

OREGON.

Agricultural & Geographical Statistics

BY A. J. DUFUR.

NUMBER NINETEEN.

JACKSON COUNTY.

This county, like Douglas, situated in an extensive basin of unsurpassed fertility and loveliness, seems to have been supplied by nature with all those inherent elements that tend to render a community independent of other localities, and capable of supplying a dense agricultural, manufacturing and mining population with all the luxuries of independence, contentment and wealth. Bounded on the north by the Rogue river mountains, which separate it from Douglas and Grant, east by Grant county on the line of the 120th parallel of west longitude, south by the Siskiyou mountains, on the 42d parallel of north latitude, dividing it from California, and west by the Coast Range mountains and Josephine county. This county would seem to the casual observer or stranger to be an almost isolated location, cut off from communication with the outer world. But the energetic miner, the industrious farmer, and the hardy pioneer were not to be intimidated by any trivial obstacles in the way of opening a communication with a valley where nature has lavished her wealth with so liberal a hand. Bridges have been constructed, passes surveyed and roads graded—mountains with which this lovely valley is surrounded; and Jackson county is now provided with good roads and means of communication with Portland on the north and Sacramento on the south, by a daily line of stages and mail coaches running between these two places.—The enterprising citizens of this county have also opened a wagon road by which the immigrant from the plains can come by the way of Humboldt, Goose Lake and Klamath Lake route from the east. Pack trails and wagon roads have also been opened westward, through the Coast Range mountains to Port Orford and other points along the Pacific coast.

This county has an assessable property valuation of nearly one and a half million dollars, covers an area of about 9,000,000 acres of land, and has a population of between 5,000 and 6,000. The mineral resources of this county are too celebrated throughout all parts of the country to require any lengthy description in this place. The immense quantities of gold taken from the placer diggings annually for the last eight years, with the numerous quartz lodes of inexhaustible wealth, give unmistakable proof of the capacity of her gold mines, and render it a county of importance not only to the State of Oregon, but also worthy of high consideration in the financial circles of the whole United States. These gold mines annually furnish profitable employment to a great number of men, yielding handsome dividends on the amount of capital invested and the number of men employed. New discoveries of gold are annually being made in this county, and with the knowledge that iron, coal, silver, lead and copper also exist here, it is but fair to infer that mining in this locality is but just in its infan-

cy. Valuable mineral springs also exist in this county, from some of which a superior article of salt has been manufactured for a number of years, and is now taking precedence in many of the markets of Southern Oregon and Northern California. These springs are capable of yielding an almost unlimited supply of salt, if properly developed and worked to their full capacity.

Timber of all kinds known to Oregon, and of the finest quality for fuel, fencing, building, and general lumbering purposes, is conveniently distributed through all sections of the county, with water power and mill sites of sufficient capacity to drive the machinery for the milling and manufacturing purposes of an entire State.

The face of the country in this county is diversified with lofty mountains and extended ranges of hills, from whose summits may be seen extensive valleys, through which Rogue River and its numerous tributaries, like silver threads, seem interwoven in a maze of wild, enchanting loveliness. These valleys, as they roll back from the centre in gentle, undulating swells, or break into abrupt elevations, extending their long lines in either direction toward lofty mountain ranges in the distance, covered with immense forests, form a basin apparently encircled with mountains, and known as the Rogue River Valley.

The general geological character of the county bears strong indications of trapezoidal masses occurring in many places in the eastern part.—Still there is often found in this valley a sort of conglomerate silicious composition, which often contains shells and other indications of sedimentary formation.

At the intersection of the Coast Range mountains by Rogue river, sand stone prevails, and the strata remains uninterrupted, except at long intervals. The soil along the creeks and river bottoms and thro' the valley is very fertile, being an alluvial deposit of sediment, decomposed earth and vegetable mold.—These valleys, when cultivated, produce all kinds of cereals in perfection; also, roots, vegetables, Indian corn, tobacco, and all the varieties of fruit known to the climate of Oregon. The plateau, or more elevated portions, have a moderately rich soil, whose chief component parts are silica and a brownish gray mixture of decomposed vegetable, clay and sand loam. These lands, where cultivated, have proven very productive, and are nowhere excelled for their capacity to raise wheat.—This entire valley seems particularly adapted to stock-raising—its hills, prairies and valleys affording an almost unlimited supply of pasturage, where stock of all kinds fatten and thrive with but little care, seldom requiring extra feed, and in those instances not more than two or three months in the year. The climate, similar to that of the same altitude in other portions of the State, is mild, even and temperate, but not so humid as in the Willamette valley, the extremes of cold seldom falling below zero or that of heat rising to one hundred degrees above.

The water is pure, soft and abundant, being supplied by springs, brooks and rivulets from the mountains, while the numerous cascades

along Rogue river and its tributaries furnish motive power in abundance for every variety of machinery.

In regard to the health of this county, there can be but one conclusion formed. A locality with pure running water, and the facilities for enjoying a climate in summer fanned by a gentle sea breeze, or by altitude to inhale the bracing air of perpetual snow, must impart strength and vigor to the invalid and insure to the man of health a hale old age. The facilities for marketing are confined principally to the various mining camps in this portion of Oregon and Northern California, where fruit, vegetables, flour, bacon, beef, butter and cheese find a ready market at remunerative prices.

Liberal provisions for schools and religious instruction have been made—the generous hearted and industrious miner being generally ready to contribute to the establishment of good society as liberally as any other class of men within the State. Flouring mills, lumber mills and all kinds of mechanical industry are established and carried on in the various settlements in this valley. Also, stores, well supplied with agricultural implements, miners' and mechanics' tools, and with a general assortment of merchandise, where the immigrant or new settler can obtain supplies of all kinds at reasonable prices.

The price of farming land is from there are now about 15,000 acres under cultivation. Good government land for grazing or agricultural purposes can be obtained in many portions of the county.

A woolen mill is now in successful operation at Ashland, making up the products of the flock into articles for bedding and clothing, suitable to the wants of the community. The water-power at Ashland is splendid. There are at this place a flouring mill, machine shop, marble factory, a woolen mill, and two lumbering mills. The character of the goods manufactured here does credit to our manufacturing establishments. The marble is of excellent quality, and is found near by.

Jacksonville, the county seat, is a flourishing town, with good public and private schools, a number of churches belonging to the various religious denominations, mechanic shops, stores, hotels, a postoffice, fine private residences, and all the different business establishments, sufficient to render the town pleasant and prosperous. There is a number of other thriving towns in this valley, with stores, postoffices, and other business operations,—among them are Ashland, Willow Springs, Applegate, Grant's Pass, Bark Point, and Phenix.

The creeks and rivers abound with fish, among which are the salmon, chub, sucker, and mountain trout. Bear, elk, antelope, deer, and many kind of small game are found in this locality; also, a great variety of wild birds and water fowls, peculiar to the western slope of the Rocky mountains.

INTEREST.—The legal rate of interest in California was changed by the act of March 30, 1868, from ten to seven per cent. per annum; but, by express contract, any higher rate may be charged and collected.

OVER 30,000 emigrants left Liverpool for America during the month of May. Of this number five-sixths intended to settle in the United States. It is estimated that this aggregate of new-comers will be recorded for this and the coming month at the great packet port of England. Not less than 350,000 European emigrants will reach our shores this year. Not less than 40,000 Canadians will take up their residence in this country in the same time. The sum total of emigration from all parts of the world to the United States for the present year will exceed half a million of persons. The influx of foreigners may greatly exceed this calculation; but unless some unforeseen and extraordinary events occur, checking the tide, the above estimates will prove within the limits of the catalogue of accessions to our population by immigration. And when we contemplate the advantages which our country can hold forth to the poor of other lands, if the laws of our nation respecting pre-emption and homesteads are faithfully administered, we may reasonably expect that in the ten years to come the total of immigration will average one million of persons per year. And in this calculation we suppose that the Chinese importation—which will be officially counted as immigration—will continue the same per month as now. The Coolie shipments to this country may in themselves, however, exceed the number set for the entire accession.—*S. F. Herald.*

SALT FOR MANURE.—The use of salt for manure is increasing in a rapid way in England. People are beginning to find out that from one-fourth to one-third of the special agricultural manures sold consists of salt, and many have used salt to the extent, in the field, of twelve hundred weight per acre, and in the garden to even a greater extent, and always with benefit. The refuse salt at the salt wells is being used, and we are assured with the best results, particularly on worn-out land. It now begins to be the opinion of some of our best English agriculturists that want of salt is the cause of "clover sickness" in land; also that the disease called "finger and toe" is found to yield to salt. The following fact may be relied on: The writer having to make a path through an old worn-out sod of a meadow, for the purpose of getting rid of earthy matter which soiled the feet (and the meadow being on a very thin shaly sand and yellow loam), removed the turf to a sufficient depth to leave the sheer sand alone, and for a time made a nice clean path; but it being below the surface of the adjoining land, which was foul with weeds, all the seeds drifted with the wind into the path, and became very troublesome. To remove and kill the weeds, he sprinkled the whole path with dry salt and hoed it. This killed the weeds, but the heads of clover having drifted into the path, there came a most luxuriant growth of clover, which smothered the weeds and took thorough possession of the soil, and for ten years the clover there flourished ten times better than on any other spot on the premises. Try it.—*C. in Canada Farmer.*

From three to five years are sufficient to raise a living fence, to protect the fields from stock, unless animals are too unruly.

Put shingles in lime water, and let them soak a while, before laying them. They last a third longer, and do not gather moss.

EVERY time a plow cuts a corn root it kills a kernel.