

WASCO COUNTY.

This county, located in Eastern Oregon, is nearly as large as two of the average New England States combined, being 193 miles long and 80 miles wide, or rather occupying an area of 15,486 square miles. Wasco, from the Indian dialect, means grass, a very appropriate cognomen, for no part of the known world can surpass this county for grass. It is therefore excellently adapted to stock-raising, that in fact being the leading industry, which although yearly increasing may be said to be in its infancy yet, compared to the large scale it will some day be carried on in, when the population increases. The soil in the valleys along the rivers and creeks is very fertile, it being an alluvial deposit, producing crops equal to any portion of the State. Grapes, peaches and melons, thrive here. Cool mountain streams furnish an abundance of pure water, and teem with the finest species of trout. The only drawback to Wasco county is the scarcity of timber. For fencing purposes, however, taprock, which is found in abundance, makes an excellent substitute. The scenery is fine and the climate partakes of the character of all countries environed by high mountains. The breezes blowing from the snowy peaks of the Cascade Range temper the atmosphere in summer, hence it is bracing and invigorating. Snow falls in winter, but the amount even in very severe seasons is confined to a few inches. The facilities of transportation are limited. A daily line of steamers run from the Dalles to the Upper Cascades, there a portage of five miles is made to the Lower Cascades, and then by another steamer to Portland. The fare is five dollars for 105 miles. Congress has appropriated the sum of \$90,000 for a canal and locks at the Cascades, which will be constructed at once. This, when finished, will open the Columbia river from The Dalles to the sea, and be the means of giving not only Wasco county but all of Eastern Oregon an outlet for their surplus products, at cheap rates of transportation. With the opening of the Columbia river, Wasco county will prosper as she has never prospered before, not even in the palmiest days of gold digging.

Land at present is comparatively cheap here; in fact there is yet a vast quantity of Government lands in different parts of the county open for settlement under the homestead law. The county seat is known at Dalles city, or rather

THE DALLES.

It is situated on the Columbia river, 105 miles northeast of Portland; has a population of about 1,000, has good schools, an Academy in charge of the Sisters, several neat churches, two live weekly newspapers, "The Tribune," and "Mountaineer," and numerous business houses, of a substantial character. A line of steamers make daily trips from here to the Cascades, then connecting with railroad and steamers for Portland. It is on this line that most of the far-famed Oregon scenery can be viewed. A line of mail stages start from here daily for all the Eastern Oregon mining towns, making various connections at different points, and finally run through Idaho to Kelton, on the Central Pacific railroad. The trip from The Dalles to Kelton is made in five days. A railroad of fifteen miles in length connects The Dalles with Celilo, from whence a tri-weekly line of elegant steamers make regular trips to Umatilla, Wallula, and in the summer season to Lewiston, in Idaho Territory. From Wallula a line of railroad makes daily trips to Walla Walla,

W. T., and from thence daily stages to Waitsburg, Dayton and Lewiston. It will thus be seen what an important position The Dalles occupies. It is really the toll-gate where all travelers and all freight for any of the above mentioned places must pay a toll. With the building of the locks at the Cascades, The Dalles will commence growing, and the day is not far distant when it will be a city of from 4,000 to 5,000 inhabitants.

THE SMALL BOYS' FIRST FIGHT.

There are generally three in the party—the two small boys who do not want to fight and the larger boy who is determined that they shall claw hair for his amusement. They are all ragged and dirty, barefooted and bare-headed. They halt on a street corner, and the small boys back away, one from another, as if each were afraid of the other's exploding. The big boy looks around to see if there is a policeman in sight, and finding there is none, shouts:

"Jim, giv it to him!" Jim doubles up his fist and looks determinedly at his opponent, as if he expected to pulverize him by the glance. The boy who is glared at, turns pale, and seems to be meditating a trip around the corner, when the big boy pats him on the back, and says:

"Don't yer take none of his slack, Tommy! Go for 'im!" Tommy looks as if he would like to sublet the contract, but knowing that if he does not fight he will be whipped by his crowd three times a day on the average thereafter, he assumes a warlike attitude, and whimperingly cries out:

"Come on, then! You hit first!" But Jim will not hit first. On the contrary, the proposition causes him to shake in every limb, and just as he is about to navigate for home, the big boy comes behind him and gives him a shove that sends him across the scratch. Tommy makes a sweeping cut through the air that does great damage to the atmosphere, and then backs very rapidly to see the effect of the blow. He would probably continue backing until he reached some other State if it were not for the ubiquitous big boy, who grabs him by the nape of the neck and rushes him forward, amid his cries and protestations, until he collides with Jim, who closes his eyes, grits his teeth, and delivers some very effective blows at an imaginary mark three feet above his enemy's head. Both boys are now determined to do or die. They lower their heads, plant one hand in each other's hair, and hit out with the other fist at the rate of sixty strokes per minute, about one half of which blows effect a lodgment on the big boy's face.

Suddenly a wailing cry is heard. The boys separate like a shot. One of them holds his hand to his nose, from which the blood is slowly trickling. The other one looks at the spectacle in horror for half a minute, and then darts for home by unfrequented streets and alleyways. Arriving there, he crawls under the bed, and lays there for hours, not daring to stir, and fully convinced that he is a murderer. So ends the small boy's first fight.

GIANTS AND DWARFS.—The belief of the existence of races of giants is supported by the Bible. There are sometimes, men 7 or 8 feet high; and among savage tribes, such men become chiefs. However, all buildings, door-ways, passages, etc., indicate that 5 feet 8 inches, or 5 feet 9 inches have always been the average height of the human race. Genesis tells of the "Sons of God" who were giants; of the men of Anak, to whom the Jews were as grasshoppers; and the Bible tells us of Og, King of Bashan, who was 13½ feet high, and Goliath 11 feet.

There appears also to have been races 8 or 10 feet high, who became ogres, or champions; and history tells of such a race in and near Lebanon, some of whom were employed in ancient armies, while others emigrated to Ireland and Cornwall, among Phœnician colonists. Races of dwarfs are found in the Esquimaux and Bojemen, who attain but 4 feet 9 inches. The Caribs are 5 feet 11 inches, the Navigator Islands 5 feet 6 inches, and the Patagonians 6 feet 7 inches and upwards.

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