

WEALTH OF OUR TIMBER.

An Inland Empire Forest Almost Untouched.

Lake County Looks Forward to the Time When Lumbering Will be THE Industry.

A Lakeview correspondent to the Portland Telegram, under date of Nov. 24, has the following on the Timber land of Lake county:

The timber question is one of great moment to Lake county, and reports regarding the gradual diminishing of Oregon's forests have aroused considerable interest in the matter.

The extreme southeastern part of the state has never been considered of very great importance to parties interested in this particular industry. Yet, as has been stated by Government Forestry Expert A. J. Johnson, there is an abundance of timber that has been culled over, and which in time will be sought after. "The county of lakes and deserts," when the state's supply of timber has been exhausted, will be glad to come to the relief with about 3000 square miles of timber lands of some 5,000,000 feet of lumber to the square mile that has heretofore been overlooked.

Lake county has an area of 5,049,300 acres, of which nearly 2,000,000 acres are covered with valuable timber. Black and yellow pine, sugar pine, cedar, fir, juniper and mahogany. While there are no vast bodies of timber, compared to those of the Cascade Range, the many small bodies and belts are distributed over the entire county convenient for local use in the numerous valleys. This division has an advantage worthy of notice. Destructive forest fires are comparatively unknown in these small bodies, as the lack of underbrush to carry the fire any great distance, and the small valleys that head off the progress prevent the raging fires that consume so many thousands of acres of timber in more extensive forests.

It will also be noticed that while other parts of the state have large sawmills, with capacities ranging from 25,000 to 100,000 feet per day, there have been but five small mills operating in our timber, the capacity of which in no instance will exceed 10,000 feet per day, and running season of not more than six months in the year. This, in addition to the fact that most all the fencing is of wire and posts of juniper—a species of timber unfit for lumber—and most of the fuel of the same, must be seen to have preserved Lake county's supply of saw timber. There has never been a foot of lumber shipped out of this county, and unless railroads are built through here on which such transportation can be made, the limited demand for local consumption will keep out large mills.

Juniper, while of no value for saw timber, when put in the ground for posts its durability is far beyond any other timber of Eastern Oregon, and would make a superior railroad tie. This can be found in large quantities all over Eastern Oregon, especially in the southern part.

Mahogany is another timber adapted to this portion of the state which will, when its merits have been tested, prove of high commercial value. When dry its color is a deep red, and is so hard and firm that no common tool will withstand working it, and admits of a polish next to glass. It presents a beautiful appearance. Why should not a specimen of Oregon mahogany be of interest in the display—if there should be one—of Oregon, at the Pan-American Exposition? It is my opinion that there is no wood in the world that can excel it in firmness. Its weight is almost equal to iron.

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VERDA ELECTA HARRIS.

General sympathy goes out to the sorrowing parents, F. E. and Lillie E. Harris, upon the loss of their little daughter Verda Electa. The little one was "called home" last Thursday, Dec. 6th, after an illness of two weeks with a complication of diseases. The little one was a particularly bright and lovable child. About the last thing she said before the Angel of Death came, was, "Mamma, let me see the picture." Her innocent child thoughts ventured toward earthly things even in the face of death. Verda was aged 2 years, 8 months and 2 days. The funeral was held from the Methodist Church in Lakeview last Friday and was largely attended by sympathizing friends of the family. Rev. C. H. Dullman, of the Baptist Church, officiated. The singing by the Methodist Church choir was sweet and appropriate. Four little girls acted as pallbearers: Essie Cobb, Genie Snelling, Ottilie Field and Lillie Brown.

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