



ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY, BY CLARKE & CRAIG, PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS. S. A. CLARKE. D. W. CRAIG. Terms of Subscription. One copy, one year (52 numbers) \$2.50 One copy, six months (26 numbers) 1.25 One copy, three months (13 numbers) .75 SALEM, FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1877.

OREGON AND CALIFORNIA.

During the past twenty-five years Oregon has had to struggle for growth and prosperity against the wealth and prestige of California. The fabulous wealth of her mines and the semi-tropical nature of her climate, combined to make California the greatest attraction in the world, and when agriculture was successfully commenced the fertility of the soil was also established. All these things worked to the disadvantage of Oregon, and the people of California made the most of their advantages to our discredit and injury. But time has established the superior qualities of our Northern soil and climate. Agriculture has now become the real basis of wealth in California and that State has to bear comparison with ours, greatly to its disadvantage. The frequent droughts and consequent failure of crops causes disaster and ruin of thousands of families, and while for a third of a century Oregon has known unflinching production, our neighbor to the South has repeatedly met with these ruinous failures, the most disastrous of which occurs the present year, when the growth of the agricultural interests has made that means of production and income paramount to all others. This year we shall ship from the Columbia river more grain than will be shipped from California. We shall produce—if present prospects are anywhere near realized—a surplus more than double that of last year. While the farmers of California have waited unavailingly for rain during the entire season, those of Oregon have had all things most favorable, so much so that from the first of October until the present time the conditions have been exactly what our farmers could have desired had they been able to direct them in advance. The least successful crop ever known in Oregon was that of 1876, when the too abundant rains of Winter injured the Fall-sown wheat. So it would appear that while California suffers from frequent Summer droughts we have never lost yield of cereals except from a plethora of rains. All these facts redound to the credit of Oregon as an agricultural region, and if our climate is not the natural home of the fig, grape, pomegranate, orange and palm, it is still so mild and salubrious as to compare favorably with all regions East of the Rocky Mountains and does not lose by comparison with that of California.

We may consider it now certain that the days of our impatient waiting are over; Oregon is no longer in leading strings; we have direct trade and our wool, wheat and flax are known in the world's best markets as Oregon products. Among the immigrants who are coming into our borders we find thousands from California, glad to resign the semi-tropical for the temperate zone, willing to accept our fruits as equal in value to the exotic growths of California, surprised to pass from the blighted fields of the South to the exuberant growth of those of Oregon, delighted to come beneath the clouds whose showers through all of May and June gladden the fields and pastures as well as the hearts of the husbandmen. The contrast is all in our favor and it will not be easy for California to regain the prestige after the ruin that attends so much of her agriculture the present season.

Oregon has no interest to be subserved by the misfortunes of California, and we only feel sympathy for the farmers who lose so much there the present year. We only desire that our own advantages may be understood, to draw hither a valuable population to till the wide-spread lands of the Pacific Northwest. The barrier is broken down, and the thousands are coming. Among the late immigrants, we have seen wagon trains from California—men who have abandoned hundreds of acres of blighted wheat as worthless, as well as sufferers from the grasshopper plague that devastates some of the Western States. They are coming from all directions, and some of them bring a large amount of capital to invest here. Some buy farms in the choicest regions of the Willamette; others seek wild lands in the foot-hills; many go up the Columbia to explore the valleys and hills of Eastern Oregon and Washington; all the available country along the Columbia and adjoining Puget Sound is being filled up slowly but surely, and yet there is room for many thousands more.—The State census of 1875 showed that we had in Oregon about 115,000 population, and there has been since that time not less than 15,000 immigration and 10,000 natural increase, which would give last January a total of 140,000 people in Oregon. It is thought the arrivals at the Columbia river, Puget Sound, Coos Bay, and those by land from the surrounding states and territories will be 3,000 the present month, and the arrivals in the four previous months were not less than 4,000, which would give us not far from 150,000, and it is safe to expect a strong immigration through the summer and fall, to make 20,000 during the year. We may expect to have 160,000 population in Oregon January 1, 1879, and when the next Government census in 1880 Oregon will not have less than two hundred thousand inhabitants. At the present ratio of representation in Congress 200,000 inhabitants will entitle us to two representatives, but it is probable that the ratio will be fixed at a larger number, in which case we shall

have to go through another decade with one representative. Increase of production and wealth, manufactures and population, all tend to increase enterprise and push forward development. The resources of Oregon and Washington are only guessed at. Even the extent of good farming country is not half understood, and the untold riches that exist in our forests, coal beds, iron mines, and also mines of gold and silver, speak of a future that cannot be postponed longer and will in the end build up a great State of which the nation will be proud. Our present prosperity will attract capital this way and soon bring railroad connection to hasten development.

Powers of School Directors.

A correspondent wishes to know if school directors have a right to use school money for repairs on any school house, and for fencing the premises. We know that school directors in Salem use money that way, and we have no doubt it is proper to make all needed repairs and improvements for the actual wants of the district. A fence can be built cheaply, and as hogs and cattle don't need much book education, it is well enough to keep them from mixing too closely with the scholars.

Inquiries.

Ed. FARMER: You will confer a great favor by inserting in your valuable paper this letter. A party of farmers, myself among them, have made up their minds to remove to your State, with teams and wagons, from northern Wisconsin, and settle in the Willamette valley. It appeared from the reading of your paper that a great many make this route overland. We wish some one or more would give us a detailed description of the road, say from Omaha to Oregon; also, their experience and troubles; what is most needed; in what condition the roads are; the most direct line to be followed; if there is any practicable road along the Pacific Railroad; their experience in crossing creeks and rivers; if any molestations from Indians, etc.; their experience in mountain roads; how much freight a wagon with two horses may load; etc. Such a letter would be of the greatest interest, now that money is so scarce and the sale of farms is next to impossible; to transport a large family from Wisconsin to San Francisco by rail and steamer, is quite an item; to have five hundred or a thousand dollars or an empty pocket on his arrival, is quite another. I think such a detailed answer is worth preserving, to send to friends, especially now that the grasshoppers are again so fearfully at work.

Yours, truly, JOSEPH DUFFELER, Wiquiock, Brown Co., Wisconsin.

An Ancient Watch. Captain W. W. Martin has had sent him from San Francisco a curiosity in the shape of a watch, supposed to be as "old as the hills." The mechanism of this ancient piece is marvelous. Particularly is the "main spring" of the concern as wonderful to behold as the idea is old. Step in and ask the Captain to show you this beautiful toy when you are passing.

DISSOLUTION AT STAYTON.—The firm known as McCauley & Gardner, at Stayton, has dissolved partnership, and the business will be continued by Mr. A. D. Gardner at the old stand. Thanking the citizens for their patronage in the past, he cordially invites its continuance for the future. Dr. McCauley will continue his practice as a physician. Stayton, June 1, 1877.

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