

ing two teachers. The *West Side* is a good local paper, published weekly by W. W. Brooks. There are four churches, belonging to the Southern Methodists, Presbyterians, Evangelists, and Christians, all of them neat structures. The streets are broad and level, and the many residences are attractive and homelike. In every respect, Independence is a representative town, possessing all the internal elements of growth and prosperity.

About three miles inland from Independence, is Monmouth, on the line of the narrow gauge. This is a thriving little town, and a considerable shipping point for grain. Here is located the Monmouth college and state normal school, an institution under the auspices of the Christian denomination. It has a good brick edifice, an excellent faculty and an attendance of two hundred, chiefly in the normal course. There is, also, a good district school, occupying a new building. The *Christian Herald*, a church and local paper, is published at Monmouth weekly.

Buena Vista is a small town and shipping point on the river south of Independence. It contains a large pottery and terra cotta factory. A good public school, employing two teachers, is one

of its features. Another shipping point on the river is Eola, a few miles below Salem, where a small furniture factory is located. Dixie, near the station of Derry, on the O. & C. road, has a large flouring mill, with a capacity of one hundred barrels of flour per day. Other shipping and business points are Perrydale, Ballston, Smithfield, Airlie, McCoy, Lincoln, Zena, Lewiston, and Suver. In the county are fifty school districts, affording educational advantages to every family within its limits.

No one can carefully read this brief description of Polk county, without being strongly impressed with the fact set forth in the opening sentence—that it is, indeed, a "gem of the Willamette." To the intending settler, it offers advantages not to be lightly considered. Fertile soil, cheap lands, a pleasant and propitious climate, excellent transportation facilities, prosperous business communities, numerous and excellent schools, intelligent, enterprising, contented and peaceful citizens, a high total valuation of property (\$4,234,054.00), a low rate of taxation (.0145), and beautiful landscapes of valley and mountain, conspire to render it one of the choice spots of this mundane sphere.

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