

## Many Inducements to Homeseekers In Polk County, Or.



Polk County Prune Orchard.



Picking Polk County Hops.



Typical Polk County Orchard.

**F**EW sections of the United States offer more inducement to the homeseeker than does the County of Polk, Oregon, possessing as it does a wonderful combination of climate and soil. As many as three crops on the same land in a single season are not unusual; two of vetches and grain, followed by corn and matured sufficiently for excellent feed. Eighteen and eight-tenths tons of best quality forage crops for the dairy cow have been measured and weighed per acre.

There are thousands of acres of productive soil as yet undeveloped in Polk County, and there lies an opportunity for many a man of moderate means. Polk County is the leader in Mohair production and ranks second among the 34 counties of the state in the production of hops. It is fifth in plums, prunes and cherries; sixth in pears; seventh in strawberries and raspberries. In area it ranks 29th.

There is room in Polk County for agriculturist, stock raiser, machinist, electrician, dairymen, investor or business man. Polk County presents alluvial soil, mild winters, cheap transportation facilities, pure mountain water, low-priced fuel and healthful surroundings. Polk County is on the east slope of the Coast Range

Mountains, its northern boundary being 50 miles south of Portland. It has a land area of 709 square miles or 453,760 acres, an estimated population of 15,000, of which 6000 are in cities and towns of over 300 inhabitants. The population is 90 per cent American born.

### 11,971 Acres Open.

Of the aggregate area 11,520 acres are in forest reserves and 451 acres in public lands, making 11,971 acres not decided or patented. About 441,789 acres are in private ownership. Fully 260,368 acres are improved, 137,162 acres cultivated, 126,205 uncultivated and 178,643 acres unimproved. There are 2880 acres in incorporated cities and towns.

Polk County contains 1557 farms with an average of 167.2 acres per farm, with an average value of \$54.08 per acre. The value of farm property has increased nearly 100 per cent in 10 years.

Anything grown in a temperate zone should be produced in Polk County at a profit without irrigation. If diversified and intensified farming is followed 10 to 20 acres are sufficient for the general farmer, and for general farming from 40 to 80 acres and upward are required. The average rainfall is 42 inches. In the extreme western portion of the county the

rainfall is 53 inches. The amount of snowfall is light and rare on the slopes and the valleys. The average number of rainy days per year is 133. The average maximum temperature in July is 80 degrees and the average minimum is 54 degrees. The averages for January are 45 and 34 degrees.

### Prunes, Apples and Cherries.

Conditions prevailing in Polk County make it exceptionally profitable for the production of prunes. Polk County ranks fifth in this industry among Oregon counties, having an average yield of 6,000,000 pounds of green or 2,200,000 pounds of dried fruit, per year. Within the boundary of Polk County there are 1200 acres of prunes full-bearing, and 600 acres in young orchards. Young trees may be had for about \$10 per 100.

Next in importance in commercial fruit in Polk County is the apple, of which there is an ever-increasing acreage being brought into bearing. The same culture and climatic conditions that favor the prunes are no detriment to the apple. The Polk County growers, whose ideas are the highest, are proving that the modern methods employed will bring profits to those investigating in apple land in Polk County. Many crops have been

planted recently and are just beginning to bear and the fruit are as fine as those grown on the Coast.

One of the finer productions of this section is the cherry, which has a special texture in this territory, and enables growers to ship them to the most distant markets. The cherry trees in Polk County are remarkably free from pests and the cherries are excellent in size and flavor. They grow thriftily where proper soil is available.

When proper handling is given the famous Bartlett pear, it is a paying crop in Polk County. Other varieties of the pear may also be grown to a profit in this territory.

### Smaller Fruits.

The smaller fruits are particularly adaptable to a profitable production here. Strawberries grown in November are unusual in Polk County. The loganberry, blackberry and raspberry are all susceptible of easy culture and, for shipping, canning or evaporating are very thrifty in this section. Planted between the rows in an orchard, strawberries, raspberries and other small fruit help to pay the expense of bringing the orchard into bearing.

Within the State of Oregon there are about 23,000 acres in bearing hop lands, 5000 of which are in the rich, alluvial bottoms of Polk County. Prices fluctuate from 12 to 27 cents per pound, the best of production being estimated at about 10 cents per pound. Many thousand dollars are distributed annually during harvest to the pickers necessary to harvest the Polk County crop.

Dairying is yet in its infancy in Polk County. The almost perpetual green pasturage, cheap housing, abundant crops of grains, hay and root vegetables, opens a big opportunity to the dairymen. Some of the best specimens of the Jersey is America are found in Polk County with a great number of Guernseys, Holsteins and other breeds. Prices for butterfat average nearly 32 cents.

### Leads in Mohair.

Polk is the banner county of the state in the mohair industry. The Angora goats raised here have carried the highest reward wherever exhibited, not only for the high quality of breed but also for the excellent quality of the mohair. Some of the best Angora stock have gone to bands from Polk County to various sections of the United States. The Angora goat was introduced into Polk County 10 years ago, from pure-bred stock from Asia Minor. The industry has been broadened until now the annual clip is valued at \$425,000. Single goats sell readily from \$2 to \$5, while high-grade bucks bring higher figures.

The famous Petaluma district of California finds a rival in Polk County. Not because of its sheltered position from heavy rains and chilling fogs, and a climate equal to that of Petaluma. Polk County has very favorable conditions for the raising of poultry. Prices for the poultry products are about the same as New York and Boston, eggs retailing as high as 10 cents per dozen during the winter months. The demand is always greater than the supply. Dallas holds a poultry show each year, aided by the Commercial Club, at which high-quality birds are exhibited.

### Polk County Lumber.

Of the 152,720 acres of forest land, 2720 are in forest reserves, and it is estimated that privately owned forest land will cut 10,000,000,000 feet of lumber. Sold at the rate of \$10 per 1000, this will bring \$100,000,000, paying for labor approximately \$75,000,000. It would require five sawmills, cutting 100,000 board feet per day more than 60 years to convert the county's standing timber into marketable product. Approximately 40,000,000 feet of lumber are shipped annually. The timber forests are tapped by three main roads.

### Educational Facilities.

The settlers in a comparatively new country are always interested in the educational facilities. Figures gathered in 1913 and 1914 show the following conditions.

Number of rural schools, 67; number of city schools, 6; number of children of school age, census 1913-14, 5882; number of children in primary and intermediate grades, 1389; number of children in grammar grade, 1376; number of children in high school, 531; average number of days in school year, 144; whole number of days attendance in year, 47,812; average daily attendance for the year, 297.1; per cent of attendance for year, 96.3; enrollment in city schools, 1017; enrollment in rural schools, 1894; number of teachers employed, male, 25; number of teachers employed, female, 113; teachers' salaries for year, \$72,275.50; total expenditures last year, \$126,012.60; value of schoolhouses and grounds, city, \$131,000; value of schoolhouses and grounds, rural, \$118,746; value of school furniture and apparatus, city, \$11,100; value of school furniture and apparatus, rural, \$18,479; average monthly salary of teachers, male, \$79.95; average monthly salary of teachers, female, \$44.00; number of standard schools, 58.

The only educational institution for the training of teachers in the State of Oregon is located at Monmouth, a typical school town, located only a few miles from Dallas, the county seat. Thirty-

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