Climate

Three climatic areas prevail in Oregon, each with its charm. Along the coast on the western side of the low-lying Coast Range, rainfall is the heaviest and temperatures least variable. Seldom is it cold enough to snow along the Oregon coast line.

Inland from the Coast Range lies the great valley region where rainfall is just sufficiently heavy to keep the country green and productive. The annual rainfall usually runs between 30 and 45 inches. Winters are moderate with infrequent snows and but a few days of freezing weather. Seldom is it that the fisherman or snow sport enthusiast finds it too wet or stormy to seek out his stream or mountain snow field.

Eastward, across the Cascade Range, are the vast plateau regions with wider variations in climate. Spring and fall in this section are enchanting seasons. Rainfall is about half that of Western [illegible]

You may choose your climate. Within a two-hour drive you may travel from one climatic region to another. The climate of Oregon and its inexhaustible supplies of pure water are factors making it one of the most healthful regions of all the world.

Geology-Geography

Coos and Curry Counties

By Warren D. Smith
University of Oregon

At the request of the editor I am making a little contribution to the Progress Number of the Coquille Valley Sentinel. Lack of time prevents a more substantial statement. Before I get off onto the subject of geology, let me offer my congratulations to the people of your community, who in the face of sore affliction in certain quarters, are facing the future with courage and determination. Your part of the state has wonderful potentialities and I hope you will realize the full measure of your dreams.

Coos and Curry Counties have been studied geologically by three geologists particularly — Coos County by the late J. S. Diller of the U. S. Geologic Survey, the chief results of which are embodied in Folio 73, and Curry County by the same man with his findings in Folio 89 on the Port Orford Quadrangle. The lower part of Curry County has been covered in a reconnoissance way in the state report by Butler and Mitchell in the Mineral Resources of Oregon (1916).

Of course many other investigators have spent some time in these two counties working on special problems but we cannot stop to enumerate them now. Interested persons may consult the new Bibliography of Oregon Geology prepared under the auspices of the State Planning Board.

Coos and Curry Counties differ very considerably as geologists view them. In the former the formations are dominantly Tertiary sedimentaries, sandstones and shales with coal beds, and this county is just at the southern terminus of the Coast Range province; while Curry, made up of some sediments (generally Mesozoic) and much more of igneous rocks, is a part of the Klamath Mountains province which extends down into northern California. This major fact makes a fundamental difference between the two counties in physiography (topography, hydrography, climate, etc.) and resources, particularly mineral.

As I have studied the earlier reports and have followed these with some first-hand studies of my own it appears that in Coos County the mineral possibilities relate to coal and clay deposits and other non-metallic minerals while Curry offers more promise in gold, copper, chromite and platinum.

In the absence of more exhaustive studies which I have not had time as yet to make, though someone else may have done so, I am venturing a few suggestions for development in Coos county and Curry county.

From its similarity to other relatively young coals I have studied, I believe the best use to be made of Coos county coal is in gas producers.

A thorough study of Coos county clays ought to be made. If we had a State department of geology and mineral industries, this would seem to merit early attention from that organization—not only in Coos county but in the state at large.

We know pretty well the extent and value of Coos county black sands—it now depends upon the ingenuity of someone to devise an economical treatment of these sands. I have not yet seen or heard of any adequate method of doing this, though such may have been perfected without my knowing about it.

In Curry county the best bet for early development seems to be in the chromite deposits, for which the demand is becoming greater all the time.

While there will always be some activity in the recovery of platinum and iridosmine, I do not expect any extensive development here. Nevertheless this region will probably continue to be a leading producer of these rare metals.

I hope for the discovery of a commercial body of iron ore in this county, but as yet the reliable reports regarding this have not been rosy.

Substantial gold and copper properties may be developed though at present we have no reason to become excited about them. What we need, not only in this part of Oregon but in other parts of the state as well, is some thorough geophysical prospecting. Such a survey might reveal mineral riches now little dreamed of.

As exploration for oil has been carried on in Coos county, particularly in recent years, it behooves us to discuss this briefly. If one can locate a suitable structure, anticline or dome, with a considerable body of organic shales below and with a suitable porous sandstone or sands above to trap the oil we might have some reasonable hope of success. If these conditions are not found, there is little hope and persons who cannot afford to lose their money should not take the risks. With our present amount of knowledge we cannot be too sanguine of success. On the other hand, certainly, we are not justified in being too sure that there is no oil in that region.

After much travel up and down your coast, with some trips into the back-country, I believe that one of the greatest assets of the southwestern Oregon country is scenery. Scenery primarily depends upon rocks, water and forests and in all these you have ample variety. What with your magnificent beaches, dunes, headlands and forest-clad mountains so close to the sea, you have one of the [illegible] ests and your coast line and do not let commercialism despoil this great natural heritage. The Oregon coast line is one of the finest in the world—don't spoil it with hot dog stands and hideous cut-over areas.

In this state we have a law making it a misdemeanor to pluck wild flowers within 500 feet of the highway and yet we let people cut down noble forests right beside the highway. This is sheer vandalism and must be stopped if we don't want to lose our precious heritage of natural beauty. Begin cutting trees well back from the roads, but wherever and whenever you cut, do it on a sustained yield basis. Don't let this country become like China. For the sake of our unborn children, in the name of beauty, even in the interests of just good business let's take heed before it is too late. Already ruthless exploitation has almost ruined beautiful Sunset Bay. If we want the tourist to continue to come and spend his dollars with us, give earnest thought while yet there is time.

Canary Grass Growing Is Important Industry

Reed Canary Grass, (Phalaris Arundinaces), is a perennial, producing an everlasting sod, which makes a very rapid growth of broad leafy succulent foliage, yielding an immense amount of luscious green pasture, having a carrying capacity of two and often three cows per acre.

The above statement may seem unbelievable to anyone who has never seen the grass growing, but it can be verified by many dairymen of the Coquille Valley, who have splendid yields of this wonderful grass, which has been pastured continuously for many years.

This Reed Canary, or Canary Grass, as it is commonly called, was first started in the Coquille Valley over 40 years ago. The acreage gradually increased, and soon the seed was in great demand from many parts of the United States, so that for the past ten or more years this section has become

noted for this important crop and for the high quality of purity and germination of the seed, which has developed quite an industry for the growers in this section, the seed finding a ready market throughout the country at a reasonable price.

Canary Grass is especially adapted to low wet bottom land, also swamps, marshes or old lake beds. It is not affected in the least by overflow, neither by the cold winters in the northern and eastern states, where it is now grown with splendid success.

The Experiment stations of many states have also fully demonstrated this remarkable high yielding grass, and strongly recommend its use. It may be seeded either in spring or fall at rate 10 pounds per acre in same manner as any other grass.

The extremely fresh and green appearance of Reed Canary Grass, even in the driest part of the season always attracts much attention of everyone who sees it, and it certainly appeals especially to all dairy and stock men, who appreciate its great value for heavy pasturing and immense yields of hay.

Coos county's property valuation in 1936 totaled $24,271,600.00, with a total tax of $1,304,611.28.

Seed raising is an important industry of the Coquille Valley.

Coos County Developing Oyster Growing Industry

By O. W. Briggs

Japanese, rapid-growing oysters were introduced first on the Pacific coast five or six years ago, and Willipa Harbor was the locality which pioneered in their growing. Firms there have brought the industry to perfection, by arrangements to produce spat for sale.

More than ten years ago, agents were on Coos Bay to interest people in the oyster culture, but no real movement was made toward grasping the possibilities the industry promised until wthin the past three years.

The eastern oyster will not breed on the Pacific coast, and so persons who believed oyster production had great promise, turned to the Japanese bivalve which, in 18 months after planting, is ready [illegible] less than three years, and sually, four years is common.

Although the Willipa growers have made a huge success in marketing the oyster, and spat, the industries there cannot meet the demand for spat, and so shipments are still coming from Japan, discharged somewhere on Puget Sound, and, properly protected against spoiling, in ice, trucked to Coos Bay and the various other ports where investors are planting.

Spat is shipped in boxes and it requires about 15 boxes, or 30 bushels, to plant one acre. Land for oyster planting is usually bought outright, rather than leased, for the succession of crops would naturally have to be lowered each year if one were leasing. This procedure on Coos Bay is being followed and planters buy their lands.

Planters must use judgment in selection of their tidelands, for there may be sewage washing over it that would lose to them their entire investment if health boards condemned. Another item must be considered as well; the oysters are distributed at first on tideflats when the tide is out, and in the 24 hours of each day, there must be 16 hours when they are covered with water. That is the necessity which applies to their living and growth. Oysters can be planted where there is no open ground at low tide, but the owner cannot see his product, nor know its progress.

Frank Muscus and Ira Padrick, partners, were the first to market Coos Bay-grown oysters, from their establishment in North Bend. This firm had oysters to offer the public first in March, 1937, and took them from their plantings at the juncture of Haynes and North inlets, about north of the Coos Bay bridge of the Oregon Coast highway, where the ebb and flow tides do not bring sewage. This is an advantageous condition, but there is more to be said of the locality, for it is largely of sand formation, rather than pure mudflat. Being almost clear of mud, the condition of the oysters on being opened, and marketed, is a clear product, instead of a black, uninviting product which comes from some coast districts. The oyster is fat, has no offensive looking black bulges in the body, and is therefore, palatable.

Muscus and Padrick, pioneering, have been on slow bell since marketing and though at first they planned for outside shipments and sent samples to outside dealers, were unable to more than satisfy the demand in the home area, which includes only Coos county. Their dredging crew goes out daily and returns with a boat load of cluster oysters, when they are opened by their force of employes, canned in gallons, and the same day distributed to their retail customers. This concern has been able to this date to supply not above 50 gallons a day, but they are ready sellers.

Within two years, Coos Bay will be known as the oyster center of the Pacific coast, for by that time more than 200 acres will be marketing in big volume. After first plantings the producer or breeder has no occasion to buy more spat, for the oysters breed where they grow, and the crop is heavy.

Muscus and Padrick, at the close of this season, will have 60 acres in oysters; R. C. Dunham has 40 acres, planted last fall; a company from Idaho is now planting a 40-acre tract, and on South Slough there are several small growers who have various sized areas, while in the vicinity of Empire there are others who have plantings.

It is confidently believed that by 1939 the oyster industry on Coos Bay will be among the leading industries of Coos county.

A word of the Japanese oyster's taste and growth. The oyster has no flavor like the eastern oysters, but are very tender, more so than the eastern oyster. Production to this time shows them as grown here, as clear meat, of a taste which cannot be described, yet considered good eating.

When people of the Middle West and East are suffering from the summer heat, here in the Coquille Valley the residents are enjoying cool ocean breezes, for at least three to four months, June, July, August and most of September, there is no rainfall, and it is possible for people to live outdoors as much as they wish. Then, too, when winter blizzards are raging and the thermometer is trying to burst out the bottom, residents of the Coquille Valley may be found wearing clothing no heavier than that of summer. So mild are the winters that, almost without exception, flowers bloom and vegetables grow outside all winter. While it may sound like a fairy tale, still you are invited to visit the Oregon coast country and see for yourself. You'll enjoy the change.