

## UNION COUNTY

### UNION AREA

The Union area includes all of Union County. Within it are three districts, as follows: The Camp Carson district includes the headwaters of the Grande Ronde River above and south of the junction with Sheep Creek. The Medical Springs district lies in R. 41 and the west half of R. 42 E., T. 6 S. The Catherine Creek district includes the drainage of that stream above the town of Union.

## UNION COUNTY

(Camp Carson, Medical Springs and Upper Eagle Creek)

Broadly speaking, the main geographical feature of the country is the Grande Ronde valley which lies between the Blue Mountains on the west and the Wallawas on the east. Most of the area is in this large basin, with drainage of the Grande Ronde River north and east to the Snake. U. S. Highway 30, the route of the Old Oregon Trail, crosses the country northeast and southwest, as does the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad. The attractive city of La Grande, with a population of over 8,000, is the county seat and center of trade.

Mining districts are in the southern part close to Baker and Wallowa Counties, and the economic geology is the same as that described under those counties. Much of northern Union county is covered by Columbia River basalts.

The properties listed are in three districts, namely, Camp Carson, Medical Springs, and the upper part of Eagle Creek. Many more mining properties than those mentioned are known, but no Department investigation of them could be made. The only information available is that given by Lindgren in 1900. A list of properties is given at the end of this chapter.

The Camp Carson District near the headwaters of the Grande Ronde River is about 20 miles in an air line north of Sumpter, but is usually reached either from La Grande or North Powder. It is in the northwestern extension of the Elkhorn range in a timbered region and is a part of Lindgren's Bald Mountain batholith.

Placer deposits have been and are being worked below Camp Carson, although the cemented nature of some of the gravels has caused difficulties. In addition quartz veins containing sulphides have been prospected.

The Medical Springs District is about 18 miles northeast of Baker over a good road. This is an old district which has been prospected from time to time since early days. Country rock is a siliceous greenstone of probable Permian age, exposed by erosion of overlying Columbia River basalts.

Two molybdenite deposits are listed in the upper Eagle Creek District, although no Department reconnaissance has been made. The occurrences are probably in tactite zones similar to those described in other Wallowa Mountain deposits under Wallowa county.

Recorded production of Union county has been small. *Ry 110-4A*