

the narrow gauge system on the West side of the river, in Yamhill county, and this year has seen its extension from the point of junction on the Willamette to Silverton, Scio, Lebanon and Brownsville, and surveyors are now looking out the best pass over the Cascades to carry it another year in a direction to cross the mountains and make a connection with the Nevada Northern at the State line, near Goose Lake.

The Willamette river is navigable at high water as far up as Eugene, and generally through the winter to Harrisburg, and offers a cheap way of transportation by steamboats. It will be seen that this valley, forty miles wide, has four railroads and a navigable river through its best counties, and competition in transportation seems to be permanently certain.

DOUGLAS COUNTY,

South of the Willamette Valley, after passing by easy grades over the Calipsooia range that forms its southern boundary, which is covered with magnificent fir forests and contains much land that will eventually be valuable, the Oregon and California Railroad winds down into the great Umpqua Valley, which is a region distinct from all others and possessing special value for the production of sheep and wool.

depict its topographical features. We have many subscribers there and know that they are stirring and thriving people and have a county possessing wonderful resources.

SOUTHERN OREGON.

We have paid little attention to the precious metals that are found in the Willamette counties and to some extent mined for in the Cascade range, but we are coming to a part of the State that has turned out millions of gold in the past and will be scientifically mined in the future.

LANDS OFFERED FOR SALE.

Besides the Government lands which are offered on the usual terms, and constitute the great bulk of lands unoccupied, it must be remembered that the State of Oregon was entitled to two sections in each township for support of common schools, and also to 500,000 acres granted originally for aid of public improvements.

The Oregon and California Railroad Company have also a large land grant which they offer for sale at prices averaging \$2.50 an acre for the best. Their lands extend through for two hundred miles south of Portland, to Roseburg, covering the odd sections of a territory varying from 60 to 80 miles wide.

Land grants covering three sections to the mile have been made to several wagon road companies. One leads from The Dalles south and through the Blue mountains towards Boise City, in Idaho; another road runs from Eugene, across the Cascade mountains by the Middle Fork of the Willamette, and south to the Klamath country, then follows Sprague River Valley to the east.

LANDS SURVEYED AND OCCUPIED.

The following table is made up from statements kindly made by the Register of the U. S. Land Office at Oregon City, Hon. L.T. Barn, and by W. F. Benjamin, Esq., Register of the U. S. Land Office at Roseburg:

Table with 3 columns: COUNTY, Total Area, and Unsurveyed. Lists counties including Benton, Clatsop, Clatskanie, Columbia, Douglas, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill.

HORSES FOR DRAFT.

Mr. Jerry Luckey, a Lane county farmer, is also a Wasco county stock-grower, and has a ranch near Princessville, in Eastern Oregon, at the head waters of the Deschutes river. He expresses surprise at the great advancement made in our State during the past eight years in the breeding of heavy work horses.

Mr. Luckey has in Bacon's stable in this city, waiting transportation to Eastern Oregon, a grand horse he purchased of Mr. A. Dodge, of Lebanon, Linn county, for J. B. Lofollet and his son, friends of the FARMER over in Ochoco Valley.

We could extend our account of grand draft stallions indefinitely, for there are many, such as Edmondson, Redmond, and many others who own stallions of heavy draft in this valley, and during the past season we have recorded the arrival of many first-class work stallions, many of whom went up the river for Eastern Oregon and Washington.

Within a few years it has been found that horses are in a measure natural to the bunch grass country and there are now many persons who own large bands of horses and make a specialty of the business. The horse usually winters well, even if he has occasionally to paw away the snow to get at the dry grass.

VALUE OF BEAVER DAM LAND.

Beaverton is situated on the West Side railroad, a few miles from Portland, on the edge of Washington county, and derives its name from 160 acres of rich bottom land caused by the labors of the beaver in past ages.

Mr. Tucker says he has cut four tons of hay to the acre on this grass, but it is too rank to be of first quality, and stock do not relish it as well as grass grown on other and dryer, as well as less fertile land.

OREGON STATE FAIR.

The board of managers of the Oregon State Agricultural Society met in Salem last week. Members were in attendance from all the valley counties, and some from distant portions of the State.

The reports of the secretary and treasurer were presented, read and referred to the finance committee; but as the latter was only given to the board on the last day of adjournment the finance committee were compelled to take home both reports and accompanying papers and documents, so that no summary of them can be given here.

The speed programme was thoroughly revised, and while the turfmen will profit about the same as usual, yet, by the arrangement of the premiums several hundred dollars, (about \$800) were saved to the society.

The time for holding the fair of 1881 was fixed on Wednesday, June 29th, to Wednesday, July 6th, to include a celebration on the 4th of July.

Liberal premiums were offered for the exhibit of fruits, while those for grain in sheaf, offered last year, were continued.

The premium list was thoroughly revised.

Geo. Downing, of Sublimity, was re-elected chief marshal without opposition, and only accepted to gratify a special desire of the board, — his former economical and satisfactory management having met their hearty approval.

The floral exhibit for the fair of 1881 will be removed from the pavilion and placed in the floral garden ordered by the board to be completed for the exhibition of next year.

A special premium of \$200 was offered for the best herd of ten cattle, imported in 1880-1, and exhibited at the fair of 1881.

Several resolutions were adopted, and new rules and regulation made, to conform to the law for the protection of the society, which was passed by the legislature at the session just closed.

Incident to our Climate.

On Thanksgiving day Hon. I. W. Case of this city had upon his table something which but very few people, in any portion of America at least, can boast of. It was nothing less than green corn, fresh and nice, gathered from the corn patch in his own garden.

Mr. P. H. Bagley, of Knappa, had ripe Bartlett pears, the second crop from the same tree this year, and there are blossoms now upon the tree for the third crop in 1880.

Up in Polk county, at Lincoln, green peas were served, fresh from the vines in the garden of Mr. Duncan, and blackberries and strawberries were backed.

Putting this and that together, reminded as we are of the regions of Winter beyond the Rockies — can any man say, as he wanders away this beautiful day, up or down as he may, that he'd rather not say in Oregon — on account of the climate. — [Astorian.