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Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 8, Number 1152, 1 December 1854 — [From the Crescent City Herald.]
Our Agricultural Resources—Crcscem City Plains. [ARTICLE]

From the Crescent City Herald.]

**Our Agricultural Resources—Crescent
City Plains.**

Smith river valley and Elk valley, each from five to six miles long, the former running north-west, to the ocean, the latter south, to Crescent City harbor, form the two legs of an obtuse angle, or the northern and eastern boundary of a tract of country having the shape of a rhomboid, containing about sixty square miles of slightly undulating land, bounded on the west and south by the ocean. This constitutes what we term Crescent City Plains. The south-west corner of this plain is flanked by the promontory or Cape St. George, to the northward, and Rocky Point to the southward; the north-east corner is formed by a portion of the redwood intervening between Smith river and Elk valley; the bases of Smith river valley and Elk valley respectively form the north-west and south-east corners of the same plain.

Crescent City is situated in a recess on the southern boundary line of this plain, between Rocky Point and the base of Elk valley, where a smooth sand beach forms a crescent for the distance of some two or three miles.

Crescent City plain, as we have already indicated, presents an undulating surface and is intersected by a number of perennial spring branches, brooks and creeks; about one-third of its surface is covered with a heavy and dense growth of timber, spruce and fir; the other two-thirds consist of open prairie, burnt clearings, a lagoon, a small quantity of low marshy land, and some chapparal or brush. No portion of this plain, we believe, is over two hundred feet above the level of the sea.

The land is rich and produces a heavy growth of timber, fine crops of grass and clover, a profusion of wild berries, and on cultivated portions of it have been raised wheat, barley, oats, corn, and cabbages weighing sixteen pounds, turnips and ruta bagas weighing from sixteen to twenty-three pounds, and potatoes as much as thirty pounds in one hill.

If our information is correct, about one hundred claims, of 160 acres each, have been located on this plain; some for agricultural and others for grazing purposes.

For the permanence and future prosperity of Crescent City, this plain forms an important feature. It will make homes for several hundred families, and from the fact of its being well watered, its situation, surface and soil varied, is well adapted to furnish all the fresh vegetables and fruits for a large city.

THE COAST RANGE.

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From the immediate vicinity of Crescent City to Illinois Valley, there is little or no chance for the agriculturist, the country is a confused labyrinth of mountains, precipices, narrow defiles and innumerable water courses, confluent of Smith River and Illinois River, the latter stream being itself but a tributary to Rogue River.

ILLINOIS VALLEY.

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About forty-two miles from Crescent City is the next to present a considerable body of arable land, and from such information as we possess, it appears that the valley is about fifteen miles long, by fifteen wide, containing perhaps forty square miles of land adapted to agriculture. The valley is well watered, and there are already a number of farms under cultivation, on which, during the past summer, an abundance of vegetables, melons and pumpkins have been raised; here are also the mines of Sailor Diggings, to which water has been brought in two ditches, at a cost of \$75,000, and which are calculated to give steady employment to 1500 miners.

ROGUE RIVER VALLEY.

Passing on over an open, undulating country, presenting facilities to the husbandman of more or less extent, the next and largest body of arable land is found in Rogue River Valley, at a distance of about 100 miles by the present circuitous road from Crescent City. We learn that in twenty townships, 230,000 acres, or 360 square miles, have already been surveyed. Numerous valleys of lesser size, (for instance, Applegate Valley,) embosom the gold bearing confluent of Rogue River. This section, situated near the boundary line of Oregon, already famous for its productive mines, will at an early day become not less celebrated for its agricultural wealth. Jacksonville and Sterlington are at present the principal towns there.

It is further to be remarked that the northern side of Rogue River Valley was by last year's treaty with the Indians made an Indian Reservation and contains a large amount of good land. It will therefore be but a low estimate to compute the amount of arable land in this whole section at 600 square miles.

Across the Siskiyou range of mountains and to the south of Klamath river, we notice also three valleys, affording superior inducements for agriculture.