

ISLAND CITY, OREGON.

ONE of the most thriving towns of Eastern Oregon is Island City, lying in the beautiful and fertile Grande Ronde valley. During its existence of nearly sixteen years it has steadily grown in population and business until it now contains upwards of three hundred people and is the commercial point for a wide and highly productive region. To one at all familiar with Eastern Oregon it is sufficient to establish its reputation as a good business point to say that it lies in the heart of the finest portion of the famous Grande Ronde valley, but to others something more than this is necessary. Island City was first founded in 1874 by Charles Goodnough, who opened a small store at that point and continued in business there for nine years, a town gradually growing up around him. At the end of that time he combined with a number of business men and organized the Island City Mercantile & Milling Company, which has since grown into a most extensive institution. Its original capital stock of \$40,000.00 was increased to \$75,000.00 in 1885, and it has established branches in the towns of Enterprise, Hilgard and Wallowa. The company did a business of a quarter of a million dollars in 1888, and handled three hundred thousand pounds of wool. Besides two stores, it has five large warehouses in Island City, and is now constructing one forty by one hundred feet. It also owns the Island City flouring mill, which manufactures one of the standard brands of Oregon flour. This mill was thoroughly refitted in 1888 and converted into a full roller mill of a daily capacity of one hundred barrels. Connected with the mill is an elevator large enough to hold thirty thousand bushels of wheat, and in connection with the mill and its shipping business the company handles the bulk of the grain product of that region. The officers of the company are, Charles Goodnough president, J. M. Church vice president, W. Andrews, secretary, First National Bank treasurer. Another important institution is the First National Bank, which has a capital stock of \$50,000.00, a surplus of \$10,000.00 and undivided profits of \$15,000.00. The officers are, R. M. Steel president, Charles Goodnough vice president, Charles Crosby cashier. This bank plays a most important part in the financial transactions of that region and is one of the most prosperous interior banks in Oregon. As an evidence of the position held by Island City with regard to the agricultural interests of that portion of the state, the fact that both of the great implement houses of Knapp, Burrell & Co. and Frank Brothers Implement Co. have agencies there is very suggestive, that of the former being the sole agency for Union and Wallowa counties. Other business enterprises consist of a

drug store, blacksmith shop, hotel and market. There is maintained a good public school, with an attendance of seventy pupils, and the Catholics have a church.

Though there is no vacant government land in the vicinity of Island City, most inviting opportunities exist for the acquisition of fine farms at a very reasonable price. When first settled upon the land was taken up in large tracts, and the result is that individual owners have been unable to cultivate their land. Consequently, much of it is for sale at prices ranging from \$8.00 to \$15.00 per acre for unimproved land. At such prices, the settler who has a little money would do better to purchase first class land in a community possessing good roads, schools, churches and settled business and social relations, and where good railroad facilities are provided, with an immediate prospect of others soon, than to seek for government or other cheap land far removed from all these conveniences, by means of which he can render life enjoyable and his farm immediately productive and profitable. If he have enough money to buy improved land he will find it still more to his advantage to do so, such land being for sale at from \$15.00 to \$30.00 per acre, the price being based chiefly upon its nearness to town and the nature of the improvements. In the foothills of the mountains, some distance from town, land of good quality, a very large portion of which can be cultivated, can be purchased for \$3.00 per acre. The products of that portion of the Grande Ronde valley tributary to Island City are chiefly wheat, which yields from thirty to fifty bushels per acre; corn, which grows to perfection; hay, of which great quantities are cut with a high average yield per acre; vegetables and root crops of all kinds, which yield abundantly in quantity and are of a most superior quality; and fruit. Hops have been demonstrated to be a successful and profitable crop, and quite a large acreage is now being set out, so that this region will soon be as well known as other hop producing centers of the coast. Cattle, horses and sheep are important products of the valley and mountains, and the wool clip is very large. Situated in such a country, within so short a distance of the railroad—less than two miles—and possessing such extensive business enterprises, Island City has good reason to expect a continuance of its prosperity and growth, and is certainly a most inviting place in which, or near which, to engage in business and select a home. Its business men are full of enterprise and have opened channels of trade that must continue to carry a constantly increasing volume of traffic. The town presents a most neat and attractive appearance and is a pleasant place of residence, especially as the climate of the valley is delightful.