EVENING CAPITAL JOURNAL.

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MARKETS.

LANDS AND HOMES.

Marion county is situated in the heart of the magnificent Willamette valley, the central gem in the cluster of rich counties that form that princely domain, and is the banner commonwealth of the great northwest in all the essentials that go towards making it a profitable abiding place, and a home for the thrifty farmer, the cunning artisan and the industrious mechanic.

Rich in its agricultural resources in its cultivated and uncultivated lands, in its water powers, and minerals; rich in its colleges and schools of learning, and with a climate unsurpassed for its salubrity, it presents to the immigrant from the overcrowded states, where cold winters and hot summers, with terrible cyclones, prevail, who comes to the coast with some means, advantages that no other county in Oregon possesses.

Much has been written of this western country that requires a stretch of the imagination to comprehend, and numerous complaints are heard from the class who have been misled by them, so in this brief sketch the writer desires to avoid exageration as to its present and prospective advantages, asking those in the east into whose hands this may fall—particularly those who have their eyes directed towards this coast—to peruse it carefully, feeling that it is not written to lure immigrants within its borders, but only as a truthful discription of a land which, if it does not "flow milk and honey," contains within its bosom wealth and resources equal to any other country on the Pacific side of the Rocky mountains.

BOUNDARIES.

Marion county is bounded on the north by the Willamette river and Butte creek which separates it from Clackamas county; on the east by Clackamas county and the Cascade mountains, which separate it from Wasco county; on the south by the Santiam river and the north fork of the Santiam, separating it from Linn county, and on the west by the Willamette river.

PHYSICAL FORMATION.

The county contains, including valley, prairie and mountain lands, about 900,000 acres.

There are two main divisions, the mountain and the valley. The latter extends from the Willamette river to the foot of the Cascade mountains, a distance of about fifteen miles.

The mountainous portion contains some fourteen townships of mostly unsurveyed land; lying in a strip twelve miles north and south by forty miles east and west, and comprises all classes of land, from rich narrow valleys in the passes, up through all the grades of rolling, hilly and broken, to that of rock-bound canyons and inaccessible craggy peaks. It is generally heavily timbered, and in the near future will be valuable for its lumber supplies. These hills and mountains afford a wonderful summer range for stock, and many of the more enterprising farmers are availing themselves of this opportunity, and when the cold frosts of autumn approach, the stock are brought out to fresh pastures, thus enabling them to survive the winter storms with little care.

GREAT ADVANTAGES.

A decided advantage Marion county has over many others is the diversified farming interest that can be carried on throught the entire year; notwithstanding this is a wet climate during the winter months, the uplands are seldom too wet to work, and long before the prairie farmers are through with their seeding, the hill farmer is preparing for his summer work. And yet the low lands are much preferred by many; the yield per acre is generally greater, and perhaps less labor is required to place the soil in proper condition for crops; and then should the season prove dry, the bottom lands are sure to bring the best crops. No better farming land can be found in the United States than that on the noted Howell prairie, French prairie, Santiam prairie and Salem prairie. The soil of these are wonderfully productive. With good cultivation, forty bushels of wheat and sixty of oats per acre can be readily secured.

FACILITIES FOR MARKET.

The Willamette river, with two lines of railroad running the entire length of the county from north to south, with the Oregon Pacific road crossing the southeast corner of the county, affords ample facilities to reach a market in any direction.

SALEM

Is the capital of the state and county seat of Marion county, situated on the Willamette river—and on the O. & C. railroad. Costly buildings have been erected, among which the state capitol building, county court house, Chemekete hotel, opera house, new public school building, Catholic school building, Methodist church, Willamette University, and many private residences and business blocks, which will compare favorably with older and larger cities.

GENERAL.

All things considered, the Willamette valley has the best country in the world, and Marion county is about centerally located therein. To those seeking homes in the west, no better opportunities can be offered, than are found here. Persons desiring information regarding Marion county or the Willamette valley, those wanting farming lands, stock farms, business property or city residences, will be promptly and reliably informed by addressing the well known firm of Willis & Chamberlin, real estate agents, opera house block, Salem Oregon

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