a gun, the settler can live in royal style without the labor that accompanies grain farming. The barley of this region is superior to that of the Willamette Valley, and oats, potatoes, fruits and all kinds of vegetables are prolific. The county needs settlers to clear the land, cultivate it and make homes for their families; and when this is done, the other great need—sufficient transportation facilities—will surely be provided. One who has money can buy land at what would anywhere be considered low figures. He should have enough left after buying his land to stock it, and by fair industry he can make money and grow rich. The settler with limited means can find plenty of opportunities to make a home. He can homestead or pre-empt 160 acres of land, and from the start can make a living for himself and family. The waters will supply him with trout; the shores and inlets abound in clams; his rifle should furnish him plenty of fresh meat, and a small garden patch can supply vegetables which need only planting to grow. The lumber industry is being developed, and will in the future be a large one. The mountains are covered with fir and cedar of gigantic size, and the rivers are in every way suitable for floating logs to mills situated on the bays at their mouths, where vessels can be loaded. A large mill has been erected on Tillamook Bay, and others will surely follow. There is also a large salmon cannery on the bay. As to shipping facilities, they are at present confined to the small steamers that make periodical visits to the bay; but there is little doubt that a railroad will be run across the mountains, either from the Willamette Valley or branching from the road to be built to Astoria, as soon as the settlements are far enough advanced to make such a road profitable. Tillamook, the county seat, Hobsonville, Hebo and Oretown are the chief towns, none of them as yet advanced beyond the village state.

BENTON COUNTY.

The western portion of this county [see "Willamette Valley" for the eastern end] lies along the coast from Tillamook to Lane. Its characteristics are much similar to those of Tillamook, though for many square miles the

timber has been destroyed by forest fires. Where this has occurred a rank growth of giant ferns has sprung up, growing so thickly that at a distance their tops—several feet from the ground—present the appearance of a fine velvety turf; and with the exception of ranging cattle upon it, which fatten on the wild pea vine growing beneath the ferns, but little use has yet been made of this land, except along the river bottoms. Yaquina River flows westward across the northern end of the county and discharges into the bay of the same name. Farming and stock raising are carried on along the river and bay, but not on an extensive scale. There exist no broad levels for large fields of grain, and though the range over the hills is very wide, no one has entered largely into the stock or dairy business. The soil has been enriched by ashes from the burned forest, and yields abundantly in the bottoms, and on the hills when the ferns have been conquered. Potatoes are excellent, and large quantities are exported. Fruit does well, as is attested by several small orchards and one large one.

Yaquina Bay is destined to become quite an important receiving and shipping point. The Oregon Pacific road was recently completed from the bay across the mountains to Corvallis, where it reaches both the Willamette River and the O. & C. Railroad. Vessels of sixteen feet draught can cross the bar, but this depth will be increased several feet when the Government improvements now in progress are completed. The largest town on the bay is Newport, just within the entrance. It has considerable shipping trade, chiefly with San Francisco, and contains about 200 people. Yaquina City is an embryo town further up the bay, and is the terminus of the railroad, possessing terminal works, car shops, warehouses and docks. One mile south is Oneatta, the site of a good saw mill. Toledo and Oysterville are also small communities on the bay, and Elk City, at the head of navigation on the river. Lumber, oysters and miscellaneous products are the articles now shipped from Yaquina Bay, but it is the intention of the railroad to make it a shipping point for wheat, flour and other products of the great valley across the mountains.

Alsea River cuts through the mountains and enters the Pacific near the southern end of the county. Along its course is much good bottom land. Upper Alsea Valley is ten miles long and from one to three wide, and has a rich, deep alluvial soil. Grass is excellent the year round, and there is an abundance of pure water. The advantages offered for dairying are obvious. There are now some 350 people in the valley. The river from that point descends 1,000 feet in passing through the mountains to Alsea Bay, an estuary at its mouth. Flowing into the stream near its mouth are Five Rivers and Deep Creek, along whose fertile banks many settlers have located. There is room for many more along the Alsea and its tributaries.

LANE COUNTY.

That portion of Lane lying along the coast is quite mountainous and covered with dense forests. Except