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The East Oregonian.

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THE EAST OREGONIAN

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HAVE Township Plat of all surveyed lands in Umatilla county, and records of all Claims from the Interior Dept. to the present time.

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Would respectfully call the attention of the public to their largely increased stock of

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Which the store and facilities afforded by their own location enables them to offer

AT THE VERY LOWEST RATES

Their Stock will consist as heretofore of

DRY GOODS,

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Glassware, Boots and Shoes,

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They will always take pleasure in filling any order with which they may be entrusted to the best of their ability.

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And other Produce taken in exchange at the Highest Market Rates.

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THIS ELEGANT NEW HOUSE IS JUST OPENED For the accommodation of the Public.

New House, New Furniture

Situated in the Heart of the Town!

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BEST THE MARKET AFFORDS.

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THE MOST POPULAR RESORT EAST OF THE MOUNTAINS.

WALLA WALLA

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Of every sort and description, at reduced prices. Having secured the services of an experienced workman from San Francisco, I have to offer at the Walla Walla Bakery every sort of goods to my list of business.

CRACKERS

Give me your Orders and be Convinced. O. BRECHTEL, Walla Walla.

EASTERN OREGON.

A Territory of Great Fertility as Large as New England, open to Immigration.

(From the Willamette Farmer.)

Eastern Oregon is a much more extensive region than Eastern Washington, but has attracted less attention of late than the latter because it lies more remote from transportation facilities. The steamers which reach the Upper Columbia and Snake rivers find the products of the Walla Walla and Palouse valleys waiting to freight them back, while the agricultural areas of Eastern Oregon, except in northern Wasco and Umatilla counties are so distant as to hardly justify extended production. Immigration also, seeks a country nearest to transportation, so the settlement of Eastern Washington has of late gone on more rapidly than in the counties of Oregon to the Southward. More has been written about Washington than Oregon because the Northern Pacific has an immense land grant that lies in that country, covering its best agricultural lands, and has been anxious and willing to make its advantages known, whereas the people of Oregon have done nothing to encourage immigration, and the Oregon and California railroad, whose grant lies in Western Oregon, was only interested in attracting attention to the Western valleys. So we enter upon the work of describing Eastern Oregon with no published statements prepared to consult, and have to work the matter up from current facts and material, and from our own personal experience, but fortunately, during past years, we have traversed nearly all this country, and are moderately familiar with its contour, its resources of all kinds, and so speak with a measure of confidence of what we have seen and experienced in person.

WASCO COUNTY.

Only a few years ago the Willamette Valley was Oregon, but here is one single county east of the Cascades which has an area equal to that of the nine counties of the Willamette Valley, and must contain land available for settlement equal to half the farming lands of the Willamette. A rough estimate of the domain of Wasco county shows that it contains at least eight millions of acres. It is naturally divided into districts, as follows: The streams that have their rise near Mount Hood and pour into the Columbia or Des Chutes rivers, reaching from the Cascade mountains to the Des Chutes, and from the Columbia on the North to the Warm Springs Indian reservation on the south, with Dalles City for its center, we call this the Dalles district. Another locality, bordering the Columbia and reaching from the Des Chutes river to Umatilla county, we will call the John Day district. The Middle district includes Antelope creek, Trout creek, Hay creek and Willow creek, that pour into the Des Chutes, and other streams that head with them and pour their waters eastward to John Day river. South of this lies the Ochoco district, with Prineville for its center, containing a good deal of land now utilized for stock ranges, with limited farming operations to supply the home demand, and gold mines that are worked to the eastward among the spurs of the Blue mountains.

The Dalles district commences at Dalles City, and contains already considerable population and diversified interests. Dalles City lies under and upon a bluff, and is a place of great importance, as it has an extensive trade with Klickitat and Yakima to the north, and with the rest of Wasco and Grant counties to the south. It contains several thousand inhabitants, has many charming residences, and its back streets are beautiful foliage, while the business portion of the town is building up in a substantial form. Back of it are high hills, and from the very highest of these hills there looks down upon the town a splendid farm of 500 acres, owned by Mr. Bird, who has thus demonstrated that the hill lands of Eastern Oregon can be made very valuable for the production of grain, hay, fruits and vegetables. He last Summer cut his wheat green and made hay of it because it was most profitable to do so. Settlers at an early day made their homes upon all the creeks to utilize the intervening hills for pasturage, but the hills have proved available for practical agriculture. Back to the Tygh river all the available bottoms were claimed twenty years ago, but of late we hear that settlers are making their homes on the high plateaus. The Oak Grove country and the Tinnicum settlement, south of Tygh valley, offer much good land to emigrants, and people there are very anxious to treat newcomers well. There are many wealthy stock men and farmers in this part of Wasco county. Dufur Bros. have their sheep ranch on Fifteen Mile creek and their Summer and Fall pasture is an extensive swamp land claim, on a bench of the mountains at the base of Mount Hood.

The John Day district consists of uplands, bordering the Columbia and extending south about fifty miles between the waters of Des Chutes and John Day rivers, and east to the boundary of Umatilla county. Col. T. S. Lang, who has interests in this section, reports the soil as excellent, a very

good grass country over all that distance. The bunch grass grows vigorously almost from the banks of the Columbia river and it is equally good for grain. Wherever water is found there is rich bottom land. Water comes near the surface in many places and can be easily had by digging. Springs are more abundant than was supposed to be the case at an early day. Wells have been dug ten miles from the Columbia, at Spanish Hollow. The question will soon be tested as to the productiveness of the soil on these uplands, as the Blalock ranch, which has been described in our columns, is in this district. This ranch is located at the junction of the Columbia and John Day rivers and contains over 60,000 acres, and is taken up by a company of enterprising men with a view to co-operative farming on a large scale. If this section proves as available as is hoped, it will provide homes for thousands of families. Thirty Mile creek, which is near the Umatilla line, is a good farming country. Rock creek, which empties into the John Day river, has a rich valley, settled thickly for thirty miles, extending towards the Blue Mountains in Umatilla county. Col. Lang, who is at home in this region, informs us that people raise only what they need for home supply, but have not grown farm products to send abroad owing to the difficulty of reaching market and because stock raising has always been more profitable than farm crops. They will grow grain extensively when transportation is perfected to encourage it. The scheme of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Co. includes branch lines to bring all the rich farming country along the Blue Mountains for two hundred miles, into connection with the river and their main trunk line of road.

The Middle District of Wasco county reaches from the Des Chutes river to the Blue mountains and is more than large enough to constitute a great county of itself. A glance at the map will show that it is well watered by streams running into both the Des Chutes and John Day rivers. It has thriving villages; Willoughby, Antelope, Bridge creek are trading points and the country is well adapted to agriculture through its whole extent, but farming operations are chiefly restricted to supplying the local demand. The country is devoted to stock raising, and therefore sparsely settled upon. Whenever railroads can reach Middle Wasco, and encourage farming and denser settlement in this well watered region, the result will be a magical change from pastoral to active farm life. Col. Lang has visited this region and represents it as possessing many desirable qualities that will develop when transportation is possible.

One of the most promising portions of Eastern Oregon is the Ochoco district, located on the branches of Crooked creek, the southeastern fork of the Des Chutes. This region has Prineville for its trade center, a thriving place with several hundred inhabitants, a newspaper and a brick trade with the country and mining districts in the Southwestern spurs of the Blue mountains.

One great advantage claimed for all the country south of the Columbia is that the Winters are milder and stock do much better in severe seasons than north of the Columbia. For this reason Middle Wasco is desirable as a stock country and some of the most successful stock men we have are to be found in Grant and Wasco counties. November 26th we published a letter from Dr. L. Vanderpool, an old resident from Crooked river valley, which will be reproduced in the extra edition we compile from the files of the Farmer for Eastern circulation, and this lively account of that region, and stock raising thereabouts, answer the purpose so fully that we refer the reader to it for a complete view of the Ochoco district. Dr. Vanderpool looks to the future, when railroads shall come to their relief, and explains the wonderful resources of that valley for production of farm crops. The time is coming when railroads will reach even there. The present indication is that the narrow gauge will cross the Cascade to effect a junction with the Nevada Northern road, and that road, when completed, will give the Crooked river country an outlet towards both the east and the west. When the time comes for Wasco county to settle up, the land table furnished us from the United States Land Office at the Dalles shows that 3,000,000 acres of unsurveyed lands are vacant. A correspondent wrote us not long since that Wasco county offered as great inducements for settlers as either the Palouse or Yakima counties, and such seems to be the case.

The census tables show the population of Wasco county to be 10,228; number of farms, 875; land actually farmed, only 80,000 acres; value of live stock, \$1,771,380; which ranks all other counties in that respect; farm products in value, \$287,000. Wasco is first in both sheep and horses, and next to Baker and Grant in cattle. So far as climate and health are concerned, there is probably no pleasanter climate nor any more healthy region in the world. Stock thrive better here than in any other portion of the Columbia region.

LAKE COUNTY.

This county is in South Middle Ore-

gon, and takes its name from the fact that it is a great lake region. A gradual divide separates it from Grant county, and much of Lake, as well as the portion of Grant south of the Indian reservation, is of light character of soil, consisting of a mass of volcanic ashes, but Lake, though a high and frosty county, has many charming valleys and good land. Sprague river has a beautiful valley, flows west into Klamath lake, and thence through the Cascade range the Klamath river seeks the ocean. Other streams in Lake county flow into lakes and the waters sink. This region will be traversed by the projected railroad from Reno, Nevada, north, to connect with the road projected by the Oregonian Railway Company. Lake county has about 3,000 population, and there are any number of chances for homesteads. Stock raising is the chief source of income; Lakeview, the county seat, on the shores of Goose lake, is a thriving town, and has two newspapers; Linkville, at the west, is also a good point for trade. This county has no direct communication with the Columbia river and can hardly deserve to be described as a part of the Columbia region.

This county is very extensive, and has the western slope of the Blue mountains for its boundary. It used to have rich placer mines that supported an active population and a brisk trade, but the placers are mostly worked out. Quartz mining is offering inducements for enterprise, and may be expected to form a permanent source of prosperity for all future time, even though not yet making returns for outlay. The farming operations in Upper John Day valley are for the supply of the mines and stock ranches, for this county has the great cattle herds of the northwest in its limits. There is an immense area of vacant land in Grant county, soon to be added to by the throwing open of the Malheur reservation, which is no longer needed for the use of the Indians. Grant county may in time be reached by railroads, but it will not be soon, unless some unlooked for enterprise comes upon the world, and the advance so rapidly making for the development of the country east of the Cascades leaves it very possible that Grant county will be brought within reach of market. This county is diversified by mountains, valleys and plains. Its altitude may interfere with good results from promiscuous farming, but there is so great an area of vacant lands awaiting settlement that it is not necessary to forestall time to say what every section of the country can promise for the future.

UMATILLA COUNTY.

Coming back to the Columbia river we find, on the east of Wasco county, a grand agricultural region, joining on the southwest Walla Walla county of Washington Territory, including a fair part of Walla Walla valley, which is divided by the 46th degree of latitude, so that a good slice of that beautiful valley is Oregon soil. Rock creek, which empties into the John Day river in Wasco county, has its best lands in Umatilla, and is thickly settled for 20 miles. Along the Columbia is a grassy upland that promises less than similar land in Wasco county. Leaving out the river shore region, Umatilla is a splendid county. The Blue mountains extend through it, parallel with the river distant 50 to 60 miles, running west with a trend toward the south, as the map shows. Following the mountains for 125 miles through Umatilla county, is an arable stretch of country that averages 25 to 30 miles in width, and above Umatilla it extends to the very shores of the Columbia. Not long ago it was a range for cattle, but to-day settlement is coming in to claim and cultivate every plain and hillside. It is true that from the Umatilla river, west, this county is chiefly devoted to stock raising, and in value of live stock it is second only to Wasco. Transportation favors the northeast end of the county more, and there wheat farming is carried on very extensively. Before long branch railroads will favor the whole arable belt of Umatilla, and then the era of production will commence in earnest, and Umatilla county will have an immense wheat surplus. A glance at the map shows that the streams branch out and water well all the country near the mountains, and afterwards flow into the larger rivers. The Umatilla Indian reservation, occupies as fine a portion of country as can be found east of the mountains, much to the annoyance of white settlers adjacent, and of many who would like to claim these lands for settlement. We consider Umatilla county in many respects the crown of Eastern Oregon. Its arable land cannot be excelled; its climate is fine; its nearness to the Columbia river, and the certainty that railroads will reach every part of it, makes it at present the most attractive region now open for settlement. While it has only about 10,000 inhabitants, it can easily accommodate ten times that number. It offers such excellent lands away from the mountains as the Cold Spring country, which is yet in a great measure vacant. It has a splendid region of valley and foothill lands, and the Blue mountains themselves we expect to see occupied in course of time by industrious farmers and stock men, for the soil is ex-

cellent, and many sloping reaches of mountain lands, covered with scattering pine forest and no underbrush, can easily be transferred to fields of golden grain and orchards of luscious fruit. The region to the eastward is so undeveloped that we cannot gauge its future by the accessories of the present. Development once begun will continue at a rapid rate, and with railroad connection completed to the East the stream of immigrants to come will fill up the land with busy industry.

The Blue Mountain region now affords a great Summer range for the flocks and herds of the Umatilla and Wasco plains. Stock men build cabins and corrals and so establish claims that are respected as rights of precedence. Year after year they drive their stock to these mountain ranges, and they fatten on the native grasses and save the bunch grass of the lowland for winter pasture. Rye grass grows in swales and along water courses; a long grass grows through the open pine forests that have no underbrush, and there is a short sheep grass, much liked by that stock, found in the foothills, and which takes the place of bunch grass when it is fed down in the foothills.

There is no reason why this mountain land, containing many sloping reaches of the richest soil, well watered and timbered, and not so elevated by any means as the Cascade range, shall not, in due time, be appreciated for agricultural purposes, and made use of for settlement.

There are many thriving towns all through Umatilla county: Pendleton, Heppner, Pilot Rock, Umatilla, Weston, Milton and Centerville, are all growing places, surrounded by an excellent farming country. The immigrant can find at present, room for his homestead in the Cold Spring country, or along the scope of valleys to the westward there is abundant room to locate the domain the United States Government stands ready to bestow.

UNION COUNTY.

Ranges of mountains extend from the Nevada line, northward, through Eastern Oregon, known as Steins mountain on the south, and developing into the broadly spread Blue mountains to the northward. The interior country, along the Cascade range to the east, is much higher land than is found in the Willamette valley, on the west, therefore there is much less drainage from the Cascade summits to the east than to the west, the distance from the eastern plains to the summit is everywhere less than on the west, and the mountains are less rugged to climb. While the Blue mountains are not so inaccessible as the Cascades, they are still a grandly outlined mountain range, spreading from the Columbia south, in irregular form, over a wide district, containing many pleasant grassy reaches, wooded with open pine forests that will certainly at no distant date be appreciated for settlement and cultivation. This range of mountains supplies, from its fountains, the various streams that make the beautiful valleys of Columbia and Walla Walla counties in Washington Territory, the Umatilla river and all the streams that empty below it into the Columbia river and the John Day river in Wasco county are fed entirely from them. Not only so, but Crooked river, the main fork of the Des Chutes, heads far around to the southeast, so that these mountains create the arable lands of nearly half of Oregon and the richest portion of Washington Territory. On the east, also, they supply the flow of the streams which reach Snake river. Some of the most fertile and beautiful country east of the Cascades is found hemmed in by the walls of surrounding ranges, for Snake river is for quite a distance in Idaho bounded by inaccessible mountains. The course of the early emigrations followed down Snake river, hundreds of dreary miles, over sage brush plains that were parched and desert in appearance, and through canyons and over burnt hills that saw many a wayside grave that buried faint hopes, and were strewn with carcasses of animals that died along the road. Coming at last to the divide that separates the waters of the Grande Ronde from Powder river, they found spread out below them as beautiful a picture as the eye ever looked upon. It lay in native wilderness, untouched by the hand of civilization, a few Indian camps may have been seen there, and perhaps herds of Indian horses fed on the 6th prairie grasses, but otherwise it was untouched by man. Here was a valley, cradled among the mountains, watered from innumerable streams and springs, averaging ten miles in width by thirty miles in length, spread out broadly by lying in a winding shape, with coves and inlets of prairie reaching into the hills where streams permeated, and with abundant feed for stock to compensate for the burnt plains they had left behind. The traveler felt here that his troubles were over. Across the range, only a two days march, were the valleys of Umatilla and Walla Walla.

There are several lively towns in Union county, chief of which are La Grande and Union, each of which supports a newspaper and does a good business. While Union is the county seat La Grande has the land office, both of

the following estimate is made of the total amount of matter passing through the mails during the year 1880: No. of letters, 512,931,224; postal cards, 163,046,912; newspapers, 496,706,132; pieces of all classes, 1,605,502,829.

Thomas Carlyle, the famous English essayist, historian and philosopher, died at Chelsea, (London) on Saturday, February 5th. He was born at Ecclefechan, Scotland, in 1795, and was therefore in his eighty-sixth year.

New York has to support 73 ele...

BAKER COUNTY.

This county has an area nearly two hundred miles long and from the mountain summits to Snake river and the Idaho line. It contains on the north, the valley of Powder river which presents quite a surface for cultivation and has several thriving towns and villages. The mines of the Blue Mountain region offer a market for what is produced, and quartz veins of rich ore are found and worked at the very edge of the valley. This valley is rather cold but produces all the cereals and most of the vegetables in profusion and of excellent quality. Powder river has good grain lands for some distance into the mountains, where stock ranges, though agriculture has not been seriously attempted. The speedy construction of the railroad from the Columbia river gives a hope for future growth and prosperity that induces settlement already; we notice that the Baker city newspapers (the place has two) speak of the fact that quite a settlement has been made the past season on lands south of Powder river and Burnt river valleys, on the waters of the Malheur. We used to traverse the whole length of Baker county, sixteen years ago, when going to the mines of Southern Idaho, and found, along the way, much good land, rich with grass. Since then Baker county has become the great grazing ground for cattle, of which the census returns over 45,000. The population of Baker county, last Spring, was 4,631, a trifling population for such an extensive region. There are not many sheep in the county but much attention is paid to horses, in which connection Baker county stands fourth in the State. Powder river valley is the most populous portion of Baker county, and in the northern part are several mining districts. In the central portion is the Malheur country, containing extensive cattle ranges and time will probably develop its availability for regular farming. In the southern part is the Owyhee river and tributaries, and some farming is carried on in the mining districts in Idaho, near the line. East of them is the Steins Mountain country, a famous stock range. The Malheur Indian reservation is partly in Grant county and part in Baker, but we have information that as it is no longer required for occupation by Indians, it is soon to be thrown open for the settlement by the whites. Baker and Grant counties constituting nearly one-third of the total surface of the State of Oregon, remain to this day in a great measure vacant land, reclaimed over by great herds of stock, utilized only partly in this way, with other resources only slightly understood and awaiting the development of the future. In Powder river valley the capacity for production is well established, and we have no doubt that in time a great part of the valley lands of Baker county will be cultivated to good advantage. There is more or less sage brush plains in Baker county, especially along the upper part of Snake River. This sage brush land is in many instances the richest of soil. We remember reading years ago how a farmer in Powder river valley brought an irrigation ditch to bear upon a piece of heavy sage brush land, strong with alkali, for all sage brush land has this characteristic, and after grubbing the sage, plowed and sowed to wheat, and realized forty bushels to the acre. The lack of water prevents successful agriculture over much of this interior region, but the remedy of artesian wells may be tried there with as much success as in Lower California. The government has made an appropriation to test this matter and it is probable that the question of water supply will some way be solved so that the great wealth of soil that seems wasted over a wide stretch of country between the Sierras of the Pacific and the Rocky mountains, will be made available for habitation and cultivation.

Within two years a railroad will be in operation from the Columbia river to Baker City, and will bring all the region along that distance within a reach of market. It is possible that within that time the Utah Northern railroad will push north to make a junction and establish through connection with the East via the Union Pacific railroad. The time rapidly approaches when the hitherto waste lands of Oregon will have all the value that transportation facilities can give them, and this great section of valley and mountain land that has so long been utilized only for stock ranges and mining ventures, will assume the greater importance that attaches to permanent homes and steady cultivation of the soil.

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