

# OREGON'S ADVANTAGES

Ever Ready Welcome Given to New Settlers.

## INDUSTRY SURE OF REWARD

Brief Description of the Willamette Valley—What is Claimed for the Soil and Climate of this State—Not Cursed by Droughts.

It is not the purpose of this article to advise any man or business, nor any locality of this county; beyond giving a reasonable amount of pride in Independence as a business center, it is not intended to make claims over the advantages of other towns in the county. The end and aim of the present effort is to place before the people of the East, especially that class whose minds are made up to come out here, the possibilities offered them on



L. Helmick's Roller Mills.

the Coast—in this state especially, and particularly right here in Polk county.

The most widely known section of the state of Oregon, and what may be truthfully designated as the Garden of the Northwest, is

### THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY.

which is the principal valley in the state and constitutes the wealthiest portion of Oregon. It is drained by the river of the same name, which stream is navigable a distance of one hundred and twenty-five miles from its mouth. It flows northward about midway between the Coast Range and the Cascade mountains, and empties into the Columbia river at a point of about one hundred miles from the ocean. The valley begins, to speak, at the Calapoocas on the south, and extends to the Columbia river on the north, a distance of about one hundred and thirty miles. It has an average width of sixty miles, not including the mountain slopes, and comprises a beautiful sweep of valley, containing about 7800 square miles, or 4,992,000 acres of land, all of which is highly fertile. From their sources in the Cascades flowing westward the Clackamas, Mollala, Tualatin, Santiam, and McKenzie rivers, and empty into the Willamette. The Coast Fork is an important branch of the Willamette. From their sources in the Coast Range flow eastward the Tualatin, The Dalles, Yamhill, LaCreole, Lucasate, Mary's, Long Tom, and Calapoocas rivers, which also empty into the Willamette. These are all streams of importance, several of them navigable, and each drains a considerable country in



Methodist Church.

the foot hills valuable for agriculture, fruit, stock, and timber.

### WHAT IS CLAIMED FOR OREGON.

It is not claimed for Oregon that it is a "Garden of Eden," nor a "Perfect Par-

adise," neither is it a land of "perpetual sunshine" nor "the only place for a poor man." On the contrary, it is about as rough on a poor man here as it is in many other states; you can run out on the streets almost any time in winter and in less than a day can find men who will swear that it rains here sometimes; in fact, they will swear to it—if they have not sworn enough already to suit you. As to its being a Garden of Eden, that is a flight of the imagination; there are no fig leaves in the state in the first place, and besides the merchants sell dress goods cheap for cash. But for all that, it is a good place to live, and industry, sobriety and enterprise tell us surely and much more promptly in Webfoot land than in the ice belt of Minnesota or the southern blizzard circuit of Iowa or Kansas.

People come nearer living here than they do in a country where it freezes and breezes to the extent it does in the middle western states, or where the sun is as attentive to its business as it is in the more southerly parts of this Coast.

The truth of the matter is that up to this time the best portions of the state have not been placed before the Eastern immigrants, for the reason that they were owned and held by the original donation-claimers, who refused to dispose of them. Now the situation is altered to a great extent; the old order is changing; the methods of the past are rapidly going out of style, and improvement is

noticeable on all sides. In proof of these assertions the following opinions, by a man who has traveled and whose views upon other subjects are treated with respect, is given as evidence:

#### A CALIFORNIAN'S VIEWS.

In common with nearly everyone who comes to this state, E. Rose, a wealthy and enterprising San Francisco merchant who was here this week, is highly pleased with the business activity everywhere apparent, as well as delighted with the climate. A man who would cavil at these glorious spring days must indeed be hard to suit, for such weather is found nowhere but on the Pacific coast, and no locality furnishes more delightful specimens than does the Willamette valley.

What pleased Mr. Rose the most, however, was the business life, the energy of local merchants, and the bright prospects generally of all parts of this state. He remarked that he had traveled from the towns of Coos and Curry counties on the south, to Portland and Astoria in the north, and in the manner in which the "back country" of all these places is growing is very promising.

It is pleasant to hear such words from strangers. If it does not alleviate the scarcity of the useful here, it at least shows that other places are worse off, which in itself should arouse in the breast of all a spirit of thankfulness and contentment, and a disposition to make the most of what they have and not mourn over what can't be helped.

# THE CITY'S PROSPECTS

Some of the Causes for a Prosperous Year

## IN THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

Increased Travel and Traffic by Rail and Steamer—The Fruit, Grain and Hop Ranches in Excellent Condition—Mills and Factories Busy.

There are few cities in Oregon whose business affairs, both municipal and private, are in better condition than are those of Independence. Occasionally you pick up a paper from a town up or down the river or over on the coast which



The Star Roller Mills.

contains one or more notices of sheriff's sales, business failures or affairs of that nature; and nearly every issue of local papers of this state in places other than in the Willamette valley, tells of what ought to be done in the way of starting

running constantly and the output of lumber is large and brings money to this city from the surrounding country and from numerous points on the railroad and the river.

Another equally prominent feature in the matter is the large and steady shipments of merchandise of all kinds to Independence by the Alton and various other steamers, as well as the freight arriving over the Southern Pacific railroad.

Then the number of drammers who stop over at this point is something surprising; if they did no business here it is safe to say they would not appear so regularly nor stay so long.

There is another indication of prosperity, humble but convincing; that is the number of teams, belonging to owners of large and prosperous hop, fruit and grain farms, which are seen on the streets, and the amount of goods being trucked out of stores here to be carried off in those same farm wagons.

About as reliable an index of growth and stability as could be asked is found in the number of new buildings now under way. Several shops and stores, some half dozen dwellings of more or less pretensions to elegance, are to be seen in different stages of construction in various parts of the city.

The reputation among traveling men that the city has is quite sufficient proof of its good standing, from a commercial standpoint. In the matter of



Independence Graded School. Built in 1890. Cost \$20,000.

factories, subsidising various industries or reviving some enterprise which has been allowed to stagnate.

That is not the case in this city nor in this county. Just why this is so is hard to explain, unless it is on account of the



The Monmouth Normal School.

intrinsic worth of the citizens, their indisputable public spirit, and energy in matters pertaining to home improvement. There are some things easier to prove than to explain, and this appears to be one of them. In fact, there is no need of any explanation so long as the facts exist. And that Independence is enjoying good business health is proven in a hundreds different ways, of which only a few are necessary to carry conviction.

In the first place, probably because it makes its presence known so persistently and noisily, there is the sawmill. It is

location anyone who knows enough to go in out of the rain when he has an opportunity, can see that Independence, with the river—upon which are now running four regular steamers—at its front door and a competing railroad line running through the city, can secure better transportation rates than other cities less advantageously placed, and can therefore do more business.

Much more in this strain could be written and with equal truth. It is not necessary; the forces which have placed Independence where she is will keep her there, and the growth will be substantial and her class of citizens the most desirable.

### Why You Should Settle In Oregon.

- Because it is the best country known to the man of moderate means.
- Because you will find a country of rich soil awaiting the settler.
- Because there are uplands, prairie lands and alluvial river bottoms.
- Because you can be certain of profitable returns from whatever you put into the soil.
- Because the winter does not consume what the summer produces.
- Because there are more and better opportunities for diversified farming than elsewhere.

Have you noticed the announcement of the new real estate firm? List your property with them.

# WHY HE CAME BACK

Better Weather and Business in Oregon Than In the East

## THE TRUTH PLAINLY TOLD

An Old Story, but One Which Explains Much of the Immigration from the East to This Coast—Climate and Business Discussed.

Americans as a class are probably the most restless people on the face of the globe, not excepting the tent tribes of Arabia, for unlike the latter the Americans are not forced by climatic and political reasons to migrate frequently. The tendency for the last hundred years has been toward the west, until now the star of empire of this nation has lighted the American pioneers from the boisterous Atlantic to the calmer waters of the broad Pacific ocean.

The causes leading to this steady west-



Calvary Presbyterian Church.

ward march have been manifold; some of them have ceased to exert any influence on the immigration which so steadily continues to pour into this state the citizens needed to develop its wonderful resources. The principal reasons for their permanent residence in Oregon when they once settled here is clearly set forth in the following opinion expressed by a gentleman who recently returned from the old Wolverine state:

### WHY HE RETURNED.

After an absence of nearly a year and a half E. H. Hosner, a former citizen of Polk county, returned from the northern ice belt of the East. Mr. Hosner arrived in Monmouth, his former home, last Wednesday, accompanied by his family.

Last Thursday Mr. Hosner paid this office a visit and read the editor a long lecture on the folly of leaving such a country and climate as this to go back East and freeze to death.

"I've come back to thaw out," he exclaimed, pulling his chair into the sunshine. "I've been frozen up since last September and have had enough of that experience to last me the rest of my life. If the people here only knew how much better off they are out here—why the climate is a perfect heaven compared to that of southern Michigan where I was. While I was back there a man was buried—he died first, of course—and the man who dug the grave said the ground was frozen solid all the way down, about five feet.

"A man stands no show in the East; there are no transactions in property, no activity in business, and the cold weather is simply terrible. It was down to 20 degrees below zero a number



F. E. Chambers Hardware.

of times. I've come back to stay this time and will resume business with my old partner, B. M. Sloan, in the contracting and building line, over at Monmouth. Oregon is good enough for me."