

age legitimate business enterprises of all kinds, and do much to promote their success.

To say that the farming lands of the country tributary to Salem are of remarkable richness does not express their fertility. They were among the first to be tilled in the state, and though crop after crop of wheat has been raised for thirty or forty years in some instances, still the vitality of the soil is such that good crops are yet produced, and the strength of the land seems scarcely impaired. But this exclusive wheat growing has now been broken up, to a large extent, and diversified farming has taken its place. Fruits, hops, vegetables of all kinds, grasses and various grains are now raised by the farmers, and careful estimates, based on the actual knowledge of the facts in the case, show that twenty acres of land here will support an ordinary family. When it is considered that ordinary orchards and hop yards yield over \$200.00 an acre per annum, it will be seen that the above estimate is a very conservative one. Ordinary cultivation will secure such results. There are nearly four hundred thousand acres of land in the western part of Marion county that is among the choicest in the state for agricultural purposes. It is a gently undulating, well watered, well drained and partially wooded region. Purchasers, of course, can rarely get the best farms, because they are so profitable that their proprietors cling to them. But those which do not pay so well, generally because of mismanagement, can be obtained in desirable localities for prices ranging between \$15.00 and \$100.00 per acre, improved land more nearly approaching the latter figure than the former. In the eastern portion of the county there are considerable quantities of unsurveyed government land which may be obtained on the usual terms; also railroad lands, which are sold at cheap rates and on easy terms. This land includes some of the finest farming soil, but not often in bodies sufficient for large farms. For dairying or stock raising in connection with farming on a small scale, there are many opportunities for securing fine locations in the foothills of the mountains, from the government or from private holders, at reasonable rates. Settlers are gradually pushing back into the mountains, and in a few years will occupy all the available land. There is a good deal of valuable timber in the western part of the county, and good water is easily obtained everywhere.

The yield of the various farm products is not surpassed anywhere for quantity and quality. Wheat yields from twenty-five to forty, and even fifty, bushels per acre, and a good crop is obtained from sowing any month in the year. Oats, barley, buckwheat, etc., grow proportionally well. Carrots and cabbages frequently grow through the winter, and fall plantings

of cabbage frequently grow three or four heads successively on the same stalk. A great variety of grasses grow luxuriantly.

There are now two railroads in the county, and as the land becomes improved sufficiently in the interior, other transportation lines will be provided. Good wagon roads lead from all parts of the county to Salem, where an active local market and favorable transportation rates, regulated by an available waterway, insure to the producer the best prices for his wares.

The climate of the valley is one of its prime advantages. Through last December there was no difficulty in plowing in Marion county, and those who chose continued their fall work through the month, and could have worked still later. The grass had not, up to the beginning of 1889, lost its greenness, and stock finds as good pasturage as could be desired in the Willamette valley in the middle of winter. Sometimes snow falls before Christmas, and the ground freezes a little, but at the most there are only two or three weeks of cold weather when stock can not well graze and the soil can not be tilled. The summer season usually includes about two months of rainless weather during harvest time, but no failure of crops has ever been caused by the summer dry season. As in most parts of the valley, the pleasant rains continue in Marion county till about the first of July, when all growing crops are well along toward maturity, and then the dry weather permits them to ripen without damage and allows the farmers to pursue the harvest uninterruptedly. The immunity from damaging rains is so certain that for weeks after threshing grain may be seen in sacks piled up in the field, and often flat cars are used to transport it to market. The entire handling of grain from the thresher to the mill, in cars or in boats, is in sacks, there being no elevators in this country, as are common in the east. The average annual rainfall at Salem is forty-four inches—about the same as at Albany, N. Y., Bath, Me., and Frankfort, Pa.; St. Louis, Mo., Charleston, S. C., and Marietta, O., have a considerably greater annual rainfall than Salem, Oregon. The average annual temperature of Western Oregon is fifty-two degrees, the average winter temperature being forty-two degrees and the average summer temperature sixty-one degrees. The average annual death rate for the whole United States is about fifteen to the thousand, and for the state of Oregon it is only about ten and a half to the thousand, showing that the healthfulness of the climate of Oregon is exceptional, notwithstanding the fact that many invalids from the east come to this state for their health. There are no sudden changes of temperature nor extremes of heat or cold at any season.

The position which Marion county occupies in the