

# THE WEALTH OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY

## THE SOIL, CLIMATE AND YEARLY RAINFALL

Physically, the state of Oregon is divided into three sections—eastern, southern and western. But since this booklet is designed to show the existing conditions, resources and possibilities of the Willamette valley, one of the richest sections in America, the reader's attention will be directed to western Oregon, in which the valley is located.

This valley, which cannot be surpassed for healthfulness, beauty of scenery, salubrity of climate, and productiveness of soil, lies between the Cascade and Coast ranges of mountains, with an average width of over sixty miles, and 150 miles in length.

The Willamette river runs northward through the valley and receives the waters of many tributary streams. These streams are fed by the melting snows of the mountain ranges on the east and west, affording an abundant supply of pure, cold water of such sparkling clearness that trout and other fish, which abound in these waters, may be seen at a depth of twelve or fifteen feet below the surface. The greater portion of the valley is sufficiently rolling to afford excellent drainage.

The soil is a rich, dark loam with

a subsoil of clay, and all authorities agree that there is not another valley in the world that can surpass, and few equal, it for general agricultural purposes. In fact, experiment and practical demonstration have proven that almost any kind of fruit, cereal or vegetable known to the temperate zone will thrive and produce to perfection in this valley.

To encourage the settlement of Oregon, congress in the fifties passed the donation land claim act, giving to each settler 320 acres, so that a man and his wife could take up 640 acres. These tracts are now being subdivided into smaller farms of from ten acres upward, thus affording the newcomer an opportunity to acquire a farm of nearly any size at reasonable cost.

The climate of the Willamette valley is most equable and pleasant, never reaching the extremes of heat or cold. Snow rarely falls, and lightning and destructive wind storms are practically unknown. The rainfall, which comes late in the fall and during the winter, averages 44 inches per year, and the temperature ranges on the average from 65 degrees in the summer to 42 in the winter, with a mean yearly average of 52 degrees.

### Salem the Center of the Greatest Prune Industry on the Pacific Coast.

Salem is the center of the most important prune section in the northwest. There are over 3,000 acres of prune trees in one district of Marion County alone. The industry had its start about twenty years ago. Previous to that time Mr. S. A. Clark, Dr. Reynolds, J. R. Shepard, and one or two others had young orchards growing. The last decade of the nineteenth century witnessed a great boom in prune planting, until now thousands of acres are bringing wealth and prosperity to their owners in this community. Approximately 250 carloads of the best evaporated prunes ever produced, put up in the most approved manner, in neat and attractive boxes, are now shipped annually from our two packing houses, the Willamette Valley Prune Association and Tillson & Co. The varieties grown are the Italian and French, the Italian, now commonly known as the Oregon, being far in the lead. The trees are strong and vigorous growers in this climate and almost free from diseases and insect pests, their worst enemy being the San Jose scale. This can be kept under control by proper spraying. Many carloads are shipped to Europe every year.

The evolution of the prune drier has reached an almost perfect stage. Visitors are amazed at the ease with which a few hands run hundreds of bushels of prunes through the comparatively small drying apparatus every day. That the industry is a growing one is proven by the hundreds of acres of young prune orchards seen in every direction.

### Information About Hop Growing in Willamette Valley.

Oregon is the greatest hop-producing state in the United States.

Salem is the unrivaled center of the hop industry of the state.

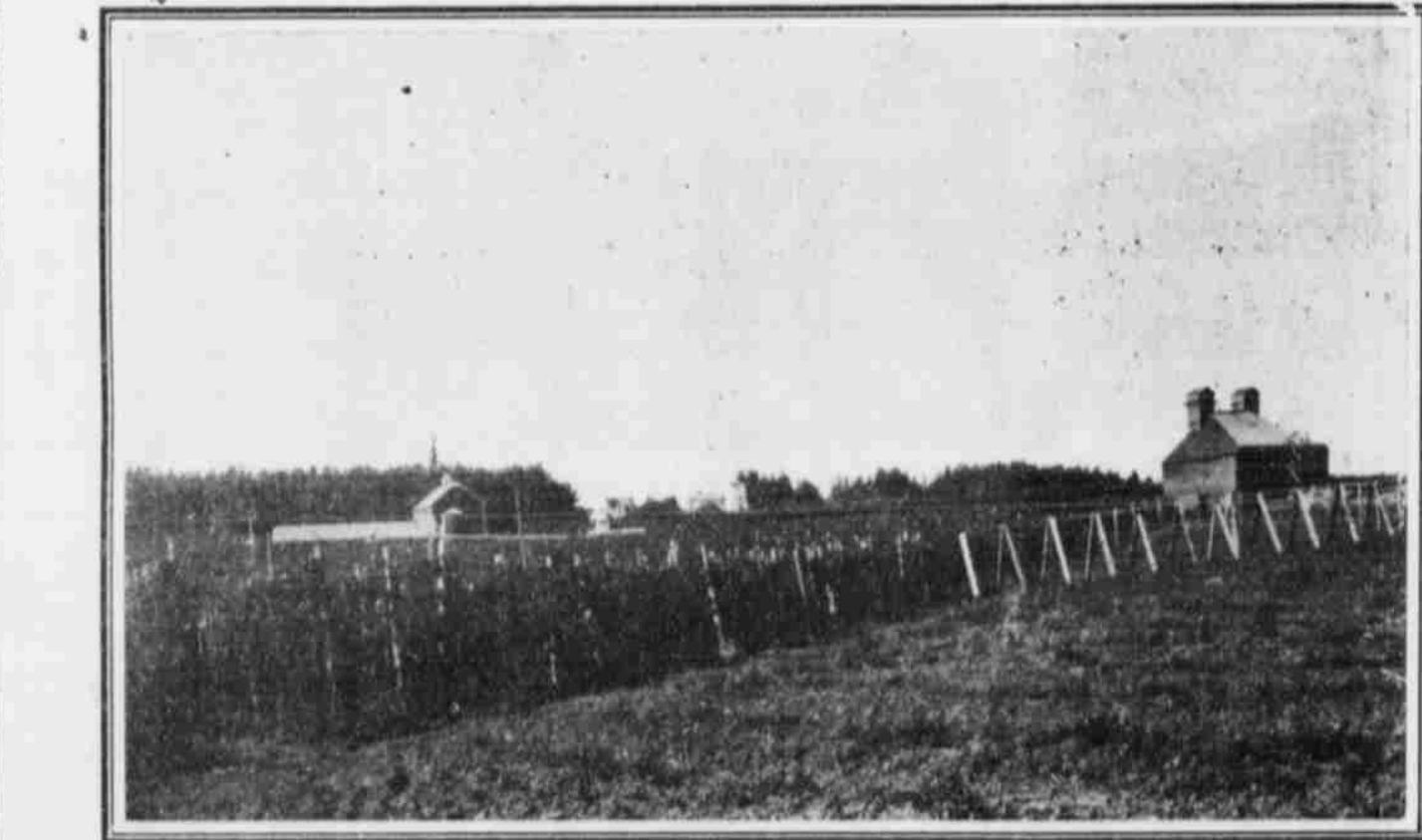
Salem markets and controls 90 per cent of all the hops raised in this state.

Every hop-dealing firm of any prominence whatsoever in the world is represented or has a branch house in Salem.

The greatest hop firm of England, the greatest hop firm of Germany,

the greatest hop firm of the United States, is represented in Salem.

The state of Oregon raised 160,000 bales of hops in 1906, and at least



HOP YARD AND DRY HOUSE.

140,000 bales were marketed directly through Salem.

Oregon raises over 40 per cent of all the hops grown in the United States. Salem controls over 36 per cent of all the hops grown in the United States.

Salem marketed the past season over 25,000,000 pounds of hops, which means, that at an average price of 14 cents per pound, over \$2,500,000 was put into circulation among the farmers in the Willamette valley, of which Salem is the logical as well as the geographical agricultural center.

The largest as well as the greatest number of hop farms in Oregon are situated within a radius of twenty miles from Salem. From 30,000 to 40,000 pickers are annually required to pick the hop crops raised on these farms.

The hops raised near Salem are considered the best in the United States. They bring from 2 to 3 cents per pound more than any other American hops. Thousands of bales are annually exported to England.

The soil around Salem will raise more hops per acre than will any other soil in the world. An acre of hop land in this district will produce all the way from 1200 to 3000 pounds, according to location.

The soil to properly produce hops must be of immense fertility. The fact that the country around Salem produces such vast crops of hops in itself demonstrates the value of the land for all other agricultural purposes.

The hop industry, indirectly as well as directly, gives employment to thousands of people. The building of and keeping in repair the hundreds of dry kilns about Salem requires annually the labor of, hundreds of mechanics in the various iron and tin industries located hereabouts; the furnishing of poles, the supplying and sewing of hop cloths, the making of hop baskets, furnishing of cord, sulphur, and the various other necessary articles that enter into the business; the hauling, marketing and storing the cured product, the selling and transportation thereof, all require the employment of an army of men and women and the expenditure of a vast amount of wealth. Salem, being the central supply point, consequently enjoys the benefit of nearly all of this trade.

The average price for hops during the period of 25 years past has been from 15 to 20 cents per pound. During that period the price has soared to over a dollar, and at times has held for years between 20 and 30 cents per pound.

Quality is everything in the selling of hops. When the demand exceeds the supply, almost any kind of a hop will sell readily, but on an over-

Willamette valley is the apple. Fifty years ago the red apples of Oregon were famed all over the coast for their beauty, size and flavor, and today Oregon apples are acknowledged as having no superior in the world. They are found in the markets of London, Hamburg, Paris, Hong Kong and every other city where the educated palate of the consumer demands the best that are grown.

All of the standard varieties of choice shipping apples are grown in this valley and are shipped by carloads, boxed, to the eastern markets, where they meet with an unlimited demand, selling readily at from \$2.50 to \$5 per box of one bushel. The lower grades of the fruit are sold in the local market and command good prices. There are fortunes being made and to be made in apple culture in the Willamette valley, and Salem is situated in the center of a district that has no superior for apple growing.

In 1906 the Wallace orchard harvested 15,000 boxes from 45 acres, or an average of 333 boxes to the acre, which sold at fancy prices.

### Raspberries.

Although raspberries, both black and red, are grown quite extensively in the valley, and, like the other small fruits, the yield of berries of splendid quality is profuse, there has never been a time when the supply was equal to the demand. The prices paid for this wholesome and delicious table delicacy net a satisfactory profit to the producer, and the steady increase in demand for this berry has more than warranted the annual growth of acreage devoted to its culture.

### Loganberries and Others.

The same conditions exist regarding blackberries, gooseberries, cur-

stocked market, only choice hops find favor. The grower who makes it his business to use care in cultivation, picking and drying his hops, will seldom, if ever, fail to realize a good price, even when there is an over production. For this reason, also, the superior hops of the Willamette valley seldom fall below a point of profit.

### SOME OTHER

#### ORCHARD PRODUCTS

##### Peaches.

Although as yet the growing of peaches has not been entered into on an extensive scale, there are some large orchards in the vicinity of Salem, which yield splendid returns to the owners. The trees put forth a thrifty and luxurious growth and produce a quality of fruit which, for local consumption, canning and shipping, cannot be excelled. There is a great and growing demand for valley peaches, of all commercial varieties, and a ready market for all that can be produced. There is good profit in peach culture and the acreage is being steadily increased.

##### Pears.

While almost every variety of pears will grow to a high state of perfection in this part of the valley, the leading commercial varieties are the Bartlett, Fall Butter and Winter Nellis. The Bartlett tree grows to great size and yields an abundant and certain crop of a quality of fruit that is in great demand in the markets of the United States, and is the source of great and gratifying revenue to the industries and enterprising farmer.

Mr. L. T. Reynolds picked from five acres of Bartlett pears in 1906, 45 tons, and in 1907, 25 tons, which he sold at \$40 per ton.

The Wallace orchard, near Salem, in 1907, raised 9000 boxes of pears on seventy acres, and sold them for \$15,000.

##### Apples.

Next to the prune in point of im-

ports and other small fruits, all of which thrive well and yield satisfactory returns. By no means the least in the category of berries come the Burbank Phenomenal berry and the Loganberry, the latest and most valuable products of hybridizing study and experiment that have been realized by Luther Burbank. The former is a cross between the California dewberry and the Cuthbert raspberry, while the latter is a cross between the Aughtinbaugh dewberry and a species of the raspberry family resembling the Red Antwerp. The Burbank Phenomenal is grown very extensively in the Willamette valley and all experiments, have given highly satisfactory results, but the Loganberry has proven its worth far beyond the expectations of the originator and bids fair to become one of the leading products of the valley and a wonderful money maker to growers, who are reaping rich rewards from their cultivation.

As these berries are probably new to many to whom this paper will go, we will give a short description of the mode of cultivation. The plants are set eight feet apart each way; the vines are trained on wire trellises extending about six feet above the ground. The canes or runners extend about 20 feet each way from the hill. At each bud a cluster is formed which matures from five to ten berries. It is common for a single hill of these berries on good soil, properly tilled, to ripen berries enough to fill a crate of 21 one-pound boxes.

Stock winter on less feed and come through in better shape, than in any eastern or middle west state.

There is no hog cholera in the Willamette valley.

There is no spot in the world of equal area with the Willamette that is better watered.

The streams and springs of the Willamette valley furnish abundance of pure, clear water for man and

## MARION COUNTY AND THE CAPITAL CITY

Marion county, in the heart of the most fertile portion of the Willamette valley, is one of the richest and most progressive counties in the state. It has a frontage of over 40 miles on the Willamette river and is the scene of the first permanent settlement made in the state. It produces excellent yields of grain of all kinds, and the stock-raising and dairy interests are most stable and reliable sources of income to the farmer. There are a number of large creameries in operation. Grain, cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, and poultry are extensively raised, and the sale of beef, pork mutton, wool mohair, butter, and eggs yield handsome profits to the farmer. Marion county's standing timber is equal to 3,500,000,000 feet. The value of its farms is \$15,000,000; farm products, \$2,500,000; and live stock, \$1,500,000. It is the hop-producing center of the state and raises annually nearly 6,000,000 pounds. It produces over 2,000,000 bushels of grain annually, 1,000,000 bushels of potatoes, and 250,000 pounds of wool.

Salem, the county seat of Marion county, and Capital City of the state, is situated on the central-western border of the county, upon the banks of the beautiful Willamette. The state census for 1905 gave it over 14,500 inhabitants, and new city directories, just completed, shows a steady and satisfactory growth.

Besides this, there are located at or near the city, the state insane asylum, penitentiary, reform school, school for the blind, school for deaf mutes, and the government Indian training school, the second largest in the United States, with a combined population of about 3000, and ten rural mail routes diverging from the federal postoffice at Salem, making another 5000 people immediately dependent upon the Capital of Oregon for communication and trade.

Salem is the second city in Oregon. It is the official home of the state government and has all of the purely state and county institutions within or close to its borders. Among these, and aside from those heretofore named, are the capitol building, costing nearly a million dollars; the federal building, costing \$110,000; the finest court house in the state, costing \$132,000; a city hall, costing \$80,000; twenty churches, one of which cost \$50,000; a magnificent high school building, the finest in the state, costing \$75,000, and four other school buildings, one of which cost \$40,000, and the other three about \$15,000 each. The last legislature also provided for the establishment of an institution for the feeble-minded, to cost \$125,000.

The Willamette river, with its many tributaries having their sources well up into the Cascade and Coast range of mountains, affords the most natural outlet for the products of the forest; and the logs are floated down its channels every month in the year to the very threshold of the mills, where they are worked into lumber of the finest quality and shipped to all parts of the country. The demand for this product is almost unlimited, and is increasing steadily every year.

A rough but conservative estimate made by one of the most expert lumbermen in this section, places the standing timber within a radius of 20 miles of Salem at not less than two and one-half billion feet, but the territory naturally tributary to Salem extends to a radius of not less than 50 miles, so that some idea of the scope of the industry may be conceived.

The Chas. K. Spaulding Lumber company works up over 25,000,000 feet of lumber annually at its Salem mill. An average of 125 men are employed in this mill day and night almost the entire year, and the river contributes no small share to the payrolls of the city.

The company ships lumber to all parts of the United States, but principal markets are California, Utah and Nevada. During the decade men of means have come from eastern points and with their capital and enterprise have accumulated handsome fortunes by investing in our magnificent timber, and it is fully recognized that only a beginning has been made in this industry.

The consuming requirements of these state institutions are of small consideration to the farmer and business people of this county, and the monthly payrolls, which aggregate nearly \$100,000, contribute much to the prosperity of the community.

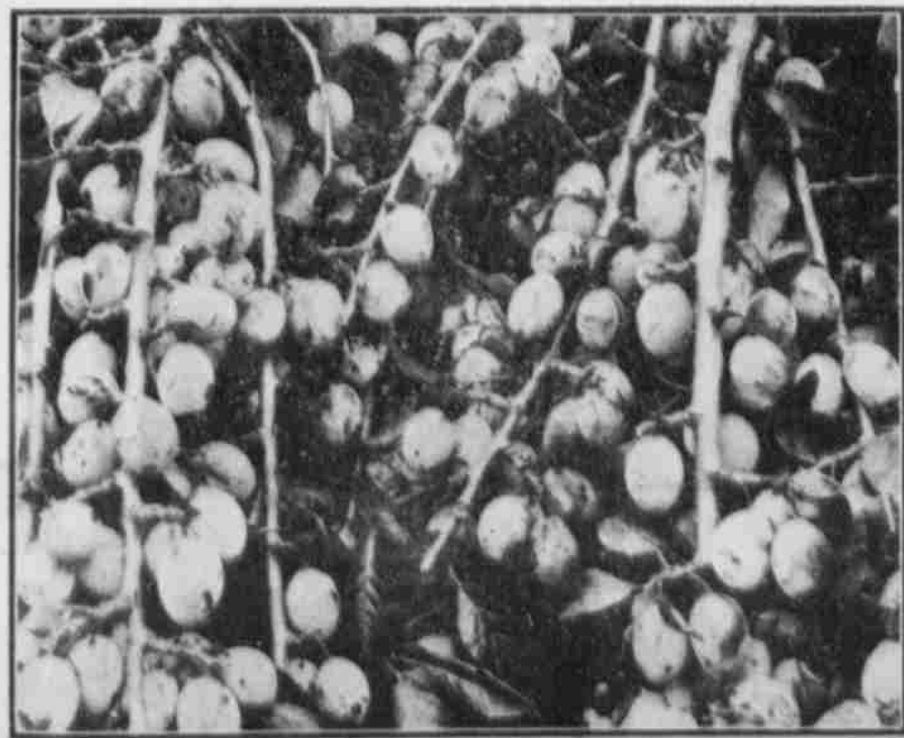
Many of Salem's streets, between other cities and towns of the valley, are 99 feet wide, lined with shade trees, which, combined with the many handsome residences, cottages and dwellings, dress up the modern and artistic lines of the natural beauty, with their landscape of perpetually green lawns, ornamental shrubbery, and every respect a model city, which any one may well feel proud to call his home.

The Willamette river, upon two lines of steamers ply daily between Salem and Portland, and many intervening towns that are banks of the river, and the Pacific company's railway, which runs 14 trains daily, makes the best of transportation facilities, and bring the products of the markets of the world.

The interurban electric street car, that modern symbol of civilization and progress which tributes more than any other thing to the rapid development of resources and settlement of a territory, has been introduced into the valley. Within a few years these double threads of steel will reach out in all directions to the Capital City and beyond.

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"FULL OF PRUNES"

