

being several fine mills located along the line of railway and in favored places. The flour manufactured during the year will reach 50,000 barrels. The county enjoys a good lumber trade, and is especially noted for its pine and fir. The manufacture of lumber is not an ancient industry. There are millions of good, merchantable timber yet to be cut, and such a large quantity, but few mills, however, which export more or less. The finished product annually amounts to 12,000,000 feet.

Following statistics fairly represent the county:

Acres cultivated, 423,650
Production, annual bushels: 1,000,000
Wheat, 600,000
Oats, 200,000
Barley, 200,000
Hay, 200,000
Stock raised, 4,000
And cheese, lbs. for market, 600,000
Eggs sold, 20,000
Four months' average: 1,000,000
of hops raised, 1,000,000
of potatoes, 500,000
of apples, 100,000
and plums, 10,000
of grapes, 5,000
of strawberries, 100,000
of currants, 100,000
of wood produced, 50,000
lumber manufactured, feet, 12,000,000

Farmers and breeders generally are appreciating the value of the high-priced stock, and this county can now boast of excellent dairy herds as compared with those of five years ago. The Angora goat has become a great factor in the county, and is being bred as a high-priced stock, and acts as an undergrowth destroyer as well. In horses, breeding has lately been confined to registered Percherons and Andalusians. The latest assessment gives the following summary of stock totals:

Cattle, 8,281
Horses, 6,575
Swine and Angoras, 6,525
Sheep, 2,982

Owning and improving the demand for stock during the year just closed have been large for butchering purposes, breeding for dairy purposes, however, needs that for the stock.

As to the county's surface, there is the usual Willamette valley formation—plain, valley and hill. Numerous small streams furnish plenty of water. Railway facilities are good, the Southern Pacific tapping the county with two lines—the Portland-Bend and the Portland-Sherman lines.

The population is now about 16,000, but the number of farms would once find ample room for farming and dairying. There are thousands of acres awaiting development. The old high values for farm lands have disappeared, and the man who would invest in a home here without requiring a fortune. Perhaps 100 new families have settled here during the year, the purchases being 40 and 80-acre homes in the main, cleared and improved.

Hillboro, the county seat, with a population of about 1,000, and Forest Grove, the seat of Tualatin Academy and Pacific University, population 1,000, are the county's chief cities. Each has water works and electric lights, and each is connected with Portland by good wagon roads and by rail. Nearly one-half of the farming population can make Portland, with road and return, in a day, thus insuring a sure market for diversified farm products. The county school work is splendidly organized, and much of this is due to the fact that the Pacific University, Washington county presents splendid attractions to home-seekers.

L. A. LONG.

WASCO COUNTY.

The Dalles Receives Shipments of Wool From Four Pacific States.

Wasco county originally comprised a territory considerably larger than all our newly-acquired possessions in the Pacific. It included all the country lying between the Columbia river and California and between the Rocky mountains on the east and the Cascade mountains on the west. It has been carved almost the entire state of Idaho, several large counties in Wyoming and 12 counties in Eastern Oregon. And yet it may be mentioned, as an illustration of the rapid changes that work in a relatively short period, here lives not far from The Dalles, in vigorous and healthy age that can be called old, a man who was once a constable of all this territory when it was simply a precinct of Clackamas county. The county is now limited to 250 square miles in the extreme northwest part of what is known as Eastern Oregon and of this area about 100 square miles are in the Warm Springs National reservation. At a rough estimate, about one-third of the county proper is covered with timber, chiefly yellow and white pine and red and yellow fir, with occasional patches of tamarack and cedar. The rest of the county is principally rolling prairie, chiefly for domestic purposes and for gardening and berry culture, has contributed much to the wealth and comfort of many sections of Wasco county. Hood river valley has the greatest wheat yield in the county, with a cost of \$50.00. The Wamic settlement has three ditches, that furnish water for the purposes just named, for probably 100 families. The upper Elsie ditch, a body of level land in the southern part of the county, of about 150 square miles in extent, has long and anxiously waited the completion of a half-finished canal that has dignified it as the Elsie ditch, and to the Deschutes, besides furnishing water to the settlers. Work on this canal was suspended during the panic of 1893, on account of the failure of its construction. The Elsie ditch, however, has not been abandoned, and the Deschutes has initiated legal proceedings to enforce its completion or have the charter of the company forfeited, in order to the completion of the work by a syndicate of the settlement. The Deschutes, Eastern Oregonian, it may be said that water is never used in Eastern Oregon to irrigate cereal crops. The best grain is invariably raised on the great wheat belts of the county, and the Dalles some time ago, the diamond drill went through 40 feet of magnetic iron. W. R. Winans reports having discovered a large body of cyanite or cyanite quartz near the forks of Hood river. The rock splits and breaks "true," is of dark bluish color and takes a polish like granite. It is said to be finely adapted to dimension work, as well as mantels, monuments and similar uses.

The line would also tap the rich gold mines recently discovered in the neighborhood of Trout creek, Crook county, and might one day extend southward to California.

Companies Delving for Coal.

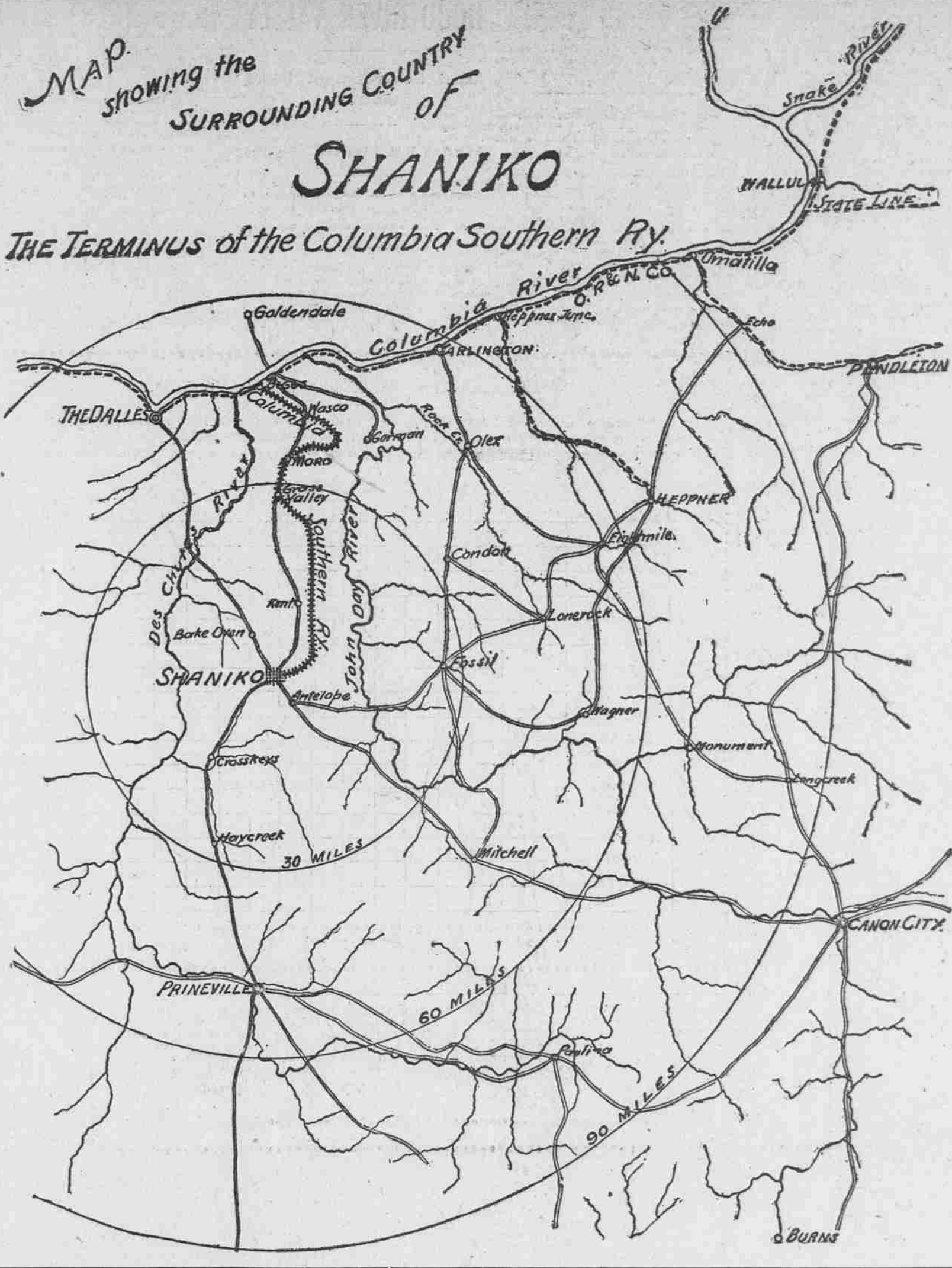
The little that can be said of Wasco county's mineral development is big with promise. The ideal conditions for the extension of coal in the neighborhood of The Dalles have long been noted by geologists and men skilled in this particular line of mineralogy, and the numerous croppings that have been discovered during the past few years have placed the question beyond a reasonable doubt. Three companies, each amply provided with means, are making earnest efforts to settle the question. One of them has been at work for nearly three years, and is at present tunneling into a mountain near the railroad track at Conard's point, but the reticence of all concerned bars any report of progress. The last to engage in the work are Seufert Bros., well-known cannerymen, who have leased the lands of B. F. Laughlin and started a diamond drill to work on the bank of the Columbia. These gentlemen, who have turned everything they have touched during the past 30 years into gold, assure the writer that they will continue the work they have begun until success crowns their efforts, or they are convinced there is no profit in paying quantities.

The only authentic discovery in the line of the precious metals during the past year is located about 30 miles south of The Dalles, a little east of Mount Hood. Several quartz ledges and 60 acres of placers have been located. The surface rock assays \$50 to the ton in gold, and the placers, although undeveloped, are very promising. The Hood River Gold & Silver Mining Company, composed of capitalists of The Dalles, own the discoveries, and will commence extensive development work on them in the spring. Extensive beds of very pure silica abound in the Mother lode neighborhood. Numerous carload lots have been shipped. At various times, to Portland, and thousands of tons could be shipped in the East if satisfactory rates could be obtained. While boring for coal near The Dalles some time ago, the diamond drill went through 40 feet of magnetic iron. W. R. Winans reports having discovered a large body of cyanite or cyanite quartz near the forks of Hood river. The rock splits and breaks "true," is of dark bluish color and takes a polish like granite. It is said to be finely adapted to dimension work, as well as mantels, monuments and similar uses.

Best Year in Wasco's History.

It is possible that 100 or 200 families have been added to the population of the county during the past year, but data is obtainable, and these figures are only a vague guess. The largest immigration has been to the fruit belts, where considerable government land is still obtainable. Very little good agricultural land remains open to settlement, and of the farmers who are here, far more are inclined to buy the lands adjoining them than to sell their own. Hence, the lands that have changed hands during the year have generally been purchased by resident farmers rather than by outsiders. The Wasco county farmer knows enough to hold on to a good thing when he has it. There is no time, however, when good agricultural farms cannot be obtained at \$5 to \$10 an acre, a price still out of all proportion to their value under intelligent cultivation. Unimproved fruit lands can often be had at the price quoted for agricultural lands, but good fruit farms, with trees in full bearing, cannot often be obtained for less than \$50 to \$100 an acre.

It may help a stranger to form some idea of the profits to be derived from the smaller products of a Wasco county farm if we quote the retail price that prevailed



On December 1 at The Dalles market: Creamery butter, 20 cents a pound; choice dairy, 25 cents. Eggs, 30 cents a dozen; they have averaged 25 cents for the year. Dressed chickens, 15 cents a pound; dressed turkeys, 17 cents; dressed ducks, \$1 to \$1.25; geese, \$1.25 to \$1.50 each. Potatoes, 75 cents a sack. Cabbage, 2 cents a pound. Onions, 1 1/4 cents. Honey, 11 cents a pound. Apples, \$1 to \$1.50 a box. Pork (live weight) 4 1/2 cents a pound.

After deducting from these prices any reasonable profit for the merchant and middleman, and calling to mind the prices already quoted for beef, mutton and wool, is it any wonder that when the writer asked the Hon. Robert Mays, county judge of this county, and extensively engaged in farming, stockraising and merchandising, what should be told The New Year's Oregonian as to the prosperity of the county during the past year, his answer was: "Tell The Oregonian it has been the most prosperous year the people of Wasco county have ever known." The only cause for this prosperity is the present low price of wheat, which, however, is in no sense ruinous, as the cost of raising wheat is only from 25 to 30 cents a bushel, and what is over this is profit. The Wasco county farmer is not selling his wheat at 4 cents, for the very sufficient reason that he is able to hold it in hope of a better price. Wasco county farmers were never much in debt, and releases of mortgages for the year, although relatively large, make no important showing, but as indicating their confidence in the present and hopefulness for the future, it may be said that of every 10 mortgages given by farmers, nine of them are for the purchase of more land.

The crop prospects for 1900 are unusually bright. We have had unusually heavy rains. The ground is thoroughly soaked, and fall wheat in many places stands from six to ten inches high. The grass on every hill is greener than it ever was known to be, and all kinds of stock go into the winter in prime condition. Taking it for all in all it would be hard to find a more desirable climate than that of Wasco county. A more healthy one is to be found nowhere. From S. L. Brooks, Wasco county observer for the Dalles district, we learn that the mean average temperature for the past 24 years was 52.5, the mean maximum 82.2, and the mean minimum 22.5. So far this fall the thermometer touched 70 only once, on the night of November 22. The snowballs are in bloom in The Dalles gardens, and tomato plants and other tender vegetation are scarcely yet (December 1) affected by the winter frosts. On Thanksgiving day (November 30) the writer picked a big bunch of delicious white muscat grapes, that were hard and fast on their parent stem, in the garden of a neighbor. The climate of Wasco county is remarkably equable. Summer glides so imperceptibly into the lap of winter and winter in turn into summer that the dividing line between the seasons can hardly be traced. We have only two seasons, the wet and the dry. But the wet season is not wholly wet, nor the dry season wholly dry. The cold winter is of short duration, and the heat of summer is never injurious, and seldom oppressive. We have no sunstrokes and few frostities, and, with abundant, vigorous and health-giving breezes from the Pacific, neither cyclone nor tornado nor blizzards nor anything even remotely allied to them. The average annual precipitation at The Dalles is about 16 inches. In the great wheat belt south of The Dalles it is about 20 inches, while in the Hood river valley, which lies nearer to the summit of the Cascades, it is 35 inches.

It derives its name from the "Narrows" a little east of the city, which obstruct river navigation eastward. The O. R. & N. Co. gives the city connection with all points east and west, and a fleet of powerful and beautiful steamers belonging to The Dalles, Portland & Astoria Navigation Company, and chiefly owned by the people of The Dalles, gives the city the benefit of terminal rates and river competition to Portland and all points westward.

The mercantile establishments of The Dalles would do credit to towns of 10 times its population, and a very large wholesale and retail business is done with the interior. The town has unsurpassed warehouse facilities, and, through its bankers and merchants, abundance of capital to utilize its natural advantages. It is the best wool market in the Northwest, and handles more wool direct from the growers than any town in the United States. This will appear no empty boast when it is said that from 6,000,000 to 8,000,000 pounds are annually shipped here from first hands and find a market here. Wool is shipped to this market from the state of Idaho on the east, from Washington on the north and from counties in Eastern Oregon that border on California. And yet, strange as it may appear, there is not a woolen mill nor scouring mill, nor mill of any kind to work on this immensity of raw material within the limits of the county.

The school facilities of The Dalles are unsurpassed, and the benefits of a good, common school education are obtainable everywhere in the county. The larger religious denominations are well represented, and there are few districts that do not enjoy the privilege of a weekly service. The people are peaceable, law-abiding, contented and industrious, and in intelligence and culture, according to the standard, not suffer in comparison with those of any other district on the continent.

HUGH GOURLAY.

The Dalles, Or.

NEW TOWN OF SHANIKO.

Southern Terminus of Columbia Southern Railroad.

Shaniko is the name of a new town in the southeastern part of Wasco county, near what was long an important station on the main wagon road between The Dalles and Cannon City, known as Cross Hollows. The name is not Indian, as might be supposed, but is the Americanized patronymic of a former honored German resident named Scherneck, whom his neighbors, in defiance of all autocratic geography, persisted in calling by the name adopted for the new town. Shaniko has as yet no place on any map of Oregon. The townsite company was only incorporated a couple of months ago, too late to do more than grade a few of the principal streets before the winter frosts and prepare for laying the foundation for a pumping station for the water works. But the preliminary work has been done, and the Oregonian publishes its annual for 1899 Shaniko will be the liveliest town of its size, or of any size, in Eastern Oregon. It is the natural, and in many cases the artificial, center of the business of the interior, and among the first buildings to be erected will be an immense iron and steel structure to accommodate their business. It is altogether probable that all the larger business concerns of Antelope, an important trading point about six miles distant, may move to Shaniko for self-protection, just as the business of Cross Hollows 20 years ago moved to Antelope for the same reason. A substantial brick bank building is among the earliest improvements contemplated, and a bank will be established with abundance of capital to handle all the business that is concentrated there. The numerous springs of pure, living water at Cross Hollows will be used to supply the

town with abundance of water, and the townsite company has already contracted for a 60-horsepower engine, boiler and pump, with a capacity of 400 gallons per minute. The receiving system at the hollows, half a mile from the townsite, will have a capacity of 100,000 gallons, and the distributing system a temporary capacity of 50,000 gallons. The same power will be used to supply the town with electric lights.

Among the numerous natural advantages of Shaniko, not the least important is the fact that it is less than a score of miles distant from the Trout creek gold and silver mines, that are to be reckoned among the most promising on the Pacific coast. The Oregon King mine, that requires changed plans at \$200,000, has since shipped three carloads of ore to the Tacoma smelter, which, after paying for smelting and freight charges over 70 miles of wagon road and about 300 miles of rail, netted the interior of Eastern Oregon than any other town. It will need extensive hotel accommodations, livery stables and feed yards, and the men first on the ground with good horses are certain to have all the business they can attend to. To meet the demand that is sure to arise for feed for freight teams that will load and unload here, the warehouse company has purchased nearly all the surplus hay in Sherman county.

The town is laid out into 30 blocks of 12 lots each, 50x100 feet. The business streets are 100 feet, and the residence streets 80 feet in width. The site is on a plain that slopes gently toward the north-east, in line with the prevailing winds. It is about 2500 feet above sea level, and commands an extensive view of all directions. From any part of the town eight perpetual snow peaks are visible, namely: Mount Rainier, Adams and St. Helens, in Washington, and Mount Hood, Jefferson and the Three Sisters, in Oregon. No accurate data of the climate and temperature are available, but old settlers assure the writer that the thermometer seldom touches zero, that the winters are usually mild, and on account of exposure to the warm chinook winds, snow seldom lies on the ground for more than a few days at a time. The moderate elevation of the townsite secures a climate that is usually best in summer, and, with abundance of pure air, the best facilities in the world for drainage, and abundance of pure, cool, living water, Shaniko ought to be an ideally healthy town. Every drop of rain on Shaniko. Nature has done everything in its power to make a prosperous town there, and the owners of the townsite, who are numbered among the best men in Eastern Oregon, will do the rest.

YAMHILL COUNTY.

Immigration of 1899 The Largest Since the County Was Settled.

Yamhill county, like most of her neighbors, experienced, in 1899, a most exceptional year. The spring opened late, but with bright prospects for an enormous yield of grain, a large crop matured, but with it came rain, which vastly lessened the opportunity to reap and thresh the crop, and the result was much grain damaged. A freeze, in February, practically annihilated the budding prune, one of the largest factors of the fruit industry. The crop of hops was excellent and was reasonably well harvested, though some damage was done by rain. The potato crop was unexampled, but about one-third of it yet remaining in the ground, and may not be gathered until spring.

The crop of wheat is estimated by the best judges at 1,000,000 bushels, two-thirds of which is believed to be still in the possession of growers, who are holding for better prices. The hop crop is estimated at 5000 bales, of which about one-fifth has been sold. Fifty thousand pounds of mohair was produced in Yamhill county last year. This is a growing industry. The product commands a price ranging from 25 cents to 35 cents a pound. The goat thrives in Yamhill county, and is very useful in the clearing of land. The county ranks among the first in the state in the number of goats. The wool clip last year was 200,000 pounds. Of this amount, Mr. Hendrick purchased 100,000 pounds.

Largest Immigration in Yamhill's History.

The county can record the largest immigration in 1899 that it has ever had in any single year since its earliest settlement. At least 300 persons entered its confines from Eastern Oregon, and the number has been quite general in the county. Some say that their attention was first drawn to the state and to Yamhill county by reading the New Year's Oregonian of 1899.

The unusually heavy rains interfered with fall seeding, so that probably not more than one-third the usual acreage has been sown. This will largely increase the spring seeding, and Yamhill is pre-eminently an agricultural district. Nothing so emphatic as this fact as the large stocks of farm implements kept in all the towns, and the great amount and variety of produce raised by the farmers each year. McMinnville, the county seat, has six of these stocks. Yamhill also has large timbered districts, whose splendid specimens of fir sweep the colobores from the mountains. The leading firm of Jones & Adams does an annual business of 1,000,000 feet of lumber, while eight to a dozen other mills add at least a second million feet annually to the residences, and the gala has been conspicuous and substantial in the larger towns.

Great disappointment is felt by many at the failure to complete the construction of the government locks in the Yamhill river at Lafayette, that McMinnville might thereby be placed at the head of navigation all the way to the coast. This is a consummation devoutly wished during 1899, nothing now remaining to be done except the construction of a dam. The rainfall for the year, by months, is as follows:

January, 1.50
February, 3.00
March, 6.00
April, 2.00
May, 2.50
June, 3.00
July, 3.75
August, 2.25
September, 1.75
October, 1.50
November, 1.00
December, 1.50
Total, 33.75

This is an excess over 128 of about 13 inches.

Demand for Manufacturing Enterprises.

The great need of the county is manufacturing industries. We are long on raw material and short on skilled labor to eat the products of the farm. This is largely true of all Oregon. We need factories and canneries to convert the overproduction and ship to other markets in manufactured form what we now ship out raw, to be returned manufactured, with freight rates added. We have been aptly expressed, we thus "corrode our viscers" with freight rates. The Star mill, of McMinnville, have just completed filling an order of 2000 sacks of flour to be shipped to Japan, and are grinding on a new order. Other mills of the county are shipping to foreign countries. They have the machinery and the wheat, and labor does the rest. It only grows what to do with it. We have the advantage of the opportunities for trade with the Philippines, China and Japan. Cured meats, canned goods in great variety, life preservers, Eastern Oregon, have just been shipped to Japan, and are being shipped to other parts of the world. As just practicable of preparation here as flour and lumber, and only lack the