

MAP OF WESTERN OREGON AND WASHINGTON.
EXPLANATIONS.

..... Represents O. & C. R. R. and branches, from Portland South to Roseburg.
 Represents the N. P. R. R., from Kalama on the Columbia river, North to Tacoma on Puget Sound, and the Payallup branch.
 Represents Oregonian Railway Co.'s Narrow Gauge road, with branches on both sides of the Willamette Valley.
 The engravers have omitted from the map the narrow gauge branch to Sheridan, Yamhill County; also the O. & C. R. R. Co.'s branch from Albany to Lebanon, in Linn County.
 The line from the mouth of Columbia river, South, indicates the ocean steamship's route to San Francisco.
 The reader is reminded that the Columbia river constitutes the division line between Oregon and Washington Territory.
 The engraver has made some mistake in spelling proper names, which we are not accountable for, and has omitted some prominent points that he was instructed to name.

From the Willamette Farmer of Dec 17, 1880.
THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.
DESCRIPTION OF THE GREAT COLUMBIAN REGION.

Particulars as to Climate, Soil, Products, Resources, Statistics, with Facts and Incidents Concerning Oregon and Washington.

WESTERN OREGON AND WASHINGTON.

We present our readers this week with a map of Western Oregon and Washington to illustrate the description of the several counties which follows. This map is bounded on the East by the great Cascade range of mountains which runs North and South and divides the country into what is known as the Eastern and Western regions. While there are a few passes discovered through the rugged Cascade mountains over which roads or trails have been made, the great bulk of travel is by way of the Columbia river, which cuts its way through the range. Western Oregon and Washington have very similar climate, humid and not often disturbed by extremes of heat and cold, as the direct influences of the sea air, heated by warm ocean currents, preserves the humidity the year round, and regulates the temperature. We can readily illustrate the character of our Winter climate by the past two weeks. December came in with what for this country was unusual cold. This cold was more intense East of the Mountains, and suddenly navigation closed there. The ice that came down from above gorged the Columbia below the Willamette, and matters looked serious. This lasted a week or so and as suddenly the weather changed to warm rains from the South. What Eastern Oregon people call the "Chinook wind" came up the river and swept off the frosts. Suddenly again the rain in the lower Willamette valley changed to snow, which fell to the depth of 8 or 10 inches, and extended East of the Mountains far and near. Now the snow is all gone. Warm winds and rains have taken it all away, and the atmosphere is so tropical that Winter flannels are uncomfortable. At the head of the Willamette valley and over in Douglas county they had neither rain or snow, while snow fell here. Last night we sat and wrote all the evening without any fire, and it is very possible, while there may be cold rains at times, that we shall have no sharp frosty weather from this until Spring. It is often the case that our farmers find January and February good seasons to put in grain.

In addition to publishing a map of all Western Oregon and Washington we have gathered from the government land offices at Vancouver, Oregon City and Roseburg, and the office of the Surveyor General of Oregon here, statements from which we compile a table showing the superficial area of land in each county, the amount that has been surveyed, amount not surveyed, and how much has been settled. These figures will be supplemented with statement of lands in each county held by grants from government, such as lands granted railroads and wagon roads, lands awarded to the State and territory for educational and other uses, so that we can present a fair idea of the land in each county available for further settlement.

During the past week we have visited Astoria to acquire information concerning the counties down the Columbia river, so as to be able to describe them with sufficient accuracy. While we present many statistics in tabular form, which is a great saving of space, we also sketch each county in a manner as graphic as can be done in a few words, to give a general idea of its location and advantages, lay of country and character of soil and products, and such features of interest as will advantage the general reader and the intending immigrant.

CLATSOP COUNTY

Lies in the Northwest corner of the State, South of the entrance of the Columbia river. A sandy peninsula about ten miles long and one to three miles wide, lies between Young's Bay and the ocean, and reaches to the South side of the river entrance. This land consists of sandy beaches thrown up by tides through past centuries; the soil is light and excellent for pasturage and some kinds of grain (not wheat) and vegetables. Sheep in considerable numbers, as well as cattle and horses are kept here, and dairying forms a leading industry; there are five cheese factories on Clatsop plains. Owing to the fact that these "plains" were accessible from Astoria and easily tilled, they were occupied by the very earliest settlers and have been long cultivated. Apart from this small portion of the county, the

general character of land is hilly, and even mountainous in portions, and often heavily wooded. Young's Bay extends South from the main harbor and is West and South of Astoria; into this bay put several streams, Young's river, Clatskanie river, and Lewis and Clarke's river—at the mouth of which, on Clatsop plains, they wintered in 1804. These streams all head up towards Saddle Mountain, a striking feature of the Columbia river landscape to the South, which is part of a range of hills that divide the Nehalem river from these streams, and Col. James Taylor, one of the oldest residents of that country, informs us that a valley of 12 to 15 miles wide by 20 to 25 miles long, is made by these streams, with low wooded plateaux between, all of which is rich soil and well adapted, when cleared, to all varieties of cereals, fruits and vegetables. The low lands are generally covered with alder and vine maple, but are of the richest soil; the uplands have occasional springs, and are often heavily wooded with fir and spruce that will some time command value. All this region is unexcelled for cattle and dairying and is but sparsely occupied. To the South of Saddle Mountain comes in the great Nehalem river, which heads not very far from its mouth, circles for 200 miles and offers a beautiful valley on the main stream and its branches that is certain one day to become densely populated and immensely productive. Along the Columbia above Astoria we come to John Day's river, which has a beautiful and well settled valley back, that makes no show on the main river; above are occasional clearings until we reach Knappa, back of which is quite a settlement, located on table lands and fertile prairies and along Knappa creek. Another good settlement is back of Westport, which is near the Eastern county line. While this covers the Northern face of the county, which is only partially settled, back of it lies the rich and extensive Nehalem valley and the bench lands adjoining it, all of which, nearly, is vacant land. A great part of Clatsop county has never yet been surveyed, and in the future the greater portion of it will become valuable farming land. Col. Talcott, of the Engineer Service, U. S. A., was employed to run a preliminary line to see how a railroad could be located, and he asserts that the uplands between the Nehalem river and Washington county constitute an extensive region of timbered uplands lying favorably and of great fertility. This region has never been surveyed. Col. Taylor represents that the appearance of the shores of the Columbia is no indications of the lands back, as all the way, on both sides the river, when back from three to five miles the land becomes more level and suitable for settlement, which is no doubt the case. The tides rise in the rivers putting into Young's Bay, and constitute a large area of tide lands upon those streams, and give excellent range for cattle all the year round. These tide lands can be easily dyked and made available for profitable cultivation. Of course all parts of Clatsop county are well watered. Around Saddle Mountain and the head of the streams running North from it, excellent coal has been found, and the deposit is so great that the future of the county must develop much wealth from this source.

ASTORIA.

Standing on a point of land that reaches out into the wide stream, Astoria presents a picturesque view. Here was the first establishment of the American Fur Company, and the relics of their buildings and works were to be seen not long since. The business houses, hotels, wharves and warehouses are all built out over the water. As a point of supply for the mills, fisheries, shipping and trade of the lower Columbia, the town must grow steadily and the development of the country around it will aid that growth. There is an extensive region dependent on it that will gradually fill up and become productive, but as yet the rush of immigration is for an open country where the plow can be put to work at once; but when all is said, it must be apparent that rich and inexhaustible lands that are so near market cannot long be overlooked. The States of New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania had to be in great part redeemed from just such a wilderness, and the whole region of the Lower Columbia offers greater advantages today than the great States at the East did, even half a century ago.

All along the shores of the lower river the traveller is frequently in sight of fisheries and canneries, or saw-mills. These are the visible industries and though they are of great importance and produce millions they do not materially concern us, as we are considering the agricultural resources of the country, and the development that is possible from that standpoint. But the agriculture of this region must always find a market for its product by



WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

CASCADE MOUNTAINS.

OREGON.

LAKE

Steamship Route to San Francisco.