

## As Seen By an Observant Outsider

The following article by A. H. Harrell appears in The Evening Telegram.

Dallas, Dec. 17.—Dallas should be a great shipping center for hops and prunes. Not that the city now has any shipping facilities nor in bulk do the crops go in the county. But the county should specialize in the production of hops and prunes, thereby creating a strong market on account of quantity and quality. The agricultural doctor has done harm in the county by yelling diversification.

Polk county ranks second among thirty-four counties of the state in the production of hops; fifth in the production of prunes; fifth in cherries; seventh in strawberries; eighth in raspberries; eighth in quinces; tenth in apples; thirteenth in grapes; fourteenth in wheat; sixteenth in barley; seventeenth in rye; eighteenth in potatoes; nineteenth in hay; twentieth in alfalfa; twenty-first in clover. In point of the county ranks twenty-ninth; population per square mile it ranks with 22.5. In population it ranks 21st.

Polk county is the best teacher after Oregon. It is shown that the land near Dallas is peculiarly adapted to the production of hops and prunes, to the production of quantity and quality, both in marketing and at a profit. There are 2,000 acres of land have been given to hop culture, the lower being used, while more than 20,000 acres of land is producing prunes. Nearly one-half as much more producing prune trees which are bearing within two or three years. Prune growers have been making money in recent years and are enthusiastic over the production of prunes on the lands of Polk county, where drainage is excellent and danger of little concern.

Polk county teaches that the areas of country suited to the production of hops and prunes are limited, and by proper care and attention Oregon should control the hop and prune industry, with Polk and counties leading as centers of production and shipment. The output of hops will be more or less on account of climatic conditions, and the land specially adapted to the growth of high class hops should be planted in an effort to produce an industry big enough in Oregon to be controlled by Oregonians as a pass and perhaps other sections developed.

Polk county is rich in traditions of days when simple living was the rule. Here the pioneer land and lived in the open. Here city ways were slowly introduced. Here thrift did not mean the neglect of the soil. Here really offered too much to the man who would live upon the land. Initiative and leadership are the face of the prodigality of the surface of Polk county and ample drainage is provided by streams which flow from

the mountains toward the Willamette. However, in the most fertile sections of the county the land is low and level, and except for the production of hops the land needs ditching or tilling. In sections the gray loam soil predominates and no real success in agriculture can be had until this class of land can be drained. The expense will likely range between \$30 and \$60 per acre, but the land will carry it easily under improved methods of cropping which will naturally follow drainage.

Much of the low land of the Willamette Valley has been soured by the heavy winter rains and the flooding by spring freshets. The natural lime in the soil has been washed out, and a new supply must be given, either by application of agricultural lime or by carrying the water from the land, giving opportunity for air to restore the missing elements in the soil. Little effort has been made in Polk county to drain form lands.

Much of the best land in Polk county was settled under the old donation land claim act, which allowed a man and his wife to acquire title to 640 acres of public land. As values rose the more thrifty farmers began to buy all the land that joined the old homesteads, and some of them succeeded to a marked degree. In Polk county are to be found many beautiful large farms, with excellent buildings, and all modern conveniences. These places are usually given to stock raising — to blooded stock raising. For the county is famous for Jersey cattle, high grade horses and Angora goats.

The large holdings which interfere with development and hence have become a community liability are those accumulations of land which show the earmarks of the land-hog. And the earmarks of the land-hog are tumble-down buildings, poorly cultivated fields, much idle land, no blooded stock, few children and waning community spirit. Poor crops and low prices are no more certain elements in retarding real development than is the land hog.

Thousands of acres of good land in Polk county is covered with oak trees, grown since the settlers drove the Indians from the country. This is the red hill land, famous for the color and quality of fruit produced on it. Clearing this oak land is a heart-breaking job, hence progress is slow. Much of the land has excellent air drainage and is adapted to prune and pear culture. But it is held at high prices, and when the expense of clearing is taken into account men are not anxious to undertake the task of subdividing the land and then waiting for prune or other trees to mature.

On the other hand there is plenty of land now poorly farmed which could be given thorough cultivation, with profit to the farmer and the community were it not for the steadfastness with which large holdings of land are being held by pioneer families.

Citizens of Dallas expect to reach tidewater direct by rail within a few years. They hope for the completion of the Salem, Falls City & Western railroad from the summit of the coast mountains down the Siletz river to the Pacific ocean as soon as conditions settle, following peace in Europe.

The extension of the road westward would open a great belt of timber and create markets for the products of Polk county farms. The road was opened from Salem to Black Rock a few years ago. Dallas now has car shops, employing a number of mechanics all the year through.

Dallas business men are supporting the movement for better roads in a practical way and farmers are willing to pay for construction and repair work. Everybody, it seems, wants the work done and well done, and they have stood firmly behind John Teal, county judge, in his campaign for good roads on the plan of a "dollar in

value for every dollar spent." A great deal of practical work has been done and more has been planned to be carried on from year to year. All the highways leading into Dallas have been gravelled and are kept in condition for service 12 months of the year. In Polk county there are 1300 miles of public roads and the expenditure this year, for construction and repair work, aggregated \$70,000.

Men of Dallas do not lack in the boasting spirit—intentionally, at least. I found an active community spirit with plenty to show for it—paved streets, fire-proof buildings, good sidewalks and all. I also found the best window display of Hawaiian pineapple that I have seen in a journey of 2,000 miles in Oregon. While Polk county produces prunes, pears, apples and all the rest of the "diversity" of crops which have been the pride of the people, not a good window display was to be found in which Oregon products were emphasized. This matter is not mentioned in a spirit of criticism, but because the pineapple display was so much superior to anything offered by the stores in cities of 3,000 people in Oregon during the European war.

Dallas, in common with dozens of other towns in Oregon, seems to recognize the old-time tradition of sending all the money out of the state, while producers at home are struggling to find markets for their produce and business men are joining in the chorus, "Back to the land."

### SOCIETY

**A Fine Program**—Twenty young ladies of the Methodist church, members of the Standard Bearers, spent a very pleasant evening with Miss Dollie Burke Monday. A fine program and interesting mission study were features of the evening, followed by a jolly time, and toothsome refreshments.

**Music Section Meeting**—The first regular fall gathering of the Music section of the Woman's club will be held at the home of Mrs. A. B. Starbuck, on Court street, on the afternoon of December 29. An especially interesting program is being arranged for this occasion.

### PERRYDALE

Mrs. J. P. Caldwell was a Dallas visitor Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn returned from Portland Saturday.

Mrs. R. L. Duignan from Portland is visiting her parents here for a few weeks.

Mr. C. L. Bratcher and daughter were Dallas visitors Saturday.

Mrs. J. T. Friar and daughter, Miss Lucile and Frances Keyt were Dallas visitors Saturday.

Miss Lucile Keyt was a visitor in McMinnville Saturday and Sunday.

There was a surprise party given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Caldwell Tuesday evening. The friends presented to them a silver set. The evening was greatly enjoyed.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, 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 offices in the Dallas City Bank Building, in said County of Polk.

Dated and first published, November 23, 1915.

OSCAR HAYTER,  
Administrator of the estate of Thaddeus Clark Shaffer, deceased.  
Nov. 23-Dec. 21

## SOME CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

The problem of gift giving must be solved. The Great Day is near, and you can choose well from the hundreds of gifts at this store:

- Parisian Ivory Ware
- Manicure Sets
- Ladies' Dresser Sets
- Mirrors and Hand Glasses
- Hudnut's Perfumes and Toilet Waters
- Ladies' Purses and Bags
- Shaving Sets
- Razors and Stropps
- Parker Fountain Pens
- Stationery
- Musical Instruments
- Music Rolls
- Humidor Jars
- Cigars

There are so many appropriate gifts for any member of the family that we cannot begin to tell you of them all. Come in any time and we will be glad to aid you in selecting your gifts.

**FULLER PHARMACY**  
Main Street, Corner Mill



## A few Christmas Suggestions

- Smoking Set
- Fruit Baskets
- Dressing Table
- Pedestal
- Library Table
- Lorain Range
- Library Lamps
- Foot Stools
- Lady's Rocker
- Library Table
- Rugs
- Kitchen Cabinet



Opening evenings until Christmas.

# Crider's Store

## HAS ANTICIPATED YOUR CHRISTMAS-GIFT WANTS

And extends a most cordial invitation to the purchasing public to visit the big Daylight Store, during the pre-holiday season and inspect the stock, which includes gift goods for every member of the family; all new, fresh, crisp and sparkling. . . .

- A beautiful line of net waists just in from the factory, the latest patterns.
- Choice assortment of the best in Christmas handkerchiefs, in pretty boxes.
- New Handbags, an appropriate and lasting gift.
- Fancy Silks by the yard.
- Kimonas for ladies and children in large and varied assortment.
- See our line of daintily-conceived Boudoir caps.
- House Slippers for ladies and children.
- Shirts and Ties for men and boys. All new.

A magnificent array of Toys. The latest things for the little folks. Bring in the children.

# Crider's Store

Successor to Dallas Mercantile Co.

## OPEN EVENINGS

Our store will be open until every night until Christmas beginning Saturday, Dec. 18.

- Ladies' Fancy Silk Waists, - \$1.99
- Ladies' Fancy Silk Petticoats, 1.98, 2.98, 3.98
- Ladies' Fancy Silk Kimonas, - 4.98

### RUGS

- with Axminster 36x72 inches, - 3.75
- with Axminster 27x54 inches, - 1.98
- with Axminster 18x36 inches, - .98
- with Covers, - .98, 1.40, 1.98, 2.98
- with coats for Men and Ladies range in price from - 2.98 to 14.75
- Slippers for men, ladies and children - 49, 98, 1.49

### TOYS AND BOOKS.

- from 10c up. - Dolls from 10c up.
- for Girls, 25c. Books for Boys, 25c
- for Children, 5c to 25c. Modern Fiction, 45c.

BOOKS ARE ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED

**Golden Rule Store** Dallas

District maintenance features independence copies the

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