

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY

## ONE OF THE RICHEST COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF OREGON IN NATURAL RESOURCES

Embracing over a million acres of Oregon's fertile soil, and straddling the winding coils of the Willamette River, lies the County of Clackamas. It hugs the banks of these navigable waters for about 15 miles; has an average width of 35 miles, and from the river to the summit of the Cascades its length is about 50 miles. It is bounded on the north by Multnomah County, where Portland, the metropolis of the state, is located; on the east by Wasco, on the south by Marion, where Salem, the state's Capital, is situated, and on the west by Washington, Yamhill and Marion. Clackamas County has an area of 1500 square miles and a population of 25,000. The principal industries are mining, manufacturing, farming, dairying, stockraising, lumbering, hop and fruitgrowing. The county has an inexhaustible supply of timber, coal and iron, with splendid soil for farming, grazing, hopgrowing and fruit culture.

### TIMBER.

The timber lands lie mainly on the foothills and slopes of the Cascades. The extent of the forests is prodigious, but as yet only the vaguest statement can be given as to the available quantity. Speaking generally, there is a belt of timber trees upon the western slope of the Cascades that is 20 or more miles wide, and extending north and south the entire length of the range. The present demand for lumber is constantly causing the building of sawmills on the streams that drain this commanding portion of the far-famed Willamette Valley, namely, the Sandy, Pudding, Molalla, Tualatin and Clackamas Rivers. All these streams, with the exception of the Tualatin, derive their source from the snow belts of the Cascades, and their waters are cool, wholesome and clear. The manufacture of railroad ties is becoming quite extensive by



CLACKAMAS COUNTY HOP YARD.

the mills along the Sandy River. It is estimated the mills of this county sawed over 1,000,000 ties last year. The forests and timber belts of this section of Oregon are attracting the attention of lumbermen from Maine to Michigan.

Geographical surveys of forests show that the timber in Oregon reaches the enormous total of 307,000,000,000 feet, board measure. It is estimated that 25,000,000,000 feet of this amount lines the banks of the Clackamas River.

is a large amount of beaver-dam land, the richness of which cannot be overestimated. The soil of this county is as fertile as any lying out of door, and abundantly produces wheat, oats, rye, corn, barley, hay, hops, onions, potatoes, clover, timothy, flax and other grasses. The surface is rolling, here and there level prairie land, with natural drainage.

Twenty years ago, when the first wheat flour was shipped from the Pacific Coast to the Orient, an "open door" was not an absolute necessity, for the flour shipment from these shores was but a modicum. But today the largest steamers, freighted to their capacity, clear from Portland, Tacoma, Seattle and San Francisco for the Asiatic marts, and it is very necessary that we have open sesame there to reach those who will take our products. The flour trade in the Orient was of no great magnitude prior to a decade ago. The Asiatic taste for flour is one that has been cultivated. The development of this trans-Pacific commerce has been singularly pronounced of late years. The increment has been at the rate of 25 per cent for each preceding twelvemonth. In Oregon there are 35 mills, with a capacity of 9000 barrels daily, that are grinding for the export trade. Oregon has 101 mills, with 4765 barrels' capacity, that supply local trade.

Careful and conservative estimates of the grain raised in Clackamas County last year and sold in the markets of the world are placed at 300,000 bushels, the largest part of this being wheat. This does not include the many thousand bushels kept for home consumption. The usual yield of Winter wheat is 25 to 50 bushels per acre; Spring wheat, 20 to 35 bushels; oats, 30 to 60 bushels. Wheat has long been a staple product, and a failure of this crop has never been known in Oregon. Recently more attention has been paid to diversified farming, and fruitgrowing, hopraising, gardening, stock and poultry raising, and lumber manufacturing are becoming important and profitable industries.



CLACKAMAS COUNTY PRUNE ORCHARD.