

best towns of Oregon, and has now a population of 1,500, with a business established on a firm and permanent basis. Excellent schools and churches, an agricultural college, two well-conducted weekly papers, flouring mill, saw mill and sash and door factory are features of the town. Corvallis has within a few weeks become the point of junction between the Oregon Pacific Railroad, from Yaquina Bay, and the west side line of the O. & C. road, of which it has been the terminal point for a number of years. The benefits to be derived are many, and will considerably increase the population, business and value of property. When, as is confidently expected, the Yaquina Bay route becomes the outlet for a large portion of the products of the Willamette Valley, Corvallis will occupy a still more important position and enjoy a still greater measure of prosperity. Other towns in the western portion of the county are Philomath, which possesses a college of the same name and a flouring mill; Monroe, containing a flouring mill, and Alsea, where a saw mill and flouring mill are located.

POLK COUNTY.

North of Benton, and extending from the Willamette River to the summit of the Coast Range, lies the county of Polk, one of the oldest and best agricultural counties in the State. It has an area of some 800 square miles, about equally divided between valley and hill land, with a belt of timber-covered mountains on its extreme western end. The valley portion is occupied by well-improved farms, and is one of the best developed portions of the State. There are especially noticeable many excellent residences, some of them quite costly structures. Wheat raising and general farming, combined with incidental stock, dairy, hop and wool production, are the leading industries. Some of the best sheep in the State are to be found in Polk County. Nearly every farmer has a small orchard on his place, and the usual Oregon fruits do well in that section. Improved land is for sale at from \$30 to \$50, and unimproved from \$2.50 to \$10. The western section is hilly and covered with a fine growth of hardwood and fir, the latter being especially dense and valuable in the mountain region. This land is especially adapted to pasturage for cattle and sheep. Much of it is still open for settlement under the Government land laws, while there is also a considerable amount belonging to the railroad which may be purchased at a reasonable rate. Partially improved land can always be bought at low figures. The Luckiamute is a tributary of the Willamette and is navigable for small steamers. This stream, La Creole, Mill Creek and numerous others furnish an abundance of pure water and an almost unlimited water power, but little of which is now utilized.

The seat of justice is Dallas, a town of 800 people, situated on the narrow gauge line. It contains a sash and door factory, tannery, machine shops and academy, and is the business centre of a large and prosperous farming region. Independence is a thriving town of 700 people, and possesses saw and flouring mills. It is the shipping point for a large agricultural section, for which

its position on the Willamette River and the O. & C. Railroad give it special advantages. Monmouth is situated on the narrow gauge road, and contains a wagon factory, a college and a population of 150. Airlie, a village in the southern end of the county, is the terminus of the narrow gauge road. Other villages on that line are Perrydale and Ballstown. On or near the O. & C. road are Rickreall, Zena and McCoy's, which has saw and grist mills. Buena Vista, on the Willamette, has a feed mill and pottery. Polk possesses excellent shipping facilities. The Willamette forms its entire eastern boundary, while two lines of railroad traverse its entire length from north to south. One of these is the west side division of the O. & C., and the other a narrow gauge line of the Willamette Valley Railroad Company. Good county roads enable the farmers from every section to reach the railroad stations and steamer landings.

YAMHILL COUNTY.

Yamhill County extends from the Willamette River to the summit of the Coast Range, and is surrounded by the counties of Washington, Clackamas, Marion, Polk and Tillamook. It has an area of about 750 square miles, the larger portion lying in the great Willamette Valley. For twenty miles west from the Willamette River the country has an almost unbroken, gently rolling surface; thence west, north and southward, a succession of undulating ridges, hills and valleys, rising higher and higher into the chain of the Coast Range, which forms an imposing background in the shape of a half circle northwest and southwest. The soil is a rich, dark loam, specially adapted to the cultivation of wheat, which has always been the chief crop, and until recently nearly the only one. The great increase in the population of the Northwest has enlarged the market for general farm products, and the result is that more attention is being paid to mixed farming, which is recognized as being safer and more profitable than when one kind of crop is depended upon. Improved land is worth from \$10 to \$40 per acre, owing to location and character of improvements. In the foothills of the mountains there is yet some vacant land, but the best opportunities in Yamhill are for those who have the means to buy farms already improved and having a desirable location. In fertility of soil, nearness to market, class of population, business centres, shipping conveniences and educational facilities, Yamhill County has no superior in Oregon. The county is traversed by two lines of railroad—the west side division of the O. & C. and the narrow gauge line of the Willamette Valley Railroad Company. It has also the advantage of a free waterway down the river. Numerous streams furnish an abundance of pure water and power which might be utilized in many ways.

The county seat is Lafayette, situated on the Yamhill River, near the line of the O. & C. Railroad. It contains a population of 600, has a flouring mill, and is the business point of a large and prosperous commercial section. McMinnville is also situated on Yamhill River, and is an important shipping point on the O. & C. road. It con-