

poplars, under whose rustling green leaves nestled beautiful cottages. Little streams flowed and gurgled here and there through a green-carpeted lawn; flowers and shrubs bordered the long walks, birds sang in the trees, fruits hung ripening in the orchards, and all of the inhabitants wore bright smiles of contentment. A comfortable hotel was farther down among the trees, and numerous walks led to it. Long barns and sheds were in the rear and a large general store-house, supplied with all kinds of general merchandise, groceries and hardware, was just across the boulevard, where a bare-armed blacksmith was hammering a red-hot piece of iron. Young calves scampered across the lawn like antelope, children played with joyous glee and the dogs and cats and chickens, even, showed an air of fine breeding. Everything looked as if it was well-bred and of the best. I had dashed into this Elysium from the rock-ribbed mountains and sandy desert.

"What place is this?" was the first question asked of a stroller beneath the trees.

With a good-natured smile he replied, "Hay Creek!" as if everybody hadn't heard of Hay Creek.

Being ignorant of this wonderful place, and from its general home appearance, I made further inquiry. I was informed that this was the central ranch and main headquarters of the great Baldwin Sheep & Land Company. All well-posted citizens of Oregon know what this means, and every citizen of Crook county is familiar with the history and purposes of this institution. A stop over night, a hearty meal and a pleasant conversation with the genial proprietors brought out a rehearsal of the whole story.

There are larger individual ranches in the world than this one, but it is the largest of the kind. The company is one of the oldest institutions in the state. It was organized about twenty-seven years ago for the purpose of breeding fine sheep. This purpose has been carried out from year to year until it has almost reached perfection in its line. But like all ambitious people, the owners are not resting on their oars, but are still striving to accomplish better results. They have 12,000 thoroughbred ewes as a basis, and have 50,000 head of sheep on the ranch. They have now ready for the spring market 4,000 head of the choicest young fine-bred rams ever raised in this country. These breeds produce more wool and a better texture of wool than any other grown. A general improvement in stock has been the watchword all over Eastern Oregon for a number of years, but in no branch of the industry has there been greater success than in sheep, and the Baldwin Sheep & Land Company has made the greatest progress of them all.

Dr. Baldwin was the founder of this company and inaugurated the original plans. It was first organized in 1873. The doctor made some of the first purchases from a Mr. Hammond of Vermont, at that time paying enormous prices for some of the rams. He even paid as high as \$800 per head for some of them. Strowbridge, Severance and Pelt, of California, were also patronized, and by adding their best breeds to the Vermont flock, Dr. Baldwin imagined that he had about reached perfection in improved sheep in 1884, and sold his en-

tire interest to Charles and J. P. Vanhouten. In 1887 the present company was formed with Vanhouten Bros., C. M. Cartwright, A. H. Breyman and John Summer-ville as incorporators, covering the entire plant and adding to it and increasing the number of sheep. More than a year ago Mr. J. G. Edwards, of Wyoming, having been purchasing stock sheep from the company for a number of years, and being familiar with the methods of the company and the reputation of its sheep, purchased all interests except that of Mr. C. M. Cartwright. These two gentlemen are now the owners of the entire property.

Originally the amount of real estate owned by the company was small, but it has kept purchasing from year to year until it now owns a large area of land and has a chain of ranches that rival the world for richness and perfect equipment.

Besides the hundreds of thousands of pounds of wool clipped by it annually and

sheep breeders of the state of Ohio have as their leaders, rams bred on his Oregon ranch. The sheep are hardy and healthy, and here is scarcely any loss from the diseases so often prevalent among sheep.

The company is ever on the lookout, and no new breed, or plan of improvement escapes its notice in any section of the country, and it is proposed that the reputation of the concern shall never recede, but that it shall grow with the strides of civilization and always remain at the head of the line.

The company is one of the most solid in the country. Its financial standing is at the top notch. It has long since ceased to be an experiment. Every step is taken with confidence and firmness. Every improvement is made of the most substantial order and made to stay, and improvements are going on all the time. Large sheds are under construction, averaging from 120 to 150 feet in length, some of



INTERIOR OF SMITH & CLEEK'S "RECEPTION."

the heavy sales of stock sheep, the company cuts several thousands tons of hay from its alfalfa fields and natural meadows. A great deal of this hay is raised by means of irrigation from the mountain streams that flow through the valleys where the ranches are located. Such a concern naturally keeps a large corps of laborers employed, and the number by this company comes up to 100 during the busy seasons and many of them receive as high as \$50 per month.

It is not boasting to state that this company produces the finest breeds in the world. The quarter of a century of careful study and experiment, and never sparing any cost in the interest of improvement, together with the natural advantages of the location, have produced the results. The climate, the vegetation, the water, the air, the very ground, is perfectly congenial to the industry. Some of the leading fine

them two stories in height. The lower stories will be used as storm sheds for the protection of the rapidly increasing flocks, and the upper stories will be used for the storage of feed. A neat sleeping apartment is also being constructed for the employes of the company. It is the pride of this company to provide well for its employes and see that they have all the comforts and necessities of life.

The chain of ranches have a regular system of water works supplied from springs in the mountains through pipes, and pure water is conveyed all about the premises in neat uniform ditches. The hotel is one of the best equipped and most comfortable in the country and it is always the delight of the traveler to pass this way and spend a night. The proprietors are men who have worked themselves up in the world, and, being of this class are not pampered with bigotry, but are commonplace