

Introducing Us 5 Years Hence

Monmouth, Oregon,
May 10, 1925

My Dear Helen: I am still at the Normal school criticizing the dear children, while you are far away on your tour in Europe. When you come back you must teach again for we need you in this wonderful reconstruction period.

Everything is getting along lovely as of old in the school, but I am surprised, yet delighted at the large number of the graduates of '20 who are still teaching. Things used to look as though many of them would make homes of their own but they didn't. The many young men who were in school then are all teaching too, however, the salaries are so high now since the last legislature, that I think there will be some marriages and they can go on teaching, you know.

Teacherages have been built in nearly every district quite near the school house and it will be quite convenient for families to live there.

President Ackerman is still at the helm and is as much beloved as ever. So are the other members of the Faculty still here, which was made possible by the larger apportionment given the school. Not only do we have an enlarged and well equipped Normal school here but there are two more Normals in the state, one in southern Oregon and one in eastern Oregon, and there is talk of another in southeastern Oregon.

You will want to come and see the beautiful city of Monmouth. You know the spring of 1920 the mountain water was brought down to the city. The water was placed in every house and there are bubbling fountains to be seen on every street. There are miles of pavement in every direction. The streets have been widened and the most beautiful multicolored lights gleam on Main street. The population has gained over three thousand and there are 800 students in the Normal.

Territory was surveyed some time ago for the often spoken of railroad and we have several through trains a day. Drilling for oil is in progress and the coal has all been bought up by firms in the East. There were recently some rich merchants here who wanted to turn entire counties into large stock ranches, divide them into sections and plant bunch grass, but there was a strong protest against the project by the farmers of the country, especially Polk county, who said, "No, we are on the right track with our aggressive agricultural schemes and we don't want to change."

Cupid's Knoll and all those hills are literally covered with oil derricks and it bespeaks for Polk and adjoining counties a certain era of prosperity. No doubt but there is gold in these hills as well as in the county to the west. You remember I told you of the rich find there some time ago.

You should see the farms around Monmouth. They fairly glisten with prosperity. The dairies which are many now are all controlled by a Co-operative Association and Portland is not quite so independent toward the dairymen as she used to be.

The farms are in a high state of cultivation and produce is shipped to all parts of the country from here. We are also connected with the Alaskan and Oriental trade, all of which makes Polk and adjoining counties the greatest section in the state. The farms are of such fertility that the yield of grain per acre has been doubled to what it formerly was.

The rising cities that were once the small towns of Eola and Airlie are now suburbs of Salem and every incoming train bears newcomers into this valley. Dallas is real close to us—guess we soon will be one.

In short the former embarrassed and burdened farmers are lifted out of their apathy and are now wearing caps with high feathers.



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The best thing I have to tell you is, Mr. Gentle, our Method teacher is still with us to the delight of all. You remember he used to own a large farm and dairy near town. His plans turned out so well that he became very wealthy and didn't have to work any more, but what do you think he did? He remained one of the members of the Faculty just for the very love of teaching. Wasn't that good.

Oh, you ought to see the mansions on Millionaire Avenue. The members of the Faculty have homes there. It is interesting to read the names of them, all good American names instead of Res gesta and such names as so. The have.

I am not quite sure you will find anything more picturesque in your travels than the scene around your old Alma Mater. The Pacific Highway is all hard surfaced and connects by a good road with the Roosevelt Highway, which you know, follows the coast from Astoria to Lower California. The road is to be extended to the Roosevelt Canal region in Panama. The loop comes back through Old Mexico on the eastern side and one may view the noted oil region at Tampico on the return home. One can go on to the Columbia Highway and return home via the "Skyline" in a plane if he wants to, lighting at

SYNOPSIS OF THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE NEW JERSEY INSURANCE COMPANY

of Newark, in the State of New Jersey, on the thirty-first day of December, 1919, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

CAPITAL	
Amount of capital stock paid up	\$1,000,000.00
INCOME	
Net premiums received during the year	\$1,562,642.32
Interest, dividends and rents received during the year	143,912.83
Income from other sources received during the year	83,065.93
Total income	\$1,790,621.08
DISBURSEMENTS	
Net losses paid during the year including adjustment expenses	\$47,938.31
Dividends paid on capital stock during the year	40,000.00
Commissions and salaries paid during the year	439,438.14
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year	73,045.94
Amount of all other expenditures	206,009.68
Total expenditures	\$1,660,471.06
ASSETS	
Value of real estate owned (market value)	\$215,061.75
Value of stocks and bonds owned (market value)	1,745,435.00
Loans on mortgages and collateral, etc.	280,200.00
Cash in banks and on hand	127,968.78
Premiums in course of collection written since September 30, 1919	305,197.73
Other assets	7,309.89
Interest and rents due and accrued	20,812.90
Total assets	\$2,782,085.15
Less special deposits in any state (if any there be)	0.00
Total assets admitted in Oregon	\$2,782,085.15
LIABILITIES	
Gross claims for losses unpaid	\$380,723.68
Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks	364,516.66
Due for commission and brokerage	4,000.00
All other liabilities	61,000.00
Total liabilities, exclusive of capital stock of \$1,000,000.00	\$1,400,240.34
BUSINESS IN OREGON FOR THE YEAR	
Net premiums received during the year	\$22,371.55
Losses paid during the year	7,501.24
Losses incurred during the year	6,844.24

NEW JERSEY INSURANCE COMPANY
C. P. Stewart, President J. B. Guthrie, Secretary
Statutory resident attorney for service:
O. W. Davidson, c-o Seesley & Company, Portland, Oregon.

the summer resort near the Three Sisters, one of the famous resorts of the people of this valley. Many families go every year in their planes to this resort, Polkadia, and take in this trip over the "Skyline" route before they return home. However, when you see everything

over there come back and we will welcome you for a delightful chapel talk. I must close now for I am going to a banquet this evening given by the Co-operative Fruit Growers' Association under the auspices of the Men's Clubs of the city. The plates are two dollars

each and there are noted speakers to be present. A noted toastmaster from California will be there and will tell us they don't label our fruit with their trade mark any more, for we can take care of our own. I wish you were here to go with me.

I enjoyed your letter immensely and want you to write about all the rest of the sights over there.

Your friend always, Vera —
(Mrs. C. O. Branson Junior '21)