

Southern Oregon.

The region here designated as "Southern Oregon" embraces the counties of Jackson and Josephine and the greater portion of Douglas. It lies between the Coast Range and Cascade mountains, and is cut off from the Willamette Valley by the Calapooia Mountains, a transverse range connecting the two great ranges, from which it extends southward a distance of 125 miles to the California line, where another high cross range—the Siskiyou—hems it in. Through it run two great rivers—Rogue and Umpqua—which, rising in the Cascades almost within a stone's throw of each other, diverge in their westward course, until they cut deep gorges through the Coast Range and enter the Pacific a distance of ninety miles apart. Instead of large valleys or plains of level land, bordered on either hand by the two great mountain ranges, the country consists of numerous small valleys, separated by mountain ranges and spurs of various heights, and drained by a large number of creeks which find their tortuous way into the two principal streams. Thus the country is exceedingly broken and its local divisions almost innumerable. Forests cover the greater portion of the entire region from the summit of one great range to that of the other, only the broader valleys, bottom lands and sidehills being to any extent free from timber and underbrush. All parts of this region are well watered. Save in some elevated portions of the Cascades, there is hardly a quarter section of land that does not possess an ample supply of clear, cold water. Springs burst forth in profusion, feeding the multitude of small streams.

The climate of Southern Oregon is, in many respects, superior to that of any other portion of the Pacific Coast. While its rainfall is ample, it is far less than in the region to the north, while the frequent droughts of the great Sacramento Valley south of it are unknown. Closed in by mountain chains, it is not swept by winds heated by a journey over vast stretches of level land, while across the low summits of the Coast Range steal the cooling breezes from the sea. Storms cannot reach it in the full strength of their power. Protected from hot winds in summer, exempt from excessive rains in winter, while coming fully within the influence of the warm Japan current, the climate is singularly equable, agreeable and healthful. With a natural drainage of its surface that renders large areas of swamp land impossible, it is never afflicted with pestilential or malarial fevers, nor has it any prevailing form of disease. It is a land where fertility of soil, a healthful and agreeable climate and beautiful scenery conspire to make life a pleasure to the well and to impart new vigor to the invalid.

DOUGLAS COUNTY.

The county of Douglas includes the region commonly known as the "Umpqua Valley," though, so far as the term indicates a valley as generally understood, it is a misnomer. The only resemblance to a valley it presents, as a whole, consists in a basin-like depression which the centre of the county forms when contrasted with the high

mountains encompassing it. The Calapooias on the north, Cascades on the east, Canyon and Rogue River mountains on the south, and that portion of the Coast Range known as the "Umpquas" on the west, hem it in with high walls of rock and timber. The interior of this great basin is composed of small valleys, plains, canyons, gorges and mountains. Irregular spurs shoot out from the main ranges, and cross the country in all directions, causing an endless variety of hill and vale, meadow and mountain. From the Cascades numerous large creeks, or rivers, flow down between these branching mountain spurs, until their waters are all united and cut through the Coast Range in the form of the Umpqua River. The largest of these are North Umpqua, South Umpqua, Calapooia, Deer, Cougar, Dead Man's, Bear, Coffee, Day's and Myrtle. Cow Creek enters the South Umpqua from the Canyon Mountains; also, from the hills further west, the Olalla, Ten Mile and Looking Glass. Hubbard, Lake and Camp creeks, rising in the Umpqua Mountains, flow into the main stream, as do Calapooia and Elk creeks from the Calapooias on the north. Smith and Siuslaw rivers, which flow across the mountains westward from their sources in the Calapooias, have been described in speaking of the coast region of Douglas and Lane counties.

The chief natural resources of Douglas are its wealth of timber, its many acres of fertile soil, its natural grazing advantages, and the precious and other metals in various localities. An incalculable amount of timber covers the sides of the main ranges and the numerous mountain spurs traversing the county, which may be said to still stand in its primitive condition, the few small saw mills at work having not yet made a perceptible impression upon it. In the Coast Range are several quite extensive tracts of charred and scorched timber, where fires have swept through the forest. Both gold and silver bearing quartz ledges are found in the mountains. Some work has been done on them, especially in the Bohemian District in the Calapooias, but no producing mine has been developed. More or less successful placer mining has been done along North Umpqua, Cow Creek and other streams, and on the last named hydraulic mining is now pursued in several places. Quicksilver is being produced from several cinnabar lodes. Tellurium is also being mined with success. Copper, nickel, lime rock and cement exist in quantity. A large tract in the western end of the county, adjoining Coos, is underlaid with broad carboniferous veins, and other coal measures exist in the Calapooias.

The most permanent, reliable and easily available source of wealth Douglas possesses is her winding valleys and fertile soil. Though small in proportion to the total area of the county, the combined valley and bottom lands aggregate many thousand acres. The valleys have, in the main, long since been subdued to the yoke of the plow, or fitted for the grazing of sheep and cattle. There are, however, much bottom land, and some valleys remote from the usual routes of travel, which still offer opportunities to home-seekers. When the land has been cleared