

### McMINNVILLE, OREGON.

**T**HE leading town between Corvallis and Portland, on the west side of the Willamette valley, is McMinnville. It lies distant from the stream that bears the name of that valley about seven miles, on the south fork of the Yamhill river, in one of the most productive prairies to be found in Oregon. It was founded in 1855. Its progress at first was slow, but as the large district that now looks to it for supplies increased in population, so also did the town. Its location is most favorable, being on the west side division of the Southern Pacific railway, fifty miles south of Portland, in the midst of one of the most fertile agricultural districts on the Pacific coast. McMinnville stands in an open plain, fringed on every side by rolling hills, which have for their background, on the west, the green summits of the Coast range, and on the east the lofty, white peaks of the Cascade mountains. The fine, well kept and highly cultivated farms seen on every hand remind one of some of the famous agricultural districts that are to be seen along such rivers as the Hudson and the Delaware. On these farms may be seen beautiful dwellings, surrounded by large and commodious barns and stables. The well fenced and finely cared for fields evince the highest state of cultivation.

The prosperity that has here attended the efforts of the farmer is equally manifest throughout. Many of the successful farmers of this section have removed to the town and built for themselves neat and attractive town residences. The wide streets and well boarded sidewalks and the many pretty homes and large business establishments here seen present to the stranger a pleasing appearance.

The principal streets of McMinnville are lighted by electricity; and from the river near the town is piped an abundant supply of pure water through mains that are laid in nearly all of the streets. Here, as in all of the towns and cities of the Willamette valley, may be seen some pretty churches. Six of the leading religious bodies of the country have places of worship. Many of the secret societies have lodges, such as the Masons, Odd Fellows and United Workmen. The Grand Army has a post, and the farmers of this section of country a grange.

Few towns on this coast can boast of better educational facilities. The college bears the name of the town, and is recognized as one of the leading institutions of learning in the state. The building belonging to this institution is situated on the southern edge of the city, and is a handsome, four-story brick, surmounted by a cupola, and was erected at a cost of \$35,000. In the basement are the kitchen and dining room, while in the upper floors are the chapel, class

rooms and students' sleeping apartments. There are five separate departments of study—collegiate, scientific, normal and business course, besides a preparatory department to fit the applicant for admission to either of the higher departments. At the institution there are now in attendance about 100 students. The public school building is a three-story frame structure, with stone foundation and brick basement which reaches to the second floor. The building cost \$10,000, and an additional sum of \$5,000 was expended for improvements and furniture. There are now on the rolls of this school the names of about 400 pupils, under the care of a corps of well trained and efficient teachers. One of the handsomest structures to be seen in the Willamette valley is the court house at McMinnville. It is a brick edifice, with a cement external coating, which gives it the appearance of stone. It was recently completed at a cost of \$62,000, and probably an additional sum of \$8,000 will be required to furnish it.

The town possesses among its present industries a complete roller flour mill of 110 barrels a day capacity. There is also located within its boundaries another flour mill building that is soon to be supplied with machinery and put in operation. Last season a creamery was erected at a cost of \$8,500, capable of making 1,000 pounds of butter a day. There is also a sash and door factory with a capacity of 100 doors per day. There are five saw mills, four of which are located in the Coast range, that are tributary to this place, and the other about two miles distant. They are owned in the city, and have a capacity of about 47,000 feet per day. On the south side of the fair grounds, near the town, a tile factory has recently been erected for the making of drain tiles and various kinds of terra cotta ware. Two miles from the town an extensive deposit of sandstone exists that is capable of supplying the wants of this community with an abundance of easily worked building stone, which on exposure to the atmosphere becomes very hard.

The two national banks each have a capital of \$50,000, and carry individual deposits amounting, on an average, to about \$300,000. The prosperity of the merchants of this town, which claims a population of 2,000, can be best learned from the volume of business done annually. It is claimed it will average over \$350,000. There were shipped from this place the past year at least 275,000 bushels of wheat, oats and barley. The town is supplied with a good water power, conveyed by the race that taps Baker creek a short distance from town. This race in its course towards the town flows through the fair grounds, and provides the stock kept there with an abundance of water. These grounds cover ninety acres, and are situated about a half a mile west from the center of the city. A few years ago there was inaugurated the construc-