

The question is often asked, why has it neglected the advantages that have been so long in store? Just because pastoral pursuits have discouraged the encroachments of the husbandmen on the grazing fields, as to the adaptability of the soil for the growth of cereal or other products—a fallacy—as the contrary has been proven by experience, and now, a large share of its 11,400 population are availing themselves of long neglected opportunities throughout the county, and to-day it has sixty school districts, organized and supplied with school buildings, accommodating, as shown by the school census, 3,545 scholars of school age.

The great tide of immigration which has been setting in, in the last few years, will not ebb, and it is only reasonable to say that it will increase in volume, and this county be, with the whole Northwest, densely populated. There are so many inducements, the climate, though some may say variable, is neither too cold in winter, or treacherous in summer, the winter months are never so severe as to be a drawback to anything. The snows are never deep, and in short the winters are never more than six or eight weeks in length, while on the contrary there are not much over three weeks in which the plow could not be run; and more, the stock come out of the winter months with little or no provisions. The summers are different from those of Western Oregon; when they have their showers and rainy days, here the rainy days and showers are less frequent—few—during the summer westerly winds prevail coming off the ocean, and are laden with moisture which supplies the need for vegetation. A failure of crops has never been known since the earliest settlement, and never will be as long as Providence supplies the deficiency through the agency of the summer winds that come freighted with their gifts.

The fruits, apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, apricots and berries are not excelled on the whole coast in beauty or in delicious flavor, and vegetables of all descriptions, are second to none. One thing worthy of notice is, the products, such as melons, potatoes, tomatoes, green peas, green corn, etc., are ready, and in market from one to two weeks before its neighbors in Western Oregon.

The *Prineville News* says:

A geologist, an enthusiastic one, might live with pleasure, and die happy in this place. The physical features of the surrounding country are a study. The theory of the formation of these queer features we have never heard. What are called valleys here, are only depressions through which the living streams of water flow. These valleys in this vicinity, and throughout this part of Wasco county, in fact, are surrounded by high bluffs, called rim-rocks, which are on a level with the plains, or, as it is called, the desert. This desert is not a barren waste, but it produces an abundance of grass and timber. The soil in the valleys is about the same as that of the uplands, only it is not subject to drouth as the land on the desert, or table land is. Not many years ago it was thought that these lands would not sprout peas, even, composed as it is of volcanic ashes, but this has been disproved, for it has been ascertained that wheat, oats, and all manner of vegetables can be successfully grown now, when a few years ago no effort was made to cultivate anything at all. Good farms can be had for the taking in any direction you may choose.

Over on the Deschutes, at Mr. Tethers, where the soil appears to be nothing but fine sand, may be seen peach trees in fine health and thrift. But up to the present time but little attention has been paid to orchards, though some are to be planted this spring. The reasons that men have given for this neglect are those that have already been enumerated—the general unproductive appearance of the land—but this is the truth of the case: Men came here, attracted by the abundance of grass, and engaged in the business of rearing stock, intending to make their fortune, as many have done, and return to a more genial place to enjoy the fruits of their labor. Hence they devoted their whole time and attention to their stock, contenting themselves with cheap habitations, and very few luxuries. But years of happy life taught them to love this country, and within the past two years many substantial, and some fine buildings have been built.

Farms are being taken, and preparations for farming in modern style are being made on quite an extensive scale. Our merchants now have to extend their wares to all kinds of farming implements. A friend says that several industrious men in the vicinity of Mitchell are making arrangements to put into cultivation three times the area that was sown last year. We have good flouring mills here, that are capable of turning any amount of grain into flour, for which there will be an increasing demand for years.

Those who prefer to raise grain will do well here, but no one need to come who would devote his whole time to this one thing. That is not what we

want. That one thing is just what all the people in other places in this state. If wheat was worth one dollar a bushel one year, then the next year those who had been successful, would devote more time and money to it, in some case plowing up fine meadows, and turning under the last bit of grass they had, in their blind and ignorant race for gain. And there are many who have done this in the Willamette valley, because they know how to do only one thing at a time. This kind of farmers will not do for this place, nor will they do for any other place, except to make good examples to those who are capable of observing, and who have enough sense to profit by others' experience. They make good guide posts. But we want men who know how to diversify their labor. Any one coming to this section who is willing to labor for what he gets (and he will not have to work hard enough to impair his health, nor break down his constitution) can make a good living, and with industry, and a proper amount of economy will become wealthy. A few good cattle (not scrubs), enough horses to carry on farm work, a small flock of sheep, well graded and well kept, and the usual number of hogs, and poultry will enable a family to live well and lay up something besides. Butter has not been found in our market for weeks, and a good quality would bring any reasonable price asked. There is not an egg to be found in the land, at any price. Pork sells at 12½ cents a pound.

This is the state of things exactly, and it is always so, and will be so for years to come. For, as has been said, the majority of the residents are cattle men, who will not furnish these commodities, because they make their money other ways. They have neither time nor desire to perform farm work. They do not need to do so. At times in the year they have to ride for weeks, and even months, looking after their stock. Any number of agriculturalists would not interfere with their interests, and farmers would be welcomed by them.

The stream of immigration bears on its tide many men who are seeking a home—a place where they can make an honest living by the sweat of their faces. This stream flows directly through this section, the starting place being somewhere in central California, and the terminus in the eastern part of Washington Territory, where are millions of acres of good farming and grazing land as was ever found on the face of the globe. These wanderers come in the fall, and go again in the spring, having seen everything that is bad, viz: the cold winter that is usually experienced, and thoroughly disgusted of course. Occasionally a sensible man comes along and stays. There is about one of these out of every four who come. The trouble with these migratory birds is this: they want to find a paradise somewhere, where