

the end of a division, and the necessary round house, shops, etc., will be quite an addition to the town. The new road, too, will give it a prosperity far exceeding anything enjoyed in the past. Through it all the San Francisco trade of Southern Oregon will pass, as well as lumber and coal from Coos bay to the Willamette. The great counties of Douglas and Coos to be opened up by this road to the coast, are unsurpassed in Oregon for the richness of their natural resources. Gold, timber, coal, fish, and agricultural soil of great richness, combine to assure a future of prosperous industry. The coal and timber of Coos bay have long been on the San Francisco market, where the mines and mills are owned. The celebrated Port Orford cedar grows all through that region in abundance, and fine varieties of timber adapted to the manufacture of furniture are found in great quantities. Coal underlies a vast belt of country and the road will afford facilities for opening new veins at convenient points. As a sheep and dairy country the southern counties are very superior. From the Umpqua valley comes the best wool of Oregon. Small fruits are raised here in abundance and shipped to the Portland market, and larger fruits also grow to perfection. This is a business that will grow wonderfully in the next few years. As to the valuable land now available for settlement in Douglas county, the *Independent* says:

A large portion of the vast territory embraced within this county remains unsettled and unsurveyed, and nearly all of it will be valuable, either for timber, agriculture or grazing. East of Roseburg is a vast section of country as yet undeveloped, and we might add, unexplored, as but little is known of it. The Smith river country, lying north and west of Drain station, is perhaps the best part of the unsettled portion of the county. The river heads in the mountains, some fifteen miles due north of the town of Drain, and flows nearly due west and empties into the bay or inlet at the mouth of the Umpqua, two miles below the town of Scottsburg. The east fork for some five or six miles above its junction flows through a beautiful, level plain, from one-half to two miles wide on either side of the stream, with small fir timber near the banks, showing that the country has once been a burn. The land close to the banks of the stream is higher than back near the hills, where numerous prairies of swamp grass, with scarce any timber, abounds, some of them containing from fifty to one hundred acres in a place, which need nothing but a drain to the river to make them first-class farming lands. From the forks down to tide water, a distance of eighteen or twenty miles, the bottoms on each side are similar, save that the growth of timber is larger. Considerable logging has been done on the lower part of the stream. The foothills, or bench land next to the bottoms, are covered for nearly the entire length of the river, with a heavy growth of large fir timber of the best quality. The drifts have been cleared out so that saw logs can be floated the entire length of the stream. There are numerous small streams flowing from the mountains on either side of the river, with bottoms in many places sufficiently wide to make good farms. Within the last year a number of persons have settled on the east fork of this river, and are about to commence building a wagon road from Drain across the mountain to their settlement, which will in time be extended down the river to tide water. Application has been made to the United States authorities for a survey of this country, which we hope will be made during the present season, as it will attract persons in search of homes to this section and add material wealth to our county.

One of the latent resources of Rogue river is iron. Experts are now testing the ore in the interests of the Oswego Iron Co., and if it is found of the proper quality a new industry will probably spring up in Jackson county.

EASTERN OREGON.

A new town called Adams has been laid off in Umatilla county, on Wild Horse creek on the edge of the reservation. Much building has already been done. The plat embraces sixty-five acres.

Castle Rock is the name of a new town on the railroad above Alkali. A road has recently been opened to that point from Heppner, and it will be the shipping point of large quantities of wool and other products of the interior, as well as a supply point for a large section of agricultural land now rapidly settling up.

The Cold Spring country is a fertile section of Umatilla county now coming into prominence. It embraces four townships lying north of Pendleton and west of Centerville and Weston. There is much vacant government land still unclaimed, though older settlers are endeavoring to "smuggle" a great deal of it. Every alternate section is railroad land, and this can be purchased at the regular price. There is an abundant supply of water in the canyons the year round. The roads are good, and grain can be hauled cheaply to the railroad or to the Columbia. Helix, the new town in that region, is rapidly becoming a business place.

The town of Huntington has been laid out in Baker county, on Burnt river, about two miles above its mouth. This is a point known for years as Miller's Stage Station, and was selected as a town site because it was the nearest point to Snake river where there was level ground enough to give the necessary room for the junction of the O. R. & N. Co. with the Oregon Short Line. This place has not been announced as the point of union, but the character of the country seems to render it the only suitable spot. That Huntington, or whatever point is chosen as the place of junction, will become a town of importance can not be doubted. It will possess large round houses and shops, and will of necessity enjoy a large trade with the surrounding country. The country immediately surrounding it is undulating and not as a rule suited to farming, but is peculiarly adapted to stock raising, being well watered the year round, and covered everywhere with luxuriant bunch grass. Winters are mild, and snow seldom falls more than six inches deep and never lies long enough to do any harm. The Willow creek and Malheur valleys are about twenty miles southwest from here and are rapidly settling up. This will be the natural outlet for their products and the place where they will receive their supplies. It is also the nearest point on the road to Washington mining district in Idaho, which is now attracting the attention of capitalists from all parts of the country, while only nine miles away (in Oregon) is located the Bay Horse silver mine, believed to be one of the best properties of the kind on the coast. It is now in the hands of a Salt Lake company, who will soon erect machinery for working the ore. Coal has been discovered in small quantities a few miles south, and though never prospected to any extent, is thought that coal can be found in paying quantities with light expense.

Harney valley is the largest body of agricultural land in Grant county. It lies 240 miles southeast of The Dalles, from whence it draws its supplies, paying four and one-half cents per pound for freight. About three-fourths of the entire valley

is swampy in character, and two lakes, Malheur and Harney, lie in the southern part. Sylvia's river, a stream of no mean proportions, puts into the valley in the northwest corner, and flows southward to Harney lake, and is the southwest boundary of the Malheur reservation, which has but recently been restored to the public domain. The swamp land referred to produces excellent hay in unlimited quantities, while the mountain ranges surrounding the valley are covered with a thick growth of bunch grass, recognized by all stockmen to be the finest of wild grasses for stock. Numerous small streams put into the valley from all sides, affording abundant water for irrigating purposes where needed. In the northern part of the valley the bottom lands along the creeks is a rich, black loam covered with sod, while on the higher ground the same soil with a liberal sprinkling of sand is found. A heavy growth of wild rye and rank sagebrush is found on this, and the soil has the appearance of being able to produce anything with proper care. No attempts at farming have yet been made in the surveyed portion of the valley. The climate is much the same as that of valleys in Northern California. The most serious drawback the country now has to contend with is the misrepresentations of its climate by parties having large stock interests in the vicinity, as these are desirous of keeping out settlers, that they may reap all the advantages of the magnificent range. Every suggestion in regard to raising grain or other crops has been met with such a storm of ridicule from those interested in discouraging such industries that no attempt at cultivation has been made. When it is considered that there are now in the Harney valley and adjacent mountains about 150,000 head of cattle, and that the range is of such extent that it is able to furnish feed for this vast number of cattle for years to come, it is easy to see why the cattle men are anxious to prevent the settlement of the country. The mountains to the north and northwest of Harney valley are covered with a dense growth of pine, juniper, mahogany and other woods, but on the south and west the timber is very scattering, and what little there is consists of scrubby juniper and mahogany, with a few stunted pines. The timber on the north, however, is of good quality and makes excellent lumber, posts, rails, etc. The population is estimated by those best calculated to know at about 300, and is increasing rapidly. The principal settlement is in the northwest corner of the valley, where the thriving little town of Egan is situated. This place is but a year old and was named after the Pah Ute chief who raided this region in 1878. All danger from Indians now can be said to be safely passed and Indian wars for this country are over. Eighteen miles to the east is the settlement in the vicinity of old Camp Harney, now abandoned as a military post. There is but little grain in Harney valley, and this is worth six to seven cents per pound. Rough lumber is worth \$20 per M at the mill, and the cost of hauling it is \$20 per M. The latter figure is higher than there is any necessity for, as it could be hauled for less with a very good margin for profit. An effort is being made by land grabbers to make the entire valley a swamp land district, and this will tend to discourage immigration to a considerable extent. The line of the Willamette Valley and Cascade Military Wagon Road Company passes through the valley, and while there is no doubt that this corporation has no right to claim any of the land formerly included in the Malheur reservation, it is certain that they will attempt to do so, and this will likewise have its influence in discouraging settlement. Despite this, Harney valley in a few years will be one of the most fertile and thriving districts of Oregon.