

tide of immigration was carried through the section, commercial influences from abroad quickened local trade, and new life was infused into every line of business. Instead of resting with what had already been accomplished the people pushed on to achieve greater results with the increased facilities at their disposal. In the past two years Ashland has doubled in population and experienced a corresponding increase in the volume of business transacted there. Last year the building operations of the city aggregated over \$225,000.00 in value. A good deal of attention is being directed to manufacturing, for which it is admirably suited, and its expectations of future growth are based, in a considerable degree, upon its manufacturing advantages.

Ashland has a woolen mills plant that uses two hundred thousand pounds of wool per year, a saw mill, two planing mills, two grist mills, a fence factory and brick and tile works. An electric light plant furnishes illumination. The motive power for operating all these institutions is supplied by the stream which flows through the town. The city has one banking house with a capital of \$50,000.00, two weekly newspapers and five good hotels, one of which is among the best in the state. It was recently completed at a cost of \$35,000.00. A new water works plant, to cost about \$50,000.00, and a large cannery and drier for fruit and vegetables are among the enterprises that are now under way. The development of the fruit growing and curing interests of the Rogue river valley renders necessary increased facilities for conducting that industry, and they are being provided in Ashland, which promises to become in a few years one of the most important fruit centers on the Pacific slope.

The soil and climate of Rogue river valley are suited to the production of such semi-tropical fruits and nuts as peaches, raisin grapes, almonds and walnuts. Last season almonds raised there brought one-fourth more per pound in the market than the California product. The great specialty of the valley, however, is peach culture. That industry is found to yield the most satisfactory results, and it is being largely engaged in. For three or four years past hundreds of acres have annually been set to peach orchards that are now coming into bearing condition, and are demonstrating the fact that it is not only a practicable but an exceptionally promising industry for that region. The cultivation of the peach is made a study and is intelligently pursued. Already buyers from Portland and San Francisco enter the Ashland market to compete for the peach crop, and with the increase of production that is rapidly developing it must gain greater attention from abroad in a short time.

As yet most of the peach crop is shipped to market in a green state. This will continue because there is always a demand for green fruit of such excellent quality; but as production increases there will be a larger amount of fruit that can not stand shipping green which will have to be preserved. This will give employment to canning and drying establishments that will find ample occupation outside the fruit season in handling vegetables, such as tomatoes, peas, corn, succotash, etc. The fruit next in importance to the peach in the valley is the apple, large quantities of which are annually sent away to market. All fruits not requiring a tropical climate can be successfully raised. In the cultivation of fruit the orchardists are content to get one good crop from the soil, so they keep their orchards entirely free of weeds or any other crops, stirring the surface often and keeping the ground always mellow. Care is taken in harvesting the fruit, especially the peaches, to avoid bruising it. From the trees the peaches are carried in baskets to long tables where they are separately wrapped in paper and packed in boxes for shipment. Generally the crop is contracted for beforehand so there is no delay to find a purchaser.

The soil of Rogue river valley is largely a granite loam four to ten feet deep. There is a greater area of this kind than any other, though in some places there is a strong adobe soil, making inexhaustible grain land. A clay loam is also found in some places. Under the influence of the warm climate the soil is a quick growing one and is favorable for most vegetable productions. It is the best corn land in Oregon. A large amount of general farm produce is raised in addition to the specialties mentioned above. Wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat, corn, hay, root crops and vegetables, and all the common fruits, including the finest melons, are among the products of the valley. Sweet potatoes, peanuts, sorghum and hemp can be successfully grown also.

The climate of the valley constitutes one of its chief natural advantages. The land is somewhat elevated, the site of Ashland being two thousand feet above sea level, and some portions being higher and some lower than that point. The mean annual temperature for the past four years, as ascertained from the records of the United States signal service, which maintains an observation station there, is fifty-four degrees. The average mean temperature for January, the coldest month in the year, is thirty-eight degrees, and for July, the hottest month in the year, seventy-nine degrees above zero. The average annual rainfall for the same period was twenty-three inches, and there were but three times during that term when no moisture at all fell for thirty days. The greatest precipitation for any one month was in No-