

and besides one sees but little of the valley in passing through. It is so divided by heavy belts of timber along the river and Bear creek, that the traveler never sees the south half of the valley, and frequently passes on without knowing that there is such a place. The valley proper is about five miles long by three miles in width, and contains some of the best hay land in the world. The hay crop is very seldom exhausted, large quantities being "summered over" almost every year. The Wallowa river passes through the middle of the valley, from east to west, heavily belted on either side with pine, cottonwood and alder timber; so much so as to hide from view some of the best hay farms, notably those of Wm. Webber and Joseph Johnston. Bear creek, coming down at right angles from the mountains on the south, also heavily timbered, cuts the south side (which is much the larger portion) of the valley in two portions, thus dividing the entire valley into two parts, and furnishing an abundance of timber for all purposes for many years to come, and a water power without end. The water of these streams is about as clear and pure as it is possible for water to be, and they abound in fish. The celebrated red-fish come up once a year, furnishing sport for about two weeks. Salmon come up three times a year, in April, August and November, while the spotted trout and shiners remain with us always.

Now, having considered the valley itself (which used to be considered all there was here) we have not made a commencement on the subject. Bordering the valley on the north, is a strip of hilly, bunch-grass country, extending eastward along the Wallowa basin for forty miles or more, and from four to ten miles in width. On the hills, which are neither high nor steep, may be found the richest and best grain land in all the West, interspersed with other land which is good for nothing but pasturage, as is the case in all hilly countries. Back of these hills, and extending to Snake river, some forty or fifty miles, is a scope of country, for the most part very finely timbered, and without underbrush, so that one may travel almost anywhere in a wagon. Every mile or two we encounter a thicket of long and most beautiful poles, sometimes extending for miles. These we have to go around, since they grow so thickly one can scarcely go through on foot. This would be a paradise for fencers and tie choppers. Scattered all through this vast scope

of country, are numerous open glades, like the beaver meadows of the East, covered with the best of grass from three to four feet high, with the very richest of deep, black soil, plenty of springs, and some streams of considerable size. This whole region will soon be settled. There are already some settlers located there, the only inconvenience being deep snows in winter. This region has before it a great future. Several large saw mills may work here for many years, and still there will be plenty of good timber left. Railroad ties may be shipped out for the building of thousands of miles of railroad, and there will be poles remaining. Vast herds of stock may graze here, and there will be plenty of grass left. Elk, deer and bear may be killed for many years, and some will yet remain. The snow falls here from three to four feet in depth, but with plenty of hay and grain laid in for winter use, stock will do much better and come out in better condition, than in warmer countries, where there is rain, wind and mud. For the first fifteen miles out, this country is quite level, much more so than most of the state of Iowa. After that, as you go north toward Snake river, it becomes more rough and broken, while the climate grows warmer—much warmer, in fact, than any part of the Wallowa valley. Incidentally, I mention that this is a great country for huckleberries, and for fear that any man should consider a huckleberry a small matter to make mention of, I will just say, that toward spring, a supply will go far toward making one feel healthy, wealthy and wise.

But to return to the valley. The lower part of the south half is hid from view and little known. It is called Diamond prairie. This prairie is, or rather was, the most dried up, parched and unproductive portion of Wallowa county, with the exception of some of its little "ranches" around the outskirts next to the mountains and river, which have always been very rich. Within the past three years, Mr. Chamberlain has located a desert claim in the center and driest part of the prairie, and has taken out a large irrigating ditch. As a consequence, he is making this desert region to "blossom as the rose." He is now cutting the best quality of hay, and a good crop of it, too, from land that used to be, from the first of May until the fall rains began, as dry as gunpowder, producing nothing but bunch grass, and very little of that.—*Wallowa Chieftain.*