

snow in winter. The timber will be a source of great wealth, and valuable mineral deposits will eventually be discovered in the mountains of Morrow county. The southern line of the county extends almost to the north fork of the John Day river, and good wagon roads will soon traverse the entire region.

Morrow county was named in honor of Hon. J. L. Morrow, one of its earliest pioneers, and still one of its leading and most respected citizens, ever prominent in advancing its interests. The county is, as yet, somewhat isolated from the transportation lines of the state, and this fact has been the great cause of its retarded growth. With a railroad through its agricultural portion, the thousands of acres of arable land, now vacant, would have been occupied and cultivated. As it is, immigrants are now taking up claims there without waiting for the railroad to show them the way. Among the branch lines projected by the O. R. & N. Co., is one from Pendleton to Heppner, and north to the main line at Arlington. This will be one of the first constructed by the company, and work will probably be commenced on it in the spring. This road will give Heppner and Morrow county transportation facilities equal to those of other regions, and lead to a more rapid development of the resources of that section.

The county seat, and the only town of importance in Morrow county, is Heppner, a prosperous and thriving business point on Willow creek. After passing through such an extent of partially occupied land as lies between the railroad and Heppner, one is surprised at finding here a town of such extent, neatness and general air of thrift as is presented by Heppner. It was founded in 1872, by those honored and honorable pioneers, J. L. Morrow and Henry Heppner, tak-

ing its name from the latter gentleman. This firm opened a country store at this point, and other adjuncts of a town soon gathered around them, and Heppner became a prosperous business community. In the years that have passed, and especially since it became the seat of justice of a new county, it has grown and flourished and developed into a substantial and prosperous business center. Its business structures are substantial, and the whole town presents a solid and permanent appearance. On pages 772, 829 and 830, are given engravings of the court house, school house, flouring mill—one of the best in the state—several business blocks and private residences, and a general view of the town. From these can be gathered a better idea of Heppner than from any description of its constituents. Nearly every line of business is represented, and the two houses of Heppner & Blackman and Minor & Dodson carry huge stocks of goods, and are among the leading business houses of Eastern Oregon. The public school house is a new and commodious structure, and the school is maintained at a high standard. Many of the residences are large and ornamental, and all new structures, of either a private or public nature, are first-class in every particular. Heppner will soon become the most important town on a branch line of the O. R. & N. Co., whose construction will give it a new impulse forward. There is no better business point in Oregon, and the town is steadily increasing its volume of trade. Its newspaper, the *Gazette*, is a live publication and an index of the spirit of enterprise pervading the whole community. Immigrants seeking land, and persons looking for a live business point in a rapidly developing region, are recommended to the grassy hills of Morrow county and the thriving town of Heppner.

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