

made more profitable where sheep must be fed in winter, it can be made more profitable where they keep healthy and fat throughout the year, upon the natural grasses of the country, *as they have done and will do in the middle portions of Oregon.* Wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, peas, garden vegetables, and fruits, produce well in that portion of the country. Coal and lead ore has been discovered there, and water power for manufacturing purposes is abundant.

The middle and eastern portions of Oregon have been grossly misrepresented in the States. We are not aware that grains have been grown on the eastern portion of Oregon, except at Fort Colville and vicinity; yet, from the wild rye, flax, and other products which abound in the valleys, we believe that grains, vegetables, and fruits may be cultivated there with success. Eastern Oregon is also valuable for its grasses, and we venture the assertion, believing that time will show its truth, that it contains more and better grazing lands than all New England. If nature's freaks and frowns appear there, her pleasantries and smiles appear there also. Perhaps the beauty, grandeur, and simplicity of the works of nature are nowhere more imposing, and her mysteriousness nowhere more unfathomable than in the eastern portion of Oregon. The mineral springs of Bear River, with its pure and invigorating climate, is destined to become the great watering-place of the world.

Oregon is not only valuable for its soil and grasses, but also for its climate, timber, and fisheries, and for its location upon the Pacific. There are many intelligent men in the States, who believe that Oregon has from five to six months of incessant rain, and about as many months of drought, in the year. We have passed a winter, but not a summer, in Oregon. It is said that last summer was unusually dry. We arrived in the Willamette Valley on the 15th of September, some time before the commencement of the rainy season, and when we arrived, the soil and vegetation showed less suffering from drought than we have frequently seen in the States.

The wheat crop of the last season was unusually small, the cause of which is attributed here to lack of the usual spring rains; yet sufficient was produced to the greatly increased population of the country with bread, and seed for sowing, all of which was full and perfect. The last season's crop of oats, potatoes, corn, (so far as it was planted,) vegetables, and fruits, though not heavy, was sufficient for the wants of the country. These facts should satisfy any man that the droughts of Oregon are more terrible in name than in

fact. It seldom snows in this valley. In December last, we saw ice about three-fourths of an inch thick, on dead water, in small shallow pools, the result of three cold days and nights. During the greater part of last winter there were no frosts here. That which is here denominated the "rainy season," commences on the first of November, and ends on the first of March—four months. Between the last day of October, 1847, and the first day of March, 1848, in this valley, there were seventy-six clear days, fourteen days on which it rained, hailed, or snowed all day, and thirty days on which it was neither clear nor stormy all day. Those of our citizens who have passed the winter in the middle portion of Oregon, represent the climate there as beautifully mild and pleasant, with scarcely a rainy day during the winter.

The immense growth and quantity of the timber of Oregon, we believe, are generally admitted. The timber is valuable, so far as it is needed for home consumption, and so far as it is profitable for exportation. There are eighteen saw-mills in operation in Oregon, and a greater number nearly ready for operation, and yet lumber is worth \$20 per thousand in currency. The Oregon lumber is shipped to California and the Sandwich Islands, and its value for shipment controls its price at home.

That the rivers of Oregon abound with the choicest fish, we believe also is generally admitted. Several hundred barrels of salmon are annually packed here; 25 many thousands of barrels might be packed annually.

The day is not far distant when people residing upon the Atlantic coast will be engaged in the fishing and lumbering business upon the Pacific. Lumber is fast disappearing on the Atlantic. The fisheries are becoming barren there. Whale fishing is almost exclusively confined to the Pacific. The present work of whale fishing is performed at a great distance from home. That farmer who goes ten miles from home to work his farm, cannot farm as profitably as he who lives upon his farm. Those who control the whale-fishing interest may continue to reside upon the Atlantic; but the operators will reside upon the Pacific to collect and store.

When the collecting and carrying branches of the whale-fishing interest shall be separated, that business may be reduced to system and certainty, but not before. That the Pacific will soon become the seat of active and profitable commercial operations, none can doubt. The capital of Oregon to be invested in these operations, furnished by Nature, is immense, beyond computation.

THE END.