

exceedingly well, consequently there are many large and productive orchards. The inhabitants are all well-to-do. The late S. G. French, who was for many years a resident of the Cove, and one of Union County's most energetic citizens, in his will provided for the establishing of a girls' school upon his place, which he bequeathed to Bishop Morris, in trust, for that purpose. This school, under the management of a competent lady teacher, has recently been opened, and is meeting with much favor among the people. Mr. French also gave an endowment of \$5,000 to the beautiful little church which he and his friends had caused to be built in the Cove.

Summerville is situated in the north end of Grande Ronde Valley, in the centre of the largest farming community in the valley, sixteen miles from Union and thirteen from Island City. The population is between 250 and 300. It has two flouring mills, a planing mill, several good stores, shops, etc., lodges of Masons and Odd Fellows, and an excellent public school. Its location guarantees it a prosperous future.

The Eagle Creek Mountains lie east of Grande Ronde Valley. They are very rugged, and valuable only for timber and grazing, so far as their surface is concerned; but they are known to contain gold, silver and copper quartz ledges, which have yet to be sufficiently developed to ascertain their true value. It is expected that certain capitalists will undertake the development of some of these ledges ere long.

A section of the county as yet but thinly settled, and offering free homes to thousands, is the beautiful Wallowa Valley, the former home of Chief Joseph and his Nez Percés. The valley proper is some forty miles long and about twenty wide, including the arable foothills. It is occupied chiefly by stockmen, and is for the most part unfenced, though there are a number of fine farms, gardens and orchards. In civilization this is the newest country in Eastern Oregon, having been almost entirely settled and occupied during the last twelve years. In general it is a high, rolling country, with a colder climate than any other portion of Union County, excepting, of course, the mountainous regions. It is an excellent stock country, and the inhabitants are largely occupied in stock raising. The hardiest vegetables are grown, and various kinds of grain in most localities mature and ripen, but often more or less injured by frosts. Although the country has been settling up very rapidly during the last three years, the population is yet very sparse, and there is room for many thousand emigrants. This region, like Union County in general, is well watered. The Wallowa River is a clear, rapid stream, which finds its source in a beautiful lake at the southern end of the valley. This lake is about four miles long and one and one-half wide. In the lake are several varieties of fish in large quantities, and it is the home of the celebrated "red fish." Already many people resort to this lake in the summer time, and eventually it will become a famous watering place. Another locality worthy of special mention is the great Imnaha Canyon. It is best described as a huge crack in the surface of the earth. Its sides are masses of

cliff rock. The bed of the canyon is about 1,500 feet lower than the Wallowa Valley and the table lands, which lie on either side of it. A clear stream of water runs swiftly through this canyon, and in many places there are small tracts of very fertile soil. The climate in this canyon is semi-tropical, and the cactus—which only grows in very warm climates—is found here growing plentifully. Several families have taken up their homes here, and have found the soil and climate well adapted to the culture of grapes, peaches and many other varieties of tender fruits. Snow seldom falls in this canyon, and stock fatten upon the green bunch grass which comes and matures before the snow is fairly off of the high lands adjacent. The Imnaha will, in the near future, be noted for its delicious fruits and early vegetables. To the east and north of Wallowa Valley lies a belt of open, rolling hills similar to the celebrated wheat lands at the western base of the Blue Mountains. This belt is forty miles long and about twelve wide, fully one-third being good arable land.

In the Wallowa Valley there are several small towns, each consisting of one or two stores, a post office, perhaps a blacksmith shop, and a few dwellings. Some of them will, doubtless, in the future, be of considerable importance, as they are all growing in business and population with the settlement of the surrounding country. Joseph, Lostine and Alder are the three leading ones, each advantageously situated as regards tributary country.

There are several small valleys in the county, fertile and productive. One of these, Indian Valley, situated north of Grande Ronde Valley, is quite thickly settled, and is a rich grain producing section. Pine Valley is a very beautiful place, nestling high up in the roughest part of the Eagle Creek Mountains, very much isolated, but containing at present about 100 families. Eagle Valley and Lower Powder River, in the southeastern part of the county, are places occupied by but a few people, who are engaged in gold mining and stock raising. North Powder is a new place, which promises to become an important railroad depot. It is supported by a large farming community which has settled along the valleys of Wolf Creek, North Powder River and Clover Creek. There is room in this vicinity for many families to find good homes. The Big Creek country, in which is the little community of Jamestown, is also a growing one, and offers good opportunities for settlement.

Bunch grass ranges border the valleys on all sides, making the county one of the best stock regions on the Coast. More than one-half of the farming lands are yet open to settlement under the homestead and pre-emption laws. Saw mills to cut the heavy timber of the mountains, and grist mills to grind the wheat of the valleys, already exist, and their number annually increases. The Baker City Branch of the O. R. & N. Co. passes through Grande Ronde Valley, and this county is on a direct route to the East by way of the Oregon Short Line. Stock, grain, butter, cheese, etc., can now be shipped to markets either east or west. From the above description no one can fail to see that this county is one of the