

average rainfall is about 32 inches and the mean temperature varies from 40° in January to 58° in July.

The fisheries of the county are gradually growing into importance. The streams of the county from the Klamath River on the north down through the whole list which drain the county, literally swarm with salmon with the first winter rains; halibut and flounders are also taken in quantity, and the export interest in this line promises well in the future.

From the broken character of the county's surface the question of railroad communication has been one of great difficulty, and developments are as yet in their infancy; within the past year, however, the embryotic schemes which have languished for years have crystallized into something like a definite movement, and we have now the assured prospect that within the next two years, railroad connection between San Francisco and Eureka will be unbroken. At present, aside from the various lumber-transportation roads, the Arcata and Mad River, the Eureka and Trinidad, and the Eel River and Eureka Railroads deserve notice. The first named extends from Arcata to the north fork of Mad River, a distance of 12 miles, is equipped for passenger and freight traffic, and is doing a thriving business. The Eureka and Trinidad, to run between these two points, will be finished during the present year. The last, the Eel River and Eureka, is now in process of construction, twenty miles being finished and in operation to Hydesville in the Eel River Valley. It is a broad gauge, solidly constructed and equipped with first-class rolling stock. It passes through a fine agricultural country and taps several valuable and extensive timber belts.

With the continuance of these developments, and the maintenance of the activity which has marked all the business interests of the county during the past two years, Humboldt's march in the line of improvement will soon place her in the front rank of the counties of the State. Already the population has leaped from the figures of the last census, 15,511, up to about 24,000; her export trade for the past year passed the gross aggregate of \$4,000,000, and engaged the cargoes of nearly 500 vessels; her lumber shipments from being, as formerly, a local trade, now seek foreign markets direct, and the ship building interest will continue to grow, until on Humboldt Bay, in some not far distant day, will be located the largest interests of this character in our country.

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