

large and productive orchards are in that vicinity. Summerville, in the north end of the valley, has two flouring mills, a planing mill and a population of 300. In Wallowa Valley are several small towns, the leading ones being Joseph, Lostine and Alder.

BAKER COUNTY.

The county of Baker occupies the extreme southeastern corner of Oregon, and is the second largest in the State. Its length from north to south is 200 miles and its width sixty. High timber-clad mountains in the north, breaking, as progress is made southward, into lower and more barren mountains, elevated plateaus, sage-covered or barren plains, characteristic of the great Nevada Basin on whose edge it lies, and many streams, both large and small, along whose courses are numerous fertile valleys and natural meadows, are the leading topographical features. Of the estimated area of 11,000,000 acres only one-third has been surveyed. The O. R. & N. Co.'s line, which joins with the Oregon Short Line to make a through route from Omaha to Portland, passes through Powder River Valley and Baker City and runs down Burnt River.

The watercourses of the county are numerous and convey continuously a great volume of water. Flowing northward along the upper half of its eastern boundary is the great Snake River, the leading tributaries of which are Powder, Burnt, Malheur and Owyhee, each of which has numerous large and small feeders. The bottom lands along these streams are very fertile, and frequently spread out into grassy valleys of considerable width. Some of this land lying back from the streams, and slightly elevated above them, requires irrigating to render it productive, much of it being favorably located for that purpose. Some of it, however, requires but slight irrigation, and still other portions none whatever. When all the land in Baker County which can be irrigated cheaply and handily shall be placed under cultivation, the productive area will be increased tenfold. The land nearly all belongs to the Government, and the most desirable portions have been surveyed.

The most thickly settled portion is the northern, in the region of Powder and Burnt rivers. Powder River Valley is twenty miles long and about sixteen miles wide. Along its whole course the Powder has fertile bottom lands, spreading out at times into quite considerable valleys, in many of which there may be found excellent vacant locations for settlement. The large valley is well settled, and is the centre of the greatest population of the county. The soil is fertile and susceptible of the highest state of cultivation. At the upper end of the valley lies Baker City, the county seat and largest commercial point in that portion of Oregon. The city is substantially built, containing many quite expensive business blocks and private residences, and a population approximating 1,500. There are two planing mills, one saw mill, one grist mill, four newspapers, three breweries and numerous stores, shops, etc. 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 has along its course, as have also many of its numerous tributaries, 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 O. R. & N. Co.

Near the mouth of the Malheur is the new town of Ontario, situated on the bank of Snake River and on the Oregon Short Line. 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. Grain, vegetables and fruits produce abundantly, and the climate of the valley proper is extremely mild. Near the centre of the valley is the little town of Vale. Willow Creek Valley is one of the oldest settlements in the county, and is an excellent farming country. 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. Above the canyon the valley land along the Malheur varies in width from absolutely none whatever to a strip six miles across. Wherever it thus opens out into valleys facilities exist for irrigating, the construction of ditches being all that is required. Along the three branches near the headwater there is much excellent land, similar in many respects to that lower down the main stream. It is only of late years that the value of this region has been recognized and its agricultural possibilities known. Stock raising in connection with farming will always be a profitable industry, as there are thousands of acres lying contiguous to the valleys which will never be valuable for any purpose but grazing. Every farmer will have a free range for a limited number of cattle.

The Snake River Valley, between the Owyhee and Malheur, consists of the river bottom and a bench, elevated above the river from twenty to forty feet, and three to six miles wide. Water for irrigating can be brought from the Owyhee, and, when done, will bring into cultivation about 40,000 acres of good land.

The southern end of the county is drained by the Owyhee and its forks and tributaries. It is a region of short mountain ranges, plateaus and vast plains, some of them covered with the choicest bunch grass, and others having no vegetation but sage brush. Along the streams are numerous fertile valleys, which form the headquarters of stockmen, who own great bands of cattle. Much of that region is worthless for any purpose whatever, other portions of it make excellent cattle ranges, while there is not a little which is adapted to the pursuit of