

CANBY PRAIRIE.

The Finest Fruit Land of the Whole Northwest.

MANY ACRES IN NURSERIES.

The Advantages of the Situation Beginning to be Realized.

A VERY ENTERPRISING YOUNG TOWN.

The Prairie Will Admirably Support a Prosperous Trading Center, Which is Growing Up in the Town of Canby—A Statement of Its Advantages.

Located on the Southern Pacific railway about seven miles southward of Oregon City and a few miles from the Willamette river and less than a mile from the Molalla is the town of Canby. It is not a large town but it is attracting a good deal of attention by reason of its surroundings.

The tract of country now known as Canby prairie was formerly known as Knight's prairie, taking its name from the pioneer family that settled there. The four brothers, George, Joseph, William and Charles Knight took up homes on the prairie a score of years ago and it was but natural that that particular section of country should receive their name by way of designation. When the Southern Pacific railroad was built through the valley in 1870 a station was established on Knight's prairie, and, as it was shortly after the murder of General Canby by the treacherous Modocs it was decided to perpetuate the name of the gallant soldier by naming the place "Canby." And as the place was named and the broad acres around it have become known as Canby prairie. It is a euphonious and honorable name, though probably there was more appropriateness in the one it succeeded.

Canby prairie occupies several thousand acres of land in the angle formed by the junction of the Molalla and Willamette rivers. Being north of the former and east of the latter. It has a slope toward the rivers just sufficient for drainage, the land being otherwise almost perfectly level. The soil is of a rich dark loam with sufficient sand to give it warmth and make it a quick growing soil. Its fertility is practically exhausted. It is deep and peculiarly suited to the growth of such crops as send roots down into the ground. It does not bake in any kind of weather and no drought is sufficient to dry it up. Its friable quality is never destroyed. It possesses the characteristics of the best alluvial soils and in this climate its limit in the way of production has never been reached.

The town of Canby has grown up around the railway station. It is not the result of wide advertising. No town boomers have built up Canby for speculative purposes. It has simply enjoyed the growth that its location has brought it and the business houses located there have been established in obedience to the law of supply and demand. There are no five-story buildings and real estate is not \$2,000 a front foot. The development of the tributary country and the growth of the town are in entire harmony. There is no danger of overstraining in the race for industrial supremacy.

The United States census of 1890 showed a population in Canby precinct of 787. Of course many of these live outside the town and could not properly be counted in its population but the growth since the census year has been such as to very largely make up for the deduction of those in the precinct living outside the boundaries of the town.

When the character of the country about Canby is considered the wonder is that it is not already entirely occupied with orchards. Thus and other similar instances found in the West impress upon the minds of visitors from the East the fact that the Pacific slope is a new country, industrially speaking, and the opportunities so abundant here are not the discarded fancies of other people and other times. They are virgin opportunities.

The inviting character and appearance of the Canby prairie need not be viewed with alarm by people who are accustomed to thinking that if it were really as fine as it seems it would long ago have been overrun with the industrious. It was only recently that people who saw Canby prairie realized its immense possibilities. Fruit culture had not been systematically conducted in the Willamette valley, but when thorough culture was applied to the business advantages of a tract of country like that in which Canby is situated became apparent and efforts were at once put forth to reap the advantages which its peculiar fitness for fruit culture brought.

Fruit raising has been tried on Canby prairie and the business has been demonstrated a success there. It has passed entirely beyond the experimental stage. The rich, warm soil of the prairie makes it adapted to the growth of fruit trees and plants. The climate is so mild and equable that those fruits requiring semi-tropical conditions flourish surprisingly. Peaches, apricots, strawberries, melons, grapes, nectarines, walnuts, chestnuts, etc., take kindly to the soil and climate of the prairie and they yield large crops of choice products. Sweet potatoes and peanants may also be grown. Of course all the common fruits of the valley, such as apples, pears, plums, prunes,

etc., are successfully raised here, as well as other farm crops.

It was only two or three years ago that attention began to be given to the systematic culture of fruit on Canby prairie. It has always been more or less grown there, but when the markets of the world were opened to the Northwest by the completion of the transcontinental railways from the East and South, there was offered an incentive for fruit husbandry. Then, instead of falling off the trees and rotting on the ground there was a market for the fruit that had formerly gone to waste. The market conditions have constantly improved. The shipping of fruit to Portland is made cheap and easy by rail, and to Oregon City it is delivered by teams. There are fewer pests than elsewhere and the product is correspondingly improved in quality and appearance.

The policy being put in practice by the Canby prairie people is to divide the land into tracts of five or ten acres each, or even smaller areas, and get the people who wish to make a specialty of raising the more sensitive fruits. More peach pits are being planted in that locality probably than in any other similar area in the United States. It will take a few years to bring the trees into bearing condition, but in half a decade there will not be better peach orchards anywhere than on Canby prairie.

Many are also setting out large areas to strawberry plants and the melon crop of each year is greater than that of the preceding season. Currants, cherries and berries are raised in abundance. Now that the first steps in starting the fruit industry have been taken the others will follow in natural sequence. The production of fruit makes necessary means for handling it to advantage. So driers and canneries are to be established—steps have already been taken in the matter—and as the trees come into bearing there will be ample facilities for handling their product to the best possible advantage. The fruit can be marketed in at least three different forms—green, dried or preserved in cans.

While the town of Canby is the market place and trading center for one of the finest prairies in the West, and fruit raising is pre-eminently the industry for which it is suited, it does not depend upon any one resource for its support. At the southern edge of the town is the Molalla river, which has sufficient fall and is of large enough volume to afford reliable water power for many factories. A head of twenty-five feet can be obtained at comparatively small expense. A fine bank of gravel on the edge of the stream is valuable to the railroad for ballasting track and it has a crew of men there nearly all the time getting out gravel for use along many miles of its tracks. That is said to be the best gravel pit in the Willamette valley. But the bank is only a few rods wide. The soil of the prairie is not at all gravelly. The ground where the water power could be utilized to the best advantage is well suited for building sites.

To the eastward of Canby is a fine body of timber that the manufacturing interests of the neighborhood use to good advantage. Several lumber and shingle mills are now turning out a considerable volume of timber for building. Much of this is shipped to other markets, being hauled by teams to the railway at Canby. The roads are much better than are usual in the Northwest and teaming over them is continued through all kinds of weather and at all seasons of the year.

The conformation of the country is such that Canby is the most convenient railroad point for many square miles of territory. Large amounts of wheat, potatoes, wool, hops, etc., go there for shipment. And the people who have such goods to market do their purchasing in Canby, thus making a considerable volume of commerce for the town.

The business men of Canby are wide-awake and progressive. It is true that in many respects the stores of the town have the same qualities of goods and sell at the same prices—in some cases cheaper—as Portland merchants. The conservative, business-like methods pursued cannot fail to challenge admiration. The whole prairie is occupied by thrifty Americans who are contented and happy in their intelligent labor for advancement. They have provided themselves the best of school and church privileges and they take pride in every means of promoting their own social and industrial welfare. The Methodists of the Northwest have a large tract of land on the Molalla river near Canby, and an immense tabernacle on it where they hold campmeetings annually.

A ferry is about to be established to afford a means of crossing the Willamette for the rich country about Butteville, where vast quantities of hops are raised.

The new depot erected at Canby is the best one between Salem and Portland, which shows that the railway company recognizes the place as one of future importance.

The following succinct account of the year's progress in and about Canby, written by one of her business men, gives an admirable view of its advancement during the past year and its present condition:

We notice many improvements in this village since last year. There have been twenty-five new buildings erected here since January, 1891, and two more dwell-

ings will be built yet this winter. Some are already preparing for building early in the spring, and we expect to see thirty or forty new buildings erected here next season. Our new depot is about completed and is a credit to the town. It is a roomy frame structure of neat design and a great convenience to shippers over the former small station.

Our school is progressing finely under the able management of Charles Y. Draper, of Oregon City, and Miss Nellie Bissell of this place. There are now ninety-five pupils enrolled against sixty-six last winter. If the increase continues in the same ratio we shall have to employ three teachers next winter.

Our nurserymen are still planting peach pits. There are now about 100 acres of nursery on the Canby prairie, and still there is plenty of room for more. It has been demonstrated beyond a doubt that Canby prairie is the best soil for nursery that can be found in the state.

The strawberry industry is growing rapidly here, there being about fifty acres cultivated on the prairie at the present time with most gratifying results; in fact this prairie is the natural home of this excellent fruit, and those who cultivate it properly are making a good profit by shipping to the Portland market. The soil here is well adapted to the cultivation of all small fruits such as raspberries, gooseberries, currants, etc., as well as peaches, plums, plums and apples. The grape also does very well here. The ground is very easily cultivated owing to its sandy nature. There are about 5000 prune trees on the prairie outside of the nursery, and thousands of peach and other fruit trees also. A good business could be done here with a cannery soon as the trees come to bearing, which will be one year to two years hence.

We need a good hardware store and tin shop at this place, which we think could soon build up a good trade in that line, especially when the cannery is put up, which must come soon, to save the immense crop of fruit that will be grown in this vicinity.

Our merchants are now selling goods at Portland prices and handling a large business. The people are flocking in from the surrounding country and the farmers go home happy, having purchased more goods than ever before with less money.

The Canby board of trade consists of a membership of forty-five with officers as follows: President, Wm. Knight; vice president, G. Whipple; secretary, S. J. Garrison; corresponding secretary, W. M. Shank; treasurer, V. L. Mack.

Committee on finance: George Knight G. Whipple and G. W. Shank.

Committee on trade and commerce: James Evans, Louis Rogers and W. S. Kellogg.

Committee on membership: W. S. Gribble, M. White and R. O. Mack.

Committee on roads and highways: J. A. Cox, S. J. Garrison, Wm. Knight, H. A. Vorpahl, J. C. Walgamot and J. Knight.

Committee on advertising: Wm. Shank S. J. Garrison, L. P. Howard, V. L. Mack and J. C. Walgamot.

CHRISTMAS AT CANBY.

Happenings of the Week in the Town and on the Prairie.

CANBY, Dec. 28.—The Christmas tree in the church last Thursday evening was laden with presents for old and young. There were about two hundred present who listened to several Christmas anthems sung by the choir, a few verses spoken by the children, and an address by the pastor, after which the presents were distributed. Then about a hundred pounds of candy and nuts and two boxes of apples were passed around. When the congregation finally dispersed it was with contentment and well-filled pockets. It was a Christmas long to be remembered by many.

The literary and debating club gave a dance on the eve of Christmas. There were just enough present to have a good time. The dancing commenced at an early hour and continued till about midnight when Mrs. Mary Carothers served a delicious supper, after which dancing was again in order and it continued till the crowing of chandeliers.

Several of our citizens are sick with la grippe. Geo. Knight, W. S. Knight, W. S. Kellogg, S. B. Kelly and G. W. Shank's family are just recovering from the disease.

William Dunn, of Nebraska, is the guest of Herman Lee.

William Johnson and wife, of Salem, spent Christmas with Mr. Avery and family.

Mr. S. A. D. Gurley, of Oregon City, was in our midst Sunday.

The railroad company is taking up the ties of Campbell and Barlow this week.

The depot carpenters have departed south where they will continue in the good cause of building depots.

H. A. Vorpahl is remodeling a cart for the minister. When it is completed it will be free from "horse motion."

Rev. Richards, of Portland, preached to the people Sunday at eleven and Rev. Loutler in the evening.

Mr. John Stevens left last Friday for New York city where he will remain for some time.

Miss Elizabeth Blount is preparing to open the street between her two blocks.

The I. O. O. T. will have a basket festival, a lecture by H. Harrison, of Jefferson, and a watch party in Knight's hall on New Year's eve.

Mr. Joseph Shull has rented five acres to Messrs. Campbell and Ferry for nursery purposes for the term of five years, also five acres to J. A. Cox for the same time and purpose.

CANBY'S BUSINESS HOUSES.

Some of the Enterprising Concerns of a Live Town.

CARLTON & ROSENKRANS.

Messrs. Carlton and Rosenkrans, two young men recently from Portland, have leased Wm. Knight's big store in Canby for a term of five years and have stocked it with a full assortment of general merchandise suited to the trade of a growing town like Canby and have started in with the intention of building up a good trade. Their well-arranged store well fitted with choice and well selected goods in every line shows that they know a good article and mean to give the patrons of their store an opportunity to buy goods of the best quality, and they promise them that customers shall receive as much for their money as they can get the same class of goods for any where. To enable them to handle country produce to the best advantage they have just completed a large warehouse and will give special attention to buying and shipping farm produce of all sorts. If active capable management associated with square dealing and goods sold on their merits will enable the firm to build up a good trade they mean to succeed and make the business a permanent one. Both partners come to Canby with the reputation of being thoroughly reliable and entitled to the confidence of the community.

JAMES HODGES.

James Hodges is well known in and about Canby as a merchant of thoroughly reliable qualities whom all can trust and deal with confident of square and upright dealing. He carries a full stock of general merchandise including dry goods, hats and caps, boots and shoes, clothing, groceries, etc., and has by close application to his business built up a good trade which he has no difficulty in holding. Mr. Hodges does not want the whole earth but is content with a part, as he means to stay in Canby, assist in building up the town which is surrounded by the finest fruit belt in the state. Mr. Hodges also handles fruit in their season and has quite a trade in farm produce. He invites farmers living within reach of Canby to bring in their produce and to examine his stock of goods.

GEORGE KNIGHT.

George Knight, the Canby Nasby, express agent, station agent and merchant is the best known man in Canby and probably the busiest, as he is always at work. In his store is to be found a good assortment of general merchandise all well selected which he sells very close. Mr. Knight has been so closely connected with Canby and its interest so long that the place would not seem like itself with out him. He is always pleasant and ready to oblige all parties and is generally liked by everybody. In his store he has a very good trade and good class of custom which would be lost trading any where else. He has seen the town grow from a farm on the prairie to its present prosperous proportions and has increased his stock to meet the demands of the place.

M. HOSFORD.

M. Hosford is another of the familiar Canby names which every one knows. He conducts a general merchandise business with a good stock which he is adding to as the growth of the place warrants him in extending his investment. He has a nice trade which is improving with the growth of Canby and the rich country tributary thereto. Like most dealers in general merchandise in villages surrounded by a farming community, he does a good and thriving business in farm products, which he is always ready to buy or exchange, giving the highest market price and content to rely upon the small profit made on the sale of the goods for his share in the deal. It will pay the residents of Canby and vicinity to call on Mr. Hosford for prices and samples.

DR. KNIGHT.

Dr. Charles Knight, of Canby, in addition to his practice owns a drug store, which has done a very successful business in that line during the past year. He is also interested in real estate, confining his attention in this line to property in and about Canby. He has on his list many pieces of choice property, especially of fruit lands of the very best quality, which he offers at very low figures and on easy terms. When looking for a home or any investment call on Dr. Charles Knight, of Canby.

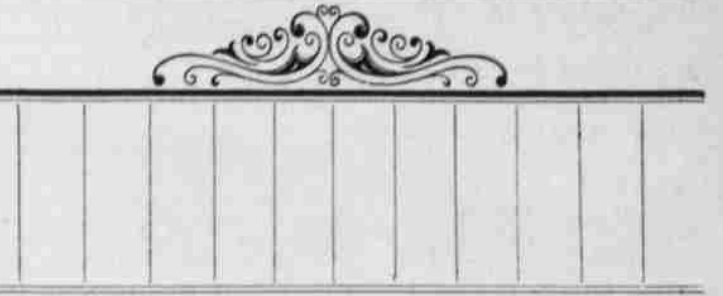
THE CANBY HOUSE.

If you go to Canby you will be sure to stop at the Canby house kept by mine host, W. W. Weed, who prides himself on his clean and well kept house. His hotel has the well earned reputation of being one of the best places along the line to get a good meal and a clean bed. Canby is fortunate in having a hotel so well conducted.

A Wise Man's Advice.

Wisdom cries aloud and says, "How long, oh ye sons of toil, will ye neglect to visit the Second-hand and Notion store where you can get more goods for a dollar than anywhere else in town?" Pins, 2 papers, 5c.; needles, 2 papers, 5c.; spoons, per set, 5c.; 10 quart dish pans, 20. Opposite postoffice.

Subscribe for the ENTERPRISE.



A POINTER.

The fruit industry has brought more wealth to California than all her gold mines; and Oregon's orchards are a mine of inexhaustible wealth.

The Shrewd Man

Will secure for himself a tract of land suitable for fruit growing before the choicest lands are gone.

Canby Prairie

Is one of the spots in Oregon where the fruits and vegetables grown in the Middle and Southern states mature and ripen to a perfection not excelled in their native soils. It is the home of the prune, peach, melon and strawberry.

The Prune

Takes the lead of the fruits grown on this prairie. Its thriftiness and ease of handling, combined with its early fruiting, makes it the tree to plant for quick returns.

The Willamette Land Company

Has an immense body of the best prune land on the prairie, set out to the celebrated Italian prune, which they will sell in small tracts on the most liberal terms ever offered on fruit lands in Oregon.

Fruit Lands

In this garden spot of the Willamette valley can yet be bought at prices within the reach of all. The Willamette Land Company have both improved and unimproved lands which they will sell in tracts of from two and one-half acres to as large as are wanted.

Remember

That exorbitant freight rates have killed some of the finest fruit districts on the Pacific coast. Canby prairie is within two hours drive of Oregon City, and four hours drive of Portland, two of the best markets on this coast.

Full particulars by addressing the Willamette Land Company, Oregon City, Oregon.

