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Drain Is a Thriving City

The northernmost town in Douglas county, is located on the main line of the Southern Pacific railroad and on the Pacific highway and about 37 miles north of the county seat, Roseburg.

The town has a beautiful setting among the foothills of the Cascade mountains, the dividing range between the Umpqua and Willamette valleys. The junction of Pass creek and Elk creek is within the city limits of Drain and it is here that the scenic Umpqua highway, leading to Reedsport, branches from the Pacific highway.

The town has a population of about 600 people, is incorporated and is governed by a mayor and four councilmen. The town also has water, light, sewer and telephone systems.

There is a bank the stockholders of which are citizens of the town and county. A weekly newspaper is published there whose editor and publisher has had more than twenty years experience in the business and who furnishes its readers with all the news of the vicinity as well as considerable general news.

The local school district has an excellent high and grade school with four teachers in the high school and five in the grades.

Some years ago one of the four normal schools of the state was located here but in common with two of the others, it was abolished by the state legislature, it being deemed by the members of that body that there were too many normal schools to be supported by the tax payers. The local school district then fell heir to the school building, which had previously been erected by the district, but to which the state had made a substantial addition during the time it had been used by the normal.

Hence the school is provided with a large and well equipped building for all its needs.

The town is also provided with fire fighting equipment, consisting of two hose carts and several hundred feet of hose and a volunteer force of fire fighters who have never yet allowed a fire to get much of a start.

There are two churches, Methodist and Christian, each of which has made additions to their church buildings within the past year, which is an indication of growth.

There is the usual quota of business concerns in the town, five general and grocery stores, one hardware, one drug store, one blacksmith, two confectioneries, hotel, restaurant, moving picture show, one physician, one chiropractor, one dentist, three salaried, meat market and a pressing and cleaning establishment.

The town is the head of two star mail routes, one leading to Gunter,

a point some 20 miles north and west on the headwaters of Smith river, which stream empties into the Umpqua at Reedsport, the other leads west down Elk creek and the Umpqua to Scottsburg, 30 miles. Considerable mail matter is carried over this route as far as Elkton, an intermediate postoffice, and mail is distributed to patrons along the route.

The service over the former route is made twice a week and over the latter three times, but the patrons of the Drain-Scottsburg route are desirous of a daily service and it is hoped that the postoffice department will grant their wish when contracts are let for the next term, beginning next July.

Should the contemplated improvement of the scenic Umpqua highway become a reality the present Drain-Scottsburg star route will probably be extended to include the section from Scottsburg to Reedsport.

Building operations in Drain, especially in the matter of dwelling houses, has not been extensive for several years owing to the fact that at the time the Southern Pacific company began construction of its proposed Drain-Coos bay branch, in 1907, a considerable number of cottages were built and when the railroad project was abandoned, after a few months work, the town was left with a surplus of dwelling houses which condition continued for several years. The same condition was also true, to some extent, regarding business buildings. However, within the past few years some new buildings have been constructed, both for dwellings and business purposes.

The town was especially favored three years ago, when the business men along two blocks fronting on the highway paid several hundred dollars each to have the paving widened to meet the curb in front of their business places. A concrete block building was erected last year for the hardware merchant, the structure being about forty by fifty feet in size with sufficient height for a balcony.

Considerable repair and improvement work has been done on dwellings the past two or three years, principally in the way of new roofs and painting. The Methodist church has made an addition to its church building at a cost of \$400 to \$500 and the Christian church has made a like improvement within the past year.

Soil and climatic conditions in this locality are not materially different from that of other parts of Douglas county, and these conditions, especially the latter, are generally conceded by all who are at all familiar with them to be better than any other part of the northwestern section of the United States. This might seem to some to be an extravagant claim, but old time settlers in this part of the country say they have made a test of the matter by trying it out with a residence of a year or two in the different localities, and

found this, taken the year through, to be the more desirable.

As for soil production, which includes not only the growing of grains, grasses, fruits and vegetables, but also stock and poultry raising, this part of Douglas county is not exceeded by any other part, except in the area involved, and is better in the one respect of being less rocky than some other parts.

As for development this locality, in common with many others, is, as yet, in its infancy, but enough has been done to prove that a sufficient quantity of fruits, berries, vegetables, eggs and poultry to supply a city of ten thousand population can be produced in this comparatively small area of arable land. Fruit orchards, prunes, apples and pears have been planted and brought to a full bearing state and then been allowed to go back on account of unorganized marketing facilities and excessive transportation charges. Broccoli can be grown successfully here, as well as everything else in the vegetable line, and whenever the demand arises and the marketing and transportation matters become adjusted then the farmer and horticulturist will come into their own. Unquestionably the cultivation of the soil is the basis of all industry but until the farmer can be assured of a reasonable profit for his labor, and stable marketing conditions this most important industry will suffer.

Stock raising in this locality is a profitable business but not done in a large way owing to limited area.

The opportunities for poultry raising are splendid and a number of poultrymen are doing a good business. Two of these men have done a good business the past few years in hatching and selling baby chicks, making many shipments into Idaho and Washington. The opportunities for this business here are equal to those in any other part of the country.

Timber, the most important native resource in all the country, abounds in this part of our country. It would be next to impossible to estimate the amount of standing timber in this region there being many sections of fine timber that are, as yet, untouched.

Piling timber in considerable quantity has been shipped from here for several years past, but the growth on this class of timber suggests the supply a fixed quantity.

Timber for fuel purposes, is practically unlimited quantity because in this foothill and mountain region.

Several small saw mills are operating on and near the railroad and along Pass creek, but these scarcely make a dent in the timber supply. A few large mills are the need of the locality, but here, again the transportation question bulks large.

Soil, climate and other natural conditions considered, we believe no more favorable locality can be found than in northern Douglas county.

Reedsport

Advantageously located at the junction of the Umpqua, Smith and Willamette rivers, in the northwestern part of Douglas county, Reedsport, second in population, with the largest payroll in Douglas county, is rapidly coming to the front as one of the principal seaport cities of the Pacific coast.

Recording a steady and substantial growth since 1917, when the railroad tapped this section, and by governmental and local improvements of its harbor which are being continued, has made it a seaport and shipping point of vast importance for the many diversified industries carried on within the city and environs.

Reedsport has at the present time four saw mills with a combined output of 125,000,000 feet of lumber annually, and has approximately 40,000,000 feet of merchantable lumber tributary. Besides the saw mills there is a large ash and door factory, a creamer, and four fish packing plants. The marketable fish being Chinook, Steelhead and Silveride salmon, shad and crabs. Agriculture, dairying and stock raising are important industries.

At the present time the population of Reedsport is around 2,500. Temporary shacks and other buildings are giving way to solid, substantial buildings in the business section, and many beautiful homes are being built in the residential sections.

Reedsport has one of the best water systems in the state. Water of the purest quality is piped a distance of four miles from Clear lake, which is estimated will supply a city of 40,000 people. The city is now putting in a sewer system, which will be followed by filling in the streets to an established grade.

Reedsport now has the Southern Pacific railway, with daily train service, the Umpqua highway now being completed between this city and Drain on the Pacific highway and work is being done on the Reedsport highway, which should be completed from Reedsport to the California line during the coming year.

The rivers abound with fish, and at Winchester bay, the ideal summer resort of Douglas county, are found, such as crabs, clams, etc., may be had for the fishing. The woods nearby are filled with game from cougars to bear and deer, and in season ducks and marsh birds.

Reedsport has an up-to-date school system and all the principal fraternal societies, besides the chamber of commerce, Kiwanis club and Business Men's association.

Douglas county was taken from old Umpqua county, and was named after Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois.