

prosperous condition may be derived from the engravings on pages 711, 827 and 828, which give a general view of the town, and sketches of the ferry and several business blocks.

When the town was founded, the vast stretch of rolling hills to the south and southeast were considered valueless, except for grazing purposes. It was not long before it was discovered that a great portion was arable land of the finest quality; that its dryness was more apparent than real, and that it was capable of producing excellent crops of wheat, corn and other cereals, as well as vegetables, melons and fruits. It began to settle up rapidly, and in the past four years the gray vista of sage brush which stretched away from Arlington has been changed to one of golden grain. Thousands of acres of grazing land have been fenced in and brought under the plow. Where, a few years ago, the jack rabbit sported among the tufts of sage brush, are now happy homes and fields of grain, while the same breezes which then bore only the mournful howl of the cayote, now carry on their bosom the song of the reaper. The settlements have, in a measure, interfered with the stock interests, by cutting up the range, yet these are still quite large. Especially is sheep raising an important industry. There are more sheep grazed in the region tributary to Arlington than in any other in Oregon, and more wool is shipped from this point than from any other railroad station in the state.

Gilliam county, of which Arlington is the county seat by designation of the legislature, until definitely located by a vote of the people, lies between Wasco and Morrow, and stretches south from the Columbia to Crook and Grant counties. From all this vast territory, wagons loaded with wool and grain converge upon Arlington, in whose streets they form an almost continuous procession.

After leaving their burden at the large warehouses, they receive from the various stores or freight depot, loads of goods and supplies, which they convey into the interior.

There is no better opportunity to secure good prairie land, ready for the plow, than is to be found in Gilliam county. The flats along the creeks are all taken, but vast areas of uplands, which have been demonstrated to be the best wheat lands, and which receive the most moisture from the clouds, are yet open to settlement. Ascending the hill south of Arlington, a table land region opens out to view, and as far as the eye can reach, in every direction, are to be seen fields of grain and comfortable farm houses and buildings, all contributing to the wealth of the county, and especially to the prosperity of Arlington. Vast as is this area of farms, there is a still greater area of unclaimed land lying beyond, inviting the settler to make his home upon it. Mile after mile of this land, as good as any now occupied, is used only as a range for stock. This land, rising gradually from the river, and improving in quality as it approaches the mountains, has not been taken because other lands were more accessible to the railroad; but settlers are now rapidly coming in, and before many months it will all be occupied.

Settlers need have no fear of permanent isolation from railroads, as the O. R. & N. Co. has already projected two branch lines across Gilliam county, one of which, from Arlington to Heppner and Pendleton, will no doubt soon be built. The company has just negotiated a large sale of bonds. The money derived from these is to be devoted to the construction of branch lines, among which the one mentioned is one of the most important. Within a few years, Gilliam county will have as good rail-