

From the northern coast of Spain, the towns of Bilboa and Viscaya sent forth a vanguard in 1889 to the new world to seek a location similar in topography and climate and adapted to the ancient occupation of sheep herding. This they found in the Nampa triangle in the vicinity of Steens mountain.

Here creeks and small lakes supply water; the soil supports various varieties of grass; the climate is clear and dry. In addition, the location was regarded as sufficiently removed from large centers of population providing an abundance of wide open spaces best suited for sheep raising. A sweep of country, stretching 275 miles between Crane, Oregon, and Winnemucca, Nevada, overlapping into western Idaho, furnishes a wide range.

The settlers, ambitious young men, entered the United States by way of Ellis Island. They quickly drifted across the country in search of lands embodying the familiar habitat for sheep herding. They found this at a number of points in the northwest.

In Oregon today the principal Basque settlements are at McDermitt near the northern Nevada border; in Jordan valley adjoining the Idaho boundary; at Andrews, 125 miles south of Crane; at Fields, 15 miles south of Crane. Basques make their homes as far north as Ontario, at the junction of the Malheur river with the Snake.

History says the first Basques in the country soon proved their worth and ability as shepherders and quickly became topmost in that field of endeavor. They would take bands of

sheep into the hills and stay until accumulated wages, from sheep owners there before them, would enable purchase of flocks and ranges of their own. Then the Basques, who had made this progress, would send for their relatives and friends from the "old country."

Usually a cousin or brother came first. Then before many years the en-

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