

WHERE IS THE BETTER PART OF THE UPPER COLUMBIA BASIN.

Much has been said and written of the great basin of the Columbia, between the Cascade and Bitter Root mountains, its climate, soil and productions, and probably in no instance has this basin been overrated. When Geo. Stevens and party first visited this section, he conceived a limited idea of its future and yet he deemed it of sufficient importance to warrant the construction of a railroad to penetrate it from the east, and when the first engineers of the Northern Pacific came through on their surveys, Roberts their chief, claimed that it would become the great grazing country of the Union. But none of them foresaw that it would become the great grain country of the United States; but the tests made of the soil by some of the early settlers soon disclosed its wonderful productiveness in wheat, barley and oats. But the knowledge of this fact was very limited till as late as 1874-5 and in fact but little attention was called to it in the east till the Indian wars of 77-8, when it was penetrated by numerous officers and soldiers from the east, all of whom were impressed with the wonderful fertility of the soil, the salubrity of the climate, and the vast area that invited the agriculturists to come here and settle and many were the letters to private friends in the east, to the eastern press, and official notes sent to the war department, all conveying in the most authentic manner descriptions of the advantages of this country. Rev. Geo. H. Atkinson of Portland took up the subject and gave a series of letters (several of them appearing in the WEST SHORE) which have done a vast amount of good in portraying the facts and assigning the natural causes why the lands are so fertile and so well adapted to the growth of wheat and other grains. With all this showing, men of large capital have been induced to visit several sections of this basin in person to see if what had been told them were true, and on coming here had found that not the half had been told them, and they have gone back all inspired with a rivalry to invest means to open up this basin by means of railroads to carry off the surplus the country can be made to produce, and immigration has rapidly come to us and is still com-

ing in large numbers, and now the whole people of the east is excited about the wonders of this land, and are seeking to release themselves from the ties of home and birth place and means of reaching this land of promise. The great cry has been the Palouse and emigrants painted on the wagons "Palouse or bust" under the impression that the Palouse was all there is of the country. The north and south Palouse and the streams tributary penetrate some of the best lands in the whole Columbia basin. But not more so than do the Clearwater and its tributaries including the Potlatch, Hatwai, Lapwai, Jack's creek, Oro Fino creek, Ford's creek, Cottonwood, Three mile creek, John's creek. To these add Alpowa, Pataha, and Tucanon, Assotin creek, lower Grand Ronde river and Joseph creek. All these streams drain some of the best lands in the whole Columbia basin, only a small portion of which are yet occupied by settlers, and into no part of which save the Pataha and Tucanon are any railroads projecting with prospect of construction within the ensuing five years. But they have the navigable waters of the Snake and limited navigation of the Clearwater as means of ingress and egress. This section last described possesses a milder climate than the Palouse, as the thermometrical record of the two years last past fully shows. The very heart of this section is penetrated by navigable waters while the Palouse country is not, and a large part of this section is better adapted to fruit growing than is any part of the Palouse. When the Cascade division of the Northern Pacific is completed this section will have the choice of an outlet to the sea either via the mouth of the Columbia or via rail over the mountains to Tacoma with prospect of cheap transportation. If necessary competing steamers can run between this place and Ainsworth the eastern terminus of the Cascade division of the Northern Pacific, and Lewiston will be the central point for business in all this section, with the best climate of the whole north-west. At present we are being overlooked and neglected by the attractions of other localities where railroads are being built and money of the companies is being disbursed. But when the construction is completed, then all towns and places located in order to become of importance to themselves or to the railroads must

have a good producing country around them, otherwise their denizens will only have the pleasure of seeing the cars hurriedly pass by without leaving them one cent. But when we once get our connection with the Sound as we have suggested, the people of Lewiston and in the vicinity of the Clearwater need have no fears that they will be neglected. We are in the best part of the whole Columbia basin, and no railroad engineering north or south of us can rob us of the natural advantages we enjoy and the man who thinks of bettering his situation by going north along the line of the railroad for any other than a temporary residence while the road is being built is making a mistake. We may be the last in importance as considered by the capitalist who invests, but when they do come, we will be first on the list of rapid progress to wealth and prosperity, and we must not overlook or forget this prediction.—Lewiston Teller.

THE SOUTHERN OREGON HOT EARTH CURE.

On Maj. Q. A. Brook's land near Linkville, Lake Co., is about an acre of ground which is kept hot by vapor that ascends from some mysterious source of heat below. Just beneath the surface this earth is too hot to hold the hand upon, and at twelve inches from the surface in some places it sends the mercury up to 205 deg. Fahrenheit. Whether this heat is of chemical origin near the surface or is from direct connection with the vast molten interior of the earth, is as yet a matter for pure speculation, but the theory of chemical derivation seems the more rational. However that may be, the hot earth, which is a kind of red loam in composition, has been found to have astonishing curative properties in cases of rheumatism, lame back, diseased and stiffened joints, and many other affections. A number of remarkable cures are reported already, two of them being of acute affections of the back, resulting from recent accidents, one case being that of Mr. Alexander, who was crippled in the stage accident between Linkville and Yreka last May. The treatment differing in the difference in the cases. In some instances the affected part or even the whole body of the patient is buried in the earth, which is tempered to a suitable warmth. In other cases the patient is given a vapor bath as hot as can be borne. As yet the use of the hot earth as a remedial agent has just begun, but it gives promise of becoming of vast utility and benefit to afflicted humanity, and we should not be surprised to see some day a sanitarium of national, even of world-wide fame and resort upon the heated earth near Linkville.