

ON LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER.

Clatsop and Columbia Counties Rich in Natural Resources of Great Value—Giant Forests of Merchantable Timber.

CLATSOP and Columbia Counties occupy the northwestern corner of Oregon, and form the Lower Columbia group, as distinguished from the Coast group, to which Clatsop is contiguous, and the Willamette Valley group, to which Columbia is contiguous. Both are susceptible of large development and the future has much in store for them. Both are rich in timber resources of known extent and in coal measures the extent of which is unknown because of lack of development.

CLATSOP COUNTY.

Vast Bodies of Merchantable Timber Tributary to Astoria.

Probably no other section of the state offers so great a diversity of inducements to prospective settlers or to capitalists seeking profitable investments for their wealth as does Clatsop County. The latent resources of the district are enormous, and when developed will prove vast sources of wealth to the ones who take advantage of them. Possessing thousands of acres of fertile lands, vast forests of the most valuable timbers native to the Northwest, large fields of the best steaming and coking coal, extensive deposits of the finest potter's clay, and, located as it is, on the shores of the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean, its opportunities for farming, stockraising, brick and pottery-making, lumbering in all its various departments, shipbuilding and fresh-water and deep-sea fishing are unsurpassed.

The principal farming districts of the county are on the Clatsop Plains and along the valleys of the Lewis and Clark and Young's Rivers, extending south to the Nehalem Valley. The Clatsop Plains extend from the Columbia River to the Necanicum, a distance of about 20 miles, with an average width of two miles. The soil is a sandy loam, producing wheat, oats and vegetables. It is conceded by experts that this soil is especially adapted for raising sugar beets. Between the plains and the foothills is a vast expanse of peat marshes, upon which wild cranberries grow in profusion and, when cultivated, will yield a profitable crop of those delicious berries, for which there is a ready market. The river and creek bottoms and the tidelands are composed of the richest soils, and are capable of growing cereals, vegetables and hay, and are especially adapted for stock-raising. Hog-growing is also becoming an important industry in the Nehalem Valley, and some extensive fields are now in cultivation, yielding a handsome yearly profit to their owners.

Importance of the Salmon Industry.

The principal industry of the county, and the one on which the people have depended for the most part as a means of gaining a livelihood, is salmon-packing. Thousands of persons are given employment each season in these fisheries, and it is estimated that during the past year \$1,200,000 was paid the fishermen, seiners and trappers for their catches, besides the many thousands expended for preparing the fish for the market and in manufacturing the cans and barrels in which they are packed. The outlook for this industry is much more promising than it has been for several years past. Artificial propagation, so long an experiment, has been proven a success, insuring an increasing run of salmon each year, and before another season opens there will be at least three new canneries and four new cold-storage plants erected, and several of those now in operation will materially increase their capacity.

Among the other varieties of food fishes are shad, herring, sardines and smelt. These are to be found in great quantities in the waters of the Columbia River and in other streams of the county during certain seasons of the year, and while large quantities of them have been caught and shipped fresh to the markets each season for many years, steps are being taken for the first time to can and smoke them. Conservative men assert that when this industry is fully developed its returns will amount to many thousands of dollars annually. Deep-sea fishing from this port is as yet practically untouched. An endless variety of edible salt-water fish swarm the waters of the Pacific Ocean within a short distance of the mouth of the Columbia River, and with the excellent fishing grounds now available at Astoria, afford an exceptional opportunity for a lucrative investment to persons having the capital and energy to engage in it.

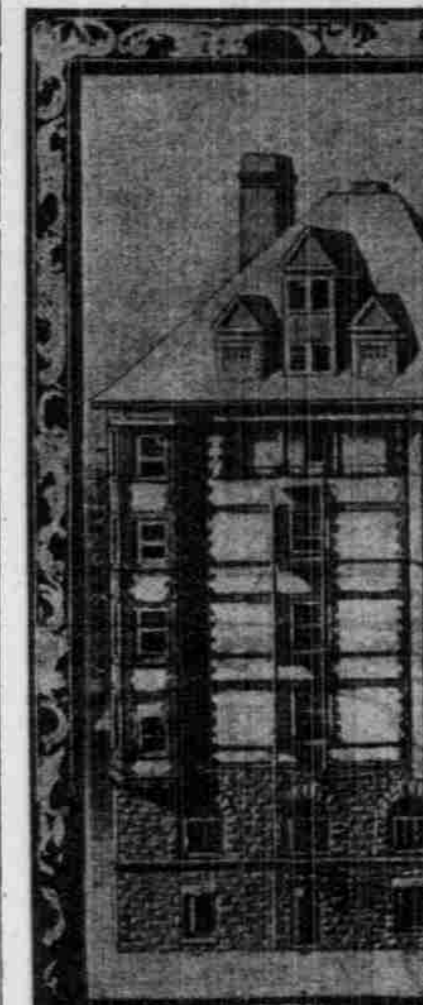
It has long been known that there were large deposits of coal underlying the virgin forests of the county, but it is only within the past few months that any organized movement has been made to open them and develop them. The most extensive of these coal fields yet discovered are the Kinney mines, near the mouth of the Nehalem River, and the veins owned by the Knapp Coal Company and located a short distance from Knappa. The former fields have been acquired by the Nehalem Coal Company, and a large force of men is now at work uncovering the veins and constructing a tramway for transporting the output to tidewater. An excellent quality of fuel has been found there, assaying much better than the British Columbia product, and it is in quantities sufficiently large to mine advantageously. The owners of the mines assert that they will be able to get the coal in Astoria at not to exceed \$3 per ton, thus solving the all-important question of a cheap fuel for manufacturing and steamship purposes. The work on the Knappa fields is not so far advanced, but the indications warrant the belief that veins of paying proportions will be unearthed.

In the vicinity of the Lewis and Clark River are extensive deposits of a fine quality of potter's clay. These are as yet untouched except that some has been shipped to Portland and there manufactured into articles for the market. The quantity is almost unlimited, and furnishes a chance seldom encountered for a factory to make sewer-pipe and all classes of pottery.

Vast Forests of Timber.

Next in point of importance to the salmon fisheries, and which are capable of even far greater development, are the vast timber resources of Clatsop County and the country tributary to Astoria adjacent to the mouth of the river. Astoria is a possible lumbering exporting point, without a rival on the Pacific Coast, yet hitherto no account has been made of it in lumber circles. The industry has been smothered by peculiar conditions that have placed this district at a disadvantage with other lumbering points on the Coast. One of the chief drawbacks was lack of railway connections and common-carrier rates on lumber to the interior markets. Another was supposed to be its lack of a relatively large local market for its second-class lumber. The first of these carriers has been removed, and the transportation companies have recently extended to the Lower Columbia River district equal rates on lumber to all points north, east and south of Pocatello, Idaho. At present there are but four sawmills in Clatsop County. They are the plants owned by the Clatsop Mill Company and Astoria Box Company, in Astoria; the Necanicum Spruce Lumber Company, at Seaside; and the Warrenton Lumber Company, on the Skipanon, but others are expected to be started in the immediate future. The total cut for the year will aggregate about 50,000,000 feet. There are four big distinct sources of lumber tributary to Astoria. The first and most convenient of these is that which has an out-

let in Young's Bay, down the Lewis and Clark, Young's, Clackamas and Willamette Rivers, all of which rise to the southeast of Astoria some 30 or 40 miles distant, in the Nehalem or Crescent Range of mountains. For many years the local mills have drawn their supplies chiefly from these forests. The result is that much of the good timber has been logged, and it is necessary to go higher up near the



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sources and far back to the summits of the divides between them in order to find ample timber. Still there is yet a vast quantity of Oregon pine and much spruce to be found in those great forests, to say nothing of the hemlock which is very abundant, especially on the Lewis and Clark, and cedar, which is well scattered.

Location of the Timber Belts.

The next most accessible body of timber is that found on the Oregon slopes of the Columbia above Tongue Point, and which finds an outlet down the numerous small streams that empty into the Columbia at that point. Much of this, lying within a few miles of the river, has also been logged, principally for the Portland market. But on the higher slopes, for 15 miles back to the summit of the Nehalem divide, crowning the northern extremity of the Coast Range, Oregon pine is much in evidence.

The third accessible great source of timber supply is known as the Necanicum spruce belt. The Necanicum River, with two branches, is some 25 miles long, and its watershed is on an average, perhaps, 30 miles wide. It flows into the ocean near Tillamook head and taps the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad at Seaside. It is the most westerly of the little rivers heading in Saddle Mountain and, being nearest the ocean, its forests are chiefly spruce, with hemlock a good second. The spruce belt, it may be remarked, is within 15 miles of the seacoast. As a consequence, being a scientific fact, the Lewis and Clark Basin has much spruce in it, while only in the lower part of Young's River Basin is any spruce to be found.

So, too, the other regions and timber basins on the Lower Columbia farther than 15 miles from the seacoast have none, or at least, very little spruce. The Necanicum region will average about 4,000,000 feet of spruce to the section.

The next great timber belt within Astoria's reach is the basin of the Nehalem River. That river is about 150 miles long, with a watershed averaging some 25 miles in width. It rises in the eastern slopes of the Coast Range, northwest of Forest Grove, makes a big bend to the eastward, and, turning west, cuts through the Coast Range in Clatsop County and empties into the ocean below Tillamook head. All this timber, which consists of the largest and best Oregon pine, spruce, larch and cedar, is tributary to mills located at the mouth of the Columbia River. An extension of the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad, now being agitated, down to the Lewis and Tillamook, would tap all of this immense belt of timber. These vast forests, containing billions of feet of fine merchantable timber, are within the confines of Clatsop County, easily accessible from the Columbia River, and offer opportunities for the establishment of large mills unequalled in the Northwest.

Astoria. L. J. KERN.

COLUMBIA COUNTY.

Outcroppings of Coal and Iron Found in Several Sections.

Sixteen miles below Portland the Columbia River, flowing north, becomes the eastern boundary of Columbia County, and in its course to the sea washes its shore for nearly 60 miles. Before passing beyond the county the river turns west, having made a quarter circle. From the center of the county the distance to the river at any place east or north would vary but little from 14 miles.

The bottom lands are not extensive, but are valuable for hay and pastures. The grasses remain green most of the year. Part of the bottom lands are overflowed every June rise; and the higher places only once in five or 30 years. Overlooked lands are fertilized by the limited coat of silt deposited during the flood.

Stockraising and dairying interests are well represented on Sauvie's Island, Deer Island and Scappoose Bay pastures. Columbia County may, in a general way, be called "hilly." Bunker Hill, 13 miles west from St. Helens, is probably 1300 feet above tidewater. Most of the larger streams within the county rise or take their source in that vicinity. All these streams are pure living waters, do not dry up, but contain trout at all seasons. Of the creeks, Scappoose, Milton, Tide, Goble, Heaver and Clackamas are the largest that flow into Columbia River. The Nehalem River, the east fork of which rises near Bunker Hill, empties into the ocean. Most, if not all, of these

streams are utilized for floating the products of the forest to tidewater. These creeks make a deep cut into the back country and will make it possible for a majority of the settlers to send to market much of the forest in the shape of sawlogs, piling, cordwood, fence posts, that would otherwise be of little value for many years to come. They will hasten the day of home-building.

Giant Forests of Cedar and Fir.

The wealth of Columbia County is in its forests of fir and cedar. Probably more than 50 per cent of the land is still covered by valuable living trees. They owe their size, excellence and profusion to the copious rains and mild climate, tempered by the ocean winds. Large living springs of purest cold water flow out of the hillsides in many places. The forest is being marketed rapidly, but not too fast. It is our principal crop, standing ready for the woodman's ax at all times and seasons. Probably the

trees average, say, 30 to 40 inches in diameter the fact of there ever having been a destructive conflagration is not much, if any, in evidence. And so on in streaks, grade after grade in size, until the old trees appear again; or, in fact, forest trees of any age, as there is no regularity in the streaks of trees of different periods of growth. It is not quite probable that the old forest, left to grow decay, would be a breeding place for destructive insects to such an extent that no forest could resist their attack? Our young and middle-aged firs are, as a rule, sound and healthy, and only under extremely favorable conditions would fire run through such timber, if at all.

The forest is the best crop that will ever come off the land. But it is only one crop in a lifetime. The preparing of it for market gives employment to a large force of men. Many of the settlers of modest means obtain work much of the year, and at good wages, in the logging and wood camps. Lands within a few

hundred miles is hard to find another new country with so many natural advantages yet unclaimed as may be found here. What the immigrant expects to find and contrast here, as it is everywhere, immigrants by rail are not so well qualified to tackle the changed order of things as were those who toiled over desert and mountain with wagon and footsore ox teams. Then little was expected, and much was found; now too much is expected and not so much to be found. The by tunneling, the flow of water would be into the hill instead of out of it. It is expected that artesian machinery will soon bore down several hundred feet into the first man who came to the county had choice of everything; the second man's chances were reduced by any and all appropriated and claimed by the first comer. The opportunities of incoming immigrants will be reduced by all that has been appropriated by the 6000 who are here in

the backwoods. So far the "burns" have not received much attention.

Coal and Iron Outcroppings.

Lignite coal crops out in many places in the county. The developments go to show a large area of coal measures, and that is about all that is known about it. Prospecting in a more intelligent and systematic manner is promised in the near future. If an average vein of good commercial coal should be found, the lands of the county will advance materially and rapidly. Most of the veins, perhaps all of them, dip into the hill, no matter where found; that is, in following a vein the coal formations, important developments are quite probable in the not very remote future.

Like most localities showing coal, we also find many outcroppings of iron ore at a number of places west of St. Helens and south from Rainier. Probably careful examinations will show iron ore to exist in many places yet unknown.

This is still a new country after the Columbia River is left a few miles below

St. Helens. The same conditions exist in all countries to which people are emigrating. "Go West and grow up with the country" is a saying that is worthy of much consideration.

We have several small towns or villages in the county, none of which can count 600 inhabitants. Most of them are on or near the great and beautiful Columbia, that grandest of American rivers. Ships from the principal ports of the world are in daily evidence, going up the river or returning to the sea.

Our schools would do great credit to many of the older communities east of the Rockies. In a general way this may be called a healthy country. No particular diseases are prevalent. Our communities average fairly prosperous, and a few live without any visible means, as is not infrequently the case in all new countries.

I constructed an icehouse some 12 or 13 years ago, and fill it any season that ice freezes over two and a half inches thick. Five inches is the thickest ice yet obtained, and that only on the most shaded ponds. Seven years of this time no ice was frozen to the required thickness, so the icehouse could not be filled.

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STUDEBAKER BROS. COMPANY NORTHWEST.

THEIR LARGE ESTABLISHMENT ON EAST MORRISON STREET, PORTLAND.

On January 1, 1901, the Pacific Northwest business of the Studebaker Bros. Company was incorporated under the name of Studebaker Bros. Company Northwest.

The capitalization of this corporation is \$400,000. The company's headquarters for the entire business of the Pacific Northwest today are located at Portland. The president of the corporation is Frederick S. Fish; E. M. Brannick is vice-president, treasurer and general manager. The important office of secretary and cashier, occupied in a most able manner by the late Edwin R. Kimble, is at present vacant.

This company began business at No. 220-223 East Morrison street, on June 1, 1892. By the Spring of the following year it had its building in shape for handling, in an expeditious manner, the large trade which the Studebaker Bros. Company already controlled in the States of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Since 1883 the business of the Portland branch of this house has steadily increased. Mr. Brannick, the manager and local representative of the Studebaker Bros. Company Northwest has always had great faith in Portland, and in its supremacy in this field as a commercial and financial metropolis of all of the Pacific Northwest.

Studebaker Bros. Company Northwest has now in process of erection a magnificent new four-story building adjoining the store of the present building that the company occupies. It is the intention of the local management to have the new building ready for occupancy by April 1 next. This building will have 100 feet frontage on East Morrison street, and will be 200 feet in depth. It will contain approximately 100,000 square feet of floor space.

The Studebaker Bros. Company Northwest today from its Portland establishment handles a business which reaches to all parts of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and the British Northwest to the Arctic circle. It has agencies in all the principal cities of the above territory. It carries constantly in stock here one of the finest assortments of vehicles, including the best types of buggies, carriages, etc., and the highest grades of farm wagons manufactured anywhere. When its new building is completed, this company will carry in Portland a stock of buggies and vehicles of all kinds that will compare favorably with larger stocks in this carried today by any of the largest houses in the representative populous centers of the Eastern States.