

CORVALLIS GAZETTE

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BENTON COUNTY.

As Written Up by the Pacific Homestead Man—Facts of Great Interest.

If there is any section of that garden spot of the Northwest, the Willamette Valley, that deserves special mention it is Benton county.

Situated as it is with its 44,000 acres in the very heart of the valley, embracing every desirable feature of soil and climatic conditions, its mild equitable climate, free from extremes, being especially note worthy. The humidity in the winter warms the country within its folds, warding off its injurious frosts, while the breath of the tropics wafted along the coast by the Japan current enables the residents of this favored section to enjoy the fragrance of ever-blooming roses and to labor in open air the whole winter through. The prevailing winds here come from the south and southwest and there are practically no hard winds. There is no oppressive summer heat, no sunstroke, no sweltering, restless nights; for no matter how warm may be the day, the evening brings with it the pleasant, invigorating breezes of the sea. While the East is wrapped in the relentless embrace of the blizzard, or gasping for air during the long summer nights, Benton county sees its citizens working in the fields, planting for the coming harvest, or gathering the golden grain, sure of a cool, refreshing night's rest after the day's work is over.

Not only this, but it is favored with every variety of soil to be found in the Northwest, from the deep sandy loam of the river bottoms, the black and lighter colored alluvial soils of the valleys, to the red soils of the uplands. These soils produce every variety of cereal known—wheat, barley, rye, speltz, vetch, clover, flax, and oats, yielding from 20 to 100 bushels to the acre, according to the soil.

While the uplands do not yield so bountifully of cereals, they are excellent lands for pastures for all kinds of stock, abounding with many springs, abundant with grass, and with oak and ash timber. These uplands are the natural home of goats and sheep; in fact, some of the finest flocks of Angoras in the United States are to be found on these upland pastures.

Not only does Benton county produce over 1,000,000 bushels of grains and thousands of tons of hay, but the fame of the county as a hop-growing section is becoming world-wide, a yield of 1,500 pounds per acre being common, and, taking into consideration the fact that the average price of hops for the last five years has been from 10 to 30 cents per pound, it can readily be seen that the labor of the hop-grower is not without reward.

Potatoes grow to perfection here, yielding from 300 to 500 bushels per acre, and the price of late has been very good. The labor of cultivating has been reduced to a minimum, as there are no potato bugs for the growers to contend with.

Beans, peas, cabbage and all other vegetables do exceedingly well, and beets, mangels, carrots, turnips, parsnips much grown for stock, yield from 20 to 30 tons per acre.

Everywhere in the county can be found trees and vines bending beneath a weight of luscious fruit of every description, and, though the fruit industry in Benton county is as yet not fully developed, the apples, prunes, etc., owing to their general excellence, find ready sale in the markets of Europe, the eastern part of the United States, China, Japan and Mexico.

Dairying, while yet in its infancy in this county, is sure to become a great industry in the near future, for owing to the cool days and nights, the absence of

mosquitoes and other pests, make it unnecessary to feed stock such quantities as it requires in the colder climates. This reduces the cost of production of cream and butter, thus making dairying a profitable pursuit for one understanding the business. To such as fear the market is over-stocked it is but necessary to say that car-loads of butter and tons of cheese are annually shipped into Oregon from the East and Middle West, and through the state to Alaska and the Orient, which could be manufactured much cheaper here. Prices range from 17 to 40 cents per pound for good butter, while cheese brings from 10 to 18 cents per pound, according to class and quality. In connection with the butter and cheese there is an unlimited demand for condensed milk at good prices. So taking it all in all the dairying industry in Benton county presents unlimited possibilities.

The poultry business also has advantages unsurpassed in any country, as there is an abundance of green food the year 'round and grain food is inexpensive. The weather seldom gets cold enough so that hens cease laying, and they are healthy and prolific. Cholera, roup, or gaps, so prevalent in the East, is unknown here. Eggs sell at from 20 to 35 cents and chickens from \$3 to \$5 per dozen and ducks and geese, and turkeys at from 12 to 18 cents per pound gross. The local demand is not supplied even, and this requires that large shipments be made into the state each year in order to meet the ever-increasing necessity of its people. The reason the industry is not more fully developed is that the average person does not realize the profit to be derived from a properly conducted poultry farm, and when the people take up poultry raising in earnest Benton county, with its mild climate, cheap grains and abundant green foods, will become famous for its poultry and eggs.

At present the county has not the manufacturing industries her resources warrant, yet there are six flouring mills with a daily capacity of 650 barrels, eight or ten saw mills which supply the local market and ship several million feet of lumber annually to other markets, one sash and door factory, one ice factory, a furniture factory, one organ and carriage factory, one hard-wood manufacturing plant, which turns the excellent hardwood timber—for which the valley is famous—into wagon gearing supplies, besides shipping over three hundred car-loads of lumber to San Francisco, Portland and other points for manufacturing purposes every year.

The county's resources offer abundant material for the manufacture of paper, leather, excelsior, starch, wooden-ware, woolen goods, and many other things.

Benton county has excellent transportation facilities, being favored with one line crossing it from east to west, terminating at tide water on the Yaquina bay, and connected with the main line of the Southern Pacific at Albany. Also with a line of the Southern Pacific railway direct from Corvallis to Portland down the west side of the Willamette valley. These roads give Corvallis and incidentally all the county three trains a day to Portland and return, and a train a day to and fro between Corvallis and Yaquina. Then again Corvallis and the southern part of the county is now promised connection with the city of Eugene over an electric line, franchises for which have been granted and work on which it is said will begin ere long.

Then in addition to its railway lines the city of Corvallis and other points on the Willamette river have the advantage of splendid steamboat service during the greater part of the year, the Oregon City Transportation Company running steamboats

which are of a very commodious character, fitted for both passenger and freight service, and do a good business between the valley towns and the city of Portland.

This daily service by rail and water brings the people of Benton county into closer touch with all the rest of the state, and especially the Willamette valley, the sea coast and the Oregon metropolis, having as a matter of course its effect on its social life.

There is a large and growing trade with Alaska, Mexico, Central and South America, the Sandwich Islands, the Philippines, China, and Japan. These countries have just awakened to the fact that the products of the Northwest are unsurpassed and properly fitted to their needs, and with the Lewis and Clark Exposition this year as an object lesson of what can be done, a great demand for Oregon's products is sure to arise.

Anyone desiring to invest capital in enterprises where the returns are sure, or anyone desiring a home in a land that for its productiveness cannot be excelled, might well consider Benton county.

Benton county is well equipped with public schools, and in addition to its common grades, there is located the State Agricultural College, one of the best educational institutions in the state. There practical agriculture is taught in all its branches; military instruction is given the boys of the school by a regular army officer, and the scientific and literary course is as usually taught in first-class colleges.

Benton county has the usual social privileges, churches, literary organizations, and other means of bringing people together in social, harmonious life.

Prohibition Contest.

Of late more than usual interest has been manifested in prohibition by various adherents of this doctrine and in consequence the Prohibition League at OAC is in a healthy condition. The League holds monthly meetings and each meeting sees an increase in the membership. As a rule, there is much discussion of interest at these gatherings and an impromptu program rendered.

Next Friday evening a contest will be held at the college for the purpose of deciding who shall have the honor of representing OAC at the State Prohibition contest held in McMinnville next May. There will be five orations by the following persons: Mr. Darling, Miss Alice Wicklund, John J. Schroeder, Ray Stout and Roy Harlan.

A fine musical program will be given. There will be a vocal solo by Miss Gertrude McBee; a song by a quartet consisting of Messrs. Webber, Bouquet, Herse and Bauer; vocal solo, Miss Bertha Williams; mandoline duet, Miss Una Stewart and F. M. Stokes.

Two gold medals will be awarded, and the winner will have the honor of representing OAC at the state contest. This will likely prove of great interest and a large crowd is predicted.

For Sale.

Thoroughbred Barred Plymouth Rock cockerels at \$1.00 each. Call on F. R. Barnes at Granger, South of Station or address Corvallis R. F. D. No. 1.

Women's Kidneys.

Women are more often affected with kidney disorders than men but attribute the symptoms to diseases peculiar to their sex, while in reality the kidneys are deranged. Nervousness, headache, puffiness or dark circles under the eyes, pain in the back, are signs of kidney trouble that must not be ignored, or a malady will result. Foley's Kidney cure has restored the health of thousands of weak, nervous, broken down women. It stops irregularities and strengthens the urinary organs, it purifies the blood, and benefits the whole system. Sold by Graham and Wortham.

CHARGED WITH MURDER.

The Law Takes Its Course—Developments of Sharratt Case.

Recently this paper has several times referred to the case of E. G. Sharratt, who is supposed to have been murdered on the night of Jan. 21st. The scene of the tragedy was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Green, at Lutjens, Or. Lutjens is situated in Lincoln county, not far from Waldport.

Of the subsequent arrest of Mrs. Green, in Portland, and of her husband, in Lincoln county, each charged with the murder of Sharratt, mentioned was also made. The following notes are from the last issue of the Toledo Reporter:

Sheriff Ross returned from Portland by Tuesday's train having in custody Mrs. Green who is jointly with her husband accused of murdering E. G. Sharratt. A very serious charge.

Sheriff Ross with Mrs. Green in charge, who is arrested under the grave charge of murder, took the Wednesday's train for Waldport, where she will have her preliminary examination. Attorneys B. F. Swope and B. F. Jones goes as prosecutors. The prisoners will be defended by C. E. Hawkins, and W. S. McFadden and J. Fred Yates of Corvallis, the sheriff also conveyed prisoner Green, probably as witness. Green is the husband and has had his hearing and is committed without bonds. Judge J. J. Whitney, of Albany, came as far as Toledo, but seeing there should be a limit even to attorneys, remained over night in Toledo, returning home by today's train. Surely this case is getting to be an important one as the people will realize later.

There are many peculiarities of the case, chief of which is that although Mr. Sharratt recovered consciousness prior to his death sufficiently to dispose of his worldly possessions and to talk over his business affairs, yet when approached upon the subject of killing he persistently refused to state anything about who did it or how it was done, and at times refusing to answer at all and at other times simply stating that he didn't know.

There appeared to be some reason in his mind for shielding

the parties who did the shooting, if it was done by others than himself. And yet how easy it would have been for him to have solved the problem.

Mr. Green was arrested last Friday at Waldport, and about the same time Mrs. Green was arrested in Portland, both charged with the murder of Mr. Sharratt.

Mr. Green was tried on Saturday by Justice Wakefield and was committed to await the circuit court. Mrs. Green will be taken before Justice Wakefield for examination. Deputy District Attorney B. E. Swope has charge of the prosecution and C. E. Hawkins appears for the defendant.

Draws Attention to Signs.

EDITOR GAZETTE.

It strikes me, and will likely appeal to others in the same way, that great improvement could be made in the appearance of the town in many ways. I notice that in a good many other towns of the Valley, the various Citizen Leagues are taking hold of things with a will. To profit by the experience of others is always a safe and wise thing to do.

By the way of improvement in other towns the people are giving heed to the character of signs posted. Also where they are posted and the manner of doing the work. There are, about Corvallis, innumerable signs that look like "Sam Patch." Some were horrid to start with, and others are torn and on the ragged edge generally. Furthermore, school children and others are in the habit of throwing papers and that class of rubbish along the walks. All unnecessary as it is unsightly. It seems as though something could be done in a matter of so much importance to us during this, of all years.

SIGNS OF FAILING VISION.

When your eyes tire in reading, when you frown or partly close the eyes when looking at an object; when things "swim" or become dim after being looked at for some time; when the eyes ache, smart, or water; or when you have pain in the eyeball, orbit, temples or forehead.

All the conditions are curable by proper glasses, such as we will furnish you after a scientific examination.

MATTHEWS, The Optician,

Room 12, over First National Bank

FOLEY'S HONEY AND TAR
for children; safe, sure. No opiates

The Corvallis Gazette

A twice-a-week newspaper

containing 72 columns each

week of the current news of

Benton County.

Semi-Weekly

All the local news all of the

time, with a large amount of

miscellaneous matter.

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An interesting serial story

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Read Our Ad. Carefully

And save money. House-cleaning is at hand and we are prepared to furnish everything needed in the home, at prices that defy honorable competition.

Our new Spring Stock of Go-carts is here. They are the latest styles—folding and reclining—and above all, cheap.

In Wall Paper we have some nice, NEW patterns. A glance at our racks will convince you that our stock is large and complete—a fair quality for 5 cents and 10 cents per double roll

You Will Want carpets, too. We can sell you a good quality (not the best) at 30 cents per yard, sewed and laid without extra cost. Come and see.

Trunks, Valices, Washers, Wringers and SECOND-HAND GOODS

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