



COLUMBIA COUNTY BOOTH, AT LEWIS AND CLARK FAIR, (BY COURTESY OREGON M ST.)

COLUMBIA COUNTY AT FAIR

Saturday, July 29th marks an epoch in the history of Columbia county. On this day Columbia county entertained at the Oregon State building.

"Columbia county furnished the largest logs used in the construction of the forestry building, was the statement made by hundreds of our people who were in attendance at the fair.

"We have on exhibition the largest salmon ever shown frozen in a block of ice," was another boast, as they pointed with pride to a 63 pound Royal Chinook caught in the Columbia, along the border of our county, and displayed at the Columbia County booth in charge of Miss Nora Conyers of Clatskanie.

"Most of the late cherries in the display of the state in the Agricultural palace were grown in Columbia county," near Maygers.

Potatoes measuring more than a foot with other enormous vegetables were on exhibition.

The homeseeker was informed that lands could be purchased at \$5 an acre and at a cost of \$50 to \$100 an acre it can be planted to orchards, vineyards and gardens that would yield better and larger crops than any other country under the sun.

Columbia county told the people of Portland that they are their nearest neighbors; that she spends there annually \$1,000,000; that a railroad tapping the interior is needed and Portland capital should build it, and money thus invested would bring good returns. It was shown that immense deposits of coal and iron in the Nehalem valley await development, and that practically every acre of timber land is fertile and raises abundant crops after it is cleared.

The fishing industry received its share of attention.

The dairies were declared to be as good as any in the West.

Only 7,163 persons live in the county, although half a million could be supported by the natural resources brought into use.

It was one of the pleasantest county days that have been given at the exposition and advertise the communities as worthy of inspection by homeseekers.

Columbia county, situated in the northwestern part of the state, beginning 15 miles below Portland, has a 85 mile frontage on the Columbia river toward Astoria, and extends back over the hills and valleys of the Cascade range toward the ocean. It is an undeveloped region where settlers can find land in plenty and where they will be able to make a home and raise a crop a year after settlement. There is still some government land still open to settlement.

It has been heavily timbered in all parts, but the valleys along the Columbia and tributaries have been cleared and here a rich agricultural and dairying section is found. After the timber has been disposed of, land can be bought at ridiculously low prices. Unimproved land 25 miles from Portland, near a railroad, can be had for \$5 an acre, which can be cleared absolutely and put in fruit trees at from \$75 to \$100 an acre. The pioneer method of handling a stump

patch with oxen has been superseded by blasting and burning, and clearing land is not the life-time job of days gone by. There are undeveloped coal, iron, and oil prospects all over the county. The principal industries are logging, milling, fishing farming and dairying.

The county should be proclaiming the fact far and wide that she furnished most if not all of the big fir logs from which the Forestry building is constructed, but she is a very quiet county and has very little said about it. These logs were got out at Clatskanie and when the fact is known that we have 10,000,000 feet of standing timber, it will be seen that these logs are but a modest sample.

Rainier, Clatskanie, St. Helens and Houlton are the largest towns, and the two first named having 1,000 each, and the population does not exceed 10,000. A graded school system is in full force all over the county. The 57 districts have good school buildings and employ from one to five teachers each.

Scappoose, Warren and Deer Island, in the upper end of the county, are becoming well known for dairy produce and fruit. Three of the finest thoroughbred registered Jersey herds in the state are to be found here and they will be represented at the Lewis and Clark Fair. When the stock show opens.

The Nehalem valley is one of the finest and most fertile sections in the whole county. Settlers found their way there 25 years ago and though from 9 to 20 miles from a railroad, they have some some of the best improved farms, dairy herds, hop yards and mills in the state, while their forests are still untouched. A railroad is in course of construction now, which it is hoped will connect this territory with the outside markets. A broad-gauge logging railroad at Clatskanie is working toward Nehalem and will eventually reach there. Well improved farms can be bought for \$25 an acre.

The Clatskanie and Beaver valleys are dotted with lumber and shingle mills and big logging camps, while the same conditions exist in regard to agriculture, dairying and fruit raising as in other parts of the county.

The Columbia county exhibit at the exposition is showing as far as possible its varied resources.

From the Historic town of St. Helens, the county seat, come quarry stone, English walnuts, fruits and vegetables and an English ivy vine 14 inches in diameter and 25 feet high, planted 25 years ago on the old McBride home.

From the cold storage plant at Goble is a 63 1/2 pound Royal Chinook salmon frozen in a cake of ice.

Rainier has its interests represented by the cedar front of the booth, a sawed cedar board 20 feet long and 52 inches wide, fancy doors and a mineral soap manufactured there.

Clatskanie furnished the ceiling of the booth, grasses and the largest potatoes in the building.

Quincy and Inab, on the line of the Astoria and Portland, show some of the best of the county with late

fruits and fine specimens of

Oregon fruit and were grown about 2,000 feet above the Columbia river.

Scappoose and Warren have on display grain, apples, corn and two silver cups won at the Oregon state fair on dairy herds.

Houlton has a cooperage exhibit. Other localities represented by grains and grasses are Fishhawk, Albany, Reuben, Yankton, Mist and Marshland.

JUDGE McBRIDE SPEAKS.

As Mount Hood can be symbolized by exhibiting a lump of ice from her mighty glaciers, so the Columbia river by facing on view a bucket of water, so the fields and meadows of Columbia county, its fertile forests, its grand waterfalls its fisheries, its manufacturing establishments can only be poorly depicted by any exhibit, however costly. Her exhibit is life—the life of the growing forest, the life of the waving grain and green meadow; the life of the flashing stream and rolling river; the life of the factory—that to be appreciated must be seen.

"But with all our new news and undeveloped resources we have accomplished some things down in Columbia and we have many things which nature has accomplished for us to which, in the language of the political platform we can point with pride.

"Although a large county territorially, it can be truly said that there are not 10 acres of waste land in the whole county. From the fertile bottoms of the Columbia across the fire-covered hills to the Nehalem and down the Nehalem to the North line of the country every acre can be cultivated and will repay cultivation when the timber is taken off. Unlike the pine lands east of the Rocky mountains, our fir land is rich and productive, and is not worthless when the timber is removed.

I wish some of the people here had seen an humble, unpretentious apple tree that grows in our yard near Deer Island. Neglected as a lawyer's trees usually are, that last year produced 15 boxes of merchantable apples, besides small and imperfect ones that were rejected.

"I would like to have people from the east go down and see the Columbia river bottom enriched each year like the valley of the Nile by the annual June overflow of the river, and emerging green and beautiful from its bosom like a new Atlantis from the sea. I would like to have them see these same meadows flecked with countless herds of dairy cattle, the germ and potentiality of the milk, cream, and butter that gratify and satisfy the appetite of Portland.

"I would like to talk about the valley of the Nehalem, destined to be the center of a vast agricultural and lumbering community, producing richly everything from grass to hops, with a railroad just about to creep in and open it up to market.

"Then there is our iron and our coal and undeveloped beds of both reaching almost across the county from east to west and practically unexplored but in waiting to be a source of future wealth

I candidly believe that in the course of a few years Columbia County will be the location of great and profitable coal and iron industries.

"And there is our timber. I can speak of that with the proof at hand. You have all visited the beautiful Forestry building and admired its massive columns. Well those are Columbia county trees, and there are billions of feet just like them, or better still uncut in our forests.

"The commission had to get these logs without much selection and where timber was handy to transportation and early put in water, so as to preserve the bark intact and beautiful. They could not go away back into the interior of the forest and select the best and largest and have not done so, although they have done well.

"The government forestry reports estimate the standing timber of the county at nearly 10,000,000 feet. Do you realize what that means? Cut into fencing it would make a good fence; a law fence three times around the earth. Give Columbia county the earth and she will build a fence around it. Ten billion feet means that we have enough lumber standing in Columbia county to roof in Rhode Island and Delaware. Enough to roof and wall in Rhode Island with a wall a mile high. Enough to build a bridge wide enough for wagons to pass each other from here to the Philippine Islands. No city on earth has as much lumber in its buildings as we have standing in Columbia county.

"Get the forestry reports and figure a little for yourselves and you Columbia county people look up through the openings in timber to the blue heavens above it and thank God for the heritage he hath given you.

And when our visitors get tired of hearing of our timber we can talk about salmon—the Royal Chinook. Hundreds of men are spreading their nets in Columbia county waters to harvest the crop that is sown on our own rivers, matures in the ocean, and conveniently returns to be gathered in when it is ready for market. Our sloughs, lakes and larger streams are now soaked with the black bass, shad salmon trout and the humble but toothsome catfish.

And are we doing anything with these resources? Yes, verily, we are. A dozen mills, small and great, are cutting our timber into lumber and supplying a local demand as well as sending

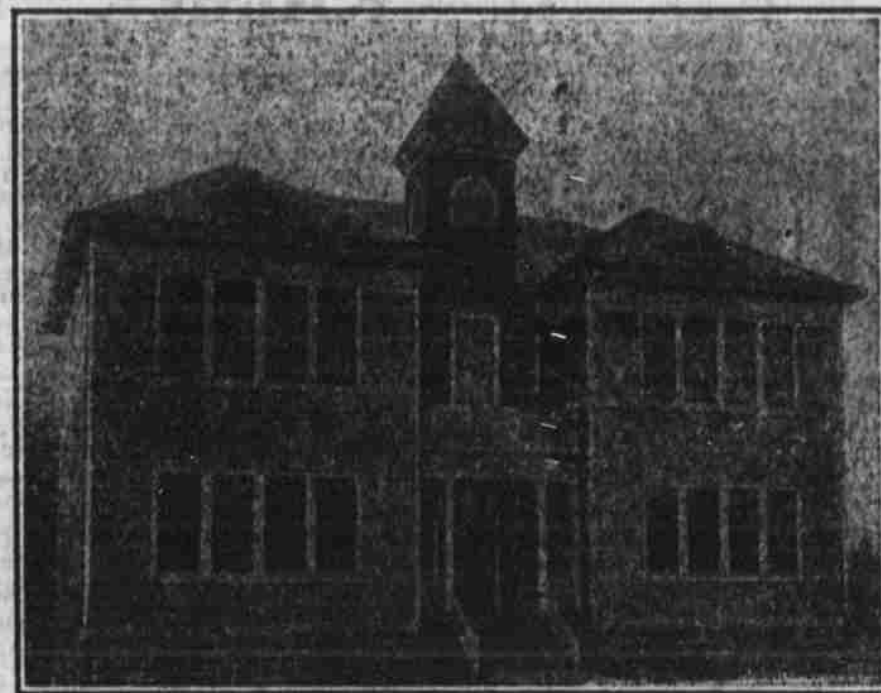
great quantities away to every port on the Pacific.

"The shingle weaver is abroad in the land and Columbia county stands away up on the list as a producer of shingles; shingle and door factories are turning out shingles on the Columbia county air; a stove factory is doing an export business; a toilet soap factory is turning out enough soap each week to wash away the sins of all the politicians in the United States, and as that is saying a good deal; a cold storage plant is shipping fish to all parts of the world. Flumes in various parts of the county, representing an investment of several hundred thousand dollars, carry cheaply and expeditiously the product of our forests to the great Columbia; logging railroads are piercing the recesses of our hills and we have orchards that yield in more than abundance; dairies that are making their owners rich; our citizens build and own steam boats. We have plenty of local newspapers, cleanly and decently conducted and well patronized. The people are loyal to their home newspapers, and in addition our post offices will show that there is no other county where more outside papers and magazines are taken in proportion to population. We read in Columbia county and try to know a few things, and think we do.

"Our educational standard is high. We have plenty of good schools and a settler in even the most remote part of the county will find that he has facilities for educating his children. We have plenty of churches and few saloons; no poorhouse nor any need for one. We have our little jail about fifteen feet square and generally empty, perhaps about one criminal trial a year in the circuit court.

"Our county is out of debt. Don't forget that. A man can take his county order and go straight to the treasurer and get the goods and gold for it without the intervention of a broker or warrant server.

"Our people have learned from the pioneers the good, old-fashioned lessons of hospitality and are glad to welcome strangers among them, and cordially invite everybody to visit our booth at exposition and to follow up the visit by a longer one to the county itself. Come down and see us and what we have to show you and you will say as the Queen of Sheba said of Jerusalem: 'The half has not been told.'



ST. HELENS SCHOOL BUILDING, ST. HELENS, ORE.



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Medicines that aid nature are always most effective. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy acts on this plan. It always relieves the lungs, expectorates the cough, opens the secretions and aids the nature in restoring the system to a healthy condition. Sold by PERRY & GRAHAM.