

## LINKVILLE AND THE KLAMATH COUNTRY.

**K**LAMATH county, in Southern Oregon, combines a greater variety of interesting and valuable features, probably, than any other county in the state. It lies on the eastern slope of the Cascade mountains one hundred and thirty miles from the ocean, and its southern boundary is the California state line. Among its most prominent features are high mountains, fertile valleys, navigable and beautiful lakes, curious geological formations, picturesque scenery, hot and cold springs, rapid streams, game and fish in abundance, fine farming, grazing and timber lands and opportunities for manufacturing. Klamath county is an elevated tract and clearly shows its volcanic origin. Its area is nearly equal to that of both the states of Delaware and Rhode Island. It is full of absorbing interest to the student of natural history, but the purpose of this article is rather to show the industrial phase of the country than to dilate on the wonderful natural curiosities that abound there.

The land surface of Klamath county is divided about as follows: One and a quarter million acres of timber land, five hundred and eleven thousand acres of grazing land and three hundred and forty-five thousand acres of farming land. Of this total of two million one hundred and six thousand acres, some five hundred and seventy-six thousand are within the limits of the Klamath Indian reservation. About Upper and Lower Klamath lakes there is swamp land aggregating in area some eighty thousand acres. Of the entire area of the county not much more than one-fourth has yet been taken. The remaining three-fourths belongs to the United States and to the state of Oregon. Title to government land may be obtained under either the pre-emption, homestead, timber culture or desert land acts of congress, but most of the valuable government lands are now held by settlers. Government timber land may be purchased for \$2.50 an acre under certain restrictions to prevent the gobbling of large quantities by speculators. The school and state lands belonging to Oregon may be purchased for \$1.25 an acre, and the agricultural college land at \$2.50. The state, school and college lands of value have mostly been sold. These comprise a great variety of soils and general characteristics to suit different tastes and different business interests. Good government claims can be purchased from settlers at reasonable prices.

There are two large lakes in Klamath county and half a dozen small ones. The Upper Klamath, or Big Klamath as it is sometimes called, is in the southwestern part of the county and is thirty miles long by an average breadth of about eight miles. Its depth varies from twelve to forty feet, and it is, therefore,

navigable for vessels of considerable draught. The Klamath Indian agency is on the bank near the northern extremity of the lake. Fort Klamath military post is located on Wood river, which empties into Upper Klamath lake on the north. About the borders of the lake is a good deal of swamp and marsh land, which is quite valuable in that country. Lower Klamath, or Little Klamath, lake is situated about three miles south of the larger one and extends beyond the border into California. The portion of the lake that reaches into Oregon is from two hundred and fifty feet to half a mile wide and carries a depth of from five to fifteen feet of water. From Linkville at the extreme northern extremity of the lake to its southern end in California is thirty miles, and it is navigable the whole distance. There is a large area of low land on the margin of this lake as about the Upper Klamath. The total amount of the marsh and swamp land about the Klamath lakes is estimated at eighty thousand acres, the greater portion of which could be easily drained and rendered cultivable by the expenditure of a few thousand dollars. Tule lake is a considerable body of water to the eastward of the Lower Klamath, which lies mostly below the California boundary. Lake of the Woods and Buck lake in the extreme northwest and two small lakes in the extreme north drained by the Deschutes river are interesting sheets of water, and Crater lake in the mountains in the western part of the county is one of the most curious of the natural features of this remarkable region. It apparently occupies the crater of an extinct volcano at an altitude of six thousand three hundred feet above the sea level. It is in the midst of the Cascade mountains. The lake is about eight miles one way by six the other, and on every side rise vertical walls of rock to a height of from one thousand to two thousand two hundred feet above the surface of the water. Near the western end of the lake is a small volcanic island projecting a thousand feet into the air in a conical form with a crater at the summit four hundred and seventy-five feet in diameter and one hundred and twelve feet deep. A sounding has been made by Capt. Dutton of the U. S. geodetic survey, who found the water to be 1,996 feet deep. It is wonderfully pure and clear, and makes a sublime sight. The scenery about the lake and the view from its high and rocky shores is the grandest imaginable. As an object of interest it ranks with the Yellowstone park and the Yosemite valley, and when it becomes as accessible to general travel it will be as famous a resort for tourists. However, it has a number of visitors every year, and the season of "roughing it" is very much enjoyed in a country with such climate and scenery and with such game and fish. The project of building a good road to Crater lake is being