

STAYTON CITY OF HOMES WHERE EVERY PROSPECT PLEASES-By V. LYLE McCROSKEY

A Substantial Town of 1200 People in the Famous North Santiam Valley—Its Trade Territory Extends for Fifteen Miles—Trains at West Stayton and Stage Service Keep Citizens in Touch with World—75,000 Acres of Land Under Actual Cultivation—Industrial Payroll Important Item—Plenty of Rain in Winter and Water for Irrigation When Needed in Summer—Woolen Mill, Two Flouring Mills and Other Money Bringers Combine to Work Up Raw Material from Farms and Give Continuous Employment at Good Wages to Workers

Stayton, the trading center of the North Santiam valley, is a progressive little city of 1200 persons. It is located about 19 miles southeast of Salem, and is surrounded by a vast productive territory extending for 15 miles in all directions.

Auto stages make three trips daily to Salem over a road which is entirely paved. There is daily motor truck service to both Salem and Portland. Stayton's railroad shipping point is West Stayton, which is about three miles from Stayton, with an excellent road, part of which is paved, between the two towns. It is expected that the paving of this road will be completed during the coming season.

If Stayton has any advantage that stands out as predominant, it is her rare diversity of natural resources. Perhaps in no territory of equal size with that served by Stayton could be found natural resources of so great a variety and abundance. In this small valley we find soil fitted for all types, and particularly the lucrative types, of agriculture. We find abundant pasturage for sheep and cattle. We find timber—thousands of acres of it. We find water power sufficient to generate thousands of horse power.

Stayton stands at the entrance of this remarkable valley, and being the most easily accessible place from all points, it has, of course, become the trading and manufacturing center for this great territory.

The Santiam river has been diverted and brought to Stayton in the form of usable water power, thus giving this town the advantage of the coveted "white coal." Is it any wonder that this community is prosperous? Is it any wonder that it is making steady growth; that its citizens have all the modern conveniences that are afforded by cities ten times its size?

These resources have been put to use, and most successfully, by the people of this section. There are about 75,000 acres of land under actual cultivation lying tributary to Stayton. This land is being used to raise grain, hay, berries, fruit and nuts. Many acres are being used as pasture for dairy cattle and sheep. A combination that has been found to be excellent by farmers in this valley, is that of fruits and berries and dairy cattle. The berries and fruit ordinarily yield a large income and call for intensive work during a few months in the summer. The dairy cattle produce a steady income, serving as a sort of insurance against total failure in case the fruit crop is light and they demand the least attention during the summer when the work with the fruit and berries is heaviest.

In the opinion of persons who are familiar with conditions in this valley, the cultivation of berries, small fruit and nuts presents the greatest field for lucrative investment in this locality. The land is particularly adapted to the growing of these crops. This fact is attested by the remarkable success that has been met by persons who have already engaged in this type of farming. Blackberries are particularly recommended for planting here, for the reason that this is the home of the wild blackberry and they consequently produce marvellous crops under cultivation. They yield heavily, are not hard to cultivate, and always have a ready market at a good price. Other berry crops that are not now extensively grown, but which are considered good in this locality, are red raspberries, currants and gooseberries. Loganberries, of course, have done exceptionally well here, but there are some persons who discourage large plantings in the near future because of the fear that the supply will exceed the demand, which is being slowly but steadily increased through the use of advertising by the growers through their cooperative organizations.

With any of the crops returns of \$100 an acre net are not uncommon. Cleared land suitable for berry cultivation may be had at from \$50 to \$200 an acre, so it can readily be seen that an investment in this industry will pay enormous dividends.

Another crop that has recently been attracting increasing attention in the locality is flax. Considerable acreage was grown here last year and it seems probable that there will be a great deal more grown this year. The state of Oregon has been buying the crops of all the growers for use in its prison flax plant, and the growers have been able to receive prompt and gratifying returns from this commodity. This particular part of the Willamette valley seems to be admirably adapted to the growing of flax and it is said that the flax grown here compares favorably with that grown in the most famous flax producing sections of the world. Yields of four tons to the acre have been reported and two tons to the acre seems to be an average yield. This straw has been sold to the state for \$35 a ton, and it is thought by some that the more efficient methods of handling and manufacture which are being developed will increase the price that will be paid to the farmer.

Nut culture has recently become very popular in this vicinity. Both walnuts and filberts grow exceptionally well here. Walnuts are the slower crop, require a little more attention and are subject to more failures than filberts. Both crops, however, have their supporters who vigorously urge the merits of the crop in which they are interested. Walnuts come into bearing in eight years, filberts in four. Berries can be cultivated between the trees with no damage to the trees during the period before the trees come into bearing.

Filberts seem to be a particularly favored crop for the reason that they are practically immune to disease, they do not frost kill, they are easily handled and picked and yield enormous crops. Net returns of from \$100 to \$500 an acre have been reported, and the returns from walnuts are said to be only slightly less. This is a comparatively new crop in this state but the figures presented by the pioneers in the industry are astounding. Undoubtedly the Stayton territory has immense possibilities for nut culture for the soil and climate is admirably adapted to it. It is thought that as soon as this crop has become more widely advertised the growing of nuts will become one of the most important branches of agriculture here.

Prunes, cherries and strawberries are being grown with great success here. The growing of strawberries, like the growing of other types of berries, is particularly profitable here, and increasing acreage is being planted each year. Prunes and cherries, while subject to some uncertainties, due to the seasons in which they are harvested, are almost invariably great money makers.

Water for Irrigation
The waste water from the Stayton power ditch is used to irrigate several thousand acres of land lying adjacent to Stayton and on the railroad. Advocates of irrigation claim that with the proper application of water to the land, small fruits and berries can be made to yield almost double the amount of products they now do. The fact that the water does increase the yield of these crops seems to be borne out by actual experiments. One man is known to have received a gross income of \$561 from an acre and a quarter of loganberries and blackberries that were irrigated, the blackberries being then in their first season. Other persons have found that by proper cultivation so as to conserve the moisture supplied by nature, these plants can be made to yield sufficiently

large without irrigation. Regardless of the merits of either side of this controversy, huge returns can be had in either case, and the water is here for use by those who understand and believe in irrigation, and who prefer that method of farming.

Farming is, of course, the industry which must form the basis of growth of any community in the Willamette valley, if that growth is to be steady and healthy. In the last analysis, communities in this part of Oregon must look to the soil for the means to attain their full development. The test of the success of a town will usually be found to be its ability to take the products of the soil and, by application of capital and labor, turn them to profit. This is the thing that Stayton is equipped to do and is doing to the advantage of the producer of the original commodity as well as that of the man in town.

With the phenomenal growth of fruit farming in this vicinity during the past few years, came the realization that if Stayton was to derive the full benefit from her surrounding resources, she must equip herself to assist in the marketing of the fruit produced. The final result of this realization was the construction of a cannery in Stayton. Its beginning was small, with a capitalization of only \$10,000; but at the end of its second season it has shown a remarkable and healthy growth and its success seems assured. This little cannery has already saved the growers of this vicinity a haul of 20 or 30 miles with their fruit, has increased the yearly payroll of the town by several thousands of dollars, and has materially increased the aggregate income of Stayton. Its products have found ready sale and have been highly praised for their excellence.

Another industry that has for its purpose the utilization of the products of the soil is the woolen mill, owned and operated by the Santiam Woolen Mill company. This is Stayton's largest industrial concern and is one of which the people of this community are justly proud. Having its beginning in 1919 with six employees and few looms and producing then about 1000 pairs of woolen blankets yearly, it has grown in four years until it now employs 150 people, has an annual payroll of nearly \$200,000, and produces 125,000 pairs of blankets and 250,000 pounds of wool batts annually. Nearly three quarters of a million pounds of wool is used by this company, all of which is Oregon wool and a considerable part of which is grown in this vicinity. This company is the largest exclusive manufacturer of woolen blankets and wool batts

on the Pacific coast. The power of the Santiam river is used to operate the machinery of the mill thus putting another of Stayton's natural resources to use. It is needless to say that this industry is of tremendous importance to the town of Stayton. Its growth has been paralleled by that of the town and it has met with such striking success that its growth in the future seems assured. The entire output of this mill for the past year has been sold, and its products are in increasing demand so high is their quality. Its

A light and power company owns a modern plant with which it converts water power to electricity. It supplies power for lighting in and about Stayton, as well as furnishing power for several minor industrial plants of the town. A considerable investment is represented in its plant and equipment. Its chief value to the community, of course, lies in the convenience and satisfaction furnished the citizens in the form of dependable and cheap electrical energy. Natural resources and indus-

trial quality of bituminous pavement. The cost of this improvement was borne by the abutting property owners and a considerable portion of it was paid in cash. Bonds to the extent of \$18,000 were issued for the remainder, a part of which have been already paid. This bond issue and the issue of \$10,000 above mentioned constitute the only indebtedness of the town and neither of these debts are to be paid by means of general taxation. In educational facilities, Stayton is excelled by none. A new

Women's Community club has recently been organized and it is planned that this organization shall cooperate with the men's club. Another condition that makes Stayton a livable town is the opportunity for outdoor recreation. The town is almost within walking distance of the Cascade mountains, with their numberless opportunities for camping, hunting and fishing. Trout fishing can be had within ten minutes' walk, pheasant and grouse hunting is plentiful. In short, all the wonders of the Oregon outdoors can be enjoyed here, with the added advantage of having them literally at one's door.

Usually among the most active in helping to make a town a desirable one in which to live, are the merchants, business and professional men of the place, of whom, hitherto in this article, we have said nothing. In order that we may not leave the impression that these persons are unimportant to Stayton, let us say right here, that this class of men is distinctively alive and active in this town.

Perhaps the most important of Stayton's non-industrial (a rather inaccurate term, meaning not actually producing material goods) institutions is its bank. This bank was formed a few years ago by the merger of the two banks that had formerly done business in Stayton. A charter was taken out under the national banking system and one under the state banking system. The First National bank now handles the commercial business and the First State and Savings bank takes care of the savings department. Both are under one roof and one management and provide a service that is unexcelled. They have a combined capital of \$50,000.00, deposits of \$582,000.00, and resources of \$644,000.00. This dual institution has been, and is, a tremendous factor in the development of the territory tributary to Stayton. It has been active in almost every undertaking of importance in this community in recent years. The management of this institution has devoted its energies particularly to a study of the problems of the farmers with the result of having materially aided the farming industry in this vicinity, and of having drawn increasingly large numbers of farmers to Stayton for their trading.

It is, of course, impossible to describe in detail each of the various mercantile enterprises of Stayton or each of the other businesses and professions. The following groupings will serve to convey a general idea of Stayton's offerings in this respect:

There are four general stores in Stayton, all of them handling merchandise of the first class and handling large volumes of business. One store handles hardware and groceries. Another handles hardware and furniture and another hardware exclusively. Stayton has two drug stores, two meat markets, a men's furnishings store, two shoe stores including repair shops, a variety store, a hotel furnishing both dining service and rooms, two confectionery and lunch establishments, and two pool halls and tobacco stores. There are two jewelry stores, a moving picture theater, two garages, two blacksmith shops, a gasoline service station, a battery and auto repair shop, an electrical equipment store, a bakery, a feed store, a produce house, a table factory, and a weekly newspaper having a modern printing plant. Other business and professions are represented in Stayton by two doctors, two lawyers, two dentists, a veterinarian, an undertaker, two barbers, four automobile salesmen, two real estate brokers, a plumber and three watchmakers.

The ownership and management of some of the most prominent of the above mentioned establishments are as follows: A. P. Speer & Co., Gehlen Bros. and Doll's Cash Store operate general merchandise and grocery

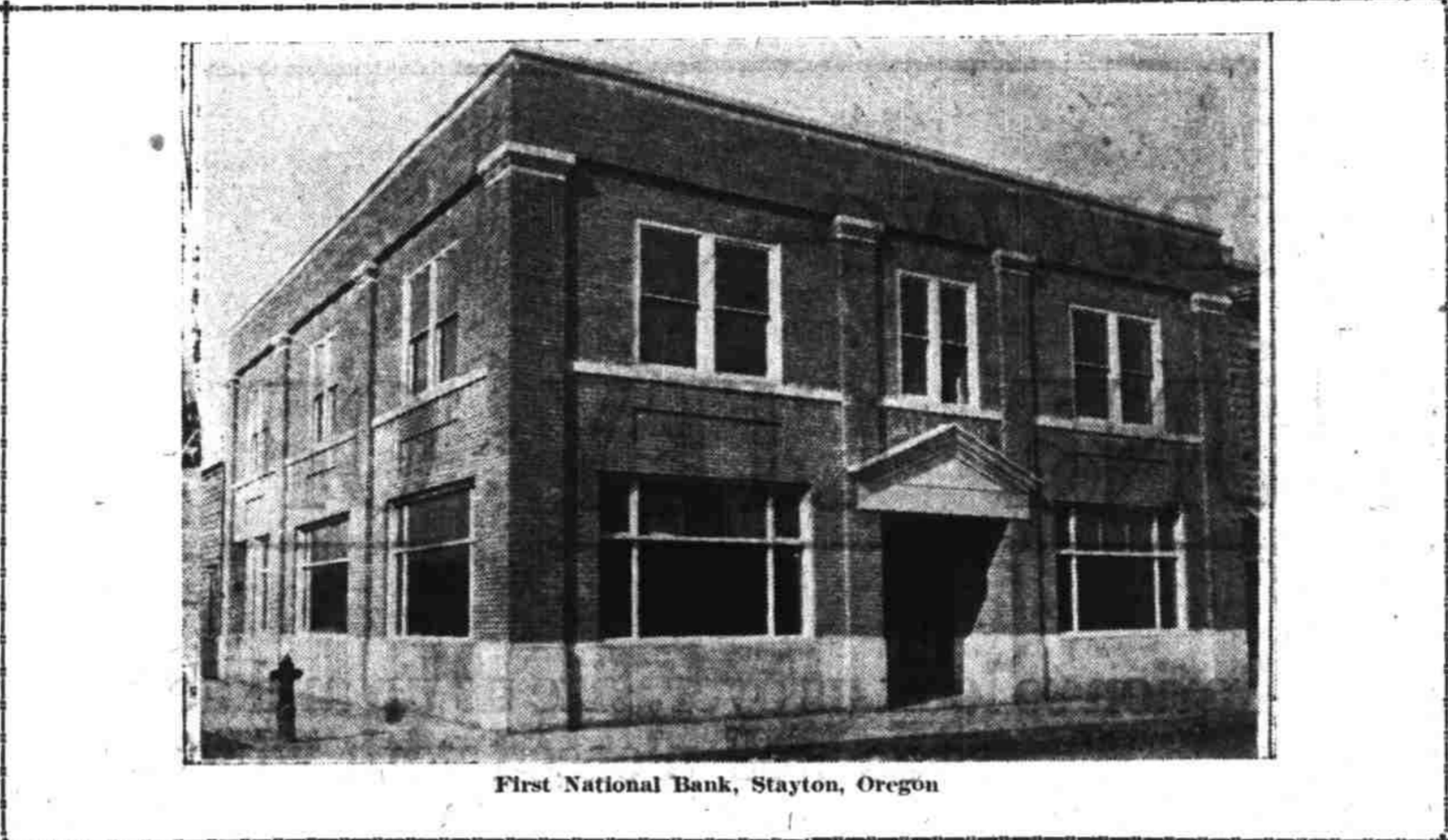
stores; V. Dare Sloper is a pharmacist and conducts a drug store; L. C. Bailey owns and operates the Hotel Stayton; J. H. Mosher, a watchmaker, operates a jewelry store; J. F. Mielke conducts a hardware store; the Lilly Hardware Co., a hardware and furniture store; Lancefield Shoe Co., a shoe store; E. T. Matthieu and E. S. Pieser conduct pool halls and tobacco stores; Wourms & Boedighelmer and Gehlen Bros. each conduct a meat market with a modern refrigeration plant; Harry Humphreys operates the Star theater, a motion picture theater; The Winer Produce company are buyers of farm produce; L. H. Wright operates a feed store; Dr. C. Ward Davis, a dentist, conducts a modern dental office; Walter M. Miller conducts the Bon Ton Confectionery and Restaurant, and W. A. Weddle, an undertaker, is the owner of a modern mortuary.

In the way of industrial opportunities, little need be said. The power is here, the raw products are here, labor is plentiful and dependable, and transportation presents no difficulty. The only thing that is awaited is capital in the hands of persons with the vision to see the possibilities and the ability to develop those possibilities. One of the greatest needs of this community at present is a means of utilizing the product of its dairy cattle. Creameries and cheese factories would certainly find here an excellent field for their operations. The dairy industry is rapidly increasing here and it would seem that a plant to utilize dairy products could not help but succeed.

For the man of small means who seeks a home in a place where living is cheap and agreeable and where every working day in the year can be utilized for profit, Stayton offers an exceptional opportunity. Many families have small tracts of land close to town, where they keep a few cows, a few chickens and raise some small fruits and berries. During the winter months, one or more members of the family find employment in the woolen mill or some other of Stayton's industrial establishments. Many who are pursuing this course, are veritably becoming wealthy. The Santiam Woolen mill reports that this type of labor is one of the most satisfactory and it strongly encourages such a course.

Stayton's position taken from the large viewpoint of its place in the future development of Oregon, is enviable. It is a generally accepted fact that Oregon will sometime have railroads connecting the eastern part of the state with the western. It is coming to be accepted that this time is not far in the future. The fact that the Natron extension seems assured, points to the development in this respect that is coming soon. The Santiam pass through the Cascade mountains is considered one of the best passes through those mountains that is to be found anywhere. With the development in east and west transportation in Oregon, this pass is bound to be used. A line has already been surveyed through Stayton, up the Santiam river, and through the Santiam pass into eastern Oregon. If such a road is completed, Stayton will stand at the gateway of a vast, undeveloped empire and will, therefore, be in direct line to reap the benefits of its development.

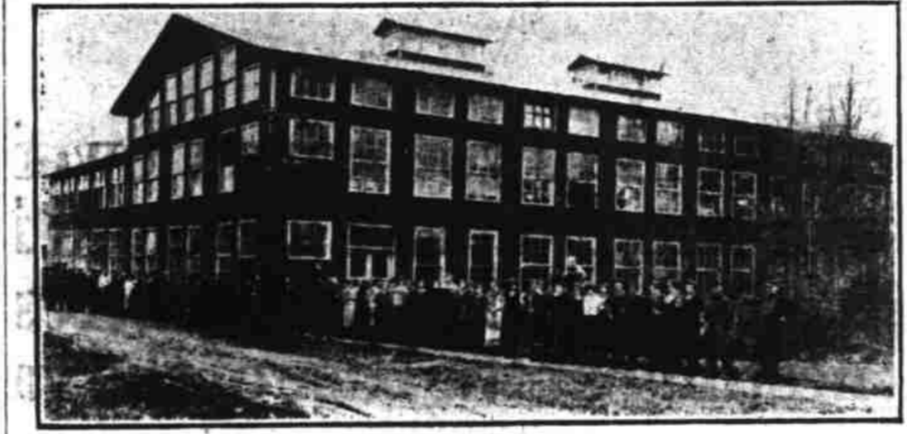
This fact coupled with the conditions that already exist, mark Stayton as the ideal place for the person who wishes to settle in a prospering community, where the possibilities for further development are so great that they can scarcely be imagined. Stayton offers opportunities for the man of small means, for the man of moderate circumstances and for the man of independent fortune who seeks investment. All that is necessary is the ability to visualize the tremendous future that is in store for this already rich community.



First National Bank, Stayton, Oregon

means to attain their full development. The test of the success of a town will usually be found to be its ability to take the products of the soil and, by application of capital and labor, turn them to profit.

The Brown-Petzel Lumber company operates an industry in Stayton, which, while not utilizing products of agriculture, makes use of one of the greatest of Oregon's resources, as well as of this locality—timber. Its mill, also operated by water power from the Santiam, is also a large factor in maintaining the circulating wealth of this community. This mill has a capacity of 20,000 feet of timber per day. It employs an average of 30 persons with an annual payroll of about \$35,000. Two to five million feet of timber are used each year. This company sells the lumber it produces in both the wholesale and retail



Santiam Woolen Mills, Stayton, Oregon

markets. It maintains its own retail yards at Stayton, Jefferson and Gervais.

Two flouring mills in Stayton, both using the water power of the Santiam, afford a ready, convenient market for the wheat grown in the surrounding country. Their combined payrolls will approximate \$15,000 annually and the sale of their product increases the community's circulating wealth by several more thousands yearly. One of these mills makes a product, which in open competition has taken several prizes for its excellence.

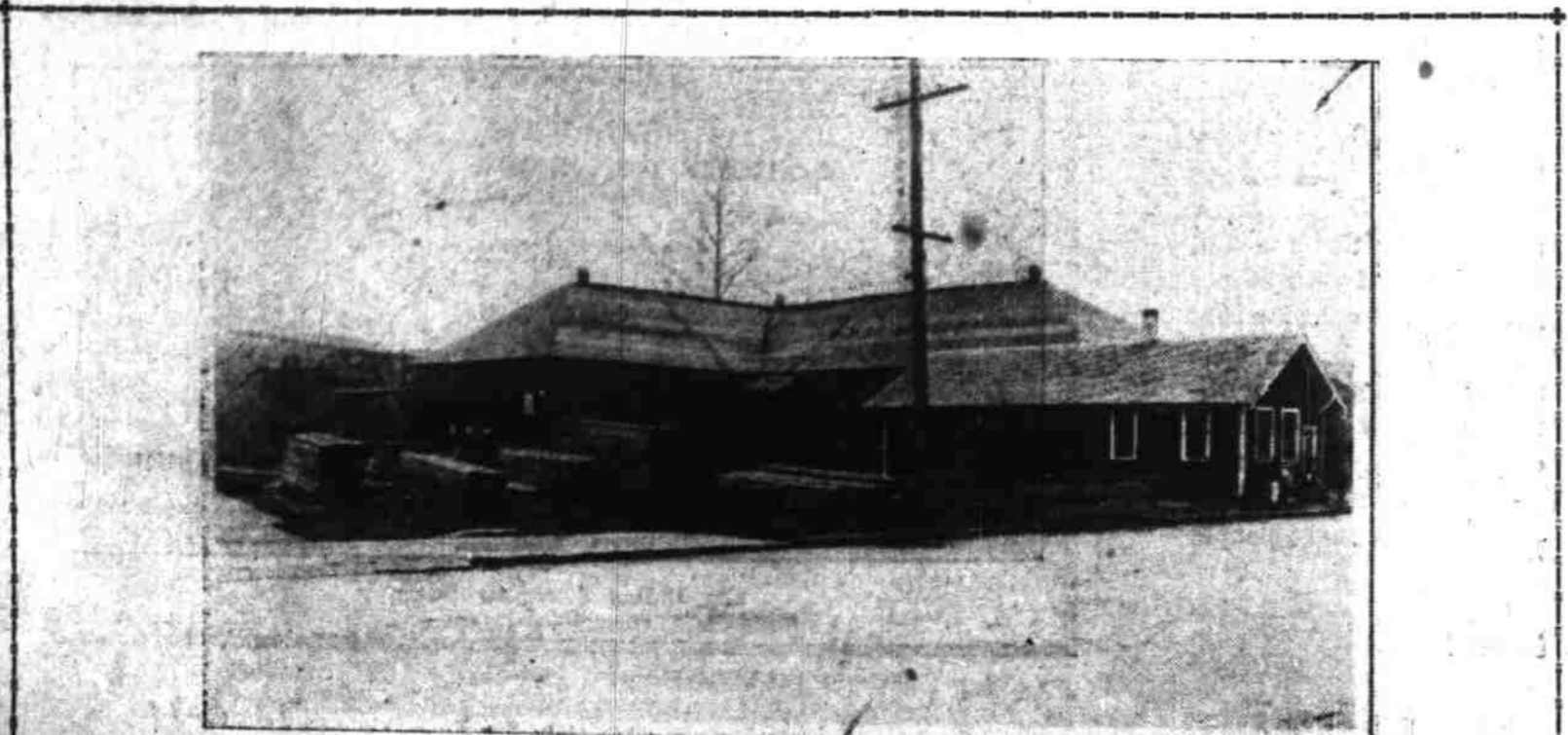
A chair factory gives employment to from five to ten persons. It produces kitchen chairs and miscellaneous furniture, utilizing water power to turn its machinery.

fire fighting equipment of Stayton. A thousand feet of new fire hose of the highest quality has been added to the fire fighting equipment. New pumping machinery has been installed and a new fire proof house has been erected to house the pumping plant. These improvements will result in a considerable saving in insurance rates in Stayton. Bonds to the amount of \$10,000 were issued to take care of the expense of these improvements and a plan has been worked out whereby the revenue from the water system is expected to provide funds for the retirement of these bonds without casting additional burden on the taxpayers, and without unreasonably increasing the water rates.

Fifteen blocks of Stayton's streets are paved with an excel-

lence. Fraternals orders form another powerful factor in the social life of this community. The Catholic Order of Foresters, Masons, Knights of Columbus and Odd Fellows have active organizations here. The Masons, Odd Fellows and Foresters have meeting places which they own. The usual women's auxiliaries are active in connection with their respective lodges.

A Community club is active in Stayton which has for its purpose the general betterment of all conditions in Stayton, civic and social, as well as commercial and economic. It draws its membership from persons in all pursuits, including those farming in and around Stayton, in order that the organization may work for the good of the whole community. A



Brown-Petzel Lumber Company, Stayton, Oregon



Brown-Petzel Lumber Company, Stayton, Oregon