O'NEIL TELLS WHY

IMMIGRANTS FROM EAST DO NOT STOP IN PENDLETON.

Other Sections are Extensively Advertised, While Pendleton and Umatilla County Have Made no Effort Along That Line.

Between the 7th and 10th of October two cars of immigrants will arrive in Pendleton and stop to allow an inspection of Umatilla county. These people will come from Iowa and are coming as a direct result of the effort of the immigration agents of the O. R. & N. company. So much has been said about the transportation companies "passing Pendleton up" in regard to helping to get Easterners here that the company has made arrangements to have these people stop and give Pendleton a chance to show them around.

This will be Pendleton's first opportunity to entertain so large a crowd of homeseekers who are actually looking for homes. So far nothing has been done toward receiving or entertaining them, but it is expected that everything will be done that is necessary to give them the best possible opportunity of seeing the county from one end to the other. The two cars will be sidetracked here and left as the homes of the 40 or 50 people they will contain and until the Iowans have seen all the advantages of the county, then they will be taken down the line of the O. R. & N. Company until they reach their destination.

"Most of these people will have money to buy homes if they find what they want. They are the heads of families who are seeking broader fields than are possible to be found for them in Iowa," said General Passenger Agent J. H. O'Neil, of the O. R. & N. Company, who was in town yesterday on his way to Walla Walla to attend the fruit fair.

Mr. O'Neil was asked why the influx of Easterners passed through Pendleton and went on to Portland or Sound Points. He replied:

"It is simply because Pendleton and Umatilla county are not advertised in the East. There has been no effort to get the resources of Umatilla county before people looking for homes in the great West and other parts have been advertised extensively. This is the only reason why the people are passing Pendleton up. The Sound country, the Valley and Rogue river countries, have all been widely advertised in the East and Middle states. These are the countries receiving the flood of immigration. The people in these sections are getting the benefit of the homeseekers' rates. Advertised countries are filling up with desirable people and money is being brought into them. Pendleton has not received any benefits from the homeseekers' rates simply because no effort has been put forth to tell people what kind of a country surrounds it. The railroad companies are blamed for not giving Pendleton an equal show with Sound and Coast terminals. This is not right. No one is to blame but the people of Pendleton and Umatilla county. The transportation companies have offered to see to it that all the literature the people of Pendleton would furnish them, giving the resources of the county, was put into the hands of the people in the Eastern and Middle States without any cost to Pendleton other than that of printing the literature. It is not, and never has been, the policy of the railroad companies to boom one section of a country to the detriment of some other part. This would not be fair. We simply take the homeseekers' money and set him off wherever he says for us to. We do not try to persuade him to go to any certain place in preference over another. We try to treat all places just alike and without partiality.

"If Pendleton will publish the literature we have agreed to make it our business to distribute it at fairs and all public gatherings of note throughout the East. Our immigration agents who have been over the ground, will answer all questions and tell inquirers all they know about every advantage of the country. When these men are furnished literature from the Valley, Spokane or the Rogue river country, and this literature is all that is seen by the man with the Western fever, it is but natural that he should become interested in those places and at once begin to inquire about them. If he is told that the countries are all right and what they are claimed to be, he will begin to plan to come to the place which attracts him most. If the immigration agent had literature from Pendleton, descriptive of the advantages of the county, and surrounding country, it stands to reason that the people would just as naturally become interested in Umatilla county as in any other section. With an interest in the county once aroused, many people would stop in Pendleton.

"In support of what I say I will cite you to the case of W. H. Conduff, who came to Walla Walla only a few weeks ago after reading a pamphlet descriptive of the valley. This man represented 11 families and would have stopped at Pendleton just as willingly as at Walla Walla had a pamphlet from here fallen into his hands instead of the one from across the line. He bought land for himself and made arrangements for the rest of his party just as stated by the Walla Walla papers of a few weeks ago.

"Most of the people coming here from the East now are men with means. Many of them are men who have been here and looked the country over and decided where they want to make their home. These men are now returning and bringing friends with them who will locate in the same locality.

"New people are coming to Oregon every day from the Middle and Eastern states. Not a train comes through here that does not have an extra coach attached, but the heaviest westward movement will not be on until the latter part of October. This is because the Easterner has not yet taken care of his crops and it is impossible to hire men to attend to it for him. A movement is on foot to get the transportation companies to extend their homeseekers' rates until the first of December instead of November, thus giving the people a better show to finish their work before leaving. Whether or not the transcontinental lines will agree to this is yet to be settled."

Mr. O'Neil was asked what impressions the Eastern people gained in regard to land values when they arrived here. He replied:

"The price of land is not as high

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