

formerly considered as fitted only for the grazing of sheep and cattle. For more extended information of the northern portion of the county the reader is referred to the description of the Cold Spring country at the end of this article.

As progress is made inland the quantity of rainfall increases, and this dry land gradually blends with that which has been held in better esteem, there being no clearly defined line of separation. Evidences of more extensive and older cultivation are observed. Farms present a less new and crude appearance. The houses and improvements generally indicate an older settlement—older by a few years only, of course, as all the settlements dating back a score of years are to be found along the bottom lands of the various streams, since the hills were then considered valueless for agricultural purposes. It is now that we enter the region whose astonishing yields of wheat have made the name of Umatilla famous in Oregon. The rolling hills, covered in the summer time from base to crest with fields of grain or stretches of plowed ground following in the health-giving rays of the sun, rise gradually to the southeastward until they become a portion of the Blue Mountains, whose timbered ridges stretch out as far as the eye can reach. This region is one immense wheat field. Except along the margin of the streams not a tree obstructs the view, and standing on the brow of one of the rolling hills we can see for miles, and our gaze will fall upon nothing but fields of grain, stretching away in one continuous succession of farms until they blend with the distance. Looking toward the mountains, the fields are seen to climb the foothills and sloping sides of the mountains till they lose themselves in the timber. It is in the heart of this fertile region that a large portion of the Umatilla Reservation lies, contrasting with it so strongly by its unproductiveness. The average distance across the reservation, north and south, is thirty miles; east and west, fifteen. The greater portion of it, some eight or nine townships, or about 300,000 acres, is of the most desirable wheat lands. It extends to the summit of the mountains, and includes a valuable tract of timber. Across it runs the railroad leading eastward from Pendleton. In this region lie the prosperous towns of Pendleton, Adams, Centerville, Weston and Milton, the elements of their prosperity being plainly evident in the surrounding country.

After crossing the reservation to Pendleton, which lies on its western edge, we pursue our journey along the base of the mountains southwestward. Here we find a region which has been occupied by stockmen for years, and which, until recently, has not claimed the attention of the farmer. The influx of immigrants during the past two years has been very great. They are settling down upon their quarter sections, turning the bunch grass under with their plows, and converting the vast stock ranges into long successions of grain fields. Thousands of acres are thus newly brought under cultivation every year, and the end is not yet. As stockmen, there was room for only a few; as farmers, there is room for all who have come and for many more. The journey through this

region carries us to Heppner, about which and beyond to the line of Wasco County practically the same conditions prevail. Owing to the great influx of immigrants to this end of the country during the past two years, large areas of grazing land are now being rapidly transformed into grain fields. Land that a few years ago was thought valuable only for grazing is now producing from twenty to forty bushels of grain, or from two to three tons of hay, to the acre. But owing to the hilly and broken aspect of much of the country, stock raising will continue to be a leading industry here, thus adding to the material wealth and prosperity. The folly of grain raising, to the exclusion of all other branches of husbandry, has been sufficiently demonstrated in other States, and, be it said to the credit of the farmers here, they are wisely adopting the New England method of diversified farming, which will largely increase their annual income.

Until recent years the principal source of revenue to this section of the county has been the stock industry. Perhaps there is no country in the world in which stock raising could be more profitably engaged in than here, especially horses, cattle and sheep. Within the past five years sheep raising has, to a great extent, superseded the cattle business. Owing to the decline of the cattle market a few years ago, many of the leading cattle men were induced to sell off their cattle and embark in the wool growing industry. To verify the statement as to the adaptability of this part of the county to stock raising, it is only necessary to state that there are over two hundred thousand sheep within a radius of fifteen miles of Heppner, to say nothing of the vast herds of horses and cattle that roam the hills, finding their own living feasting on the luxuriant bunch grass, many of them never having seen a hay stack. Another evidence of the nutritious qualities possessed by the native grass, is the fact that new settlers are enabled to put in their crops without feeding grain, by simply turning their horses out to grass at night.

Having thus made a broad sweep around the county, we will now return to the mouth of the Umatilla, and follow up that stream, to take a look at the tributaries mentioned as entering it from the south. The first one is Butter Creek, eight miles above. This is quite a considerable stream, flowing down from the mountains some seventy miles south, passing all the way in a deep depression between the hills on either hand, and having much fine meadow land along its course. It is well named, for with proper effort the water and grass of this stream can be literally converted into butter. Going up the creek we find some quite extensive grain and hay ranches for a distance of twenty or thirty miles, when the canyon becomes narrower, the bluffs higher and more precipitous, and the dwellers on the creek find room only for a little garden. We travel up this stream some sixty or seventy miles before we are fairly in the mountains. Nearly all who live on the creek have been or are extensive stock raisers, their cattle grazing for miles over the adjacent hills, and care little for the farming qualities of their rough ranches. They can make money far easier and