

At the upper end of the valley lies Baker City, the county seat, and largest commercial point in that portion of Oregon lying east of the Blue Mountains. Since the town site was laid out in 1868 it has received eight additions. Baker City has always been a thriving and enterprising town. As the supply point for a large area of agricultural, mining and grazing country it has enjoyed great prosperity, and now that it has received railroad advantages, its business and importance are increasing rapidly. Regions which formerly found an outlet to railroad lines in other directions, now are rendered tributary to this city, which has become the most accessible to them.

Baker City is substantially built, containing many quite expensive business blocks and private residences. Its location is good, and the view across the valley to the timbered sides and snowy summits of the Blue Mountains is surpassingly beautiful, especially when the sun has just sunk to rest behind them, and the roseate hues of the sky and snowy peaks contrast strongly with the deep blue, indigo and purple of the lower hills. The population at present is estimated to exceed 1,500. The growth of the past few years has been quite marked and permanent. There are fifteen large two-story brick or stone business blocks. The business interests may be summarized as follows: There are four large stores of general merchandise and one clothing store, five provision and grocery stores, two bakeries, two drug stores, three livery stables, five hotels, one book store, three blacksmith shops, one wagon shop, two butcher shops, two millinery stores, one hide and fur store, one National bank, one private bank, nine lawyers, five physicians, two saddle and harness shops, three hardware stores, three jewellers, three shoemakers, two planing mills, one saw mill, one grist mill, four newspapers, two express offices, one tailor, three breweries, one surveyor, fourteen saloons, a large number of carpenters and blacksmiths, three painters, two barber shops, four hardware implement stores, two large Chinese stores, two cigar stores, three laundries, two dentists, one brickmaker, one undertaker, two furniture stores. There are seven secret societies, also six religious denominations represented, four of which have good church edifices. There is an excellent public school, employing three teachers; also a school for boys and one for girls, under the auspices of the Roman Catholics. The boys' school occupies a large three-story brick building, and has four instructors. The enterprise and intelligence of the city is shown by the number and character of its newspapers. The daily *Sage Brush* is a sprightly little sheet, while the *Bedrock Democrat*, *Reveille* and *Tribune* are well conducted and influential weeklies, giving much attention to home matters and working for the interests of the county. As the centre of population, trade and capital of the county, Baker City must thrive and increase in prosperity and population under the new order of things inaugurated by the construction of the railroad. Here must continue to be the metropolis of Southeastern Oregon, growing with the development of the surrounding and tributary country.

Below the great valley, both along the main stream

and the North Powder, is much fine arable land not yet fully occupied, where settlers can find some most desirable locations. Burnt River, down which the railroad runs, and at the mouth of which it crosses Snake River, is the next important tributary of the latter stream above the mouth of the Powder. This stream rises in the Blue Mountains, in the same region which gives birth to the Powder and John Day, and flows almost due east to Snake River. Along its course, and on many of its numerous tributaries, is a strip of fine bottom land, occasionally widening out into little valleys. Many settlements have been made by men who are prosperously engaged in farming and raising sheep and cattle. Near the mouth of the stream is the new town of Huntington, the point of junction between the Oregon Short Line and the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company.

The Malheur is the next large stream entering the Snake south of, or above, Burnt River. Between the mouths of these two streams the Oregon Short Line follows closely the course of Snake River, on the Idaho side. A few miles above the Malheur it crosses into Oregon and enters the new town of Ontario, which has been built as the railroad point for the valley. The town is situated on the bank of Snake River, and is destined to become quite an important commercial point. It is surrounded by a large body of good arable land, and is the natural shipping point for the whole Malheur Valley. By means of a ferry across the Snake, Payette Valley, in Idaho, will find this a desirable trading point. From Ontario, following up the Malheur, the valley has an average width of four miles until the canyon is reached, thirty miles above. Three ditches have been constructed, which supply all the water needed for irrigating this tract. Until the railroad was built the valley was comparatively unsettled, but about a year ago, when the route of the Short Line became known, settlements in this region were quickly made. Grain, vegetables and fruits produce abundantly, and the climate of the valley proper, as distinguished from the surrounding uplands, is extremely mild. Near the centre of the valley is the little town of Vale, consisting of a store, saloon, feed stable, blacksmith shop and post office. Below the town Willow Creek, a stream of considerable size, enters the river. From its source, fifty miles to the northwest, it flows through a splendid region. Willow Creek Valley is one of the oldest settlements in the county, and is an excellent farming country. The farms lie along the stream, which carries water sufficient for all the needs of the settlers, and the surrounding hills are covered with bunch grass, upon which large quantities of stock are grazed. Good roads run through the valley, and several post offices have been established for the convenience of the people. Just above Vale, Bully Creek enters the Malheur. With its tributaries, Cottonwood, Indian, Clover and Dry creeks, this stream drains an area of 400 square miles, which is now ranged by stockmen, with the exception of that portion along the creek bottoms occupied by farmers. This is a newly settled region, but one which a little enterprise can convert into a veritable garden spot. It is