

and rich in minerals; the foothills afford splendid grazing for cattle and sheep; the valley lands produce cereals, hay and vegetables in abundance, and the river bottoms fruit of unsurpassed excellence. In the diversity of its products and resources, Jackson is superior to any county in the State.

The market for the valley's products has hitherto been necessarily local and limited. The stage companies and teamsters have consumed large quantities of hay and grain, while the flour, vegetables and fruit of Jackson, Josephine, Curry, Del Norte, Klamath and Lake counties have been largely supplied from this region. Beyond what was necessary to supply this demand, however, has not been produced, and it can truly be said that the capabilities of the valley for extensive agriculture have never been fully tested. The arable land embraces about one-fifth of the entire area of the county, including foothills, plains and river bottoms. The foothills possess that rich soil to be found on the hilly lands of Western Oregon, while the plains have much adobe land, and the bottoms are composed of the most fertile alluvium. In the valley, wheat, oats, barley, corn, potatoes, hay, etc., yield abundantly, and anything less than a half crop has never been experienced during the thirty years of cultivation. Twenty bushels of wheat to the acre is considered a very unsatisfactory crop, while as high as sixty bushels have been realized. Barley and oats produce proportionately well, and potatoes and corn are of especial excellence and yield abundant crops.

The foothills furnish grazing of the finest quality, and there are in the county about 30,000 sheep, 10,000 cattle, 5,000 horses and 10,000 hogs. Great attention has been paid to the improvement of stock, and some of the best horses and sheep in Oregon are to be found in this region. Fine dairy cattle are kept, and the dairy products are among the best in the State. It is a well known fact that the finest flavored grapes of California are produced on the sunny slopes of the foothills, and the conditions there found exist in the foothill region of Jackson. The vines produce large clusters, and the grapes have a most excellent flavor, being very juicy, and making a superior quality of wine. The conditions of soil and climate are also very favorable to peaches, the fruit being superior in flavor, though a trifle smaller in size, to the California product. The slight touch of frost in winter, though too mild to injure the vines or trees, gives a flavor to the fruit that is lacking in that of the warmer regions of California. The bottom lands are especially adapted to fruit culture, and it is that class of soil that has been utilized the most by fruit growers. In addition to grapes and peaches, apricots, pears, plums, apples, cherries and the small fruits produce abundantly, and are of excellent quality, especially the apples, which have no superior anywhere. Snow falls occasionally to the depth of three or four inches, but rapidly disappears, while ice never exceeds two inches in thickness, and forms but a few times during the season. In the mountains, of course, there are more snow and ice.

Placer and quartz mining have been the leading indus-

tries since the county was first settled. Iron, coal, copper and cinnabar exist in varying quantities. Timber covers the mountains and promises a supply of lumber for years to come. Four good flouring mills, a large woolen mill and several saw and planing mills make up the sum of manufacturing enterprises. There is an abundance of good water power.

Good improved farming land can be bought from \$20 to \$50 per acre, though a few choice places would command a higher price. Other lands, not so well improved but just as fertile, and in some cases more desirable for fruit and grain culture, can be had as low as \$5 per acre. These prices depend upon the amount of improvements, location, character of soil, water facilities, etc. Many places partially covered with timber, or a portion of which is too steep or rocky for easy cultivation, can be purchased at low figures and turned into excellent farms. Small farms, upon which orchards could be made the principal source of income, can be bought at low prices, and there are many places where a little work in clearing off brush and timber would reward the industrious farmer with many acres of land of the best quality for grain, orchard and vineyard. Much of the hill land will produce good crops of grain, and its capabilities for grapes have been pointed out. It has been used chiefly for grazing, and is nearly all owned in large tracts, which will of necessity be cut up into smaller divisions for farming purposes and sold. The land is so well adapted to mixed farming that it is especially valuable, for with grain, fruit, hay, cattle, sheep, horses and hogs to depend upon, such a thing as an entire failure would be impossible. There is much Government land in the foothills and mountains, as well as large tracts reserved to the O. & C.

Jacksonville, the county seat, and for years the leading town of Southern Oregon, lies six miles from the railroad station of Medford. It has a population of 1,200, and contains numerous stores, etc. Ashland, the southern terminus of the O. & C. road, has about 1,400 people, and contains a woolen mill, flouring mill and sash and door factory; also the Ashland College and Normal School. Phoenix, on the line of the railroad, has 300 people and a flouring mill. Other railroad points are Medford, Woodville, with a saw mill; Rock Point and Central Point. The line of the O. & C. road runs through the valley, giving access to Portland markets, and good roads lead into the regions east and west which are, to a degree, tributary to the valley.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY.

The county of Josephine adjoins California, and is hemmed in between Jackson on the east and Curry on the west. It is essentially a region of mountains, and its population of 2,500 live chiefly by mining, stock raising and dairying. Rogue River flows across the upper portion in a northwesterly direction, while Illinois River pursues the same general course further to the southwest. The valley land is confined to the comparatively narrow strips lying along those streams and their tributaries. The lower end of Rogue River Valley extends from Jack-