

COLUMBIA COUNTY FIFTH ANNUAL FAIR NUMBER

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WHY COLUMBIA COUNTY HOLDS A COUNTY FAIR.

It is one of the most natural things that Columbia county should hold a county fair, at a time of year, too, when nature has almost completed her work of a season of abundant productiveness. And, in this only vying with the other gifts of nature which has so lavishly endowed this fair county with a variety of resources extending over a broad range. The salubrity of climate adds further charm and wealth to bless and provide her people with nature's bounteous stores.

Did not man do fitting homage to all these blessings it would be a sad commentary upon him and the land which spreads about him in such profusion all its glories.

Natural wealth abounds here without limit, and man's ingenuity has caused many of the resources to respond in surprising splendor. But, as yet, only the faintest inroads and impressions have been made, yet, year after year, as the annual county fair is held, each succeeding one eclipsing the previous effort, a more keen appreciation of the unlocked wealth is realized. A county fair? Of course.

The county fair is the exposition place, and from an unpretentious, yet successful beginning made five years ago at Yankton, through untiring efforts of leading members of the Grange, next week will reveal the resources and productiveness of this county in surprising splendor, when the exhibits of dairy, orchard, farm and school are spread to the inspection of an eager and enthusiastic public—a grander, bigger and more certain and permanent institution than ever.

Timber Causes Slow Development.

When it is taken into consideration that to gain a start in home-making in this county the first crop—God's crop—the fir trees—had to be removed, the undertaking, no doubt, was fraught with many discouragements and the pathway of the pioneer beset with many obstacles.

Columbia county has a frontage on the Columbia river of approximately sixty miles. Down to the very edge of the placid waters of that mighty stream stood the monarchs of the forest in countless numbers. Over practically the entire area of the county this same condition existed. The outlook for the prospective home-maker certainly could have been little short of utter despair.

Progress Ensues.

Year after year, however, inroads were made upon the mighty forests in response to the demand for the product of the trees. From these limited areas denuded of the forest, primitive homes were established, small tracts cleared of stumps and debris and the soil began to yield to the efforts of man for the production of material things to sustain life.

Slowly this process has continued until today there are in this county vast areas of cultivated lands, and next week at the County Fair grounds will be exhibited all manner of products that could be found any place where man's effort has been conscientious and honest. Had not

climate, quality of soil and other natural favorable conditions existed this splendid result could not be realized.

Away into the heart of the county has the work of the woodsman gone. The entire distance along his pathway the home has been established. Settlements far in the interior even preceded the ravager of the forest. Today not only beau-

tiful and comfortable homes are made, but broad expanses of well cleared, productive lands smile their bounteous yields back upon their owners.

Variety of Resources.

The great variety of resources made it possible for people of varying trades and pursuits to not only exist, but grow rich as a result of their efforts.

Dairying a Profitable Business.

No doubt the pursuit of dairying has been the greatest means of revenue production aside from lumbering and fishing. There are approximately ten thousand dairy cows in Columbia county. The proximity of the county to the markets of a metropolis has been the means of encouraging effort in that pursuit. The results have been manifold. Employment has been given to a great army of people; revenue has been brought into the county with which to develop other resources. Dairy herds have been enlarged and improved until today Columbia county is the home of some of the best herds of pure

bred and grade cows to be found in the Pacific Northwest.

It perhaps, is not far out of the way to state that the annual receipts in cash to the operators of dairies in Columbia county, from milk and its products alone, will approximate a half a million dollars. Revenue received from other sources incident to the dairy herd is perhaps equally as large.

Wealth of Timber.

Timber has always been a revenue

producer, and during more recent years, save and except, perhaps, the last two or three years, when the lumber industry has been struggling for existence, had yielded many millions of dollars in this county. The most extensive logging works in the Pacific Northwest are located along the Columbia river in Columbia county. Trees removed from Columbia county soil have

Science in Logging.

For many years the acme of perfection in scientific log raft construction for ocean voyage has been achieved and pursued in Columbia county at Clatskanie, from where ocean-going log rafts, approximating twelve to eighteen million feet, are annually constructed and sent to California markets.

Prior to the establishment of the McCormick interests at St. Helens, lumbering was not very extensively engaged in on a large scale in Columbia county, however, one of the first mills in the Columbia watershed was located at St. Helens, and to some extent lumbering has been pursued here for half a century. And the financial returns have been enormous.

Timber Investments.

As a place for investment in timber

out any wonderful rapid fire mental gymnasts.

These are two of the pursuits which people have been following in Columbia county with abundant success. There are others.

Fishing Industry.

The Columbia river, which laps the shore for nearly sixty miles of this county's territory, has afforded untold revenue through the pursuit of the salmon fishing industry. There was but one salmon cannery established in Columbia county—at Rainier, and it was destroyed by fire years ago. However, the taking and selling of salmon has been a popular and profitable business.

Other Industries.

On a small scale other industries, the result of closer attention to the products of the soil, are being developed. The canning and preserving of fruits and vegetables is being accomplished with a remarkable degree of success. This promises to develop into one of the greatest industries of the county.

The plant of the Columbia River Canning & Produce Company, located at St. Helens, has this year proven beyond doubt the wisdom of the men who established the institution. It is not only sure of financial gain for its promoters, but it has opened the way for many small farmers to gain a certain and satisfactory market and price for their produce. For this unpretentious undertaking there are great possibilities.

The county fair will be the place to inspect the products of that institution.

Transportation Facilities.

One of the natural blessings to this county has been the convenient and inexpensive means of transportation. The waterways have been foremost in this respect, but more rapid means soon ensued. In 1883, when Henry Villard built the main line of the Northern Pacific out of Portland through Columbia County as far northward as Goble, there was little hope of immediate revenue production so far as this county was concerned. There were not more than 1500 people living along the entire distance.

In 1896, when Mr. A. B. Hammond built the Astoria & Columbia River railroad from Goble westward to the sea, there was no particular demand for such a transportation line. Through the medium of these provisions for rapid transit the country gradually developed.

Perhaps at the present time the rail line from Portland to Seaside is almost self-sustaining. Subsequent years may bring some financial gain to the owners. But it has served its purpose

so far as Columbia county is concerned. It was a means to develop the county, and that is all the concern the average citizen has in the matter.

The logging railroads have helped slightly as developers, but theirs was another mission.

Wagon and Other Roads.

If there were any means by which it could be definitely ascertained, we

(Continued on page 11).

THESE ENTERPRISING GENTLEMEN HAVE MADE THIS YEAR'S COUNTY FAIR POSSIBLE.



G. L. TARBELL
President



H. J. SOUTHARD
Secretary



J. W. ALLEN
Supt. Children's Work



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF ST. HELENS AND ADJACENT COUNTRY, THE HOME OF THE COLUMBIA COUNTY FAIR.