

THE WEST SHORE.

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THE VALLEY OF THE UMPQUA.



DOUGLAS county's position on the map of Oregon is very unique. Its eastern boundary line is the summit of the Cascade mountains, and on the west the Pacific ocean washes its shore. The Calipooia mountains, on the north, separate it from the Willamette valley, and on the south the Canyon mountains form the dividing line between it and the Rogue river valley. The territory within these boundary lines is known as the

Umpqua valley, from the stream that drains it. The area of this county is about four thousand nine hundred square miles, equal in extent to that of the entire state of Connecticut.

Being surrounded by mountains, except a small strip which extends to the ocean, on the west, it might be surmised that the surface is rough, and mountainous in some portions. The ranges which form the northern and southern boundaries are but extended spurs of the Cascades, and the surface of the whole basin presents a corrugated general appearance, the trend of the ridges being in an easterly and westerly direction. The Umpqua valley is not really a "valley," as that term is ordinarily applied, but is, rather, the basin drained by the Umpqua river, and contains no considerable tracts of really level land. From the high, and often rugged, hills, the surface sinks to beautiful and fertile strips along the streams; and these afford, in the aggregate, a large amount of land that is available for the finest branches of agriculture. The eastern part of the county is most mountainous. For a number of miles from the crest of the Cascades the country is, of course, too rough for successful cultivation. This land is heavily timbered. Midway between the Cascades and the ocean the

surface of the country is more gently rolling, but none of it is sufficiently level to be called prairie land. The Umpqua mountains extend along the southwestern part of the county, leaving but a narrow pass in the northwest, through which the Umpqua river flows to the sea. The surface of Douglas county may, in general, be described as hilly and mountainous, with numerous small valleys along the streams, having remarkably rich soil and being of easy access. All the cultivable soil is very fertile and almost exhaustless. It is not exactly a loam, nor is it of a heavy nature, but it is mellow, easily worked at all times and very rich.

The people of the Umpqua valley claim for their country one of the most desirable climates in the world. The temperature is free from the extremes of heat and cold, moisture is moderate and healthfulness unexcelled. The mean annual temperature at Roseburg, which is centrally located, is 52.2° Fahrenheit, according to the record kept by the U. S. signal service. The mean temperature for January, the coldest month, during the past nine years, was 40.1°, and for July, the warmest month, for the same period, was 65.9° above zero. The average annual rainfall for the past nine years was thirty-four and thirty-three-hundredths inches, varying from an average of twenty-nine hundredths of an inch, in August, to an average of six and forty-five hundredths inches, in January. In 1887 there were three thunder storms; rain fell on one hundred and thirty-five days; one hundred and five days were cloudy, one hundred and thirty-eight fair, and one hundred and twenty-two clear. The prevailing winds are from the northwest, but mountains afford protection from unpleasant currents which otherwise might touch the region.

The resources of Douglas county are agricultural, mineral and timber. It is a wool and fruit growing country, though stock and grain raising are scarcely of secondary importance. Beef cattle and wheat were in past years the farmer's staples, because the