

twenty-five miles long and ten wide, and is occupied exclusively by a large stock firm. The same firm dominates Warm Spring Valley, a tract eight by eighteen miles, lying just below Silver Valley.

Going south from Silver Valley, the road follows up a grade through timber. At the summit the timber breaks away, and a vast expanse of level land stretches out before the vision like an ocean. This is the great Harney Valley, into which the road passes by a gradual descent of five miles. The valley has an altitude of 3,500 feet. Some idea of its size may be obtained from the statement that it contains Harney Lake, a body of water forty miles long and from two to fourteen wide, and that this lake is not visible when the valley is first entered. Harney Valley is composed of a succession of large valleys, through which the lake runs, and a number of lateral and tributary valleys, each possessing a distinct appellation. Lake Harney has no visible outlet, and varies from eight to fifty feet in depth. The eastern end was formerly known as "Malheur Lake," being connected with Harney Lake proper simply by a stretch of marsh, but now the name "Harney" is used to designate the whole body of water. The main valley is twenty-four by thirty-five miles in extent. Sage Hen Valley, at the point where the road first enters it, is eighteen miles long by four wide. Warm Spring Valley is connected with Harney on the west. On the south is Happy Valley, a beautiful tract twelve by three miles in extent, in which grain farming has been successfully carried on for years, and in which there is still some vacant Government land. Also connected with Harney on the south are Diamond Valley, twenty by five miles, and Dunder and Blitzen Valley, forty-five by eight miles, all fenced in by a large stock firm, and held simply by right of occupation. All the land in the upper portion of Harney Valley belongs to the Government, except the school sections and a strip six miles wide granted to the Cascade Mountains Military Road. Much land has been taken up under the State Swamp Land Act, all land of that character having been granted to the State by Congress. That this act has been much abused there is no question, and there are probably thousands of acres taken possession of as "swamp and overflowed land" which can not properly be classed as such. This is as true in many other places in Southeastern Oregon as in this region. A number of settlers have recently gone into Harney Valley, disregarding the assertion of cattle men that it is unfit for agriculture, and it is to be hoped that their success will induce homesteaders to seek locations in all these valleys.

In the region to the south and southwest of Lake Harney there are numerous valleys, some of them of considerable size and others smaller and without names. Apparently these contain good arable soil, and afford fine locations for settlers. At present, like the region just under consideration, they are utilized solely by stockmen. Catlow Valley is four by twelve miles. Warner Lake Valley lies in the extreme southwestern corner of the county, and is fifty miles long by eight wide. Through its centre, from north to south, extends Warner Lake, a

body of water forty miles long, and varying in width from one-half to four miles.

Along the eastern edge of the county are numerous tributaries of the Middle Fork of the Malheur, along which is much desirable bottom land, all occupied by cattle men. Juniper Valley is four by six miles in extent. On White Horse Creek is White Horse Ranch, the headquarters of Todhunter & Devine, the largest cattle owners in the county. It is the home of Mr. Todhunter, and shows what this country is capable of agriculturally. The ranch is a model in every respect, producing grain, vegetables, fruits and flowers in abundance. Fowls and domestic animals of the best strains may here be found. The ranch, which occupies the whole valley, is eighteen miles long by six wide. "P" Ranch, headquarters of French & Glenn, is another illustration of the productiveness of this region. Crane Creek Valley, tributary to the Malheur, is twenty miles long and two wide, and is occupied by a stock firm. The same is true of Otis Valley, a tract four by fifteen miles in extent. On the Middle Fork of the Malheur there is, within the limits of Grant County, a tract of valley land eighteen miles long and six wide; also several arms stretching out from the main valley from three to six miles. Below this the river passes into Baker County, and flows across it to a junction with the Snake.

One cannot peruse the foregoing review of the location, size and condition of the numerous valleys of the county without being forcibly impressed with the fact that the stockmen have appropriated the lion's share. This they have been permitted to do because the public has been led to believe they were fit for nothing else. These men have steadily and persistently asserted that the lands of these valleys could not be successfully cultivated, and this in the very face of the fact that whenever they have found it necessary to cultivate them for their own use—as in the case of the "P" and White Horse ranches—they have met with the highest success. They have thus far been successful in keeping settlers out and appropriating the whole country to their own use, even completely fencing in many of the valleys, and grazing their vast bands of cattle free of expense on the public domain. In this every taxpayer in the county has been wronged. Were these valleys settled as they should be, and as they soon will be, the assessable valuation of county property, now \$3,300,000, would soon reach five times that amount. The cattle men are nearly all non-residents; the cattle are sold out of the county and the money used elsewhere; all the benefit the county derives is the presence of the few men needed to care for the stock and the taxes upon the cattle, greatly undervalued both in quantity and price. Todhunter & Devine have 40,000 cattle; French & Glenn, 30,000; Thomas Overfelt, 30,000; Riley & Herdin, 25,000; C. G. Alexander, 15,000; Sweetzer Bros., 25,000; George W. Mapes, 10,000; Wm. Hydespath, 6,000. Without counting the many smaller bands, this gives a total of 181,000, and yet the total number assessed for the year 1883-4 was but 74,611, valued at \$20 each, at a time when cattle were selling on