

tion of a large canal, to tap the South Yamhill river a short distance above Sheridan, for the purpose of conveying a large body of water to the city to be used as a motive power. Six miles of this canal were then built, and there remain about twelve miles more to complete it. By the construction of this canal, McMinnville would have a ditch capable of furnishing a body of water with a fall of seventy feet, and it is estimated that it can be completed at a cost of about \$40,000. Many of the citizens here are looking forward to the raising of that sum for the purpose this summer.

The good showing McMinnville makes is but a reflex of the prosperity and fertility of the country tributary to it, which extends for a distance north of twenty-five miles, west twenty-five miles, south fifteen miles, and east fourteen miles. The soil that has achieved so much for this county of Yamhill, in the bottom lands, is a loam of dark gray color, and will average from four to fifteen feet deep, while that of the higher levels is composed in most instances of a light soil of reddish color. The upland soil often attains an enormous depth. A well was recently sunk on one of the hills near town, that pierced the soil to a depth of eighty feet. These foot hills are proving to be as productive as the prairie land. They attain an average altitude of about 800 feet, which is about 500 feet greater than the altitude of the town, as computed by one of Yamhill's most experienced county surveyors. One of the beauties of the cultivation of the soil in this portion of Oregon is that year after year there are obtained unfailing crops of all kinds of cereals without irrigation, even on the tops of these foot hills. Eventually this section of Oregon will become as famed for the growing of certain kinds of fruit as it is to-day for the production of wheat and oats. Such fruits as cherries, plums, prunes, pears and apples do well; so, also the smaller fruits such as gooseberries, strawberries and blackberries. The adaptability of this soil for fruit raising is attributed to the good drainage and to the soil being largely impregnated with iron.

For many years past these foothills and the Coast range have been well stocked with cattle and sheep. On these hills it is possible for the sheep to feed during the entire year. Snow seldom lies on the ground over three days at a time, the grass remaining green on the summit and slopes throughout the winter. The streams flowing through this portion of the country have for their source the large springs that gush from the sides of many of the hills and mountains giving an abundance of water for stock. These hills are well adapted to the feeding of stock for dairy purposes, as the cattle can obtain, at all seasons, an abundant supply of grass. Timothy, clover, orchard and mesquite grasses grow with luxuriance. Bee culture will eventually be one of the great industries of these hills, as

the elk weed and other shrubbery and the honey dew which bees feed upon exist in large quantities. The honey obtained is greatly prized for its clearness. These hills which are now so thinly settled, will ere long contain a large population. Land can be acquired at a nominal figure. The school lands may be bought at the same price they could be if they were held for pre-emption by the national government. To the sportsman, the foot hills and Coast range mountains are an elysium, as they abound with game. Elk and deer are here very numerous, and even the black bear may be found very plentiful. Small game, such as grouse, native and Chinese pheasants, quail, ducks and geese are everywhere found and the streams flowing from the hills and mountains are well stocked with choice trout.

The portion of the valley tributary to McMinnville can boast of a good climate, the thermometer in winter seldom reaching zero. This place, on account of its close proximity to the sea, from which it is only distant about forty miles, enjoys the exhilarating effects of the sea breezes that are wafted on land during the heated period of the year. Summer thunder storms and cyclones are unknown.

The coming season it is expected will be as prosperous as the town ever enjoyed. During each of the two years last past, the amount of grain exported from here doubled that of the preceeding year. With the extension of the west side line of the Southern Pacific railroad from Corvallis to Junction City, this side of the river will have a through line to the south, and enable passengers to travel by either side to and from Portland. The people here have great hopes, that as the Southern Pacific Railroad has acquired control of the Oregonian Railway and will change it to a standard gauge, it will build about two miles of track between Lafayette and St. Joseph, and thus give them an all rail connection with Portland that would be fifteen miles shorter than the present route.

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Work is progressing rapidly upon the various factories being built at Oregon City. Already \$60,000 have been expended upon the stone work of the Crown paper mill, and the upper stories are not yet begun. This shows what an extensive and substantial industry it will be. The other factories are also making splendid progress. As an indication of the great prosperity of the city, the fact that the school assessment shows a valuation of \$1,260,000 in a district where last year it was but \$680,000, speaks volumes. This does not include the factories referred to, which are on the other side of the river. A system of sewerage is now being put in that will add much to the healthfulness of the city.