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CITY OF McMinnville.

Her Advantages and Surroundings Described.

INCORPORATED IN THE YEAR '76.

Fourteen Years old and Acknowledged to be the Most Beautiful City in Oregon. The Metropolis of the best County in the State. Healthy and Fair, Great Educational Facilities. Plenty of Pure Air and Water. Lighted by Electricity. The Mecca of Oregon.

In 1876 the town of McMinnville was incorporated. Not a long time ago, but long enough to make it the finest city of the state of Oregon.

Before going into the details of the growth an early settlement it is just that its surroundings should receive attention.

First of all it is the county seat of Yamhill county. You ask an old Oregonian, in any part of the state his opinion as to which county is the best and his answer is, invariably, Yamhill. Although the name Yamhill is the laughing stock of the state, the people who laugh at it are willing to give the county its deserts. The name which suits it best and the one most used in mentioning it is "The Banner County." McMinnville is situated in the midst of the best land in the county. It is a great stretch of level country extending from the foot hills of the Coast mountains on the west to the Willamette river on the east and from the Chealem mountains in the northern part of the county to the county line on the south, without a break. It is not perfectly flat but with just enough rise and fall in the surface to give it perfect drainage. This beautiful and prolific plain is dotted here and there with fir and oak groves, not heavy forests of timber but still enough timber is in sight to keep the fires of the farm houses brightly burning for years to come and to supply the demand of the city. When this supply falls the mountains and foot hills are covered with a growth which will supply the wants of the people for years and years. One peculiar thing about this timber: It has all grown since the settlement of the county. In 1843 when the first settler set his foot in Yamhill county he saw a perfect prairie, with here and there a tall fir or an old gnarled oak standing in loneliness. Since then our pioneer trees, like the human pioneer, have grown a large family.

The section immediately surrounding this city is the best wheat producing section in the state. Many varieties of wheat have been introduced and it is believed that all have been successfully grown.

THE CITY'S GROWTH.

The Changes in the County Seat and Other Changes.

The growth of McMinnville both as a trading center and in population has been marvelous during the past few years. Not many years ago her inhabitants could be counted on your fingers, today nearly three thousand people find a home and means of subsistence within her limits. The building of the railroad through the city in the fall of 1879 gave McMinnville the impetus, and we are pleased to note that its motion has not died away but the city is striving for better things every day.

Lafayette situated about five miles from this city is the oldest town in the county and one of the oldest in the state. She was the county seat previous to November 1887. On that date a special election was held and the people of the county said by a majority of over four hundred, that hereafter McMinnville would be the county seat. The building of a fine court house was immediately commenced and on the first of January 1889 the records were moved into the new court house, the picture of which you can see on another page. The change of the county seat gave to McMinnville the prestige which is necessary for the upbuilding of a town, since then her people have been on the move and have taken every opportunity to push the city to the front. The picture of the public school in another page gives one an idea of the liberality of the people of this city. This beautiful and well fitted up building was erected in 1888 and already the school is so crowded owing to the rapid increase of the population that another house is being talked of.

A Capital Field.

As a field for the operation of capital McMinnville presents several advantages not possessed by the other towns of the valley. These are very apparent to visitors who visit the city. First of all the town is surrounded by a magnificent section of country which produces wheat in abundance and as a matter of course is thickly settled. The vast wealth stored in the fertile soil of the surrounding country will make money invested in McMinnville double without the aid of other means. The climate is perfect and above all the health of the city is good. These are the advantages not possessed in a like degree by any town in the state. McMinnville is the healthiest city in the state. No one dies of this fact. The cool and shady mountains near us temper the heat of the summer and make it perfect; in winter they keep out the cold and chilly blasts of the north and old ocean. McMinnville is surrounded by the great producing section of the state. We repeat these facts so that our readers will bear them in mind.

The amount of freight carried by the Southern Pacific road to and from this city has doubled in the past year. This shows good advantage the increase of business in the city. Our merchants are enlarging their stocks in order to meet the demands of the people.

McMINNVILLE HISTORY.

With Portrait of W. T. Newby the Founder of the City.

Not many years ago the spot marked by the beautiful city of McMinnville was a waving grain field and a few years before that the foot of a white man had never made an imprint on the fertile soil. Of course our readers want to know why the town is named McMinnville, and when the town was founded.

The founder of the city of McMinnville was W. T. Newby who was born in McMinnville, Warren county, Tenn. March 25, 1820. He moved to Missouri



W. T. Newby.

In 1839 and that state not being particularly fair to him he started for Oregon, arriving here in 1843. He located at Oregon City, then the trading station of the Willamette valley. In 1844 he left Oregon City and came into Yamhill county, which contained at that time six settlers. Some difficulty was experienced with the Indians who made raids upon the cattle. Mr. Newby was an intensely progressive man and in 1853 he erected a grist mill on Baker creek. The old mill was burned down last year to make room for a large saw mill which is now under course of construction. The site of the old mill became in time the site of McMinnville. It was situated at the foot of Third street. In 1854 Mr. Newby started a store and the nucleus of the present thriving city had been formed. In the following year, 1855, the town of McMinnville was founded. Mr. Newby naming it after his old home.

Mr. Newby in politics was a democrat and held the office of assessor in 1848 and in 1870 was elected to the state senate.

He was married in 1841; Miss Sara J. Gray being his choice, having by her eight children. Mr. Newby died on October 22, 1884 and his death was almost a calamity to this city.

He had progressed written on every fibre of his being and he was the one

when he died he left little property. The people of this city recognize his worth and we all know that the city would be larger to-day if his master brain was managing things.

The city was incorporated in 1876 and the first trustees elected were Andrew Slutok, C. D. Johnson, B. F. Hartman, T. J. Shadden and H. G. Burns.

SOCIETY AND EDUCATION.

Not the Wild and Woolly West as Pictured in Dime Novels.

There is a very common impression, among those who are unacquainted with the west, that society here is in a very different state from what it is in the older sections of the country, and that the new-comer will find things here, as to social and religious life and educational interests very different from what they are at the east. To a certain extent this is true. It is only those of an enterprising and adventurous turn of mind who seek homes in a new country, and the general spirit of the west is more active and liberal and in no place is it more so than in this section. But the entire west is too new to have been settled by the descendants of a single pair, or the few pioneers who pushed out into the wilderness but a few years ago. Most of the people who have settled in this city and vicinity came here after they had attained mature growth and the habits of life and thought were fixed. The vast majority of those now here came from the older settled east; they brought with them their college educations, the eastern culture, they have lost nothing but the narrow pride of section; which arises from a lack of knowledge of all that lies beyond the narrow limits of that section in which they were born and raised. They, in conjunction with the sons and daughters of the pioneers have established schools and churches and social relations, and in no section which has become thickly settled to permit of their existence, will those be found wanting in number or inferior in quality to similar sections in the east.

It must not be supposed however, that the new-comer will find in this respect all that he has been accustomed to at home. Even the old settled east presents variety, and one section is not exactly like another, even there are good and bad, desirable and undesirable neighborhoods and as our people have come from the east it must be so here. But persons who could not be satisfied with the society of this favored section must be fit subjects for treatment in a mad house and we do not want them. As good schools and churches

OUR CLIMATE.

The Finest Imaginable Without any Drawbacks.

It has been many years since the thermometers of this section of Oregon registered zero. The dropping of the mercury below zero would cause more commotion than an earthquake. The coldest weather imaginable is four or five degrees above. Snow is seldom seen any length of time. Stock can run at large all seasons of the year, unharmed, and get fat. The heavy frosts of the eastern states are unknown; although frosts occur, they are not low enough in temperature to injure the fruit, etc. From October to the first of April the winter rains are falling and while uncomfortable to a new comer they are the delight of one who has become acclimated. The only sick weather is when they stop and the temperature falls a few degrees. From April to October the days are long and sweet, filled with that peculiar something which makes an Oregon day so different from those of other states. The blue sky is not dotted with a cloud for months. The grass is kept green by the heavy evening dews. Everything is growing and evidences of peace and plenty can be seen on every hand. The difference in the average thermometer by months does not vary from the warmest to the coldest, over 30°. July is the hottest month, but the cool sea breeze makes life comfortable by beginning to blow about 1 o'clock, the sultriest part of the day. This delicious breeze from old ocean finds its way to the plain of McMinnville through a pass in the mountains to the southwest of us. It is perfumed by passing over the tops of the giant firs and comes to us laden with health.

The climate of this Pacific coast is made mild by the humid Japan current which flows by our shores. The fruit trees are in blossom, wild flowers in seed, sowing is over, before the hard winter break up in the same latitude on the Atlantic coast. Wild berries are picked in April and thousands of them are in the market in the latter part of May and the first of June.

OUR PLEASURES.

Spent in Cool and Shady Dells Beside Babbling Brooks.

Besides the glorious climate this section presents other features which make it so attractive. On a hot summer day when the nerves have been strained to their fullest tension and the body as well as the brain calls for a relaxation, one looks to the west of us tempts us to throw aside the restraint of business

Nothing will bother him. Plenty of hay and grain from the prolific soil has been stored away in the barn to feed his stock through fall work. The winter does not worry him, for grass will be plentiful in his pasture by the creek. But, we are on our way to the mountains. The road makes a turn and we are on rising ground, we have entered the foothills and the sea breeze is delicious. Coming off the fields of glistening wheat and finding its way through the small fir groves it strikes us and we are reminded of the pleasure we are seeking. We bang the horses on the back with a 15 foot hazel switch which we cut a mile or so back and up we go. The horse is not at all loth to move. He wants mountain life for a time and a feast of pea vine and a drink of pure, cold mountain water. We are in the foothills proper. Here and there a farm house is seen nestled near a cool grove with a spring gushing from the hill-side near by. Twenty or thirty acres of fertile land, in cultivation is nestled and away up there on the bald hill is seen a band of cattle. They are owned by this thrifty farmer and will be turned off to the cattle buyer this fall for quite a number of gold twenty dollar bills. Here we pass a crowd of rosy cheeked, laughing boys and girls just out of school. No disease written in their happy healthy faces. No pale cheek and weakened eye here. They have breathed God's health giver; they have rested their eyes after hours of hard study, upon calm and peaceful nature. Their lives have been true to all the precepts of health. They will make men and women. Men suitable to be the husband of earth's fairest creature, wives suitable for a man. Their lives have not and will not be contracted. They bow and each has a "good evening sir" to say to the stranger who is passing and wishing he was one of them.

We have left far behind the last habitation of man and are now in sublime solitude. Nothing around us all is quiet as death. The only disturbing element is our thoughts. Silence, silence everywhere. Death has not entered here. The foot of man in all probability has never desecrated the sacred precincts. It is eternity in its quietness. A cool breeze strikes us, the first realm to man, we have been in the realms of eternal silence and have returned. With a sigh we look about us, the tall trunks of the first stand straight and perpendicular; their tops are interlaced so that no ray of sunlight penetrates the semi darkness; a carpet of fir bows and moss stretches before us. One cannot help but think that it will be a desecration of nature when the hardy mountaineer



EASTERN MAN COME TO A HOME OF HEALTH AND PLenty.

tal will be consumed by the bright-eyed doe and fawn that are just lowering their heads to be refreshed. The fall is brken in several places on its way down and the old moss covered rocks are crowned with a sheen rivaling divine purity in its whiteness. Beside this beautiful brook we have camped before. The sun is some two hours up and entering the log hut which we erected some years ago we are at our journey's end. Now to catch a dozen artful trout for supper.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

McMinnville to be Upon the Main Line to California and to the Sea.

The present transportation facilities are good, McMinnville being situated upon the West Side division of the Southern Pacific railroad. Proposals for bids for the furnishing of 40,000 ties for the construction of the road from Corvallis to Junction City are already called for by the railroad company and the interested citizens of this city have received assurances from Mr. Kohler, the manager, that the road will be constructed immediately. To one cognizant with the railroad lines of the state,

THE CREAMERY.

A Factory With a Capacity of One Thousand Pounds per Day.

A first-class creamery is in operation in this city having been built during the last summer. The capacity is 1000 pounds of butter per day. It has not yet been run to the extent of its capacity for the reason of not having enough cows in this vicinity to furnish the cream for such a large run. This summer it is expected that at least 500 pounds per day will be produced, nearly all the farmers in this section having signified their willingness to keep all the cows possible for the purpose. The creamery is controlled by an incorporated company of business men of this city and farmers of this vicinity. Cold storage rooms have been built in connection and it is possible for the creamery to keep the excess for market. They have not been used for this purpose as the factory cannot supply, or has not yet, one-tenth the demand. No better dairy county exists in the world than lies within ten miles of this city, in the foothills of the Coast mountains. This fact is fast becoming known and people are devoting more time to the breeding of milk producing cattle, with which to stock the country which is fast becoming settled. When this section of dairy country is fully settled McMinnville will be the market and shipping point of an immense amount of dairy products.

The manager of the creamery is M. Collins who has followed the business for years. He understands the minutest details of butter working and turns out a product equal to the great creameries of the east. For some years he was associated with the Hillsboro creamery and was the direct instrument by which its products gained the reputation they now have.

Our Fruits. Who has spent a summer here and has visited the numerous orchards in this vicinity, that does not loudly say that the fruits of this section surpass anything that they have ever tasted before? They do not forget them; it is impossible to get gourds great Royal Ann cherries too large for one bite, or our beautiful peach plum, or the exquisite flavor of our Bartlett pears, more delicious than anything else. Who that has strolled through any of our prune orchards when the fruit was maturing, but will have our fruit upon his own table, no matter where his home may be, if he can find it dried or canned in his local markets?

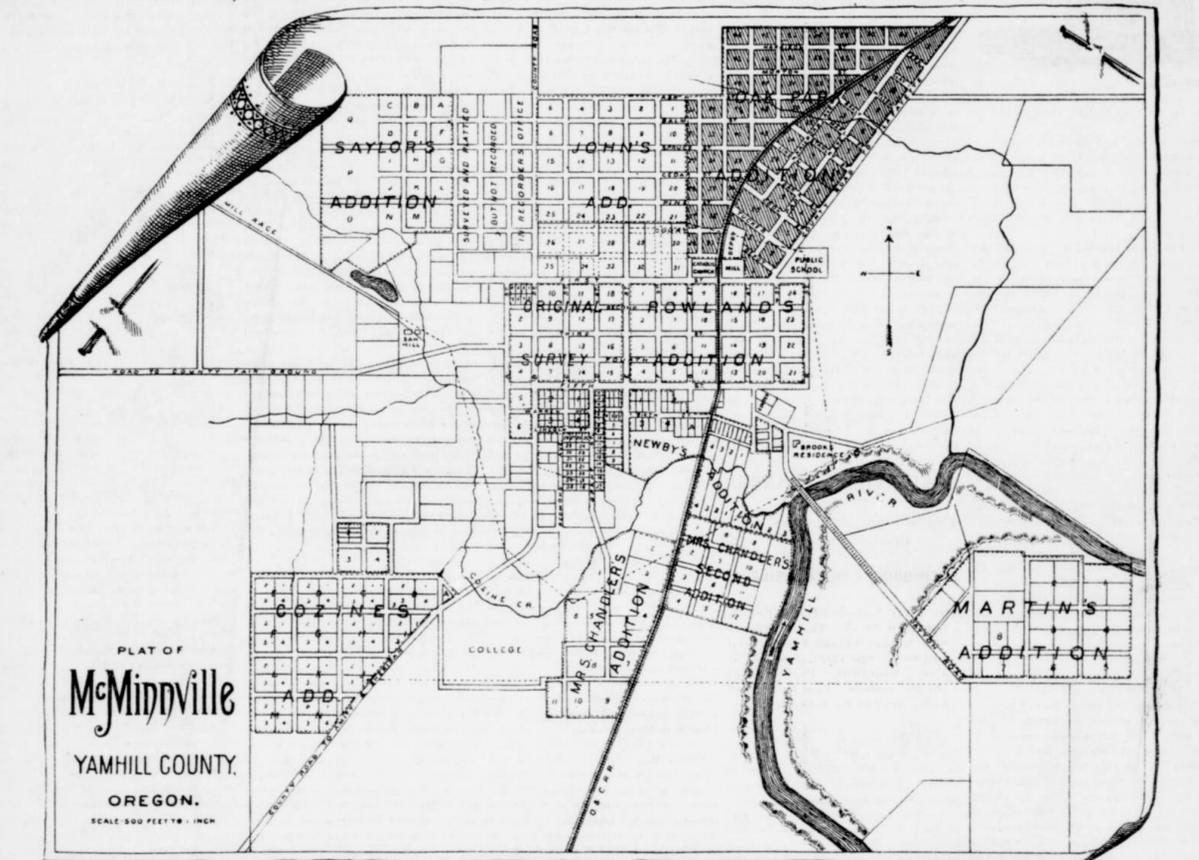
We need more trees planted, for the demand is more than the supply. Our farmers are fast seeing that this county is destined to be the great fruit section of the state and are planting more ground to orchards. Several large tracts have been set out during the past year and more will be the coming summer. Now, the fruit planters have some trouble in procuring trees, but when the nursery which is contemplated in the "Fairlawn" property is in condition, this difficulty will be dissipated and more attention will be given to fruit culture. Fruits of all kinds grow here luxuriantly. Strawberries in their season as well as blackberries are sold to consumers at the rate of six gallons for \$1. Where can one find them cheaper? Cherry trees in this neighborhood have brought \$10 per tree at the age of six years. Eighty trees can be planted upon an acre of ground. Suppose the trees only bring one-fourth as much, this is considerable more than can be made from wheat at 75 cents per bushel.

Minerals.

The people no doubt are aware that Oregon is rich in minerals, some of the best gold mines in the world being located within her boundaries. Yamhill county possesses minerals of different kinds but as yet not enough attention has been paid to them. Time will no doubt develop the fact that the coast mountains are rich in gold, silver and zinc. On nearly every small stream a person can find color. From time to time fine specimens have been found by people who were not practical miners and did not know their worth until the collection of the spot where they were picked up had faded away. Numerous specimens of the above mentioned metals have been found and several prospecting parties have lately been in the mountains. Silver ore has been found in paying quantities in several places in the county but the necessary capital has not as yet been found to make it pay. Coal also has been discovered both in the mountains and in the range of hills known as the "Red Hills." The soil of these hills is red in color because of the immense amount of iron ore contained in it. The ore for the large iron mills at Oswego is taken from this same range of hills and when this country is known to outside people interested in these things there is every reason to believe that this county will be a great iron and coal district.

Sheep Husbandry.

The foothills here present a fine field for sheep raising. The climate is about the same as the valley, the hills not having an elevation of more than 600 feet above the sea level. The grass is luxuriant the year around and the snow in the winter does not remain more than three weeks at the outside. The wild animals which prey on the herds have been exterminated. Western Oregon wool sells for about three cents per pound more than other wools in the San Francisco market. The price of wool in this city is usually from 20 to 30 cents per pound. Numerous farmers are interested in the sheep business in the foothills and many are going into it exclusively. Stock sheep can be bought from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per head. As yet this valley has not been able to supply the demand for wool and mutton. You will never regret a pleasure or hunting trip to this part of the world.



guiding hand of the city. Nearly every enterprise which exists in the town today was started or helped in some manner by him. He controlled acres of land but his energies were bent toward the building up of manufactures. One of the greatest schemes originated by him and one that is still practical if some one with the stamina necessary to carry it out will take hold of it, is the bringing of a water ditch from the headwaters of the Willamette to this city, a distance of eighteen miles. Mr. Newby formed a company and had excavated about six miles of the ditch when through the wilderness of some of the incorporators, the ditch was brought into politics. This resulted in the abandonment of what is McMinnville's great reliance for water power. A fall of fifty feet can be obtained by means of this ditch and during the last year the project has been revised and it is almost assured that this water will be brought into the city. It is estimated that 500 horse power can be generated by means of the contemplated ditch.

The wages of mechanics are far better here than in the East; carpenters receive from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per day, according to their capabilities; brick masons from \$3.50 to \$5.00 per day; blacksmiths, \$3.50; farm hands, \$2.50 to \$4.00 per month; laborers, \$2.00 to \$2.50, and printers \$3.00 per day and 45 and 50 cents per thousand ems. The above is only a partial list of the trades, but mechanics of all kinds will know that the balance of the trades receive competition in the known rates.

and lie away to the cool and shady fir coated mountains, where solitude in all its grandness, and shade in its intensity, where the sweet mountain air scented with the perfumes of a thousand beautiful mountain flowers awaits us. One look settles the matter, and within an hour we are away to those shady dells beside a babbling brook in whose cool bosom we know there are many beautiful trout only waiting for a fly. We have been here many times before but for the sake of our readers we will attempt to describe the country through which we pass.

For the first three or four miles out of town we are passing along a broad, smooth road with the ripening grain, standing in large fields of one hundred acres or so on either hand. Soon the threshers will be at work and the happy farmer will be counting each sack as it is piled up thinking all the time that the years he spent in the frigid and barren east were as many years of his life wasted. Here he is happy and contented; he is making money, and after harvest he will bundle his family into the wagon and all hands will take a two weeks vacation at the sea side.

It is apparent that this side will, as soon as this gap between Corvallis and Junction City is filled with a road bed, be the through line to California. The country on this side of the Willamette river is higher and better adapted to construct a good road bed, and is also less liable to overflow. When heavy traffic is carried on, both freight and passenger, it is preferred to run trains over a line with few bridges; this side has less streams to bridge and the bridges are only short ones. All these difficulties to contend with on the east side incline our citizens to believe that this will be used as the through line; besides the road from Junction to the California line is built on the west side of the river. The river is crossed at Junction and through trains now go down on the west side. With the purchase of the Narrow Gauge lines the Southern Pacific received to the lands on the west side convenient to river and also in close proximity to the present broad gauge road. All these advantages are considered when the statement is made that this road in the future will be the through line to California. When this occurs, and it will

be not long hence, the west side will receive more attention from the tourists who will to a certain extent be compelled to view this magnificent country, which heretofore has been neglected by them because of the out of the way means of getting here.

With the purchase of the Narrow Gauge lines by the S. P. company another great scheme has become known in which this county intends to control the railroad interests of the state. In order to do this new lines of road must be built immediately to supply the wants of this rapidly settling section. The Narrow Gauge was built as a competing line and parallels the Southern Pacific road from Portland to the junction where it crosses the road some three miles south of this city. The coast counties are fast filling up with people and they are crying for transportation facilities. Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia has organized a company and is building a road south through the fertile and timbered section between the mountains and the coast. The Southern Pacific company also intend to tap this section and at the same time give the interior counties direct communication with the deep sea.

The intention is to make the Narrow Gauge lines on both sides of the river broad gauge roads and to discard the present line from Lafayette to Sheridan. The track will be extended from Lafayette to St. Joseph where it will connect with the present broad gauge and continue up the main track to this city where the road will branch off and a new road built on this side of the South Yamhill river to Sheridan. By this several long bridges are saved and the same country is traversed. From Sheridan the road will be extended by means of the Grand Ronde Pass through the mountains, where it will parallel the coast and connect with the Astoria & South Coast, now being constructed. By this you will see that direct communication will be had with the deep sea at Astoria and all this immense producing section, and especially McMinnville, will be greatly benefited. This is not a wild cat scheme but one with a solid foundation. The question is of such importance that C. P. Huntington will arrive here during the month of April and will personally inspect the entire route and visit the cities through which these contemplated roads will be built. Work on the Narrow Gauge lines has already commenced and before fall miles of the road will be standard gauge.

All this railroad building means something to McMinnville. It means that the city will double in population during the next five years, and possibly in less time. With the present spirit shown by the people the town is bound to become one of great importance, and is now the largest and most prominent in improvement on the west side.

The city also has a means of transportation other than the railroad. The Yamhill river which runs through the city is navigable during the winter months to this city. This has been used in times past, but for years the whistle of the steamboat has not been heard. Old warehouses are still standing upon the river banks which were used for storing grain to be shipped by steamer. One serious obstruction in the river, the falls at Lafayette, present a barrier to steamers during low water, but with the expenditure of \$25,000 they could be overcome by means of one lock, which would make the river navigable to this city and possibly beyond. The ground at the falls is suitable for the construction of a lock at a small expense. Congress appropriated several years ago \$20,000 for this purpose, but somehow the money was never expended. There is money in a steamboat to run to this city, all it lacks is the man with sufficient energy and business talent to make the effort.

McMinnville citizens in conjunction with citizens of Salem are attempting to organize a railroad company to build a road from Salem via this city through the Nehalem Pass to connect with the Astoria & South Coast R. R., thus giving the East side direct communication to the sea. We hope this move will be made, but do not advance it as a surety.

As a health resort this section presents advantages not possessed by many others. We have known several people nearly dead with consumption to regain their former health after a year's residence in this favored section. For a chronic and bronchial affections a short residence in the fir forests is a sure cure.