

THE POSSIBILITIES OF PRODUCTION IN OREGON

(By PROF. THOS. SHAW).

Oregon has a land surface that covers 61,000,000 acres. It may seem incredible, nevertheless it is true, that of the more than nineteen millions of acres of arable land, but little more than four million acres have been put under the plow. The area west of the Cascade mountains was originally mostly forest land, and east of the same, undulating land which produced sagebrush and range grasses. The climate of the former is moist and the soil is good. The climate of the latter is dry and its volcanic ash soil is possessed of surpassing richness.

For variety of agricultural production, Oregon is without a peer or even an equal among the states of the Union. The same may be said of its possible undeveloped resources. It has a climate that is unexcelled, all things considered, in the United States. It has adaptation for the production of livestock that may well provoke the envy of the farmers in the less productive east and south. And it has more valuable timber by far than any other state in the Union.

The variety of the production in Oregon that comes from the soil is manifest in the grains, grasses, clovers, fodders, fruits, tubers, vegetables, hops and grove and forest trees that it produces or may produce, in singularly fine form.

In one or the other of its areas, it will grow in splendid form both hard and soft winter and spring wheat, winter and spring rye, winter and spring oats, winter and spring emmer, winter and spring vetch, flax for the seed and fibre, the Canada and the cow pea, the common and the soya bean. The yields are in many instances phenomenally high. Winter wheat has been harvested which threshed more than 60 bushels to the acre.

Grasses Very Successful.

The cultivated grasses that may be successfully grown include timothy, red top, brome grass, tall oat grass, meadow fescue, western rye, Italian rye, and perennial rye. Several crops of the two last named may be obtained each season as in Great Britain, under suitable conditions. Kentucky bluegrass so justly famed for its grazing qualities, grows splendidly with irrigation east of the Cascades, and without irrigation west of the same. No better place can be found on the continent for establishing mixed permanent pastures similar in character to those which have

proved so valuable to agriculture in Great Britain.

The clovers which may be grown in Oregon, in some places with, and in others without irrigation, include the common red, mammoth, Alsike, small white, crimson, berseem or Egyptian clover and sweet clover. The clover last named will probably be grown in the not distant future over much of the rocky sagebrush lands of the state, thus increasing the production of these in a marked degree. The state is a veritable fairyland for growing alfalfa, which produces from one to two tons per acre in the areas where the rainfall is limited, and three to ten tons on the irrigated land, varying with the conditions that pertain to soil, climate and season. In the production of alfalfa seed, both in the dry and irrigated areas, Oregon is without a peer.

In the line of fodders, it will produce most excellent crops of corn, corn fodder, sorghum, Kafir corn, milo maize, rape and kale. The production of corn for the grain and of sorghum and Kafir corn may be confined to the lower valleys east of the Cascade mountains, but fodder corn and probably milo maize can be grown at an elevation not exceeding 4000 feet.

Fruit in Oregon.

The adaptation of the soils and of the climatic conditions of Oregon for the production of fruit is one of its crowning glories, viewed from the standpoint of agriculture. The larger fruits include the apple, pear, apricot, plum, quince, peach, prune and cherry. The smaller fruits include the strawberry, raspberry red and black, round and long, loganberry, currants and gooseberries of many kinds. Who has not heard of the famous pears of Ashland, of the peerless Spitzenberg apples of Medford, and of the famous Arkansas Black of Ontario? Who does not know about the yields of the apple crops in Ontario and other places where in some instances more than 1000 boxes of first class apples have been taken from a single acre, which have netted not less than \$1 a box? Who does not know about the wonderful Hood River strawberries and the prunes that are grown in almost every valley? Who has not been informed regarding magnificent cherry trees, one of which will abundantly supply a family for the season? In some parts of the state the English walnut, the filbert and various other kinds of

nuts may be grown as successfully as in California and the same is true of grapes. With more than 100,000 acres already in orchard, and with planting going on apace, what will not the production of fruit be in this state a few years hence. It will tax the inhabitants to pick it and the railroads to ship it out.

Tubers to the Front.

Oregon is no less to the fore with its tubers. The potatoes which it grows on the dry lands are unexcelled in quality and on the irrigated lands in yields. Artichokes may be grown with no other limit than the needs of the swine which feed upon such food by harvesting it for themselves. The lower valleys can grow sweet potatoes, rivalling those of the Carolinas, and peanuts equalling those of Virginia. The list of vegetables includes virtually every species that can be grown in temperate climates and of superb quality.

The hops of Oregon have long been famous. In no state can hops of better quality be grown and in none can equally large yields be obtained, unless it be in Washington. These two states alone could be made to produce what would go far to supply the markets of the world.

The timber trees include such species as the yellow pine, white pine, fir, spruce and cedar. The groves include the black locust and catalpa, so valuable in furnishing posts for the farmer. The time will probably never come when Oregon will be unable to supply its own needs in this line.

Much Room For Development.

The opportunities for development are simply without parallel. At the present time, but 4,098,104 acres of tillable land have been cultivated, while the remaining 19,542,129 acres of tillable land have never been touched by the plow. This means that the present production may be multiplied by five when this land comes to be tilled, even though there should be no advance over present methods of tillage. Of this area, not less than probably 10,000,000 acres will be farmed on the dry farming plan. One half of this area thus farmed and devoted to wheat would add 50 to 60 million bushels to the present production of that cereal. One million acres devoted to growing alfalfa seed would produce many times more of this valuable product than is now produced in all the States. One half of the 3,000,000 acres of land that will some day be irrigated could be made to produce 6,000,000 tons of hay in one season, and every season for an indefinite period. The full possible development of the apple industry would call for the building of two miles of railroad for every one that is now in the state, to get the fruit to market. Vast areas in the state are yet without railroads. In the absence of these, settlements come slowly. Even now there is a strip of country ex-

tending from Vale to Prineville and Bend a distance of practically 300 miles, without a railroad. But the railroads will come. The discussion has considered only the possible resources from the soil. Those from the forests, the mine and the sea are also relatively very great.

Climate is Great Asset.

The climate of Oregon is without a peer in the United States. On the whole it is equable, and singularly free from violent extremes. The summer heat is seldom oppressive in any part, and the winter cold is not taxing. The nights are at all times cool and bracing. There is almost entire freedom from tornadoes and cyclones are unknown. East of the Cascades the average rainfall runs from 12 to 15 inches. This region is characterized by bright sunshine during the larger portion of the year. West of the Cascades the winters are characterized by many rains, but these fall gently. The average annual precipitation for the whole state is 42.8 inches. In all of Oregon the harvest season is dry, a consideration of incalculable economic value. The generally equable character of the climate will be apparent when it is stated that even on elevated lands in proximity to snow covered mountains and where summer frosts annoy more or less, potatoes are some times planted in the autumn, and strawberries though uncovered are unharmed by the winter's cold. In some places roses are in bloom in the gardens in November. In such a climate livestock may feed upon the hills until December, and the farmer may allow them to run out all winter in some parts of Oregon.

Stock Raising a Leading Industry.

The livestock industry in Oregon is in a sense self-contained—that is, it is virtually independent of the necessity for replenishing it from the outside. On the millions of acres of rugged and rocky lands within the state, bunch and other grasses will continue to grow freely amid the sagebrush that is found on these, providing they are not over-pastured. On these grasses which excel in nutrition, sheep and cattle will be summered as in the past until they run up into the millions, and they will not be shipped East as they have been in former years to be finished in corn belt areas. They will be wintered on alfalfa grown largely on the irrigated lands and when of sufficient age will be fattened on alfalfa from the irrigated lands, along with coarse grains grown on these and also on the dry lands. Thus Oregon will furnish its own stockers and they will be finished within the state. The markets of the rapidly growing cities of the coast will soon absorb these, hence the expense of transportation will be greatly reduced. The opportunity for building up a magnificent dairy industry, especially on the irrigated lands east of the Cascades and on those west of the Cascades where

rain is abundant, are simply superb. On the latter, pasture grasses may be grown, virtually perennial in their greenness, and on the former enormous crops of alfalfa may be grown. In the Snake river valley near Ontario seven tons to the acre per annum is the average yield. This means that dairy products may be produced at less than half the cost of the same in New England, and that good cows well managed will give a gross return of \$100 per year with prices at present prevailing, one half of which should be clear profit. In such areas swine may be abundantly grown at a cost not to exceed three cents a pound live weight, which is cheaper than they can be grown in the corn belt. The day is certainly coming when transportation of dairy products and pork from the Mississippi basin will cease, and when the current of trade in these will flow from east rather than west.

Timber Resources Wonderful.

The timber of Oregon is in a sense fabulous in extent. The Cascade range alone, which runs from the north to the south of the state through its entire length, a distance of nearly 300 miles, is covered with unbroken forests. The width of this vast tree bearing region varies from 25 to 35 miles. The trees which grow within it are as a rule of gigantic size. They grow so quickly in many places that it seems marvelous how each gets its supply of food. They tower upwards toward the sky and will yield enormously in lumber. The government land in forest reserves is about 15,000,000 acres. It may be expected

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therefore, to furnish a supply of lumber through coming centuries.

These statements are in no sense the language of extravagance. Should they be disputed, they may easily be defended on any platform. Enough has been said, however, to sustain the statement made at the outset, that for variety of agricultural production, Oregon is without a peer or even an equal among the states of the Union.

BIG SURPRISE TO MANY IN BEND

Local people are surprised at the QUICK results received from simple buckthorn bark, glycerine, etc., as mixed in Adler-i-ka, the German appendicitis remedy. The Patterson Drug Co. states that this simple remedy antiseptizes the digestive system and draws off the impurities so thoroughly that A SINGLE DOSE relieves sour stomach, gas on the stomach and constipation INSTANTLY.

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