

thrift and industry, better plowing, better drainage, better stock, better poultry, better fruit, better vegetables; but, also, that which makes the dreary isolation of the country home impossible; that creates, in the young people especially, a bright, cheery, happy, inviting social and educational condition. That is the meaning of the incoming immigration, and every right-thinking man will welcome the prospect.

In spite of all this customary talk about the drawbacks, here in Oregon, to this system of farming, it is very apparent that the man who has from sixty to eighty acres of land in the farming districts of this state, and who, after the thrifty, enterprising, industrious manner of the eastern farmer, cultivates his ground, has fruits of the best, vegetables of the best, keeps poultry for eggs and food, has a little stock, some grain, bees and berries, in a word, makes every rod of soil yield him money as a purchasing power, will not only live more comfortably, but, at the end of ten years, will actually be worth more, and own a more valuable place, than does his neighbor with a thousand-acre wheat field. In the beginning, he will have required much less capital, and have run a proportionally smaller risk. In this state, the drawbacks, as compared to the incentives to agricultural reform, are nothing. There are thousands of acres of desirable land in Oregon available to the small farmer, with a sufficient variety of location. In the region lying between Ashland and the Calipooia spur, the lands are not, perhaps, as suitable for grains and grasses as they are for fruits, vegetables, nuts, and the like; but it is precisely the soil required for these things, and, at the same time, produces fair crops of cereals, and especially corn. Land in the vicinity of the railway and the towns can be bought in small, improved tracts for twenty or twenty-five dollars an acre, and

unimproved railway and private property for half that sum. In the valley of the Willamette, on either side of the river, is an immense stretch of fertile country, having superior climatic conditions, and producing bountiful crops almost throughout its extent. No irrigation is required, and, in every way, it is fitted to the demands of the small farmer. It is, indeed, a part of the state in which everything necessary to make life agreeable, can be more rapidly and more easily secured than elsewhere in our domain. Poverty will not press heavily, nor long remain a wearing companion in this region, for the simple reason that land in such blocks as the poor man needs, can be had, in the foot-hill region of this section, without a great amount of money, and for the additional reason that, with a willingness to forego, on commencing, everything not absolutely necessary, it will, the first season, produce nearly all the food a family can need, by the simple labor of a man, aided by wife or child; and there are few districts, however removed from population centers, where a poor man cannot, from time to time, earn a little money for necessaries, which cannot, at first, be grown, either by labor for neighbors or by wood cutting and hauling, in clearing his own land. This will be best illustrated by giving here an actual case. In the latter part of August, 1885, a man of about thirty-six years of age, a farmer, from Ohio, accompanied by his wife and two children, the eldest a boy of thirteen years, came into the immigration rooms, and stated that he had come to locate; wanted information about a small place, that he could farm to advantage. In the course of a day or two, he made a choice of territory, and started in search of his home. He returned in October, 1886, and, after talking over his work for the past year or more, and asking for immigration literature for his friends "back