

The Resources of Washington County

Where many industries vie with each other for supremacy. The greatest all around county in the state
Dairying, Farming, Fruit Raising, Etc.

FRUIT RAISING.

Washington County, Oregon, is remarkable for the great variety of her products as well as the exceptionally fine quality to which they attain.

The fruit industry here is still in its infancy, but it is rather from neglect, and the success obtained with crops easier to plant and harvest than from any other cause. As the land becomes more densely populated and farmers learn the value of smaller farms with more careful attention, doubtless fruits of many varieties will be raised extensively.

This industry has been given a thorough test, and the results are most satisfactory. In small home orchards, fruits of all the varieties which are generally successfully raised under similar conditions of climate have shown remarkable hardiness and fine quality.

Apples do particularly well, some having been raised in Washington County without a thorough understanding of the industry and therefore not obtaining the extreme care and attention which this fruit deserves, but with unqualified success, practically as good as any grown in the state.

Grapes are very hardy and possess an extremely fine flavor. An excellent quality of wine is obtained from several vineyards in the county.

Berries are very successfully grown, seeming to flourish with less care than is generally found necessary, and berry farms are now being thoroughly exploited. In fact, we predict that it is only a question of a few years when Washington County will be as famous for her fruit products as are other sections of the State of Oregon today.

THE SOIL.

Conditions of climate and soil seem to combine in order to make of Washington County a veritable garden spot. The soil is a mixture of clay and silt, forming a very dark loam, which is to be found on most of the bottom land. The plain lands are slightly lighter in color, and appear to contain less clay, while much of the hill lands are almost Indian red in shade, all of them lighter in color and more porous than the soil on the lower flats.

The celebrated beaver dam lands of Washington County are too well known to require explanation. This is the celebrated onion producing soil which has made Washington County famous as the largest producer of onions of all counties in the United States.

This soil is very valuable and the owner of a small farm who will give the same his careful attention, will rapidly acquire wealth. As high as 1000 sacks of onions have been raised to the acre.

Water is to be found in abundance, but irrigation is rarely necessary. Little rock is encountered, the stratification being mostly uniform, the upper layer of soil being from 14 to 20 feet in depth, below which lies a layer of sand some 10 to 15 feet deep. Similar alternate stratification continues indefinitely, the sand formation invariably carrying a copious flow of water.

Of the 715 square miles in Washington County, about 110,000 are improved and are valued at approximately \$12,000,000.

A fair average price per acre would be \$55, hill lands being valued at from \$25 to \$50, prairie lands about \$85, and beaver dam lands from \$250 to \$400 per acre when ready for planting.

There are some 7000 acres of government land in the county, most of which is inaccessible and of little value.

POPULATION.

The population of Washington County is about 26,000, that of Hillsboro alone being estimated at 2000, same having practically doubled within the last eight years.

There is every reason to believe that the population of the town of Hillsboro will double again within the next two or three years, owing to the extensive advertising which will be given that section, and to the many improvements to the city which are now an assured fact.

The new steam railroad of the Pacific Railway & Navigation Co., building to Tillamook, with terminal at Hillsboro, will be an important factor in the development of the town.

In fact the future never looked brighter for any section of the state than it does today for Hillsboro. All conditions favor this locality, and as the trend of settlement and home-seeking is all toward the West, it remains only necessary that hearty co-operation and loyal spirit shall be shown by her citizens and those interested in her development, in order that we secure our share of the benefits now developing.

Some localities will benefit more than others, although both be of equal merit. Extra exertion is necessary for the winner of a difficult race, and the same applies to localities as to individuals.

COUNTY VALUES.

Assessor Wilcox has finished the 1906 tax roll, the summary of which is:

100,000 acres tillable land	\$ 4,822,395
344,978 ac. non-tillable land	3210,585
Improvements deeded lands	1,185,470
Value town lots	395,545
Improvements same	451,455
Improvements on lands not deeded	29,740
Electric, telephone and telegraph lines, 128.40 miles	17,650
O. & C. R. R., 34 miles	310,120
O. & C. rolling stock	29,200
Stationary engines and manufacturing machinery	108,385
Mdse. and stock in trade	222,865
Farm imp., wagons, etc.	166,820
Money, notes and accounts	234,075
Bank stock, 250 shares	12,500
Household furniture	242,210
Horses, 5524 head	326,365
Cattle, 13,707 head	245,575
Sheep and goats, 11,977 hd.	24,205
Dogs, 5 (by request)	85
Swine, 1862 head	8,220

Gross valuation \$12,044,205
Exemptions 649,735

Total tax roll \$11,394,270
Polls, 1853.

RACE TRACK.

This community boasts of a very fine race track, and there is rumor that attention will be accorded this enterprise in the near future.

Here would be an excellent opportunity to center the interests of several adjoining counties in Hillsboro through the medium of annual fairs. There is no method of advertising rural districts like well organized public gatherings of this sort.

It offers opportunity for every farmer to exhibit his products and to compete for prizes, which is always a stimulant for the improvement of agricultural products, and the more painstaking breeding of livestock.

Being proximate to Portland, hundreds of people, both residents of the city and visitors, would be attracted to Hillsboro by this means, which would result in inestimable benefit to both the town and county.

VEGETABLE CULTURE.

Washington County is indeed the garden spot of the Northwest. Not taking into consideration her beaver dam lands, which are simply marvelous producers, it seems apparent that any kind of vegetable will grow any place in the county they may be planted. Enormously large products are of frequent occurrence, and they invariably retain the fine texture and flavor of the smaller growth.

Onions are a most valuable asset to this county, the beaver dam lands producing on an average about 700 sacks to the acre.

Potatoes grow here in abundance, and when planted in the hill lands, are dry and mealy, containing a large percentage of starch and of excellent flavor. Oregon potatoes are well known and in great demand the entire length of the Pacific Coast and the local crop alone is worth half a million dollars per year.

Very good corn is raised in some parts of the county, but culture of this commodity has had little careful attention.

Tobacco is a prolific grower and of excellent quality. This should prove a very profitable industry and will likely be engaged in on a large scale by some enterprising agriculturist at no distant date.

Peanuts have been planted with very successful results, the nuts being unusually large.

In fact all varieties of garden produce are prolific growers and of extremely fine quality.

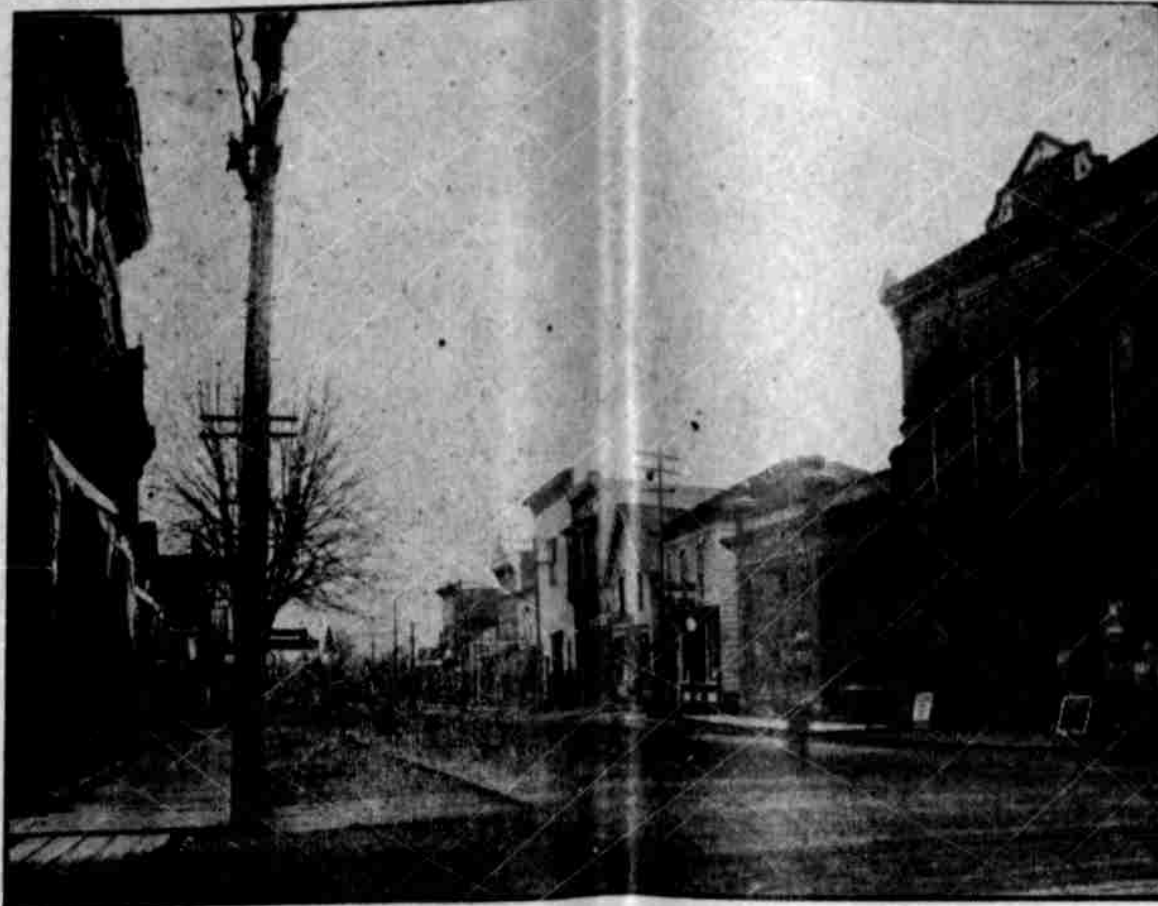
Portland is a handy and ready market, and will doubtless continue to create an active demand for fresh vegetables of "Washington County" quality.

LUMBER MILL.

The new lumber mill which is now nearing completion, is a most valuable adjunct to the manufacturing interests of Hillsboro.

It was erected at a cost of about \$20,000, and will have a capacity of 50,000 feet per day.

As a most excellent assortment of hard woods suitable for furniture are to be found in Washington County, a factory for the manufacture of same will undoubtedly be erected in the near future.



STREET SCENE, HILLSBORO.

TRANSPORTATION.

Hillsboro is on the main line of the Southern Pacific Railroad from Portland to Corvallis, and as several trains per day are maintained, exceptional transportation facilities is the result.

The Pacific Railway & Navigation

Co. chose Hillsboro for their eastern terminal after a careful review of the situation, which means that the railroad officials consider this to be the coming city of this portion of the state. This line, which will be extended to Tillamook, is already completed for a distance of 23 miles. It

will tap the greatest timber belt in the Northwest and all its traffic must pass through Hillsboro. As the terminal shops will be erected later, and as its business develops, as is always true in the history of railroads, the business of our town will develop simultaneously.



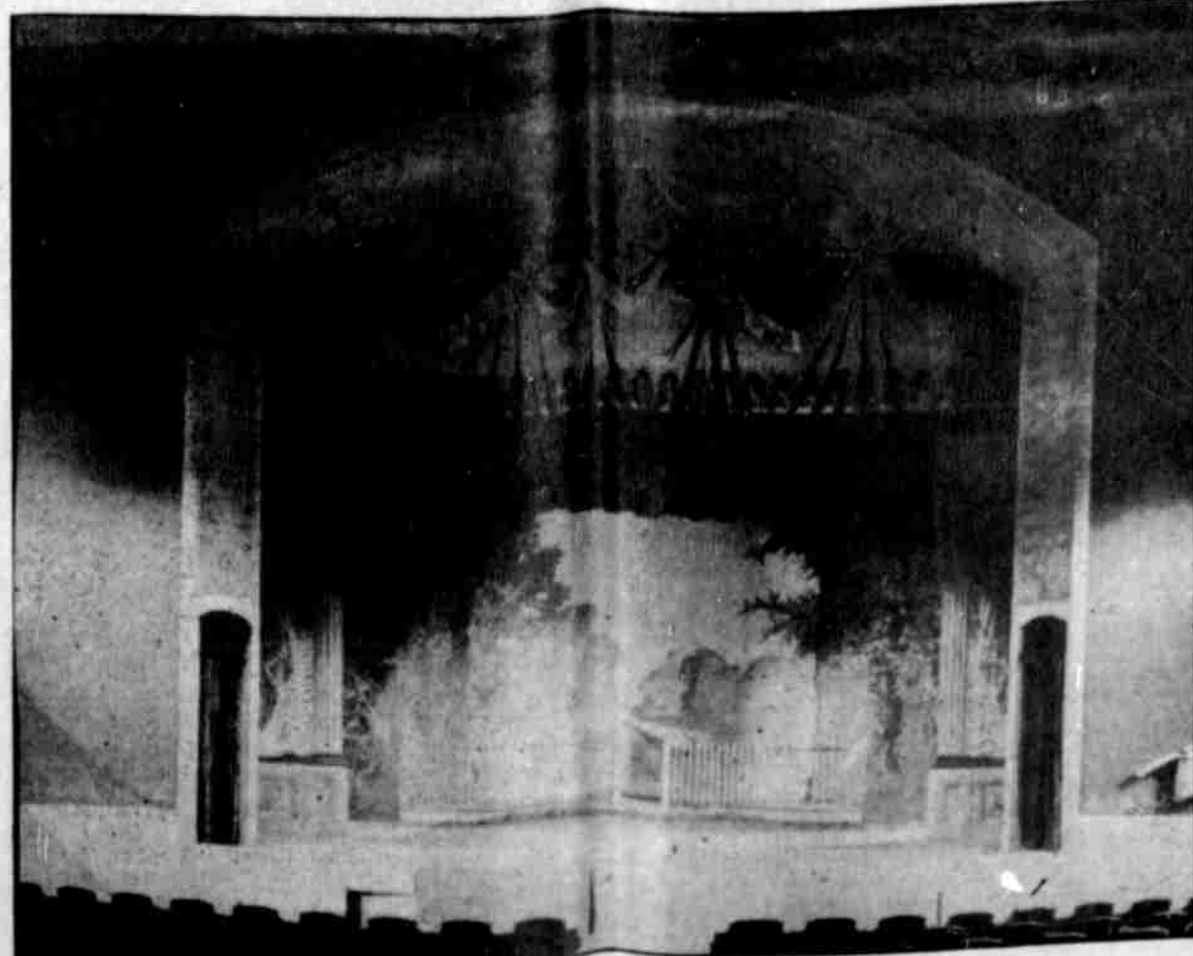
COUNTY COURT HOUSE, HILLSBORO.

THE OREGON NURSERY COMPANY

It is a very significant fact that the Oregon Nursery Company are combining their three large plants and locating near Hillsboro. As one of these plants was formerly in California and the other in Washington, it appears that this company considers Oregon the state best suited for the cultivation of all varieties of plants, shrubs, fruit or ornamental trees, in fact of all varieties of nursery stock, and that it further considers that conditions near Hillsboro are the most satisfactory in this state.

One thousand acres have been purchased by this company, which is the largest institution of its kind in the Northwest.

A shipment consisting of several tons of the celebrated Franquette walnut has just been received. This is one of the many specialties of this progressive company, who consider this section particularly adapted to the successful propagation of nuts and fruits.



OPERA HOUSE STAGE, HILLSBORO.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, THE COUNTY BOUNTIFUL OF OREGON.

By virtue of location alone, Washington County is most favored. Being just a short run from Portland, the business center of the state, furnishes opportunity for the farmer to go there, dispose of his products and return home the same day. This is, of course, always a most valuable phase of the situation, for many people of means desire to live within comparatively easy access to a metropolis, and when the projected electric road is complete, Hillsboro will be an ideal spot for the country homes of Portland business men who can go to and from the city with promptness and comfort.

The extremely diversified character of soil found in this county makes it possible to produce almost any variety of cereal, fruit or vegetable of fine quality, in abundance.

Here the thrifty farmer or business man may surround his home with numerous beautiful varieties of trees and flowers and supply his table with all agricultural products of the season from his own garden.

The county is bounded by Columbia and Yamhill Counties respectively on the north and south, and by Multnomah and Clatsop on the east and west.

There is plenty of water at all times, for in addition to the numerous streams and tributaries of the Tualatin River, a copious supply may be obtained in almost any part of the county at an extremely shallow depth.

Educational facilities are good, the county being well provided with excellent public schools and great care is taken in the selection of competent instructors.

Dairying, lumbering and the raising of hops, hay and potatoes are the principal industries of the county, each being carried on with eminent success.

Taking Hillsboro as a center, and looking north, we see for some 15 miles, fields of hops, grain and meadow. Excellent orchards abound and continue in profusion throughout this section, which is also famous for its dairying.

For the same distance east we find again beautiful fields of hops, grain and meadow, orchards in prime condition and prosperous dairy farms.

Twenty miles southeast from Hillsboro the country is justly famed for the production of all the above named commodities, except probably there is less fruit grown. There is in this section, however, valuable onion lands, the productiveness of which is almost beyond belief.

Due south is for about 10 miles mostly a dairy country, while the same applies westward, and in addition are grain lands, hop and onion farms.

Potatoes grow abundantly in many localities and are a most profitable crop. The county produces about 400,000 pounds annually.

The area of Washington County is 715 square miles. The present population of 26,000 is an increase of almost 100 per cent during the last six years. The timber standing today is valued in excess of \$2,000,000, farms about \$24,000,000 and livestock about \$2,000,000.

There are about 2400 farms in the county, showing approximately 93,000 acres of improved land.

Nearly 4,000,000 gallons of milk is produced annually, which is sold principally to the condensers to be manufactured into condensed milk. Large quantities of excellent butter and cheese are also manufactured.

Some other products of the county which are enumerated below, show the value of Washington County lands and the extreme versatility of her soil. Sheep and goats are kept principally as forage animals, but the average output of wool is 80,000 pounds.

Wheat, which grows luxuriantly, with a bright, plump kernel, yields about 650,000 bushels per annum, oats 800,000 bushels, barley 20,000 bushels, and corn about 2500 bushels.

Hop raising has been found extremely profitable and is securing more attention every year. It is estimated that over 2,250,000 pounds are produced annually.

Approximately 600,000 bushels of onions are raised, and as this crop is of extremely fine quality it receives the highest current market prices, being an extremely profitable industry.

Over half a million pounds of cabbages are produced annually, Portland supplying a ready market for same. Similar satisfactory conditions apply to all varieties of garden truck.

A conservative estimate of the hay crop would be 100,000 tons. Wheat, oats and barley hay are all produced in large quantities and of unusually good quality. Alfalfa, which is as yet more or less of an experiment, is grown successfully, and doubtless its

cultivation will soon receive considerable attention.

A million pounds of grapes are produced, the greater portion of which are made into wine, and the strawberry crop already averages a half million pounds a year.

Three-quarters of a million eggs are now laid at our door annually, and merely as a side issue, our county produces over half a million pounds of bacon.

The county abounds in excellent timber; there are now mills in operation and the territory tapped by the railroad now building will increase this industry several hundred per cent.

HILLSBORO.

The town of Hillsboro, which is the county seat of Washington County, is situated on the main line of the Southern Pacific Railway, 21 miles from the City of Portland. It is the largest town in the county and owing to its advantageous situation and the improvements now under way, it will soon be permanently established as one of the important cities of the state.

Advantageously located as it is in the center of an unusually rich agricultural district, and being favored with unlimited resource for industrial and manufacturing enterprises, there is no possibility of doubt about the great future in store for this community. All that is required is unity of interest and the assistance and co-operation of her citizens, and residents of her tributary territory.

The town is free from hills or heavy grades; the streets are wide and well planked, and there are a large number of excellent stores and pretty dwelling houses.

However more buildings are needed. "For Rent" signs are not in evidence in Hillsboro, and with the increase of population which is sure to come, doubtless building activity will be quadrupled within the next 12 months.

Here are all the evidences of prosperity, and every resident is contented and busy. The town boasts of two solid banks, the deposits in which attest to the financial condition of the community.

The excellent opera house lately constructed and in which "full houses" are the rule, is a great boon to the people of Hillsboro and vicinity.

In fact the only reason that the growth of this town has not been more rapid in the past, is that everybody has been prospering without extra exertion, and has been content to allow the community to develop almost entirely of its own volition.

Certain towns in the West will be rapidly forging to the front in the near future, while others will be dropped from the race. Those which take precedence will be the ones willing to put forward earnest endeavor and public spirited unity of effort.

LOCAL PROMOTION.

Mr. R. L. Cate, the real estate man of Portland, has finally been induced by his many friends in our town and county, to interest himself actively in the development of our resources, and in the general promotion and furtherance of our local interests.

He will co-operate with the residents of Hillsboro and vicinity, taking personal supervision of such details as may be required.

The new hotel is at present occupying Mr. Cate's attention.

CRESCENT THEATRE.

A fine opera house is one of Hillsboro's latest acquisitions. The building will accommodate approximately 800 people, and was erected at a total expenditure of \$8000.

The building and its equipment are first-class, the seats being unusually comfortable and the new regulations as to exits, etc., being carefully provided for.

Excellent plays are produced here at frequent intervals, the management exercising all possible care in the selection of attractions.