

lishing weekly editions, and the *Times* is a weekly paper. This city is one of the largest shipping points in Eastern Oregon.

Cattle and horses have the brand of their owner and are allowed to run at large over the vast extent of pasture land. Each proprietor has a round-up of his stock once or twice a year, or oftener if he is so disposed. But the sheep go in flocks, or bands, or bunches, of from fifteen hundred to twenty-five hundred each, and each bunch has a herder to take care of it. The herder, with his one or two dogs, must remain with them, selecting pasture and guiding the flock to it in the day time, and at night putting the animals in the corral to protect them from cougars and coyotes. His own tent must be very near the corral, so that he may respond promptly when there is any commotion among the sheep and beat away depredators. A great deal of tact is often required in handling sheep. In transferring them from one range to another they will sometimes refuse to ford streams, or if caught in a snow storm they are likely to stall and cause trouble. At such times, however, the herder usually has help. The intelligence displayed by the shepherd and collie dogs in handling sheep, is remarkable.

The most notable feature of the development of the counties extending back from the Columbia river is the tendency to cultivate the soil. One riding through that country for the first time would be prone to accept without question the statements of geographies and cyclopedias, and even of explorers, until within the past decade, that it is valueless for agricultural purposes, and altogether a dreary, desolate waste, inhabited only by coyotes, jack rabbits and badgers, and strewn with the bleaching bones of grazing animals that have had the hardihood to try to get a living there. The mind permeated with this idea might make a superficial tour of the country and consider that view of the case confirmed. To the unprejudiced investigator, however, a revelation is in store. The land that at first glance appears so uninviting is found to possess surprising merit. That sandy soil produces large crops of grain of a superior quality, and fruits thrive except in a few of the most unfavorable spots. Of course, it might be expected that the creek bottoms would be fairly productive; but large grain farms, covering some of the bleakest hills, are no unfrequent sight to the stage traveler of that region, and these are increasing in number yearly. Often the headquarters of a stock man will be a prosperous farm, and as the cattle range diminishes by settlement, more attention is given to the cultiva-

tion of the soil. The transition from the nomadic life of a herder to the more stable one of a farmer is fairly in progress in many sections of Eastern Oregon. The cattle king has already disappeared, and while it is not probable that the range will ever be entirely forsaken, the old-time cowboy of this region is fast joining the innumerable caravan of things that were but are not. This change constitutes one of the most promising outlooks which many sections have. The farmers will develop the property, while the herders merely gleaned the profit which its very wildness afforded. To dispel the deep rooted aversion which is grounded in the erroneous reports that have for a generation been current about such regions of the west as Eastern Oregon is the chief task its people have in order to be placed on an equal footing with sections no more meritorious. The climate, while not so equable as on the coast, is by no means so rigorous as in most of the eastern states—the Upper Mississippi valley, for instance. The snowfall varies with the altitude, being heavy in the mountains, and in many of the valleys very light. Stock winters on the range, often without other food than the pasture there affords.

The northeastern part of Oregon is being rapidly settled. It presents many features that are peculiarly attractive to farmers from the east, among which are plenty of wood and water, mild climate and fertile soil. Some of the small valleys rarely have snow, and such sensitive fruits as the peach can be successfully raised. The great variety of climate which the different altitudes afford, makes the range of vegetable production a wide one. There is game in the mountains, the streams teem with fish, and the scenery is of all degrees of grandeur. It is a delightful place to live, and intelligent industry is profitable.

The cities of Eastern Oregon are progressive municipalities. All have water works systems, streets lighted by electricity or gas, and graded, macadamized or planked. Public schools are distributed throughout the country. For the most part, the country roads are good. Government land may be obtained in any of the counties and in eligible locations. The Northern Pacific land grant occupies a considerable portion of the land along the Columbia river, but the conditions upon which the grant was made have long since lapsed, and it remains only for congress to formally declare the grant forfeited to restore it to the public domain. Changes such as opening Indian reservations are frequently placing choice tracts at the disposal of settlers. It will not be many years before the world is forced to admit Eastern Oregon to a place among its valuable areas.