

six wide, containing 200,000 acres of good arable land. Wherever this has been brought under cultivation by means of irrigating ditches the most wonderful results have been obtained. Many large tracts have averaged forty-five bushels of wheat to the acre for a series of years and show no signs of exhaustion of vitality. Never suffering from an excess of moisture, and defying drouth with his irrigating canal, the farmer of this region is enabled to harvest a full crop year after year, exempt from the vicissitudes that render agriculture so uncertain in the Mississippi Valley. Six tons of alfalfa and four tons of red clover to the acre are cut on tracts as large as sixty acres. As high as 1,000 bushels of potatoes to two acres, 1,250 bushels of onions to two acres, 113 bushels of barley, over 100 bushels of oats and 60 bushels of flint corn to the acre are reported by the farmers of that region as being the product of irrigated land which but a few years ago was a dreary sage brush desert. Thousands of acres of such land are unclaimed in the valley. Fruit is the special product of Bois  Valley. Apples, pears, plums, peaches, nectarines, cherries, etc., produce in the greatest abundance and are of large size and exquisite flavor. Last year 400,000 pounds of fruit were shipped from the valley to Butte, Montana, and this year the shipments are correspondingly large. When the railroad reaches Bois  next season this superb fruit will have the whole East for a market.

Rising above the valley is a series of immense benches or broad plateaus, sloping gently toward Bois  and Snake rivers, which has a soil equal, if not superior, in quality to that of the bottom lands. This land is so situated that it can be easily irrigated by a canal from Bois  River. The Idaho Mining and Irrigation Company is now constructing such a canal, thirty miles long and thirty-five feet wide at the bottom. It will carry four feet of water and will reclaim 400,000 acres of this desert land. The supply of water in the river, derived from the melting snows of the Sawtooth Mountains, is ample to keep the canal full at all seasons of the year. Here the immigrant will find the best of soil, with an irrigation ditch ready to water it for a slight annual tax per acre.

The climate of Bois  City and vicinity is salubrious. The atmosphere is dry and clear in summer, and in winter the snow rarely falls to a great depth. Heavy snow storms are confined to the mountains, whence the streams in summer derive a never-failing supply of water. A snowfall of from five to eight inches in the valley is carried off in one day by the warm winds from the coast, known throughout the West as the "Chinook." Waterfowl and other migratory birds remain during the winter, snow and ice not being sufficiently continuous to cause them to leave for a more southern location. In summer the heat is tempered by cooling breezes from the mountains, though heavy wind storms are unknown.

Taken as a whole, there is much in Bois  City and vicinity to tempt the immigrant seeking a farm or business location, and that the city and surrounding country should grow rapidly during the next decade would seem to be facts too evident to fear contradiction.

THE PINE CREEK MINES.

HAVING spent a week in Cornucopia, the "camp" of the Pine Creek mines, I am prepared to give you an idea of the country passed through in reaching that new El Dorado of Eastern Oregon, as well as to express an opinion as to the character and extent of the quartz ledges that have created so much excitement, an opinion based on an intimate acquaintance with quartz mines, and with old and new mining camps, extending over a long series of years.

Passing without comment upon the charming scenery of the Columbia River and Blue Mountains, which claimed so much of my attention from Portland to Baker City, I will begin at the latter point, where I exchanged the ease and comfort of a Pullman car for the cruder and more muscular accommodations of the stage and buck-board.

Baker City is a beautiful town of some 2,200 inhabitants, three fine schools, four churches, some very nice business houses, and a class of citizens, generally speaking, alive to their interests. It has several good hotels, in one of which, the Arlington, I found rest until the next morning, when I secured passage on Kellogg's line of stages to Cornucopia for the sum of \$6.

Leaving Baker City, rather a desolate strip of country was passed over for a distance of eighteen miles, a region that can be equaled only by the sage brush country of Nevada. Not a tree nor anything else was in sight to remind the traveler from the Willamette Valley that he was still in the State of Oregon until the Powder River Valley was reached. After passing on ten miles further, where a nice timber belt was reached, I beheld the wreck of an old mining town called "Gemtown," where, in former years, this industry was carried on extensively; but, like many such places in California, nothing more than the decaying log cabins and upturned gulches are left to mark the spot where, perhaps, millions were extracted, and the greater portion, no doubt, squandered. A few men still remain there earning a mere living in some surface diggings. They work during the spring months while Nature furnishes water free that would otherwise have to be purchased. Two miles further on is Sparta. This is also a mining town, consisting of a store, post office, two hotels, and, strange to say, only one saloon. There mining is still carried on quite extensively, but, unfortunately for the surrounding country, principally by Mongolians, of whom some hundred or more find employment in the different gulches. That this region of country has many mineral bearing lodes will, no doubt, be proven ere long, for the mineral belt of Pine Creek no doubt commences at this point and forms an entire range extending beyond the Snake River into Idaho, fully sixty miles or more.

After dining at Sparta we continued on to Eagle Valley. This is a fine valley, some ten miles long, into which the emigrant found his way some fifteen years ago. Here everything in the shape of vegetables and fruit is raised, the only drawback being the want of a good market, a lack which, if the mines above prove as