

Polk County and Its Resources.

(Continued from page 14)

their innumerable vicissitudes, satisfied over the county fair held in Dallas last year and conceded, if you will, the record established at the State fair, when the record first honors in the general exhibits as well as in the iron exhibit, and the sue for "Manufacturers' and Land Owners' in Portland, when seen from all counties of the State to the great prize money of \$1000.00, Polk county citizen of their home county is considered a considerable recognition, not exactly boastful, but in "tooting their own horn" a little bit. They think they have earned the privilege, and aim their reward.

stock that brought home to the third of the prize money into the state of Oregon as a competitor at San Francisco livestock imported, or for that special purpose, fair example of the horses, goats and sheep that are over this section; merely that of blooded livestock exists here in such large at today Polk county just to being the home of the blooded livestock in the State fair and at the products show in Portland out of the ordinary, and of equal size, quality and to be found on almost any farming, stockraising and Polk county are not carried show purposes, but almost any farm is ready for competition with other and horticultural section and climate are here, good crops; the grazing about equal; the farmers raiseers take an interest in ordinary, in their work, results. They work the best, and work upon the basis. "Failure" is a appearing in the dictionary farmer and stockraiser.

approximately 500,000 acres within its boundaries, and 38 areas in cultivation, and 18 acres in cultivation, and 15,000, it is the greatest need there is more people. There are in the forest reserves in public lands, making 1,971 acres not deeded or

Area Is Not Used.

approximately 450,000 acres are improved, with 180,000 acres unimproved, which there are 2880 unimproved cities and towns. It can be seen that there is a great need of tillable land now, showing the great need of development. Further, the majority of the farms are of small tracts. The average Polk county is approximately 2 acres, there being 1557 farms, with 98,564 acres. An 80-acre farm in Polk is sufficient for all purposes of a farmer. There are several acres of the Oregon & Grant lands in this county. This possession almost every known in the Willamette valley and its topography is level, and mountainous. The lands adjacent to the Willamette, Yamhill, Big Luckiamute and their re-

Books Loaned

Public Library Operated by People.

Shows Increased Attendance, Also Number of Books and Cards Issued.

that the public library, for the personal individual, is a growing one among Dallas people. It is becoming more widely used as an educational center by persons of all ages and steadily increasing. The following is the comparison between the records, 1914, and that for 1915:

1914—Juvenile books loaned, 1002; 1915—Juvenile books loaned, 1096; Attendance, 2871; new cards issued, 56.

1914—Adult books loaned, 1002; 1915—Adult books loaned, 1096; Attendance, 2871; new cards issued, 56.

1914—Attendance, 2871; 1915—Attendance, 3597; new cards issued, 72; new cards issued, 72; increase in books loaned, 74; increase in attendance, 726; increase in borrowers' cards issued, 56.

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spective tributaries are of rich, dark loam, exceedingly productive and adapted to a large variety of uses.

East of Dallas the valley land is a deep, rich alluvial soil. For ages vegetable mold has been deposited here. It is entirely free from gravel, stone or hardpan, and has in some places been farmed for 50 years without fertilization and still makes good crops. The hill lands are of reddish clay loam and suitable for fruit culture, general farming and dairying.

Up to a few years ago this land was not considered of much value, but then a venture was made in fruit, and the adaptability of the soil for fruit-growing was instantly apparent. Consequently, today hundreds of acres of land, heretofore considered of but little value, are growing great fruit orchards—prunes, apples and pears—and are valued at \$400 to \$600 per acre.

The mountainous regions in the western portion of the county are either covered with timber, or else have been burned over or logged off. These lands have not been developed to any great extent, although used in many instances as range for stock. However, a determined effort is being made by the various commercial bodies of the county to create interest in the clearing and improving of the logged-off lands. These lands can be purchased at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$10 per acre, and the expense of clearing and putting in cultivation is variously estimated from \$30 to \$100 an acre.

Timber Is Important Asset.

When cleared and ready for cultivation, this soil should produce large crops. Soil that will raise the giant trees that have grown there should raise almost any crop grown in this climate to an advantage.

And speaking of the timber in Polk county, it is safe to say, without successful contradiction, that there is no place in the world that has a body of standing timber which will exceed that which grows on the mountains of the Coast range. Due to the large amount of standing timber of superior quality in this county, Polk is much of a lumber center.

Large mills at Black Rock, Falls City and Dallas have been constructed to care for the lumber output. It is said that soon a large mill will be constructed at Independence. These mills provide the various cities of the county with a highly beneficial payroll.

In the fruit line Polk county is no doubt most noted for its prunes, and the county seat has justly been named "The Prune Center of Oregon." But though noted far and wide for its prunes, this is not the only fruit which grows here to advantage and in quality not surpassed anywhere.

Apples are of delicious flavor and cherries raised in the eastern portion of the county are deserving of mention; and the peaches and Bartlett pears gathered here will compete in size, quality and flavor with any raised anywhere in the state.

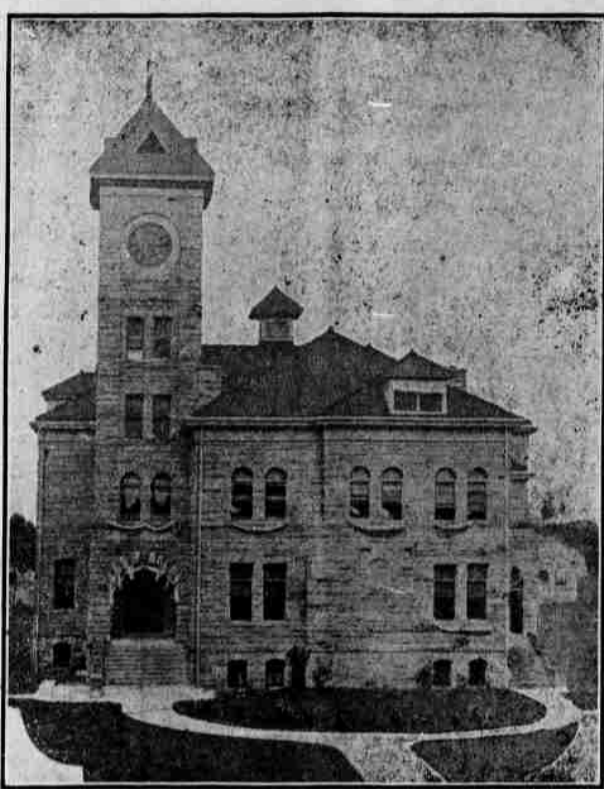
Of the smaller fruits, strawberries and loganberries take precedence over all others. Polk county not only grows the loganberry, but at Falls City Cliff Pugh is taking care of the marketing of a delicious beverage derived from the loganberry and known far and wide as "Pugh's Loganberry Juice," a refreshment that promises soon to compete on equal terms for popular approval with California's grape juice.

No one who knows can think of Polk county without at the same time thinking of hops. Independence justly lays claim to being the hop center of Oregon. "Hops" and "Independence" go hand in hand; they mean the same thing; they are almost convertible terms; and up until December 31 of this year Independence will retain its reputation earned dur-

assorted facts which one may or may not find occasion to use, but in so training the mental faculties that one becomes skilled in the ability to readily discover and make use of such materials as the needs of the moment require. A library should be a distributing center for these materials. That the Dallas library is such a center may be seen by looking over the catalogs and bookshelves and observing the efficient work of the librarian in directing the use of the same. The children of the community are placing themselves in the line of true education by learning the methods of handling reference books and making them of practical use. From the close of the high school session until the afternoon closing hour of the library, Miss Muscott is overwhelmed with the work of checking out books, receiving those returned and directing students in the use of the reference library. An observer in the reading room at this period of the day, noting the general atmosphere and the concentrated interest of the children in their research work, cannot but feel a deepening interest in this valuable feature of the educational system of the town. The Dallas library has attracted much favorable attention elsewhere and has been accorded the highest commendation by visitors from other cities.

Orpheum May Open By Exmas.

That the finishing touches can be put on in the new Orpheum the-



POLK COUNTY COURT HOUSE

ing the past year of being the "antigrape juice" center of this section of Oregon. During hop-picking time, if one should for the first time wander into Independence on a Saturday evening, he would believe that he was in a city of 10,000 inhabitants putting on a carnival.

Season Attracts Thousands.

Thousands of people from all over the state go to the big Independence hopyards each year during the harvesting period. Next to the Independence district the Ballston neighborhood comes forth with claims of being a hop center. The bottom land along the Yamhill river is adapted to hop raising, as well as to general farming, and many pounds of hops are produced each year in that section.

Hops are also raised extensively in the Airlie, Falls City and Dallas districts. However, the Airlie, Ballston and Perrydale sections of Polk county are chiefly noted for their grain crops.

That dairying and stockraising are important factors in the upbuilding of Polk county cannot be denied. The dairy herds of Lynn of Perrydale, Hawley of McCoy, and Domes of McCoy, are among the finest in the state. Probably no man is better known in the state as a breeder of blooded livestock than Thomas Brunk of Eola, formerly state representative from this county, and the owner of some of the best blooded swine in the state. Sheep and wool have their place when the resources of Polk county are being considered, and Polk county sheep have carried off the coveted blue ribbons on many occasions.

Riddell & Son of Monmouth are known as breeders of a choice stock of sheep. And not to be outdone by anything in the stock line that other sections have attempted, it remains for Albert Teal of Falls City to raise a large stock of mile goats. Poultry plays its part in the upbuilding of the county, and in making the Polk county farmer independent. Honey is also produced here in large quantities, bee-keeping being run on a scientific basis.

Floyd E. Smith, secretary Oregon State Beekeepers' association has apiaries scattered all over the county

before the holidays are past is the hope of the builder, David Riley. The remaining half of the concrete floor has been laid and the walls have been plastered. There is still a great deal of work left to do, but by a little extra effort it will be possible to open the new show place soon.

Supplying Local Demand Only.

The Dallas creamery is making only a sufficient amount of butter at the present time to supply the local demand, the output being practically the same as at this time last year. While during the summer season cream is more plentiful than now, Mr. Hamilton, the creameryman, does not look for any increase over last summer's supply for some time to come, at least. A considerable number of owners of cows have recently sold their stock, he says, preferring to bend their energies in another direction.

Patent Granted on Machine.

Among the letters patent granted to Oregon inventors during the month of November was that to Matthias Schoren of Dallas whose machine for cutting weeds had no duplicate or counterpart in the patent office.

Card Games Must Stop.

Card games in confectionery stores at Falls City are to stop by order of the city council of that city. There is no ordinance governing the matter, but at the regular meeting of the

and his product has taken the sweepstakes for two years at the State fair.

However, exclusive of the hops, Polk county first drew world-wide attention by reason of the Angora goats raised here and the mohair produced. The annual clip in Polk county amounts to approximately 1,500,000 pounds, valued at more than \$425,000. Goats are shipped from here to all parts of the country and many exported for the purpose of building up bands in other sections. For several years Polk county has had the distinction of having as president of the National Mohair association a resident of Dallas, U. S. Grant.

Game Fish Are Abundant.

Polk county also offers much as a sportsman's paradise. In the sparkling streams that wind through the mountain passes the speckled beauties abound in plenty, offering much to the man with rod and line. The forest is the home of the deer, the bear and other wild animals native of this section, and the hunter need go no farther than a few miles west of Falls City to find plenty of game. In the grain fields the Chinese pheasant is to be found in numbers.

Mountains covered with standing timber, magnificent barren peaks, little valleys scattered along the way; the dancing streams, the wildness of the country, as yet untouched by human progress except as invaded by the public highway, some of which is exceptionally scenic, go to make up a picture that must appeal.

For roads and streets the county and the cities in the county present as good a system as can be found anywhere in the state outside of Multnomah county. The roads of Polk county are among the best in the state. Practically every main thoroughfare has been macadamized.

During the summer all the principal highways are oiled. Road improvement has been carried on to such an extent that today automobiles may easily travel from Falls City, through Dallas, to Salem; from Dallas to Monmouth and Independence, and from Independence to Salem any time in the year. And this improvement has been made gradually and without a heavy tax or bond issue.

From an educational standpoint, Polk county compares favorably with

the other parts of the state. First in prominence in an educational line is the Oregon State Normal school at Monmouth. With its added equipment and other facilities for excellent work, it is drawing a large attendance of students from all parts of the nation. In Dallas, Independence, Monmouth and Falls City excellent high schools are maintained, and also graded schools.

The county school system is probably as good as that of any county in the state. Most of the country schools are standardized. The buildings are all up to date. For model one-room schoolhouses, Polk county carried off first honors in the United States.

H. C. Seymour, county school superintendent, during his administration, has made every effort to bring the educational advantages up to the top notch, and the success won by the schools in the industrial exhibits at the county and state fairs is the result of persistent endeavor upon the part of his office.

Taxes are lower than in most counties of the state, and the county is free from bonded indebtedness. At the beginning of the fiscal year for 1916, it will face a total outstanding warrant indebtedness of about \$30,000. This indebtedness is due to the extensive road improvement carried on, and to the failure of the county to secure taxes from the Southern Pacific Railroad company on the Oregon & California land grant lands.

The taxes on these lands for the past two years and remaining unpaid amount to approximately \$35,000, enough to wipe out the indebtedness. The heaviest taxpayer in the county is the railroad company, which, according to statistics at hand, paid \$33,498.10 for the year 1915. Next to the railroad company are the big timber companies.

Though in some instances the county is gerrymandered to include timbered land in city school districts remote from the timber taxed for its support, still this principle has not been followed to any unjust or unreasonable extent here.

Though the general county tax the next year will be practically no higher, the cities, particularly Dallas and Independence, face a higher tax next year than has ever been levied before.

Instead of 7 mills as levied last year, Independence will this year levy a tax of 20 mills. For the last year Independence has had the benefit of three saloon licenses, each bringing into the city \$3000. Instead of a 12-mill levy as existed last year, Dallas will levy 18 mills. Falls City, which made the highest levy of any city in the state last year of its class, amounting to 20 mills, next year will attempt to worry through on a levy of 2 mills less, or total of 18 mills.

The high levies in these cities are due to extensive improvements carried on, and the necessity of paying outstanding indebtedness.

Having been cut off from the revenue derived from saloon licenses, expenses heretofore met by this money will now have to be raised by direct taxation. Little objection to these levies has been made by taxpayers, except in Independence, where legal proceedings are threatened. Though the tax levies are high, if the assessed valuation of the property located in these different cities were as high as that in other places, the levy would be cut considerably.

Values Make Levy Light.

The assessed valuation in Falls City is but \$265,000, while one sawmill plant located there is worth that amount. The valuation in Dallas amounts to about \$1,200,000. In Independence it amounts to approximately \$500,000. Consequently, though the levies appear high, still the taxpayer does not feel the burden of taxation excessively. It is doubtful if, taken throughout, the assessed val-

uation amounts to 30 per cent of the actual value of these cities.

From a standpoint of health, Polk county ranks high. All of the cities have pure mountain water, Dallas securing its water in the mountains 12 miles west of the city. In public buildings, churches, business buildings and residences, this county ranks with the best in agricultural and horticultural centers.

Independence, for a city of its size, can probably lay claim to being the location for more attractive residences than any city in the state, and Dallas is not far behind in its pretensions. Country homes are equal, on an average, to the best found anywhere. Electricity is furnished in all cities, and in many cases, lines have reached to the farm; and in many more cases, private electrical plants have been installed upon the farms.

Transportation Meets Needs.

In public buildings, the principal ones are the courthouse at Dallas, constructed of stone quarried a few miles from Dallas; the Oregon National Guard Armory in Dallas, constructed by the joint aid of the city, county and state; the state buildings at Monmouth, built for the accommodation of the Oregon State Normal school and the public libraries in Dallas and Independence.

The Valley & Siletz Railroad company has constructed a line from the headwaters of the Big Luckiamute river to the junction with the Southern Pacific line near Airlie, and is at present engaged upon an extension of the line to Independence. This railroad taps a new country, and opens up the great timber belt at the headwaters of the Luckiamute. It is said that this line will be extended to Newport in time. The Falls City Lumber company has constructed a line known as the Teal Creek railroad, from Falls City into the Siletz basin, and eventually this line will join with the Valley & Siletz. From Broadmead to Willamina, through Ballston and Sheridan, the Southern Pacific operates a branch line. With these various railroads, Polk county is well served with shipping facilities.

In conclusion, it might be repeated what was said by Lew A. Cates, editor of the Polk County Observer, and compiler of the Polk county booklet used at the Panama-Pacific exposition, in his foreward to this compilation. Mr. Cates writes:

"We firmly believe that no other place in the United States offers as many inducements to the home builder as the county of Polk, possessing, as it does, a combination of climate and soil that produces wonderful results."

"We have seen three crops from the same land in a single season—two of wheat and grain, followed by corn that matured sufficiently for excellent feed. We have seen measured and weighed 18.8 tons of best quality of forage crops for the dairy cow per acre. We have seen strawberries literally cover the ground with their luscious fruit, which yielded the owner at the rate of \$1500 per acre. We have seen a cherry tree produce \$50 worth of fruit in one season, and pears, apples, prunes and other varieties of tree, vine and cane fruits, yielding proportionately well."

"We have seen the dairy herd feeding on the green meadows practically every day of the year. We have seen the advantages of poultry-raising, the profits from which are almost beyond belief. All of this, and more, on lands that range in price from \$50 to \$150 per acre. And the best part of the story of these record producers is that they all believe they can do still better."

The Semi-Weekly Observer costs no more than a weekly paper.

Oscar Hayter, has been duly appointed by the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Polk, administrator of the estate of Thaddeus Clark Shaffer, deceased, and has qualified.

All persons having claims against the said estate are hereby required to present them, duly verified, with the proper vouchers, within six months from the date of this notice, to the said administrator at his law office in the Dallas City Bank Building, in said County of Polk.

Dated and first published, November 23, 1915.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed in the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Polk, her Final Account as Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of John Ferguson, Deceased, and that said Court has fixed Monday, January 3, 1916, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. of said day as the time and the County Court Room in the County Court House, in Dallas, in Polk County, Oregon, as the place for hearing said Final Account and all objections thereto.

Dated at Dallas, Oregon, November 29, 1915. MARY FERGUSON, Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of John Ferguson, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Notice is hereby given that the un-

council held last week the marshal was instructed to notify the proprietors of the stores to prevent further playing. Steps were also taken to prevail on the district attorney to stop the use of punch boards. The presence of minors in these confectionery stores, engaging in card games and operating the punch board, led to this action on the part of the council.

Parisian Ivory make useful gifts. Large assortment at Manock's Drug store. 81-14

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF SALE.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an execution issued out of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Polk County, on the 27th day of November, 1915, and to me directed upon a judgment which was enrolled and docketed in the office of the clerk of said Court on the 23rd day of November, 1915, in a certain suit then pending in said court wherein May C. Barnes was plaintiff, and G. M. Douglas and Leona M. Douglas, his wife, Kingwood Park Co., a corporation, and J. E. Davis were defendant's, a judgment was rendered in favor of the above named plaintiff, and against the above named defendant's, for Twelve hundred seventy-one and no-100 Dollars (\$1271.00) with interest thereon at the rate of 8 per cent per annum from the 22nd day of November, 1915, and the 22nd

ther sum of One hundred twenty-five and no-100 Dollars (\$125.00), with interest thereon at the rate of 8 per cent per annum from the 22nd day of November, 1915, and the further sum of Twenty-four and no-100 Dollars (\$24.00), costs and disbursements and the costs of and upon this Writ; and whereas it was further ordered and decreed by said Court that the following property should be sold by me to satisfy said execution, I will, on Friday, the 31st day of December, 1915, at the hour of One o'clock p. m. of said day at the front door of the Court House at Dallas, Oregon, in Polk County, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in hand on day of sale, all the right, title and interest and estate which said defendants have and all persons claiming under them have in or to the hereinafter described premises, and every part thereof.

Said property is described as follows:

Lot No. 8, in Block No. 12, Kingwood Park, Polk County, Oregon. Said sale being subject to redemption in the manner provided by law and as provided in said decree.

Dated this 29th day of November, 1915. JOHN W. ORR, Sheriff of Polk County, Oregon.

POGUE & PAGE, Attorneys for Plaintiff. Nov. 29-Dec. 28

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Notice is hereby given that the un-