

fifty thousand bushels of wheat, and half by spring freshets seems but to enrich a million bushels of oats. The crop of the soil and increase the yield. There 1886 must be resorted to for figures of are hundreds of acres of land adapted to average yield. A field on Col. Nesmith's hops, which are not now in cultivation. farm, at Dixie, yielded fifty bushels to A low estimate of the average yield of the acre, and I saw there, a few days hops is fifteen hundred pounds to the ago, a field of about fifty acres yet un- acre, though some fields have produced cut, which presented the appearance of twice that amount. Taken for a series containing an equal amount per acre. of years, the average price of hops is Numerous large fields, both on the high twenty cents per pound, though in the and low lands, yielded forty bushels of past few years it has risen as high as winter wheat to the acre, and the gen- one dollar, and fallen as low as seven eral average for the county can be safe- cents. The cost of raising hops is about ly placed at thirty bushels. On the eight cents per pound. A yield of fif- farm of D. M. Guthrie, a field of eight- teen hundred pounds per acre, at twenty acres of New Zealand oats yielded seven cents per pound, gives a total of \$300.00 hundred and fifty-eight bushels, after per acre. This is a good profit at the having been damaged more than fifty average price, and in the seasons of high bushels by animals. Barley and rye yield in the same prolific manner. Corn does not make a good crop, and is but little cultivated. The hay crop was fif- teen thousand tons, chiefly timothy, Hungarian grass and red clover. There is but little wild hay put up in the coun- ty, since swamps and overflowed lands do not exist, save the few bottoms oc- casionally overflowed along the river. About six thousand acres are cultivated in hay. Hay brings from ten to twenty dollars per ton. The potato crop reach- es one hundred thousand bushels, and is a paying crop, since potatoes are in de- mand for export to California. Occa- sionally, as in 1886, the export price is as high as one dollar per bushel, al- though in other seasons it may fall to one-fourth that price. Taken for a se- ries of years, however, the potato crop is a highly profitable one.

There is another profitable crop, to which more attention is being paid year- ly. No less than four hundred acres of hops are now growing within the limits of Polk county. The deep, rich, alluvial bottom lands along the Willamette and its tributaries are splendidly adapted to hop culture. Their occasional overflow

by spring freshets seems but to enrich the soil and increase the yield. There are hundreds of acres of land adapted to hops, which are not now in cultivation. A low estimate of the average yield of hops is fifteen hundred pounds to the acre, though some fields have produced twice that amount. Taken for a series of years, the average price of hops is twenty cents per pound, though in the past few years it has risen as high as one dollar, and fallen as low as seven cents. The cost of raising hops is about eight cents per pound. A yield of fif- teen hundred pounds per acre, at twenty cents per pound, gives a total of \$300.00 per acre. This is a good profit at the average price, and in the seasons of high prices, some growers have become com- paratively rich on one crop of hops. The prolific yield, the freedom from insect pests of all kinds, and the exemption from drouth, render hop culture on the river bottoms of this region a peculiarly safe and agreeable business. The com- ing crop in Polk county is estimated at not less than six hundred thousand pounds.

Stock raising and dairying, carried on in connection with farming, can be con- ducted profitably, especially among the foothills of the Coast range. The grass grows perennially, remaining green the entire season along the streams. The copious rains of winter keep it fresh and sweet, and only in the late summer months does it lose its freshness, only to be revived by the first rains of au- tumn. The care and feeding of stock during the winter months is but slight. Shelter from the rain, where cattle may have a dry bed, and a little feed during the few days when snow covers the ground, as it occasionally does for a day to a week at a time, will keep them in good condition. During the entire sea- son they graze upon the green grass, and yield the rich milk that stock in