

the air is moist. During the whole summer, however, the nights are cool, which is conducive to restful slumber.

The salubrity of the climate is marked, as we can speak from personal experience. This disease and epidemics are unknown. We, at times, have strong winds in the spring and summer months but not in the winter, and anything like cyclones are entirely unknown in this section, as a person can readily see from the manner in which we construct our houses. We have before explained the cause of the mild weather experienced in this country, so far north. It is the influence of the Japan current in the Pacific Ocean, which is similar to the Gulf stream of the Atlantic, which exerts the same mild influence upon our climate here that the "Gulf stream" does upon the British Islands.

We can readily see the influence of the Japan current, when we contemplate the fact that even the southwestern portions of Polar Alaska have a milder temperature than northern Ohio and Wisconsin. This current is supposed to be the source of the well known and welcome "Chinook" winds, which in winter, sweep gently from the southwest over the mountains and plains of Oregon into Idaho, melting the snow in a few hours, thus exposing the green and growing herbage as pasture for the bands and herds of cattle, horses and sheep. The soil being light and dry the winds of summer raise clouds of dust, which renders it very unpleasant when they prevail, although they are never so strong as to produce any serious damage. Rain seldom falls during the summer months, causing everything to assume a barren appearance, but this is an advantage, for the farmers are thus able to secure and harvest their great crops, which could not be saved in the Eastern states, subject as they are to frequent showers. However, in the autumn of moisture, seasons greatly differ. From October to May it is nearly always the case that sufficient rain or snow falls to ensure bountiful crops, and the present season, up to the time of writing, has been exceedingly favored with abundant rainfall, mingled with a little snow, which would seem to justify the prediction that if we experience an average season from this time on, we will have exceedingly large crops in 1892. Old settlers are claiming that, of late, precipitation of moisture has been increasing year by year, which is accounted for by the fact that the area of cultivated lands has been increased. But what ever the season, we have never had in Umatilla county what might be termed a failure of crops, although some seasons result in lighter yields than others. But, we believe, there is no country in which the farmer takes less risk in putting in his crop than in this. Another reason for greater success, in farming, year by year, is that the farmer obtains better understanding of the nature of the soil and climate and of the proper method of preparing and cultivating the land as his experience increases.

#### POPULATION.

The population of the county in 1890 was about 16,000, which we think has been much augmented since the census was taken, occasioned by the opening up of new farms on the Northern Pacific railroad lands and the lands of the Umatilla Indian reservation, both of which were thrown open to settlement during the year 1891. The throwing open of these lands to private owners has probably resulted in adding 400,000 acres to the taxable property of Umatilla county which has already had the effect to reduce taxation.

The population comprises men of all nationalities and immigrants from all states, but the greater portion are native Americans from the Western States, who, as a rule, are intelligent, enterprising, industrious and thrifty; than whom a better class of people can scarcely be found in any state.

#### OCCUPATIONS.

The leading occupations of the citizens of Umatilla county are stock raising, wool growing, dairying and farming. At first when the county was sparsely settled, stock raising, including wool growing, were the principal pursuits. A luxuriant growth of bunch grass covered the plains, upon which stock would thrive and fatten without other food, and thus the stockman felt that he had found his paradise, and it was to his interest to discourage all cultivation of the land, and in pursuing this course, he produced the belief, which prevailed for some years, that the land was not adapted to agriculture. Attempts were however made to disprove this, and beginning in the northwestern portion of the county, the plow has advanced with most gratifying results, pushing its way gradually but persistently outward and westward until the area left to flocks and herds has been greatly diminished. Much to the surprise of the old settlers the uplands were found to be even more productive than the small creek bottoms, and it seems that where the depth of soil is sufficient the higher the land the larger and better the crops, owing probably to greater fertility and to another most potent reason, in that, where there is a lack of rainfall, the heat confined in the valleys and bottom lands, surrounded by hills is more intense than on the hills and the hill crops, therefore, are less affected by the dry weather.

Thus agriculture has made such steady advances, that wheat raising has now become the leading industry of the county, and since 1885 the wheat export from this county has varied from about two and a half to four million bushels annually, and now that the Northern Pacific's forfeited railroad lands have been restored to the people, and a large portion of the Umatilla Reservation lands have been thrown open to settlement, the amount will doubtless be largely increased, until it will make of this wheat growing state. In the section of the county best adapted to wheat growing the yield is sometimes very large, many farms or ranches yielding as high as from forty to fifty bushels to the acre, and some few favored tracts have yielded

as largely as seventy bushels to the acre, but the average, in the desirable portion of the wheat belt, is probably from thirty to thirty-five bushels to the acre. In other portions of the county the average yield sometimes is as low as from ten to fifteen bushels to the acre. But with our improved machinery and methods of cultivation, preparing the soil and planting and harvesting—crops can be raised and harvested at much less expense than in the Eastern states, and farmers therefore find a good profit in raising wheat at 50 cents a bushel and an immense profit when they realize the exceptionally good prices, from sixty to ninety cents, that have been secured for the crop of 1891. Of late years the price of wheat has mostly ruled between fifty and sixty-five cents a bushel, the price for 1891 being, as stated, exceptional. Besides wheat, large crops of barley, oats and rye are raised and some corn, though little attention is devoted to the latter. Vegetables are astonishingly thrifty, which are raised with little effort in nearly all parts of the county and are of large size and of the best quality. Portions of the county are especially adapted to fruit raising and almost in any part the harder varieties thrive. In the northeastern portion of the county, especially in the vicinity of Milton, fruit is grown with great success and profit, and these fruit lands are becoming exceedingly valuable. Next, in importance to grain, is stock, with an annual yield of between one and a half to two million pounds, the average yield being from eight to ten pounds to the sheep, and is usually sold at prices ranging from 14 to 18 cents a pound, making probably a total income in the county of about \$300,000 annually. In addition, thousands of sheep are annually sold, making the income from sheep and wool probably \$500,000.

Other stock, horses and cattle are raised in large quantities for export. In former years before any great amount of farming was done, a larger number of stock was raised upon the range, without preparing any feed for the winter, and there was comparatively little loss consequent upon this, but since the range has been decreased by the encroachments of the farmer, in later years, it has been found advisable to prepare feed for one or two months during the winter, in order not to hazard any severe losses.

The gross valuation of assessable property in the county has increased from \$6,005,179, in 1885, to \$10,016,734 in 1891.

**MINERAL RESOURCES.**

The mineral resources of the county, though considerable, have not been developed to any great extent. The precious metals are however found in the extreme south and southeastern portions of the county, and it is thought that some of the mining claims in this county as well as the neighboring mines of Baker and Grant counties will prove very rich, when capital sufficient is interested to develop them. There are large deposits of coal also, especially in the southern portions of the county, near the head of Butter Creek, which promise to be of great value. These are altogether owned by local parties. Some of the coal has been used in Pendleton, as a test, and found to be of fine quality. The opening and working of a coal mine not far from Pendleton would be of incalculable advantage to the place, besides proving most remunerative to those who might invest.

There are several dairy farms in Umatilla county, although the dairying interest is small at present. It is however expanding, as few localities offer better inducements for this industry.

That part of the county known as Camas precinct seems specially adapted to dairying. It is a beautiful country, with a succession of mountain valleys, with rich soil, and very productive, and besides its ample ranges of wild grass, tame grass and small grain are raised in quantities more than sufficient to supply the local demand. Here quite a considerable amount of butter and cheese are made for the Pendleton market. Besides this section, many of the fine ranches along the Umatilla, Birch Creek, Wild Horse and other streams are adapted to dairying purposes. This industry pays well and is destined to pay more largely in the near future, for the demand largely exceeds the supply furnished by this county and much of the butter and cheese consumed here are imported. Butter sells readily all the year round at from 30 to 35 cents a pound and cheese at about 16 cents. These two products of our county are of the most superior quality and are eagerly sought after.

**CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.**

The county is well supplied with churches and schools. The conduct of the schools has been in efficient hands, and the laws governing them have been liberal and wise, and ample provision has been made for their maintenance and support; thus our schools are in a flour-

ishing condition and their standard is being continually advanced. The state has a considerable irreducible school-land fund, and there is a general tax of five mills imposed. The common schools in the county number between eighty and ninety, five of which are graded schools. Besides these there is a normal school at Weston, an academy at Milton and an academy and Catholic girls' school at Pendleton, and several private schools. Quite a number of churches representing as many religious denominations are to be found in the county, especially in the towns, and where they are not found the school houses are used for religious worship. As the country develops and the condition of the people improves, more and more attention is being paid to increasing the facilities for enlarging the influence of these institutions.

#### GOVERNMENT LANDS.

Intending immigrants are always anxious to know if there are a plenty of good government lands? Whether they are easily accessible, and plentifully supplied with wood and water? Also whether the means of transportation are ample and the county roads are good and sufficient in number? They also inquire as to soil, wages and crops? Replying to some of these, let us say that there is no large amount of "government land" remaining, fertile and near to shipping points, open for settlement, most of this having been taken up, but in localities somewhat remote from towns and railroad stations, there is still quite an amount of government land subject to entry.

A great deal of land was thrown open to settlement during the year 1891, under act of congress of Sept. 26, 1890. This was a portion of the grant made to the Northern Pacific Railroad company in 1864, and was declared forfeited by act of congress, comprising many thousands of acres. This, having reverted to the government, is open to general settle-

ment under the homestead law, subject, however, for two years from February 24, 1891, to the prior claims of those who settled upon these lands before the 29th of September, 1890, with the intention of obtaining title thereto from the railroad, if earned, or from the general government, if declared forfeited. Much of this land is very desirable, and a good deal of it is not yet claimed. But immigrants of small means can find good opportunities for purchasing land already patented and improved to some extent. In a new country like this, there are always found some restless spirits who are constantly moving, shifting, changing, however well off they may be, and in this way, they are continually affording opportunities to immigrants of small means to secure and own places upon which they can make a living for themselves and families from the start, and which open up to them the facilities for doing well and making money in the future.

This is a large county and it is as yet but sparsely settled, and in a few years there will be in many localities thousands of people where there are but hundreds now, and those who come and locate here now, will be the ones that will have the best opportunities.

There is still much land that must in a few years become very valuable, that can be taken up under the Homestead Act, and there are some that can be located under the Stone and Timber Acts. Under the Homestead Acts, a person can enter 160 acres of land and by paying the small fees and living upon it for five years obtain title thereto, without further cost, by making the necessary proofs. If a person desires it, he can commute his homestead in fourteen (14) months, that is, prove up on same and pay the government one dollar and a quarter an acre, and thereby acquire title to it. The Preemption and Timber Culture Acts have been repealed by Act of Congress of March 3, 1891, so nothing farther can be done under those. Some claims can be purchased from present holders which are destined to be very valuable.

Of the Forfeited Northern Pacific Railroad lands, heretofore mentioned, there is much that is and will be open to homestead entry, and some of these lands are valuable. A large part of the lands of the Umatilla Indian Reservation that were offered for sale to the highest bidder last spring were not sold, and these will, doubtless, soon be offered again, as the law provides that such of these lands as were not sold when offered for sale in April, 1891, shall be re-offered at the discretion of the secretary of the interior, and in the manner prescribed by him. So, it is reasonable to suppose, that the re-offering of these lands will not be long delayed. And, here again, will be an opportunity for settlers to secure homes, for, although the best of these tracts were purchased last April, there is a great deal of valuable land that was overlooked by those attending the sale, which can be purchased at small cost. These lands have all been appraised, and none can be sold at less than the appraised value. The minimum appraisement of the unsold portion is \$1.25 per acre, and it is likely that none of the land yet unsold is appraised at much over this figure. We are of the opinion that it is almost an assured fact that these lands, where fit for cultivation, will in a short while be worth far more than they now are, and even as a speculation, we do not believe there is any risk in their purchase. Of the lands that were sold, there has already been an average large advance, which will increase, and, thus, the immi-

grants second to few localities on the continent, so far as railroad facilities are concerned, and certainly superior to any other county in the Northwest.

The immigration can come over any of the three routes. One is the Union and Central Pacific, and by steamer or overland from San Francisco to Portland, thence up the Columbia by rail. This, for some years the only route, is now practically obsolete, except for persons who wish to visit California and Portland. Another is via the Northern Pacific direct from St. Paul to Wallula on the Columbia, thence to Pendleton or any interior point. The third is over the U. P. and "Short Line," from Green River, Wyoming, to Huntington, in Southeastern Oregon, thence over the O. R. & N., a continuous line, to Pendleton.

One word may, perhaps, be well spoken here: Don't judge the whole country by what you see along any of these routes. You will see but little to encourage or attract, because, as a rule, the railroads pass through the worst portion of the country; but before you condemn all, stop off at any station in the county and look around a few days or a few weeks. Examine our stock and our flocks; our beef and butter; our wheat and wool; our climate and harvests; and you will find that we have made no empty boast of the resources of our country, and that there are many inducements for immigrants to locate.

Without enumerating the cost of special articles of prime necessity, we may venture to say that a family can live almost as cheaply here as in the Eastern states, and can most likely have just as much pleasure and pastime here as there.

#### DEMINISHED INDIAN RESERVATION.

This is so called, because it is the land that is left, after taking away that portion of the Indian Reservation that was ceded by the Indian tribes to the United States to be sold to citizens of the United States, with the understanding that the money derived therefrom shall be held in trust by the government for the benefit of these Indians. The diminished Indian Reserve is now being allotted in severalty to the Indians in the following manner:

To each head of a family, 160 acres; to each single person over the age of eighteen years, 80 acres; to each orphan child being under eighteen years of age, 80 acres; and to each child under eighteen years of age, and otherwise provided, 40 acres.

After each Indian has received his allotment of land, he will be required to retain and live upon it, for twenty-five years before he acquires full title thereto.

It is believed that after the allotment has been made all the lands, adapted to agriculture, will be brought into cultivation, by the aid of the white man principally.

The Indian is naturally indolent and only the instructions and aid of the white man will ever make a useful citizen of him.

The principal towns in Umatilla county are Pendleton, the county seat, with a population of about 4000; Milton and Freewater, 600; Weston, 500; Athena, 600; Adams, 150; Helix, 200; Alba, 300; Echo, 400; Umatilla, 500; Foster, 100; besides the stations scattered along the different lines of railway. These towns are all supported by the country surrounding them, and their thrifty condition speaks volumes for the prosperity of the farmers and ranchers whose trade sustains them.

Having given this brief and candid description of the resources of Umatilla county, we have no hesitancy in asking: Is not this a country that should be sought by those who are willing to earn their living "by the sweat of their brow," and is it not a country that promises as good returns for labor performed, as any country in the world?

And taking it for all in all, is there a country in the United States where the poor man can do so well? Let the experience of those who have cast their lot amongst us convince you.

E. D. BOYD.

**Railroads in the United States.**

According to a report by the Inter State Commerce Commission there were 209,080.67 miles of railroad, including side tracks, in the United States, June 30, 1891. The main lines measure 169,624.55 miles. There were 834 passenger and 16,140 freight locomotives and 1,164 cars, of which 26,511 are for passengers. There were 1,797 railroad companies, employing 749,331 men. Total capitalization of railroad property, \$9,894,482,440. Total passengers carried during the year, 492,491,865. Total tons of freight transported, 639,441,617. Number of persons killed in accidents during the year, 6,329; injured 29,034.

In the upper Deschutes country in Eastern Oregon a discovery has been made of a practically unlimited bed of pumice stone. The bulk of that now used in the United States is imported from Italy, but if the Oregon stone is of as excellent quality as is reported there should be no difficulty in replacing the Italian article with the American.

#### THE PENDLETON ACADEMY.

One of Pendleton's Educational Institutions—A School for Both Sexes.

Pendleton Academy, organized in the fall of 1889, is under the control of a board of trustees, a majority of whom are elected from the members of the Presbytery of Eastern Oregon, the others being citizens of Pendleton.

By the great activity and generosity of the trustees, together with other friends and the great liberality of the Board of Aid for Colleges and Academies, the academy has acquired property to the value of about \$8000, which is free of debt.

The academy has five instructors.

There are two courses of study, either of which will fit a student for college or give him a good English education. In connection with either of the above courses of study, and without extra charge, an opportunity will be given for a six month's course of bookkeeping and commercial law.

Lessons in stenography and typewriting can be had at a very small additional expense.

The modern languages—French, German or Spanish—are offered. The teacher of these branches has spent several years in some of the best schools of Germany and France and the student is taught to speak as well as read and write the languages correctly. The student if he desires takes either of the languages mentioned as one of his regular studies.

A special effort will be made to fit their work students who desire to become teachers. Just before the regular term of examination, classes are organized for the purpose of reviewing those subjects upon which the students are to be examined.

Music—The study and practice of music occupy a prominent place in the regular work of the academy. There are three pianos and an organ in the buildings which afford a good opportunity for the practice of music along with the regular lessons. The teacher endeavors to impart a thorough knowledge of the theory of music, so that experience and accuracy may be acquired by the pupils; in short the advantages offered are second to none on the Pacific coast.

Board—Comfortable board and lodging with fuel and lights for either gentlemen or ladies can be had for the nominal sum of \$3.50 per week.

The ladies' department is under the immediate care of two of the lady teachers, while a gentleman teacher has charge of the department for boys. Regular study hours in both departments morning and evening.

Everything within the power of the teachers will be done to make a cheerful and happy home for the boarding pupils and at the same time a careful oversight will be kept over them at all times.

The field with Pendleton as a center and a radius of 200 miles draw a circle, within this you will have Southeastern Washington, Southern Idaho and the eastern half of Oregon, or an area of something over 125,000 square miles, more than Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York taken together and almost equal to the two great states of Kansas and Missouri. Within the territory mentioned, so far as the writer's knowledge goes, there are only two or three Protestant schools or schools that make any pretension to the higher education.

The people are chiefly engaged in the raising of stock and wheat, which is very unfavorable for the development of a successful district or country school system, so that the town and city school, will always be the main dependence for an education in the section of country mentioned.

There is no question but that a school with an attendance of 200 or 250 students can be built up here within the next five years if suitable accommodations are provided. Two years ago it was shown from the catalogues of the various schools of the Pacific coast that as many as seventy-five students went from this and an adjoining country, and it is safe to prophesy that from these two counties alone as many more would have been in attendance had a suitable school been provided nearer home.

#### NEEDS OF THE ACADEMY.

Already the accommodations of the school building and boarding houses are somewhat taxed to meet the demands of an increased attendance—about 100 having been enrolled during the fall term, and it is safe to predict that within another year the present provisions will be altogether inadequate; \$2000 or \$2500 are badly needed to make additions to both of the departments mentioned.

Books, magazines, pamphlets or anything that can be used in a library are very much needed; that a strong and healthy taste for good reading matter may be developed among the students during their school life.

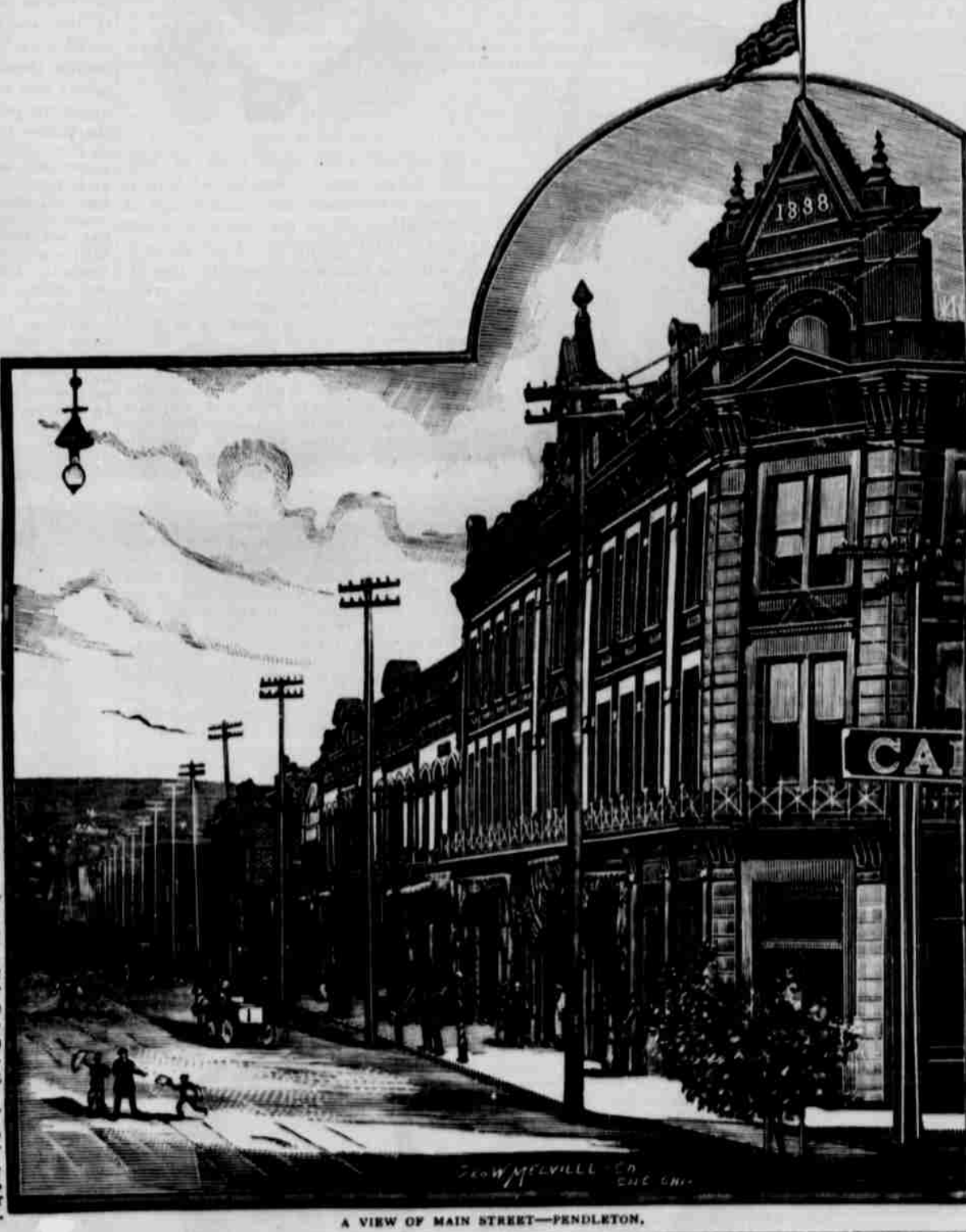
For any further information parents and friends will please address Mrs. John Vert, concerning their daughters, and Prof. H. L. Talkington, concerning their sons, at Pendleton, Oregon.

It is reported that freights on carload lots to interior points are to be reduced. If this is true, Pendleton will soon become a jobbing point. Already jobbers in groceries, hardware and paper have their eye on Pendleton as a promising field for operations.

From present indications Eastern Oregon will rapidly develop an important mining section. The variety of the minerals obtained will make up for the lack of any big finds of a particular kind. Oregon is a state of various and abundant resources.

Our country has \$42,500,000,000 taxable property within its boundaries. Of this vast sum but \$17,000,000,000 is paying taxes, and of this the farmers of this land pay on \$14,500,000,000.

The total salmon pack on the Columbia river the last season was 429,000 cases.



A VIEW OF MAIN STREET—PENDLETON.