

overlooked. It is advantageous in every respect, and those may regard themselves as lucky men who obtain land here, for a quarter section of land in any part of Umatilla County is not a thing to be sneezed at, and is growing in value every day.

In regard to climate, I will say that the altitude varies from 500 feet on the Columbia River to 1,200 feet at the head of the Cold Spring canyon. Down to December 10 (the date of this writing), plows have been running all over the country, and a large amount of new soil has been broken since the Presidential election. No snow has fallen in the Blue Mountains to date, although it has rained every week since October. Snow generally falls about the middle of December, and remains on the ground until removed by the Chinook wind, which may put in an appearance in three days or three weeks. Late in January we usually have a week's hard frost, with another Chinook, and then "spells of weather" until the spring rains. Stock have been wintered here for years without shelter, and with no other feed than the natural bunch grass, and in no instance has the loss ever exceeded five per cent., even in the most severe winter.

People coming to this country to make homes are heartily welcome, and will receive all encouragement from their neighbors. A poor man with nothing but a large family is heavily handicapped, and will have a sorry time of it making headway in a new country. All new countries are proverbially poor, and it is the poor men who make them so. I would earnestly advise every newcomer to have at least \$1,000 at his command before starting for this country, for with that amount he will be practically master of the situation. It is essential to successful farming to own a wagon and team, which cost money. Lumber for house and barn must also be purchased, as well as feed for man and beast. If desired to farm extensively the first year it would be advisable to have 100 acres broken by contract at \$2 per acre and seeded on sod. All these things a man with a little cash capital can do and speedily have returns from the investment; but the poor man has a constant struggle for existence and is always behind. The objective point for all intending immigrants to the Cold Spring country is Pendleton. It is, however, not advisable to spend too much time idling round the towns. Make directly for Helix, and inquire for the writer, or for W. W. Caviness, at the Cold Spring ranch, and either of us will assist in locating new-comers all we can.

The chief products of Umatilla County are wheat, wool and live stock. Of the first two there were shipped in the year ending May 31, 1884, by rail, 44,723 tons (1,474,100 bushels) of wheat and 2,790,000 pounds of wool. The Assessor's returns for last year, which, of course, are not absolutely reliable, show the following statistics of the condition of the county: Acres of improved land, 490,000; horses and mules, 12,632; cattle, 11,295; sheep, 240,951 (wrong, as there are between 400,000 and 500,000 sheep in the county); swine, 4,438; gross value of property, \$5,759,624; net value for assessment purposes, \$3,895,902; rate of tax, \$1.96 on \$100;

number of inhabitants, 9,607; wealth per capita, \$599.52; number of school children, 4,536.

Coal has been found in the mountains south of Heppner, and though it has not been mined to any extent, the quality has been tested with good results, and prospecting enough has been done to show that it exists in great quantity. Some day, when a railroad has been extended up Willow Creek, these coal deposits will be extremely valuable. Several saw mills are located in the mountains, supplying the adjacent territory with lumber for the improvements constantly being made by the settlers. In summing up the condition of the county, the *East Oregonian* recently said: "This is a large country; none too large while it was sparsely settled, for it needs people as well as territory to organize and maintain a county government. Within the last two or three years, however, the population has so increased that both political conventions held last spring decided that it was expedient to form a new county in the western portion. Whether this will be done or not next year depends upon the view taken of the subject by the Legislature, though all the representatives from this county will favor such a division. The second reflection is that the pursuits, and with them the very character of the people, have to some extent undergone a change in the past few years. Formerly about the only business which men came here to pursue was that of stock raising, for which nearly the whole of this county was excellently adapted. It was a hardy, healthful, yet not a very hard-working sort of a life, and if properly pursued could hardly fail of success. But the plow has driven the flocks and herds almost entirely from some portions of the county, and greatly restricted them in others; and though the stock raising interests will always be large, this is even now, and will be still more so henceforth, an agricultural county. Scores of townships (thousands of sections), which four years ago were uninhabited except by roaming herds of stock, are now traversed by wire fences and dotted with settlers' cabins. Many, indeed most, of these people who intend to pursue farming as a business are poor. They are obliged to go in debt; consequently, the plentiful and "flush" times of years ago are no longer with us. We must henceforth be mostly a county of farmers, and ordinarily a farmer's life means hard and incessant work and small profits, even with strict economy and moderate good luck. This is not peculiar to us—it is so the world over; and here, after a few years of experiment and resultant wisdom—after the transformation from a pastoral to an agricultural life has become more complete and better recognized—the opportunities for farmers will be fully equal to those in almost any county in the Union."

The county seat and chief commercial centre of Umatilla County is Pendleton, a town of 1,800 inhabitants, situated on Umatilla River, on the western verge of the reservation. It is now seventeen years since the town was laid out and became the seat of justice, and its career has been one of steady advancement. It is admirably situated for a commercial centre, being centrally located