

largest, richest and most inviting in the West; that, compared to its extent and capabilities, its population is small, and that it is capable of supporting a population many times greater than it at present has; that many thousand homes are only waiting to be claimed by those who will take them; that it has many natural advantages which the counties adjoining it do not possess; and that one may find within its boundaries health, wealth and such a climate as will insure long life and continual happiness. The inducements held out by Union County are attracting hundreds of families, and it will not be long before the best lands will be settled and brought under cultivation.

A resident of the county, well informed, thus speaks on the subject of the opportunities for settlers: "Notwithstanding the considerable extent of country settled upon in Union County the last few years, there is still room for many thousand more settlers on good Government land. I am assured by persons of credibility that there is quite a large tract of country lying between the settlements of Wallowa and Snake River, and I know there are many good claims yet vacant in the Lower Powder River country, as well as other localities, while all through the low mountains of the county there are many open places of splendid soil, water and grass, where some day, in the near future, strong arms and stout hearts will make comfortable and happy homes. These places can be improved much cheaper and quicker than lands more remote from timber, and I think very much of this character of land is especially adapted to the growth of fruit and hops, as fruit trees are much less liable to winter kill, and the fruit not so subject to damage by the frosts of spring, as the lands of the valleys. It is unfortunate for Grande Ronde Valley that so much of the land here is owned in large tracts by speculators, who do not attempt to improve it, but hold it at so high a figure as to virtually put it out of the market. Land monopoly is the very worst incubus the country generally has to contend with. Of course, a man has a right to hold his land as high as he pleases, or to refuse to sell at all, but it would be much more to the interest of our schools, and roads especially, if all the lands were settled and improved."

The manufacturing industries of the county are quite considerable, and are constantly increasing. First in importance, because first in necessity, stand the lumber and flouring mills. Of the former there are now eighteen running in the county, with an average capacity of 10,000 feet daily. The output from these mills equals a quantity of lumber sufficient for the erection of a large house and barn and for fencing a 160-acre tract of land every day, and still have lumber to spare. There is an increasing demand for lumber among the farmers, who are daily making very creditable progress in the improvement of their farms. The lumbering interest of this county, even now, is only in its infancy. There are eight flouring mills in the county, all kept running to their full capacity. This industry, like that of the lumberman, has received a new impetus upon the completion of the rail-

road. Flour made from Union County wheat now finds a market in all quarters. To these important industries may be added quite a list of smaller manufactories, which are being carried on in the county, and which are of incalculable value in supplying at home what people of many other localities have to send away for; in furnishing a variety of employment; and, above all, in keeping money at home to enter into active use in other lines of business, which would otherwise be sent out of the county altogether. There are two tanneries—one at the Cove and the other at Union—both of which turn out a very good article of leather. The manufacture of lime is carried on to quite an extent, but principally at the Big Creek kiln, where an inexhaustible supply of lime rock, easily quarried, is found, and within convenient distance of wood. The lime from this kiln is used all over Union and Baker counties, and even in Idaho, the quality being equal to the best that is found anywhere. The facilities for making brick are excellent, and the industry is carried on to the same extent that the demands of the county may require. In Union there is a chain pump factory; also machinery for the manufacture of continuous concrete water pipe, drain tiles and flues. All over the county may be found carpenter, blacksmith and cooper shops, planing and shingle mills, while both in La Grande and Union the manufacture of furniture is extensively carried on. All are kept busy in supplying the demands of a rapidly increasing population. A soap factory at La Grande, although but recently established, is sending out a considerable quantity of an excellent article of soap. In two different places in the county the manufacture of cheese is made an exclusive business—one in the Wallowa and the other in the Cove. In both places the buildings have been fitted up for the express purpose. The Cove factory turned out during the past season an immense quantity of cheese, supplying nearly the whole upper country, besides the home demand. The Cove is also the recognized fruit store house of this section. Two fruit dryers are run, and the necessity for sending away for dried fruits is thus very materially lessened. Hop growing has recently been experimented upon with results highly satisfactory, and the industry is certain to become an important one in this county. There are many other industries which it is needless to dwell upon at this time. This is simply a showing of what this comparatively new county is doing. To what extent manufacturing industries may increase it is impossible to conjecture. All the raw materials which Nature can give have been lavished here, with abundant water power to turn them to man's use.

That Union County will become of great importance as a manufacturing centre is without doubt, as no place on the Pacific Slope offers superior inducements for the investment of capital in the various industries, and that the capital will come we have no reason to doubt, when the county becomes better known. One of the best inducements to outside capital is for the citizens themselves to show their faith in the future of the county by establishing enterprises of their own, however small.