

CORVALLIS GAZETTE



VOL. XLII.

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1905.

12

PAST AND PRESENT.

A Brief Summary of Our Condition Ten Years Ago—And the Present.

In some districts affairs go apace, and this is one of them. On all hands we see indications of progress, and as progress is the result of ambition in a degree, we may be said to be an ambitious people. People who reside continuously in a given place are not prone to realize the changes that are taking place. These changes are gradual, and in a sense, common-place, but as a general thing they are improvements.

Some ten or twelve years ago Corvallis was favored by the installation of her first telephone. This, at the time, was thought to be great, and so it was. At this time we had incoming but two mails a day—and were contented. The reason that we were contented is that we were as well supplied as the average town the size of Corvallis and experienced no particular need of anything better.

But through the ever-working process of evolution our condition was changed, and our requirements necessitated something better; consequently, every good citizen did his part toward all proposed innovation that bid fair to better conditions. Finally we secured a Sunday train over the West Side. In effecting this some opposition was experienced from some unexpected sources, but was happily overcome, and now it is doubtful if the opposition would change back to the old condition of affairs.

So affairs progressed, until today we have incoming five mails daily and the same number of outgoing mails. Our mail service is far better than it was and we are doing a better postal business than ever in the past. We appeal to Postmaster Johnson to confirm our statement.

We now have two systems of telephone and gossiping is a greater luxury than ever, and business is also facilitated. The independent line is already installed in many country homes throughout almost the entire county. This is a great convenience for farmers, as they can do business of various character without wasting time to travel several miles for a five-minute business talk. Right here, we may state that now and then a man who has reasons "that look good to him" for being skeptical about phones. For instance, one of our best-known farmers, Henry Dunn, on being questioned some time back about the installation of phones in country homes, opposed the proposition, and when pressed for a reason said: "When I talk business to a man I want to see how he bats his eyes."

While this is somewhat amusing, there is nevertheless an element of truth in what Mr. Dunn says, and all kind of business can not be trusted to a phone. But the great bulk of it, can be, and safely, too.

In the way of freights we are well provided. Aside from the regular train from Portland, three times a week, we now have a special freight train over the same route about as often as the regular. And in the season that the Willamette river is at a boating stage we have river steamers carrying both passengers and freight. So it is apparent that in the way of passenger, mail and freight service Corvallis is extremely fortunate.

In many untold and unknown ways we have made great advancement during the past ten years. An advancement that we who have continually resided here do not realize until our attention is called to it. We are still to progress and expand—pessimistic views to the contrary, notwithstanding—and build more bricks; inaugurate more systems of gen-

eral utility, and forge ahead generally. Watch and you will see.

Something About Taxes.

For many years previous to 1903 taxpayers were allowed an exemption of \$300 on personal property in Oregon. During the regular session of the legislature in 1903 an act was passed annulling the former section and allowing no exemption whatever on property, either real or personal.

At a special session of the Oregon legislature which convened in December, 1903, the matter of exemption from taxes was again considered and the last act regulating assessments repealed, placing the matter back where it was originally, or in other words, allowing a \$300 exemption on personal property. During the assessment of 1904 no exemption was allowed, but when the assessment for 1905 is made an exemption of \$300 on personal property will again be allowed. The following clause will give an idea of the exemption allowed when the next assessment is made.

"The following property, if owned by a householder and in actual use, or kept for use, by and for his family; household goods, furniture and utensils; two cows, ten sheep, five swine, and the tools, implements, apparatus, team, vehicle, harness or library necessary to enable any person to carry on his trade, occupation or profession by which such person earns his or her living to the amount of three hundred (\$300) dollars, the articles to be selected by such householder, provided, however, that when the assessed valuation of the personal property above enumerated shall amount to less than three hundred (\$300) dollars, then only such amount as the total of such property herein enumerated shall be exempt from taxation."

By way of explaining the latter part of the above clause: No exemption is allowed on real property; therefore, if a person owned but \$200 worth of personal property and, say \$500 worth of real property, he would only be allowed an exemption from taxation on \$200, the valuation of his personal property. He would be allowed no exemption on his real property under any circumstances, only on personal property under, or up to, a valuation of \$300. This is the law that will govern our next assessment.

Friends Attend Funeral.

The funeral of the late Edwin Stone, held in Albany, Sunday afternoon, was one of the largest ever held in that city. Special trains were run from both ends of the Corvallis & Eastern line, carrying a great many friends and employees of the deceased to the funeral. The regular south-bound train from Portland carried a large delegation of friends and railroad men to be present at the final honors to the dead. The Elks Lodge, of Salem, attended in a body and members of the order from other towns were in attendance.

The funeral services were held in the Masonic Temple, and not more than half of those present could gain an entrance to the large hall. The funeral services at the Temple were conducted by Rev. Chalmers, of the Episcopal church, of Portland, and the remains were interred in the Masonic cemetery. A large number of people from this city attended the funeral.

Will Fechter, accompanied by a pianist, came over from Albany to play for the practice dance given by the students in the Armory Saturday afternoon. A good time is reported. Mr. Fechter was at one time a resident of this city.

THE SETTLER'S HANDBOOK.

A Book From the Pen of Wallis Nash—Information of Great Value.

We are in receipt of a copy of "The Settler's Handbook to Oregon," edited by Wallis Nash and published by The J. K. Gil Co. of Portland, Or. Mr. Nash resided for many years in Corvallis and is well known here and recognized as a very prominent gentleman. Thoroughness is one of Mr. Nash's chief characteristics, and the work just at hand is proof of this fact.

There are 192 pages of condensed information. The state is given by districts, six in all, and the industries of each district are given careful attention. The price of land in various parts of the state is given, as is the price stock, buildings, wages paid for labor, etc. The prices of farm produce and manufactured articles are also noted. What follows are excerpts from the volume under consideration, and relate entirely to Benton county or something affecting her destiny.

On the west side of the Willamette, bounded by Polk county on the north, Lincoln on the west and Lane on the south, is Benton county. Has very little wild or uncultivated land in comparison with other valley counties. The soil is fertile throughout, ranging from the boppyards of the Willamette and Long Tom bottom lands, to the hill pastures, grain and stock farms of the west and north of the county. Corvallis, the county seat, a pretty town of 2200 people, is now in process of laying out bids fair to raise these figures several hundred.) is known by the location there of the Oregon Agricultural College, its Experimental Station and farm. The college proper has now about 550 students, recruited from every county in the state, and a few from a greater distance. Fuller information on this head will be found in the chapter on Education. Benton county has a large number of well-improved and valuable farms. On the slopes of the west side of the county is much oak and grub land, doited over with many oak trees of large size and value. When cleared it is often found that the value of the grub oak as cordwood pays the cost of clearing. Benton has already received a considerable immigration of Eastern farmers who are bringing Eastern methods of cultivation and habits of life into the Willamette valley. But there is room for many more. Many large young orchards, of both apples and prunes, have, in this county, supplanted the moss-hung trees so often surrounding the homes of the older settlers.

Under the head of "Schools" we find the following: The State Agricultural College of Oregon is peculiarly the farmers' college. It touches their life at so many points. It gives their children a practical, technical, and yet a liberal education, at a nominal cost. By its bulletins freely distributed it spreads the knowledge of its experiments and discoveries among the farm homes of Oregon. By the extending series of farmers' institutes it now reaches in turn every county in the state, even the most remote. By its model farms at Corvallis and Union county it demonstrates to every visitor the farming methods best adapted to our state, the best crops to raise, the best animals to keep. In its Veterinary and Bacteriological departments it informs on animal and plant diseases, evident and microscopic. In the Chemical department it analyses for the farmer his soils or water and demonstrates the percentage of chemical or commercial products of the farm.

Reduction in Fare.

Commencing Nov. 7, rates between Corvallis and Portland, via C. & E. Albany, and S. P. will be reduced to \$2.60, same as West Side rate. Tickets on sale by C. & E. agent and all offices in Portland.

NOTICE.

The sale of mens' and boys' suits and overcoats is still on at S. L. Kline's. It will pay you to buy this month.

investment at Corvallis of not less than \$250,000 in value and surely it pays the state excellently well.

The President, Dr. Thos. M. Gatch, is one of the earliest and most widely known educators in the state. The faculty are thoroughly qualified and earnest people. A word may be permitted on the feminine side of the college, probably as beneficial to Oregon as the other, certainly advancing in importance and in general appreciation every year since its establishment fourteen years ago under the same presiding genius, Miss M. C. Snell, M. D., whose widely felt influence now reaches and benefits almost all the counties of Oregon.

The Experiment Station has for head D. James Withycombe. He and the other members of the Station Council hold the farmers' institutes, and in that and in other ways are in direct contact with farming, stock and orchard interests of the state. Always accessible, ready to receive and answer written or oral questions, no one can appraise the worth to Oregon of the Station and its staff.

The boys here, as in all other State Agricultural Colleges, are under military discipline. Drilled by a U. S. officer almost every day, the college regiment, now over 400 strong, shows well on all public occasions, the boys being an exceptionally healthy and well grown set of young fellows.

That their spirit was right was shown when the call came to Oregon for soldiers for the Philippines. I think 32 of the Agricultural College students responded to the summons. The college buildings and their equipment are second to none on the Pacific Slope.

The above from the pen of Mr. Nash is only a brief synopsis of a condition of affairs that refer directly to our county. He has written exceedingly well of, not only Benton, but the entire state, and the work is well worthy a place on any book shelf in Oregon.

COLLEGE JOURNAL.

Items of Interest in the Surroundings.

The practice of Saturday afternoon was enjoyed by those who attended it. It began Saturday afternoon, there was a larger crowd of students than usual. The music, by the orchestra and a violinist and a pianist, was good.

Miss Winnie L. Turner, former student at OAC, returned from Seattle, Wash., where she has been with the orchestra for the past six months.

The Washington Band will play at the dance to be on the evening of February 18th.

The Zetageathes entertained the Feronian society Friday evening, February 4th.

The delegates have been chosen from the Freshman Sophomore classes, to attend the State Oratorical Contest to be held in Newberg, March 10.

Next Saturday the Feronian girls are to entertain the Amicitians.

The Eutopian girls are to give a valentine entertainment on Monday.

Passed Beyond.

From an exchange we learn of the death of L. N. Liggett, at one time a citizen of Benton county. He died at Portland, Or., January 30, of heart failure, and was aged 51 years. This is Leander Liggett, son of Joseph Liggett, who, some three years ago was proprietor of the old "City Hotel." To digress a trifle it may here be stated that in the pioneer days the City Hotel stood on the corner where the First National Bank is now doing business.

About 18 years ago Leander Liggett moved to Crook county, where he taught school for a number of years, and ultimately became prominently identified with the business interests of that section. He finally entered the field of "newspaperdom," acquiring the Prineville Review, which he conducted for six years. After disposing of his paper, Mr. Liggett became deputy sheriff of Crook county, which office he filled at the time of his death.

Ben Woldt and C. C. Chipman are two Corvallisites who have been seeking business locations in Portland the past week.

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The enrollment of pupils at the public school last Friday, the last day of the first week of the second term, was 490. The largest enrollment this year was in the neighborhood of 550. Everything is moving nicely at the school, although one or two rooms are somewhat crowded at present. There is six-two pupils in the room, but Prof. Holmes cheerfully assured us that mass will soon be good and some of them can be turned out.

Don't Miss the Opportunity

To call at our Furniture Store and let us show you some nice Art Squares that We are offering, until closed out, at greatly reduced prices.

In Passing Our Way

Just look at those Malleable Iron Beds we have been telling you about. They are cheaper than any other because they will last longer. Remember they are warranted for 25 years. It is to your interest

To Stop a Bit

and get our prices on Granite and Tinware. We have just received a large invoice of these goods. Whether you are going to house-keeping or just furnishing one or more rooms, let us figure on your bills. Everybody welcome to come in

And Examine Our Goods.

HOLLENBERG & CADY,
THE STORE THAT SAVES YOU MONEY