

streams. None would take the hills except for pasture. Now the newcomers, who had to choose the hills, have the better farms. Meanwhile, in the Willamette and other valleys, west of the mountains, where the prairie and bottom lands were first chosen, the long spring rains have delayed the plough, and the rapid summer growth has begun to produce rust, but on the well drained hills—the second choice—farms are proving to be the best. The lesson of such experience is, that, *under* the forests of Western Oregon and Washington, and *on* the high prairies of the upper Columbia basin, which extend through Oregon, Washington and Idaho, are to be the surest and most abundant harvests, and future homes of the people.

The large stock raising way to the on-comers farmers with their ploughs and are seeking new pastures among the mountains and herds are driven to quarters, or divided into small farms, or be kept within the farms. The question of no fence law agitates communities, and becomes an appeal to the legislative courts. Settlements are denser and more common.

The farmer in his master of the situation will win the ground. The process may be

is very large, north, south and east, but farms and pasture and woodland will touch each other ere long; houses will stand in sight along the road lines, and little villages and school-houses and church spires will dot the landscape for many scores and hundreds of miles. In the treeless regions of the interior, the orchard and timber culture, as well as the wheat and vegetable culture, have been tested and found feasible and profitable. The water supply increases in the regions called rainless, by cultivation and by orchard and shade tree planting. The inconveniences of the present are deemed only temporary.

THE RELATIVE VALUE OF FARMS EAST AND WEST OF THE CASCADE MOUNTAINS.

This question now taxes the best judgment of the old settlers. Formerly every family hastened to the Willamette, the Umpqua, or the Rogue

river; or to the lower Columbia, or Cowlitz, or Chehalis, or to the Puget Sound basin.

Latterly the sons and daughters and their families, and often their parents, are seen moving east of the mountains.

Their western homes are sold at good prices to new comers. Immigrants in large numbers for the last three years have sought for lands in the upper Columbia basin. Wheat culture has doubled in a year, and quadrupled in four years there. Railroad and steamboat lines offer means of transport to meet the new demands. The great drift of population is that way. They are rewarded and satisfied with the results. The climate is good, and with

hand, claim greater advantages, in the abundance of fuel and timber at hand at small cost; the endless number of springs and streams and opportunities for water supply from wells at little cost; with the added facts that crops are always sure; that wheat on the hills yields well; that greater variety of crops, like vegetables and fruits, can be raised at a profit, near the shipping port, which would not bear freighting from the distant fields of the upper Columbia.

The Willamette and coast farmers also claim that the forests will soon be worth more than the prairie lands, acre for acre; that small farms, with a variety of crops, as hay, grain, flax, vegetables, fruits, wood, lumber, wool, beef,

swine, fowls, cheese, all of which will find every year, at paying profitable than large stock ranches. They eat will be a drug on fall in price very near ing it and shipping it. dy costing stockmen as they receive from the student farmers prefer to sell tilled fields well in good trim; pastures of best grades of and sheep; good houses, with abundant stores shelter from storms for all at hand, everything

the Snake river is \$8 per ton to ship at Portland. By team to the Snake river the cost averages not less than \$5 per ton. This extra cost of \$13 per ton, exceeds the cost of exporting wheat from the valleys west of the Cascades about \$8 per ton, on an average, or about twenty-four cents per bushel. Return freights of machinery, goods, fuel, lumber, etc., have a similar excess of cost. New railroads will reduce this margin somewhat, but transportation to and from distant interior towns and settlements to ship must always be a large factor in the expense of farms and homes.

As compensation for this loss, the upper Columbia farmers claim a large gain in the case of raising all kind of crops, and the greater yield per acre, and a more sunshining sky. The farmers of the prairies and valleys west of the Cascade mountains, on the other

income. They know that small constant gains amount to more per year, net, than a few large sales of beef or wool or wheat will do. Very often a man on a few scores of acres will have more cash at the close of the year, than the man who tries to till several hundreds of acres.

Besides, the smaller farms with variety of products raised by the joint labor of all the family keep them busy at all seasons. These items might be extended, but they indicate the factors which go to make up the true home farms, and rural settlements of our northwest.

OBJECTION.

The clearing of our heavy forests, which on an average can be done ready for the plough at less than \$100 per acre is deemed a bar to farming west of the mountains. It is so to the man who merely aims to raise thou-