

THE TOWN OF SUMMERVILLE

THE agricultural resources of Oregon are sufficient to support many towns and cities having many times the business and population now possessed by the commercial centers of the state. In the future growth of such places the chief elements of progress will be advantageous location with reference to the productive area, means of handling the business offered, facilities for reaching distant markets and the character of the men engaged in handling the business of the town and looking after its interests. When these elements are found together in a town situated in the midst of one of the most fertile and beautiful sections of the state, a region undergoing development and with years of growth and progress before it, such a place is worthy the special attention of one seeking for a desirable place in which to establish himself. Such a place is Summerville, in the famous Grande Ronde valley. For many miles in all directions it is surrounded with farming land of the finest quality, such as would gladden the hearts of thousands of farmers who are struggling to maintain themselves on a few sterile acres, far away from, and probably unacquainted with, the delightful climate and fruitful lands of Oregon. Much of this land is not yet under cultivation and may be purchased at prices that are extremely cheap when compared with the value of lands in eastern states far less productive. Unimproved land at from \$5.00 to \$15.00, and improved at \$15.00 to \$30.00, offer a most inviting opportunity to those seeking to establish themselves in a new and growing country. The term new is but a relative one and does not signify that frontier life will there be encountered or that the conditions of pioneer days still exist. Far from it. Good roads ramify the valley and school houses stand almost in sight of each other. Channels of business are well established, banks have been founded to facilitate commercial dealings, flouring mills and saw mills are at work, large stores are at hand, carrying greater stocks and a larger variety of goods than can be found in eastern establishments of a like character, and in other respects most inviting conditions prevail. All this is found in a region where the increase in population and wealth will soon render the value of land much greater than at present, and where the volume of business transacted will steadily increase.

Summerville has now a population exceeding two hundred and fifty, and a taxable property assessed at \$120,000.00, the township being divided into four school districts. Two flouring mills, each having a capacity of sixty barrels per day, do a large local and shipping business. One of them is owned by the Summerville Milling Company and the other by J. H.

Rinehart & Son. The latter firm also owns the Farmers Mortgage and Savings Bank, which has a capital of \$36,000.00 and is a most important adjunct to the business facilities of the place. Four large general merchandise stores carry on an extensive trade with the country, covering a wide area, and there are also a drug store, hardware store and tin shop, brewery, two livery stables, saloon, butcher shop, three millinery and dressmaking establishments, hotel, restaurant, two blacksmith shops and four saw mills. There are three churches, one belonging to the Presbyterians and two to the Methodists, and a school house in which sixty pupils are taught. In the mountains near by are vast quantities of the finest quality of merchantable timber, which will support an important industry for many years to come. Four saw mills are already at work upon it at Summerville, supplying the great and increasing demand for lumber of all kinds, and the number and product of these mills will no doubt increase with the growth of the country. The climate of that portion of the state is delightful. In the valley the winters are by no means so severe or long as in the northern states east of the Rocky mountains, and the summers are delightfully cool and pleasant. Sufficient rain falls to insure the crops every year, a failure being unknown. The present season is the best proof of this, for though it is the driest known for many years, and many portions of the country have suffered a partial loss of crops, the grain of the Grande Ronde valley had moisture enough to bring it through in good condition. This is due to the fact that the rainfall, though not so great as in some other portions of the state, is better distributed through the seasons and produces a better result. The business men of Summerville are energetic and enterprising and look well after the interests of the town. The people are social and hospitable and possess a degree of refinement and culture that will render a home in their midst a most pleasant one. Neat and attractive residences and yards are a feature of Summerville that impresses the stranger favorably and speaks volumes of the prosperity and culture of its citizens. The outlook for a railroad is a hopeful one. Though the main line of the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company is but a few miles distant, it is almost certain that a railroad actually touching the town will soon be built. This line will be the one passing through the northern end of the valley to tap the country lying on that side of the main line. When this road is built the present growth and prosperity will be eclipsed and Summerville will advance more rapidly and occupy a more important position, and the benefits of these improvements will be reaped chiefly by those who now cast their lot in that busy community.