

## LAKE COUNTY, OREGON.

THE movement on foot to construct a good wagon road across the Cascades, in Southern Oregon, in order to render Lake and Klamath counties more accessible, is attracting considerable attention to that region. With Lake county our people are probably less familiar than with any other portion of Oregon, since its trade is now almost exclusively with San Francisco. It lies south of Crook, east of Klamath, west of Grant and north of Modoc, the extreme northeastern county of California. The center of settlement is the Goose lake region, a large body of water which forms one of the sources of the Sacramento. Lakeview, the county seat, lies a few miles north of the lake, in the midst of the largest body of agricultural land in the county. It contains a population of six hundred, and is growing rapidly. It contains a dozen stores, various kinds of shops, the United States land office for that district, and a good local newspaper, the *Examiner*. The merchants carry larger stocks of goods than one would expect to find in a town of that size, owing to the fact that all merchandise has to be hauled a long distance in freight wagons, and a small stock can not be quickly and conveniently replenished. There are thousands of acres of good arable land in the county, much of which is still open for settlement. Title can be purchased at from \$1.50 to \$50.00 per acre. Improved land within a few miles of Lakeview can be had at from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per acre. Wheat, oats and barley produce prolifically and are of good quality. Vegetables of all kinds thrive with cultivation. Hay is, perhaps, the leading and most profitable crop, since the chief industry is stock raising. Large bands of stock roam the hills and valleys, the cattle being disposed of to San Francisco buyers, who send agents to purchase them and drive them to market.

The general surface of the country is mountainous, though by no means rugged. High, rolling hills, between which lie fertile valleys and many lakes of varied sizes, are the general topographical features. In the main the hills are devoid of timber, the sage brush, which holds almost undisputed possession of the vast basin lying between the Cascade and Sierra Nevada ranges on one hand and the Rocky mountains on the other, being the one great form of natural vegetation. Bunch grass, upon which cattle thrive summer and winter, covers large areas, and is the chief dependence of the stock men. The soil is highly impregnated with alkali, so much so in places as to be rendered unfit for agriculture until relieved of its surplus quantity. The value of alkaline soils is plainly set forth by Professor Hilgard, on another page, to which the reader is referred. Some of the lakes are alkaline, while others are fresh, the latter being well stocked with fish. In Goose lake fish are very abundant, and in the spring season wagon loads of large and delicious trout are caught by the people and salted down in barrels for future use.

The climate is a most healthful one. Malarial diseases are unknown. The atmosphere is fresh, clear and

free from miasma and dampness. The newcomer soon finds his appetite stimulated and the quantity of victuals he can dispose of at a meal largely increased. Compared to the upper portion of the Mississippi valley, the winters are extremely mild, though, to be sure, more severe than in that portion of Oregon lying west of the Cascades. The mercury seldom falls below zero, and when it does it is only for a brief period. The lowest ever registered by the thermometer was sixteen degrees below zero. The quantity of snow which falls during the winter is not great, nor does it lie on the ground long at a time. Ordinarily there is enough to give good sleighing for a short time. Spring opens early, and before the first of May vegetation is well advanced. The rainfall is light, so much so that irrigation is necessary in the greater portion of the county, which, owing to the many streams and lakes is not difficult nor expensive. When properly irrigated, sage brush land has proved itself to be the most productive on the Pacific coast. The absence of rain in the summer season is a guaranty to the farmer that his harvest will be exempt from the dangers that menace crops in the East while being gathered. Whatever by his industry he has caused to grow he feels a reasonable assurance he will be able to harvest in good condition.

North and northwest of Goose lake valley lie others, in some of which stock-raising is almost the only industry. The first, Crooked creek valley, is six miles long and from one to two wide. It is all owned by thriving and industrious farmers, who are engaged in the stock business and also raise grain and hay in large quantities. A few miles further north is Lower Crooked creek valley, a stretch of arable land twelve miles long and from two to eight wide. It is owned and enclosed by stockmen, who use it for pasturage and meadow, and who range their stock on the desert in the fall and winter. The Lower Marsh is the name of a small valley a short distance farther north, through which runs the Chewaucan river. Great quantities of hay are cut there for feeding stock. Crossing a dividing ridge northwesterly from this point, one enters the valleys of Chewaucan and Summer lake, about sixty miles in length, enclosed by rimrock on the east and timber-bearing mountains on the west. Snow falls to a considerable depth in the mountains, giving the streams a good supply of water until late in the summer. The mountains contain plenty of grass for summer range, as well as timber for building. They abound in game, and the streams are full of trout. The foothills are covered with fine grass, upon which large numbers of cattle are grazed. There is considerable farming done in the valley. Paisley, on Chewaucan river, is a town of nearly three hundred inhabitants, and contains several stores and shops. The river affords good water power. The soil is excellent, and in a few years, by irrigation, will be rendered highly prolific. Fruit trees thrive, and many have been set out the past few years, but the settlement is too recent to have any large bearing orchards. A few trees which were set out a number of years ago produce an