

# The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

Entered at the postoffice at Scio, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY  
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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**  
One year in advance.....\$1 25  
One year, at end of year.....1 50  
Six months in advance.....75  
Three months in advance.....50  
Single copy in wrapper.....25

**ADVERTISING RATES:**  
Local advertising, per line per issue.....50  
Display ads, 2 changes per month, one column wide, per inch.....10  
Professional cards, 1 1/2 inches, per month.....10  
Long time contracts for advertising made on application.

## SCIO AND THE "FORKS."

### A Brief Description of Scio and Resources--Products of the Forks of the Santiam.

At the solicitation of many of our friends, we present in this issue a brief description of Scio and the Forks of the Santiam, written more particularly for the eye of Eastern, than for our home readers. Hence, if we write about matters that are commonplace and of universal knowledge to home readers, simply remember that for this one issue we are pandering to the desires of persons in the East or elsewhere, whose eyes are turned toward Oregon, and especially to this particular part of the WILLAMETTE VALLEY.

The Western and most populous part of Oregon is composed of the Willamette, Umpqua, and Rogue River valleys. Willamette Valley is the largest of these valleys, and is the seat of the first settlements in the land "Where Rolls the Oregon." The valley is something over 200 miles long North and South, with an average width of near 40 miles, through the center of which flows the Willamette River. On the Eastern bank of the Willamette, and reaching to the summit of the Cascade Mountains, is situated Linn County. The county is bounded as follows: On the West, by the Willamette River; on the North, by the North Santiam River; on the East, by the summit of the Cascade Mountains, and on the South, by an East and West line 15 miles North of the 44th Parallel of Latitude. The Western portion of Linn County, comprising about or nearly one-half of its area, is occupied with farms, while the Eastern part, with the exception of a few small valleys, is, in the main covered with heavy bodies of very valuable timber. Nearly through the center of the county, flowing in a generally Northwest direction, is the South Santiam River. The larger half of the county lies North and East of this river. Some ten or twelve miles above the mouth of the Santiam River the North and South forks join, and embrace between them that section of the Willamette Valley known far and near as

#### THE FORKS OF THE SANTIAM.

While the larger half of the area of Linn County lies in the Forks of the Santiam, not more than one-third of her population is included therein. The agricultural portion of the "Forks," being the valleys of the South Santiam River, Crabtree, and Thomas creeks, the North Santiam River and the section where these valleys unite. Hill farms and stock ranches extend back toward the summit of the mountains; but all the farms and stock ranches together will constitute not more than one-third the area of the Forks of the Santiam.

#### TIMBER—FIR, HEMLOCK, OAK, ASH AND MAPLE.

The large forests of virgin timber, valuable for lumber purposes, lies along the water courses and at the base, and upon the side, of the Cascade Mountains. Red and Yellow Fir, Hemlock and Cedar form the principal part thereof, while along the streams are considerable quantities of Ash, Maple and Alder. Large Oak and Grub Oak are found more or less all over the foothills or low mountain spurs. These forests of Fir, Cedar and Hemlock cover fully one-third of the area of the Forks, and, when we consider that the entire area covers about 1200 square miles of territory, the vast extent of the timber interests can be seen. Already there are a number of small sawmills engaged in the manufacture of lumber, chiefly for the local demand; but the large forests, mountainward, have not yet been touched by the lumberman's saw or ax. Lumbering for export purposes some day will form the chief industry of this locality.

#### MINERALS—GOLD, IRON, COPPER AND COAL.

**GOLD.**—Well up towards the summit of the Cascade Mountains, on the headwaters of a prong of the South Santiam River, gold has been discovered and considerable effort in the way of prospecting has been carried on; even going so far as the erection of 10-stamp and 40-stamp mills for the reduction of the quartz, in which the gold is chiefly found. For some reason these enterprises have never been made to pay, though in the same ore belt a few miles further South, active quartz-mining is now being carried on, and large quantities of gold are being taken out. It is the firm conviction of old miners that, some day, very rich mines will be found in the Santiam district.

**COAL.**—On Thomas Creek and in the vicinity of the small town of Lacom, indications of beds of coal have been found, and some time in the future these beds will be uncovered and the contents added to the world's stock of fuel.

**COPPER AND IRON.**—Indications of both copper and iron have been found along the streams, but whether or not they exist in paying quantities yet remains to be discovered.

**PAINT.**—A most excellent article of mineral paint, in unlimited quantities, has been discovered in these foothills. "The Best Paint on Earth," is a name that might justly be given this paint, and a building painted with it, some thirty years ago, still looks fresh, and the wood shows perfect protection from contact with the weather. In color the paint is a dark red, and for all purposes in which mineral paint is used, this Santiam paint cannot be equaled. A fine opportunity for an industry, in preparing this paint for market, awaits some one who has the knowledge, experience and capital to take hold of it.

#### AGRICULTURE AND STOCK RAISING.

The chief products of the farms and ranches in the "Forks" are: Grains—wheat, oats, flax, barley, corn, and various grasses raised for hay purposes; Stock—Horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, and

goats; Poultry—Chickens, turkeys, geese, and ducks. Dairying is carried on to considerable extent, as fully one-half of the farmers within reach of the railroads milk from five to forty cows, separate the cream from the milk and ship the cream to the creameries. Ranchmen further back in the foothills, are chiefly engaged in cattle raising. Out-range for them is yet plentiful, and as but little hay is required for winter feeding, cattle raising on these ranches is nearly all clear profit. As fast as these foothills are brought into cultivation, it is found that they produce large crops of most excellent wheat, which for flour purposes is much superior to that raised on the valley farms. Wheat-raising, however, for market is growing less every year, as other crops are found to be equally, and more, profitable; also more of it is used for feeding purposes at home. With an enlarging and constant demand for hogs, which packing-houses have established, wheat for export purposes will probably grow less as time advances.

#### WATER STREAMS—WATER POWER, ETC.

Purer water does not flow than comes down "From the Cascades' Frozen Gorges," through our streams. Pure, as clear as crystal, this mountain water forms a topic of admiration to the Easterner who visits our section. Our chief streams are the North and South forks of the Santiam, which bound the territory, and Crabtree, Thomas, McDowell, and Hamilton creeks, besides a large number of smaller creeks and rivulets. So well scattered are these streams, and with the innumerable number of springs, it would be difficult to find a farm in the "Forks" that does not have running water upon it. The larger streams, owing to their rapid fall, would furnish power for manufacturing purposes. Considerable falls on both the North and South Santiam rivers, wherein the entire force of the water of the stream could be utilized, will some day be used to generate electrical energy that will supply power in unlimited quantities throughout the valley, for any purpose desired. In point of streams of pure, living water, clear as crystal and quite cool, the Forks of the Santiam leaves nothing to be desired.

#### SCIO, THE METROPOLIS OF THE FORKS.

Just where the valleys of the North and South forks of the Santiam unite with those of Crabtree and Thomas creeks, and upon both banks of the latter stream, is situated the thriving little city of Scio. Scio is the principal city and business center of the "Forks." The first settlement in the Forks of the Santiam was in the early Forties. The first voting in what was then called McDonald's Precinct, was done in 1848. The commencement of the village of Scio was in 1856, making the present year the semi-centennial anniversary of the city. About this date (1856), or a short time prior thereto, Messrs. H. L. Turner and Wm. McKinney constructed a flouring mill on the site now occupied by the Scio Roller Mills. In regard to who started the first store, opinions differ; some say Wm. McKinney was the individual, others that E. Woods, having sold a steer for \$75, started a store with the proceeds. The first store in the "Forks," however, was near the present site of Franklin Butte Cemetery, one and one-half miles South of Scio. Scio was incorporated as a city in 1866, and is now a thriving town. Owing to the fact that Scio occupied an isolated position, after most of the other towns of the county had railroad connection, its growth has been slow. Even now the town, being one and a half miles from the Woodburn-Natron Railway, and three miles from the C. & E. R. R., is greatly handicapped. This handicap will probably be removed in the very near future, by the changing of the Woodburn-Natron line to pass through town, or by being embraced in the system of electric roads that will soon cover the state. Scio is situated about 60 miles directly South of Portland, and about 14 miles directly East of Albany, the county seat of Linn County, and is the principal and only chartered city in the Forks of the Santiam. Being so situated, as might be expected, a large business in traffic with farmers exists.

Scio, several years ago, was converted to the idea of municipal ownership and, accordingly, at that time purchased the electric light and water plants. The price of light and water was at once materially reduced from what it had been under private ownership, and the plants have since been conducted on the basis of the cost of operation and maintenance to the patrons.

Our splendid, new 7-room public school building is an object of pride to the people. Our schools, under the management of a corps of four teachers, are giving our boys and girls good, thorough common school educations, carrying work forward to the tenth grade.

Two churches and three church organizations, viz., Baptist, Presbyterian, and Christian, look after the moral welfare of the community.

The Scio Fire Department is composed of hose-carts and hook and ladder truck, under one company organization, and is quite efficient.

Scio's business is looked after by the following individuals and firms: Hibler & Gill Co., general merchandise, stoves, hardware and implements; Wesely & Cain, general merchandise; Chas. Wesely, hardware, implements, furniture and undertaking; Scio State Bank, T. J. Munkers, president, W. A. Ewing, cashier; E. C. Peery, drugs, books, paints, etc.; Irvine & Myers, livery stable; Holland & Lund, Scio Hotel; The Scio Milling Co., C. A. Warner, secretary and manager; J. J. Barnes & Son, and Gill & McDonald, blacksmiths; J. G. Gill, dentist; R. Shelton, real estate and notary public; H. Phillips, confectionery, cigars and tobacco; Guy McKnight, Farmers' Meat Market; A. G. Prill, M. D., and S. C. Browne, M. D., Physicians and Surgeons; H. S. Johnston; plumb; Chas. Campbell, jeweler; Eli Luckenbach, boot and shoe maker; Mrs. Emma Cyrus, millinery; L. W. Pomeroy, real estate; A. J. Rex & Son, harness and saddles; Tucker & Jones, liquors and cigars, and T. L. Dugger, newspaper and job printing.

#### FARMING, STOCK RAISING, DAIRYING.

Scio is essentially the center of a farming and stock raising community. By the importation of thoroughbred and standard parent stock, the quality of our stock and poultry is being continually improved. One year ago the Franklin Butte Stock Company was organized, and bought two remarkably fine stallions, which had been imported from Germany and France. A German Coach and a Percheron are in the stud—two animals that would be a credit to any stock-raising community. Our dairymen are continually improving their herds, as are our fockmasters with their sheep and goats. The same can be said of many of our swine and poultry raisers. The opinion is fast gaining ground among our stock and poultry raisers that "the best is none too good."

In addition to all kinds of grains and grasses grown, particular attention should be directed to that of flax. Samples of fiber from flax grown in this vicinity have proven superior to that grown anywhere in the state, and flax grown in Oregon has been pronounced equal to the best flax grown in Ireland. Then, there is a grand opening in Oregon for the linen industry and no better locality can be found in the state for the establishment of mills, scutches, etc., than in the Santiam Forks, where the very best quality of flax grown in the state, can be raised. It is also believed that hemp will do equally as well as flax if given a trial.

**HORS.**—Hops have been regarded as a staple product of the "Forks" for a number of years. Our sandy bottom lands are particularly well adapted to growth of this product. An average crop is, 1500 pounds, though 2,000 pounds per acre is not considered unusually heavy.

**FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.**  
**FRUITS.**—All kinds of fruit, such as apples, pears, plums, prunes, and cherries grow to a state of perfection unsurpassed anywhere. Linn County is the fruit center of the Willamette Valley. Eighty cars of packed, dried prunes were shipped from Albany during the past season. Peaches do well on our bottom lands, though the Willamette Valley is not considered particularly well adapted for the successful growing of peaches for market. Small fruits of every variety are grown in any quantity desired. Our bottom lands seem to be naturally well adapted to the growth of strawberries.

**VEGETABLES.**—All varieties of vegetables grown in the temperate zone are grown in the Forks of the Santiam in abundance. Our soils seem very favorable for the growth of potatoes. The Oregon Burbank potato is famous all along the Pacific Coast, and commands the highest price in the markets.

**VALUES OF LAND, BUILDING MATERIAL, ETC.**  
Until the era of bridge building across the large streams was introduced, the "Forks" especially in the winter time, was practically cut off from the outside world. This handicap prevented land from keeping pace in the advance in price with other parts of Linn County. Since a number of suspension bridges have been built over both the North and South forks of the Santiam, this handicap has been removed. Farm lands, however, in the "Forks" are not rated as highly as elsewhere. Improved farms in this section range from \$10 to \$40 per acre. These same farms, if located in other parts of the Willamette Valley would be worth double the above prices.

Building material in Oregon, compared with like material in the older states, is very cheap. Rough lumber ranges from \$8 to \$10 per 1000 feet; finished lumber, from \$15 to \$25; shingles, \$2 to \$3 per thousand. A 7- or 8-room house can be constructed at a cost of not exceeding \$40 to \$50.

**PRICES OF STOCK.**  
**HORSES.**—Owing to size, style, etc., are worth from \$15 to \$20 for the Cayuse draft, to \$150 to \$175 for the 1400-pound draft horse. The disposition, quality, and style of a horse mean much to the fixing his value. Mules are very little used. A team of them passing along the road would be so unusual as to attract attention.

**CATTLE.**—Considerable attention is being given throughout the valley to dairy interests. For this reason good milk cows are always in demand, and are worth from \$25 to \$30. The tendency of farmers is to improve the herds, and for this reason, the best cows are not for sale, as a rule. Common stock cows are worth from \$2 to \$3 each.

**SHEEP.**—During the present year sheep have commanded good prices. Ordinary stock sheep have sold readily at \$3 to \$4 per head; extra good stockers command higher prices.

**GOATS.**—The raising of Angora goats has become a general feature among farmers who have brush land. Goats are sold on quality and breeding, from \$2.50 to \$3 per head.

**HOGS.**—In recent years more attention has been given to hog raising than formerly, because of the fact of the steady demand in the Portland market. The erection of a large packing plant in that city, which now seems probable, will intensify this demand. Farmers, generally, keep good stock and for which good prices can generally be obtained.

dry months. The average rainfall throughout the year is about 40 inches. Fully one-half the days during the winter months are practically without rain, and at least one-fourth of the days during the dry months are more or less rainy days. There are exceptional seasons in Oregon, as in all other localities, but the rule is as indicated above. The ground rarely freezes beyond a mere crust, in winter. The writer has lived in the Willamette Valley for 30 years, and during that time the ground has never been frozen to a depth of more than three inches. In summer, it is a rare season when a month passes without some rainfall.

**TO THE HOMESEKER:**  
To sum up, Scio and the Forks of the Santiam offers the following inducements to the homeseeker:  
Cheap lands, suitable for pasture and agricultural purposes, ranging price from \$5 to \$40 per acre; an abundance of pure water in every locality; plenty of timber for wood purposes on nearly every quarter-section of land; as healthy a locality as can be found; fairly good shipping facilities, with a fine prospect of their being better in the near future; easy growth of all kinds of fruit, and finally, a country where absolute failure in crops or in fruit is unknown.

There are other localities, perhaps, that afford opportunities for making money more rapidly than here; but as for an ideal locality for a home, where nearly everything that a family requires can be produced from the soil, Oregon, and particularly the Forks of the Santiam, can hardly be surpassed.

**PHOTOGRAPHS.**  
Make it a point, when in Albany to drop into J. G. Crawford's Art Gallery and look through his collection of portraits, views and prehistoric curios. 123 West Second street, near Lyon.

**Albany Hardware Company.**  
The Albany Hardware Co has the best stock in town, and is the cheapest place to trade. Sole agents for Valvuline oil. 129 and 221 First St. Albany.

**L. W. POMEROY,**  
REAL ESTATE BROKER  
Office with The Santiam News.

**Scio, Oregon**  
Farm and city properties bought and sold on the usual commission basis. If you want to sell your farm, I can sell it if it can be sold. If you want to buy, I can find the place you want.

**J. G. GILL, D. M. D.**  
Has established his dental office in Scio and is prepared to do first-class work in all branches of dentistry.

We are the agent for  
Universal Stoves & Ranges  
Superior Drills  
Studebaker Wagons  
EVERYTHING IN HARDWARE  
**OHLLING & HULBURT**  
ALBANY, OREGON.  
450 West First St.

**UNDEVELOPED RESOURCES**  
Among the undeveloped resources of the "Forks," the immense bodies of standing timber will place lumber at the head, easily. At least 20,000 acres of fine timber as can be found on the continent awaits the ax and saw of the lumberman. Mill sites in abundance can be found upon our streams, where water could be utilized for power purposes, etc. The citizens of Scio and vicinity would contribute a good subsidy for the placing of a large mill at or near the city limits.

**COAL AND PETROLEUM.**—In the vicinity of Lacom, some ten miles Southeast of Scio, coal has been found, it is said, in paying quantities. Prospecting for oil is also about to be commenced. A company has bonded all of the land in the immediate vicinity of where the prospecting for oil will be done.

**MINERAL PAINTS.**—Seven miles South of Scio large beds of the best mineral paint on earth awaits development. Copper indications a short distance South of Scio exist, and would probably develop into a paying mine, if fully prospected.

**SITES FOR MANUFACTURING PLANTS.**  
Manufacture, with the exception of a number of small sawmills, is yet to be introduced. Considerable quantities of hardwood—Oak, Ash, Maple, and Alder—would, with the water power that could be made available, point to Scio, or some place in the immediate vicinity, as an ideal site for a furniture or chair factory.

As before stated, a better locality for the establishment of a flax manufacturing plant, cannot be found.

The attention of our farmers is being given more and more to dairying, therefore Scio would furnish an excellent location for an up-to-date creamery.

The unequalled quality of the mineral paint, which exists in an unlimited quantity near Scio, only awaits development. A fortune surely awaits the man or company that has the capital and knowledge to place it properly upon the market in a manufactured state.

The constant, growing demand for Oregon lumber throughout the world, with the large bodies of the very best of timber tributary to Scio, invites the establishment of a large sawmill plant at or near this city. It is only a question of time when such a plant will be established, and the man or company that gets in on the ground floor, has a sure guaranty of success.

**OUR CLIMATE.**  
So much has been said descriptive of the salubrity of Oregon's climate, that it might seem superfluous for any mention of it in this article. Our summer temperature ranges from 80 to 90 degrees; our winters from 20 to 60 degrees. Of course there are times when the above limits are exceeded. Snow falls to some extent every winter, but remains on the ground but a few hours until melted. Our seasons may be properly divided into two—the wet and the dry. From October 1 to April 1, rainy days are the rule, and from April 1 to October 1 dry sunny days are the rule. It is principally during the wet months, by no manner of means, nor is rain entirely absent through the

## A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year is Cordially Extended to all.

We feel especially gratified at the volume and increase in our business during 1905. We have so many friends among our customers, to all of whom we again extend a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we thank you one and all for your patronage, and you are always welcome to come and see

**CHAS. WESELY,**  
The House Furnisher and Rustler.

## I HAVE A FEW CHRISTMAS GOODS

Left over which are suitable for NEW YEAR'S presents, and which I offer at \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ BARGAIN \$ PRICES

**BATTLE-AX PHILLIPS**

## Scio Milling Company.

SUCCESSORS OF  
**SCIO ROLLER MILLS.**  
INCORPORATED DECEMBER 28, 1904.

**Officers:**  
T. J. Munkers,..... Pres.  
C. A. Warner,..... Sec.  
W. A. Ewing,..... Treas.

**Directors:**  
J. A. Blyeu,  
J. J. Barnes, W. F. Gill,  
C. A. Warner.

We do a general custom Milling business. Flour and feed on sale. Wheat bought and exchanged, for Flour. We are in the field for business and will treat you right.

# Annual CLEARANCE SALE

Look out for our ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE to open Monday, January 15, and close Saturday, February 17. Our Sale prices will be strictly for CASH OR PRODUCE.

Yours on the

**Hibbler & Gill Co**

SCIO OREGON