

TILLAMOOK'S RESOURCES.

A Description of the County—Its Many Advantages.

About fifty miles south of the mouth of the Columbia river is the entrance to Tillamook bay, and here is the center of a county rich in resources, and magnificent in its possibilities. Tillamook county extends for about ninety miles north and south along the coast, and inland to the Coast Range, an average distance of twenty miles.

The county has an area of 2000 square miles, and is larger than some of the smallest states, and capable of supporting as great a population as some of them.

Tillamook is in about the same latitude as St. Paul, Minnesota, though the climate here is much warmer and more even. The Japan current warms the shores of this region in such a way that winter is hardly noticed here. There is little or no snow generally, and when it does fall it soon melts away. The principal feature of winter is the long continued rains, always warm and this season of the year is remarkably healthful. The summers are unsurpassed. No finer climatic conditions exist than those of a Tillamook summer. This is the dry season, generally speaking, but there are refreshing showers occasionally, and the sea breeze tempered by the Japan current, is perfectly delightful. People camp out doors six to eight months in the year here with perfect comfort.

THE TIMBER.

The immense forests of this county are its chief and greatest resource. It is impossible to convey an idea of the magnitude of this item by any description. It is necessary to travel through our dense forests in order to even comprehend the least idea of their extent and immensity. A great portion of the county is covered with a growth of trees, the like of which can not be seen in any other portion of the United States. There may be a few larger trees in the redwood forest of California, but the fir trees of this section will almost equal them in size and they stand so thick that they are much taller; and much more imposing in appearance. A man can not enter into the gloomy shades of our dense woods without feeling a sense of awe, if not reverence, towards the giant monsters of the forest. Trees ten and twelve feet in diameter are often found, and the average size of the fir trees is perhaps six feet in diameter. And many of these trees are 250 and 300 feet in height. The trunks are very straight, and taper so slowly that it is hardly noticeable, and many of them have no vestige of a limb for the first hundred feet above the ground. Near Skookum lake, in this county, is a tree that is twenty-eight feet in diameter near the ground, thus almost equaling in size the famous "Big Trees of California." Once see the big trees in Tillamook county and you will lose all desire to see the California monsters. Here, it is possible to travel for miles and miles through dense forests of big trees, any and all of them being wonders in size to people who are accustomed to the tooth pick timber of Minnesota or Michigan. The largest specimens of timber in the eastern or central states, are mere telegraph poles in comparison with the stately fir of Oregon. In places were settlers have tried to clear out a garden spot on their homes, it is a common thing to see a large tree that has been felled, used for a fence on one side of a lot. Near this city, on the public road is a log serving as a fence in this way that is twelve feet high as it lies, being higher than the top buggies which pass by. In fact a man would have to be on top of a load of hay to look over into this particular field. These stories regarding the immense size of the timber here are had for people to believe who have not seen it, and those who have read the fullest descriptions of them are surprised to find them so large.

There are several kinds of timber here. The fir is most abundant and is in the rough and mountainous regions. The tide land spruce is plentiful along the coast and on the rivers and the spruce attains as large a size as the fir. Cedar is found in many localities also, and larch grows on the summit of the coast range. These are all valuable timbers. The fir (properly Douglas spruce) is a very durable and strong wood, and is manufactured into rough lumber for all purposes, and is made into flooring and rustic weather-boarding largely. A great deal of fir is used for ship masts. Timbers, 150 feet long have been sawed from it in many instances. Spruce is a softer wood, is white and is used mostly for finishing lumber and for boxes and barrels. Being odorless, it is good for packing butter and fruits. The largest area of spruce in the Northwest is found in Tillamook county, and as it is growing scarce elsewhere, it will be of great value in a short time. Most of the lumber manufactured here now is made from spruce. The cedar takes an elegant finish, and is the very best material for doors, sash and shingles. It commands a high price at present.

Nearly all of the timber in this county is adjacent to streams that will float logs, and with a little labor all of it can be put in streams where the winter freshets will bring it to the bay. The expense of logging here will always be small. The county is a net work of rivers that cheapen

the cost of logging right at the start. Many of these rivers are good sized streams on their lower courses, but the Coast Range prevents their being very long, and dozens of creeks course down the innumerable canyons of the range, uniting into one large stream. No less than five rivers empty into Tillamook bay. The lower courses of these streams are affected by the tide and so far as the tide water extends inland, steamboat navigation is carried on. This makes the navigable extent of Tillamook bay and its arms very great, and the facilities for rafting logs are much better than in most countries. There is at Hobsonville, on Tillamook bay, a mill that cuts 40,000 feet of spruce lumber per day for the San Francisco market. Two vessels are employed in carrying the lumber there and it is all made into boxes, mostly for raisins and fruit. At Bay City is a small mill that cuts about 20,000 feet of lumber per day, the product of which is mostly consumed at home. The Cooperage works at Bay City are capable of working a great amount of spruce into barrel staves, and a large new mill is partially built. At Tillamook City there is a saw mill that runs steadily, cutting about 20,000 feet of lumber per day, mostly for local use. This mill has a planing attachment. At Woods, on the Nestucca river, in the south end of the county is a saw and planing mill that supplies the local demand and there is another local mill on the headwaters of the Big Nestucca. On Nehalem there is a mill that supplies the local wants, also a large mill and box factory, which is capable of working 40,000 feet of lumber per day into boxes.

Other large milling industries, some of them much larger than any mentioned, will be started soon. A logging railway has been surveyed into one of the finest bodies of timber in the county, right of way secured and ample grounds for yards, pastures and mill sites have been procured. It will not be long until active operations on a large scale will begin, and the improvement of the bay and bar of Tillamook and Nehalem, both of which are being provided for by the government, will give a great impetus to the lumbering business of this county. A low estimate puts the amount of lumber in our forests at 20,000,000,000 feet, and the work of cutting this into lumber, with all the preliminary work of logging, will give a large population employment for many years to come. A great deal of money will be distributed here, and the farming community can find a ready market for all their produce right at home. Some good sized towns are sure to spring up on Tillamook bay and on Nehalem river as soon as the lumbering business gets well started.

The lumbering interests are by far the most important resource of the county, and this resource cannot possibly be exhausted within the next hundred years. The improvement of the harbors and the opening of the Nicaragua canal will bring all the lumber produced on this coast within reach of the Atlantic coast market, and there will also at that time be a greater demand for lumber on this coast as a general degree of prosperity will begin on this coast as soon as there is a canal across the isthmus and the high trans-continental rates broken.

DAIRYING.

Next in importance to Tillamook's lumbering resources, are the dairy interests. Grass is good here the year 'round. Feed is plentiful and easily produced, the climate is so temperate that cattle thrive; and all the conditions here contribute towards making dairying successful. The grasses and natural feed are of a kind that produces the best milk and butter. The climate is so even and cool, and the water so pure that the butter here possesses the finest flavor if any care is taken in making it. This business is found very profitable here and nearly two hundred tons of butter have been shipped from here during the past year. General stock raising goes with dairying here generally, and is very profitable.

FARMING.

General farming pays well here, especially when done in connection with stock raising. Markets are getting better every year, and as soon as the wagon roads are put in better shape, which is being done rapidly, the farmer will not have any trouble in finding a good market for his produce all the year. Of course there is no railroad yet, but the freight by the steamers is low, besides there is a home market at present for a great deal of produce. Barley and oats grow here to perfection, making yields equal to the richest sections of California or Oregon. Hay of various kinds does as well here as in any part of the United States. Potatoes and garden vegetables of all kinds are at their best here, and the yield is simply enormous. Hops grow and mature well wherever tried. There is a large area of prairie and bottom land in this county, and it is capable of supplying a large population. The hill lands are good for fruit and for grazing, and there is plenty of this kind of land, with occasional patches of table land or bottom land, that can be obtained under the government land laws. Land much less productive than this in the eastern states is being farmed. In fact there is very little of this county but what can be made productive in some way. The tide lands here are exceedingly rich, and much more of it could easily be reclaimed from the tidal overflow and made to yield immense crops. A great deal of the tide land is covered with a thick growth of nutritive grasses, and it is the most remunerative land that the county

has. Cattle are often allowed to roam in the hills, and even in the woods, all winter without other feed than the natural grasses, and come out in good condition in the spring. The hills that have been denuded of their timber by fire make good sheep ranges. Fruits of all kinds grow to perfection here, especially apples, pears, prunes and small fruits, such as blackberries, strawberries, raspberries, etc. are prolific bearers. The woods are full of wild berries, there being almost a dozen distinct varieties of huckleberries, besides salmonberries, thimbleberries, and many other kinds, which goes to show that this is a natural fruit country. Bee-keeping is carried on in some localities, and the honey produced here always commands the highest price being of exceptionally fine flavor. A living can be made here on a very small farm, and farmers can always do well here. They are the class that is needed. Improved land here sells at \$20 to \$40 per acre and unimproved land is worth from \$5 to \$20 per acre. A farm of 160 acres can be obtained from the government by residing on it five years, or by residing on it fourteen months and paying the government \$1.25 per acre. There is yet much vacant timber land which can be had on the same terms as above, or may be bought outright from the government without residing thereon for \$2.50 per acre. This land is selling to timber speculators at prices varying from \$800 to \$1600 per quarter section of 160 acres and will soon be worth a great deal more.

ETC. ETC.

Salmon fishing is carried on during the fishing season on Tillamook bay, on Nehalem bay, and sometimes on Nestucca bay. The output of canned salmon amounts in value to \$50,000 to \$200,000 every year, and gives employment to a great many fishermen. There are canneries at each of the above named places and the item of canned salmon amounts each year to much more than the wheat of some of the grain producing countries.

Coal is found in abundance on the Nehalem and of good quality. These deposits will be worked soon. Coal is also found in other localities, and other minerals are known to exist in various parts of the county.

There is no better field for the sportsmen than Tillamook. The hunter can find elk, deer, waterfowl, bear and cougars here; the fisherman can yank thousands of fine speckled trout from the mountain streams. Trolling for salmon in the bay is an exhilarating sport. The salmon is a gamy fish, and sometimes it takes half an hour to bring in one of these lively fishes, and some of them weigh as much as fifty pounds. There is no finer fish than the Royal Chinook Salmon. For those who like to take the world easy there is a fine fish which can be caught more readily. We refer to the succulent clam, which grows in the sand bars and mud flats every where on the bay or beach. A common farming utensil, a hoe or a shovel, is all that is needed, or you can dig them out with your hand. They are delicious in various ways, and there are several varieties of clams, oysters and mussels. Crabs are plentiful also. In the bay, flounder, sturgeon, porgy, and other fish are found. Deep sea fish are plentiful.

Nehalem beach, Netarts beach and Nestucca beach are favorite resorts for campers, and they are frequented by wagon loads of campers every year who amuse themselves by digging clams, gathering shells and bathing. There will soon be better roads to these places, and they are sure to become popular resorts.

The same general description is practically good for every locality in the county, and as lack of space will not permit a special review of each valley or particular neighborhood, we mention a few of the special features only of each locality: Nehalem is particularly noted for its vast resources of timber and for its coal. There is, also, much fine bottom land on the Nehalem, and at the mouth of the river will be an excellent harbor when the proposed government work is done. The Nehalem river is a very fine stream, and for scenic grandeur is not surpassed even by the majestic Columbia. The river is more than one hundred miles long and thousands of sections of magnificent timber are tributary to it and its branches. The greatest area of farming land is around Tillamook bay, and on the various streams tributary to Tillamook bay. These streams will be the means of bringing large bodies of timber to the saw mills on the bay. Netarts is famous as a summer resort, and some fine bodies of spruce timber are adjacent. Nestucca is a farming and stock raising country, the timber having been burnt away years ago. The people in that section are prospering.

There are twenty post-offices in the county, and several little villages besides Tillamook City, the county seat. On the Nehalem, Tohl's landing and Nehalem are striving for supremacy. There are good stores and hotels on both places, and a large saw mill at the first named place.

Garibaldi at the mouth of Tillamook bay is a picturesque little hamlet, has two hotels, a store and a cannery, and is a favorite resort. Hobsonville has a hotel, the Truckee Mills, and a large general merchandise store, also a cannery.

At Bay City there are good hotels, mills, a church, several stores and various business enterprises. Bay City is the largest town in the county excepting Tillamook and has a population of about 300. There is a store and hotel at Dolph in the south part of the county, and at Woods near the mouth of the Nestucca is a thriving

little town, with stores, hotels, saw mill and school. Tillamook city is the commercial center of the county, and is situated at the edge of a beautiful prairie on an arm of Tillamook bay at the head of navigation. It is the natural location for the business center, and is built on a natural townsite. The farming country is nearly all tributary to Tillamook and it is destined to become a large town in a short time. Tillamook city has now a population of about 800, has a good system of electric lights, telegraphic connection with Forest Grove on the Western Union lines and with Bay City, Hobsonville and Nehalem. This place has churches, excellent schools, lodges of the various secret orders, good hotels, all the ordinary lines of business and professions well represented, a bank, saw mill and a newspaper. The streets are gravelled in a substantial shape, lighted by electricity and there are miles of good side walks. This will make a beautiful place for homes, as well as becoming a prosperous commercial town. The place is incorporated and the people take an active interest in improving the appearance of the town.

HOW TO GET HERE.

The steamer Harrison runs from Portland to this place carrying freight and passengers about once in ten days, and oftener when the weather permits. The steamer Elmore runs here twice a week from Astoria, and the Columbia river steam boats from Portland connect with the Elmore in Astoria. The Elmore carries freight and passengers. The Truckee Co's steamers, the Homer and the Truckee, running from San Francisco to Portland every ten days, stop here on their return from Portland, and load with lumber at Hobsonville. They carry passengers. There is a stage line from North Yamhill, on the S. P. R. R. from Portland, on which daily stages, carrying mail and passengers, run to Tillamook. The road from Forest Grove to Tillamook is completed and daily stages now are running on this route. There is a good wagon road from Nestucca, in the south end of the county to Sheridan on the P. & W. V. R. R. Other routes of ingress will be opened up soon and the HEADLIGHT will keep its readers informed as to progress in railroads and other enterprises. Persons who reside at a distance and contemplate coming here, will do well to correspond with the editor of this paper who will give free information as to the best route to take, according to the time of the year, and will also give other information regarding the county in a fair and reliable manner. Write for printed descriptive matter.

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