

of November until May, during which period the rainfall is copious and regular, insuring certain crops and good pasturage. In the Willamette Valley the annual rainfall is from 40 to 60 inches—averaging about 50 inches—the same as at Davenport, Memphis and Philadelphia, while in all other valleys it is sufficient to prevent any drought. The rain comes gently and without atmospheric disturbance; thunder storms are rare. The fact that the great bulk of the rain falls during the four months from November to March is what has given Oregon such a reputation for rainy weather.

The climate of Middle and Eastern Oregon differs in this from that of the western part of the State, that there is much less rainfall, because, before crossing the high summits of the Cascades, the ocean air currents have been robbed of the greatest part of their moisture. Consequently, it is colder in winter and drier at all seasons. The rainfall, however, throughout the greater part of Eastern Oregon is sufficient to insure large and remunerative crops, while in other places there is an ample supply in running streams for irrigation purposes. The range of the thermometer is rarely above the summer temperature of Western Oregon, sometimes reaching 100 degrees, but only at rare intervals. Ordinarily the thermometer indicates 90 degrees as about the highest summer temperature, and 10 degrees as the lowest for winter, with occasional lapses to points below the zero mark. For special features of the climate of "The Coast Region" and "Southern Oregon," see pages 106 and 116.

If these facts prove anything they prove that the habitable portions of this whole Northwestern region are singularly adapted, by virtue of their climates, to comfortable outdoor work at all prominent industries the year round; that with soils of ordinary fertility the various cereals, fruits and vegetables can be grown over a vast extent of now unoccupied territory; that millions of cattle, horses and sheep can thrive without shelter or prepared food on almost unlimited natural pasturage; and, best of all, that this is indisputably a healthful and invigorating climate, where epidemics are unknown and no distinguishing type of disease exists.

Hurricanes, floods or other storms destructive to life and property are almost unknown in the history of this region. The growing season along the coast is accompanied with bounteous showers, whose absence in the interior is not felt because of the beneficent distribution of lands and streams suitable for irrigation. During harvest time there is rarely any rainfall; in fact, such a catastrophe as loss of crops from drought or flood would be considered phenomenal.

The general topographical features, the natural resources, the present and possible future industries, the land under cultivation and that still open for settlement or purchase, together with a fund of information locally applied, will be found in the following detailed description of the State by districts and counties, and remarks on the condition and possibilities of agriculture, fruit growing, stock raising, mining, manufacturing, educational facilities, transportation lines, etc.

Willamette Valley.

WHEN, nearly half a century ago, the praises of Oregon were sung along the frontier by trappers, who spoke so glowingly of its great beauty, mild climate and wonderful fertility that a few venturesome men crossed the wilderness to reach it, the Willamette Valley alone was referred to; and a few years later, when long trains of creaking, white-topped wagons toiled annually across the plains and mountains, the hundreds of hardy pioneers from the Mississippi Valley were intent only upon reaching the great grassy vale through which courses the Willamette. It was then supposed to be the only portion of Oregon suited to agriculture; but though we all now understand how great an error that idea was, time has only served to confirm the exalted opinion they then possessed of its marvelous fertility and genial climate.

The Willamette Valley extends from the Coast Range Mountains on the west to the Cascades on the east, and from the Columbia River on the north to the Calapooia Mountains, which separate it from Southern Oregon on the south. Through it run the Willamette River and its numerous tributaries, such as the Clackamas, Molalla, Santiam, McKenzie's Fork, Long Tom, Mary's, Tualatin, etc. The valley is about 130 miles in length by an average width of 100, including the foothills of the Coast Range and Cascades. Lying wholly or partially within it are the counties of Multnomah, Clackamas, Marion, Linn, Lane, Benton, Polk, Yamhill, Washington and Columbia, possessing one-seventh of the area and three-fifths of the population and taxable property of the State. The altitude of the valley varies from twenty to four hundred feet above the level of the sea.

On the arrival of the earlier settlers the lands were found to consist of two sorts—forest and prairie—the latter bare of vegetation other than the rank grasses which then grew luxuriantly upon every open spot. The prairie extended at intervals on both sides of the river from the vicinity of the Falls of the Willamette southward to the Calapooias. Nearly all the elevations of land separating them were covered with timber and brush. Excepting the marks of tillage on cultivated fields, and the evidences of civilization, the valley remains, as regards its salient features, about as the first settlers found it. There are the broad and fertile prairies separated by ridges and by streams shaded by strips of woodland, and the heavy forests of timber trees, covering the mountains and hilly slopes as with a garment.

The first acts of the earlier settlers were to select the most available tracts of prairie, while some laid claim to such places as in the nature of things would become most valuable. Thus the lands in the vicinity of boat landings and water powers were soon taken. There was a sufficiency for all, though the Donation Land Act, passed by Congress for the exclusive benefit of Oregon, gave to each married settler the generous subsidy of 640 acres of land of his own selection, and to the single person 320 acres. That act was a temporary one only. With such inducements immigrants came in rapidly, and in due process of time the valley became, as to its prairie, covered by the