

of wheat, wool, etc., the board has zealously worked to accomplish that end. When this is accomplished—as it will be some day—The Dalles will increase in size and commercial importance at a still greater rate than at present. At its last session, the legislature passed an act authorizing the city to issue bonds to the amount of \$25,000.00, for the purpose of constructing a bridge across the Columbia, and designated a commission of its citizens, of whom Gov. Moody is president, to carry out the provisions of the act. The commissioners have investigated the matter, and learned that a bridge can be built within the sum authorized, at a point some four miles up the river, but that at no suitable point near the city can one be built for that amount of money. The matter remains in abeyance, the commissioners not having yet come to a decision in the matter.

Although Wasco county was much cut up a few years ago, by the formation of Crook and Gilliam counties, it is still one of the largest in the state. Within its limits are vast tracts of land withdrawn from settlement, pending the confirmation of grants to The Dalles Military Road and the Northern Pacific. Recently a wide strip held as lieu lands for the latter was thrown open for settlement, and a large number of filings have been made by settlers, who had gone upon the lands and taken their chances of having such an opportunity as this given them of obtaining a title. It can scarcely be doubted that the lands within the regular grant limits will also be restored to the public domain, as the time of the grant has long since expired, and no attempt has been made by the Northern Pacific to build a line down the Columbia. In the grant to the military road, sixty-six thousand acres of lieu lands are being reserved

for the company to select therefrom only forty-one hundred acres. The remainder will undoubtedly be restored to the people. There is much of this supposed grant land yet unclaimed, which may be squatted upon by any one willing to wait for a little, and take his chances of never getting it without paying the company for it. There is, however, in the southern portion of the county, much desirable vacant land; also much on the lower slopes of the mountains. There are, also, many quarter sections claimed by persons who have not, and never can have, a legal title to them, which may be filed upon in the land office. These "smuggled" tracts are really public lands, and are open to the entry of any person who is legally entitled to enter lands under the government land laws.

The fertility of the lands of Wasco county may be judged from the figures, given on a previous page, of the shipment of products. On the uplands back from the river, where the soil is rich and deep, wheat is a good crop, averaging from twenty to thirty bushels per acre. Corn, of a most superior quality, grows to perfection, uninjured by frost. In fact, there is less frost on the ridges than on the low lands near the river. When winter sets in it is colder up there, but until then, it is exempt from injurious frosts. Thousands upon thousands of sheep and cattle are raised in Wasco and adjoining counties tributary to The Dalles, the sheep finding excellent summer pasturage in the mountain valleys, to which they are driven in the spring. Taken all together, Wasco offers many inducements to the agriculturist seeking a home in a new country, and The Dalles affords the business man who desires to settle in a thriving town, situated in the midst of a rapidly developing region, a good opening for the investment of his means.