

is not so large, by perhaps one-third, as it will be next season. Next year the county ought to produce 1,000,000 bushels of grain. The 700,000 bushels above referred to, was produced on portions of 60,000 acres, and the being the number of deeded, tillable acres of ground in the county, as reported on the 1901 assessment roll.

The immense level fields of fertile soil and the nine or 10 months of fine weather enable farming to be carried on here on a very extensive scale, and these conditions, coupled with improved machinery, make it possible for one man to farm as much as 1700 acres of land at one time. George Utz, of near Lone, farms 1700 acres, and he does nearly all his own work. In breaking the ground he uses three-horse plows, five horses to each plow, and, with a saddle horse, Mr. Utz rides along and simply turns the teams at each corner of the immense field. Mr. Utz has 10,000 bushels of wheat; William Bros. 11,000 bushels, and R. McElligott about 7000 bushels. These are only a few of the county's wheat growers. The amount of wheat, the amount of wheat yields we have been able to learn. Grain is usually a good crop here, yielding from 30 to 35 bushels to the acre. Whenever it brings a decent price, the farmers cannot help but prosper. Even as it is with the land already cleared, the long seasons of superb weather, immense level tracts on which all the modern improved machinery can be used, and the many other favorable conditions, the farmer does as well, if not better, here than he would most anywhere else in the United States. Many a man has come West, bought a large improved farm on time, and paid for it out of the first or second year's crop of grain raised thereon.

The prosperous town of Ione, 18 miles north of Heppner, is the principal wheat market of the county, and the three warehouses there handled in the neighborhood of 25,000 bushels of wheat this season. Douglas, the next port in importance, handled about 100,000 bushels, and Lexington about 100,000 bushels. Nearly all the wheat is No. 1 in quality and always commands the highest market price. The man who has money to invest in improved land in this county can purchase the same at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$5 per acre. Within the next few years, however, this identical land will be selling at double the price it is commanding at present; now is the time for the farmer to come in and take advantage of the opportunities which await him.

Wages Paid on Ranch and Farm. For the laboring man here is the place to come for good wages, which are about as follows: For ranch hands the year round, from \$30 to \$35 per month, and during harvest time (which lasts from 35 to 60 days), from \$1.50 to \$2.25 per day; for sheep-handers, \$35 to \$40 per month; for camp-tenders, \$40 to \$45 per month. All other wage-earners on well equipped ranches are remunerated for their services.

Fruit and vegetable growing is getting to be one of our chief branches of agriculture. We are producing in the Columbia River Valley in the production of peaches, grapes and berries, but in apples, pears, potatoes, beets, turnips, carrots and onions Morrow County differs from the rest of the Northwest. The first premium at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 was raised by a Mr. Carothers, on Rock Creek, Morrow County. In 1901, Edward's grapes were awarded the gold medal. In 1901, last year, there was an exhibition a potato which had been raised on the farm of Al Gamin, near Heppner, and which weighed just one pound. Harry Cummings, near Heppner, every year raises tons of potatoes weighing from one to five pounds each. Apples and onions weighing one and two pounds are a common article here. Visitors to the Times Fruit & Vegetable Fair (where the best products of Morrow County have been exhibited during the past several seasons), have all stated that even at the Portland Exposition there can be nothing found to excel them, and, in fact, few to equal them.

The farmers are all planting orchards and developing gardens on a large scale, and within the next few years horticulture will constitute one of our most profitable and reliable industries. Without a particle of artificial irrigation, the rich, prolific soil produces the largest and best-flavored fruit and vegetables to be found anywhere in the West.

Mining is practically an undeveloped industry in Morrow County as yet, but prospectors and experts are confident that underneath the surface of the Blue Mountains, in its southern portions, lie millions of dollars' worth of precious metals. The finest kind of prospects have from time to time been discovered. At present some Heppner capitalists are developing a coal mine 25 miles south of Heppner, and the present indications of producing a high-grade coal are most flattering. Should this mine turn out according to present expectations a railroad will no doubt be built into that locality from Heppner.

Stock Herds Being Improved. The stockmen are taking more interest every year in improving their breeds, and bringing their stock up to a higher standard of excellence. The scrubby cow, sheep and horses are being eliminated from the range, and their places are being rapidly filled by bigger and better-blooded animals. Chief among the breeders of fine stock in this county is Mr. W. Minor, founder of Minor's mercantile business at Heppner, and who has been actively engaged in the stock business since he was 19 years of age. During the past few years he has attracted the attention to the breeding of fine Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs, and he has been largely in evidence at the various state district and county fairs throughout Washington and Oregon. About the time the blue ribbons were being distributed, in the Shorthorn cattle line Mr. Minor now recognizes only one competitor on the Coast—Mr. Charles Lewis of Portland, whom he has held his own with if not defeated in nearly all their contests. Mr. Minor is owner of Sallie Girl, champion cow of the state in 1898 and 1899 and for which he paid \$1500; also the other prize-winners, Rosy O'Grady, Sassy Frantic, the famous bull Collision, and many other magnificent specimens of livestock. He is totally unable to supply the demand for the offspring of these animals.

The only manufacturing industry of importance which the county supports at present are as follows: The Heppner Flouring Mill, capacity, 25 barrels per day; the Lexington Flouring Mill, the three saw mills of Benjamin Parker, W. L. Malley and A. W. Slaney. The three saw mills are located in the midst of thousands and thousands of acres of the finest timber land to be found on the Coast, and the supply of timber is practically inexhaustible.

Morrow County is in a most prosperous condition financially, and within the next six months she will be entirely out of debt. The semi-annual statement of the county officers, as published on October 24, makes the following showing:

Total liabilities, \$20,000 00; total resources (including taxes payable but not yet delinquent), \$24,420 00. By this time next year the county ought to have several thousand dollars surplus in her treasury.

Large Bank Deposits. Another evidence of our prosperity is the showing made by the First National Bank of Heppner, which carries deposits amounting, on an average, to \$500,000. Cashier George Conner, who is chiefly responsible for the excellent standing of this institution, informs the writer that at one time this year the deposits in this bank, subject to check, aggregated \$250,000. A broken man is a rarity in Morrow County. Happy, prosperous and contented, the people of this favored land represent the true Westerner—liberal, hospitable, good-natured, honest and upright, and his fellow-men always putting into practice the teachings of the golden rule.

Great interest is taken in educational matters, and Morrow County supports many fine public schools. The average enrollment of pupils is about 300, and nine teachers are employed; at lone 100 pupils are enrolled and two teachers are employed; at Lexington two teachers in-

struct 60 pupils; at Hardman two teachers instruct about 60 pupils, and the remainder of the county is equally well supplied with educational facilities. Good public schools, Sunday schools, and churches throughout this section make moral, law-abiding citizens of the rising generation, and their influence has a purifying effect even upon those of maturer years. Whenever it becomes necessary to levy a heavy tax upon property for school purposes, let it be said to the credit of the entire county, there are few if any kickers to be found. All are in favor of giving the children the very best educational advantages possible.

Morrow County is supplied with several prosperous towns and trading points, including Heppner, Ione, Lexington, Hardman, Douglas, Gooseberry and Eight Mile. Heppner, with a population of between 200 and 300, is the county seat, and commercial men and all other professions fit to be the best town of its size on the Pacific Coast. No town transacts more business direct with the consumer and with the farmer than does Heppner. It is the terminus of the Heppner branch railroad, and is the shipping point for the immense interior country lying south of it. Freight

is now freely established in Union County, and which adds enormously to its wealth annually is the sugar-beet industry. Four years ago the Oregon Sugar Company erected an extensive refining plant near La Grande in the Grand Ronde Valley, but like every institution of the kind it took several years to get the industry established. But that point has been attained. The season's run of the factory which closed about the 1st of November, was very successful. About 31,000 bags of refined sugar having been turned out during the run. The factory employs when in operation between 150 and 200 hands. But the work in the beet fields during the season requires thousands of hands. Next season the acreage of beets in the county will be nearly doubled. With this industry here, and with the fruit industry established, a person does not have to have many acres of land to make a living and a fair margin besides. No other section of the Great Northwest has these advantages.

Dairying is one of the coming industries of Union County, although it is in its infancy here. No better pasture lands are

the brightest futures of any mining field in the country. At Sanger a large number of men are at work on the C. T. Bradley mines, and great activity prevails there. At Cornucopia several hundred are constantly employed in mining. The Cornucopia mines of Oregon located at that camp are among the best gold mines in the West. In that district there are several hundred claims on which assessment work is being done yearly, and much other development work done. The camp is on the eve of a phenomenal mining boom. At Copper Butte, 25 miles southeast of Union, is located one of the largest deposits of copper ore to be found in the world. These lodes are now being opened. At Burketon adjoining much development work is being done on an immense copper deposit. A city has been laid out there. At Irondyke along Snake River in the extreme eastern part of the county, is another great deposit of mineralized rock, rich in copper and gold. What this mineral section needs is a railroad to enable the ore to be handled economically. And it is quite probable that this need will be supplied during the coming year, as a company has been formed at Union,

the principal features of Union County, which is now attracting a large and growing immigration. L. J. DAVIS, Union.

THE TOWN OF UNION WILL GROW. A New Road to Seven Devils, Which Will Open a Vast Timber Belt.

The town of Union, the county seat of Union County, expects soon to shake off the lethargy of recent years' standing and reach out for a new territory. There is talk, apparently well founded, of a new railroad connecting with the O. R. & N. and running through the town and east into the Seven Devils Country into Idaho. What will be of primary importance to the promoters of the road to erect a saw mill in the vicinity of Union, is a body of very excellent timber within a short distance of Union. It is the intention of the promoters of the road to erect a saw mill in the tract, having a capacity of 100,000 feet of lumber a day.

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backed by New York capital to build a railroad from the O. R. & N. Co.'s line at Union, eastward through the Catherine Creek Pass to Snake River, passing through the heart of the great mineral belt of the county. When this road will have been completed these mines will have an impetus to the westward, and the matter is not from all over the entire country, as there is no doubt that they have few equals in the whole mining world.

Among the industries of Union County should be mentioned the Union woolen mills, located at the City of Union. These mills are the largest manufacturers of woolen blankets on the Pacific Coast. While other classes of goods are manufactured, yet the work is almost exclusively on blankets, of which a superior grade is manufactured out of wool produced from the flocks of this county. This factory is operated by water-power, as is other industries at Union.

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made and a number of towns have grown up. Among these are Cornucopia, Union County's greatest gold camp; Sparta, that has produced several million dollars in placer gold but now merging into a quartz camp; Sanger, that has a record of sending out more than a million dollars' worth of bullion during the past year, and a number of smaller towns, such as Eagleton, Copper Butte and Irondyke. Good placers and quartz claims have been taken and are being worked on the headwaters of Grand Ronde River, in the southwestern part of the county, but the larger part of the mining is in the eastern and southern part. At North Powder many new discoveries have been made this year, and that little city is expecting a rapid growth the coming season. Near Telocaset, 12 miles south of Union, several rich discoveries recently made are now being opened and proving to be very valuable. At Sparta development has been rapid the past year, and some new quartz mills have gone in. The camp has one of

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has owned the place since 1872, and has made his ranch the talk of all Union County.

SUGAR-BEET CULTURE. The Fertile Grand Ronde Valley—La Grande, the Commercial Center and Seat of Great Industry.

The prosperity of Oregon in the future will be determined largely by the ability shown by the home people to manufacture their staple articles of consumption. The establishment for instance, of the great wool-scouring plant at Pendleton, Eastern Oregon, is saving annually to the consumers of this state thousands of dollars that were formerly expended in the East, in scouring and cleaning Oregon's

heavy wool product. The location of the modern sugar factory at La Grande, in the Grand Ronde Valley, in itself marks a new era in the productive capacity of the Pacific Northwest.

No single article of commerce is so generally used by the people as sugar. The lands of Oregon and Washington produce the finest sugar beets in the world. Soil, climate and facilities for cheap manufacture all conduce to the easy conversion of the sugar-beet product into the marketable sugar of commerce. Oregon, a few years hence, will produce not only enough sugar to meet the demand of its own people, but sugar must become one of the regular articles of export from this state.

The Grand Ronde Valley, in Eastern Oregon, is the most productive section of the Coast. Excellent transportation facilities are afforded the settlers in this valley by the main and lateral lines of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company, which now cross this valley. It is a country noted principally for the wonderful fertility of its soil, for good climate and for healthful and charming surroundings. It is a section well watered, and practically all the lands of this valley are susceptible to the heaviest state of cultivation.

La Grande itself is the seat of the heaviest commercial enterprise of the valley. This town has a population in excess of 2000. It is situated at the base of the Blue Mountains, and on the line of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company, 26 miles east of Heppner. It is a prominent railroad division point. Large machine shops, roundhouse and other terminal facilities are established here.

The principal feature of interest that attaches to La Grande in connection with this article, is the establishing at this point of the large establishments devoted to the manufacture of sugar. The location of this factory at La Grande, and its inception a number of years ago in the result of experiments which demonstrated clearly that lands in the Grand Ronde Valley, in the vicinity of La Grande, were especially adapted to the cultivation of the highest quality of the sugar beet.

The growth of the sugar beet industry of this valley may be appreciated by the fact that in 1898 the lands in the vicinity of La Grande produced 157 tons of beets. This was the product of 2500 acres. In 1901 the crop of sugar beets on 2500 acres in the same section approximated 17,000 tons. During the season a farmer of this district netted a profit of over \$30 an acre for 119 acres planted in sugar beets. He harvested on an average nearly 14 tons to the acre, for which crop he received at the La Grande factory a price of \$4.50 a ton.

Many of the beets raised in the La Grande district measure 15 inches long, and some weigh as high as 294 pounds. Herbert Myrick, in his book on the "American Sugar Industry," speaking of the success of sugar-beet culture, says: "Within a fraction of an average of 15

per cent sugar and 85 per cent purity is absolutely unprecedented in the beet-sugar industry of the world." In 1899 the beets raised on lands in the vicinity of La Grande showed as a result of actual test made at the local sugar factory a yield of 15.72 per cent sugar and 84 per cent purity. Oregon soil surpasses the best sugar-beet French soils in the potassium elements, which contribute largely to success in the growth of this product.

The purity of the La Grande sugar beets ranges from 80 to 86 per cent. These beets are purer by from two to three per cent than beets raised in California, and, as a rule, they contain more sugar than the California product. This year the Waverly beets, raised in the vicinity of La Grande, showed the largest proportion of sugar of any beets raised in the United States. The beets of the La Grande district compare favorably in quality with the best product of the Waverly district, in Washington.

The local sugar factory at La Grande, contained at one time this season nearly 1000 tons of beets in its receiving bins. The chemistry during the season was completely overhauled and put in perfect condition. During the run the factory made this season it reduced approximately 250 tons of beets to sugar.

The two largest sugar-beet factories of the Northwest today are located respectively at La Grande, Or., and Waverly, Wash. Enough work has been done by the promoters of these enterprises to establish the fact clearly that special lands of the Northwest will produce in abundance the finest grade of sugar beets grown anywhere in the world.

The plant at La Grande is modern and complete in every respect, and its establishment at that point has done much to encourage the industrial development of what is today one of the most prosperous points in Oregon.

THE FLOUR OF UNION. A Noted Brand of Flour Made by the Oregon Roller Mills.

The flour made at Union, this state, has done much toward making the country seat of Union County most favorably known throughout the Northwest. Davis Bros., the owners of the Oregon Roller Mills, have devoted their energies toward manufacturing a brand of flour from the best stone and varieties of wheat grown in Union County, which cannot be excelled by any mill in the state. As a consequence, they have a demand for their product which practically exceeds their capacity.

Not only do they supply the local trade, but they have orders from Portland for all the surplus they can ship. The latter is sold to the better class of trade, because of its great superiority over other brands put upon the market. Davis Bros. practically buy all the wheat grown about Union. The wheat raised in this part of the state is of a very fine quality, and when manufactured with the care exercised by this mill, makes a flour much sought after.

WASCO COUNTY. Crops Raised Without Rain From Seed Time to Harvest.

Wasco County, as originally organized in the territorial days of 1854, is the mother of more geographical subdivisions than any other county in the United States, or perhaps in the civilized world. It then embraced all of what is now known as



CITY OF LA GRANDE, OVERLOOKING GRAND RONDE VALLEY.

is hauled from here into the interior, distances of 100 miles and over. With one exception, Heppner is the largest wool market in the Northwest. The two warehouses here handle on an average 3,200,000 pounds of wool every year. This season 1,500,000 pounds were shipped from here, at prices ranging from 4 to 12 cents per pound. A large portion of this amount, however, was last year's clip, which the producers had refused to sell at the figures offered them.

And thus we find Morrow County, which, as a place of abode, for the capitalist or for the man of moderate means, compares favorably with any other section of God's green earth. E. M. SHUTT, Heppner.

UNION COUNTY.

Resources of a Region That is Attracting Many Settlers.

Productive farms, rich mines, well-stocked ranges, state forests and thriftings among the people are general characteristics of Union County. Visitors to all of the sections of the Great North-



THE BIG SUGAR FACTORY AT LA GRANDE.

west, this county ranks well up with the best in diversity of resources and general prosperity. Its population is now over 10,000, but there is room for several times that number, in the intensified development of its varied resources.

Union County is situated in the northeastern part of the state, and is in an irregular shape, having two elongated arms, one extending east and the other north. At its greatest distance it is nearly 185 miles long, and it contains about 35 townships or a little over 3000 square miles of surface.

This area is made up of valleys and mountains, plains and rolling hills, prairie and forest. The valleys are fertile and productive, the hills are covered with the celebrated Oregon bunchgrass and the mountains are bedecked with extensive forests and rich with precious metals.

The principal source of wealth in Union County is agriculture. Water here is abundant for irrigation purposes, where needed, so that a failure of crops is yet to be recorded. The agricultural lands lie in the valleys and on the rolling hills surrounding them. There are five principal valleys in the county, Grand Ronde, Indian, Lower Powder, Pine and Eagle. All of these are very fertile and productive.

Grand Ronde is in the center of the county and is the largest and contains about 800 square miles of territory. The cereal products of the county amount to about 2,000,000 bushels per annum, one-half of which is wheat. The principal crops are wheat, barley and rye. About 500,000 bushels of the wheat is used by the flouring mills of the county, of which there are six; the balance is exported. The saw mills are located in each of the following towns: Union, La Grande, Island City, Elgin, Cove, North Powder and Pine Valley.

Opportunities in the Fruit Industry. The fruit industry here is just beginning to assume proportions of industrial importance. The past few years have demonstrated the superiority of this climate and soil for horticultural pursuits. Apples, pears, prunes, plums, peaches and all the smaller fruits attain perfection here. The fruit is produced in such abundance that about 120 carloads of apples, pears and prunes, 60 carloads of which have been exported and the remainder used for home consumption. Many thousands of fruit trees are being set out annually, over 10,000 trees having been purchased for the coming season's planting. This year the first evaporator was erected at Union, having a capacity of 15 tons of green prunes per day, and it made most successful run, handling over 25 carloads of green fruit. Other dryers will be built. There is a great opportunity for fruit and vegetable canneries in this county. Lands that have been purchased for \$25 per acre are being set out to orchards now selling for from \$200 to \$300 per acre. There is a demand for all the fruit that can be produced here. This industry offers the finest opportunity for the small investor to make a start. These crops are never-failing.

Berries, such as strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, etc., attain perfection here and find ready market.

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The plant at La Grande is modern and complete in every respect, and its establishment at that point has done much to encourage the industrial development of what is today one of the most prosperous points in Oregon.

THE FLOUR OF UNION. A Noted Brand of Flour Made by the Oregon Roller Mills.

The flour made at Union, this state, has done much toward making the country seat of Union County most favorably known throughout the Northwest. Davis Bros., the owners of the Oregon Roller Mills, have devoted their energies toward manufacturing a brand of flour from the best stone and varieties of wheat grown in Union County, which cannot be excelled by any mill in the state. As a consequence, they have a demand for their product which practically exceeds their capacity.

Not only do they supply the local trade, but they have orders from Portland for all the surplus they can ship. The latter is sold to the better class of trade, because of its great superiority over other brands put upon the market. Davis Bros. practically buy all the wheat grown about Union. The wheat raised in this part of the state is of a very fine quality, and when manufactured with the care exercised by this mill, makes a flour much sought after.

WASCO COUNTY. Crops Raised Without Rain From Seed Time to Harvest.

Wasco County, as originally organized in the territorial days of 1854, is the mother of more geographical subdivisions than any other county in the United States, or perhaps in the civilized world. It then embraced all of what is now known as

Eastern Oregon, nearly all Idaho and part of Western Wyoming, an area of 130,000 square miles, a territory as large as the States of Pennsylvania and New York, or all New England with Missouri thrown in. It is now reduced to 262 square miles in the extreme northwestern part of the original county, and of this territory 24 square miles are included in the Warm Springs Reservation. On its western side about one-third of the county is thickly covered with timber, consisting chiefly of yellow and white pine and red and yellow fir, known commercially as Oregon pine, with many extensive patches of spruce, larch, cedar and hemlock. A practical lumberman estimates that in the Hood River basin alone, within easy distance of river and rail transportation, there stand over 6,000,000 feet of timber awaiting the woodman's ax. The remaining two-thirds of the county is principally rolling prairie, with occasional level plains intersected by the Dechutes and its tributaries, and the tributaries of the John Day and the Columbia, which contain numerous valleys of wonderful fertility and beauty. Fully 75 per cent of the prairie land is susceptible of cultivation, and is capable of producing anything that can be grown in the temperate zone.

Wasco County forms part of a territory that in the remote past, geologists tell us, was the scene of the greatest lava overflow in the history of the world. Therefore, like all soils of volcanic origin, is rich in all the essential elements of plant food, and is remarkable as well for its durability as for its wonderful fertility. By far the larger part is of a gray, sandy appearance, which is disappointing to a stranger, but the experience of 30 to 40 years of constant seeding and planting, nearly always without the least attempt at fertilization, coupled with repeated analyses of the soil itself, has demonstrated that it is