Rogue River Valley
Southern Oregon
JOSEPHINE COUNTY AS IT IS!

CLIMATE AND RESOURCES.

Facts and Information for those Intending to make Homes in the Glowing West!

READ CAREFULLY AND HAND TO YOUR FRIENDS.
The Largest Town of its Age in the State of Oregon.

The County Seat of Josephine county is situated in the lower Rogue River Valley, or what should more properly be called the valley of the Rogue river, 300 miles South of Portland, on the Oregon & California Railroad. It is an enterprising town of 1,400 people. Its location and the resources of the surrounding country give it an advantage over any other town in Southern Oregon, and in the near future it is destined to become the most important town in the valley.

The lower Rogue river valley is about eighteen miles in length. The soil along the river is a rich, black, sandy loam, well adapted to the raising of all kinds of grain, fruit, vegetables, hops, etc. The soil along the numerous streams emptying into Rogue river is a mixture of the black loam and red land, of which there are large bodies in this county and which is particularly adapted to the raising of choice fruits, in which this county excels; also every kind of grain crops.

Grants Pass will be the only shipping point for the great scope of country in which these valleys are located. Only those who have seen the development of the fruit industry in California can form any adequate conception of the future of this section and of the town where its business will center. The clear river, from which this valley takes its name, is only a few minutes walk from the depot, and furnishes unsurpassed facilities, by reason of its fine water power, for the establishment of manufactories that will be demanded by the development of the resources of the
country adjacent to the town. The Sugar Pine Door and Lumber Company, located at Grants Pass, employs about 150 men, and is doing a large and rapidly increasing business, not only with nearly all parts of Oregon, but also extending far into Southern California. A second sash and door factory is in course of construction, a part of the machinery being already on the ground. Grants Pass is destined in the near future, by reason of its resources, to become an important manufacturing center. It is now the largest town of its age in the State of Oregon. This phenomenal growth has been due, not to any boom, but in response to the demands of its agricultural and industrial development. It has not been developed by speculators or by outside influence, but by men who have made it their home, and who, thoroughly understanding the resources of the country, have shown their confidence in its future by devoting their energies to the opening up of its wealth.

The name of Grants Pass is misleading, inasmuch as it is not a pass in the mountains, as the name would indicate, but a beautiful valley, seemingly almost surrounded on three sides by picturesque mountains. No more beautiful location for a town could be imagined; here and there, rising from the bed of the valley, are beautiful knolls, covered with oak groves, making most charming locations for residences. There are four church organizations, two of which, the Methodist Episcopal and the Presbyterian, have neat houses of worship. The other two, the Baptist and Methodist Church South, contemplate building in the near future, both having already secured lots. The public schools now have enrolled about 280 pupils. The rapid increase of population by immigration demands the erection of a new school building and it is probable that steps will be taken shortly for the construction of the finest one in Southern Oregon. Arrangements have been made to build a large opera house, as well as numerous other business houses. There is no place in Oregon offering greater inducements for the investment of capital in business enterprises.

The placer gold mines on the streams emptying into Rogue river annually bring at least $100,000 worth of gold dust into Grants Pass. Little prospecting has been done thus far for quartz, but no less than ten good ledges are being developed at the present time in close proximity to Grants Pass.
A flouring mill and a fruit and vegetable cannery are both needed immediately and both would prove paying investments. A broom factory could be established with a small amount of capital and would do a fine business, as there is a large amount of land in the fertile valley below especially adapted to the growing of broom corn. In short, the abundant water power furnished by the Rogue river, taken in connection with the wealth of timber, mineral and agricultural resources tributary to it, assures for Grants Pass a future development that will make it in population and wealth the most important town south of the Willamette valley. The climate is agreeable both summer and winter. The altitude, about 965 feet above sea level, exempts this locality from the fogs and rains that are so disagreeable on the coast.

HEALTH.

The conformation and surroundings of our county insure the health of its people. On the west, fifty miles distant, we have the waters of a
great ocean, from which, almost daily, the air currents come up and send the pure air from sea and mountain through our valleys and along our hillsides. There are no swamps to fill the air with miasma; there is no decomposition of vegetation which generates malaria, and even in midsummer the air at sunset becomes cool and invigorating. The weak, languid and consumptive are always benefitted. For all inflammatory diseases of the nose, throat and air passages the mild, equable climate of the Rogue River Valley stands unsurpassed. Nasal catarrh and chronic bronchial inflamations are very rare, and when people, from other sections of the country, come here thus afflicted they are all relieved and many permanently cured. Asthma, that scourge which does not kill, but renders life not worth living, is almost invariably cured while the sufferer is in this climate. While it is not claimed that the climate of the Rogue River Valley is a panacea for all the diseases flesh is heir to, it is asserted, without fear of contradiction, that for all diseases, caused by the action of a low temperature on the human system, the climate in this valley stands without a peer.
A Charming Country with a Great Destiny, is this Southern Oregon.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY lies to the east of Curry, south of Douglas, west of Jackson, and reaches the California line on the south. Its area is about 1800 square miles. Its picturesque beauty is beyond description. The Rogue River flows through the county for about forty miles, and furnishes a fine valley of rich, sandy loam for about eighteen miles. The Valley is backed with high, rolling hills, covered with pine, fir, cedar, oak, etc. Rogue River is a beautiful stream with an average width of about 300 feet and a depth of four feet, with a fall of ten feet to the mile. The water is always clear and cold. The valleys of Applegate river, Williams creek, Deer creek, Althouse creek, Sucker creek and several other streams, are exceedingly rich land. Some of these streams in former years have been especially noted for their rich placer mines. The streams all abound in trout, and game is very plentiful. The resources of Josephine County are very numerous. In agricultural products it produces—well, a most remarkable variety. Grain of almost every kind, fruits and vegetables of every description, not only grow, but attain
a size and flavor equal to those of any country. Much
wealth lies in its mineral and timber resources, for
when fully developed in all their branches and manufac-
tories established, there will be a large home market
for farm products. This county, with its fertile bot-
toms of warm sandy loam, along the streams, with its
warm hillsides of dry red land and cool granite benches
covered with immense forests, together with its shel-
tered situation and consequent immunity from wind
and other storms, all conduce to make it well adapted
to the raising of tender fruits and vegetables, as well
as the more common and hardier kinds. No country
in the world excels it for apples, pears, peaches,
plums, nectarines, grapes and all kinds of berries.
Snow seldom falls in the valleys, but may be seen on
the higher mountainns from December to March.
Fruit trees are generally healthy and free from moss,
so common to trees in the more moist climate further
north. Considerable corn is grown, which matures
hard and sound and will keep through the winter in
an ordinary crib. Watermelons of prodigious size
and of the finest flavor are grown. Josephine County
ships more melons than all other counties in the state
combined. There is a large amount of mountainous
or rolling granite hill land which has been thought to
be unproductive, but recent experiments have proved
that fruit trees, grape vines, and many other things
will thrive and grow thereon, consequently considera-
table quantities of it is being converted into homes.
Timothy, red clover and alfalfa are grown on bottom
lands without irrigation, but where grown on uplands
need water. There is some government and railroad
land in the county, mostly rolling hills and small val-
leys covered with timber and brush. The timber inter-
est of the county are vast and varied. The great
value of the timber lies in its susceptibility of being
manufactured into such articles of trade and commerce
as this great northwest coast is constantly demanding.
The sugar pine of this section is sought after far and
wide. Rogue River for fifteen miles above Grant’s
pass has an average fall of ten feet to the mile, and
would furnish a cheap and lasting power for manufac-
turing. This power and the manufacturing interests
connected with it are among the most reliable and
profitable investments that this state affords.
CLIMATE.

The climate of Southern Oregon is a complete and happy surprise to people who have lived in the same latitude in the Middle and Eastern States. The warm current being carried across the ocean from Japan is wafted inland to a greater or lesser distance, tempering the atmosphere and making this the most pleasant of all sections, in the winter months the thermometer rarely indicating a temperature lower than sixteen degrees above zero. Rain is never of the beating, driving kind, but falls straight down. The yearly rainfall is about twenty-five inches. It commences to fall about the first of September, continuing at intervals until about the fifteenth of June. July and August are our dry months. The nights being cool and refreshing, very little notice is taken of the absence of rain. Hot, sultry nights are unknown here. The summers are delightful, the thermometer rarely going above ninety-five degrees. A pair of blankets are always a necessity, even in mid-summer. To those accustomed to the dreary, snow-clad landscape of the east, our hills and mountains covered with evergreen, with the soft, balmy air floating about them, fills them with delight. Snow seldom falls in the valleys, but may be seen on the higher mountains from December to March. Our climate is a happy medium between that of California and upper Oregon and Washington—less rain in winter than in upper Oregon and Washington, and more in summer than in most parts of California. Our summers are not as warm as in California, the cool mountain air and ocean breeze making them delightful. The absence of winter not only makes living here a pleasure, but it is the means of doubling the capacity of labor. In a winter country no field labor can be done for six months in the year. The fields are locked in frost and snow nearly half the time, leaving only about twenty-six weeks in which to do all field labor. Out of that half-year’s labor Winter makes heavy demands. Warm houses and barns are necessary, warm clothing and great quantities of fuel. Here, the demands of winter are light; fuel is plenty and cheap; warm houses and barns are not a necessity; stock does not require as much feed as they do in a cold climate. We have no sweeping winds, no tornadoes or storms. All nature seems at rest. While snow covers the wide country north and east, reaching to the Atlantic, we have balmy, spring-
like weather. In February the flowers spring forth in all their beauty—not a few scattering ones, but a profusion of them on every hand. The whole face of the country is beautiful—green trees and grass everywhere.

Farms and Farming.

The great advantage of this locality over all others of the Pacific coast lies in its capacity to produce the greatest variety of products. It can be stated without fear of contradiction that all the fruits and vegetables that can be produced in California, with the exception of citrus fruits, can be produced here with equal profit. In addition to this all of the merchantable productions of the counties north of us can be raised here with an equal if not better degree of profit. This grand combination of the productive power of this locality, together with its climate, makes this beyond all question the most desirable part of the Pacific coast. All of these productions of the country both north and south of us cannot simply be produced here, but they are to-day being cultivated, grown, and sold in the markets at a handsome profit.

Farming is carried on to a less or greater extent in all parts of the county. Corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye, hops, broom-corn, sorghum and tobacco are grown, and the yield and quality will compare favorably with that grown in most sections of the east. Vegetables of every description are grown, and the size and flavor are equal to those grown in any country. The farmer can grow the choicest apples, the most delicious pears and peaches, the finest plums, prunes, nectarines, apricots, almonds, grapes, blackberries, strawberries, etc. He has an abundance of fuel near at hand and good, pure water. The farmer may also be a fruit grower for profit without interfering with general farm work to any great extent. Spring farm work commences at any time from January 15th to March 1st, giving the farmer more time in which to get in his spring crops than in almost any other section. Farm products will always command a good price, from the fact that many are engaged in fruit-growing, lumbering, mining, etc., who consume the products of the farm and expect and are willing to pay remunerative prices.
PRUNES.

The cultivation of prunes is a profitable branch of horticulture. In this locality the trees are very thrifty and heavy bearers. The Silver prune, Petite prune d'Agir, (French prune), and the Italian prune are the three best varieties for this section. It is claimed that this branch of fruit-growing will be more profitable than any other kind in the future. Fifty pounds of dried prunes would be a very low estimate for a full bearing prune tree. As a rule they are planted twenty feet apart, or 108 trees to the acre. That would give 5400 pounds of dried prunes to the acre, which are worth to-day eight cents per pound. We will reduce the price to the low fig-
ure of five cents per pound, which will give the producer a gross profit of two hundred and seventy dollars per acre, and the work is light compared with general farming. In 1887 there were imported into the United States 64,995,545 pounds of dried prunes. When skill and care are brought to bear in picking, drying and packing, our prunes will be the favorites over all foreign competitors.

APPLES.

The apples of Southern Oregon are noted for their fine quality and flavor. They are leaders wherever found. California takes great quantities of our winter fruit, also Washington, Idaho and Montana. In the near future our winter apples will find a remunerative market in all the northwestern states and territories. The apple being an all-the-year-round fruit the demand is almost unlimited. At a low estimate 100 full grown trees will produce 500 boxes of apples, worth on an average 50 cents per box, or
$250 for the product of one acre. The time and labor required to care for an orchard of twenty acres is not as great as that of an eighty acre farm, and the profit is many times as great.

**HORTICULTURE**

Is rapidly becoming an important industry in this county. Although the first settlers planted a few trees, there was not much attention paid to tree planting until about 1883. Since that time, and especially within the last three years, those interested in fruit-growing have demonstrated without a doubt that Southern Oregon is destined to be a great fruit-growing section, and it is an undisputed fact that the profits from ten acres of choice fruit is greater than the net proceeds of two hundred acres of wheat. Fine fruit can be shipped a great distance and yet leave a handsome profit for the grower.

**DAIRYING.**

Dairying is a profitable business. In this county there are so many people engaged in mining, lumbering, etc., that consume butter and cheese that the demand will be good and the prices remunerative. Our climate is well adapted to the making of butter and cheese, and there are many choice locations where the pure, cold streams from the mountains will furnish an abundance of water. There is no field where moderate capital and skill in butter and cheese-making would be more remunerative than in Josephine county.

**LUMBER AND FUEL.**

In the settlement of many of the Western states the settler was often many miles from any lumber supply, and fuel had to be hauled a great distance, consuming a great amount of valuable time. Here we have timber on every section, and there is scarcely a township without its saw mill, giving us an abundant supply of building material at low figures. Material for making brick is to be found in every locality; limestone, from which a most excellent quality of lime is made, is very abundant. Comfortable houses can be built at a small cost compared to that of many localities.
QUARTZ LODES.

It has been known for many years that rich gold-bearing quartz lodes lay hidden in many parts of the county, but not until the last two years was there any attention paid to quartz mining in this section. Of the recent discoveries, two ledges on Applegate creek, one on Rogue river, two on Galice creek, three on Wolf and Coyote creeks and one on Grave creek, any of which bid fair to rival in richness the famous mines of California and Nevada. The quartz from most of these ledges is thickly studded with yellow gold, visible to the naked eye. Wood and water is plentiful and close at hand, and it is only a question of a very short time when quartz mills will be put up, and Josephine county will experience a mining boom of no small proportions.

Gold is found in placers distributed all over Josephine county. The more superficial placers and the ones the easiest to get water on have been worked pretty thoroughly, as most of the miners were men of small capital and consequently compelled to work cheaply. There are large beds of gravel on many of the creeks and water courses of Josephine county that are known to be rich in placer gold, but capital must be employed to bring water on them. Water is plentiful as a general thing, and the dump, or way of removal of debris, is almost always sufficiently steep to carry it off. Gold is found varying from fine scale to nuggets of large size. The largest gold product has come from Wolf, Grave, Coyote, Galice, Deer, Applegate, Taylor, Whisky, Althouse, and Sucker creeks. Hydraulic mines are fitted up and in operation principally in the west side of the county, and some of them are very remunerative. Most of the gold during the past thirty years has been mined in the west side of the county, ranging from twenty to forty miles distant from the present site of Grant's Pass.

PRODUCTS.

We can say without fear of contradiction that the Rogue River Country is superior to any part of the United States in its variety of productions—apples, pears, prunes; nectarines, plums, peaches, almonds and grapes are produced in large quantities; corn, broom-corn, sugar cane, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, melons, and all the vegetables of the Southern States, as well as all those of northern climates, are regular products; berries of all kinds; alfalfa, clover, hay and all cereals are the products of every farm.
Without Irrigation.—All of these things are not merely the products of some hot-house process, but are the regular products of the country, raised in the open air without irrigation, and sold in the regular markets at a fair profit. Not less than thirty car loads of melons are shipped each year from Grant’s Pass. A failure of crops is a thing unknown on Rogue River.

Variations of seasons are just sufficient for health and the real enjoyment of life. There is no dull monotony of sunshine and fear of drouth, nor cry for rain; there are no long, cold, dreary winters; there is not a constant gloom of clouds and rain, but instead a happy combination of sunshine, frost and rain that makes all nature happy.

Home-Life.—Because of its pleasant and healthful climate, its bounteous variety of products, its unfailing crops, its happy combination of food, water, fuel and fresh air, all of the fundamental elements of human comfort, this country, when thoroughly cultivated by the intelligent hand of man, will be filled with the happiest homes on earth.

The real wealth of the country is in the variety of its productions. All that is needed to support life in comfort can here be produced on a single farm.

Lands from the O. & C. R. R. grant will soon be placed on the market.