SOUTHERN OREGON COUNTIES

Agriculture, Horticulture, Mines and Timber Offer Unexcelled Opportunities to the Investor and the Homeseeker

THERE is no more promising field for the homeseeker and investor than Southern Oregon, in which may be classed Douglas, Jackson and Josephine Counties. Jackson and Josephine Counties are really Southern Oregon, and Douglas County is the Umpqua Valley, but the three counties are so close together and so nearly identical in their products and interests that they may fairly be put in the one group. Southern Oregon is one of the most productive regions in the United States. Mining is extensively carried on in all three counties. Placers were for years the main reliance of the miners, but since it has been proved beyond doubt that the ledges have depth and permanent values, quartz mining has begun in earnest.

DOUGLAS COUNTY.

Shipments of Prunes Last Year Amounted to 4,500,000 Pounds.

Douglas is the third county in Western Oregon north of California boundary line. It extends west from the summit of the Cascade Range 150 miles to the Pacific Ocean, and is bounded on the north by Lane and on the south by Josephine and Curry Counties, containing an area of over 4500 square miles, nearly 2,000,000 acres. It is often referred to as the Umpqua Valley, being drained by the second largest river in Oregon, named after a powerful Indian tribe who inhabited this beautiful region until driven out by the white race, who began their crusade 50 years ago. In this, the first year of the 20th century, the last of the Umpquas was gathered to his fathers, and his hunting-grounds are dotted with cities, towns and villages, full of prosperous and busy people, engaged in every conceivable industry found in the great cities of the Eastern states, while the surrounding country is occupied by thrifty farmers, engaged in every branch of husbandry; herdsmen with their flocks of fine sheep, Angora goats, and the cowboy with his bands of high-bred cattle. The miner and lumberman are common everywhere through this county. Of course each industry has its special districts, and each is extending its field of operation, and still there is room for many more. No single industry can be said to be overdone; in fact, all are but in their infancy, especially manufactures. Schoolhouses with teachers of high educational standard are in every community, and no county has more free schools, or better educational facilities, than Douglas. The county is practically free from debt. County warrants are in demand at 3 per cent premium. County affairs are conducted upon an economical basis, hence the rate of taxation is moderate, usually about 2 per cent for all state and county purposes, based upon not over a 60 per cent valuation of property.

Rainfall 35 Inches a Year.

The climate is salubrious and healthful, mild Summer and Winter's lowest average temperature lasting usually only a few days each year. Average rainfall in 10 years 35 inches, just enough to insure all kinds of crops without any irrigation. The soil is very fertile, and produces all grains, grasses and root crops. Corn makes a valuable crop in Douglas. Fruits, such as apples, pears and prunes, are now being shipped to Eastern and foreign markets, while peaches, strawberries, and every other variety of small fruits, are shipped to neighboring states, and being earlier here than any other county, find a ready and profitable market. Four million five hundred thousand pounds of dried prunes were produced in Douglas last year, and all shipped East, at an average price of 3 cents a pound, a total of $125,000; no statistics as to apples, pears, etc., but the quantity was large, yet not equal to demand.

While this country has plenty of cattle, there are few modern butter factories, farmers shipping their cream to other points for manufacture, while we have green feed the year round, and can produce four crops of alfalfa, and other dairy forage plants without irrigation. Strange as it may appear, we have few creameries, and few silos. Here is an ideal opening for practical dairymen to establish lucrative business.

Timber Resources.

Our immense forests of the finest timber in the world, along the western slopes of the Cascades and Coast Ranges of mountains, are attracting the attention of all the great lumber syndicates of the older states, whose agents are cruising every township in the county, and are rapidly acquiring title and ownership thereto, as evidenced by the following statement of business transacted in the United States land office at Roseburg, from July, 1900, to June 30, 1901:

	Acres.
262 timber entries	56,381
State and railroad sections	32,874
728 homestead entries	112,600
Total disposed of	201,880
Receipts for timber, coal, mineral, etc.	$149,220
Other miscellaneous receipts	20,092
Total	$169,312

Land disposed of in Roseburg land office district, 6,283,361 acres; 3,546,440 are subject to sale and homestead entry, of which over 2,000,000 acres are unsurveyed.

The individuals and syndicates who have acquired these lands by investing large sums, will in the near future establish modern mills at interior points on our great waterways, and railroad crossings, also at tide water, for its manufacture. Demand therefor in the world markets being greater than the present supply at highly remunerative prices, will result in the employment of thousands of woodmen, and other skilled laborers, who heretofore were not required in this county, thereby increasing home markets for the famer, and benefiting evey industry in the county. Rough building lumber now costs $8 per thousand in Roseburg; dressed finishing lumber in proportion. Brick manufactured here costs about $7 per thousand; other building material in proportion.

Water Power.

This country is well supplied with undeveloped water-power and suitable sites for manufacturing purposes are waiting for people to utilize them. Comparatively few are used, except for flouring and saw mills, the only exceptions being electric lights, power and water companies, who have an extensive plant at Winchester, on the North Umpqua River, four miles north, and Roseburg Water & Light Co., whose pumps and power plant are established within the corporate limits of Roseburg. Both companies supply water, electric lights and power for Roseburg and suburbs.

Towns of Douglas County.

Roseburg, the county seat, located on South Umpqua River, near the center of the county, contains, with the suburban additions of West and North Roseburg, 3000 inhabitants. It has fine public and business brick buildings, brick operahouse, three-story first-class hotel, with all modern equipments; United States Land Office, two water, electric light and power companies, first-class fire brigade, and ample water supply; large public school, with 15 teachers; eight churches, with resident ministers; two flouring-mills, sash and door factories, brick factory, brewery and ice plant and many other industries; is division station on Southern Pacific Railroad; has many resident railroad men, large pay-roll, city and long-distance telephone system. Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies, and Wells-Fargo & Co.'s Express have offices here. Two extensive banking-houses, doing much business; a Soldiers' Home, one mile distant, with upwards of 100 inmates, is modern in every particular, and the veterans comfortably situated, under management of the state.

Roseburg is a growing city, without an empty dwelling or business house, does a large business with the farmers, mining and timber men throughout the county. There are a number of other thriving towns in the county. Oakland, 18 miles north, on the Southern Pacific Railroad, an agricultural supply and shipping point, center of a great grain, fruit, hop and stock region, including hogs, poultry, etc.

Yoncalla, further north, grain, fruit, cattle, sheep, hogs, etc. The center of a large agricultural country.

Drain, 36 miles north, has a state normal school, farming and lumber trade. Hudson & Comstock sawmills and extensive lumber business, including piles, electric light and telegraph poles.

Westward on the Umpqua is Elkton, a farming and stock country, and at the head of steam navigation, 20 miles inland, stands Scottsburg, the pioneer shipping depot for the several counties now known as Southern Oregon. Now limited to logging, fishing, stock etc.

Twenty miles down, at the mouth of the river, on Winchester Bay, is Gardiner City, with extensive lumber-mills, sending their product to South American coast points, Philippine Islands and South Africa, from this port. They also have salmon canneries, creameries and large stock interests. Gardiner is a port of entry, and has a magnificent harbor, with a good natural outlet to sea.

Nine miles south of Roseburg, on the railroad, is Dillard Station, a rich fruit and farming district. Single orchards, covering 160 acres, produce earliest strawberries in the state. Nine miles further is the town of Myrtle Creek, incorporated. It is the pioneer and center of the great prune industry of Douglas County; shipped 35 cars dried prunes this season. There are also extensive grain and stock farms, flouring-mills and other industries, including lumber. Myrtle Creek was a gold-mining district in the early 50s, and now has extensive hydraulic plants washing down the gravel. Rich gold, silver and copper mines are being operated in the vicinity, with good results. The Umpqua Valley Coal Oil Company is now setting up its boring plant close to the town, to search for oil.

Six miles further south is the flourishing town of Riddle, also a great grain, fruit, stockraising and mining district. The famous Nickel Mountain overlooks the town, and in the near future will no doubt become a great mining center.

Thirty miles further south by rail, through a continuous mining district, is the Town of Glendale, a supply depot for extensive hydraulic and quartz-mining district, that employs many people. It is an important lumber station, surrounded by extensive forests of fir, sugar and yellow pine, with large sawmills near, using that shipping point. There are also several other prosperous towns in the county, away from the railroad, that depend largely upon stockraising, mining, fruit culture, etc.

Season of Great Prosperity.

The past season has been a prosperous one for the farmer, fruitraiser, stockman, lumberman, dairyman and miner, and while but few statistics are available, the writer is aware that the product in every line has been above the average in quality, with liberal prices to seller, ample employment for every workingman in the county, hence the people are prospering in every line of business, and with our salubrius climate, fertile soil, abundance of pure water, cheap land and undeveloped natural resources of every kind, there is no better country in the world than Oregon for energetic people to immigrate to, and no county in the state can offer better advantages for the homeseeker than Douglas, being easy of access, and Indians not very bad. Its finest lands were largely taken up in the early 50s, under the Oregon special donation land laws, giving married men 640 acres, and single men 320 each. For years after the repeal of this law, these same parties purchased and added adjacent tracts, until they became in latter years owners of immense estates, that they cannot handle to advantage now, and are disposed to sell portions thereof to suit purchasers, at prices ranging from $5 for stock farms to $10 to $15 per acre for well-improved farms, that will produce all kinds of grain, grasses, fruit and vegetables common to the Pacific Northwest, including three and four crops of alfalfa each year, without irrigation. No cyclones, hail or rain storms, frosts, drouth or other rigorous weather, or insect pests common to states east of the Rocky Mountains to destroy a season's crop have ever been experienced in Oregon.

The Southern Pacific Company, whose lines extend from Portland, Or., to New Orleans, has 116 miles of its main line extending across the county from north to south, and affords connection with all the world. There are 430 miles of telegraph and telephone lines in Douglas County.

D. S. K. BUICK.

Roseburg.

JACKSON COUNTY.

Noted for Its Mines and Great Abundance and Variety of Fruit.

Jackson County is bounded on the north by Douglas, east by Klamath, south by California line, and west by Josephine County. It is practically 65x45 miles, and contains something over 3000 square miles. The northwest boundary of the county lies along the range that separates the waters of Rogue River from those of the Umpqua. This mountain is high, in many places rugged and almost everywhere heavily timbered.

The east boundary lies practically along the axis of the Cascade Range, and is marked by the range lines between ranges 4 and 5. The south boundary is latitude 42 north, and lies parallel with and in large part just south of the summits of the Siskiyou Range, which in places rises to an altitude of between 7000 and 8000 feet above sea level. These mountains are also heavily timbered. The west boundary crosses numerous mountain spurs that converge toward Rogue River from the north and south.

A little west of the center of the county lies its principal agricultural area—the Rogue River Valley. Mount McLoughlin, sometimes called Mount Pitt, stands near the eastern boundary of the county, and is a beautiful, snowy peak 9760 feet high. Ashland Butte stands just within the county, near its southern boundary, and has an altitude of nearly 8000 feet. Other peaks of these two ranges rise to a great height and furnish innumerable streams of never-failing water supply, as pure and clear as the dewdrops of the morning.

It will be seen that the summits of these three great mountain ranges furnish three of the boundary lines of Jackson County; to wit, the north, the east, and the south, whose streams rush, converging, toward the central portion of the county, where the waters gather to form Rogue River, flowing thence westerly to the ocean. Each of these numerous tributaries have margins of greater or less extent of agricultural lands which are also tributary to the main valley.

The lowest level of the valley is where Rogue River crosses the west boundary of the county, and is about 1000 feet above the sea level. The greatest altitude at which agriculture or horticulture is made profitable in this county is perhaps about 2500 feet above sea level. Between these two levels great variety of products are obtained, not dependent on altitude alone, which is only climatic in its differences, but also on the soils, slopes and opportunities for irrigation.

The mountains occupying the southern and westerly parts of the county, westerly from the head of Rogue River Valley are of a granite formation, while those to the north and east are volcanic and of more recent formation. The great height of these mountains induce a heavy snowfall at and near their summits, while snow seldom falls on any account in the lower valleys.

The streams leaping from such heights transport immense quantities of detritus to the valley; from the one region, decomposed granite, and from the other the product of disintegrated volcanic matter, building up at one side of the valley a granite soil and at the other side, largely of adobe and volcanic ash, while toward the center or lower portions of the valley the two soils are mixed. Those who are familiar with these soils know the difference of production under similar conditions of climate, to be found in the two.

The granite seems best adapted to peaches and well adapted to horticultural pursuits generally, and is known as the home of the peach. The lower portions of the valley, possessing a mixture of the two soils, are well adapted to horticultural pursuits, and where the granite does not predominate and in the sections containing a loam produce in large quantities of splendid quality all of the cereals adapted to the climate. The soil that is chiefly known as adobe produces the strongest fruit trees and the longest lived, and is the best adapted to the growth of cereals. The Rogue River Valley has an area perhaps, including the streams with agricultural margins flowing into it, of 600 or 700 square miles, and is frequently designated as the Italy of Oregon. Its climate is the most equable to be found on the Pacific Coast; the average rainfall, as shown by many years' record, is about 20 to 24 inches. The weather is seldom colder than 10 degrees above, or hotter than 90 degrees above. Severe storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, or blizzards, are unknown. The productiveness of the valley and of the county is conceded by all who know it to be easily equal to anything on the Pacific Coast. The great numbers of streams furnish a never-failing supply of water, where needed for irrigation; we never have the extremes of heat or cold, drouth nor extreme humidity, that furnish the objectionable features in so many other regions.

Jackson County is especially noted for the abundance, great variety and excellent quality of its fruit. The peaches from this region have taken the premium at some of the great expositions of the Country within the past few years, and particularly the Columbian Exposition at Chicago. The variety of fruits consist of apples, pears, peaches, plums, prunes, apricots, nectarines; and of berries are the blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, currants, and other varieties. Blackberries and strawberries, like peaches, seem to reach perfection here, and also on the hillside slopes where the soil is of a clay grapes not excelled in the world are produced in great abundance. In fact, the peculiar variety of soils which we have, the warmth, the sunshine and the pure water have made of Rogue River Valley and the Applegate Valley, and other valleys in Josephine County, a section not excelled in the world for a great variety of fruits such as are at all adapted to this latitude.

Being surrounded as we are by high mountain ranges, the atmosphere of this section is to a very high degree pure and healthful, therefore, no region in the world excels it in this respect. The many attractions which nature has so lavishly spread here, is producing a natural result in a rapidly growing population. The immigration for some years past has been very rapid, and of a class most conducive to the highest social and moral conditions of a community. No portion of Oregon is better supplied with schools, and all of the church organizations seem to be represented. The mountains surrounding the Valley are high and picturesque, and nearly everywhere heavily timbered, with the finest quality of sugar pine, yellow pine, various varieties of fir and other woods and timber of great commercial value. Manufacturing establishments will find here in the future an excellent place for investment, the streams furnishing the cheapest quality of power. These mountain fastnesses, also, afford the most picturesque haunts for Summer outings and places for recuperating health, or avoiding the heat of lower regions. The streams are filled with trout, which, living in water directly from the snow are of the best varieties, finest quality. Game abounds in the mountains, but not in quanties that prevailed a few years ago.

Mining a Chief Source of Wealth.

The mining industry of this country is one of the chief sources of the wealth of Southern Oregon. From the earliest days of Pacific Coast settlement, the gold fields of Southern Oregon have been noted and Jackson and Josephine Counties have furnished from their placer mines millions of dollars in the yellow metal. The placer mines are not worked to the extent now that they used to be, yet there are many hydraulic propositions that during the Winter season when water is plentiful yield large returns. Within the past few years the development of quartz mining has been rapidly pushed, and today there are a large number of quartz propositions that are paying. In the neighborhood of Gold Hill, there are a great many quartz ledges being developed, some running very high, and from which quite a large return has already been made.

The Ashland mine, near Ashland, is being worked at a depth greater than any other mine in Southern Oregon, the depth already obtained being something over 700 feet. The ledge has been fully demonstrated to have an extent, permanency and a richness fully justifying the hope and aspirations of its progressive and energetic owners. The Shorty-Hope Mining & Milling Company have large mining properties within a mile of the Ashland mine, upon which extensive work has been done, and from which large returns have been realized. This mine is owned chiefly by New York capitalists, while the Ashland mine is owned chiefly by Montreal capitalists. Each of these claims has a 10-stamp mill; both are well equipped, and have everything that is needful for successful operation. In the neighborhood of Jacksonville there are other quartz propositions now being operated, and still others being prospected. Enough has already been done and developed to demonstrate that the quartz mining for gold in Southern Oregon is as yet only in its infancy. The Klamath group of mountains, of which the Siskiyous form an important part, consist of a formation contemporaneous in age with the high Sierras of California, and the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon. The formation and peculiar characteristics of each are the same. Each has furnished a field, in its own special locality, for the mines of the Pacific Coast, and the great propositions in a mining way, so far as developed, point to the assurance that these three are among the great mining regions of the United States. The mines of Jackson County are chiefly in the Siskiyous, which are seamed and broken by ledges containing gold, silver and copper. Many of these ledges are of a free-milling character, and are made eminently profitable by the present method of working ores, by the process of stamp mills, while many others are known as base ores, and will require smelting or chemical process to extract the values. Tests, however, are being made from hundreds of ledges of various kinds, and doubtless in the near future proper method of securing the values of each will be discovered. As a mining region Southern Oregon and Northern California present inducements not to be found in any other mining region perhaps in the world. Alaska, with its newly developed, or partially developed fields, presents a phase in its rigorous climate and distance from commercial marts which makes the working of its mines tedious, dangerous and expensive. Siberia presents the same difficulties. Australia, removed by thousands of miles of ocean, cannot possibly be reached by the man of modest means. Southern Oregon, with a climate that has entitled it to the appellation of the Italy of America, with valleys that produce everything that a miner could wish, to which easy access from all the mines is had, has eliminated from the miner's tribulations those things that have been difficulties in nearly all other mining regions in the world. Copper is being found now in many sections of Southern Oregon, and being prospected with excellent assurances of reasonable return. The present requirements, brought about by electrical developments, has pushed copper into the front as one of the most valuable metals, and the region under discussion presents many assurances that here will be found in large quantities the metal desired.

Other Mineral Resources.

There are many other mineral products to be found in Jackson County; coal has been found in many places, but as yet, considering the facilities for transportation and the quality of the coal found, has not presented inducement for the investment of capital. Near Ashland, large beds of kaolin exist, and recently have been located in part by men interested in that line of product with a view of early development. This kaolin has been tested at Akron, O., and at other places where such clay is worked, and is pronounced to be of an excellent quality, while the quantity seems to be almost inexhaustible. Fire clay and mineral paints abound in many places. Graphite of a quality suited for lubricants, is also found in large quanties. Asbestos is found in small quantities and of reasonably good qualities, which, by proper efforts, might be developed into paying quantities and of commercial quality. Seams and veins carrying large quantities of cinnabar are found in almost every direction, and in some places in the county small quantities of quicksilver have been extracted. The mountains surrounding these valleys furnish an excellent range for stock, which, owing to the exceeding mildness of the Winters, have an attraction for stockmen not to be found in other sections.

The Southern Pacific Railroad traverses the county from the southeast to the northwest, passing through almost the extreme length of the county, and affords the only line of transportation which the people of Southern Oregon have, except those counties lying directly on the coast. Perhaps the only drawback which Southern Oregon at the present time experiences is the fact that we have but one railroad and that this company is not especially anxious to concede that which should be conceded to a region tributary to so important a degree as this region is. While the said company have certainly made, or apparently have made, concessions in the way of freights in some directions, it is a noticeable fact that it costs almost as much to ship a carload from any point on the railroad south of Portland or north of San Francisco to Ashland as it does from either of those cities to Chicago. It seems to the people of this region very reasonable that advantage should not be taken by a railroad company of an isolated position which to the extent above stated Southern Oregon has, but that said company should be as anxious for a complete development of the resources of all regions lying along its line as they are to secure the traffic from other sections to which they have some competition.

Several Prosperous Towns.

Ashland is the chief town of Southern Oregon, having a population of 3000 or perhaps something more than that. It is notable for the beauty of its surroundings, for its rapid growth, its pure water, its healthful climate, its school advantages, and for the mines that are tributary to it. It occupies the heart of the peach region, and has been termed "Peach-blow Paradise." The growth of this little city for the past two or three years has not been due to any boom, but has been remarkable. It is the site of a State Normal School, of an important Chautauqua Association, with beautiful and extensive grounds, and capacious auditorium; it has splendid school buildings, and has on its enrollment over 1100 school children. It occupies the position as central division station on the Southern Pacific Railroad, between Portland and San Francisco, and its pay roll from said company reaches well up to $20,000 a month. It has many beautiful homes, public buildings, and much public spirit.

Medford is the second town in size in Jackson County, occupies a central position to the agricultural region, is a place of much enterprise, is rapidly growing, does an extensive business, and is well equipped with schools and other things required to make a prosperous and lively town. Medford's position will always give it an importance in Southern Oregon. A large ditch is now in course of construction which is intended ultimately to carry the waters of Butte Creek around the foothills of the valley for irrigation purposes, and to supply Medford with the necessary quantity of excellent water for all purposes, domestic and irrigation.

Jacksonville is the county seat of Jackson County. For many years it was the metropolis of Southern Oregon. It is beautifully situated five miles west from Medford, with which it is connected by a short line of railroad owned by private parties. Jacksonville was the old mining center of this portion of the state, and, like Kirbyville, once had a glory which has since largely departed; notwithstanding this, Jacksonville is one of the most pleasant, healthful and beautiful locations that can be found on the Coast. Its vineyards and those in the immediate vicinity give to Oregon very largely the credit which is her due in the culture of grapes and the possibilities which will be attendant upon a complete exploitation of that industry, when there shall have been a much-needed competing method of transportation from this valley to some point on the Coast, which doubtless in the future will be accomplished.

Gold Hill is in size and probable possibilities the third place in the county. Its people believe that it will in time grow to be a metropolis. There is no doubt but that Gold Hill is at the present time and with proper spirit may continue to be the principal gold mining center of Jackson County. It is beautifully situated on the banks of Rogue River, has all the advantages of climate accorded to Rogue River Valley, excellent water, good health, and a large agricultural region tributary to it. There is a large ditch in progress of construction, which, when completed from its initial point on Rogue River to Gold Hill, will have a length of nearly 90 miles, and if completed on the plans and specifications started will not only furnish that region and the country lying along it with excellent water and with quantities sufficient for mining and irrigation, but will also furnish an avenue for the transportation of the immense quantities of lumber that must in the future be cut along the line traversed by it. The timber resources of upper Rogue River are practically inexhaustible and the quality of the timber for commercial purposes unexcelled. From this source Gold Hill hopes much.

The other towns in the county are: Talent, five miles west of Ashland; Phoenix, three miles further on; Central Point, four miles north of Medford; Woodville, nine miles northwest from Gold Hill, and Eagle Point, lying nine miles east of the railroad and situated in the beautiful Butte Creek Valley, a portion of the Rogue River Valley.

Each of these towns exhibits the thrift and growth so plainly noticeable throughout the whole valley.

It would be impossible in the space allotted to this article to go further into detail in pointing out the advantages and attractive features of Jackson County. Strangers who have visited it and remained any length of time are always loud in its praise, and the people who live here are sufficiently appreciative of the advantages we have to believe that the praise given to the county is justly its due. In fact, a thorough knowledge of its mountains and valleys tends to induce a poetic sentiment, which cannot be avoided by one who becomes familiar with it, and for fear that I might wind this article up with a stanza or two or poetry, I will close it now abruptly.

Ashland. C. B. WATSON.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY.

Noted for Its Gold Mines, Fruit and Valuable Agricultural Lands.

The one place in Oregon that is most celebrated for its production of gold and watermelons is Josephine County. It is bounded on the north by Douglas, on the east by Jackson, on the west by Curry and on the south by the State of California, and is situated some 296 miles south of Portland. The eastern boundary is traversed by the Southern Pacific Railroad for a distance of about 25 miles. It is a county in which are located some of nature's grandest mountain scenery, as well as some of her most picturesque waterfalls and fertile valleys.

The Rogue River Valley has properly been termed the "Italy of Oregon." It is no doubt more evenly balanced between the extremes of heat and cold than any other part of the state. Here the use of skates is unknown, and as the snow never stays on the ground more than a day or two, the pleasures of the toboggan or sleigh are beyond our appreciation. There has been but one heavy snowfall in the last 20 years, and that was in the phenomenal Winter of 1890. The thermometer rarely ever reaches zero in the Winter time, and then only for a night, and in Summer it ranges up to 85 and 90, and for a short time goes as high as 100. The Winters are mild with but little snow, and a rainfall ranging from 24 to 30 inches. The total fall of snow during a Winter runs from two to eight inches. During our cold Winter weather the mercury usually registers about 10 to 15 above zero and will not go lower once in five years.

Horticulture and Agriculture.

Josephine County is looked upon as a county more in importance on account of its mining rather than its agricultural interests, yet there are many large and thriving farms scattered over the valleys throughout the county. A good many thousands of acres have been planted to fruit trees, and today horticulture, in a commercial sense, is recognized as one among a number of Josephine's industries that her soil and climate are so well adapted to. While her soil and climate are adapted to the growing of the peach, pear, apricot, nectarine, almond, English walnut, all of the tender varities of foreign grapes, as well as the American varieties, also raspberries, blackberries, currants and gooseberries, it is also the home of the apple, "the King of Fruits," and probably will take the lead in producing the apple, as her soil and climate produce an apple that colors highly, and has keeping qualities that assures the grower an extended market every year at a fair profit.

During the past eight years a great many of Josephine County's red Winter apples have been shipped in car lots to St. Paul, Chicago, Omaha, St. Louis and Denver; also a number of carloads have been shipped to San Francisco, and there reshipped to New Zealand and Australia. There is not a state or territory west of the Mississippi River in which Josephine County does not have a demand for her large red Winter apples, and if every available acre of land in the county was planted to apples, there would be no trouble to market the product of these acres at a good, fair profit to the grower.

Watermelons are also quite an important production here. They are planted in large tracts of from 10 to 40 acres in a field, and are shipped north by the carload during their season, the output being from 20 to 50 cars annually. No finer-flavored melons grow than those produced here.

Everything in the agricultural line needed here could and should be produced at home, there being every facility for production and a good home market. Grains, grasses and gardens grow here to perfection. Hopgrowing is one of the staple farming pursuits here and the output is almost equal to that of any county in the state.

Population and Area.

The population of Josephine County is, according to the 1900 census, 7517, and its area is about 1200 square miles or 832,000 acres. This great body of land is cut up with mountains, rivers and streams, and has a great diversity of soil, metals, gravel beds and timber. She has resources that will support double her present population. Many farms of large acreage should and will be cut up into several farms and lands that have heretofore been idle will be brought into cultivation. There is room for many more in the development of our mineral wealth. Farming lands can be had at all prices, ranging from $5 to $100 per acre, depending on location and condition.

The main industry here is the pursuit of mining. Grant's Pass is the center of a large mining belt, embracing all of Josephine and part of Western Jackson Counties. These include both quartz and placer gold, and copper, besides other metals in less important quantities.

Great quantities of lumber have been produced here and a large sash, door and box factory maintained for years, the lumber being brought in from the surrounding country. The timber located close to the railroad is mostly cut or bought up, but farther back are large tracts yet in the title of the Government. Much has been heard of late years of the pine-needle industry. There are two of these factories located here and the industry promises to be an active one in the near future. The Pacific Pine-Needle Factory has taken diplomas at the various fairs held during the past year from Buffalo to the Pacific Coast.

Hunting and Fishing.

Josephine County contains the very best of sport for the hunter and nimrod. In Rogue River are the silver side and steelhead trout, as well as the great big chinook salmon, all of which are caught with rod and reel. The mountain streams abound with speckled trout and may be caught in large numbers. Hunters for big game usually seek the more isolated mountains, where deer and bear are found in plenty and the average hunter has no trouble in keeping a supply of "camp meat." During the months of July and August many go to the hills for recreation and spend their time in the "cruel" sport with rod and gun. But here let us quote from the language of a reverend gentleman, lover of the pastime of catching the finny tribe: "Let no long-faced Christian declaim against the sport as 'cruel,' for since the days of Isaac Walton or rather since the days of the loving John and the ardent, impetuous Peter, some of the noblest, tenderest-hearted and most spiritual of God's messengers have been passionately fond of this noble sport. The voice of the clear running water is the voice of Him who bade his disciples come apart and rest awhile. Its limitless supply tells of the exhaustless bounty of the Great Giver of all good. Nature has her secrets, but she reveals them only to those who come to her home in the spirit of love. Here on the beautiful Rogue River is one of her great treasure-houses, and he who has learned to know and love this wonderful revelation of Nature has come nearer to Nature's God."

F. W. CHAUSSE,

Grant's Pass.

TREES 1000 YEARS OLD.

One of the World's Finest Timber Belts in Siletz Basin.

There is probably no better place for permanent investment than in the timber lands of Siletz Basin, and on the headwaters of the Lucklamute, Rickreall and Yamhill Rivers, in Polk County. The monarchs of these forests are many of them 1000 years old. When King Alfred laid aside his scepter these stately rulers began to lift up their heads upon the mountain and upon the plain. During all that ten centuries it is evident no fire devastated that region. North and south of it blackened stumps, now white with age, tell of the awful struggle in which the fiery element gained the victory. But the section here described came off unscathed. There is no day in August when these forests are not saturated in the early evening with heavy dews or heavier fogs. These trees have been allowed to live their allotted time and while now ripe for the lumberman they are in no danger of destruction by fire.

The timber of the Siletz Basin is the finest body in the United States, after the Sequoia Gigantea groves of California. A. Gerlinger and associates are now projecting a railroad into these timber regions. Such vast resources so easily accessible could not long remain hidden from investors. The road is an assured fact. This company or some other will ultimately extend the line to the sea at Yaquina or the Siletz Bay, where there awaits harbor facilities ample for shipping if the public interest is broadly consulted when the river and harbor bill is before Congress.

The lumber interests of Polk County have been in thriving condition for years past, and have lately taken on even greater life. The woods far up the Lucklamute, Rickreall and other streams are alive with men logging and milling. No class of men are doing more for the laboring man and for development of latent resources than these captains of industry woh go into the forests, invest their money and their credit in saw mills, open up and manipulate the little streams into powerful engines, harnessing the forces of nature, and, with hosts of laborers, convert the forest into lumber that is received with wonder and admiration by the architects and builders of the cities of two hemispheres. The number of men employed in lumbering is safely estimated at 300. The product is being shipped to San Francisco, the Middle West and to foreign countries.

Fruit Crops in Whitman County.

William Gordon, living on Spring Flat, near Colfax, Wash., had 75 acres in fruit last year, from which he gathered 6000 boxes of apples and pears, and 180 tons of prunes. He sold the apples and pears "on the tree" for 60 cents per box, the buyer picking and packing them. The fruit from this orchard, which was sold early in the season, and at less than the present market price, netted the owner about $5000, or $66 per acre, and he was at no expense for picking, packing or boxes.

Rev. T. W. Walters, who has an orchard of 12 acres near Colfax, sold his apples at from 75 cents for Fall apples, to $1 a box for Winter apples.

FRUIT-GATHERING SCENE IN SOUTHERN OREGON

This view was taken in the orchard of Gordon Voorhies, near Medford, on the Southern Pacific Railroad, in Southern Oregon. Mr. Voorhies has about 160 acres in apple, pear and prune trees, the product of which is sold mostly in Eastern markets, Newtown Pippin apples and Bartlett pears being shipped to London, where they sell for fancy prices. The green-fruit shipments of Rogue River Valley amount to upwards of 250 carloads per annum.