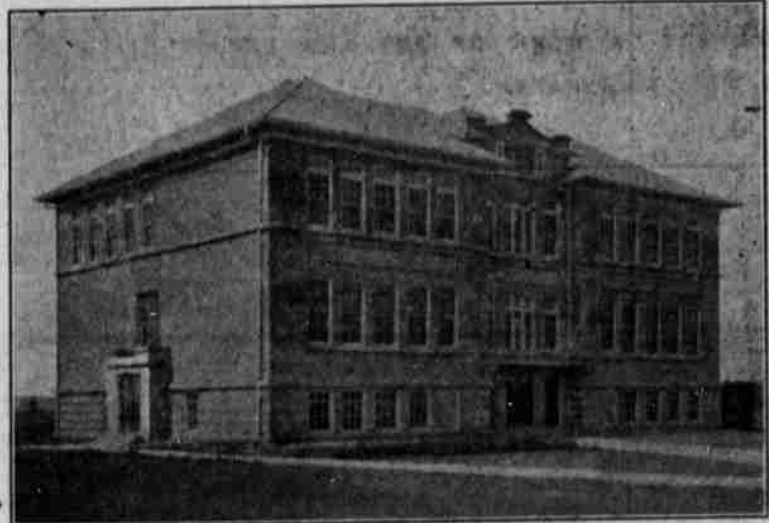


INDEPENDENCE LIVE TOWN IN HEART OF RICH COUNTRY

Fertile Soil, Ideal Climate and Ready Market Combine to Attract Homeseekers to Willamette Valley City.

By Addison Bennett.
(In "Oregonian", July 12, 1912.)
Up the Willamette River about 60 miles from Portland, where the valley spreads out to the west from the river to the Coast Range, taking in what might be called the Luckiamute Valley and reaching to the headwaters of the Clatsop—there on the banks of the "beautiful Willamette" is situated the town of Independence.



Independence High School Building

ette is situated the town of Independence.

To speak of the place as a town is true only in a sense, for while its population is not large enough perhaps to entitle it to be called a city, the census giving it last year no enumeration of 1160, still it is in many and manners and appearance, in all and everything that goes to make a city, quite a metropolis. During the hop-picking season each year there is an adjacent floating population of about 5000.

Rich Soil Unsurpassed.
Independence was a small hamlet as long ago as 1847, thus being one of the older settled places in the Valley. But for many years it was nothing more than a rather thickly settled farm section, for in the earliest days of the settlement of Oregon it was discovered that the site of the present town was the heart and centre of one of the finest bodies of agricultural land in the world. In all the country there is no finer land than can be found in the Willamette Valley; and the very cream of the Valley lies contiguous to Independence.

In those early days the people were all busily engaged in making their farms, for most of the best land was covered with brush or timber. So not much attention was given to the building of trade centers, and the growth of Independence was so slow that still in 1890 there were not enough people there to give it a place in the census returns.

than the Willamette Valley, the very cream of which is right at the street ends of Independence.

Jim Hill, the long-headed old empire builder, one of the brainiest men who ever lived in this country, whose advice is as sure to be right as the sun is to shine—in speaking of the Willamette Valley, and having no doubt in his mind the best spot of that valley around Independence, said a few months ago: "The day of the large farm is past. What you want here is the man who will take ten acres and cultivate it thoroughly. The man who takes ten acres of your rich land and works it as it should be worked, can easily make \$5000 a year. Ten acres in the Willamette Valley should be as valuable from the standpoint of production as 160 acres in Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin and some other states in that section. I do not know of land anywhere that will compare with your land here."

Advice Safe to Follow.

A note endorsed by Jim Hill, to any amount up to several million dollars, would be grabbed up exultingly by any money lender in the world who could handle it; any railroad enterprise endorsed by Jim Hill would command instant all the money needed for its construction; any man wanting a home on the land can safely take Jim Hill's endorsement of the Willamette Valley, and the best of it is adjacent to Independence.

The first question the intending homeseeker usually asks about is as to the products which do best

and pay the best returns in a given locality. To answer that question about the Independence section would be difficult, for anything that grows in a similar latitude flourishes hereabouts. Wheat, barley, oats, vetch, kale, vegetables of all sorts show a bright sure returns with bountiful harvests, but this section is principally known for its hop yards, and within sight of the town are the largest hop fields in the world.

The valley may be said to consist of two benches, the one being known as bottom land. This is adjacent to the Willamette River and overflows every season, each overflow depositing upon the land a sediment that is far better than any commercial fertilizer known. Upon these overflow lands the greatest hop yields ever known are taken, sometimes running as high as fifteen and even twenty times to the acre, seldom falling below six bales, twelve bales being considered a fair yield, ten bales being the average of yards that are well cared for.

Hopgrowers Fare Well.

Perhaps there is no crop taken from the soil that fluctuates more in price than hops. It is true that many hopgrowers have met with disaster caused by low prices. But the grower who conserves his resources, does not contract his output and takes good care of his yard is as certain of large returns for a series of years as is the grower of any other product—far better than the grain grower in the best section. Last year hops were worth around

40 cents a pound, this year the price will be perhaps well above the present quotation of 25 cents. As it costs about 8 cents a pound to produce a crop of, say, six bales to the acre, or say a hundred dollars an acre, it can be seen that 25-cent hops mean a fortune to the grower. In the spring of 1911 a yard of 41 acres near Independence sold for

one to Dallas and one to Salem. The roads are called the Independence & Moonmouth Railway Company the owners being Independence people. Twenty-four trains a day arrive and depart over these various railroads. Within a very short time the Hill electric road will have a branch from its Portland-Eugene line into the town and running to the lumber



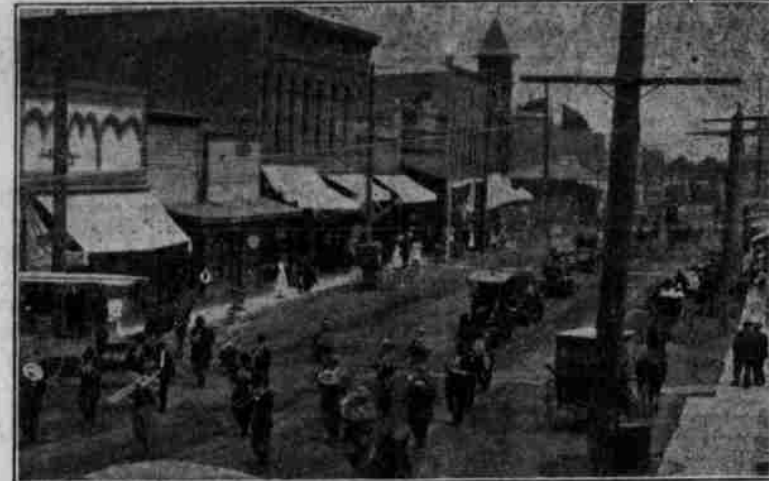
Hop Yard at Independence

\$10,200. The yield last season, the same year, netted, above 101 extra, means as much to Independence as it does to Salem or Albany, for it is just across the Willamette, and a elevation, East Independence, can be almost reached by a free ferry. And in addition there is the great rate leveler—water transportation for there is a boat plying constantly between Independence and Portland. At present this boat goes up one day and back the next, making three round trips a week; but as soon as the Oregon City locks are made free there will be a daily service.

Mentioning the free ferry, just to the east of town, reminds me that a portion of the Independence hop yards and successful farms are just across the river, in what is called the Missouri Bottom district. Here is the finest solid body of hop yards in the world—over a thousand acres. I had the pleasure of looking over these fields from a hop-drying house near the river, and it was a sight worth going miles to view.

Angora Goats Famous.

Aside from being the centre of the hop industry of Oregon, Independence is also well known as the place (Continued on page 4.)



Street Scene

WATER PLANT IS PROPOSED

H. Hirschberg Seeks Twenty-five Year Light, Water and Railway Franchises.

At the council meeting Wednesday evening, Councilman Lonsdale, chairman of the ordinance committee reported three ordinances on the table to be introduced for first reading. The first was an ordinance intended to establish a street grade in accordance with the recent survey made by L. C. Kelsey of Portland. This was read first time and will probably go on record as the longest ordinance ever passed by the city officers of Independence. On motion it was read second time by title and laid over to the next regular meeting for further consideration.

The next was Mr. Hirschberg's light and water ordinance intended to grant him a twenty-five year franchise to construct and maintain electric light and water plants in the city. This was also read first and second times and laid over until the next meeting. The third was an ordinance intended to grant a twenty-five year franchise to Mr. Hirschberg for the construction and maintenance of street railway. This was disposed of in the same manner. It is believed, however, that a majority of the council is in favor of the final passage of the three ordinances referred to and that they will be passed at the next meeting of the council, which will be held on the first Wednesday in August.

Claims and bills against the city were allowed as follows: C. D. Thompson, \$2.00, and Hanna Bros. \$87.45.

After a proposition was submitted by a representative of a chemical engine company to purchase a machine for fire protection, the council adjourned.

A HOME INSTITUTION

The Farmers State Bank of Independence is a home institution. With one exception, its stockholders are local farmers and business men. It owns homes in this section. The Capital stock of \$25,000.00 is fully paid.

These shareholders are all patrons of the business houses of Independence. This bank pays interest on time deposits.

We solicit your business, call and see us.

Money In Sheep.

L. J. Graves has eleven Lincolnshire ewes on his farm at McCoy which have established a record worthy of special notice.

Eight of the flock produced twins and three produced triplets. The average clip of wool from the ewes was 15 lbs. and netted the owner \$13 per head. Mr. Graves cut a 22 lb fleece from one buck. He finds profit in sheep-raising.

A Beautiful Lawn.

There are a number of pretty lawns in the city and one of the finest is that surrounding Calvary Presbyterian church and manse. Although sown only last April, yet it is a solid carpet of clover and blue grass and has already been cut five times. There is almost an entire absence of weeds of any kind, the doctor having been busy with knife and spud cutting out all the undesirable matter.

REPORT OF SCHOOL CLERK

Showing Present Financial Condition of District--Receipts and Disbursements.

June 1911, Last Annual Report.	\$622.46
Rec'd. from Co. Treas., Dist. tax.	7327.85
Rec'd. from Co. School Funds	5181.77
Rec'd. from State School funds	912.00
Rec'd. from Co. State Library funds.	58.10
Rec'd. from Tuition.	85.00
Total.	\$14187.18
Paid Out	
Teachers and Janitors.	\$7110.00
Domestic Science Dept equipment.	179.90
Furniture and blackboards for three rooms.	262.04
Toilets, public school.	586.30
Sidewalks.	215.00
Wood.	563.60
Insurance.	79.50
Interest on bonds.	1400.85
Interest on warrants.	224.26
Water and lights.	75.75
Clerk's salary and school census.	70.00
Library books.	58.10
Paid outstanding warrants 1910 and 1911.	1343.25
Tuition returned.	5.00
Freight and drayage.	16.43
Phones.	25.05
Eight grade examinations.	16.00
All other bills.	148.63
Total.	\$12379.66
Cash on hand.	1807.52

Total.....\$14187.18

Insect Bite Costs Legs.

A Boston man lost his leg from the bite of an insect two years before. To avert such calamities from stings and bites of insects use Bucklen's Arnica Salve promptly to kill the poison and prevent inflammation, swelling and pain. Heals burns, boils, rashes, piles, eczema, cuts, bruises. Only 25 cents at all druggists.

Meets All Trains.

Captain Claude Skinner has been successful in his efforts to get the Oregon Electric limited trains to stop at East Independence. This gives us excellent service to and from Portland, Salem and Albany. The time required between Portland and Independence is only two hours and ten minutes, and seems to shorten the distance considerably.

Henceforth the boat will meet all trains north and south on the Oregon Electric at East Independence. Mr. Skinner has built a nice landing at the East Independence dock and is in good shape now to handle the traffic.

The Choice of a Husband.

Is too important a matter for women to be handicapped by weakness, bad blood or foul breath. Avoid these kill-hopes by taking Dr. King's Life Pills. New strength, fine complexion, pure breath, cheerful spirit—things that win men—follow their use. Easy, safe, sure. 25c at all druggists.

Prominent Man Speaks.

Dr. Clarence True Wilson, national secretary of the temperance society of

the M. E. Church, will speak in the M. E. church in this city, Sunday, July 28th. Dr. Wilson is one of the most eminent speakers in Oregon and everyone should hear him.

AT M. E. CHURCH.

S. S. 10 A. M. Praching. 11 A. M. Communion service. Edw. League 7 P. M. Evening service 8 P. M. Pure religion, what is it? Everyone a Pure music. Cordial welcome. P. N. Sandifur.

Unexpected Bath.

Leo Hasel, wife and son of Corvallis, were sitting on the bank of the Willamette river at this place Wednesday evening, watching the bathers, when the board upon which they were seated broke, letting the Communioa service. Edw. League trio fall into the water. Mrs. Hasel was slightly bruised by striking a rock under the water. Dr. Hewitt was sent for and brought the drenched family to the hotel Lerona, where they are stopping for a few days.

On The Road



A Shipment of the Latest Styles in Gordon Hats. Watch For Them.

O. A. KREAMER