

Clackamas, containing an area of about 1,450 square miles. With the western end lying in the Willamette Valley, it reaches back into the mountains to such an extent that the greater portion of its area is hilly and mountainous. In the foothills and the many small valleys, some of which lie far up toward the summit ridges, are many acres of land open to settlement, while thousands of acres near the Willamette, and in the higher land back from the river, have been cultivated for many years. Of the 1,054,000 acres in the county, 325,000 are owned by private individuals, 58,000 by the O. & C. R. R. and 22,000 by the State. The remaining 700,000 acres are Government land, subject to entry under the general land laws. Fully one-half of it is good arable land, or an amount equal to that which is already taken. Hundreds of sections of such lands are in close proximity to schools, churches, post offices and stores, and are within one day's drive of either Oregon City or Portland. By living on such places the settler would have an almost unlimited stock range, and his fencing might altogether be confined to the land he wished to cultivate. The soil in the foothills is of the richest kind, well watered and no lack of timber, and no more healthful climate exists in the United States. Some portions of this vacant land are heavily timbered, while others are covered with but a light growth of trees and brush. No open prairie land is to be had. Grain, hay and vegetables are the chief crops, and fruit trees are very productive. The fact that green grass can be had by cattle the year round renders this region, and particularly the little well-watered valleys, especially adapted for dairying.

The western end of the county is traversed by two lines of the O. R. & N. Co.'s system, affording splendid shipping facilities, to which are added the numerous boats plying on the Willamette. These are enabled to pass the falls at Oregon City by means of locks and a short canal constructed jointly by the State and private enterprise.

The county seat and largest town is Oregon City, the oldest town in the Willamette Valley. It is situated at the famous Willamette Falls, whose beauty has won admiration from all travelers since the pioneers first beheld them, more than half a century ago. The amount of power running to waste there is sufficient to build up a large manufacturing city. In the almost unlimited quantity of its water power, its splendid shipping facilities by rail and river, its fine location in the edge of the great valley, Oregon City offers greater advantages to manufacturing enterprises than any other place in Oregon. At present there are two flouring mills and a woolen mill in Oregon City, but no doubt this great water power will at no distant day be utilized by more extensive industries. When this is done Oregon City will grow rapidly. This should be taken into consideration by those looking for homes or for safe investments for their capital.

Coal and limestone of a fair quality are found in the foothills. Iron ore is found in great quantities in several portions of the county, and especially along the Willamette. At Oswego, a small town on the river, a few miles below Oregon City, are iron works employing a number

of hands, and extensive rolling mills have been projected for erection at that place. Other small towns in the county are Milwaukie, Canby, New Era, etc. The assessed value of property for the year 1884 was \$3,844,146.

#### MARION COUNTY.

Lying between Clackamas and Linn, and separated from Yamhill and Polk by the Willamette River, is the county of Marion. It has a frontage on the river of sixty miles, but contracts quickly as it extends eastward, running up to the summit of the Cascades in a gradually narrowing strip. In its area it embraces some 1,200 miles of prairies, foothills and mountains, the greater portion of which is valuable for agriculture, and the remainder for grazing and timber. The western end is in the very heart of the Willamette Valley, and is watered by the great river from which the valley derives its name and by numerous tributaries of that stream. This section, some thirty-six miles long by fifteen wide, embraces some of the finest land in the valley. The general surface of the country is that of an undulating plain, with an ascending slope to the foothills and ranging up into the mountain peaks of the Cascades, in which are many valleys lying between the rocky ridges of mountains. While there are many detached and scattered prairies in the county, the principal ones are Salem, French and Howell prairies, exceedingly fine bodies of farming land, having a deep, rich soil. French Prairie has, however, much marshy land, owing to its flatness. The Waldo Hills and the hills south of Salem were, undoubtedly, once open prairies, but have been overspread with oak and fir. These rolling hills are among the best farming lands in Oregon. The first settlers naturally selected the prairie land, where the expense of preparing it for cultivation was comparatively light, but the later ones in these timber-covered hills seem to have secured equally as good soil, though at greater expense for clearing. The yield of wheat on both classes of land is from twenty-five to forty bushels per acre, and this rate has been maintained in some seasons under the most adverse circumstances; also oats, flax, barley, rye, buckwheat and vegetables produce well. Fruits flourish in the hill regions.

There is considerable alluvial bottom land along the Willamette, Santiam and Pudding rivers, having a rich, warm, sandy loam, and producing immense crops of vegetables. It is especially adapted to hop culture. Butter and cheese are made in considerable quantities, and the field for dairying is an inviting one. Good lands can be had in the foothills, where, by slashing off and burning the light fir brush, and sowing grass seed on the burn, a rich and permanent pasturage is secured, with ample supply of hay for winter use. This can also be done in lands too rough for cultivation, and the ground can then be used for grazing either cattle or sheep. The timber resources of the county are valuable. Along the streams and lowlands are ash, alder and maple, in the hills oak and yellow fir. In the Cascades are great bodies of fir, pine and cedar. Water power in abundance is running to waste in the streams, especially those in the Cascades.