

WOOL GROWING IN GRANT COUNTY.

Immigration was first attracted to this county by the reports of the rich discoveries of gold within the limits of the county. All who came here at that period came only with the intention of engaging in mining, or some business tributary thereto. The idea of remaining here to develop the country and to build up homes formed no part of the calculations of the then inhabitants of the county; each one expected to make his "pile" then to return to his home in some older settled community. But when the placer mines began to be exhausted, people discovered that Grant county contained excellent ranges for stock, and was not such a bad place to live after all. The number of cattle in the county increased from 1384 in 1870, to 84,555 in 1880. Many have trebled in a few years the money invested in cattle. But now it is found that the range has been eaten off to such an extent that cattle no longer obtain good feed in the winter season; hence they are being sold and the money invested in sheep. Eastern Oregon offers many inducements to sheep raisers. The climate and the soil are dry, which are very necessary. The winters are usually so mild that sheep range out all winter without any other feed than the grass on the hills. Occasionally, however, a winter comes that is severe enough to cause heavy losses. It is always best to be prepared with plenty of feed for these hard winters. It will pay best in the long run. There is no good reason why the growing of wool should not prove profitable in this County for many years to come. It is profitable now while the wool is shipped by the long and expensive route via The Dalles, Portland, San Francisco and by rail to the eastern manufactories. With the completion of the railroad from Granger to Baker City, which will probably be accomplished within two years, our wool can be shipped that way, at a saving of five cents on a pound for freight. This five cents will be a direct gain to the producer. There is not much likelihood that the price of wool will be much lower in the U. S. for many years to come. We probably import one hundred million pounds of wool each year to supply the demand in excess of home production. Until our production equals our consumption,

there need be no fear that wool growing properly conducted, will not be remunerative in this country. The only question that concerns the Grant county wool growers is, can we compete with eastern farmers who have a market close at hand? Without a doubt. The eastern farmer not only has to feed his sheep through a longer and severer winter than we do, but even in the summer he must pasture his flocks upon land that represents an investment of \$50 to \$100 per acre. Here the range doesn't cost a cent. Should the number of sheep in the county increase in the same ratio during the present decade as it did from 1870 to '80, we will have 2,800,000 head of sheep when the Grant County census taker around again.—*Grant Co. News.*

Columbia county, W.T., is bounded on the north by Snake River, on the East by Idaho Territory, on the south by Oregon and on the west by Walla Walla county. In length east and west it is near sixty miles, in breadth from north to south near fifty. It comprises within its boundaries some of the finest agricultural land on the Western coast. The surface of the country is rough and broken, composed principally of high table prairie lands. Along Snake River, the Northern border of the County, and for a few miles back on the foot-hills the land is considered comparatively worthless, except where it can be irrigated, being of a light sandy character easily affected by drouth. With a few exceptions the rest of the land throughout Columbia county, level enough for cultivation, is of a very excellent quality. And there is a vast quantity of this excellent land ready to yield to the magic touch of the husbandman its golden harvest. When we take into consideration the fact that there is nearly a half million acres of cultivatable land in this county, that a large portion of said land is of the finest quality and capable of yielding from twenty to fifty bushels per acre, the prospective agricultural wealth of the county looms up in grand proportions before us. The district of country is well adapted both in soil and climate to the growing of wheat, oats, barley and all kinds of small grain. In different localities throughout the county corn is successfully grown, but the seasons are generally too short for a first class corn country.

All of the out land here is excellent range, being covered with bunch grass it furnishes good pasturage the year round. This relieves the necessity of feeding except when the grass is covered with snow, which is generally but a few weeks each year. Hence this is a good stock country. The raising of hogs, sheep, cattle and horses are all profitable industries. The principal staples of the country at the present time are wheat and wool. The other products above enumerated will soon be entitled to the same rank.

PRICES.—The Oregon Improvement Company have fixed the prices of their lands at \$5, \$7 and \$10 per acre. Considering the enhancement of value by reason of the early construction of the O. R. & N. Co.'s road through the heart of this body of land, the prices are very reasonable.

The Portland Mechanics' Fair which for 1881, promises to be the finest exhibition ever held in the Pacific Northwest, will open on the 13th of October and continue for 17 days. Excursion tickets at greatly reduced rates will be sold from all points and a very large attendance can be confidently expected. The Society are doing all in their power to make it an instructive exhibition and they fully merit the liberal patronage of the public.

The traveling public should consult the new time table of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Co., which appears in our columns this day. Several important changes are announced. In this connection we take pleasure to mention that this Company's steamers are first-class in all their appointments and they employ only polite and attentive officials—speed, safety and comfort are secured by traveling on the O. R. & N. Co.'s lines.

Wrinkle & Co., the enterprising Dry Goods merchants at the corner of First and Salmon streets, have begun the annual clearance sale of spring and summer dry goods, and purchasers can secure rare bargains by calling or sending to them early. This is one of the most reliable dry goods houses in this city, and residents in the country entrusting orders to them can rely on obtaining only such articles as are ordered, and fully as cheap as the closest city buyer can obtain them by personal attendance.