THE HERALD.

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## HARNEY VALLEY

### Its Present, and Its Future Prospects as Presented to Home-Seekers by "The West Shore."

#### View of the Country that is asking to become a New County.

From The West Shore:

During its last session, Congress passed a bill establishing a new land district in Southeastern Oregon, and by designation of the proper authorities the land office has been located in Harney Valley. At the coming meeting of the Oregon Legislature an effort will be made to have the county of Harney created out of the southern portion of Grant county. These facts render Harney Valley an object of special interest to those who are seeking a location in some new portion of the northwest. The valley has a total area of 2,400 square miles, nearly twice the size of Rhode Island, and somewhat larger than Delaware, all inclosed with high spurs of the Blue mountains.

The valley is a comparatively level plain, in the center of which lie two lakes, Harney and Malheur, only a few hundred yards apart and connected by a narrow channel, their united area being about 150 square miles. Into these lakes pour the waters of Silvies and Blitzen rivers, but they have no visible outlet. Their waters are nearly fresh, indicating that they are drained by subterranean channels. This fact seems to have a most beneficial effect upon the soil of the valley, as crops seem to find ample moisture in the ground even in the dryest seasons, and thrive, while other sections with a rainfall as great as that of Harney Valley require surface irrigation for the perfection of crops. One peculiarity of the region bordering immediately upon the lakes is the frequency and distinctness of the mirages pictured by its atmosphere, objects miles away being distinctly reflected thereon.

Silvies river rises in the mountains north of the valley, and flows a distance of eighty miles in a southeasterly direction through the valley, discharging into the lakes. It is a rapid stream, and abounds in fish, including the gamy trout. Blitzen, or Dunder-und-Blitzen, river is fifty miles in length, and flows into the lakes from the southward. With their tributaries and other smaller streams, they pour a large volume of water into the lakes constantly. Irrigation, so necessary in a large portion of the Snake river basin, of which this valley is a part, though having no surface communication by water courses, is not required here, crops reaching the highest perfection without artificial watering.

The soil is similar to that of the celebrated wheat belt at the northwestern base of the Blue mountains, in Walla Walla and Umatilla counties, and though little wheat has been raised as yet, those who have cultivated that cereal are satisfied with the result. Prices of farm products, such as wheat, oats, barley and hay, are high at present, the grain bringing from three to five cents per pound and hay from $12 to $18 per ton. With the advent of a railroad these conditions will be radically changed. There will then be a market for all the grain the valley will produce, but the price will be lowered to that of the general market. In addition to the native grasses upon which stock fatten and thrive, alfalfa, red clover, timothy and red-top grow finely and make an excellent quality of hay. Garden vegetables are large and finely flavored and produce in abundance. Especially the potato reaches great size and perfection. As yet experience has not fully developed the adaptability of the soil and climate to small fruits and berries, but as wild currants, strawberries, etc., are hardy and prolific, the cultivated varieties must necessarily thrive equally as well. Such is the experience of those who have initiated their cultivation. Fruit trees have been set out for more than a year, and as the young trees passed safely thro' the severest winter, last season, ever known in that region, and are thriving at the present time, the entire practicability of fruit culture is not doubted by any. The climate is pleasant and healthful. The winters are cold, and sufficient snow falls to protect crops and supply abundant moisture. The summers are cool and delightful.

Stock raising has always been the chief industry of that region, and was the only one until the past few years, when settlers began to take up homesteads and engage in small farming. As an adjunct to general farming, it will always hold a prominent place, and it will be many years before even the range industry will have been displaced. Cattle, horses, sheep and hogs thrive on the natural grasses and food of the hills and valleys, and, save in exceptional seasons, the cattle pass through the winter in such fine condition that the spring finds them fat enough for the block, while in flavor and texture the meats compare favorably with the best stall-fed beef that reaches the market.

During the past two years the increase in population has been very rapid, and the new comers are of the most desirable class, being farmers with families, men who by energy and good citizenship build up the country and develop its latent powers. They are erecting comfortable houses and barns, chiefly frame structures, and are using rails and wire for fencing. Wells of living water are made in any portion of the valley by digging to a depth of from six to fifteen feet, and the water is excellent for drinking and domestic use. Except along the water courses, which are fringed with a light growth of birch and a dense growth of willows, the valley contains no timber, but the adjacent mountains are covered with a dense growth of pine, fir, juniper, mountain mahogany, etc., and several saw mills there supply the settlers in the valley with lumber at reasonable prices.

At present the settlers of this region communicate with the outside world by means of a wagon road to Baker City, Huntington and Ontario, on the lines of the O. R. & N. Co. and the Oregon Short Line, goods and produce being transported in freight wagons. A tri-weekly mail service is maintained in four directions from Burns, the distributing point. At this place good general stores carry in stock all the commodities found in much larger towns. Here is published THE HERALD, the only newspaper in that region, a live local paper, devoted to the work of making the valley and its resources known to the thousands who are seeking such a place for a home. Harney is the name of another small but growing town.

It will not be long before the period of isolation from the world's markets will be terminated by the construction of a railroad through the heart of the valley. The Oregon Pacific is already pushing eastward through the Cascades from Albany, and within two years, at the latest, the locomotive's whistle will be heard in Harney Valley. When that day arrives, the valley will cease to be "way off" in the mountains, but will be as near market as many older and better known regions equally distant from Portland, but which have earlier enjoyed the good fortune of being reached by those great highways of commerce. Here is to be found the best opportunity now existing in Oregon to secure desirable vacant lands. Nothing but their distance from the usual routes of travel has kept them from being settled upon long ago, and now that the embargo of isolation is so soon to be removed, a great influx of settlers may confidently be predicted. In fact, the tide has already set in, and appearances indicate that when the railroad reaches the valley it will find the lands well occupied and prepared to give it a generous support. Stock and agricultural products will supply a large quantity of freight, and the road will be able to offer two seaports to shippers, one at Portland and the other at Yaquina Bay.

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Our lady readers can hardly fail to have their attention called this week to the latest combination of improvements in that most useful of all domestic implements, the "Sewing Machine."

As we understand it, a machine for family use should meet first of all these requirements: It should be simple in its mechanism; it should run easily; it should do a wide range of work; it should be as nearly noiseless as possible; it should be light, handsome, durable, and as cheap as is consistent with excellence throughout.

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The "New Home" specially recommends itself to purchasers on account of its superior mechanical construction, ease of management, and reasonable price. Over half a million have been sold in the last three years, all of which are giving universal satisfaction. This unrivaled machine is manufactured by the NEW HOME SEWING MACHINE CO., Orange, Mass., and 28 Union Square, New York.

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THE HERALD, knowing how eager the boys at home are for a funny paper has spared no effort to secure two of the best papers of that description to club with us at the lowest possible rates. The Free Press and Texas Siftings and THE HERALD for one year at regular rates will cost you $8 cash; and all three at our club rates will cost you only $4, which is the subscription price of Texas Siftings alone.

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—Pay 10c to have a copy of the Times-Mountaineer containing the description of the Harney country, sent East, and that 10c may return you many dollars.

—The Toledo Blade is on our desk and readers will find it on file in the reading room. HERALD and Blade one year only $3.

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## BILL FOR FORMATION OF HARNEY COUNTY

As introduced in the House by Hon. G. W. Gilham, and read first time January 6, 1889:

A BILL for an Act to create the County of Harney and fix the Salaries of County Judge and Treasurer thereof.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. That all of that portion of Grant county lying south of the following described line be and the same hereby is created and organized into a separate county by the name of Harney, viz: Beginning at a point where the west line of Grant county crosses the township line between townships 18 and 19 in said county of Grant, and running thence east on said township line to the west line of the old Malheur Indian reservation in said county of Grant; thence north following the west line of said Indian reservation six miles; thence east to the east line of Grant county.

SEC. 2. That the said territory shall comprise a county for all civil and military purposes, and shall be subject to the same laws and restrictions and be entitled to elect the same officers as the other counties in this State: Provided, that it shall be the duty of the Governor, as soon as convenient after this Act shall have become a law, to appoint for Harney county and from its citizens the several county officers allowed by law to other counties in this State, which said officers, after duly qualifying according to law, shall be entitled to hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected at the general election of 1890, and have duly qualified according to law.

SEC. 3. It is hereby made the duty of the Governor of Oregon to locate the temporary county seat of the said Harney county, until otherwise located, as provided by this Act. At the next general election the question of the location of county seat shall be submitted to the legal voters of said county and the place receiving the majority of all votes cast shall be the permanent county seat of said county.

The county court of Harney county shall not expend a larger sum than five hundred dollars of the funds of said county for the erection of county buildings until after the first day of July, 1890.

SEC. 4. The counties of Grant and Harney shall constitute one representative district, and the legal voters of said district shall be entitled to elect jointly one representative to the legislative assembly of the State, and the counties of Grant, Morrow and Harney shall constitute one Senatorial district, and the legal voters of said district shall be entitled to elect jointly one senator to the legislative assembly of this State.

SEC. 5. The county clerk of Grant county shall send to the county clerk of Harney county, within thirty days after this Act becomes a law, a certified transcript of all delinquent taxes from the assessment roll of 1888 that were assessed within the limits of Harney county for 1888, and the said taxes shall be payable to the proper officer of Harney county.

The county treasurer of Harney county shall out of the first money collected for taxes pay to the treasurer of Grant county the full amount of the State tax on the assessment roll of 1888 due from the citizens of Harney county.

The said clerk of Grant county shall also make out and send to the clerk of Harney county, within the time above limited, a transcript of all cases pending in the circuit and county courts of Grant county between parties residing in Harney county, and transfer all original papers in said cases to be tried in Harney county.

SEC. 6. The county of Harney shall be attached to the Sixth Judicial District for judicial purposes, and the terms of the circuit court of said county shall commence on the third Monday of May and second Monday in October of each year.

SEC. 7. The first term of the county court of Harney county shall commence on the fifth Monday after this Act becomes a law, and thereafter the regular terms of said county court shall commence on the first Monday of April, June, August, October, December and February of each year.

SEC. 8. Until otherwise provided, the county judge of Harney county shall receive an annual salary of three hundred dollars.

SEC. 9. Until otherwise provided, the county treasurer shall receive an annual salary of two hundred dollars.

SEC. 10. The county of Harney, within one year after its organization by the appointment of its officers as herein provided, shall assume and pay to the county of Grant, just proportion of the indebtedness of Grant county, after deducting therefrom the value of the public property of Grant county; and the county judges of Grant and Harney counties are hereby appointed a board to determine the value of such property, and the amount of indebtedness to be assumed by said Harney county; said judges shall meet at the county seat of Grant county on the first Monday in May, 1889, or as soon thereafter as convenient, and proceed with said work, and when completed file a report of their conclusions in duplicate with the clerks of Grant and Harney counties; and in case of disagreement between the said county judges of Grant and Harney counties in their conclusions, they shall call to their assistance one of the circuit judges of the sixth judicial district, whose duty it shall be to assist in determining as to what is just and equitable between the said counties of Grant and Harney, and shall have the casting vote in case of a tie vote between the said county judges. The said county judges constituting said board shall receive for their services the sum of five dollars per day for each day actually employed travelling to the county seat of Grant county, and for each day consumed in work for which they are appointed, and mileage at the rate of ten cents per mile in going to and returning from said county seat of Grant county, and such expense shall be borne equally by Grant and Harney counties; and in case the said circuit judge be called to assist in said work he shall receive the same compensation as herein provided for the said county judges, to be paid equally by the said Grant and Harney counties.

SEC. 11. The county judge of Harney county shall let by contract to the lowest efficient bidder, the work of transcribing all records of Grant county affecting real estate situated in Harney county, and when completed they shall be examined and certified to by the clerk of Harney county, and shall thereafter be recognized and acknowledged as the official records of Harney county.

SEC. 12. It is hereby made the duty of the treasurer of Grant county within thirty days after this Act becomes a law, to pay over to the treasurer of Harney county, upon the order of the school superintendent of said county, all school funds then in his charge belonging to the several school districts of Harney county.

SEC. 13. Inasmuch as the citizens residing within the limits of the territory embraced in the proposed county of Harney labor under great inconvenience in the transaction of necessary business at their county seat (Canyon City,) this Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval by the Governor.