# INDEPENDENCE MONITOR

VOL. 1.

INDEPENDENCE, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1913

NO. 52

## OUR FIRST HISTORICAL AND DEVELOPMENT EDITION FOR POLK COUNTY

## POLK, A COUNTY OF VARIED RESOURCES WHERE DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN MARKED

### The Soil, the Climate, the Timber, the Growth and Wealth of Polk County five persons to the family, we etc. In horticultural lines she Polk county has excellent rail-The County as a Center of Education

Polk county is almost in the ty is divided into river bottom this county are all running much The favorable conditions of blackberries can be produced, dustry and many other county center of the Willamette Valley land of deep gray sandy loam, below their fullest capacity. In soil, climate, moisture and ele- Potatoes, calabage, onions, as- features, but in closing we wish and is one of the best counties gray loam upland, red and gray Polk county there are at the vation render Polk county won- paragus, beans, peas, beets and to call your attention to the eduin the state when it comes to hill land, prairie and mountain present time 3 planing mills, 1 derfully productive of almost all general garden stuffs grow cational features in Polk county.

considering soil, climate, timber, dairying, stock raising or educational advantages. While it does not excel as a fruit center as does Hood River or Southern Oregon, yet whenever a horticulturalist takes hold of a fruit farm he gets just as good results here as he does in any section of the West. The soil is here, the climate is admirable and the results are what we could and do expect, but here the general farmer sees more profit in dairying, in hogs, in thoroughbred sheep and goats, and in hop raising.

When we consider that in the period from 1900 to 1910, the population of the United States showed an increase of but 21 per cent, while among the entire number of states Oregon ranks fourth in the increase of population with a percentage of 63 per cent, it is not a far guess to see in this state almost the greatest progressiveness of the United States. In this article we are going to consider Polk county

.

1

.

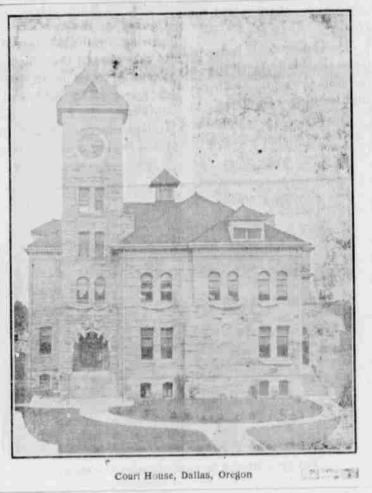
should look further.

that we will give you reliable drained. The red hills of the Eola monthly pay roll of \$119,605 for statistics-facts that you can section rich in iron, which gives the skilled labor, and \$362,000 prove by looking up county, state them their color, they carry an for the unskilled labor in the and government records. This abundance of lime. These hills lumber industry of the county. is not a real estate edition. nor have wonderful wearing quali- The lumber output of the county a boom edition, it is not backed ties under continuous cropping. will be greatly increased when by commercial clubs or boost or- The soil in the vicinity of Dallas timber of the Siletz is opened by ganizations. It is an edition is admirably situated for prune the Valley & Siletz railroad and published by the editor from raising, while along the streams the timber of that section of

0.Sn.S. Monmouth Ore. The State Normal School, Monmouth, Oregon

from the standpoint of develop- timber land. The soil around shingle mill, 4 saw mills, 4 saw crops which flourish in the temment-past and prospective-and Monmouth is gray loam, of a and planing mills. The average perate zone. The early entry of successful and extensive industry

we see no reason why one look- high percentage of phosphoric daily wages of the 244 men in ing for a land in which to locate acic and humus, but is low in the woods is \$2.85; of the 140 potash and lime. This is an ex- skilled men, \$3.28; of the 284 At the outset, we wish to state cellent soil and should be well unskilled men, \$2.00, making a



of her telephone, telegraph and grain and stock farm. These are recognized as the largest and Bottom. He is now a resident railroad lines. If we add these being divided under the pressure best creamery in Oregon. This values we find the total focting for more diversified farming. creamery, situated in the very getic active. He has one shild, \$15,240,845, and placing the pop- Polk county, while producing center of the wealth of Polk ulation at 15,000, we have an well in wheat, oats and barley, county, in a state exhibit, took grand child. average wealth in Polk county can do batter as a money making the blue ribbon at the state fair for every man, woman and child and soil enriching erop from last year in competition with 70 in the county of \$1,000. Allowing clover, vetch, kale, rape, of the creameries of the state.

have the average Folk county can successfully grow prunes, road connections, a complete story family worth \$5000 at the assess- plums, cherries, pears and apples, of which is told in another coled valuation as placed by the while in the small fruits no better umn of this issue. The same is county assessor.

strawberries, loganberries, or true of the stock and dairy in-

abundantly. In hops Polk county This county is the first county to produces more than any county establish the home credit system in Oregon, and Oregon grows and has made it a success. Prof. more hops than any state in the Muerman came to Polk county to Union. Historically it might not study the school system of this be amiss to mention here that county as a part of his governprobably the first hops in Oregon ment work and reported he chose were planted in 1872 by George Polk out of all counties in Oregon Wells at Buena Vista, and Sam on account of her advanced posi-Beckett and J. W. Hodson in 1873 tion as a school center. Then she

or 1874 planted 10 acres at Eola and Hodson in 10 years on this 10 acres cleared \$10,000. Ed P. Dove started in the hop business with 234 acres and later this yard reached the extent of 40 acres and was then the largest yard in Oregon. This 40 acres is now a part of the E. Clemens Horst 600 acre hop ranch. Now there are three and possibly four hop yards in a radius of five miles of Independedce having an acreage of 300 acres each and better. Polk county also excels in bloodand hogs, the early climate, winditions contribute largely to the



Falls City Falls on the Luckiamute

has added in her high schools the manual training, domestic science ed cattle, horses, sheep, goats and physical features that are helping to build up a perfect system. Polk county is also the ter pasture, and pure water being home of the State Normal School important elements. These con- a technical school for teachers.

#### POLK COUNTY FACTS

In 1904 the assessed valuation of Polk county was \$4,146,110, ip 1905 it had grown \$4,388,970. in 1907 it totaled 8,738,670, in 1907, 10,079,430, in 1908 it was 10,506,460, in 1909 the figures have reached 13,838,629 and in 1910 they are 14,519,130 and in 1911 it is 15,131, 720 and in 1912 and 1913 the amounts have made good, substantial increases showthat land values are growing every year.

In order to give an idea of the climate we wish to say that for a period of ten years the average rainfall annually was 45.32 inches. amount of snow 4.8 inches, mean temperature 54 degrees, number of rainy days 139, number of himself at the place where Portdays 130.

of Polk, and he's healthy, ener-



BENJAMIN BEERS

TRADES FARM FOR HICKORY SHIRT

And Sells Town Site of Portland for Three **Hundred Dollars** 

No emigrant now living in Polk county has the story of an eventful life that Jas. E. Elkins has. In 1845, with the Tetherow company he came to Oregon, being in the noted Meeks cut off company-the blue bucket mine company of Oregon.

When he arrived he domiciled



statistics that he can substan- hops do well, and in the valley Polk and Lincoln counties is section lying west and north brought to the market at the tiate.

The Willamette Valley, of there are some fine crops of mills planned for erection this which Polk county is a part, has grain, clover, and other hay year by the Falls City Lumber an area of 60 miles in width and raised. The river bottom land Company at Independence. 150 miles in length. Polk county produces the largest and best Next, turning to the income extends a length of 24 miles crops and when all cleared and in that comes from the industries north to south, bordered on its cultivation brings the highest and resources of the county, a east boundary by the Willamette price for acreage. One reason low estimate gives us annually river the whole distance, thus for the richness of this river \$1,000,000 from our timber, our giving it in its first organization bottom land is that it overflows hops will produce annually an an outlet for its products, and annually and a good crop is al- average of \$1,500,000, our dairy transportation for its people by ways assured. This is the hop and creamery products alone will boat. From east to west the section of the country, although bring in close to \$700,000 ancounty is 33 miles, giving the small yards are profitably pro- nually, and we think it safe to

county an area of 750 square ducing crops annually on the estimate the wheat, oats, clover, miles, or an exact acreage ac- small streams in Polk county wool and mohair crop at close to cording to the assessment roll of that feed the Willamette, a \$1,000,000 annually, and this 476,860 acres. Of this acreage Polk county has about the gives to this county an annual but 15,240 acres are unappropri- same rainfall that the rest of the income of about \$4,200,000 or an ated and unreserved. All is sur- valley has and at Portland the average of \$265 the personveyed. Of the assessed appro- precipitation is placed at an av- man, woman and child in the priated land 281,704 acres are erage of 45.5 inches annually, county; and this does not include cultivated and 165,693 acres are Louisville, Ky., has 44.3 inches and consider the amount of annually; Nashville, Tenn., has product consumed at home, the uncultivated.

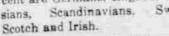
In 1900 the cultivated and im- 48.5 inches; New Orleans, 57 amount of money that goes out proved area consisted of 256,847 inches; New York, 44 inches; in exchange profits, or the busiacres valued at \$4,977,240 or 24.- Vicksburg, Miss., 63,7 inches, ness interests of the country 857 acres less than in 1913, but showing that this section has no that should increase the net rethe assessed valuation has grown greater rainfall than the section turns to every man, woman during that time to \$9,746,990 or of territory bordering on the At- and child two or three times the almost an increase of 100 per lantic ocean and the Gulf of figures given above.

cent in valuation. The popula- Mexico. tion in the period of ten years, One great wealth of Polk coun- county shows the value of imfrom 1900 to 1910, grew from ty is her timber area, compris- provements on deeded and pat-9,923 to 13,469, or a little more ing as it does about 300 sections ented land at \$612,210 lots at than 33 1-3 per cent, and today in all or about 192,000 acres, we \$630,580, improvements on lots at we believe we are safe in esti- find her credited with 6,594,- \$776,990, improvements on land

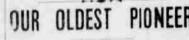
The assessment roll of Polk

mating the population of the \$53,000 feet of timber. This not deeded or patented at \$35,850. county at more than 15,000 peo- wealth alone sold to the mills 21 miles of electric light line at and factories at \$1.00 per 1,000 \$10,500, manufacturing machin-

Many people in looking up a feet would bring a total of \$6,- ery \$190,380, merchandise \$264, place to locate wish to know the 594,583 to the owners of the 020, farming implements \$87,970, nationality of the people with timber. State statistics tell us money and notes \$56,850, 1359 whom they are to mingle. In that the plants in Polk county shares of stock valued at \$90,790. Polk county the commissioner of hundling the lumber business for Household goods worth \$153,530, labor states that 80 per cent of this section are valued at \$364 .- 5080 head of horses and mules Polk county's population are na- 060, and their daily capacity is worth \$301,660, 6705 cattle valtive born. Of the remaining 10 3,000 handles. 81,000 feet of ued at \$121,560, 11,912 shoep asper cent one-fourth are from planing machine work, 480,000 sessed at \$29,200, 14,334 goats Canada, the remaining 7 1-2 per feet of sawed lumber and 20.- placed at \$16,060, . 3421 swine cent are Germans, English, Rus- 000 shingles, and if run at their valued at \$16,700 and 691 dogs sians, Scandinavians. Swiss, fullest capacity it would require worth \$7,280, this with the deed-



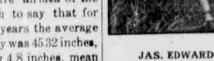
ple.



large homesteads-the inability of dairying and it was with this months, waiting for a vessel to N. L. Butler. to reach a ready market and the point in view that K. C. Eldredge come to Oregon. He arrived in In 1848 he took another claim



The Lorgest Creamery in Oregon, at Independence, Oregon



JAS. EDWARDS ELKINS

cloudy days 170, number of part land now stands. He bought the cloudy days 66, number of clear whole townsite of Portland of a man by the name of Cornelius for \$300 and sold it to a man OUR OLDEST PIONEER named Pittigrew who started the first store started at Portland.

In May 1846 Elkins came to The subject of, this sketch is Polk county and has been here Oregon's oldest pioneer. He oversince. He took up a claim was born in Connecticut Nov. 5, where part of Monmouth now 1835, and was brought to Oregon stands, and sold it in 1884 to a by his father, coming from New man by the name of Hodge-get-York by water, via the Sandwich ting a hickory shirt for the farm. Islands, staying there three The farm was later owned by

> near Monmouth, improving it and later selling it to a minister by the name of Parrott. He got \$300 in gold for this farm, this being the first gold he had seen since leaving the eastern states. With this money he purchased a good outfit and went to the mines in California where he took up a mining claim and worked two months, making good money. The exposure brought on chills and fever and he returned to Oregon.

He next took up the Elkins donation land claim on the Luckjamute, south of Monmouth. where he farmed for forty years. He later rented it out and then sold it six years ago, moving to Independence. In May 1851 he married a Miss Zumwolt. His first wages he earned of Mr. Thorp, working 100 days at \$3.00 per day installing and running the mill. He was a mill wright. He also worked in leather and bought leather of the Eola tannery to make harness and shoes. Thay made a fair quality of leather at Eola in those days

37 years to cut the timber of this ed land brings Polk county's habit of taking that which was came to Independence and estab- O'regon in May 1837, locating ten 1 tmy best leather I ordered Turning to the soil, Polk county alone, but the mills of wealth to \$13,149,000, exclusive easiest to do caused the extensive lished in Polk county what is now miles below Salam at Mission m Portiand.