

THE LOST RIVER COUNTRY.

That portion of Idaho known as the "Lost river country," lies east of the Wood river mountains, north and west of the lava beds, and south of the Salmon river divide. It embraces some 3,500 square miles of mountain and valley land. The following description is epitomized from the *Houston Press*:

Some forty miles above Houston, in Thousand Spring and one or two other valleys, the Big Lost river has its source and trends away southeasterly to the great lava beds, where it sinks and is lost. About thirty miles east of Houston another important stream rises, which bears the name of Little Lost river. This also disappears, after winding southward through beautiful valleys a distance of forty miles, in the great lava district. Emptying into these streams are numerous feeders, small creeks which are formed high up on the mountains by springs and melting snow, and which come tumbling down the rocky, precipitous canyons with a fall of from 200 to 1,000 feet to the mile. Everywhere along the main streams, the creeks, and the hundreds of miniature lakes that are hidden among the mountain peaks, are deep fringes of the softer varieties of wood, such as quaking asp, cotton wood, etc., while the mountains are heavily timbered with fir, pine, spruce, cedar and mountain mahogany.

Within the entire Lost river country there is not a mountain whose surface does not show indications of mineral within its rough exterior. Prospecting is only in its infancy in this section, and mining has not been carried on very extensively, nevertheless, the main mineral belt, which trends northwesterly and southeasterly on the west side of Big Lost river, has been sufficiently explored to not only guarantee this an almost inexhaustible field for the miner, but has as well uncovered to the gaze of those of the mining world who wish to come and behold them, the most gigantic ledges of pay ore that have ever been discovered. If a correct report of the vastness of the mineral deposits within ten miles of Houston was compiled by the most noted expert of the Pacific coast, and then the figures divided by two before given to the publisher, the reader thereof would permit a smile of incredulity to permeate his physiognomy and would doubtless look upon the entire report as a gross fabrication, resulting from the receipt of a cash consideration of unusual proportions.

Owing to the home demand for garden products the Lost river rancher is fast accumulating a comfortable supply of this world's goods. Wheat and oats, which yield bountifully per acre, bring three cents per pound in Houston, while potatoes, large, smooth and mealy, are in demand at from two to three cents per pound, according to the season in which they are marketed. Other products, such as lettuce, onions, cabbage, radish, parsnips, turnips, cucumbers, melons, etc., find ready sale at figures which would astonish the gardener of the Eastern States. We can call to mind the names of a number of ranchers who came to Lost river only one

year ago with scarcely anything, who now have comfortable homes, several head of horses and cows, and pigs and poultry, and whose crops this year will leave them a comfortable bank account on the credit side of the ledger. This is truly the poor man's country, provided of course, the poor man is a worker and rustler.

In no section of Idaho has nature more bountifully provided for stock than in the Big and Little Lost river valleys and the foothills bordering upon these never failing streams. There are scores of fine ranges in the vicinity of the above named rivers that are sheltered by high mountains whose peaks turn the snow-laden clouds of winter from the valleys and foothills, and make the winter pasturage all that could reasonably be desired. Thousands of head of horses and cattle roam over these ranges at all seasons of the year, and at all times are sleek and fat. There is still room for large numbers of cattle, and many desirable ranches with streams running through them—thus affording an inexhaustible water supply—are subject to location. The cost of raising stock in the Lost river country is as low as on almost any ranges in the United States. Every owner of stock in this section has been successful and all are rapidly becoming wealthy.

PETROLEUM AS A WOOD-PRESERVER.

A correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* writes in regard to the value of crude petroleum as a wood-preserved, as follows: "Fresh, light petroleum, if applied warm, will penetrate, if the wood is dry, almost as readily as water; and, once thoroughly saturated, 'it is there to stay;' water will not wash it out. I have been for years a producer of crude petroleum, and have yet to find a board or piece of timber connected, or otherwise, with the works, that had once been saturated, which is not sound where the oil touched; while frequently parts not oiled have decayed rapidly. I have just finished taking down and making over into smaller ones a wooden storage-tank, which was first built over eighteen years ago, and left exposed to all kinds of weather. We did not find one rotten spot in it; everything was sound. I have known oil barrels, and also small tanks, to be covered with a thin layer of earth and remain so, in one case over fourteen years, and come out sound." He especially states, that, saturated with this moisture-repellant from nature's own marvellous laboratory, sills of barns and similar buildings will outlast any other part of the frame; and he remarks that, after the first two or three days, the application does not expose wood to any increased risk from fire.

RHEUMATISM.—A German who has been greatly benefited by the use of celery for rheumatism says: "I had a severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism, and I was healed in two days' time by soup made of the stalks and roots of celery. The celery should be cut into bits, boiled in water until soft, and the water drunk by the patient. Serve warm with pieces of toasted bread, and the painful ailment will soon yield."