

IN EASTERN OREGON.

Baker county is situated in the southeastern portion of the State, and is bounded on the east by Idaho Territory, Snake river being the division line; on the north by Union county; on the west by Grant county, and on the south by the State of Nevada. It is over three hundred miles long and one hundred wide, and comprises 11,000 square miles of territory, or over 9,000,000 acres of land, (2,070,000 surveyed) 100,000 acres of which is improved. The population of this county is about 6,000, an increase since 1870 of near 2,000. Within the county there are fifteen distinct mining districts and towns, and twelve quartz mills with mining improvements, exclusive of ditches, to the value of \$300,000, and mining ditches and flumes to the value of \$100,000 actual cost of building, one ditch alone being over 100 miles long. In the year 1878 there was taken out of the various places and quartz mines in this one county about \$215,000 worth of gold dust. Baker county is, without doubt, the richest mining county in the State. The precious metals are to be found in nearly every gulch, bar, hill and mountain throughout the entire boundaries of the county, and for centuries to come the noise of the pick, shovel, hose and mill of the miner will greet the ear of the traveler as he passes through the mining districts of this part of the State. In 1878 there was raised in this county 210,000 bushels of grain and over 1,000 tons of hay. The principal valleys of the county are Powder river in the northern, Jordan in the central, and Willow creek in the eastern portion of the county. Both valleys and hills furnish an almost inexhaustible amount of nutritious bunch and other grasses for stock in all seasons of the year. There are now over 25,000 head of cattle, 15,000 head of sheep and 4,000 head of horses, all, or nearly all, of a good quality, owned by the citizens and ranging over the pastures of the county with but little expense to the owners. Over 75,000 pounds of the very best quality of wool were shipped to the markets of the world from the sheep of this county. The Blue mountains, in the western portion of the county, are covered with large bodies of a very superior quality of pine, fir and tamarack timber. Lumber at the mills is worth \$12 per thousand feet. The assessable valuation of property in this county has increased \$200,000 since 1870, which makes the present value of property near \$700,000. Business of all kinds has increased, but none so fast or permanently as quartz mining. Probably no part of the Pacific slope has more undeveloped mines than Baker county. Many of these mines are coming into note, among which we may mention the Conner creek mines, owned and operated by Messrs. S. G. Reed and T.

Falex. Rye valley is the richest quartz mining district in this county, and increases in importance and value as mine after mine is developed. What this and all the quartz mining districts of all this Eastern Oregon and Idaho needs is cheap and rapid ingress and egress, which would bring with it those who have the capital to open up and develop the largest and richest gold and silver quartz country on the Pacific slope today. The yield of the placer mines of this county for the last fifteen years has been \$10,000,000, and the new discoveries in placer and quartz keeps the annual yield up to the average.

Large tracts of fine arable land invite the immigrant to settle and rear for himself a home. Why will the people crowd the large cities, living in want and penury, the serfs, virtually, of the rich, when the broad plains and verdant hills of our Eastern Oregon, the fairest of the fair, is to be had only for the taking?

THE NEW HOMESTEAD LAW.

We advise our friends, interested in the matter, to cut out the following and preserve it for future reference. It is the full text of the new homestead law as approved on the 2d inst. We publish it for the special benefit of our rural friends:

Be it enacted, etc., That from and after the passage of this act, even sections within the limits of any grant of public lands to any railroad company, or to any State in aid of any railroad or military road, shall be open to settlers under the homestead laws to the extent of 160 acres to each settler, and any person who has, under existing laws, taken a homestead on any even section within the limits of any railroad or military road land grants, and who, by existing laws, shall have been restricted to eighty acres, may enter under the homestead laws an additional eighty acres adjoining the land embraced in his original entry; or, if such person so elect, he may surrender his entry to the United States for cancellation, and thereupon be entitled to enter lands under the homestead laws the same as if the surrendered entry had not been made. And the person so making an additional entry of eighty acres or new entry, after the surrender and cancellation of his original entry, shall be permitted so to do without payment of fees and commissions; and residence and cultivation of the land embraced in his original entry shall be considered residence, and cultivation for the same length of time upon and of land embraced in his additional or new entry, shall be deducted from the five years' residence and cultivation required by law, provided, that in no case shall a patent issue upon the additional or new homestead entry under

this act until the person has actually and in conformity with the homestead laws occupied, resided upon and cultivated the land embraced thereon at least one year.

The foregoing measure was introduced by Booth in the Senate, and by Page in the House of Representatives.

THE NOOTSACK COUNTRY.

A gentleman recently from the Nootsack river valley in Western Washington, speaks in high terms of commendation of it as a place of settlement. This river is the most northern on this coast, and, until recently, has been overlooked by settlers. The Nootsack empties its waters into Bellingham Bay at the Lummi reservation, taking its rise away from the base of Mount Baker.

This country offers superior advantages to settlers for several reasons. There is a large scope of country to choose from making it available for colonization, and, although the winters are a little colder than the average of Western Washington, wheat and corn are grown to perfection, and such clover as is seldom seen elsewhere; the Nootsack potatoes are sought wherever known, and the old settlers can show fruit, apples especially, that cannot be beaten on the coast. There are all kinds of lands, from the fine sandy loam of the river bottoms to the peat swamps in the interior, and hill lands of superior quality. Below the jam, the lowest of which is between Ferndale and Lynden, there is no overflow from the river. As we ascend the river, two miles beyond Ferndale, we come to Lynden with two stores and a post-office. Above this, about the same distance, we arrive at Nootsack, or the upper crossing. This place has a store, telegraph office, postoffice, etc. There is much land from Ferndale to this place open for settlement, and all above the suburbs of the latter. In addition to government lands for sale, there is a large amount in the hands of speculators, for sale at reasonable rates.—*Seattle Post.*

STUCK RIVER.—It is a fact not generally known that Stuck river or creek, which connects White and Puyallup rivers, W. T., is a natural curiosity, and there is but one similar instance in the known world, and that a small stream in South America. When White river is the higher, then the Stuck empties into the Puyallup, and when the Puyallup is unusually high, then the Stuck flows into White river. Thus it forms a ligureture between those two rivers, connecting them as Simese twins.

It is thought that Snohomish county will produce fifty thousand bushels of wheat this year.