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WESTERN OREGON.

General Description.

Oregon is the most north-westerly State in the Union, being situated on the west by the Pacific Ocean, on the north by the Columbia river and Washington Territory, and on the south by California and Nevada. It extends, on an average, for 350 miles east and west, and 275 miles north and south, and contains 95,374 square miles, with an area of about 60,000,000 of acres.

The Cascade mountains, with their lofty, snow-capped peaks, stretch across the State from the north to the south, at a distance of about 110 miles to the Pacific Ocean. They divide the State into two distinct geographical sections, known as Eastern and Western Oregon.

The latter—that is, the region lying between the Cascade mountains and the Pacific Ocean—is far more advanced in civilization than the former, and within its natural boundaries nine-tenths of the present population of the State are living. In mildness and healthiness of climate, richness of natural resources, and beauty of scenery, Western Oregon is unsurpassed by any part of the United States.

Another chain of mountains, the so-called Coast Range, also running north and south, at a distance varying from 40 to 70 miles from the Cascade mountains, and proportionately nearer to the Pacific coast, divides, in conjunction with the last named chain and the spurs of both, Western Oregon into a number of more or less extensive valleys. The most important of these is the great valley of the Willamette river. The Willamette flows from south to north between the Coast Range and Cascade mountains, in which it has its origin.

The Willamette valley, the acknowledged garden of the Pacific Coast, is about 150 miles in length, and from 30 to 60 miles in width. The valley at large comprises many minor valleys, traversed by the numerous tributaries of the Willamette. What with the towering mountains bordering it on the east and west, and its charmingly diversified surface of rolling prairie, dotted with wooded hills and fringed with thickly timbered bottom lands, it forms a landscape of rare beauty. Nearly the whole of its area is of extraordinary fertility, but of the 5,000,000 acres included in it only about 400,000 are as yet cultivated. Within it are the most important towns of the State and reside fully two-thirds of its population.

In the southern part of Western Oregon, the largest valley is that of the Rogue river, which rises in the Cascade Range and flows westerly into the Pacific. It is rich both in agricultural and mineral resources. Between the Rogue river and the Willamette valley lies that of the Umpqua river, another tributary of the Pacific. This valley is 75 miles long, with an average width of 40 miles. It is also very productive.

Climate.—Salubrity.

The climate of Western Oregon is mild and equable, differing in this from that of the Eastern States, that it is neither too hot in the summer nor too cold in the winter. Owing to the proximity of the Pacific and Gulf stream of that Ocean, snow or frost never prevail to any considerable degree. The average temperature explains this fact. The average for spring is 52 degrees, for summer 67 degrees, for autumn 53 degrees, and for winter 39 degrees Fahrenheit, showing a mean deviation of only 28 degrees during the year. The average yearly rain fall is 44 inches—about the same as at Davenport, (Iowa), Memphis and Philadelphia. Thunder-storms are almost unknown in Western Oregon, and the disastrous hurricanes and whirlwinds of the Atlantic States entirely so.

The low rate of yearly mortality speaks well for the salubrity of Oregon. It is only 1 in 172, while in Massachusetts and Louisiana it is 1 in 87; in Vermont, the healthiest State East of the Rocky mountains, 1 in 92; in Illinois and Indiana, 1 in 87; and California, 1 in 101.

The equable temperature, the absence of high cold winds and sudden atmospheric changes render the people less subject to bronchial, rheumatic, and inflammatory complaints than any other parts of the country where the extremes of heat and cold are greater and the changes of temperature more sudden and violent. Malarious fevers prevail to some extent in the close proximity to water courses, but they are of a mild type, and yield readily to treatment.

Natural Resources.

Soil.—In the river bottoms black loam prevails. The prairie lands immediately between the river bottoms and the hills, forming the outrunners of the great mountain ranges and known as "foot hills" consist usually of a dark deep loam or marl, with a clay sub-soil. The hill lands consist mostly of red, brown or black loam, the red predominating in the central portion of the valley and the black near the mountains.

Timber.—On the low lands, such evergreens as the fir, cedar, pine and yew, as well as oak, ash, maple and alder, grow in abundance for all purposes. In the foot hills, scattering oaks and firs, with a thick second growth in many places, are found. The mountain ranges are mostly heavily timbered with tall firs, pine, spruce, hemlock, cedar, larch and laurel, without much undergrowth, except near water courses. The growth of timber reaches what would be considered extraordinary dimensions at the Atlantic States; the fir and pine attain very great heights.

Minerals.—Iron and lead are found in various parts of the State in large quantities. Limestone and coal have been found at many points. Gold and silver have been discovered all over the State, but only in Southern and Eastern Oregon in quantities warranting mining operations.

Natural Grasses.—The native grass known as bunch grass, grows all over the State. It is very fine, sweet and nutritious, and retains its fattening quality until late in autumn.

Water Supply.—Oregon is probably the best watered State in the Union. Western Oregon is traversed in all directions by rivers and smaller water courses, fed by springs, melting snow from the highest mountains and copious rains. There is a regular rainy season, lasting from early in November till April. Owing to the abundant rain, the extreme dryness that regularly prevails in the other Pacific States during the summer season, is not experienced in Oregon. Soft, pure water abounds everywhere. The country is also supplied with water power for industrial purposes. Numerous mineral springs are found in the Willamette valley, some of which are places of resort for invalids.

Fisheries.—The Columbia river is noted for its fine salmon, which, in various forms of preservation, constitutes an article of export to all parts of the world. The fish are taken in tide water in immense quantities, fresh from the ocean, as they ascend the river. The salmon catch, as worked by nets and traps, now yields annually one million and a half of dollars, and a vast field is still open for the business. Many other kinds of fish are taken. The mountain streams are full of trout.

Game.—Elk, deer, black and grizzly bears, Oregon cougar, or California lion, with numerous other smaller quadrupeds; and swans, geese, ducks, grouse, pheasants and quails constitute the game of the country. Of the larger game, only the deer frequent the inhabited portions of the country. The winged game is especially abundant.

Products.

Oregon is unquestionably the finest farming country in the United States. Every kind of agricultural product that grows at all in Oregon, attains a perfection both as to size and quality that is rarely found in other parts of the Union, excepting California. This is as strictly true of cereals as of vegetable and fruits.

Grain.—The wheat of Oregon is noted for its superior quality, and commands a high price in the grain markets of the world. The berry is very fair and full, often weighing 65 pounds to the bushel measurement. Wheat is the principal product. Oats are next in importance. The standard weight for oats in Oregon is 36 pounds, but the soil and climate is so well adapted to their growth that the weight of 40 pounds to the bushel is often reached. Barley is also successfully raised. Corn is grown in many localities with success, but it is not made a specialty, the average summer being too cool for its successful culture. With good cultivation the wheat lands will yield from 25 to 45 bushels of wheat per acre; 40 to 60 bushels of barley, and from 50 to 80 bushels of oats. These figures can be relied on.

Weevil, smut or drouth is seldom known in Oregon. No failure of the wheat crop has occurred since the settlement of the country, that is, during a continuous period of thirty years.

Flax.—The soil and climate of Western Oregon seem peculiarly favorable to the culture of flax, but thus far its culture has been pursued mainly for the seed. The lint has been tested in Europe (Dundee and Belfast), and competent authorities have pronounced it, in fineness, strength and quality, quite equal to the best European growths.

Vegetables.—A superior quality of every kind of vegetables is grown. Potatoes, cabbages, turnips, carrots, squashes, beets, parsnips, cucumbers, tomatoes and onions grow in profusion. Potatoes yield from 200 to 500 bushels to the acre. Root diseases are unknown.

Fruit.—Apples, pears and plums grow in such abundance that trees have to be regularly propped up to prevent them from breaking under weight of the crops. Pears, plums, cherries and German prunes are very superior. Strawberries, currants, raspberries and gooseberries grow abundantly, and have a peculiarly fine flavor. Several varieties of the harder kinds of grapes are raised in large quantities. Peaches grow well in some favorable localities, but the Willamette valley cannot be called a good peach country, owing to the coolness of the summer nights.

Cultivated Grasses.—Timothy, or herds' grass, grows well in every part of the State, and is the staple article for hay. Red and white clover, with proper preparation of soil, grow luxuriantly. Alfalfa, blue grass and orchard grass do finely everywhere.

Live Stock.—The mild winter climate of Oregon, and the fact that grass remains green nearly the whole year, make it an excellent country for raising every kind of stock. Oregon wool is of recognized superior quality, owing to the cool summers, warm winters and continued green feed for sheep. The wool clip for 1874 reached 3,000,000 pounds.

Dairies.—The climate especially favors the successful pursuit of the dairy business. The cool summer nights, the abundance of cool spring water, the freedom from sultry and wet weather and thunderstorms during the warm season greatly facilitate the production of butter and cheese.

[Concluded next week.]
—Black-eyed ladies are most apt to be passionate and jealous. Blue-eyed—soulful, truthful, affectionate, and confiding. Gray-eyed—philosophical, literary, resolute, cold-hearted. Hazel-eyed—quick-tempered and fickle. Green-eyed—jealous. Ours is green-eyed.
Kansas teacher—"Where does all of our grain product go to?" Boy—"It goes into the hopper." "Hopper! What hopper?" "Grasshopper" triumphantly shouted the lad.

Beecher's Salary Increased from \$20,000 to \$100,000.

New York, July 7.—A largely attended meeting of Plymouth society, composed of the pew-holders of Plymouth church, was held in the lecture-room of the church this evening with J. B. Hutchinson in the chair. The chairman stated that the meeting had been called for the purpose of considering the question of increasing Beecher's salary. Henry W. Sage offered a resolution to the effect that the salary of the pastor for the ensuing year be fixed at \$100,000, instead of \$20,000, which it has heretofore been. This was seconded by R. W. Pope. After which, R. W. Raymond made a lengthy address, in which he censured the action of the press very strongly. The reporters he characterized as a perfect nuisance, and said they had all suffered by being interviewed by representatives of the press of the country. S. B. White delivered a short address, in which he said that while the investigation committee were sitting, Plymouth church had made no efforts to influence them in any way, and so it had been all through the trial. They had made no move whatever toward influencing the jury or anybody else in Beecher's behalf. Their time had not come until tonight, "and now," said he, "we will show the world that Plymouth church can spend millions in defense of her pastor's innocence, but not one dollar for blackmail or bribery." The resolution was then put to a vote, and passed unanimously, there being not one dissenting voice. There were about four-fifths of the pew-holders of the church present at the meeting, which was a very enthusiastic one. It is generally understood among the congregation that this enormous salary is only for this year and is mainly intended to help defray expenses of the trial.

American Victory.

BELFAST, July 7.—The contest for the mayor and citizens' cup was held on the range on Lord Dufferin's grounds; distance 1,000 yards. Each man was allowed five shots, the highest possible score being twenty. Several thousand persons witnessed the shooting. A.L. members of the American team and reserves took part. The contest was exciting, especially toward the close, as the result was doubtful up to the last shot. Scores were announced as follows: Gildersleeve, American, 19; Lee, of Belfast, 19; Fulton, American, 17; Johnson, of Dublin, 18; Bruce, American, 17; McKenna, of Dublin, 17; Wylie, 16. The tie between America and Ireland was then shot off. According to the terms agreed upon, the men had three shots apiece when the result again was a tie, Gildersleeve and Lee's scores being exactly alike. Each made two bulls-eyes and a center, counting eleven. The final result was a victory for Gildersleeve, who made three bulls-eyes in succession, scoring 12. Lee made 10. The victorious American was widely applauded by the excited spectators. In the course of the shooting for the cup Bodine, Dakin and Coleman, of the American team, made misses and were obliged to retire, in accordance with the rule requiring the withdrawal of any man who missed the target. A considerable number of Irish competitors also retired under the rule, including Wilson, a crack shot. The enthusiasm in Belfast for the American shows no sign of abatement.

After the contest, the members of the American team and friends, accompanied by the mayor, aldermen and other leading citizens, made an excursion on Belfast "Lough." The party were entertained at Chendeboye, Lord Dufferin's country residence.

The Yreka Union says that a band of Angora goats numbering two thousand passed through Chico last week, bound for Jackson county, Oregon.

Patrons of Husbandry.

A Patron of Husbandry, writing upon the advantages of the Order to a cotemporary says:

One of the first and most noticeable results of a newly organized Grange is to see the members inquisitive about further information—they want to get posted. A demand springs up right away for reading matter. Persons who have not taken a newspaper in their families for years, or maybe in a life time, suddenly realize that they have not only been living behind the times, but beneath their opportunities. The admission of one ray of light usually prepares the way for a grander and more wholesome illumination. A little odd it seems at first, yet none the less significant and encouraging, to hear country folk warming up in their discussions of some abstruse point in parliamentary law, and to see the ladies as well as the men evincing a laudable ambition to show fealty to Jefferson's Manual. These facts go to show that there are educational as well as business features connected with the order—that Patrons are accomplishing other things, as well as endeavoring to buy cheaply and sell to the best advantage.

OREGON.

Gov. Gibbs orated at Junction on Independence Day, Hon. J. F. Caples, at Gervais, Judge Boise at Aurora, Hon. H. H. Gilfrey at Stayton, L. F. Powell at Jefferson, and G. P. Riley at Rock Island.

Farmers in the neighborhood of Weston, Oregon, complain greatly of the depredations of squirrels. These pests have invaded that section in immense numbers, and in some instances have destroyed whole fields of grain.

The celebration at Stayton, Marion County, was attended by over 2,000 persons. There were 1,000 at Jefferson and 6,000 at Junction. Everywhere the national anniversary seems to have passed off pleasantly, few accidents occurred, and the fire of patriotism still glows brightly in the great American heart.

The Record notes the arrival of the steamer Ohio at Salem, from Eugene, with 1,300 sacks wheat, 140 bales wool, and lots of butter and eggs. She discharged the wheat at Salem and took on eighty tons flour for Portland. The Ohio has made a trip to Eugene at a lower stage of water than any steamer went there on before.

Gloomy Outlook for Alfonso.

LONDON, July 7.—The Times to-day refers to the military and political situation in Spain and gives a gloomy view of the Alfonsoist cause. It says the recent minor successes of Jovelar have been outweighed by reverses elsewhere, and the Carlists seem about to give forward march. All the bright hopes Alfonso brought to Spain have vanished and his best generals are less active than hitherto. They have met defeat instead of victory. The king has not been more successful in Madrid. He has failed to satisfy the Church and has enraged the Liberals, hence the ministry seem ready to try the effect of as much religious toleration as will permit Protestants to worship in the back streets, but such concession will disgust clericals and not satisfy Alfonso's political supporters. Neither has the king made peace between the warring factions. The press is muzzled to prevent it from being disloyal, and there are no funds to pay the army or navy.

"I did not think," said an evil tongue, "that Mlle. A. B. C. would indulge herself in the luxury of a convent before making her re-entry in the world." A still more evil tongue answered: "What would you have? A woman would not care to go to Paradise except for the pleasure of descending to Paradise lost."
—Arsene Honssave.

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