

THE TOWN OF POMEROY.

L YING on both banks of Pataha creek, an important tributary of Snake river, flowing into it from the south, is the town of Pomeroy, terminus of the Pomeroy branch of the O. R. & N. Co's system, county seat of Garfield county and the center of one of the most productive agricultural regions in Eastern Washington. It has a population approximating fifteen hundred, and is rapidly growing in all the elements that go to make a large and prosperous inland town. As a terminal point it possesses many advantages, but as the commercial center of a large and productive region which must always trade there, no matter to what point the railroad might be extended, it possesses more and better ones.

In the county are upwards of five hundred thousand acres of land all of which is arable and the greater portion possessing a most fertile and productive soil. Of this less than one-fifth is now under cultivation, leaving fully four hundred thousand acres of good land yet unturned by the plow. A crop can be raised the first year and the land can thus be made to pay for itself at once, including improvements of moderate cost. Such an opportunity as this does not exist in the mountainous or timbered portions of the west, and the time is rapidly approaching when they will not exist even here, for the value of land in this country is rapidly increasing and unimproved land will soon be hard to find. If one desires improved property it can now be purchased at from \$10.00 to \$25.00 per acre, according to the improvements and its nearness to town. This land lies in that famous grain belt along the base of the Blue mountains, where irrigation is unnecessary and a failure of crops is unknown. With proper cultivation wheat yields thirty bushels per acre in an ordinary season, and many farms largely exceed this, at times going as high as forty-five and fifty bushels on tracts as large as a hundred acres. Lack of adequate shipping facilities for the grain raised has retarded the agricultural development of Garfield county in the past, but now that want is supplied and the area of cultivated land is being rapidly enlarged.

Pomeroy is the point from which all this region is supplied and where it transacts its business. Its trade last year amounted to \$1,000,000.00 of which \$150,000.00 represent agricultural implements alone. An important element in the business of the town is the First National Bank, which was incorporated in April, 1886, and which erected a handsome brick block the following year at a cost of \$20,000.00. The incorporators were such well-known business men as D. P. Thompson, W. F. Burrell and John B. David, of Portland, and John Brady, C. A. McCabe, Elmon

Scott and J. H. Walker, of Pomeroy. Operating with a capital stock of \$50,000.00, the bank now has loans and securities to the amount of \$86,486.00, and a surplus and undivided profits of \$17,800.00. The officers through whose careful management this splendid condition of affairs has been reached are W. F. Burrell, president; Elmon Scott, vice president; and H. M. Hathaway, cashier. Besides this institution the business of the town is carried on by a private bank, two large general merchandise stores, two drug stores, two millinery stores, four grocery stores, three large agricultural implement houses, two hardware stores, two shoe stores, one furniture store, two hotels, two jewelery and notion stores, one market, two harness shops, two restaurants, three livery stables, five blacksmith shops, two wagon shops, two barber shops, two good weekly newspapers, five physicians, six attorneys, two dentists and five real estate, loan and insurance agents. Business in all the lines mentioned is good and the stores all carry large and well assorted stocks of goods. There are a number of brick buildings in Pomeroy and others are being erected this year. There is also a large opera house capable of seating six hundred people, and the Methodists, Christians and Catholics have good houses of worship. The Presbyterians and Episcopalians also have organizations and the former are making preparations to erect a church edifice. In the town are two public schools and a school maintained by the Catholics, while the school system of the county is excellently organized, offering good educational opportunities to every family within its limits. Devotion to the public school is one of the characteristics of the people of Garfield county, and the formation of school districts was the first act of the settlers in every neighborhood. School houses were built almost as soon as cabins to live in, and now in traveling over the country it is almost impossible to get out of sight of one of these evidences of intelligence and good citizenship. In Pomeroy there are about two hundred and fifty school children, who are under the care of five teachers. It is proposed soon to erect a commodious brick school house, at a cost of about \$20,000.00, and when this is done Pomeroy's school equipment will be second to no city of its size in the United States.

Pataha creek is capable of supplying water power sufficient for a number of industries that might be carried on there to advantage. It already has a roller flouring mill and a chop mill, but the products and characteristics of the country suggest a tannery, creamery and other industries for working the raw materials produced. In the mountains along the southern border of the county are splendid forests of merchantable timber, offering an opportunity for the