

contour of the surface, the hill lands may be plowed at any time during the rainy season, as the drainage is perfect. These lands, when thoroughly cultivated, are wonderfully productive, yielding from twenty to fifty bushels of wheat and sixty to one hundred of oats. Rye, barley and flax produce equally well, though not much cultivated. Winter wheat is a specially fine crop, the wheat of the hills excelling that of the valley in quality. Grass, and especially clover, makes a good crop. Vegetables produce well, potatoes being a specially prolific crop. The vegetables of this county took the prize at the state fair last year. Fruit, such as apples, pears, plums, cherries and prunes, are raised in abundance, and of a quality unsurpassed. Some of the oldest orchards in the state are found here. Good peaches and grapes are also raised. Berries and small fruits grow to perfection. A company is being organized, with a capital stock of \$5,000.00, to build a fruit and vegetable cannery in Oregon City, and this enterprise will undoubtedly be inaugurated before another season. The nearness of much of the county to Portland, renders dairying and mixed farming especially profitable, as a market can be found in that city for all that is produced. Land can be purchased within fifteen miles of the metropolis, at from \$6.00 to \$50.00 per acre, while good government land, but little farther away, may be had for the taking.

In making a farm, it is, of course, necessary to clear the ground of timber. In many places, this arduous task has already been partially accomplished by forest fires. The settler must, however, enter upon the task with a full appreciation of its difficulty. When it is accomplished, he will have secured a home of which he may well be proud, and which will reward him for all his toil at each recurring harvest. The older farms

near the river, with their broad acres of grain, and their orchards and vineyards, were once more densely covered with timber than these fertile hills, and yet they are living witnesses of what the hand of industry can accomplish in the forest. If the settler have money to invest, he can purchase a farm already entirely or partially cleared, and thus pay for the labor performed by others in the past. This is, of course, far preferable, since by so doing he skips at one bound over the experiences of the pioneer. Such lands are for sale at an average of \$20.00 per acre, a price which enables an Eastern farmer to sell his land, move his family to this locality, purchase equally as good a farm for half the money realized from the sale of his old one, and have the remainder to invest in improvements, for use as business capital, or for a provision against the proverbial rainy day. This alone, without the question of climate being considered, would seem a sufficient justification for the step.

In the older settled portions of the county, are a number of small towns and good schools, while in the newer portions, the settlers are prompt to provide means for the education of their children, and Uncle Sam follows closely the path of the pioneer, with the mail bag. Oswego, a few miles north of the falls, and on the west side of the river, is the seat of an important industry. At that point is a large deposit of iron ore, which has been worked to a considerable extent by the Oswego Iron Co. The works are now idle, owing to litigation over the property, but when running, they gave employment to about two hundred and fifty men about the mines and works. There is now a prospect of an early termination of these difficulties, and the resumption of this important industry on a larger scale than formerly. Other promising towns, nearly all having some industry, such as a flouring