

LOWER COLUMBIA COUNTIES SHOW A LOW DEATH RATE

No Blizzards, No Thunderstorms, No Hot Nor Cold Weather, Astoria and Vicinity Enjoys Healthful Climate

Astoria, Or., June 21.—In keeping with other parts of Oregon, the Lower Columbia River district can boast a climate that cannot be surpassed for health or agricultural purposes by any other section removed from the western slope.

A glance at the death records of counties and a cursory inquiry as to the state's agricultural productions provides ample proof for the statement, while the healthful appearance of Oregonians shows what the mild winters, cool summers and sea breezes do for mankind.

In western Oregon three things are principally responsible for the equable climatic conditions—they are the Japanese current which washes Oregon's shores, the presence of sea breezes in summer which daily wait their cooling breath over the land, and lastly the topography of the country.

In northwestern Oregon there are no blizzards, no thunderstorms, no tornadoes, no cyclones, no hot nor cold weather, and all this despite the fact that the latitude is the same as frigid Nova Scotia on the Atlantic.

During the summer the temperature averages 60 degrees, and during the winter the thermometer rarely drops below 38. Change from one season to another is almost imperceptible.

Just why high temperatures are maintained during the winter months is seen by a study of the warm Japanese current. Crossing the Pacific from the Philippines, India and Japan, this great stream divides into two branches, one of which strikes the Oregon coast off the mouth of the Columbia. This current is from 4 to 5 degrees warmer than waters on either side, and this vast amount of heat is given up to the atmosphere as the current travels northward.

Borne by the winds it sweeps shoreward, strikes the Coast range and the cascades, and the country receives the benefit.

During the summer months the prevailing winds are from the north during the forenoons, but almost every afternoon a strong breeze sets in from the Pacific which with nightfall shifts until the air currents come from the east.

Frost never penetrates the ground, and it ever snows in Astoria, and rarely up the river for 50 miles. During the winter it rains instead, and in common with all western seaport towns precipitation is higher than in the interior.

The mean annual rainfall is approximately 75 inches, which is one of the reasons why the country is so fertile.

The rain, however, does not militate against the healthfulness of the district, owing to the fact that the drainage is perfect, and the water not absorbed by the soil soon finds its way to the sea.

UPPER RIVER IS WAITING TO POUR DOWN GOLDEN STREAM OF COMMERCE

Inland Empire Cities Realize Strategic Position of Lower Columbia Ports.

By W. R. Struble of the Lewiston Commercial Club.

Lewiston, Idaho, June 21.—Lewiston now realizes that if she is to become the metropolis of the inland empire and uphold the name of "Idaho's only seaport," she must use every material effort to gain the cooperation of Portland, Astoria and tributary cities in assisting her in opening the Columbia river and completion of the Dalles-Celilo canal. Lewiston has now come to appreciate that Portland and Astoria occupy strategic places in river as well as oceanic transportation and to get the greatest mutual benefits she must cooperate with the Rose City, assisting her in every material way to get the opening of the river at the earliest date.

Through the Columbia-Snake River Waterways association, which embraces all the towns tributary to these rivers, a great work has been accomplished in concentrating the work looking to the opening of these two river highways.

When this constructional feat on the Columbia river has been completed, contemporaneous with the Panama canal, Lewiston, Kennewick, Pasco, The Dalles, Hood River, Portland and Astoria can be applicably termed seaport towns and cities.

A Great Trade Coming. The Snake river will with the proposed improvements, be a navigable stream the year around and will draw from Lewiston as a nucleus, trade and traffic from a radius of 40 miles. This city is surrounded by a vast grain belt, producing annually 10,000 bushels, fruit in enormous quantities, cattle, sheep and horses valued at nearly \$2,000,000 annually. With a water route to the coast there is no question but what Portland and Astoria will come in for the major portion of this traffic.

When the waterway structure is completed, Lewiston will be designated as head of navigation on the Snake river. This town is the oldest in the state, and the only one on a navigable stream of commercial importance in the state of Idaho. It is nestled in a fertile valley at the junction of the Snake and Clearwater rivers, both navigable at this point. The development of this city's resources is intimately dependent upon the opening of these two waterways. In the past the natural assets of this country have been largely retarded by virtue of the inadequacy of transportation facilities.

With the opening of the river, and the linking of Lewiston and Portland, the former will become the center of great commercial activities from which the latter will profit. Portland is assured of a goodly portion of the 150,000,000 feet of lumber handled through this section annually. It has been impossible to calculate the value of the latent ores along the Snake and Clearwater rivers.

Working for Open River. Optimism is taking a great hold on the people of the Snake river valley, and every man with business interest tributary to this water shed is working hard to bring to the knowledge of the government the immediate necessity of opening the rivers to immediate transportation, completing the Dalles-Celilo canal at once, and re-



W. R. Struble.

moving obstructions in both rivers regardless of cost.

Lewiston believes that Portland will look to Lewiston inasmuch as she has the goods that Portland must have. With closer cooperation in matters looking toward better transportation there is sure to arise a closer commercial relationship between these two river ports.

This year the Snake river valley will turn out the biggest crops in every industry in its history. So far the grain crop looks like one of the biggest in the history of this locality. The weather has so far been unusually favorable, with rains occasionally to prevent any burning of the young heads. In fruit the year has been replete with favorable conditions. The cherry crop will be 30 per cent heavier than last year. The cattle have had a good winter and are bringing fancy prices in coast markets. A great portion of these crops will go down the river to points about Portland, but such transportation could be facilitated with greater ease and at less expense with the unobstructed traffic on the waterways.

The Lewiston business interests have resolved to do all in their power to bring about concentration in the towns tributary to these rivers in order that the Dalles-Celilo canal can be completed at an early date and that the Snake and Columbia rivers can be opened to year-around traffic with the removal of treacherous obstructions in the current.

CROP OUTLOOK GOOD IN CLATSOP COUNTY

(Special to The Journal.) Astoria, Or., June 21.—Every indication points to a very successful fruit crop for Clatsop county this year. Reports for various sections are to the effect that the excellent weather of the past few weeks has been a great help to crops of all kinds.

According to County Fruit Inspector Worsley who recently returned from trip to the Nehalem valley and other sections, the early apple crop was damaged considerably by the cold rains early in the spring. The prunes were

also affected more or less in this manner but it is expected that the other crops will make up for the deficiency. Crops of all kinds are about two weeks late, according to Mr. Worsley but with favorable weather conditions they will come out all right.

It is said that a beautiful strawberry crop will be harvested in the county this summer. The increase in acreage and the favorable weather conditions being the cause of the big supply. It is thought there will be enough of the berries in the county to supply the local market during the season as well as the seaside and Gearhart markets. The first of the berries are expected to be ready next week.

A party of professors from the Oregon Agricultural college will arrive in Astoria the last of the month and it is planned to hold about seven institutions in various parts of the county during their stay.

The Astoria canneries will nearly \$5,000,000 worth of salmon a year. About one-half of this sum is paid to the men who catch the salmon. The Chinook salmon takes the fame of the Columbia river to every port in the world and brings the top price in every market.

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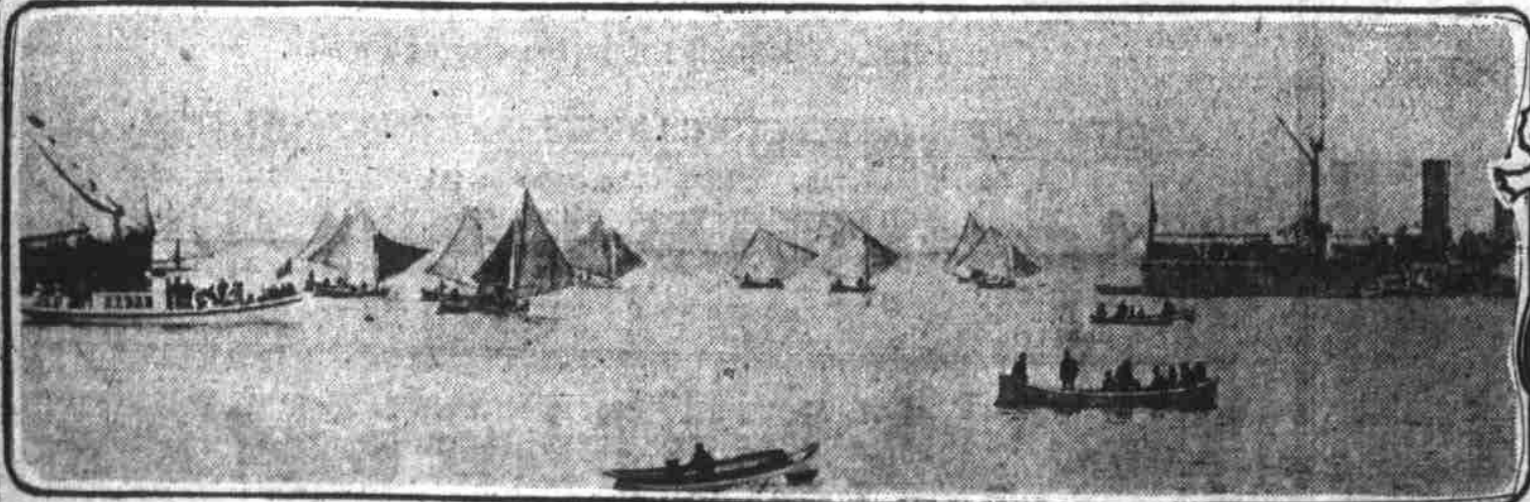
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