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The John Day, which forms the eastern boundary, is another fine stream, unharmed as yet, for as any manufacturing enterprise is concerned. Along the banks of this stream are many fertile bottoms suitable for alfalfa fields, which will prove excellent stock ranches. They miles from the Columbia, going south, we reach the southern boundary of Sherman, which joins Wasco County in that direction.

Speaking of the railroad facilities, it is safe to say that there is no more favored county in this respect in the state. The O. R. & N., which is a continuation of one of the great transcontinental lines, traverses the whole northern part of the county following the course of the Columbia, with an easy down grade direct to the seaboard. The Columbia Southern, a line of road fully up to the mark in modern iron improvement and service, traverses the center of the county from north to south, starting from Biggs Junction, on the O. R. & N., and having its terminus at Shaniko, a thriving new town in Wasco County, some 30 miles from the southern confines of Sherman County. This line has been in operation for several years. It is a success from a financial standpoint, and because the Sherman County wheatstrainer, who has not to face the long haul to market which hampers the operations of his brother farmer in less favored localities. At intervals along this road we have found the large warehouses where millions of bushels of wheat are handled every year.

Wheat Crop 2,400,000 Bushels Last Year.
Wheat is the staple product of the county. On it the bulk of our population depend for support, nor are they disappointed, for to take one crop with another our farmers have enough and to spare of this world's goods, many laying up year by year a tidy sum to their credit at the local bank. The following figures will give some idea of the extent of farm operations in the county last fall: About 250,000 acres in cultivation, of which about 250,000 or 300,000 were in summer fallow, leaving about 120,000 under crop. Allowing an average of 20 bushels to the acre, we have 2,400,000 bushels of grain harvested last fall, worth, at 25 cents per bushel, \$1,200,000. Allowing 500 population, this would leave \$240 a year for every man, woman and child in Sherman County. This is scarcely a fair estimate of what the county can produce, as the wheat crop of 1901 was below the average, and fell short nearly one-third the crop of 1900. In 1902 a large yield may be expected, as several thousand acres of new land have been brought under cultivation, which will increase the yield of grain in 1902 many thousands of bushels.

Good County for General Farming.
Conditions as to farm operations are easy in this county. The friable soil yields readily to the touch of the harrow, and it is an established fact that wheat can be raised here at a cost that will compare favorably with any grain-bearing tract in the United States. Wheat, although the principal product, is by no means the only crop that does well in this favored region. Barley, oats and potatoes give large yields. Of the latter prodigious quantities are raised without irrigation or fertilizer of any kind. The potato bug is unknown, and the everlasting spraying that has to be resorted to in the East can be entirely dispensed with here. Fruit does very well on the river bottoms, and many young orchards are bearing well on the plateau lands.

Although Sherman County cannot compare with the great stock counties to the south in point of range lands, it is no wise devoid of cattle, sheep, horses and hogs. Cattle and sheep do well on the Government land in the southern portion of the county. Horses abound, and can be raised to good profit. Owing to the open winters, the young stock are allowed to roam at large, and seldom require other feed than the bunchgrass on the open ranges. Hog-raising could be made to pay largely, and a fortune awaits the man who turns his attention to these prolific animals. Hens and bacon bring a high price, and find a ready sale. The industrious who wish to try their luck with poultry can also find a field for their labors, as the amount of eggs and chickens is totally inadequate to supply even the local markets.

The climate of Sherman County is dry and bracing, without any of the dreaded hot spells so prevalent in the Middle and Eastern States, in fact, a prostration from the heat has never been heard of. It works through the summer and fall without inconvenience in this respect. The winter is to a great extent the pleasant season of the year, with a light snowfall and bright days, when the dweller in Sherman County goes about his business and can proceed with his farm operations, when farmers elsewhere are blocked with snow and ice. The cyclone, blizzard and other rampancous climatic disturbances have never been heard of, and are not wanted.

Several Prosperous Towns.
Sherman County has some excellent business towns. The three principal ones are on the line of the Columbia Southern Railroad—Moro, Grass Valley and Wasco. Moro, the county seat, is situated in the center of the county, and is a town of wonderful enterprise and push. Twenty years ago Moro had one small store and one or two scattered dwellings. Today she has several brick general stores, a \$10,000 Courthouse, excellent graded school, Moore Brothers' banking establishment, brick offices of the Inland Empire Real Estate Company, Elrod & Moore, managers. These men are reliable, and do a large real estate business all over the county. Two good hotels, telephone and telegraph offices and above all an excellent water system. There is in course of construction a flouring-mill, which will be operated by electric power, to be transmitted from the Deschutes River, seven miles to the west. Also, two large brick business blocks and several residences. Of the latter there is always a scarcity, and new houses being put up are engaged for rent before the town is finished. Twenty or thirty cottages built for rent would prove a profitable investment.

Wasco is another thriving town in the northern portion of the county. It has some fine general stores. A quantity of wheat is handled, and all lines of business are well represented. Grass Valley is the business center in the southern part of the county, and has a large scope of country, both stock and farming, to draw from. The town is growing rapidly, and has the usual amount of business concerns, good school, live newspapers, etc. Grant, on the line of the O. R. & N., is worthy of mention, having large warehouses, and is the shipping point for the quantities of fruit grown on the Columbia River bottoms.

Farming Land Cheap.
Thanks to the railroad facilities, the intending settler can leave the O. R. & N. at Biggs, board the Columbia Southern train and in a few hours arrive at Moro, from which point he can see the county for himself and be convinced that Sherman County offers many inducements to those looking for desirable homes in our new country. Improved farms can be had from \$5 to \$10 per acre, payable in easy terms, in some cases on the crop-mortgage plan. There are also many farms for rent. Men who have become rich raising wheat, and want to spend the remainder of their lives in ease, go into business in town, are always ready to give the industrious a chance, and will either sell or rent on conditions that will leave a margin of profit for the renter as well as the owner. There is

also a good field for the laborer in Sherman County. At harvest time men can scarcely be had at all. Common labor then ranges from \$1.50 to \$2 per day and then from the Columbia, making an excellent site for a flouring-mill.

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have repeatedly done better than 125, include half. Sales have been heavy at high prices.

These are facts in face of the contention that during the years when the horse market was at its lowest, a pair of horses could be bought for \$5, and a working horse with his harness or frequently sold for \$10, when put up at auction.

Breeding Cows for the Dairy.
This is a period for development of the dairy industry in the West. The market is not yet supplied by home production in any state on the Pacific Coast. Western Oregon has made more rapid strides in this regard than any other section of the West. At this time, throughout this region, ranchers are turning their attention more and more to the breeding and raising of cows for dairying. This is accelerated by the importation of bulls from some of the best herds of the East, and representing the acknowledged families of butter-producers. At this time in the United States there are prize-winners at fair and exposition competitions, Jersey, Hereford and Shorthorn predominant.

Hardy fruits are easily raised throughout the county, almost every rancher possessing some orchard. Peaches, apricots and grapes second to none are produced in abundance in the orchards on creeks and river bottoms, and in many sheltered coves in the hills. Many kinds of fruit trees, of which the most important, perhaps, are apples, as the apple does extraordinarily well and is the acknowledged king of all fruits raised here. The average stockman views the coming of railroads with mixed feelings, but the sentiment in favor of the "iron horse" is surely though slowly growing. For while its advent will undeniably reduce the price of freight on such commodities as wool, perhaps, or other products, it will just as certainly enhance the value of the land that it owns. Moreover, it will give him, and what is generally deemed to him far more important, his wife and children—advantage in the way of a better civilization, especially along social and educational lines, that come only with the growth of population and the reach touch with the outside world, that will more than offset the problematical decrease he sees in his income. The long-distance telephone, already here, is another boon to the farmer, and is the truth. The old and selfish view of great prosperity for a small number of people, is being superseded by the new and better view of the greatest good for the greatest number. Once the railroad traverses Wheeler County the county will be able to support, in comfort, nay, even better, a larger population than it has now. For, with transportation assured and modern appliances for cultivating our exceedingly fertile soil, the county could produce millions of bushels of grain annually, instead of merely sufficient for the making of our bread and the feeding of our teams. This, without decreasing the net value of our livestock, as with improved methods more per acre and a better grade can be kept. Crop failures in this county are unknown. Last year the Columbia Southern Railroad, which is headed this way, was completed to Shaniko, 40 miles from Fossil, and now our nearest shipping point. Prior to that, Arlington, 60 miles away, was our closest shipping point.

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While the best lands of Wheeler County have already been taken up, there are still hundreds of thousands of acres of Government land that can be homesteaded or secured cheaply as school, desert or timber and stone lands. Or the thrifty Eastern farmer, who desires to forsake the winter blizzards and withering sunsets to which he is accustomed, can yet buy productive land in Wheeler County, Oregon, at a price that will appear to him as a song, from restless, visionary owners who often leave in search of a "better land" that is never found, and who almost invariably return, poorer in purse but richer in experience, to one of the most prosperous counties on God's green earth. A large majority of our citizens own their own homes. Poverty as understood in the East and Middle states is unknown. There is not a pauper in the county.

We do not claim that this is a Garden of Eden, where all is play and a fine Adamic living comes without work to the members of the ground. To the lazy, impetuous, hand-to-mouth prospective homesteaders we would say: "Go way back and sit down. There is not room under foot for you in progressive Wheeler County, Oregon." To the thrifty, industrious Eastern immigrant, possessed of some means as such usually are, who fears not profitable work and disdains not small things, we say: "Come, and welcome. There is room for you in this vineyard. Here your heavy handicap is removed, and you will prosper as never before. Come!" This sort of man will be interested in this fact that he has invariably done well here. One man in Mitchell realized \$1000 from 100 hives last year, and even better results, on a smaller scale, are realized by others who keep bees in various parts of the county. This notwithstanding the artificial feeding of bees as practiced in other parts of the world, is never practiced here. He will also be interested by the statement of the fact that there is a bright future for dairying in this county, as indicated by the fact that the number of dairy cows and calves, and other dairy animals, are increasing at a rapid rate. The percentage of increase being much larger than in lower, damper regions. This is a line that is receiving considerable attention from our citizens generally, all being apparently anxious to increase the numbers and improve the quality of their flocks. For example, one local fancier of the writer's acquaintance has during the past year sold to ranchers and others over a hundred thoroughbred birds at an average price of \$1, besides \$50 worth of full-blood eggs for hatching purposes. To the sportsman, Wheeler County has much to offer. Deer, once plentiful, are becoming scarcer as man pushes his abode toward the heart of the wilderness, but are still plentiful enough to make the stalking and shooting of them interesting to the ardent hunter. Fish abound in our many streams, and their capture does not require the skill or patience of an Isaac Walton. Rabbits, grouse and wild ducks and geese are numerous. For those desiring bigger game a few bear yet inhabit the mountain fastnesses.

Manufacturing and Mining.
So far our manufacturers consist of but four and number, Fossil has fine saw-barrel full roller process flouring mill, and Mitchell has a good mill with half that capacity. There are half a dozen saw mills scattered over the county's timber belt that turn out several million feet a year of rough and finished lumber for local purposes. Our mines consist of a large and ever-increasing number of partially developed quartz claims, many of them of considerable promise, some being owned by leading capitalists of Oregon; and the well-known 8-inch Gulch placer mines, whose output has averaged \$25,000 during the past three years. It is expected that before many years the mines of Wheeler County will be one of the main factors in her wealth and general prosperity.

Fossil, the county seat, is beautifully located on Butte Creek, a tributary of the John Day River, in a valley surrounded by lofty hills that shelter the town from the winds and storms that prevail on the mountains to the south and the plateau region towards the Columbia River on the north. At a cost of \$15,000 it has one of the best gravity water systems in the country, the supply being obtained by piping from a pure mountain spring about three miles southwest of town, at an elevation of 300 feet above the town. This system throws a stream of water from a four-inch hose far over the tallest brick buildings in town, affording superb protection from fire. The town has a splendid public school, taught nine months each year, with four teachers and 230 pupils in attendance. The schoolrooms are inconspicuous, but that fault will soon be remedied as the citizens have decided for a new school building to meet the already overburdened demand. Plans are being prepared for a new eight-room brick school-house, estimated cost \$8000, to be built during the coming year. A new County Courthouse, costing \$12,000, has just been completed, and other buildings bring the total cost of buildings erected in Fossil during the year 1901 up to \$120,000, a remarkable showing for a town of about 900 inhabitants. This progressive little town has fine church facilities and contains lodges of all the prominent fraternal orders. Its principal merchants carry immense stocks of goods in modern brick buildings, to accommodate the large interior trade, and its fine flouring mill is a source of pride to every citizen. The town is quite a mail center, being the distributing and starting point of six mail lines, whose mails are carried in stage coaches that also carry passengers. Fossil is a fine place to live, and its location is a source of pride to every citizen. There is room for you in this vineyard. Here your heavy handicap is removed, and you will prosper as never before. Come!" This sort of man will be interested in this fact that he has invariably done well here. One man in Mitchell realized \$1000 from 100 hives last year, and even better results, on a smaller scale, are realized by others who keep bees in various parts of the county. This notwithstanding the artificial feeding of bees as practiced in other parts of the world, is never practiced here. He will also be interested by the statement of the fact that there is a bright future for dairying in this county, as indicated by the fact that the number of dairy cows and calves, and other dairy animals, are increasing at a rapid rate. The percentage of increase being much larger than in lower, damper regions. This is a line that is receiving considerable attention from our citizens generally, all being apparently anxious to increase the numbers and improve the quality of their flocks. For example, one local fancier of the writer's acquaintance has during the past year sold to ranchers and others over a hundred thoroughbred birds at an average price of \$1, besides \$50 worth of full-blood eggs for hatching purposes. To the sportsman, Wheeler County has much to offer. Deer, once plentiful, are becoming scarcer as man pushes his abode toward the heart of the wilderness, but are still plentiful enough to make the stalking and shooting of them interesting to the ardent hunter. Fish abound in our many streams, and their capture does not require the skill or patience of an Isaac Walton. Rabbits, grouse and wild ducks and geese are numerous. For those desiring bigger game a few bear yet inhabit the mountain fastnesses.

WHEeler COUNTY.
Stockraising Leads in Oregon's Youngest Subdivision.
Every few years, owing to the state's rapid growth in population and wealth, the former necessitating the change and the latter providing means for its support, a new county is created. Created by an act of the Legislature, the last or youngest county in the state was formed in this manner in March, 1899, under the name of "Wheeler County." The process of its formation is already notably apparent. Inheriting a debt of \$53,000 from the three counties of Gilliam, Grant and Crook, from each of which a portion of territory was taken to form the new county, Wheeler County has, in the 2 1/2 years of its existence, cut this debt down to \$25,000, according to the County Clerk's recent statement, where, besides paying out, aside from the ordinary running expenses, \$12,000 for a fine new Courthouse, now ready to be occupied, and \$2800 for new books, transcripts and records from the other counties, and furniture for offices. All this without increasing the tax levy. In fact, with a smaller levy the county has been able to pay three counties out of which Wheeler County was carved. In the new county, which is about 60 miles long by 35 wide, no taxpayer lives more than 50 miles from the county seat, while in the older counties many of Wheeler's present citizens lived over 100 miles from the county seat, and that, too, over mountains almost inaccessible in the winter. Wheeler County, therefore, as an excuse for our existence as a county, if any were needed.

Great County for Stock.
At present Wheeler County is chiefly, in fact, almost wholly devoted to the raising of livestock, and which is peculiarly well adapted. Having two spurs of the densely timbered Blue Mountains running across the county, with the John Day River flowing between them, the county is magnificently watered, which means, in Eastern Oregon, a stockman's paradise. Some idea of the importance of this county as a stockraising center may be gleaned from the fact that it contains at present 200,000 sheep, 15,000 cattle, 8000 horses, and hogs more than ample for the county's 250 inhabitants, the surplus going to the market. Of the latter, the townships in the county, about 12 are timber land, situated in the mountains and mostly Government land, to which the sheep are driven in the winter months during the hot summer months on the rich succulent grasses that flourish in the cool shade of the tall pines, firs and tamaracs. The timber contains bunchgrass, rank and rich, such as grows only in the foothills, and, as Wheeler County, for the most part, stands on edge, the big half of it is foothills. Of late years the quality of the livestock in this county has been greatly improved by the use of none but high-grade or full-blood males, so much so that the stock is worth many dollars per head more than four years ago. While this may not be making two blades of grass grow where one grew before, it amounts to substantially the same thing, and shows that the Wheeler County farmers are going along the line. Our people are learning the lesson that a full-blood animal eats no more than a scrub. Ample winter feed for the livestock is

grown on the creek bottoms, natural meadows and sidehills that are not too steep to till with ordinary plows. As yet the day of the farmer has not come here, the stockman tilling just as little ground as necessity demands, preferring to keep intact as much of the virgin bunchgrass land as possible. Alfalfa grows to perfection on all the low lands, and is the favorite winter stock feed. Grain of all kinds is raised successfully, wherever tried, in all parts of the county, not excepting the highest altitudes, which is saying a good deal for our climate, when it is remembered that the summit of the Blue Mountains is the county's southern line. Here, as elsewhere in Oregon east of the Cascade Mountains, dry weather prevails during three-fourths of the year, and the average winter (meaning by this the duration of time range stock must be fed) does not exceed six weeks. There is an average of about one week's zero weather. Where ordinary care is exercised, winter loss of stock is unknown.

Planting New Orchards.
Hardy fruits are easily raised throughout the county, almost every rancher possessing some orchard. Peaches, apricots and grapes second to none are produced in abundance in the orchards on creeks and river bottoms, and in many sheltered coves in the hills. Many kinds of fruit trees, of which the most important, perhaps, are apples, as the apple does extraordinarily well and is the acknowledged king of all fruits raised here. The average stockman views the coming of railroads with mixed feelings, but the sentiment in favor of the "iron horse" is surely though slowly growing. For while its advent will undeniably reduce the price of freight on such commodities as wool, perhaps, or other products, it will just as certainly enhance the value of the land that it owns. Moreover, it will give him, and what is generally deemed to him far more important, his wife and children—advantage in the way of a better civilization, especially along social and educational lines, that come only with the growth of population and the reach touch with the outside world, that will more than offset the problematical decrease he sees in his income. The long-distance telephone, already here, is another boon to the farmer, and is the truth. The old and selfish view of great prosperity for a small number of people, is being superseded by the new and better view of the greatest good for the greatest number. Once the railroad traverses Wheeler County the county will be able to support, in comfort, nay, even better, a larger population than it has now. For, with transportation assured and modern appliances for cultivating our exceedingly fertile soil, the county could produce millions of bushels of grain annually, instead of merely sufficient for the making of our bread and the feeding of our teams. This, without decreasing the net value of our livestock, as with improved methods more per acre and a better grade can be kept. Crop failures in this county are unknown. Last year the Columbia Southern Railroad, which is headed this way, was completed to Shaniko, 40 miles from Fossil, and now our nearest shipping point. Prior to that, Arlington, 60 miles away, was our closest shipping point.

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WHEeler COUNTY.
Stockraising Leads in Oregon's Youngest Subdivision.
Every few years, owing to the state's rapid growth in population and wealth, the former necessitating the change and the latter providing means for its support, a new county is created. Created by an act of the Legislature, the last or youngest county in the state was formed in this manner in March, 1899, under the name of "Wheeler County." The process of its formation is already notably apparent. Inheriting a debt of \$53,000 from the three counties of Gilliam, Grant and Crook, from each of which a portion of territory was taken to form the new county, Wheeler County has, in the 2 1/2 years of its existence, cut this debt down to \$25,000, according to the County Clerk's recent statement, where, besides paying out, aside from the ordinary running expenses, \$12,000 for a fine new Courthouse, now ready to be occupied, and \$2800 for new books, transcripts and records from the other counties, and furniture for offices. All this without increasing the tax levy. In fact, with a smaller levy the county has been able to pay three counties out of which Wheeler County was carved. In the new county, which is about 60 miles long by 35 wide, no taxpayer lives more than 50 miles from the county seat, while in the older counties many of Wheeler's present citizens lived over 100 miles from the county seat, and that, too, over mountains almost inaccessible in the winter. Wheeler County, therefore, as an excuse for our existence as a county, if any were needed.

Great County for Stock.
At present Wheeler County is chiefly, in fact, almost wholly devoted to the raising of livestock, and which is peculiarly well adapted. Having two spurs of the densely timbered Blue Mountains running across the county, with the John Day River flowing between them, the county is magnificently watered, which means, in Eastern Oregon, a stockman's paradise. Some idea of the importance of this county as a stockraising center may be gleaned from the fact that it contains at present 200,000 sheep, 15,000 cattle, 8000 horses, and hogs more than ample for the county's 250 inhabitants, the surplus going to the market. Of the latter, the townships in the county, about 12 are timber land, situated in the mountains and mostly Government land, to which the sheep are driven in the winter months during the hot summer months on the rich succulent grasses that flourish in the cool shade of the tall pines, firs and tamaracs. The timber contains bunchgrass, rank and rich, such as grows only in the foothills, and, as Wheeler County, for the most part, stands on edge, the big half of it is foothills. Of late years the quality of the livestock in this county has been greatly improved by the use of none but high-grade or full-blood males, so much so that the stock is worth many dollars per head more than four years ago. While this may not be making two blades of grass grow where one grew before, it amounts to substantially the same thing, and shows that the Wheeler County farmers are going along the line. Our people are learning the lesson that a full-blood animal eats no more than a scrub. Ample winter feed for the livestock is

grown on the creek bottoms, natural meadows and sidehills that are not too steep to till with ordinary plows. As yet the day of the farmer has not come here, the stockman tilling just as little ground as necessity demands, preferring to keep intact as much of the virgin bunchgrass land as possible. Alfalfa grows to perfection on all the low lands, and is the favorite winter stock feed. Grain of all kinds is raised successfully, wherever tried, in all parts of the county, not excepting the highest altitudes, which is saying a good deal for our climate, when it is remembered that the summit of the Blue Mountains is the county's southern line. Here, as elsewhere in Oregon east of the Cascade Mountains, dry weather prevails during three-fourths of the year, and the average winter (meaning by this the duration of time range stock must be fed) does not exceed six weeks. There is an average of about one week's zero weather. Where ordinary care is exercised, winter loss of stock is unknown.

means of transportation, farm products are not extensively raised for export, but enough wheat of the best possible quality was raised last year to keep all the mills of the county running until another crop can be harvested, and an abundance of other kinds of grain and hay to supply all the stock not sent to the winter ranges. The vegetable and fruit crop, owing to late frosts, may not have been quite up to the usual yield, but there is no danger of a famine in either.

The money coming from the sale of copper here are probably getting along as well as some anywhere. The exclusion here would be a dead letter and the scenes that would follow after several of them in the South could not happen here, as there is not a Chinaman or negro in the county. The Indians, once so numerous, and not always agreeable, after several of them had to work out fines on the streets of Enterprise for violating the fish and game laws, left in disgust and are seen no more. Only four persons have been found worthy of the penitentiary, which is much less than the usual yearly average. No one has been sent to the lunatic asylum since the county was organized. Successful experiments have proven that alfalfa and bromegrass can be raised here, and many acres have been sown, alfalfa on the lower lands that can be irrigated and bromegrass on the high, dry lands.

WALLOWA COUNTY.
Lack of a Railroad Retards the Development of Agriculture.
This comparatively new county has during the year 1901 enjoyed a reasonable degree of prosperity. More land has been put in cultivation, fencing done, more houses built and more irrigating ditches constructed than in any previous year since its organization. Successful experiments have proven that alfalfa and bromegrass can be raised here, and many acres have been sown, alfalfa on the lower lands that can be irrigated and bromegrass on the high, dry lands.

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