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INDEPENDENCE POLK COUNTY

HOP INDUSTRY ONE OF BIG ASSETS.

Addison Bennett Tells in the Oregonian Something of that City and Surrounding Country.

Independence is one of the ancient towns of Oregon, if the word ancient can be used to express a date within the life of the state. It was founded somewhere along in the '40s. E. A. Thorp being credited with building the first house. The town was originally about a mile below the center of the present city, the first settlement, being on the north side of Ash Creek, which flows into the Willamette at the lower end of the principal business street. Some say it is the oldest town in the county, others claim that Dallas was started a few weeks earlier.

In the early days, before the era of railroads, Independence was the distributing point for a large section of country, the river then being the main artery of trade. The Willamette as a rule is navigable for seven or eight months of the year and is often at low water stages not navigable above here. That fact gave Independence a big advantage over towns farther up the river.

For many years the town had a slow but steady growth, then came a slump, through the upbuilding of rival towns, and for some 20 years there was hardly a building erected in the place, and many of those already erected stood vacant.

A few years ago the city began to fill up and every building in town was soon occupied, then new structures were erected and old ones remodeled. Since then the demand for both store buildings and dwellings has been beyond the supply. Today there is not a desirable business room or a modern dwelling for rent within the city limits.

To those acquainted with conditions here the very name Independence signifies prosperity. The word makes you think of hops, prunes and the dairy cow. The place is in the very center of the finest and largest hop district in the United States, some say in the world. But I always hesitate about making those world-wide statements, not having traveled over some portions of the universe.

Hop Fields Are Best.
It is true, however that hereabouts are the largest hop fields in this country, and the Polk County output to a great extent controls the market of the country, with Independence in the very center of the district. It is only fair to say, however, that a portion of the Independence district attributed in such statement to Polk County really belongs to Marion County. But that district is just across the Willamette, a couple of hundred yards from the heart of Independence, and to all intents and purposes it is a part of the Independence territory.

To give an idea of the magnitude of this industry it can be shown that during the hopping season of an average year there are congregated in an area or circle 10 miles in diameter, with Independence as the center, fully 12,000 pickers and their attendants. Practically every dollar's worth of supplies these 12,000 strangers buy is from the Independence stores. During those periods, lasting some 30 to 40 days, the population of the city is multiplied, practically, by four or five.

The story of the prune industry is almost as great as of the hopyards, for this is in the heart of as good a prune district as there is in the state. As to other fruits, apples, peaches, pears, plums, and all sorts of berries, Independence has led the procession, or anyhow has stood well up at the head, ever since it was found that Oregon stood pre-eminent as a fruit-growing section. To go in to all of the resources of the Independence district would require several pages of The Oregonian, and then the article would tell not more than half of what might be told.

Creamery.
The Independence Creamery, the greatest concern of its kind on the Pacific coast, it is well worth a trip of several hundred miles to interview K. C. Eldridge, the proprietor and listen to his story of the business. Here is a concern that draws its cream from distances as great as 400 miles, from Northern California on the south, British Columbia on the north and Idaho on the east. Right

now the concern is paying out nearly \$30,000 a month for cream; often it pays \$50,000 a month. Its three products, aside from the by-product of buttermilk, are butter, ice cream and ice. Its butter is the celebrated Gold Medal brand, which is known all over the West. The butter output last year was well up towards 1,500,000 pounds. The cream received amounted to nearly 3,500,000 pounds, for which was paid from 26 to 39 cents a pound. Since starting this business in a small way 13 years ago, Mr. Eldridge has advanced nearly \$50,000 to his customers to buy dairy cows, and has never lost a cent by such transactions. He was the pioneer in Oregon in this. A few bankers have followed his lead, none of them have lost a cent; all have made it pay in interest and doubly pay as an advertisement. Just why more bankers do not pursue the same course it is hard to tell. It is sure that if 50 of our banks would ship in good dairy cows and good hogs to sell in their communities even at a fair profit and not at cost, as Mr. Eldridge and the few bankers have done, even but taking a profit they would do more good than all of the literature we can send out.

Independence has two banks. The Independence National has capital, surplus and profits of \$73,000 and deposits of \$300,000. H. Hirschberg is president; R. R. DeArmond, cashier. The Farmers' State Bank has capital, surplus and profits of \$39,000 and deposits of \$142,000. J. J. Fenelon is president; J. B. Parker, cashier. The latter institution is less than two years old.

Water Is Best In World
Uncle Jim Cooper says Independence has the best water supply in the world. To prove it he says there has not been a case of typhoid in the town since the system was put in, which was several years ago. "How about your sewer system?" I asked. "Our sewer system is even better than our water system," was Uncle Jim's reply. And there you are! Independence is a pretty little city. The population is around 2,000. The streets are well paved, the buildings are in good condition and of commanding appearance.

Independence has two newspapers, the Independence Enterprise and the Independence Monitor. The former has been continuously published here for over 30 years. W. J. Clark is the owner and editor. The Monitor is about 18 months old. G. A. Hurley is the editor and proprietor.

Tooze vs. Butz.
Before a jury in Justice Holman's Court, Wednesday, Walter L. Tooze, Jr., plaintiff, secured a verdict against H. S. Butz, defendant. This case created considerable interest, and much importance was attached to it owing to the fact that it involved a construction of the rules of the State Land Board in the loaning of school funds.

Mr. Tooze represents the State Land Board in Polk County. The rules provide that the attorney for the Board shall not take application for loans upon contingent fees. Mr. Butz applied to Mr. Tooze for a loan, but owing to the fact that the State Board did not complete the loan. Mr. Tooze demanded his application fee of 1 per cent, which Mr. Butz declined to pay. Mr. Butz claimed that the agent of the Board had taken the application upon a contingent fee, and that in case the application was not approved in the full amount, Mr. Tooze was to receive nothing. Mr. Tooze claimed that he did not take the same upon a contingent fee, and that to do so would have been a violation of the rules. He claimed that he had always followed closely the rules of the Board, and had never taken any application upon a contingent fee. The matter was thoroughly threshed out in the case, and several persons who have secured State Loans were called and testified that they had been informed positively that the fee was not contingent upon the loan being accepted and approved.

The jury found in favor of Mr. Tooze. Glen O. Holman appeared as attorney for the Plaintiff.

It Looks Like Spring.
Buttercups are in bloom in many of the yards in Dallas and in the woods near the wild flowers are also in bloom. Violets, pansies and roses are in bloom in many yards and in some yards, poppies are about ready to blossom. Talk about God's country, it is right here in Polk County, Oregon.

Parcel Post Limit May Be 100 Pounds
Postmaster General Barleson admitted Wednesday that he was seriously considering increasing the parcel post limit to 100 pounds.

"During the fiscal year beginning July 1 next," he said, "I think we will transport approximately 600,000,000 pounds at about 10 cents per pound on the average. I just want to say here that the thought of 100 pound limit does not terrify me."

A FINE SHOWING FOR 1913 CROP

THE J. K. ARMSBY COMPANY IS DOING A BIG BUSINESS AT DALLAS

The 1913 Business of the Company
is More Than Double That of 1912.

The J. K. Armsby Company's prune packing plant in Dallas has shown a great increase in business in this the second year, and a large amount of money has thus been brought into our city.

By the courtesy of the manager we were enabled to get estimates on this season's business which looks good to all concerned in the prosperity of our city.

The 1912 crop that was handled by this company was 1,600,000 pounds, or 40 twenty ton cars. The estimated crop of 1913 is about 3,400,000 pounds or about 85 cars, showing an increase of a little more than 100 per cent in the amount of prunes cared for by the plant here in Dallas.

About two thirds of the output of this plant has been exported, the remainder finding market in the United States.

The pay roll brings to Dallas about \$12,500 paid out in salaries and labor, and this money has helped to build up our city.

These prunes were not all grown in

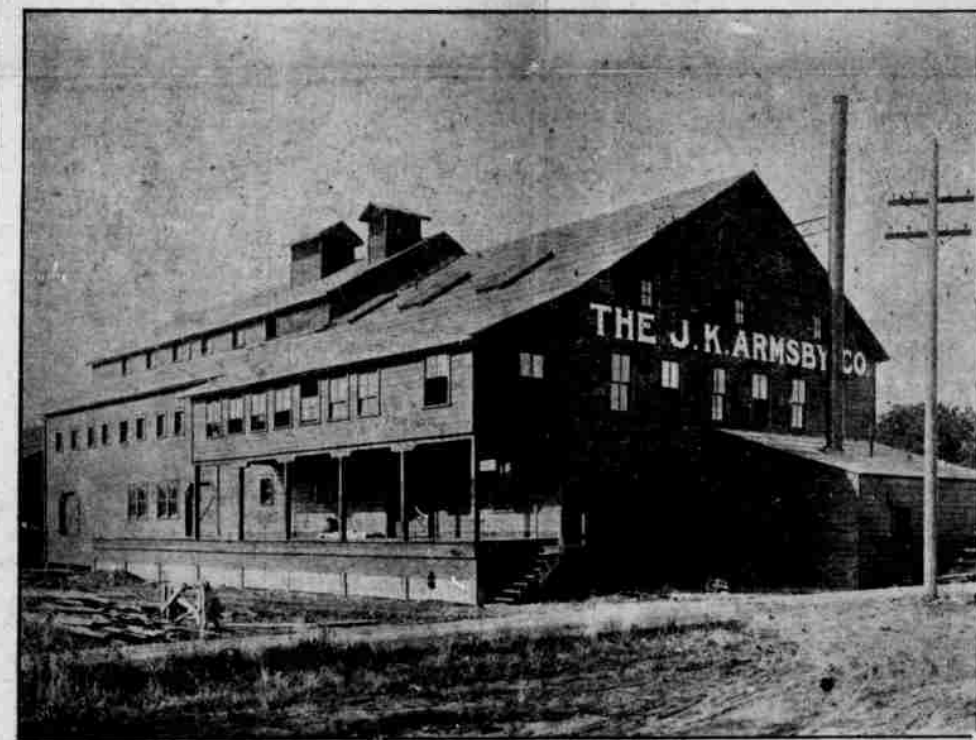
Polk County, but the bulk of them were, and for these prunes this company has paid to the fruit growers (net) about \$170,000. Is it not very proper, and have we not the right to be known as the Prune City of the Coast.

The manager has shown that he is everything that was said of him by the Observer when the plant was opened for business. The following is what the Observer said:

A. C. Peterson, resident manager of the plant is a man who thoroughly understands his business. He has been connected with the work for a number of years and is familiar with all branches of the prune industry. He has spent much of his time during the past few weeks in visiting the different growers in the Willamette Valley and has bought a large number of dried prunes which will be packed at the Dallas plant. He is an affable gentleman, accommodating and ready to extend the visitor every



A. C. Peterson, Dallas Manager
for J. K. Armsby Co.



Aged Money Orders Are Found.

While looking through some old papers belonging to his father-in-law, Isaac Levens, Frank Rowell, found two money orders for \$241.71 each, dated October 4, 1859, and issued to L. D. Tracey by the Wells Fargo Express Company, and which had never been cashed. The orders had been drawn at Portland and were payable at New Orleans.

Mr. Levens, who died about 20 years ago, was one of the founders of Dallas. He crossed the plains in 1840, and took a donation claim of 640 acres, on which the town of Dallas was afterwards located. None of the old settlers now living remember Tracey, but it is supposed he was at one time a business associate of Mr. Levens. Mr. Rowell will take the matter of these old money orders up with the Wells-Fargo Company, and ascertain if they can be redeemed.—Telegram.

Story of a Polk County Porker.

The following letter from Saver was published in Corvallis Gazette-Times:

Because I was for twenty-five years a resident of Benton County, and am personally acquainted with "Bob" Johnson, Telt Barnett, Jesse Spencer, Julian McFadden and Rev. J. R. N. Bell, I hesitate to write you of a circumstance that befell my nearest neighbor here in Polk County, Frank Kerslake; or more properly speaking, that befell his white hog, one night of December last. Mr. Kerslake had a white O. I. C. hog, somewhat long in the limbs and narrow in the middle, which build is exactly the opposite of the physical dimensions of Neighbor K. The said hog having

been shut in a pen needed refreshments, so one evening Mr. Kerslake shoveled some feed from the fuel bin into a pail and poured it into the hog's trough, where it was unceremoniously gulped down by his unsteady hogship. The next morning, a little fearful lest "John" had expired from joy, friend Kerslake went immediately to the pen of "John" and there, sure enough, were the "remains" of the hog, looking much like he had "picked up" rapidly.

Neighbor K. procured a butcher knife, and rolling the corpse over, he gave a vicious slash down what was originally the under-side of "John" and the knife blade penetrating a little deeper than was intended, much of the stomach interior was revealed and noticing a strange object there exposed, Mr. K. stooped down to see what it could be; and behold—he could hear it tick very plainly. To be plain, Mr. Kerslake's gold watch had fallen out of his pocket into the feed he had given his hog, and the said animal had swallowed it, "tick" and all; and during the night had concluded that enough of anything is more than one needs, and for that or some other reason had died. When the old watch was recovered, it was running "on time." Having been personally acquainted with Mr. Kerslake, the hog and the watch, I present the circumstance. Very truly,
GROVE A. PETERSON.

As the above letter appeared in the Corvallis Gazette-Times over a week ago and this watch story happened in the middle of December, Portland papers have lately published it for a recent occurrence.

courtesy.
To this we can add that he has proved a booster for Dallas as well as knowing how to care for the interests of his company.

The J. K. Armsby Company was established in Chicago in 1856, by J. K. Armsby, father of the present president of the corporation. The nature of the business first engaged in was that of importing foreign prunes, figs, raisins, and nuts, for distribution throughout the middle west.

In 1878 Mr. Armsby made his initial trip to the Pacific Coast, and was so impressed by its wonderful possibilities in all lines that an office was established in San Francisco, for the purpose of distributing Pacific Coast products, such as dried fruits, nuts, raisins, canned fruits, and salmon.

Since that time the phenomenal development of the industries above referred to and the enormous volume of business covering the production of these industries, aggregating millions of dollars yearly, transacted by the company, indicates the soundness of Mr. Armsby's judgment 36 years ago.

This company is the largest handler of Pacific Coast products in the world, distributing goods to all parts of the world. The home office of the company is in San Francisco, but it has offices in Chicago, New York, Boston, and Los Angeles, all under the management of men who are officers or who have been for years connected with the company. It has as well, hundreds of brokers, being represented by the best talent in this country and Europe. It operates twelve large dried fruit packing plants in California, and one in Vancouver, Washington, in addition to the big plant in Dallas, and is interested in some of the largest canning plants on the coast aside from being large distributors of canned salmon and walnuts.

Grant, associate matron; Estella Barnes, secretary; Nellie Farrington, treasurer; Emma Jost, conductress; Emma Miller, associate conductress; Winnie Chapman, Adah; Ida Maneston, Ruth; Leta Staats, Estha; Effa Brown, Martha; Bertha Hayter, elector; Nannie Himes, warder; Harry Gaynor, sentinel.

A musical program was given during the evening by different members of the order and after the ceremonies the high school orchestra played. At a late hour refreshments were served.

WATSON LOSES PEOPLE WIN

OPINION IS FAR REACHING

State Department Heads Must Not Hire Permanent Legal Aid Unless Provided by Legislative Enactment.

Assigning four valid reasons for so holding, the Supreme Court Tuesday, Justice Burnett writing the opinion, decided that Corporation Commissioner Watson could not legally employ special counsel and that State Treasurer Kay was justified in declining to honor the warrants of Claud McCulloch, State Senator, who had acted in a legal capacity for the Commission.

The court held that the Attorney General and the District Attorneys shall be the legal advisers of the state officials and commissions, that as State Senator Mr. McCulloch is holding one lucrative state office and cannot hold two, that he cannot be appointed to a state office created by an act of the Legislature of which he was a member, and that the functions of the corporation department pertain to the administrative department of the government, in which a member of the legislative department is forbidden to participate.

The opinion will put an end to the employment of permanent special counsel for state officials or departments unless provided for by legislative enactment, as in the case of the State Railroad Commission. Mr. Watson contended that Senator McCulloch had been designated an assistant commissioner, but the evidence showed that the appointee actually performed legal work for the commission. The court dismissed a writ of mandamus to compel the State Treasurer to honor Senator McCulloch's warrants. He was employed at a salary of \$125 a month by the corporation department and a salary of \$125 a month by the State Industrial Accident Commission, but in view of the decision it is believed that no effort will be made by him to obtain compensation for work for the latter commission.

Senator McCulloch representing Baker County, was Governor West's chief lieutenant on the floor of the Senate at the last session of the Legislature, and it has been alleged his appointments by the commissions were in the nature of payment for political services, Mr. Watson having been promoted by the Governor from his private secretary to Corporation Commissioner, and the Governor having appointed the members of the Industrial Accident Commission. The opinion says in part:

"There is a further reason for not upholding the claimant in the situation involved. It is said in section 1, article 3, of the state constitution, that the powers of the government shall be divided into three separate departments, the legislative, executive including the administrative, and the judicial; and no person charged with official duties in one of these departments shall exercise any of the functions of the other, except as in this constitution expressly provided. In any view of the case the functions of the Corporation Commissioner and his assistants, including stenographers and clerks, pertain to the administrative department of the government, in which a member of the legislative department is forbidden to participate.

"The claimant was not authorized to accept the appointment or perform the duties mentioned in the writ. He could not, therefore, properly or lawfully claim the compensation annexed to that appointment. The warrant of the Secretary of State issued in payment thereof is not binding upon the State Treasurer, who, under the questions appearing in the record, was justified in refusing to pay the same."

Legal blanks for sale at this office.

LOGANBERRY ACREAGE

THE NEXT TWO YEARS WILL SHOW A GREAT INCREASE IN THIS POPULAR FRUIT.

What to do to Stimulate Prices is a Question to the Growers.

The great number of acres that has been planted to loganberries the past year and the future acreage to be planted this year, is now causing anxiety and comment among those who have been led to think that a fortune awaited them if they would only buy a few acres and plant it to loganberries. While this berry is well known on the coast it is practically unknown east of the Rockies, and the extensive planting is now far ahead of the outlet. In speaking of this problem to the A. Rupert Company of Portland, well known brokerage firm, a member said:

"It is our opinion that some action will have to be taken by the loganberry growers of Oregon to stimulate the demand for these berries to keep pace with the supply coming forward, and we are sending this letter out to the different fruitgrowers' associations in order to stimulate some interest, and if possible, get them to take some action toward establishing a fund to advertise loganberries."

"We estimated the crop of 1913 at 1600 tons; about 700 tons of which were dried and all sold except a few thousand pounds; probably about the same amount was canned and this was sold, excepting about one and a half carloads, which undoubtedly will be distributed within the next 30 days."

"The demand for these berries throughout the eastern states is growing wherever they are placed, but we do not believe that it will grow fast enough to take care of the increased production."

"We estimate that in 1914 the crop will probably be 3500 tons, and this amount may also go into consumption without hurting the price particularly or at least without bringing the price below the cost of production."

"We estimate that in 1915 with the average at present planted, that the crop will be 7000 to 8000 tons, and we do not believe that the demand will increase fast enough to take care of this increased tonnage unless the demand is stimulated by advertising in some form or another."

"We do not want to take the position of advising the growers of loganberries as to what form of advertising they should use to stimulate the demand, but we do believe that they should see the situation as it is, and that the loganberry will need to be known far more widely than it is now in order to use up this large production coming forward, and that this work will have to be done quickly."

"If it is not we are quite satisfied that the growers will suffer from not being able to sell their production, and it is our firm opinion that if the growers would donate 5 per cent or even any percentage of their receipts from loganberries that it would bring them a very large profit back on the investment, perhaps 1c to 2c a pound on the price."

Road Is Ruined by Hop Company, is Charge of Farmers.

That the Clemmens-Horst Company the largest hop raisers in Polk County, has ruined a large stretch of good road leading from McNary to the company's yards, was the statement made here Tuesday. Recently the company had several hundred yards of fertilizer shipped from McNary and hauled it over four miles of main road and about two miles of side road to the ranch. Four horses were attached to wagons, and the rather narrow tires of the wagons cut through the gravel surface of the roadway into the earth beneath for a distance of a foot. The road is totally ruined, it was asserted today, and it will cost thousands of dollars to repair it.

Many of the residents favor some action toward making the hop company make the necessary repairs. It was asserted today that there would not be road funds enough available in that section of Polk County to make the repairs this year.—Salem Journal.

Mr. W. A. Anderson formerly of Westport, Oregon, is a late arrival in Dallas and has opened an office here and will represent The Columbia Life & Trust Company of Portland.