

Independence Enterprise

HENRY E. BROWNE, Publisher.

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INDEPENDENCE---LIVE TOWN

(Continued from page 1.)

where the finest Angora goats and Shropshire, Cotswold and South-down sheep are marketed, the growers have their ranches mostly to the west of the town. Young buck lambs are in constant demand at \$20 to \$25 per head. Forty were shipped the day before I was there last week which brought a thousand dollars. And these little bucks were only 5 months old. The ewe lambs bring about half as much, and some of the best bucks 1 and 2 years old bring as high as \$500. No attention whatever is paid to the breeding or raising of common sheep. The breeders all go in for the best, and their choice breeding stock is all imported. All of these breeders are mixing money, and the business may be said to be in its infancy.

The Angora goat is an animal of great value to the landowners about Independence, not only for what they bring in the way of mohair, as their clip is called, and for their increase, but for their work as brush busters. If some way could be discovered to make the Angoras tackle the stumps, there would be nothing to the land-clearing question. But as it is they clean and clear the land of all but the stumps, thus turning it into fine pasture.

The clip from an average Angora will bring about 30 cents a pound, and the yield will average better than three pounds. The kids sell for about \$2.50 each, and will clip something like two pounds. For the high-grade animals there is always a good demand at a large price, making the business very profitable.

Fine Hogs Are Bred.

There are also many breeders of fine hogs in the immediate vicinity of Independence, the favorite breeds being Berkshire, Poland-China and Durocs. The breeders have some of the finest animals to be found in the Northwest, and the choice specimens bring very fancy prices, buyers being plentiful. For just "hogs" there is no better place than near Independence. I saw a small herd of these porkers, well bred but not of any pedigree, grazing on a hundred-acre alfalfa field. The owner said he started the bunch last fall with an investment of \$350 in brood sows. They have run on this alfalfa ever since. Have had but little attention and no other feed—they are now worth, of course, meaning the original stock and increase, \$3500. This is not guess work, for such an offer was made for the "herd" last week.

There are in the vicinity also a number of breeders of fine horses, the Percherons and Clydesdales predominating. Most of the work animals used by the land owners in their

hop yards, gardens and other fields are fine animals, most of the teams being worth better than \$500. I saw five teams at work in one hop yard that the owner told me were worth over \$500 per span.

But I have left what I consider the most valuable asset any section can have until the last. (And you can punctuate that sentence to make it read any way you like; it is true in any sense.) And that is the dairy cow. Any man who knows the a, b, c's of agriculture knows that the dairy sections of any country are among the most prosperous of all, and there is no place in this country where the cow will do better for her owner than around Independence. The climate is peculiarly adapted to dairying and to the condition and milk-giving qualities of "bessies." The Winters are scarcely worth mentioning they are so mild. Just frost enough to keep the blood in good order. There are no great masses of flies, mosquitoes and other pests in the Summers, no sleets and blizzards in the Winters. There is green pasture almost the year round, always for at least eleven months of the year.

Dairy Feed Variety.

Vetch, kale, alfalfa and all sorts of root crops flourish as in but few places, while corn and other necessities for silage do as well as in any dairy section in the West, and grain, hay, clover, and native and wild grasses give large yields of splendid forage.

And the dairymen have fine animals as a rule, with the standard being constantly raised. Only good sires are being used—the scrub cow is scarcely known in and around Independence. And that brings me to the creamery—for what would be the use in telling about the adaptability of the section for the cow unless there was a profitable market for her products? The largest creamery in Oregon, perhaps in the Northwest, is located in Independence. Its butter output is about 10000 per day, and its product, the "Gold Medal" butter, has a reputation second to none—its market covers the entire coast section. The sale of this butter alone was over \$350,000 last year, and the manufacture is slowly but surely increasing. Aside from the butter the Independence Creamery, as its owners call it, manufactures ice and ice cream, with both of which they supply all the adjacent territory.

I had the pleasure of visiting and inspecting the creamery last week, and for sanitary conditions it is unequalled, while its machinery is of the very latest construction. The business has been running for twelve years, starting with a very small plant, but by fair dealing, good judgment in marketing and the excellence of its product it today stands at the very top of such plants on the Coast.

The Creamery now buys from upwards of 1200 dairymen. They are not all in the immediate vicinity, it is true; but they distribute many thousands of dollars among the dairymen close to them. The cream is paid for in three ways—daily at each delivery, twice a month and monthly, and checks are mailed on the minute the account is payable, or handed to the deliveryman.

Lending System Liberal.

How has this immense business been built up? As said, largely by fair and liberal dealing. But there is and for several years has been another factor, and that is their system of loaning money to customers

for the purchase of cows. Any man of good character and worthy of credit can get the money from this creamery for the purchase of cows, provided he will sell the creamery his output at the market price. On this money he is given six months' time, payable at \$2.50 per month, and interest, the monthly sums being deducted from his check. The company now has about \$15,000 outstanding on these co-trails.

"Oh, yes," the knacker will ejaculate, "they make a big profit on the sale of cows." They do not. They have no cows for sale, never have any. The borrower locates the cows, the creamery managers see that he gets good value and then pays for them. In this way they have started hundreds of people on the road to prosperity and stand ready to start hundreds more. It might be well to interpolate the remark that any person wanting to go into the dairy business but having insufficient capital will find the managers of the Independence creamery ready to render any assistance in their power.

Many fine locations are near by, the land is cheap, the roads are good for hauling in the cream, there is plenty of fuel and plenty of water, all conditions are ideal for the dairy business—and the creamery people will practically start you in business. Perhaps the latter statement is too broad, for like all who loan money, they expect good security. But if the man who needs the money is of good character the cows themselves will stand for the rest.

Cow's Output is \$100.

It is said that the average output of a cow for the year is \$100. That would be over \$8 per month. One can thus see that the payment of \$2.50 per month would by no means be a hardship on the borrower. He could not expect easier terms from a bank where he had good credit.

There is another industry around Independence that is taking on large proportions, and that is the production of poultry and eggs. There is no better location to be found in the West for the poultryman. A small tract suitable for this business can be had at a very low figure for one does not want the bottom land for such purpose. The climate is practically ideal. There is green food for the fowls the year round, and poultry and eggs always bring a good price right at home, or shipments can be made to Portland, which is one of the best markets on the coast.

To the poor man or woman, particularly where there is a dependent family, the poultry business points the way to independence. (I did not mean that as a pun. It was written with no such purpose. But it might be well for some of those waiting a home to put a capital on independence and make the sentence a slogan.)

Independence is in the extreme eastern edge of Polk county, in which county the Willamette valley reaches its greatest width, running as stated at the beginning, westward to the Coast Range of mountains. In the mountains of the country lies one of the finest belts of timber in the world, and much of this is tributary to Independence, much of it owned by the capitalists of that town. In estimating timber it is usual to talk of it in the thousands or millions; one has to get away up into the billions in discussing the Polk county forests. Another industry that is destined to make a large portion of the Willamette valley famous is black walnut growing, and some of the very best walnut land in the valley is close around Independence. There are many bearing trees there now, and thousands of young trees set within the last few years. This will be a profitable business in that section, for the soil and climate are wonderfully well adapted to walnut culture.

Fruit Also Important.

"Don't they raise any fruit in the Independence section?" will perhaps be the query. Oh, dear, yes. As fine as is raised in the world. No better apples are raised anywhere than those of Polk county, and there are many splendid bearing orchards, and many have been recently planted. And there are no better peaches on any market than those raised there, and they have as many fine peach orchards for loganberries, raspberries, blackberries and all the cane fruits there is no better location. And the Independence strawberries are as famous as they are luscious, and plentiful in season for both home consumption and shipment. Why, bless your soul, you can raise anything that does not require a tropical climate in that section, and raise it to perfection. Potatoes, O.K., you never saw better potatoes than are raised around there, and the yield is very large. Often well up to 750 bushels per acre. All sorts of vegetables, as mentioned before, thrive in the Independence section.

But here is the point—and stick a pin in it; the Independence country is not a one-crop section by a jugful. They do not put all of their eggs in one basket—then break the

basket and go "broke." Even a total loss of their greatest money-making crop does not cause widespread disaster like a failure in a wheat section, a short fruit crop does not bring ruin. It is the diversity of interests that make for an ideal section for those now there and for the homemaker to consider.

People on Land Needed.

How about the town of Independence? It is true that this page is published at the request of this business men of Independence, through their commercial club, the Independence Commercial Club. "But, Bennett," said the sponsor for the article, "we do not want to invite people to come to our town to make a home with us—we want you to tell them the truth about our lands and see if we cannot get a few hundred good families to come and make homes thereon and prosper with us. We do not need any more preachers, lawyers, doctors, or merchants, bankers, laborers or any other class to fill up the town. We want people on the land—and now is the time for them to come, for land is cheaper now than it will ever be again."

But I must say a few words about the town nevertheless, for there may be some who are looking for a town or city in which to pass the balance of their days or in which to live and educate their children. Or there may be some persons who read this article who would not care to go to a section where there were not good church, school, banking and business facilities close at hand. I can say to all such that Independence is a splendid, moral, decent, cleanly and beautiful little city.

First there are four churches, a fine public school, two strong banks,

one of the very best high schools in the state, wide paved streets, a good sewer system, cement curbs and walks, a beautiful city park, as good a water supply as any city can have, one of the best hotels in the West. I doubt if any town of its size in the country has a better hotel than the Hotel Leroux, the fine new hostelry lately opened there. It is large, modern in every way, and is splendidly conducted.

Second Newspaper Comes.

There is one good newspaper, the Independence Enterprise, and with in the month there will be a second, the plant being now installed. This will be called the Independence Beacon Light, and it will be in able hands. There is one of the best and most modern bakeries to be found anywhere, also an up-to-date steam laundry, and the stores of all sorts carry very large and well-selected stocks. You can do about as well shopping there as in Portland. Of course there are garages, livery barns, blacksmith and machine shops and all such business establishments as one finds in all prosperous places. Monmouth, at the west, is almost a suburb of Independence. It is less than a mile between the corporate limits. And here the only normal school of the state is located, making educational advantages of the town still greater.

Independence is a city of delightful homes. The lawns and hedges are most beautiful, the roses and other flowers so fine as Portland can boast, which is the highest praise I know how to bestow. The streets are wide and level—and just on the east flows the beautiful Willamette. Oh, if you are looking for an ideal homelife, you must see Independence before you locate.

From Portland south through the wonderful Willamette Valley the trip is an enjoyable one, if you have a love for the beautiful as Nature creates her works. At the present time the best way to get there is via the Southern Pacific, by which you can reach Independence by two trains from the Union Depot each day, one in the morning and one in the evening. By the electric road the connections are not as yet perfected, but a return by that road is easily made by taking a boat at the Independence Wharf for the station a mile or so north. The fare from Portland is \$1.75 each way, or something less by the round trip. And if you want to see as fine a section of country, and one of the most prosperous, that you ever rested your eyes upon, take a trip up through the valley to Independence—and stop there or near there for the balance of your life, if you are wise.

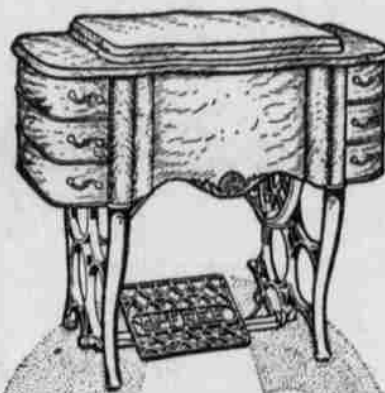
A letter addressed to the Independence Commercial Club, Independence, Oregon, will bring you by return mail any further information you may request, and anything this club reports can be relied upon.

It has no lands for sale, but can no doubt point you to various tracts, large and small, suitable for any business you wish to engage in.

The capitalist can get good bargains; the frugal, industrious, ambitious homemaker, with but a few hundred dollars, can do likewise.

Christian Science services will be held in the G. A. R. hall every Sunday at 10:30 a. m. until further notice.

DEAN J. PURVINE,
ARCHITECT.
INDEPENDENCE, OREGON.



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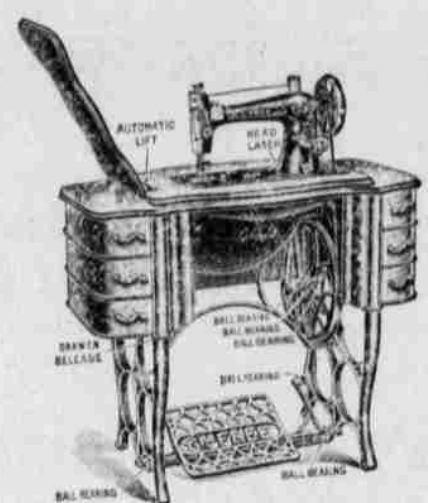
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