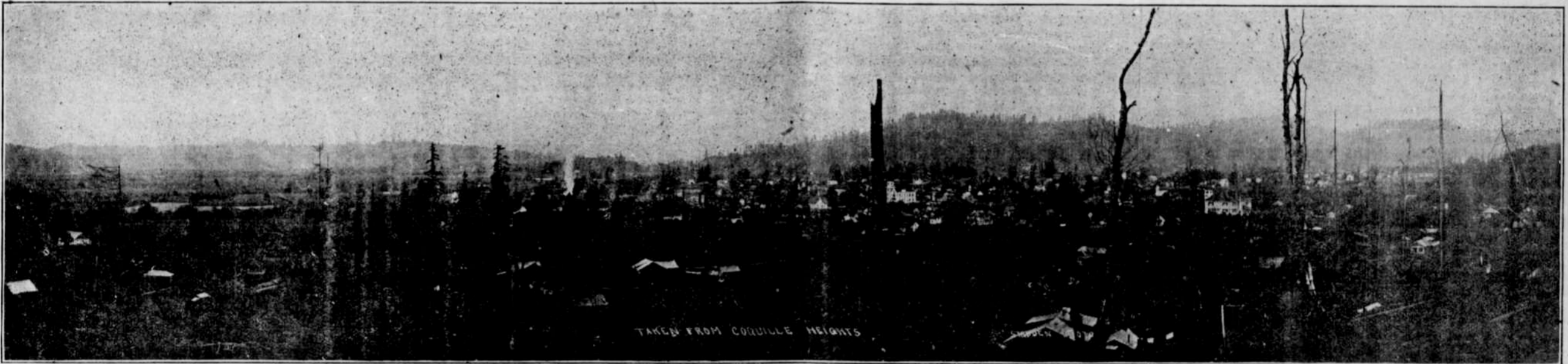


Coquille, the County Seat, a Town of Natural Supremacy in Her Own Rich, Attractive Field



TAKEN FROM COQUILLE HEIGHTS

THOUSANDS OF FERTILE ACRES STILL AWAIT DEVELOPMENT

In placing before some thousands of prospective visitors an article descriptive of Coquille, the desire is to tell only the exact truth which will be fully verified by whatever investigation may be made. It is not proposed to make any claims that are not fully justified, nor to attract visitors here only to their own disappointment. While it is but natural to put our best foot forward, yet we will try not to keep our other foot entirely in concealment.

The stranger visiting Coquille for the first time may wonder "what keeps the town up." This is but natural, the configuration of the country is such that the splendid bodies of farming lands which form the permanent asset of this city cannot be seen from any one point of vantage. Even the large body of rich river bottom that lies just across the river is still so far under the dominion of the wilderness that its cultivated areas are concealed by the brush of the parts still uncleared. To one coming from the broad and level Willamette valley, where cultivated farms can be seen for miles on each side of the railroad track, it is hard to realize the real extent of the farming land of the Coquille valley and its tributaries. Days would have to be spent in traveling different roads and following the branches of the river and their

tributaries to get an idea of the agricultural resources which lie tributary to this city. And even then the impression conveyed would not be adequate unless the person could bring himself to realize that one acre of the land in this valley is actually worth, from the standpoint of capacity for the production of wealth, several times as much as an acre of land which, in other localities, looks so charming at certain seasons, from the windows of the train. Perhaps the statement that the cow is queen of the land in the Coquille valley will convey the best idea of the splendid and enduring foundation on which the prosperity and the future of Coquille is built.

It must not be inferred that the cow has a monopoly of the crops grown on Coquille valley lands. A ny fruits grown in the temperate zone come to perfection here. A high authority has pronounced the Coos county soil and climate the best in the world for the Gravenstein apple. With that fact assured we can afford to acknowledge that for peaches and pears some of the interior valleys of the state are better adapted. For small fruits and berries we will not yield the palm to any other locality. For strawberries the season lasts a 11 summer—and then come. Vegetables thrive in a way that leaves

nothing to be desired. The best and sweetest onions the writer ever laid his lip over grew near Fairview, which is tributary to Coquille. Some of the finest tomatoes in the world are raised at Bridge. And it should be remembered that up to this time irrigation has been unknown here. What this land will produce with irrigation is a problem in multiplication.

Perhaps the resource next in importance is the timber industry which contributes much toward the upkeep of this city. While we do not receive so much benefit from this as do some other towns in the county, yet it helps materially and quite a number of our citizens are dependent to a greater or less extent on the lumber industry. The one small mill which is conducted here by E. E. Johnson provides employment for quite a crew of men and furnishes the largest real payroll of the town. Another establishment is the Myrtle wood plant of J. H. Oerding and sons, and while no large payroll is connected with this, yet it is an industry which may well grow to considerable proportions. Our myrtle wood is without a superior in the world for beauty, and when worked up into furniture, or novelties such as the Oerding no make, it needs only the proper marketing facilities to find an unlimited demand.

The resources in the coal veins lying under the land near Coquille are immense, and it seems certain that the day will come when this city will derive incalculable benefit from the mining of the black diamonds. This for the future, but it seems a future that is certain.

All literature of this nature is so permeated with extravagant claims on the score of "climate" that it is with considerable diffidence that the writer touches the subject. Nevertheless, one of the actual resources of this city is her climate. If not the "finest in the world," it is undeniably the finest in Coos county, which means the finest in Oregon. To those who believe that the Oregon climate is best, the inference is unavoidable. Coquille is just far enough from the coast so that the north-west winds which prevail in summer, and which are too strong and "raw" nearer the beach, are softened and modified in their passage over the hills, but still retain their refreshing coolness, which they lose a little farther inland. The south-west winds of the rainy season are also dried and modified after leaving the ocean and are far less disagree-

able here than they are nearer the coast. The only really cold winds we ever have are those from the east, and they appear with extreme rarity, only often enough to remind us of what the unfortunate denizens of the inland country have to endure.

As for the town itself, without going into dry dates or statistics, it may be said that it is one of the older towns of the county; that it is situated at the head of practicable deep water navigation of the river 26 miles from the ocean; that it is the county seat; that it has in the neighborhood of 2000 inhabitants. The view shown at the head of this page will give a correct idea of the town and its surroundings. It has two good banks, housed in brick buildings; two hotels and several lodging houses and restaurants; eight churches; a finely equipped post office, in a brick and concrete building erected by the Odd Fellows; one other good brick building besides the \$15,000 city hall, a view of which is in this issue. The usual lines of business are represented. The business streets are paved, that improvement having been made in the last four years. The business houses are not imposing, many of the old shacks surviving from an earlier day being carefully cherished and bolstered up by their owners, as is always the case.

Being the county seat, Coquille has the court house, and this handsome building is shown in another column. A concrete and brick annex is now being added, to furnish additional room. The court house sits in the middle of a large block and the surrounding lawn, flower beds and shade trees are carefully taken care of.

The population of the town is to a very large extent made up of "old settlers" and their descendants. As might be expected, conservatism is the rule, although the street improvements made in the last few years and now under way show the spirit of enterprise and civic pride. The town has never had a boom, and probably a vote taken would show an overwhelming majority against one. A steady yearly growth, as the surrounding country fills up with a prosperous agricultural population would best meet the desires of our citizens. City property is not high in price; in fact, it can be bought at very reasonable figures.

There are numerous openings for newcomers who have a little capital and who can bring to bear in a business enterprise the later ideas which win

out in larger places. As one small illustration of this, it may be stated that, here within a few miles of the ocean, there is no fish market. With unlimited supplies of deep sea fish, clams, crabs etc. within reach, the resident of this town must go without nine-tenths of the time, although one of the butcher shops occasionally shows a few pounds of salmon for those who do their marketing early. It may be said that "bad debts" are not an unavoidable feature of doing business here. Both the dairy and lumber business put money into circulation at least once a month. The people are prosperous and have the money with which to pay for what they want. In fact, an experienced and enterprising man could find an opening here in almost any line of business, and an infusion of new blood in business circles would work no harm to the community.

While other towns of the county may be better situated than Coquille to become great manufacturing or wholesale distributing centers, this town has advantages of her own in other ways, and if she works out her destiny on the lines indicated by her environment she will stand above them all in her own field. As already said, she has the best climate of any town in this part of the state and this gives her one essential of the ideal residence town. In line with this is the fact that the moral, religious and social atmosphere of the place is unusually clean, giving splendid surroundings for the young. With the almost universal use of the automobile and the building of splendid hard-surface roads connecting with the larger towns, there is no question but Coquille as a place of residence will appeal strongly to many who are doing business in other towns nearer the coast.

Bearing in mind what has gone before, it is seen that no other place in this part of Oregon has the natural advantages for an educational center that must be accredited to Coquille. It is in this direction that her destiny lies. Many of her people already recognize this and others will be brought to the same view as time passes. A good start has already been made. Coquille has a good school and one good school building. The construction of another is in mind, and will probably be accomplished within a short time, as it is already needed.

To sum up in brief: Coquille is a prosperous, conservative, clean town, surrounded by a section of great natural wealth, with the pleasantest climate in Oregon, the county seat, and populated by as fine a class of citizens as can be found anywhere. She will give you a cordial welcome; come and see her.

MAGNIFICENT VIEW OBTAINED FROM THE COQUILLE HEIGHTS

The view at the head of this page is taken from Coquille Heights, part of the property of the Coquille Land Company, of which Chas. Walker is the resident representative. The cut is furnished by the company from a panorama photograph made especially for the purpose, and gives an idea of the magnificent view that can be obtained from the residence lots which belong to the property. The spot where the camera stood is an easy walk from the business center of the town, and though it has been platted but a short time, it will be seen that residences are already springing up on the land. Three years ago this hill was covered by a dense growth of virgin timber. It was removed by logging operations and the ground was roughly cleared and burned over last summer. It will be noted that some of the stubs still stand. Such a view cannot be obtained from any other spot within the limits of the sister towns of the county, and it is safe to predict that some day Coquille Heights will be the "Knob Hill" of this entire section.

The view is taken looking west and gives a good general idea of the town and its surroundings. At the left and stretching away to the distant hills on the other side of the valley can be seen a part of the largest compact body of arable land in this part of the state.

Could the view be extended farther to the left it would reveal as much more of this great factor in the substantial prosperity of this city and in the future that lies in store for her. The river runs next to the high ground on which the town is built, and the shrubbery which clothes its banks is seen at the left of the picture. The business part of the town is partially hidden by the high ground which lies between, but the smoke of the sawmill and electric plant can be seen rising straight up in the calm morning air. The main body of the town is well shown. The beautiful white court house is seen near the center of the picture, and further to the right is the large high school building. Taken as a whole, the view is extraordinary as showing so much of the town and its surroundings. Better atmospheric conditions might have revealed more detail in the body of valley land, but on the whole we are pleased to present the view to our visitors.

It will be acknowledged that this cut bears out, in its way, the statement made in another column, that Coquille is destined to be known as the most agreeable residence town in this part of Oregon. The day will come when Coquille heights will be covered by the magnificent homes of the wealthy, with wide and well-kept grounds, and will be one of the beauty spots of the county.



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The Coquille High School

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