

For Oregon! Settlers from Illinois Describe the New Territory, 1847.

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BRAINY PAPER

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In the mid-nineteenth century, the Illinoisans were attracted by the fertile lands and mild climate of Oregon. When travelers visited Oregon, they came back and spread the good news about that country. The environment was favorable for stock rearing and growing of crops such as wheat, oats, turnip potatoes, cabbages and other vegetables. Moreover, good health was another factor that contributed to the migration. The immigrants moved in different groups and settled in different parts of that country.

The settlers had different impressions about Oregon because they all had different expectations of what they were going to find in that country. Some were pleased while others were dissatisfied. Among those satisfied was Isaac States. Isaac found the climate to be healthy and favorable for the survival of most people. Crops such as wheat, flax, hemp, and tobacco did well. Farmers could rear livestock such as sheep and pigs for pork. There was sufficient water to produce energy that could be used in the manufacturing industry. Elijah Bristow was pleased with the country because it had fertile soils, quality timber, sufficient water and a reputation of good health. The wheat did well compared to that in Illinois, and the livestock could also survive without corn (Bristow, 1847).

Some of the settlers were dissatisfied because they found out that the level of production had been overrated. An acre could only produce an average of fifteen bushels of wheat. The immigrants were discouraged by the death of their livestock during the winter season. Moreover, the climatic conditions did not support the growing of corn (Bristow, 1847). Hezekiah Packingham did not find Oregon to be different from Illinois. Wheat grown in Oregon was not different from that in Illinois. For one to grow vegetables, potatoes, and corn, he or she had to

water them. Packingham explained that Illinois's soil was better compared to that of Oregon. He also told that money was scarce and the topography was rugged and characterized by poor roads.

In conclusion, personal views differ from one person to another. One person may like something, and another person could dislike the same thing. Before the immigration, Illinoisans were positive that Oregon was an excellent country to settle down. They all had different expectations, and this led to the various impressions after they had settled. Some were satisfied because they found the lands to be fertile and conducive for carrying out agricultural activities. Others were dissatisfied with the climate and wanted to return to their home countries.

References

Bristow, E. (1847). For Oregon! Settlers From Illinois Describe the New Territory. *Illinois Journal* .

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