VOL. -XII.

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

Eastern Oregon is a much more extensive egion than Eastern Washington, but has attracted less attention of late than the latter oducts of the Walla Walla and Palouse valleys waiting to freight them back, while s are so distant as hardly to justify extended production. Immigration also, seeks a country nearest to transportation, so the settlement of Eastern Washington has of late tone on more rapidly than in the counties of Oregon to the Southward. More has been written about Washington than Oregon be-cause the Northern Pacific has an immense land grant that lies in that country; covering its best agricultural lands, and has been auxions 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 inter-ested 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 experi-ence, 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 ind 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 set-Wiliamette. 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 reserva-on the South, with Dallas 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 Midand Willows creek that pour into the Deschutes, and other streams that head with them and pour their waters castward to John Day river. South of this lies the Ochoco district with Princeville for its ies the Ochoco district, with Prinesville for its center; containing a good deal of excellent land now utilized for stock range, 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 Dailes district commences at Dailas City and contains already considerable population and diversified interests. Dailas City lies under and upon a bluff and is a place of creat importance, as it has an extensive trade

great importance, as it has an extensive trade with Klickitat and Yakima to the North, and with the rest of Wasco and Grant countries to It contains several thousand in habitants, has many charming residences and its back streets are boantiful with 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 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 dry. Eastern Oregon can be made very valuable for production of grain, hay, fruits and vegetables. He last Summer cut his wheat green and made hay of it because it was most prefitable to do so. Settlers at an early day made their homes upon all the creeks to utilize the intervening hills for pas-turage, but the hills have proved to be available for practical agreements. Each to the Tygh river all the bottoms were claimed twenty years ago, but of lar we hear that settlers are making homes on the high plat-caux. Last Spring we had a letter, and published it, showing that the Oak Grove country, and the Tinnicum settlement. South of try, and the Tinnicum settlement. South of the Tygh valley, othered much good land to as the portion of Grant county, and much of Lake, as well as the portion of Grant county, and much of Lake, as well as the portion of Grant county, and much of Lake, as well as the portion of Grant county, and much of Lake, as well as the portion of Grant county, and much of Lake, as well as the portion of Grant county, and much of Lake, as well as the portion of Grant county, and much of Lake, as well as the portion of Grant county, and the Tinnicum settlement. South of the Indian reservation, is of the tolar county. this to show that beens can be found, ongood land, within easy reich of so important a place as Dallas City. There are many wealthy stock men and farmers in this part of Wasso stock men and to county. Dufur Brothers have their sheep a Fifteen Mile creek and their Summer and Fall pasture is an extensive awamp 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 fifty miles between the waters of Des Chutes and John Day rivers, and East to the bound-ary of Umatilla county. Col. T. S. Lang, who has interests in this section, represents the soil as excellent, a very good grass coun-try over all that distance. The bunch grass try over all that distance. The bunch grass or we vigorously almost from the banks of the Columbia river and it is could be and for the Columbia river and it is equally good for rim. Wherever water is found there is rich to many places and can be easily had by dig-ging. Sorings are more abundant than was supposed to be the case at an early day. Wells have been dug ten miles from the Columbia. I Spanish Hollow. The question will soon

has been d scribed 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 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 afford homes for thousands of families. Thirty Mile creek, which is near the Unatilla line, is settled its whole length and is a good farming country. Rock creek, which empties into the John Day valley are for supply of the mines and stock ranches, for this county has the great cattle herds of the northwest in its limits. We publish elsewhere an account of cattle ranching in this county by Mr. Miller, now of Douglas county, who has been successful and the property of the second statement of the second stateme tracted 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 Upper Columbia and Snake rivers find the steamers which reach the Upper Columbia and Snake rivers find the steamers which reach the Blue mountains in Umatilla county. Col.

Lang. who is at home in this region, informs is an immense area of vacant land in Grant as that people raise only what they need for county, soon to be added to by the throwing home supply, but have not grown farm products to send abroad owing to the difficulty the agricultural areas of Eastern Oregon, ex-of reaching market and because stock raising cept in Northern Wasco and Umatilla coun-ties are an distant as hardly to justify extend-

transportation is perfected to encourage it. The scheme of the Oregon Railway and Navconnection 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 monntains and is more than large enough to constitute a great c unty 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 viland John Day rivers. It has thriving vil-lages; Willoughby, Antelope, Bridge creek are trading points and the country is well adapted to agriculture through its whole ex-tent, but tarming operations are chiefly re-stricted to supplying the local demand. The country is devoted to stock raising, and there-fore sparsely settled upon. Whenever rail-reads can reach Middle Wasco, and encourage tarming and denser settlement in this well farming and denser settlement in this wel watered region, the result will be a magica-change from pastural to active farm life. Col. Long has visited this region and represents it as possessing many desirable qualities that will develope when transportation is possi-

One of the most promising portions of Eastern Oregon is the Ochoco district, lecated on the branches of Crooked river, the Southeastern fork of the Des Chutes. This region has alley and must contain land available for set-ciment equal to half the farming lands of the place with several hundred inhabitants, a newspaper and a brisk 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. a stock country and some of the most success a stock country and some of the most success ful 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 of Crooked River valley, which will be reproduced in the extra edition which will be reproduced in the extra ed For this reason Middle Wasco is desirable as we will call the John Day district. The Mid-dle district includes Antelope creek, Trout Eastern circulation, and the lively account answers the purpose so fully that we refer the reader to it for a complete idea of the Ochoco district. Dr. Vanderpool looks to the future, when railroads shall come to their relief, and xulains 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 Cascades to effect punction 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 fr in the United States Land Office at The Dalles shows that 3,000,-000 acces of mesurveyed lands are vacant. correspondent wrote us not long since that Wases county offered as great inducements for settlers as either the Palouse or Yakima

untries, and such seems to be the case. The census tables show the population Vasco county to be 10,208; uni er of farms. 75; land actually farmed, only 80,000 acressable of live stock, \$1,771,380, which ranks all other counties in that respect; farm products, in value, \$287,000. Wason is first in both sheep and horses and next to Baker and Grant in cattle. So far as climate and health are conserned, there is probably no pleasanter climate ner any more healthy region in the climate nor any more healthy region in the world. Speck thrive better here than in any ther portion of the Columbia region.

LAKE COUNTY.

This county is in South Middle Oregon and thes 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 sisting of a mass of volcame ashes, but Loke, charming valleys and good land. Sprague river has a beautiful valley, flows West into Klemath lake, and thence through the Cas-sade 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 railway from Reno, Nevada, north, to connect with the read projected by the Oregonian Railway Company. Lake county has about 3,000 population, and Lake county has about 3,000 population, and there are any number of chances for bouesteads. 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 connection with the Columbia river and can hardly deserve to be described as a part of the Columbian region.

GRANT COUNTY.

This county is very extensive and has the Western slope of the Blue mountains for its boundary. It used to have rich placer mines Spanish Hollow. The question will soon to be a light that supported an active population and a ted States government stands ready these uplands as the Black ranch, which brisk trade, but the placers are mostly work.

open of the Malhuer reservation, which is no longer needed for the use of Indians. Grant county may in time be reached by railroads, but it will not be soon, unless some unlookedfor enterprise comes upon the world, and the advance so rapidly making for the devel p-ment of the country. East of the Cascades igation Company includes branch lines to leaves it very posciole that Grant combring all the rich farming country along the trivial be brought within reach of market. Blue mountains for two hundred miles, into This country is diversified by mountains and o This county is diversified by mountains and valleys and plains. Its altitude may interfere with good results from promiseuous farming, but there is so great an area of vacant lands awaiting settlement that it is not necessary

to fores'all 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 46 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 twenty mile. for twenty miles. Along the Columbia is a tains and afterwards flow into the larger riv-

pies as fine a portion of country as can be found East of the mountains, much to the annoyance of white settlers adjacent, and of annoyance of white settlers adjacent, and of many who would like to claim these lands for settlement. A glance at the land tables we publish will show the amount of land in this county subject to entry. We consider Umatilla county in many respects the cream of Eastern Oregon. Its arable land cannot be excelled; its climate is fine; its nearness to the Columbia river, and the certainty that railroad facilities will reach every part of it, makes it at present the most attractive region

timbered, and not so elevated, by any means, as the Cascade range, shall not, in due time, be appreciated for agricultural purposes and agricultural purposes and

stead in the Gold Spring Country, or along the scope of valleys to the Westward there is abundant room to locate the domain the Uni

UNION COUNTY. Ranges of mountains extend from the Neva-

da line, north ward, through Eastern Oregon,

known as Steins' mountain on the South, and developing into the broadly spread Blue nountains to the northward. The interior ountry, along the Cascade range, on the East, is much higher land than is found in the Willamette valley, on the West; therefore there is much less drainage from the Cascalle Summits to the East than to the West; the mountain region, spreading from the Columbia, South, in irregular form, over a wide district, South, in irregular form, over a wide district, containing many pleasant grassy reaches, wooded with open pine forests, that will certainly be at no distant day appreciated for settlement and cultivation. This range of mountains supplies, from its fountains, the mountains supplies, from its fountains, the various streams that make the beautiful valleys of Columbia and Walla Counties in W. T., the Umatilla river and all the presentation of the Columbia in the in W. I., the Challia river and all the sireams that empty below it into the Columbia and John Day river in Wasco county is fed entirely from them. Not only so, but Crooked river, the main fork of the Des Chutes, river, the main fork of the Des Chutes, heads far around to the Southeast, so that these mountains are the source of fruitful these mountains are the source of fruitful streams which create the arabic 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 enmigrations followed down Snake river, hundreds of dreary miles, over sage brush plains that best lands in Umatilla and is thickly settled for twenty miles. Along the Columbia is a grass region of 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 range for cattle, but to-day settlement is coming in to claim and cultivate every plain and every 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 layors the Northeast end of the county mountains in a winding shape, with coves and inlets of prairie re-ching into the hills where streams and there wheat farming is carried on very extensively. Before long branch railroads will favor the whole arable belt of Umatilla county and then the era of production will compensate for the burnt plains they had the winder and the the county is chief by devoted to stock the winder and the burnt plains they had the best of the county is chief the winder and the burnt plains they had the chief the winder and with the county and then the era of production will compensate for the burnt plains they had the county more and the winder and with abundant feed for stock to compensate for the burnt plains they had the county more and the winder and with abundant feed for stock to compensate for the burnt plains they had the county more and the county more and the winder and with abundant feed for stock to compensate for the burnt plains they had the county more and t been seen there, and permanents been seen there, and permanents of the was an valley, cradled among the mountains, watered from immunerable streams and springs, averaging ten miles in width by thirty miles in length, spread out broadly but lying in a winding shape, with coves and inlets of prairie reaching into the hills where streams permitted and with abundant feed for stock to compensate for the burnt plains they had left behind. The traveller felt here that his troubles were over. Across the range, only a troubles were over. Across the range, only a troubles were over. Across the range, only a county will shortly

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 Thion is the county seat, La Grande has the land offices oth of the State and United States.

MINING DISCOVERIES. Before this valley had a settler, in 1862, led by the discovery of gold on Powder River, thousands of prospectors found their way in early Spring over the Blue mountains to hunt for the new gold fields. The snows of the preceding winter had been heavier than ever casts that have no underbrush, and there is a short sheep-grass, much liked by that stock, found in the foot hills and which takes the place of bunch grass when it is fed down in the foot hills. There is no reason why this mountain land, containing many sloping reaches of the richest soil, well watered and properly while mining is carried on yet, with some degree of success, the day timbered, and not so elevated, by any means, as the Cascade range, shall not, in due time, as the Cascade range, shall not, in due time, as the Cascade range, shall not, in due time, as the Cascade range, shall not, in due time, as the Cascade range, shall not, in due time, as the Cascade range, shall not in the foot hills. made use of for settlement.

There are many thriving towns all through Umatilia county; Heppner, Pendle on, Pilot Rock, Umatilia County; Heppner, Pendle on, Pilot Rock, Umatilia 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 save slightly alluded at differ the control of th scale, by large companies, and there are some discoveries of quartz ledges that are paying prove more extensive as new discoveries are made and as the science of quartz mining be-comes perfected and gold can be saved at less cost. We have slightly alludes at different times to mining operations, but time has come times to mining operations, to explain the settlement and devel pment already attained in Eastern Oregon, so we already attained in Eastern Oregon, so we

digress somewhat to present the e facts doubt many who shall some here will be

to spend the months when water existed only in the form of snow or ice, and the decadence distance from the eastern plains to the summit of the mines made a very heavy deduction is everywhere less than on the West, and the mines of hotel keepers. We were mountains are less rugged to climb. While the Riue mountains are not so maccessible as the Cascades, they are still a grandly outlined regions of Eastern Oregon at the best paying period, but while there are exceptional instan-ces where prospectors and miners acquire

Union county is a very attractive region, has varied character of soil as we go from the rich valley land to the foot hills, or climb to the higher valleys, such as Wallowa, between the Grande Ronde Valley and Snake river. Grand Ronde river seeks an outlet through a nountain canyon and the valley is fairly hemmed in by mountain walls. The climate that transportation lacinties can give them and this great section of valley and mountain lacinties can give them and this great section of valley and mountain lacinties can give them and this great section of valley and mountain lacinties can give them. the higher valleys, such as Wallowa, between the Grande Ronde Valley and Snake river. Grand Ronde river seeks an outlet through a mountain canyon and the valley is fairly hemmed in by mountain walls. The climate is healthy and winters seem tempered by the sheltered nature of the situation. Wallowa is a higher location with more severe winters, but is a favorite region for steek men. Labut is a favorite region for stock men. La Grand and Uniontown are the chief towns, but other thriving villages are scattered through the county. Union has 6,703 inhabstants by the census of 1880. It is devoted to troubles were over. Across the range, only a to the East, so that it is certain, as human two days march, were the valleys of Umaulla events can be, that Union county will shortly have railroad connection with Portland in one direction, and the Atlantic States in the

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, vation and and quartz veins of rich ore are found and for the new gold fields. The snows of the preceding winter had been heavier than ever worked at the very edge of the valley. This were known; paths had to be made through them, and the road to the gold fields was a hard one to travel. It was after a week of such toils and hardships as cannot easily be told, that we stood upon the brow of the range good grain lands for some distance into the mountains, where stock ranges, though agri tally described in our columns, and which is been get that overlook Grande Roule Valley on the factors of the Surface and the street of the Columba river to Portland, but the tree get that overlook Grande Roule Valley on the factors of the matter and many period on the provided in street of the Columba river to Portland, but the tree growth and the columba river to Portland, but the tree growth and the columba river to Portland, but the tree growth and the columba river to Portland, but the tree growth and the columba river to Portland, but the tree growth and the columba river to Portland, but the tree growth and the columba river to Portland, but the tree growth and the columba river to Portland, but the tree growth and the columba river to Portland, but the tree growth and the columba river to Portland, but the tree growth and provided in street is sufficient to the columba river to Portland, but the tree growth and provided in the street of the factors of the provided in near the line. East of them is the Stein's moun near the line. East of them is the Sein's hould tain country, a famous stock range. The Maihuer 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 years, and anticipate a rapid settlement of one the total surface of the great the country it will traverse in an icipation of sne-third of the total surface of the great State of Oregon, remain to this day in a great measure vacant lands, roamed over by great herds of stock, utilized only partilly in this way, with their resources only slightly understood and waiting 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 country will be cultivated to good ad antage. There is more or less of sage bruan plains in this country, especially along the upper part of Snake river. This

tracted by the fascination of gold and silver mining, but the truth seems to be that gold and silver has often cost more than it was worth. Minesmaterially aidagriculture when they offer a market for farm products. They gave the first impetus to all the Upper Country. For many years Dalles City and Walla Walla were the scene of much riot and gambling and the hardly earned gold was squandered with lavish hands. Portland was filled, in winter, by the miners who came down here to spend the months when water existed only in the form of snow or ice, and the decadence The government has made an appropriation to test this matter and it is probable that the question of water supply will be some way solved so that the great wealth of soil that seems wasted over a wide stretch of country between the Sieras of the Pacific and the Rocky mountains, will be made available for habitation and cultivation.

time rapidly approaches when the hitherto waste lands of Oregon will have all the value that transportation facilities can give them

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD

The people of this country have looked for many years past to the completion of this road for the realization of their hopes of rail-road connection with the East. The dubroad connection with the East. The diffi-culties the company have encountered seem at last to be fully overcome and the wor!. of at last to be fully overcome and the work of constructing the road is now being rapidly pushed from both ends of the line. It is true that we have now a prospect for railroad con-nection in other directions, but the completion of the Northern Pacific is a very impor-tant fact in developing this country and will bring into connection with the Columbia river-a great scope of Northern territory that will spelly getties up and must add to the com-mercial importance of Parties.

Sound.

The company is at present engaged in making thorough surveys of the several mountain passes, leading over the Cascade range from Puget Sound to Yakima county, Washington Territory, with a view to locating their road companying operations as soon as pessiand commencing operations as soon as possi-ble on that section. The intention is, so far as made public, to make connection at an early day, with the road now being made from Ainsworth, at the confluence of the Columbia and Snake rivers, already graded nearly to the Montana line, and track laying completed for about forty miles. It was deemed necessary to commonce building road at some point in the interior, as the location of the route over the Car could not be re one direction, and the Atlantic States in the other.

AAEKR COUNTY.

This county has an area nearly two hundred rolles 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 culti-

located nearly as we have stated.

The material for construction, used from Ainsworth East, has been transported up the Columbia at heavy expense and it is probable the company will push work from Tacoma East for the purpose of being able to trans-port their own material and supplies for the

important rivers and is certain to besto the Columbia.

Great interest attaches to the completi a for of the greatest importance to the Pacine
be Northwest. We look for this work to be done
test, and through traffic established within three