

which are supposed to be matters of general information, to properly read and digest an immigration pamphlet. It is occasionally the case that positive misstatements of facts are made, chiefly by irresponsible scribblers and "traveling correspondents," whose productions are composed of equal parts of ignorance and imagination, but it is seldom the finger can be laid upon untruthful paragraphs in such legitimate immigration publications as should be looked upon as authoritative or worthy of confidence. For one case where dissatisfaction arises from actual perversion of facts, there will be ten growing out of the inability to fully comprehend or digest what has been published. It is too often the case that in reading of this region a few facts are seized upon, facts in strong and favorable contrast with unsatisfactory conditions at home, while all others are ignored, and over these is thrown the proverbial enchantment of distance. Thus primed the immigrant reaches his destination only to suffer terrible disappointment. In his anger and chagrin he naturally believes and asserts that he has been deceived, when, in reality, he is himself chiefly to blame for the erroneous ideas he started with. Such cases are met with every day. It is very questionable if there was ever a description of the Puget Sound country issued for immigration purposes that did not call special attention to the fact that it is a densely timbered region, and that farms can only be made by years of hard labor in clearing the land, yet almost daily disappointed immigrants are encountered who complain bitterly of not finding vacant land there upon which they can at once begin farming. After the physical characteristics of that region have been so thoroughly described in publications of every sort, it seems almost impossible that an intelligent man could have so little comprehended what he read as to expect to find open prairie land waiting for him along Puget Sound. But the fact still remains that many do have just such ideas and hold others responsible for them. Still others come with the expectation of settling upon Government land within a few miles of Portland, Salem, Walla Walla and other old towns, where the surrounding farms have been under cultivation for many years. No respectable publication ever said that vacant land could be found in the outskirts of our chief cities. If an immigrant desires land in the heart of the Willamette Valley, or contiguous to any of our towns, he must buy it; and he who has sufficient capital will generally find it far preferable to purchase land whose character and location suit him than to undertake the task of clearing forest land or making a home on the prairie, where he must wait for towns to grow and markets to be created. The vacant lands of Western Oregon and Washington are only to be found in the foothills and mountains and along the courses of streams now far removed from the usual routes of travel and not of easy access to market, and all are covered with brush and timber. East of the mountains there is a great quantity of open prairie and river bottom lands, devoid of timber, the choicest of which now remaining vacant lies at considerable distance from any railroad. There is, however, much good land

comparatively near railroad stations, though none, of course, in the immediate vicinity of any railroad town of prominence. It is evident that immigrants who desire to settle upon Government land must come prepared to go into the forest or help to develop some new region. The best openings are to be found by those who are willing to purchase. Such persons will find much desirable land for sale at from \$10 to \$50 per acre, with cash and time payments.

THERE is a phase of the immigration question which has received too little attention from the press, an evil which the present movement to inaugurate local town and county immigration boards will have a tendency to abate. In nearly every town there are a few land sharks—harpies who prey upon strangers who are seeking for land. There are reputable real estate dealers and there are scoundrels who make the business simply a cloak to hide their rascalities. Some of the simplest forms of swindling practiced by them is selling land to which they have no title; bargaining for the sale of a fine piece of property to which they have not a shadow of claim and which may not be in the market at all, and then giving a deed to a comparatively valueless tract perhaps a mile or two away; purchasing railroad or other land for an immigrant and receiving from him the full value, while actually paying only the first installment; receiving fees for locating a claim upon land which they are well aware is not open to location, or actually filing upon some worthless tract, while pretending to secure for their client some valuable one which they have shown him. These are but a few of the numerous devices employed by such men. It should be the first duty of immigration boards to checkmate such reprehensible schemes, and those towns possessing no organization of that character should form one, if for no other purpose than to defend themselves from the injury inflicted by such tricksters. The harm they do the localities in which they live cannot be calculated. Not a tenth of their schemes are successful, and fully one-half the men whom they attempt to swindle become distrustful and leave in disgust, when otherwise they would probably invest and become valuable additions to the community. In justice to them and to ourselves we should endeavor to encourage and protect immigrants as much as possible. We have invited them to come and settle among us, and it is our duty to keep them out of the clutches of these land sharks. It is also a duty we owe to ourselves to prevent intending investors and settlers from being driven away by such unscrupulous leeches.

In speaking of the comparative merits of wheat growing and diversified farming, in which term dairying is included, the *St. Louis Republican* says that if one-half the money and labor expended last year in raising Missouri's crop of 35,000,000 bushels of wheat had been given to dairying the net returns would have been doubled. There is in this statement considerable for farmers to think about. Wheat raising in the Mississippi Valley is rapidly becoming unprofitable in competition with the