

BLUE MOUNTAIN COUNTRY

Land of Gold-Veined, Timber-Clad Slopes,
Fertile Valleys and Lush Orchards.

IN THE northeastern corner of Oregon is a group of three counties which are favored by nature with a variety of resources equal to those of the three-blessed Willamette Valley. Among the lofty spurs of the Blue Mountains, which provide abundant water from their melting snow, are many large valleys of wonderfully fertile soil. These grow grain of all kinds, fruit, bees for sugar-making and feed much livestock. In the mountains are some of the richest producing mines of the state. As the land grows more remote from the main Blue Mountains, it becomes semi-arid, but irrigation on a constantly growing scale is bringing out its latent fertility.

THRICE HAPPY UNION.

County of Hills and Valleys Which
Pour Forth Plenty.

SITUATED in the northeastern part of the state, among the Blue Mountains, is the rich county of Union, which possesses a greater variety of resources than any other county in the state. Elsewhere in this issue will be found data as to the size of Union County and the amount of public lands that have not yet been appropriated. This county is made up of rich valleys that grow most excellent crops, with never a failure, and of mountains that abound in timber, grass and the precious metals.

The celebrated Grande Ronde Valley is the largest of its valleys and contains the principal towns. These are La Grande, the business center, with 5000 inhabitants; Union, the county seat, with 1600 people; and Elgin, the lumbering and wool center, with its 1500 inhabitants. There are a half dozen smaller towns, with good local trade, and the whole county is prosperous.

Grain, Apples, Lumber.

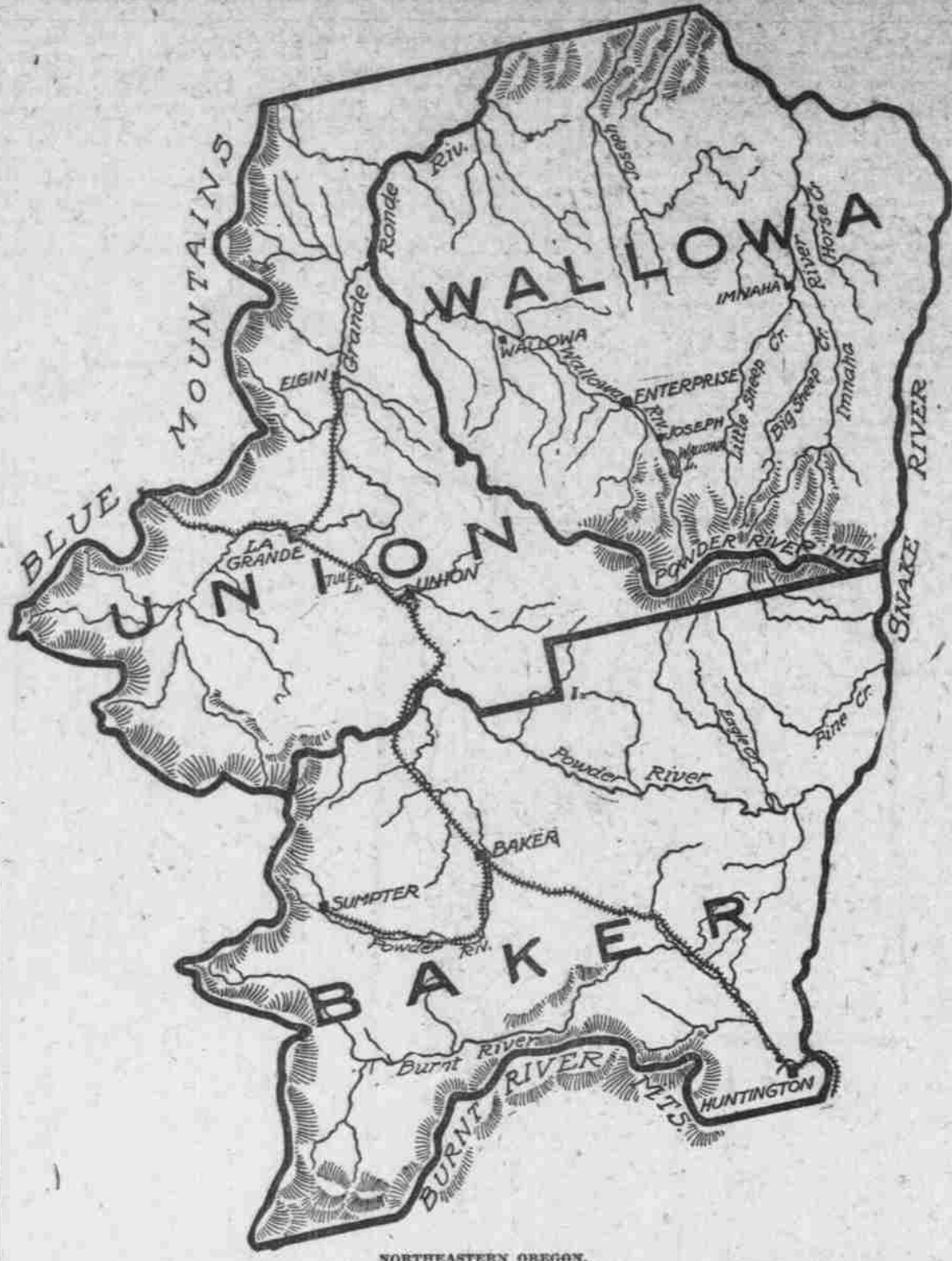
The best wheat lands are worth about \$50 an acre, while the best apple orchards bring as high as \$500 an acre, and the mountain grazing lands sell at from \$3 to \$5 an acre. The largest export is wheat, which brings in about \$500,000 per annum, while the lumber shipments approximate the same amount. Union County grows more cattle, barley and hay than any other county in Eastern Oregon, and the horticultural products are doubling more rapidly than in any other part of the state. A few years ago Union County shipped in apples for home use, and now ships out hundreds of carloads of the finest apples on earth, and the people are planting new orchards so rapidly that it will not be many years before apple shipments will surpass the shipments of wheat and flour. The livestock interests are very great, and the shipments of cattle and horses, sheep and wool place \$200,000 on the right side of the cash account.

Many Lines of Manufacture.

In the manufacturing line, lumber holds the first rank, but the seven roller flouring mills, running 24 hours a day, besides supplying the mining country on the east, add no inconsiderable amount to Portland's Oriental commerce. The largest individual manufacturing enterprise in the county is the huge plant of the Amalgamated Sugar Company at La Grande. This plant during the "sugar beet campaign" slices 400 tons of beets every 24 hours and turns out each day 20 tons of the finest sugar on earth. The big woolen mill, recently built at Union by Hon. A. E. Eaton, is winning a reputation throughout the Nation for its blankets, which are thought to be as good as are made anywhere in the world. The owner found it necessary to double his capacity during the last year, and, though running 24 hours a day, cannot supply the demand.

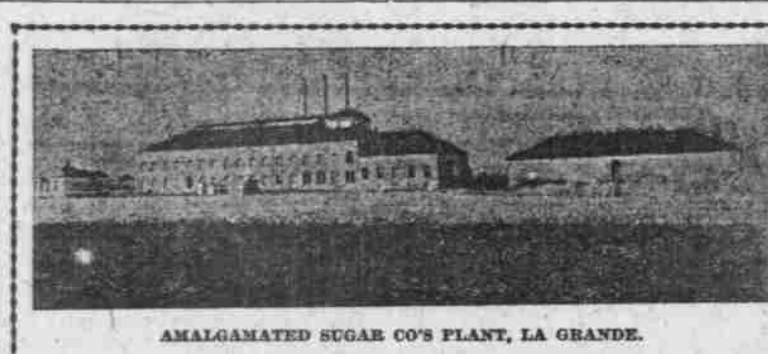
Mines Which Rival Alaska.

Heretofore mining operations have been



vast gold field that covers all the counties in the Blue Mountains, and the future will see more gold taken from this region than from Alaska or South Africa. Huge copper deposits are now being developed and there is iron enough in the Blue Mountains to supply the world. Quite a traffic in building stone has been built up during the last year and this industry promises great things.

While much is being done to develop the many and varied natural resources of Union County, yet the people's energies are being taxed to the limit and the wheels of progress would turn faster if the county had more men of means, who know a good thing when they see it, and are not afraid to venture. This is a great field for industry, and while this



AMALGAMATED SUGAR CO'S PLANT, LA GRANDE.

Union and that the future will see it a little empire within itself.
TURNER OLIVER.
La Grande, Dec. 15.

WALLOWA GOES FORWARD.

Great Progress in Irrigation Brings
Influx of Settlers.

FROM all parts of the county come reports of unprecedented progress during 1903. Not only has a large influx of settlers been experienced, but building and business have increased immensely, and the whole county has made great strides in cultivation, irrigation and the development of mining interests.

In building, the town of Joseph, alone, has expended over \$25,000, including an excellent hotel. The total amount expended throughout the county in this line is estimated at about \$50,000.

The rolls for the current year show an increase over 1902 in assessed land of \$5,000 acres, the total now being 238,000 acres. Final proof was made on 43,000 acres of Government land by 25 persons, and 17,223 acres were purchased from the state. The value of non-tiltable land is now placed at \$2 per acre, an increase of one-half dollar over 1902. The total value of assessable property increased \$500,000.

In irrigation most gratifying progress has been made. Not counting the numerous private ditches made during the year, some \$70,000 was spent in irrigation, a

total length of 40 miles of first-class permanent ditches having been built, irrigating some 30,000 acres and opening up a great deal of the very choicest agricultural land in the county.

In mining, which is as yet in its infancy here, great activity has been felt, and progress made in the way of locating and improving interests. One new company with a capital of \$1,000,000 has been formed. The Tenderfoot Mining and Milling Company, had worked continuously on its group, and assays have been most assuring. It has ordered a 20-stamp quartz mill complete and has built a 32-mile road from Joseph to the group.

The ranching of horses and cattle for the year shows no decrease from past years, and sheep growing is decidedly on the increase, the wool clip for the current year amounting to 2,000,000 pounds. In education, and civic improvements the towns in the Wallowa Valley are keeping steadily abreast of the times, ninth and tenth grades having been added to the schools where they were not previously. Modern electric lighting plants have been installed and their water works systems perfected. Given proper facilities for transportation, the future progress of the county should be steady and permanent.

F. D. McCULLY.
Joseph, December 10.

HAS UNDERGROUND RIVER.

Baker County Adds Irrigated Farms
to Many Means of Wealth.

BAKER is one of the most prosperous counties of Eastern Oregon. It is entirely within the semi-arid zone and the farmer must depend upon irrigation for the production of fruits and grains, yet with a bountiful supply of water, such

as is afforded by the mountain streams, this is no hindrance, but an advantage.

The steady growth of the county in agriculture is shown by the increase of tillable land from year to year. In 1902 the tillable land, as shown by the Assessor's books, was 78,700 acres, and for the year 1903, 81,984 acres, an increase of 3,284 acres.

This increase in acreage where irrigation is practical means more in the way of material increase in the agricultural resources of the county than the casual observer would suppose. The average size of an irrigated farm is from 30 to 40 acres. On a basis of 40 acres to the farm the increase of tillable land in 1903 means the addition of 129 homes to the various communities.

The non-tiltable land subject to assessment increased from 244,826 acres in 1902 to 253,019 acres in 1903, an increase of 8,193 acres. What is meant by non-tiltable land is land for which title has passed from the Government to private ownership by the issuance of patents, and includes all timber and desert entries which have become private lands, but have not been brought under cultivation.

The prospects for the coming year are favorable for a very large increase in the irrigable lands of this county, for the reason that several large tracts have been purchased by Eastern parties, who propose to provide water for immediate use for irrigation purposes.

One large body of land near Baker City containing several thousand acres is to be divided into 40-acre farms between now and April, 1904, and each tract or farm will be supplied with a large windmill to pump water, by means of which the land will be irrigated. This means of irrigation is made possible by reason of the fact that there is an unlimited supply of water flowing beneath this land, within 10 or 12 feet of the surface. Experimental wells have been dug and it has been clearly demonstrated that the water supply is abundant for all practical purposes. An Eastern syndicate has purchased this body of land and the work of surveying and fencing the farms is now in progress.

The Harrison Immigration Bureau will furnish the settlers to occupy these new farms. The Bureau has been very active in procuring settlers for it is and other Eastern Oregon counties during the past year. The population of Baker County will be increased by the addition of several hundred families through the efforts of this Bureau during the year 1904.

The assessed valuation of property in this county for the year 1903 is \$4,120,015, an increase of \$30,000 over the year 1902.

In addition to stock raising and agriculture, Baker County can boast of some of the richest gold mines in the state, in fact mining is present the principal industry of the county. Many millions of dollars are invested in mines and the amount is steadily increasing from year to year. Many of the mines are rich producers of gold and the number of producing mines has been materially increased during the past year. The mining industry is treated in another article, hence it is not necessary to enter upon an extended discussion of the mineral wealth of Baker County in this article. Suffice it to say that no county in the state offers better and more varied advantages to the homeseeker than Baker County.

E. A. McDANIEL.
Baker City, December 17.

A MODEL PLAYHOUSE.

Arcade Theater Wins Praise and
Popularity.

To start a theater is no small task. To equip it so that the comfort of patrons is guarded in every detail is a greater. To win praise and popularity and liberal patronage is the greatest. This the Arcade Theater has done in its existence of less than six months. The secret of the success of this cozy playhouse lies in the fact that the management has spared no expense to provide clean, refined vaudeville for the lovers of this form of entertainment. Among its regular patrons are thousands of women and children, and the weekly programmes are always selected with care to please the most fastidious, as well as to provoke mirth and laughter.

In its short career there have been presented to the approval of the Portland public the most novel and expensive acts that appear on a Western vaudeville stage. Talented soloists, musicians, acrobats, jugglers, magicians, dancers and equilibrists, monomaniacs, strong men, character comedians and mimics have amused countless amusement-seekers, who have gone out on the highways and the byways to spread the fame of this home of continuous vaudeville. With the New Year, the management will renew its resolution to offer the public the best attractions and to continue to merit liberal patronage. In connection with the theater are amusement parlors, full of mechanical and musical novelties that cannot fail to entertain both old and young.

John Virginus Bennes

ARCHITECT

BAKER CITY, OREGON

New, First-class, Moderate Rates.

Crabill Hotel

GIBBOUX BROS.,
Proprietors.
Opp. Depot Baker City, Or.

M. L. CAUSEY, General Manager

The Eastern Oregon Colonizing Company

We have the following lands to offer to parties who wish to subdivide and colonize them.

1151 acres, 11 miles southeast of La Grande that we offer at the low price of \$16 per acre. This tract is well watered, Catherine Creek running through the tract and affords plenty of water to irrigate the entire tract, if necessary.

The year 1903 this ranch produced 1400 tons of hay, a large percentage of which was timothy, which sold for \$14 per ton, F. O. B. Also 14,000 bushels of grain. The present year, 1904, the yield of grain was not so great, a late spring having been summer-fallow, which is necessary about every eight years to prevent foulness.

We also have a tract of 1500 acres lying one mile east of the above tract, well watered. Price, \$17.50 per acre.

We have many tracts of land to sell containing 40 acres, and up to prices ranging from \$30 to \$100 per acre. We have many fine farms well improved, of 160 acres, at from \$40 to \$80 per acre. Also a fine assortment of fruit and timber lands.

We have the entire O'Conner Addition to the City of La Grande for sale at popular prices.

Terms on all of the above, one-third to one-half cash, balance on or before five years.

We have our own horses and carriages and will show the homeseeker the country to his entire satisfaction.

Headquarters
for Commercial
Travelers

HOTEL ELGIN

Office of
Wallowa Stage
Company

House Newly Furnished Throughout—39 Rooms
BRICK ADDITION—18 Rooms in New Part

Rates \$1.25 per Day and up.

ELGIN, OREGON

OPEN OPINIONS

HIGHLAND THE BEST

If you cannot personally investigate a proposition looking toward a Profitable Investment, accept the word of one whose judgment is unquestioned, and follow the lead of the successful ones.

Read what an investor has to say to a friend about the Highland:

"It pleases me very much to learn that you are already a Highland stockholder. In regard to buying a mine out there, I had several chances, but rejected them all. If I only wanted to sell stock, there were plenty of claims to be had for a few dollars which I could have incorporated a company on, but I wanted to be sure that those to whom I sell stock will be benefited in the transaction. I feel satisfied that the Highland stock will be worth many, many times more than its present value, and there is nothing in the Sumpter District that equals the Highland mine. The Highland must be seen in order to be appreciated. You will do far better with your money by buying Highland stock than buying Sumpter prospects. This mine has everything necessary and essential for cheap mining, such as water power, timber, market advantages and transportation facilities. It has more pay-shoots than any other single mine, the ore is base, which proves it to be permanent, as that kind of a vein filling comes from below. A man cannot find anything better than the Highland to invest in, especially considering the fact that the Highland is managed by capable and conservative mining men. Eight people from my state have been out to look over the Highland, and every one of them speaks of the property in the highest terms. I assure you that if I was not absolutely sure that Highland stock would make money for my clients I would not be selling it. Go out there yourself and you will be satisfied. You will see that it is the largest mine there, having the longest and richest pay shoots. I consider that it is a great investment even at 50 cents per share, and in my judgment the time is not far distant when it will be sought for at that figure. The company could start in to ship high-grade ore to the smelter at once, as there is a large amount already on the dump which can be shipped. I advise you to buy Highland stock at the present price. Both myself and my friends are doing so, and I advise you to do the same. I have seen the mine, and I know what I am talking about. I have studied mines for several years, the corporations and management. I have been searching all over the country for good mining investments, both for myself and friends. I am pinning my faith to the Highland and its management. I consider the mine a good one and the management safe, conservative and capable of handling our money. I am satisfied that profits will be earned.

The above is only one of the many commendatory letters received from men of prominence throughout the Union. The opportunity to purchase stock in a mine of proven merit at the low price of 12½ cents per share is offered you. Do not wait until too late. Think the matter over and write for map, panoramic views, and full particulars.

Neil J. Sorenson & Co.

FINANCIAL AGENTS

SUMPTER, OREGON

BEERS

OUR DIFFERENT
BREWS

"GAMBRINUS"

THE NAME IS ENOUGH

THIRTY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE BEHIND IT.



Gambrinus beer is sold today heavily in the San Francisco market. Our plant is complete, our facilities the best. The finest product of the Pacific Coast. Equal to the best of foreign products.

BOTTLED FOR FAMILY TRADE A SPECIALTY.

"ROYAL" and "PILSENER"
On Draft and in Bottles.

Gambrinus Brewery Co., Portland, Or.



NEW SMELTER AT SUMPTER.

confined to gold in placer and quartz and it is impossible to tell how much of this metal has been taken out in Union County. But this county is included in the

great state has more undeveloped resources than any other state in the Union, I believe that no county in Oregon possesses more natural advantages than



ORCHARD SCENE, UNION COUNTY.