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succession of undulating ridges, hills and valleys, rising higher and higher into the chain of the coast range which forms an imposing background, in the shape of a half circle northeast and southeast. Looking eastward from the plain and from the hills, one can see grand old snow capped Mt. Hood rise up lofty and solitary, his venerable head glistening in the sun through the blue ether—Nature's Tower of Babel, rising 11,025 feet, overlooking the vast empire from the sea-washed shores of the Pacific to the Rocky mountains. Countless generations of savages and dusky children of the forest may have gazed upon him with awe and wonder, passing one by one down the cycles of time into the valley beyond. The white man himself gazes upon this immortal dome, God's grandest temple, with the same mystical feeling of awe and wonder; and countless generations may again come and pass ere the elements crumble and roll to its base the rocky, towering peak. To the northeast can be seen his modest sister Mt. St. Helens, and to the southeast Mt. Jefferson.

The soil is well adapted for agriculture, being of the rich dark loam quality; different from that on the east side of the Willamette, which is the so-called white earth, and therefore not so well adapted for cultivation. Wheat is the principle article of production, as it grows abundantly, and pays best. Our farmers begin to see that wheat growing alone is no longer profitable, and commence to pay some attention to mixed farming. Land is worth from ten to fifty dollars per acre.

Our winters are never excessively cold, and the summers never too warm; a cool and gentle sea breeze comes down into the valley, refreshing man and beast, fanning the heated earth, making life pleasant and tolerable; and then the gentle rain, "Oregon mist" that comes stealing down upon us unawares, quickening all that lives and grows with never failing certainty.

It is the people that build cities and towns; it is the dauntless, horny-handed pioneer that goes out into the wilderness and converts the virgin soil and dismal forests into blooming wheat fields, patiently awaiting the fruits of his labor, but which yields a thousandfold to coming generations. Of such stuff are the people of Yamhill composed. The days of Argonauts are past, but many of the Argonauts are still living, and no small number of them are in Yamhill. Several that came here in 1843 are living in this town. These men, coming from every state beyond the Rockies, form the bone and sinew of Yamhill, and some of Oregon's most gifted and most noted point with pride to Yamhill as the cradle of their childhood—a community than which there is none other in the country under the Stars and Stripes more thrifty, moral and peaceable.

Our schools are numerous and well managed, and no child need go outside of Yamhill to receive a good education, even scientific and classical. McMinnville college is a magnificent four-story stone and brick structure. This institution properly under the management of the Baptist denominations, cost about \$30,000.

The prospects are most favorable and flattering. With a soil exceedingly fertile, a salubrious climate, easy shipping facilities, a ready market for all kinds of produce, Yamhill county is one of the most desirable farming sections on the coast. It is to Portland and Oregon what Santa Clara county is to San Francisco and California.

The population of Yamhill county in 1880 was 7,920; the number of acres tilled, 100,835; permanent

meadows, pastures and orchards, 21,077 acres; number of farms, 1,008; number of owners, 780; number rented for money, 85; number rented on shares, 184; value of land, fence and buildings, \$5,181,737; estimated value of all farm productions in 1880, \$1,322,785.

The town of McMinnville 1880, had but 700 inhabitants; it now contains 1,200, having a steady increase every year.

We often hear of Californians going home disgusted after prospecting in eastern Oregon, the Puget sound country and other places. The reason is plain enough, the above mentioned localities are greatly exaggerated, whereas western Oregon is hardly known abroad; all who came here are delighted at finding so fine a country, and I know of none ever going away dissatisfied or disgusted with Yamhill.

#### Near McMinnville.

Cornucopia Flouring Mills are in what is called Happy Valley, on Baker creek, six miles west of McMinnville.

Three miles further up the same creek is Noah, Bingham & Hemstock's steam lumber mills.

One mile still further up Baker's creek is Louis Miller's lumber mill.

On Panther creek Mr. Bailey has a saw mill, about ten miles northwest of McMinnville.

Panther creek mill, late Morris's saw mill, is about two miles still further up this creek.

On Deer creek, about fifteen miles west of McMinnville, is what is known as Stow's lumber mill.

Jones & Company, proprietors of the Nestucca saw mill, on the Nestucca river, 18 miles northwest of McMinnville, just over the divide, but said to be in this county. This river is 35 miles long, flows through Tillamook county, and empties into the Pacific ocean.

Buel chapel, a Methodist church, is on Mill creek, about six miles southwest of Sheridan.

Pleasant Hill, M. E. church, is about four miles south of Sheridan.

Broadmead, about eight miles northeast of Sheridan, on the W. V. R. R., is the great farm of Ladd and Reed, the wealthy capitalists of Portland. It is at the junction of the main track with the Smithfield and Perrydale branch of the same road. The farm is perfectly level, and occupies the best portion of this rich valley. It is three thousand acres in area, and is a magnificently kept farm. All the fences and appurtenances are in splendid order.

#### A Happy New Year.

Let us now prepare to ring down the curtain upon the past, and turn to the golden sun-beams, flickering across the threshold of departing time. The publishers of the Reporter extend to one and all of the grand old heroes of early days their heartfelt wishes, and hope the coming holidays will draw around the festive board pleasant memories of long ago. Of course there are many dear ones absent, and as we sit ourselves down to the well spread New Years feast, let us unlock for a moment the halls of memory; and glancing through them, note the happy faces that once welcomed you, and listen to the loving prattle of the little ones, as clinging upon your knee the sweet little lips would lisp, "Merry Christmas, papa." May the retrospection be pleasant, as you turn your thoughts to the dear ones who have halted upon life's journey, and laid themselves down to rest in the green meadows, by the purling brooks; and on the mountain sides—Come, come, old friend, turn the key upon the past. Here's to you—"The pioneers of Oregon: A long and happy time yet to thee, and as the curtain of life descends upon you, may your ending be as peaceful as the closing of summer day.

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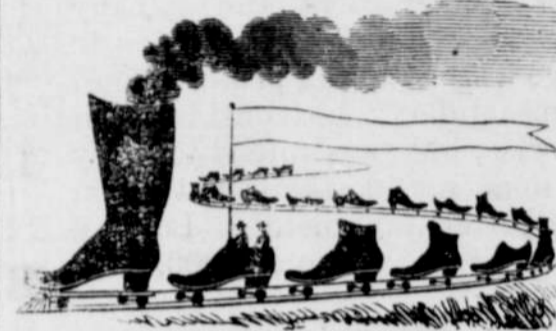
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