

## THE PALOUSE COUNTRY.

We are in receipt of the prospectus of the Oregon Improvement Company, which gives a brief and truthful sketch of the great Palouse country, and from which we cull the following for the information of our readers.

The entire Palouse country, or "grain belt" of Eastern Washington Territory, may be properly described as a high rolling prairie, in general, free from timber, except upon water courses. The marked peculiarity of this section being that the higher lands are of equal, if not greater fertility than the valleys, and as susceptible of easy cultivation. The tract is traversed in a general east and west direction by the Palouse river, Rebel and Union Flat creeks, and their numerous tributaries. Upon the higher lands water is obtained at an easy depth, in ample quantities for all domestic purposes. Irrigation is wholly uncalled for and never resorted to.

The soil is composed of a rich alluvial deposit, combined with basaltic ash of great depth, overlying a clay sub-soil, which rests upon a basaltic formation, which latter is at such a depth as to become visible only on the deep water courses. The great productiveness of the soil of this region has given it a world-wide reputation and lead to the projection of the railroad lines now surveyed and being rapidly constructed, looking to the transportation of the immense cereal productions of this section.

The climate of Washington Territory is not surpassed in measure of healthfulness by that of any other portion of our country; the temperature being such as to render the greatest amount of labor possible with the smallest amount of exposure and discomfort.

The cereals, wheat, rye, oats and barley, with flax and wool, form the present staple productions of this broad agricultural area. The absence of any failure of crops since the early settlement of the country, and the marked returns from the soil, in the large yields of the cereals and grasses have not in the past called for that diversity of products found in the more uncertain localities. The farmer has sown to the limit of his seed time without thought of failure in harvest. Wheat yields from 35 to 50 bushels per acre; oats and barley about 60; and in the northeastern

portion they have reached as high as 110 bushels to the acre. Rye yields from 40 to 50 bushels; corn, 25 to 35. The yield of timothy and other grasses, per acre, is very large. Fruit of the finest quality free from worm or other blemish, is successfully raised in some localities.

For a decade the Palouse country, in consequence of its luxuriant growth of bunch grass everywhere found, and its equable climate, has been the Mecca of stock raisers. The great fertility of the soil and its unfailing yield has, however, given the lands a value which is rapidly displacing the large herds of cattle that once grazed on these lands.

The major portion of the population of Whitman county, shown by the last census to be about 8,000, is located within the lands of the Oregon Improvement Company. An examination of the plats of government lands indicates that a vast majority of the settlers of the country have chosen homes within the company's area. The tract has been subdivided into about thirty school districts, and has over 900 children in attendance. The present population is largely composed of people of Eastern origin, bringing with them their inherent love of schools, churches and social development in contradistinction to a spirit of adventure and speculation.

For the purpose of the sale of these lands they have been divided into three classes; their classification resting almost solely on their proximity to the railroad lines and central growing points; there being no other essential features on which to base a difference in price. The Oregon Improvement Company purchased these lands with a special view to their early occupation by immigrants from the Eastern, Western and Middle states. To accomplish this purpose, the lands will be sold in small bodies to actual immigrants on easy terms, and special inducements as to prices, transportation, etc., will be extended to colonies.

The company is prepared, in offering these lands upon the installment plan, to assist the deserving applicants, in their settlement and the construction of their homes.

The only possible want of this country in the past has been that of timber for building and other domestic purposes. This the company propose to furnish at moderate prices.

## SOUTHEASTERN OREGON.

The Klamath basin lies at the eastern base of the Cascade range, is 50 or 60 miles from north to south, and from 10 to 20 miles wide. A range of high hills divides the basin into two parts at the lower end of Big Klamath lake. The upper or big lake is from 30 to 35 miles long and from 5 to 20 wide. It is a beautiful sheet of water and is literally alive with the most delicious lake trout and other fish. It pours its waters into Little Klamath or lower basin through Link river. This is a remarkable river, it begins at the lower end of the Big lake, a stream 300 feet wide, smooth, tranquil and silent in a few rods it begins to dash and foam and splash and roar and speed away in a wild mad race for the short space of one and a half miles, and then after its short and turbid fret pours its angry waters into the placid basin of Little Klamath lake and is again at rest. In its short and eventful course it descends in rapids and falls a perpendicular distance, variously estimated at from 60 to 75 feet, affording as excellent water powers as may be found any where in the world. Being the outlet of a large lake, the even tenor of its flow is never disturbed by flood.

A bridge spans the river just above where it empties into the lower basin. Linkville, at one time the county seat of Lake county, is situated on the river just east of the bridge and extends for some distance along the lake shore. All the cereals do well here, especially wheat and rye.

The rivers and lakes here are alive with the most delicious trout weighing from two to eight pounds each, whilst nearly all kinds of water fowl may be found here in abundance. In the Cascade mountains near by deer are in great numbers and are easily taken by those who wish.

But the most wonderful feature of this locality is the hot springs, which in many places issue from the ground in great force, and at a temperature very little below the boiling point. It is claimed by the inhabitants of Linkville that these hot springs possess great healing properties. A large amount of government state and swamp land, is to be had in this locality for intending settlers.

A man overbored—the editor.