

lie in vast unbroken tracts for hundreds of miles along both banks of the Columbia, extending back from the river from thirty to fifty miles, and lying in Wasco, Umatilla, Klickitat, Yakima, Walla Walla, Whitman and Spokane counties. Immigrants are pouring into that portion known as the Big Bend country, but settlements throughout this whole region are being made. The transformation of a few years will be wonderful. Irrigation, though beneficial, is not necessary in the greater portion, and water can be found easily by digging. The cry of "No water" and "Too dry" has kept as a wilderness a region that will soon be covered with villages. The railroad has been the chief factor in drawing attention to this land and making it valuable.

The failure in congress of the river and harbor appropriation bill is very detrimental to the interests of this coast and in consequence to the whole nation. The wealth and power of the United States has been wonderfully augmented by the development of the great northwest, and money expended in opening harbors and means of transportation would be returned a thousand fold in an increase of the nation's resources. It is but the cultivation of a field from which results a bountiful crop. Whatever there may be of fraud in connection with such appropriations in the east we know not; but we do know that the sums bestowed upon us have been judiciously expended, and have as far as they were able accomplished the desired end. That many of the improvements are in an incompleting state, is due entirely to the insufficiency of past appropriations. Owing to the fact that a failure of this bill was among the possibilities, engineers in charge of government works here have husbanded their resources, and have not pushed the work as rapidly as they otherwise would. The result is that at some points work can be continued slowly, at others enough can be done to keep it in its present condition so that the work already accomplished shall not be rendered useless, while in still other places nothing can be accomplished whatever. Railroads in many places along our mountainous coast are impracticable, and streams form the only outlet to millions of acres of agricultural, timber, coal and mineral lands. It is for such streams as these we ask congress for money, and are refused because eastern members are ignorant of our geography. The \$20,000 appropriated last year for rivers emptying into Puget sound, which Secretary Lincoln withheld, have been released, and Captain Powell is now constructing a snag boat for clearing the channels of the Skagit, Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Nooksack and Stillaguamish rivers. This work is of great importance to the lumber, agricultural and mining interests of that region. Work absolutely necessary on the Willamette and Columbia bars will no doubt be undertaken by the merchants of this city.

In the February number of the consular reports appears a letter from H. Matson, consul general at Calcutta, in regard to the India wheat crop and its effect upon the market for our own product. India is now able to supply a surplus of 40,000,000 bushels annually to the European market, and is capable of increasing that quantity indefinitely by clearing her vast jungles and converting them into grain fields. That is an expensive work and will not be done to any extent unless our failure to supply the European demand at reasonable rates shall stimulate them to unusual exertion.

At present an expanding area of wheat-producing lands, railroad conveniences, facilities for handling grain, and the stability of our money exchange, give us an advantage over India, which we can maintain if we keep pace with her in reducing the cost of production and handling. It is just at this point that the Panama or Nicaragua canal, or possibly both of them, will play an important part. The completion of one of these will give us a hold upon the European grain market that it will be hard to shake off. It will save us millions of dollars annually in reducing the cost of shipment by at least half. Even without that the completion of the great trans-continental lines of road will so cheapen the cost of producing the grain that our grasp upon the market will be firmer than ever. He who sleeps upon the track will lose the race even to the most sluggish competitor; and we must be awake to the situation and prepared to seize every point of advantage. Our broad acres rapidly being settled upon and brought under cultivation, our railroads reaching out their helping arms to every district in our vast domain, our freight rates being rapidly reduced by the increasing volume of business, all give us assurance of continued prosperity in producing wheat, and extend an invitation to energetic men that they should not be slow to accept it. Fertile lands free and a market guaranteed are blessings that ought to be appreciated, and by the thousands pouring into our country we know that they are. A few years hence, when these magnificent opportunities are gone, those who have failed to appreciate them will wonder at their own blindness.

## OREGON.

### EASTERN OREGON.

Heppner has now a paper, the *Gazette*, and will receive much benefit from the prominence its columns will give it.

The system of water works to be introduced into Pendleton includes a reservoir back of the city to give a pressure of seventy-five feet.

A Catholic college is to be erected at The Dalles at once. The structure will be 60x90 feet, two stories and basement, and be constructed of stone and brick.

Foster, a station between Umatilla and Echo, has now a good store, and is the point of junction of a railroad to run to Prospect farm and the wheat fields in the northwestern corner to Umatilla county.

Twenty miles southeast of Heppner is the embryo town of Adamsville, on the road from Canyon City to The Dalles and Alkali, in the midst of an excellent agricultural region. It contains a store and blacksmith shop, and is soon to have a hotel and other improvements. Water and timber are abundant.

There are many fine sections in Wasco county yet inviting settlement. One of these is Chicken Springs, about twenty-five miles from The Dalles on the road to Canyon City, where a few settlers have demonstrated the fertility of the soil and its adaptability to the production of grain and fruit. The fact that Wasco has been known as a stock county has operated to prevent its settlement, and immigrants travel hundreds of miles and spend much time and money searching for locations no better than those they pass by in Wasco.

Many are learning this, and a great increase in business at the land office in The Dalles is the consequence.

Since the Malheur reservation was thrown open to settlement considerable attention has been attracted by that portion of Grant and Baker counties known as the Malheur country. Many settlers have gone thither in search of homes. As a stock region this is well known to be all that could be desired, but for agricultural purposes, with the exception of a comparatively small amount of bottom lands, the general opinion is that it is not desirable. In the neighborhood of Stein mountain, to the southwest, there is said to be much fine agricultural land. It may, perhaps, be proven that the general opinion in regard to the Malheur country is incorrect, as it has been in many other places. Good bunch grass land has been generally found to be worth something for farming purposes.

### WESTERN OREGON.

A national bank has been organized in Albany.

A fruit cannery is talked of in Eugene City. That is certainly a splendid location for one.

A reservoir to contain 20,000 gallons of water and to give a pressure of fifty feet, is being constructed at Corvallis.

With 4,000,000 feet of lumber from her mills and several million bricks from the penitentiary, Salem hopes to have material for her new buildings this season. The demand for lumber and brick is great.

During the fine weather in March, C. P. Hall, of Washington county, plowed and seeded 225 acres in twenty-four days. All but thirty-seven acres were drilled in, and from present appearances will make a good crop. Grain throughout the whole county is in splendid condition.

Building activity in Astoria is very great. Times are lively there now because of the opening of the canning season. The river is dotted with sails, and there are more boats yet to go into the water. Too many boats have been fitted out, and an effort is being made to lay up some of them, though no satisfactory agreement has yet been made by competing companies.

Portland is as busy as ever. Work on the foundation of the large hotel is being pushed with vigor. A four-story brick hotel 100 feet square will soon be commenced on the corner of Fourth and Yamhill, several fine brick blocks are under way and others will soon be started. To a stranger the activity and bustle of this city is surprising, exceeding so much that which they have been accustomed to seeing in other cities of the same size.

A new town to be called Lenore is to be laid out in Columbia county near the foot of Deer Island and about a mile above and opposite to Kalama. The town site covers 400 acres. The main channel of the Columbia is but sixty feet from the shore at that point, and as it is below several of the most troublesome obstructions in the channel and at or near the point where the Northern Pacific will cross the river, the proprietors expect to make it an important shipping point, and possibly a rival to Portland, as Kalama was expected to be some ten years ago.

### SOUTHERN OREGON.

The spring wheat is all in, there has been