

Willamette Valley Can Sustain 2,250,000 People

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Resources of Marion and Polk Counties Will Justify at Least 50,000 Inhabitants in Salem

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Marion County's Farm Products

Classes of Farm Productions	Number and Quantity	Government Average Value February 2, 1920	Estimated Value of Sales
Horses and mules	8,404	Horses-85.00	\$722,760
Dairy cattle	12,316	Mules-91.00	\$722,760
Other cattle	8,639	83.00	1,022,428
Sheep and goats	49,329	46.20	398,122
Swine	22,317	11.00	542,519
Livestock values and sales		19.50	435,182
			\$3,121,111
			\$1,389,800
Grain Production, 1919			
Winter wheat, bushels	846,120	\$1 2.15	\$1,819,158
Spring wheat, bushels	198,960	2.15	427,764
Oats, bushels	2,254,525	71.7	1,616,494
Rye, bushels	51,800	1.34.5	69,671
Barley, bushels	59,000	1.20.9	71,331
Corn, bushels	289,950	1.34	388,533
Grain Summeries			\$4,092,957
Forward from above			3,121,111
Totals			7,214,062
			5,106,460

*Values averaged \$86. Government averaged price for all wheat, 1919.
TABLE 3 Records the official estimates of Livestock by number and value, with government rated marked summaries for the number sold. The production, price and probable sales values are presented. With poultry and eggs included, the sales total would doubtless equal fully \$6,216,660, as actually sold. Besides these livestock and grain products, the fruit crop value is also great.

Salem's Primary Resources include its exceedingly Fertile Farm Lands, its Very Advantageous Location, its Superior World Market Opportunities, and its Noble Mountain Scenery and Salubrious Climate.

The Lands are the Basic Fundamentals, and consist of several factors, namely:

VERY PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURE.
GREAT COMMERCIAL FORESTS;
EXTENSIVE RIVER WATERPOWERS;
RIVER NAVIGATION TO PORTLAND;
UNLIMITED MOUNTAIN AND FOREST SCENERY.

Valley Very Fertile and Productive

It is of record that the late James J. Hill, founder of the Great Northern Railway and Genius of Western Progress, once said that the Lands of the Willamette Valley will eventually sustain ONE MILLION PEOPLE. His opinion was far within bounds.

This valley depression was once an arm of the Pacific Ocean. Volcanic forces raised it to its present elevation, and ages of erosion of the mountain boundaries to the east and west have fertilized it with sedimentary loam. Its soil is composed of the same deep alluvial that now undoubtedly covers the bottom of Puget Sound.

This soil has been enriched by accumulations of humus—vegetable accretions—gained through centuries of deposit from trees and plant life. The result is a fertility excelled by few agricultural places in this world. Not only do these lands yield abundantly, but the diversity of crops they will grow successfully, or in superior perfection, is scarcely surpassed by any single region on earth.

Corn, wheat (spring and winter,) rye, oats barley, at least ten varieties of fruit, more than as many of vegetables, and hay and grasses grow here all the way from fine to famously—mostly famously. Walnuts are cultivated successfully. Some of the best hop land in the world is in this valley. Livestock, dairying and poultry have no more favorable fields in which to prosper.

The possibilities of Willamette Valley for maintenance of population are most incredible, but undoubted, and will gradually become an actuality.

Extent of Tillable Lands

The 1910 government census gave the section west of the Cascade mountain 12,393,137 acres of tillable lands. Allow 2,000,000 acres as an estimate of farm lands west of the Coast Range of mountains, and deduct 393,137 for roads, townsites and rivers.

That leaves an approximate producing area in Willamette Valley of 10,000,000 acres, which can all be devoted to crops. In time this will be cut into little farms of 10 to 40 acres, and can be cultivated with intensified production.

Then each section will grow the crops for which its soil is best adapted. That should be the rule now. With little farms of a size so that one family can do about all the work on each, the labor problem will be solved, including the harvesting of berries and fruit.

This should be the policy in Marion county as soon as possible. Suppose that 10,000,000 acres of this very bountiful land were divided into farms of 40 acres each—thousands would be big enough with 10 to 20 acres each.

Then On Farms—1,500,000 People

This would allow 250,000 farms in Willamette Valley, and every farm would maintain and keep busy at least six persons, old and young, if the crops were specialized and the cultivation scientific.

And the six persons per farm average would mean 1,500,000 population in the valley alone, living on the land. The present Secretary of Agriculture, Meredith, thinks that the proportion of farm population to town population should be, respectively, 60 and 40 per cent.

That is about right for his farm Iowa, Kansas or Nebraska. But for the close-up possibilities of this Willamette Valley, "50-50" will not be out of balance.

Total Population of 2,250,000

Add fifty per cent of 1,500,000 (750,000) to 1,500,000 and we find that the very REASONABLE Probability of the future of this valley is a population of 2,250,000—more than equal to the census of the State of Iowa in 1910, or probably in 1920, for that matter.

Doubtless the Pacific Slope of this Oregon West Side will then sustain another 500,000, giving 2,750,000 residents to this end of Oregon, and no doubt, the lands east of the Cascades will then take care of another million—say, 3,750,000 inhabitants in Oregon. It is coming to that in time.

Salem is the capital of Oregon and Marion County. The county's area is 512,438 acres. Of this total 385,369 acres have been classed as tillable, with something over half the areable area under cultivation.

Expectation of Marion County

Cut out the odd 85,369 acres from the 385,369 for townsites, roads and rivers, and the probable net tillable area of Marion county becomes 300,000 acres, about one-third of Willamette valley. Average this land into 40-acre farms. The 300,000 acres will justify 7,500 farms, and a population on the LAND ALONE of 45,000.

And Polk county, merely across the Willamette river, from Marion and Salem, can support at least 60 per cent, more on its farms—27,000 additional. This added to 45,000 indicates a future farm population clearly tributary to Salem of 72,000. This is a very low estimate—almost ridiculously low—as a following article will make clear.

On the "50-50" basis this city should possess 36,000 residents. But that assumes that it is merely localized in its commerce.

Marion County Farms and Orchards

254 acre farm, 175 acres cultivated, balance pasture and timber; 9 room house in first class condition; fine large barn, good fences, running water, spring water piped to house and barn; 4 acres 7 year old prunes, 1 acre cherries, a ll machinery to run place, small tools, 5 head of horses, 4 head of cows, 11 hogs, 58 sheep, 36 chickens. Price \$120,000 per acre; \$5,000 down, balance long time, 6 per cent interest.

320 acre farm, 80 acres ploy land, balance good fir timber; good grain, orchard and berry soil; house and barn, spring water, twelve thousand cords of standing fir timber. Price \$60 per acre; 1-2 cash, balance terms at 6 per cent interest.

200 acre farm, 100 acres ploy land, balance pasture and timber, running water, spring, some fine timber, good road, 6 miles from Salem. Price \$125 per acre.

270 acre farm, 240 acres plow land, balance pasture; good grain and clover soil. House and barn, well, rock road, close to railroad. Possession October 1st, 1920. Price \$125 per acre.

149 acre farm, nearly all cultivated, 6 room house, fine new barn, well, good road, close to good town. Price \$25,000.

21.61 acres located on main road close to Salem, 8 room modern house, barn, family orchard, stock, machinery and household goods goes. Price \$17,500.

10 acres of good prune, loganberry or strawberry soil. 4 miles south of Salem, close to main Pacific highway. Price \$2,750.

10 acres all cultivated, 1 acre of loganberries, 1-2 acres of prunes, strawberries, apples, cherries, good road, 3 1-2 miles from Salem. Price \$7,500.

Well improved 5 acre tract close to Salem and carline, good Bungalow, barn, bearing fruit and berries. Price \$6,000.

20 acre tract, 5 acres bearing loganberries, 5 acres prunes, some timber, spring water, small house. Price \$7,500.

56 acre farm, all cultivated, house and barn, 5 miles from Salem, good grain and clover soil. Price \$200 per acre.

5 acres of good bearing Italian prune orchard located on main Pacific Highway, 3 1-2 miles from Salem. Price \$4,500.

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