IS SITUATED IN THE

Northeastern Portion of the State

AND

COMPRISES ABOUT NINETY TOWNSHIPS

OR ABOUT 2,000,000 ACRES OF LAND.

The valleys are of an average elevation of about 2,000 feet above sea level, the highest mountain peaks being about 6,000 feet and continually covered with snow, which furnishes a water supply for numerous streams the year round.

THE CLIMATE

Is dry and healthful, there being a sufficient rainfall to preserve the moisture of the soil and mature crops. Snow seldom falls to the depth of one foot in the valleys, and never remains longer than from two to three weeks at a time.

The mean temperature for the winter months is about 20 degrees above freezing point, and for the summer months about 70 above zero, the heat of the day being offset by cool nights that ensure refreshing and invigorating sleep and rest for the fatigued

The winter season usually begins about the first of December and lasts till the middle of February or first of March, when the husbandman is given an opportunity to prepare for his springs seeding.

From March 1st to July 1st, the monotony of warm and dry weather is broken by frequent showers of rain furnishing suficient moisture to the ground and temperin the atmosphere so as to assure the farmer an abundant yield.

During the months of July, August and September, which are the harvesting months in this county, the weather is usualy dry and adapted to the successful gathering of crops. Generally enough rain falls in the autumn months to moisten the ground sufficiently to permit the farmer to prepare the same for his fall grain.

There is no country in the United States more blessed by a healthful climate than Union County, as the vigor and enterprise of is Citizens will prove.

The various contagions previlent in many localities are almost wholly unknown here, and are usually very mild in their attacks when they do appear. There has only been one case of Smallpox in Union County since its settlement, and chills and fever are totally unknown. We have no tornadoes or hurricanes to lay waste the country, destroy property and the lives of people, nor blizzards to freeze the life out of humanity. Nor do we have the fogy and damp atmosphere which is found West of the Cascade Mountains.

SOIL AND PRODUCTIONS.

There is 1,497,500 Acres of Surveyed Land in the County; the rest is unsurveyed, the unsurveyed portion being valuable for Timber, Pasture and abounding in Mineral Deposits. The valleys of the County are Grande Ronde, Indian, North Powder, Big Creek, Eagle, Pine and Starkey. The soil in these valleys is well adapted to the raising of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye, Timothy, Clover and Alfalfa, Vegetables and Fruits, such as Apples, Plums, Pears, Peaches, Cherries, strawberries, and in fact all of the smaller varieties grow to perfection.

The yield of Wheat is from 25 to 50 bushels to the acre, Barley from 40 to 70, Oats about the same as Barley, with exceptions in some localities, when as high as 100 bushels of oats has been raised to the acre. The Mountains are covered with a Fine Growth of Timber, consisting of Pine, Tamrack, Spruce, etc. The most valuable is the Pine, which is used in the lumbering industry, also some of the larger species of Tamrac, but this class of timber is used chiefly to furnish wood ties, etc., which is amply sufficient to supply the surrounding country for ages.

The mineral resources of the County are only partialy developed, but sufficient prospecting and mining has been done to prove that great ledges of ore interline the mountain sides, which, when sufficient capital is employed in their development, will be a great factor in the general summary of the wealth of the County. A more detailed account of the Mines and Mineral Resources of the County will be found further on.

AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

NOW TO RETURN TO THE

Agricultural Interests of the County,

THE LARGST MOST FERTILE AND ATTRACTIVE VALLEY OF

Union County is the Famous Grande Ronde

WHOSE BEAUTY IS BECOMING KNOWN

Far and wide, surrounded by lofty mountains upon which seems to rest the blue vault above. Wherever the eye gazes it cannot help being enchanted by our beautiful scenery. This valley embraces 300,000 acres of as fine Agricultural Land as can be found on the Pacific Coast.

The Grande Ronde River enters its boundary on the West and flows Easterly through the center of the valley and thence Northerly and out at its Northern limits; 30x25 miles is its length and bredth and with Cathyrine Creek, the largest tributary of the Grande Ronde, entering the valley at the South, Mill Creek entering at the East and Willow Creek entering at the North, with numerous other small tributaries, make the Grande Ronde Valley one of the best watered valleys in Oregon, all of the above named streams affording abundance of water the season round.

The soil of this valley is principally a black, rich loam with clay subsoil, there being about three Townships of land having a sandy soil, known as the Sand Ridge, all of which produces excellent grain.

The yield of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye, Timothy, Alfalfa and Clover is large, the cereals yielding from 25 to 70 bushels per acre of Wheat 40 to 100 for Oats and Barley, and Hay from 2 to 8 tons per acre; frequently three crops of Alfalfa being cut in one season.

PRODUCTIONS AND EXPORTS.

The producing and export of grain and hay from this valley is large and growing in quantity each year. Besides the production of grain and hay for export, an immense quantity of fruits, including Apples, Plums, Prunes, Pears and smalle fruits, also garden vegetables are raised in great quantities and marketed in the neighboring sections. Butter and Cheese is also one of our staple products. Stock raising is engaged in largely and profitably; as fine stock may be seen upon the farms of Grande Ronde Valley as anywhere, stockmen and farmers always securing the best bred animals for breeding purposes. Taxes are no higher on fine than poor stock. The lands of this valley have all been taken, but choice places can be bought at from $15 to $30 per acre, which is comparatively cheap. Many large bodies of land owned by single individuals and of the best quality can be had at very reasonable rates, which could be divided into several good farms.

TIMBER.

The hills and mountains are covered with timber of the best quality for lumbering purposes and easily reached. But little of the timber lands has been entered or taken up.

RAILROAD FACILITIES.

The O. R. & N. R. R. entering the valley at the southern portion and following the foothills on the Southwest, passes out of the valley on the West, traversing the Southwestern boundary of the valley for a distance of 14 miles.

The Hunt Railroad system will be extended during the next year from Walla Walla, W. T., through the Blue Mountains to Summerville, in the northern portion of the valley and will then traverse the entire length of the valley through its center to Union. Upon the building of this road the valley will have the best railroad facilities.

Puget Sound, W. T., is the terminal point of this line, putting Portand, Or., and the cities of the Sound in competition for the trade of the Valley, the importance of which is evidenced by the building of this second line of road. In concluding this description of Grande Ronde Valley, it can be said without fear of contradiction, that no better opportunity is offered anywhere in the Northwest for the home seeker or capitalists than in Grande Ronde Valley and its vicinity. The resources of the valley and its tributary sections will sustain manufacturing industries of nearly every kind, of which we now have but very few. It will sustain ten times the population it now has in the farming and dairying business, offering in this line advantages not to be found but in very few places. The raising of thorough bred stock is a profitable business and there is hardly an individual here solely in that business at present.

To visit Grande Ronde Valley and see it and to investigate its advantages, is to locate here. In no instance have people, who have visited this valley given it other than the best of reputation in regard to climate, soil and everything that goes to constitute a good country.

The Grande Ronde Valley has several considerable towns and villages: Union in the southern end of the valley, La Grande at the base of the mountains on the northwest Summerville in the northern end of the valley, Cove about midway on the east side, and Elgin in the extreme northern part of the valley.

UNION COUNTY OREGON

STOCK RAISING.

The Assessment Roll of the County

FOR THE YEAR 1888

SHOWS THAT THERE WERE 21,740 HEAD OF HORSES,

28,123 HEAD OF CATTLE, 55,565 HEAD OF SHEEP,

And 5,579 Head of Swine, showing of itself that the County is a great Stock Raising Region. Thousands of head of stock are yearly shipped, bringing to the owners thereof a neat profit on their investment. In fact, the stock business has been and still is the most paying of any in the country and it bids fair to continue to be such for many years to come. The bunch grass growing upon the hills and mountains is very nutritious, stock fattening in a very short time, ready for market. Usually stock has to be fed hay for from one to two months during the winter, but in many places horses will winter upon the bunch grass and do well. The climate is such that stock raised is of a hardy and healthful character, giving to work horses a strong constitution and powerful muscle.

The milk cow here attains perfection. Sheep are very healthy and produce heavy fleeces. The dairying business in the last few years has developed into a large and profitable one, the country being specially adapted to the business by reason of the milk producing qualities of the grasses and the excellent rangs, the large quantity of hay and grain raised per acre, the healthfulness of animals, the large water supply and the quick market of Butter and Cheese. The Jersey, Holstine and Durham are rapidly taking the place of the common breed of cattle, and dairymen are giving considerable attention to the breeding of their cows.

It is said more profit can be realized per year from a milk cow in this country than any other in the United States, one instance being given of a single cow for one year, yielding a net profit to the owner of $175 besides the calf

Two creameries are in operation at the Cove, in this county, which make 126,000 pounds of cheese, worth 14 cents per pound, and 75,000 pounds butter, worth 25 cents per pound.

This year a creamery is in operation at La Grande, with what success remains to be seen, although no doubt can be entertained but that it will prove to be a profitable concern.

ITS MINING RESOURCES.

The Mining Districts of Union County are Cornucopia, Sparta and Sanger. Cornucopia District is in the Eastern portion of the County, and embraces a section about ten miles square, within which there are about 600 quartz locations. The formation is granite and slate; the ledges running in a Southeasterly and Northwesterly direction. The first locations were made here in 1884. The quartz contains Gold and Silver, the gold predominating. Some of the lodes are free milling, but they generally contain base metal so in consequence will have to be treated in reduction works. Assays have been made of ore from the different groups, showing an average yield of from $25 to $100 per ton. When the proper methods are employed to work these ledges to the best advantage, Cornucopia will be considered the New "Eldorado of the West."

The Oregon Gold Mining Company, of Townsville, Ky., is the only company represented in the district. It has opened up several of its ledges, which were obtained at from $10,000 to $20,000 each.

The Red Jacket, belonging to this company, is a well defined ledge, averaging about four feet in thickness and when struck on the lowest tunnel, was found to be a mass of the golden metal. This company has a 40-Stamp Mill running night and day upon the ore taken from this ledge. Seven thousand five hundred pounds of sulphates were secured the first month of this spring operations, besides immense quantities of free gold caught upon the amalgam pans.

This company's expenses in buildings, machinery, roads, developments, etc., has amounted to over $300 000. They have the Whitman, which has a shaft sunk over 1,500 feet and shows better as the work progresses; the Alta No. 2, which is developed sufficiently to indicate a well defined ledge of high grade ore. The present superintendent, Professor Smith, is highly pleased with the prospect for his company and predicts a second Butterville, of Cornucopia. Many other ledges of the camp with 100 feet or more of development work are showing up well, among which are the Simmons group, comprising the Keystone, Checkmate, Empire and Buckeye, all situated on the Simmons Mountain and said to be the best group of mines in the camp, also the Blue Bell, Little Casino and Monte Christo, situated on the same mountain and extensions of the Simmons ledges, showing same grade and character of ore. The Way Up, northeast of Cornucopia, shows some of the richest ore of any in camp and is no doubt an extension of the Blue Bell and Simmons group. The Union Companion, Last Chance, Robert Emmet, Forest Queen, Red Boy, May Flower, Cox and Allen, Red Cross. The Steen groupe, Stella, Tiger Boy, Climax and Queen of the West are all sufficiently developed to show them to be good ledges and contain paying ore in great quantities. The Cornucopia or Pine Creek district is a rich one with an unlimited amount of ore and only lacks capital to prove its wonderful richness. It is destined to be one of the richest camps in existence.

The Sanger mines are operated by a San Francisco Company, which began its operations two years ago, buying the ledges for $47,000 and now cleaning up on an average of $70,000 per month. These mines are on the road between Union and Cornucopia, about 30 miles east of Union, having a tri-weekly mail from Union on to Cornucopia, thus being placed in direct communication with Union, their trading point.

The Sparta mines are about eight miles southeast of Sanger and have been worked for the past twenty years, still yielding large returns. The Sparta mines are mostly placer, but quite a number of ledges have lately been found which, as far as developed, indicate good paying ore. A mill is being built here and good returns are expected from its work.

UNION,

THE COUNTY SEAT OF UNION COUNTY,

IS SITUATED IN THE

Southern Portion of the Fertile Grande Ronde Valley,

AND HAS THE BEST NATURAL LOCATION

For a City of any town in Eastern Oregon. Situated, just at the base of rolling hills on both sides of Catherine Creek, a beautiful, sparkling stream, whose waters are pure as nature ever distilled and held suspended in her mountain reservoirs, furnishing immense waterpower just waiting to be utilized by the hand of man for all kinds of manufacturing industries. In fact the water power is amply sufficient to make Union the Lowell of Oregon if the attention of her enterprising citizens were turned in that direction, which will be the case when new blood and Eastern capitalists come in. This is one of the best places in oregon for the erection of manufacturies.

A woolen mill is greatly needed now, and some energetic capitalist who is engaged in such business would find here the chosen spot for such an enterprise, right in the heart of a great wool-growing section of the country. No high freights to pay, water-power in abundance, and in fact everything that such a business would consume is produced here in the valley.

The present population of Union is about 1,200, but when the O. & W. T. railroad reaches here she will double her population inside of six months. Eager eyes are watching to take advantage of the present low prices in property and procure for themselves a home where they may live in peace and plenty. Water works can be put in at very little expense by running a part of Cathorine creek into a large reservoir on the hill back of town. This will give all the fall we want - from 150 feet up; no expense of keeping a steam pump and the necessary repairs. This mountain stream can be made to run directly into the reservoir and all the waste can be utilized in furnishing power for machinery. When once water works are completed there will be no need for wells, springs, etc., for no purer drinking water can be found.

Our school facilities are unsurpassed. We have in our public school, a High School Grade. The school is supplied with every possible convenience. Everything is furnished by our liberal handed citizens, who believe in giving their children a first-class education and that they can be educated in no better way than by having a No. 1 school at home. The school at present is divided into four compartments, all thoroughly graded. Students on completing the prescribed course of study receive a certificate to that effect. An addition to the present school building is in contemplation, also several hundred dollars worth of apartments is soon to be added.

Morally and socially, Union is unexcelled and her hospitality is widely known throughout the surrounding country. We have four churches, all in a flourishing condition. There are six secret societies, doing much good to humanity. We have a number of stores of different kinds, all doing a profitable business, as they supply a great agricultural district and the numerous mining camps in the near vicinity. We are also supplied with several saloons, barbershops, blacksmithshops, etc. One principal hotel and several restaurants, so that the most fastidious tastes of the epicurian can be fully satisfied. We are also supplied with two first-class livery and feed stables so that strangers coming to this town will have no trouble in procuring a first-class team and taking a drive out into the exhillerating atmosphere and feasting his eyes upon the grandeur of our mountain scenery, and breathing in the life-giving exygen that can be found nowhere so pure as in Union County. To the Easterner, who is not used to mountain scenery, when first beholding our beautiful location, his first and involuntary exclamation is, "Paradise Found at Last."

Our county Court House is well finished in every particular, having a large and commodious hall, amply sufficient to accommodate any and all audiences. It also has in connection a jail built by the Pauley Bros., with all their latest improveed cells, thus making things secure against the escape of any prisoners that may be confined therein. Our Opera House is one of the largest this side of Portland, with handsomely decorated curtains and finished in superb style. One large and commodious Flouring Mill, full roller process, with all modern improvements, is situated adjoining the town. Also several saw mills in the near vicinity. The lumbering interest is bound to become quite a feature in our industries.

Taken all in all, Union is one of the best towns in Eastern Oregon. Heretofore she has been kept back on account of poor railroad facilities, but when the Hunt System of Railroad is completed into Union, its latent resources will be developed and it will take its place among the thriving cities of our land. We have one of the loveliest towns in Oregon, and a great deal of wealth is here already. All that is now needed is for people to come and take advantage of the great inducements soon to be thrown at the feet of every energetic man possessing either brains or muscle.

The pleasure-seeker or the invalid can find no better place to while away the summer months. Only three miles away can be found Hot Springs and Lakes reveling in medical virtues and curative powers the famous "Kansas Hot Springs." Rheumatism and such complaints disappearing as if by the hand of some magician. Lovers of the piscatorial art will find the beautiful sparkling waters of Catherine creek alive with the game mountain and brook trout. In the edge of the mountains larger game may be found, while out in the valley along the Grande Ronde river are geese, swan and ducks in abundance. In the the grain field prairie chickens are quite plentiful. Taking all these natural advantages for pleasure and business, we think people looking for a home can find no place supplying all their wants better than the beautiful city of Union.

Since the much talked of Hunt Railroad is an assured fact, property is beginning to advance in prices, though at the present time city lots and blocks may be had at very reasonable rates.

The Union Real Estate Association now has in its possession tracts of land suitable for smal farms, or they could be laid off into blocks. This association has started in on a firm basis, having within its power the means of handling property to a better advantage than any firm in Union County. They already have numerous tracts adjoining the city; farms, blocks, lots, etc., to be sold on very reasonable terms or for cash.

Parties desiring information of Union County, can do no better than to interview or address the managers of this association,

WILSON & HACKETT,

Who will cheerfully furnish them with all the information desired.