

GAME BIRDS OF OCHOCO.

It may be interesting to sportsmen to know that in the foot hills not many miles from town may be found at this time of year some of the finest game birds in the state, namely the blue grouse. These birds are similar to the valley grouse, except they are much larger. They are found in the pine timber, and may be detected by a peculiar grunting noise not unlike the notes of the blue grouse of the Cascades, but consisting of only one prolonged note. These birds have all the characteristics peculiar to this class of game. In the winter they migrate to the fir timber on the highest mountains, and return to the fields of the valleys in the spring. These birds are very tame, being hunted but little, and will seldom fly from the report of a gun. There are also a few ruffed grouse, known as pheasants, but these birds are very scarce, and seldom seen in this part of the state. Another variety of this family of birds is the prairie chicken, which is found in large numbers east of the Cascades. During the summer and fall these birds are found in large flocks, sometimes hundreds of them in the wheat fields, at which time they are fine food and easily killed. In the spring their flesh is not good, owing to their having fed upon the sage during the winter.

Still another variety of these game birds, the sage hen, is found in limited numbers in this section. These are similar to the prairie chicken in many of their habits, but are widely different in appearance and size, being much larger, and having rough plumage. Many sage hens have been known to attain the size of average turkeys. In the fall of the year they are splendid eating, and may be found along the foot hills, in the small timber, but they rarely visit the wheat fields.

There are many other birds in this section of our state that are tempting to the ambitious sportsmen, but, unlike the birds of western Oregon, they are not good food at this season, and as the game law is now in force, hunters should refrain from hunting or killing them until the proper season arrives, when the birds will be more numerous, the sport easier and the game more palatable.—*Prineville News.*

A "BOOM."—Port Townsend is just entering upon the first real estate boom of any importance ever experienced by her. As an illustration of the rapidity with which prices have advanced recently, we cite one instance. The old Masonic Hall property, which was purchased by Mr. Eisenbeis last year for \$330, changed hands a few days ago for \$1,300—Mr. Carl Seidel, a shrewd business man, being the purchaser. Other real estate has gone up correspondingly. In fact property in general here has about doubled in value during the past year. The substantial character of nu-

merous improvements being made, gives evidence of unbounded confidence in all kinds of business among us. Then we will have a great deal of building done before the end of the present year, and the population of this locality will materially increase. The citizens have just incorporated the Puget Sound West Side Railroad Company, with headquarters at Port Townsend, capital stock of \$3,000,000, and T. T. Minor, C. C. Bartlett, J. A. Kuhn, R. D. Attridge, Robert C. Hill, J. B. Montgomery, J. F. Swan, Chas. Eisenbeis and Thomas Kirkpatrick, incorporators. The declared object is to build a railroad to a point on the Columbia river. This road, if built, will tap the rich Chehalis country.—*Argus.*

SPOKANE FALLS.

A visit to our sister town this week found it enjoying a healthy prosperity, indicative of an active business season and substantial growth. While possessed of an abiding faith in our own town of Cheney, we can see that Spokane Falls possesses elements of growth. To deny that it is a most beautiful place to live, would be a misrepresentation. Its naturally paved streets are always dry, the roar of the falls, its grand scenery and commanding view are advantages that cannot be overlooked, and we would not make them less were the power ours to do so. To these natural advantages its enterprising citizens have contributed liberally to the building of all the civilizing and progressive institutions. Every religious denomination is represented here and its school advantages are excellent. We write this first, because it is true; and second, because the *Tribune* is a permanent institution in Spokane county, and not afraid to note the prosperity of every section of country and speak a word of encouragement for our neighbors.—*Cheney Tribune.*

LAKE FAIRWEATHER.

This beautiful body of cold, fresh water, is situated about four miles Northwest of the town of Cheney, and is fed by three or four very large springs near its margin.

A line of levels having recently been extended from the railroad track at the Cheney depot to this lake, shows its elevation to be forty-five feet above said initial point. A large supply of fresh spring water can thus be brought into Cheney at a small expense. This town is already well supplied with water but this additional source will furnish a supply for a population of 2,500 people besides furnishing the railroad with all it can use, and then there will be plenty of water for manufacturing purposes. It is confidently believed that there are several other lakes that can be brought into Cheney whenever its growing population and increased business wants demands it.—*Tribune.*

Clackamas county is destined 'ere long to be the richest and most thickly settled county in Oregon. Situated on the Willamette river, but a few miles from the head of navigation, and with a railroad running through it, and two others in close proximity to its borders, combined with the fertility of her soil, her magnificent timber, splendid water powers and undeveloped mineral wealth, her future is a brilliant one. The land in Clackamas county will never be held in large quantities by speculators or farmed in large tracts, because of the rolling surface, numerous streams and large bodies of timber. The consequence of this is that the farms will in time seldom be larger than 160 or 200 acres, and as nearly the whole of the county is susceptible of cultivation, the time is not far away before every quarter section will be the home of a family, thus giving to this county a very large population. The timber lands of Oregon and Washington Territory that are situate on the banks of navigable streams, bays or inlets of the ocean, are fast being cleared, as the present home and foreign markets take all that is for sale. Logs are easily shot into the large streams, and the once fine bodies of timber along Puget Sound and the Columbia river, are even now, almost a thing of the past. But in Clackamas county, it is entirely different. Little or no timber has been cut, except to supply the home demand. The immense bodies of ash, fir, larch and spruce are still not only untouched, but comparatively unknown. Hardly a creek exists in the county, but what has large bodies of government land on its banks, just waiting for some one to throw a dam across the stream, put up a mill and commence sawing, with the logs necessary to run for years, all in sight. No country in the world has as much water power to the square mile as Oregon has and no part of Oregon as much as Clackamas county. The saw-mill business is one of our undeveloped industries. It is not necessary to go back into the mountains to find large bodies of available timber, as they are to be found on the creeks and rivers in the midst of settlements. Some day, and that not a distant one, these timber lands will be valuable.

When cleared of the timber, they will be valuable for agricultural purposes, as all the good timber land is blessed with a rich soil; that on the river banks is valuable for meadows, gardens, etc., and that on the uplands for cereals etc. Those who have exhausted their homestead and pre-emption rights, can obtain possession of these lands without residing on them, by paying the government price of \$2.50 per acre, as also can anyone else who sees fit to invest for either present or future use. These lands can be purchased from the government in quantities not exceeding 160 acres.—*Enterprise.*