

# YAMHILL COUNTY.

## RELIABLE PEN PICTURES OF ITS LIVE TOWNS.

McMinnville the Metropolis of the County.

Lafayette the County Seat and its Surroundings.

The Granaries of Carlton and Immediate Vicinity.

Dayton's Prestige not Entirely Lost to the World.

Newberg, the Quaker City of Old Yamhill.

Willamina's Cozey Nest Near the Coast Range.

The Grain Productions of Wheatland a Feature.

The Hills of Amity in Their Natural Beauty.

North Yamhill With its Hundreds of Fine Farms.

"With Sheridan but Fourteen Miles Away."

McMinnville and Its Environments.

McMINNVILLE, the business center of Yamhill county, lies fifty miles southwest of Portland on the Oregon and California rail road. It is situated in the midst of the finest agricultural region in Oregon, and is widely known as the Farmers Paradise of the Pacific slope. The population of the county is put at 10,000 which yearly receives large additions. There are thousands of acres of valuable land to be had at prices ranging from \$5 to \$50 per acre. All this land lies within easy access of steamboat and railroads. The climate is mild and agreeable. The winter months are mostly given to rain. There are, more correctly speaking, but two seasons; six months of balmy sunshine, with invigorating sea breezes that sweep down from the Coast range of mountains, and six months of lovely rain that comes pouring down from the same vicinity or thereabouts, as John E. Owens would say.

The Pacific ocean, fifty miles west of McMinnville, is reached over toll roads, and furnishes a most inviting place to escape away the hot summer months of June and August.

### City of McMinnville.

Population 1,100.

An act incorporating the said city, passed by the house of representatives in 1856, passed the senate

October 14, 1876, and was signed by Gov. L. F. Grover October 20, 1876. On the 12th day of November, '76, the first city election was held at the store of one Wm. Boyd. The polls were open from 10 a. m., till 4 p. m. Inspectors Burns and Warren presided at this election. J. C. Cooper and W. H. Warren acted as clerks. The result of said election placed Andrew Shuck, C. D. Johnson, B. F. Hartman, T. J. Shadden and H. G. Burns in the positions of town trustees.

Nov. 15, 1886 the board of trustees held a meeting in the district school house. C. D. Johnson was chosen chairman and the city officials were sworn in. Andrew Shuck was elected president of the board of trustees, Henry Warren acting as clerk of the meeting. At the second meeting of the board, David Lynch was elected to fill the vacancy caused by H. G. Burns refusal to qualify.

We have not the space nor time at present to follow the workings of this board during its first struggles with municipal obligations. The records were well kept; written in a clear business hand by Hon. Henry Warren.

Turning to volume third of the city records, it is found that the newly elected city council met in executive session with Hon. Henry Warren, the first mayor, in the chair, December 4, 1882. Under this administration we find the signature of A. B. Baker appended to the records as recorder. July 28th, the resignation of A. B. Baker as city recorder was handed in. The present incumbent Jno. J. Spencer was elected in his place, who served the town faithfully and was re-elected at the last city election. Nov. 8th, '86.

Aug. 29th, bids were opened in the matter of constructing a city hall. This project was laid on the table until the next regular meeting in September. The contract for constructing the said building was let to W. D. Tyler, September 9th, '85.

At the council meeting of September 16th, '85, chairman Manning announced the death of Hon. Henry Warren, which took place on Sept. 13th, 1885, and also, that of Charles Talmage, city marshal, who died September 14, '85. Upon a ballot being taken at this meeting, Hon. S. A. Manning was elected mayor and Geo. Kauffman marshal. At the expiration of Mr. Manning's term, J. W. Cows was elected to the mayoralty. At the next city election this gentlemen was followed by the present incumbent, Jacob Wortman, Esq., who was elected to the chair at the election held on the first Monday in Nov. 1886.

### The Fire Department.

This city boasts of a well organized, well equipped volunteer fire department. The oldest organization being that of McMinnville Hook and Ladder Co. This association was incorporated February 53, 1874, with W. J. Garrison, C. J. Handley and L. Deilschneider, as charter members.

On Feb. 5, '83 the McMinnville Hook and Ladder Co., Eclipse Engine Co. No. 1, and Star Hose Co. No. 1, made application and were recognized and admitted to the fire department of the city by the city council. These companies jointly occupy a room in the city hall, which is fitted up tastefully by the brave fire laddies. The building is a two-story brick. The lower story being occupied by the truck, engine and hose company.

### City's Inventory.

The city's commercial prosperity is assured. The business portion is represented by two banks, three wooden and one three-story brick, fire-proof hotels. The latter is now nearly

completed and will be thrown open to the public in a short time. There is not a better or handsomer hotel to be found in the neighboring towns of the northwest; there are thirty-five general business houses, a large sash and door factory, a \$40,000 brick flour mill, one brewery, two saloons, three carriage and blacksmith shops, the finest brick opera house outside of Portland, three halls, six churches, good public schools a three-story brick college, charmingly located; has Masonic, Odd Fellows, Workingmen and Good Templar societies, a Choral Union with a membership of over forty; three large and commodious livery stables, where the best of turnouts can be had at reasonable prices, two furniture factories, two barber shops, two weekly and one daily paper, etc. etc.

### Outlook.

#### Past, Present and Future.

The closing of the year, with the completion of Sax's large flouring mill will place the improvements of the past year in the neighborhood of \$60,000. Brick buildings are taking the place of wooden structures, and city lots are held at reasonable figures. There are now under way several improvements by the city council. The city is well lighted on its principal business avenues, but some of the side streets should have lamps erected. The rapid strides made by McMinnville during the past year, in advancing to a prominent place among the live towns of the northwest, has given a new life to its enterprising merchants, and the bright star of Hope beams brilliantly down upon us. There is a better feeling throughout the county than for years past. The farmers are hopeful and happy. The indications for a good crop next year were never better, collections are easier, money circulates more freely and long credits appear to be a thing of the past.

Viewing the outlook from the threshold of the old year, we predict an unusual interest in business circles for the year '87.

### Foot Notes.

Our eastern friends are informed that in close proximity to McMinnville, there are some of the finest farms for sale that can be found on the Pacific coast. The reason that they are for sale is, that the owners have more land than they need, consequently they are willing to sell and settle up the country.

Come to Oregon! is the cry. Come to old Yamhill county where the garden of Eden exists in all its varied beauty and wonderful productiveness.

The city as a summer resort furnishes better inducements than offered by any other place in Oregon. You can get first-class accommodations at the hotel for a reasonable price. Within five hours drive over picturesque country roads, you are in the heart of the Coast range, where angling, hunting and prospecting can be indulged in to your hearts content. You can take your tent and get on the stage and away you go to the grand old ocean where for \$5 per week you can roll in primeval luxuries and dirt, and return to your homes recuperated in health and spirits. The best way to reach the ocean and the proper time to start is about the first of July. Purchase your tickets for McMinnville, then take the stage via Grand Ronde valley, to the camping grounds, or turn your attention to the Little Nestucca; climb those towering mountains and be repaid with a panoramic view from Nature's hand that casts into the shadow all landscapes seen in art galleries. Stretching out before the observer lays the great valley of the Willamette. Here and there appear upon the green surface towns and vilages, with great fields

of waving grain whose tawny coloring vies harmoniously with the deep foliage of the trees. On all sides rise majestically heavenward the snow-crowned kings of Oregon, shooting upward into the very dome of blue vaults above.

By all means come to Oregon where the crops never fail! By all means come to Old Yamhill, the wealthiest and most productive county in the state, where the great bonded warehouses are filled to roof with rich golden grain.

Oregon forever. Old Yamhill against the world.

### Lafayette.

Population 600.

Lafayette, the county seat of Yamhill county, situated in the north-eastern part of the county, is five miles from McMinnville as the roads go, and thirty miles from Portland via the narrow gauge. The city of Lafayette was incorporated in the year '82, and its government consists of a board of trustees presided over by a president. The town enjoys the best natural drainage of any in the state. The main street is a splendid plank road, while the side avenues are devoid of mud, as the waste water finds no opportunity of fermenting with the mud. Here too we find the purest and most delicate flavored well water that can be desired.

Lafayette boasts of an A 1. roller flouring mill, belonging to Suiter & Daniels, that, although small, turns out an article of flour that cannot be beat in the state. These gentlemen are wide-awake, progressive and industrious; are doing all in their power to push the town ahead. We can recommend their flour in the most complimentary terms, as the publishers of the Reporter have tested and found it A 1.

The narrow gauge road was thrown open to the public on December 11, 1886, by Wm. Reid, president of the line. This road taps some of the most fertile grain fields in the county, and will at once open up to settlement a vast tract of land heretofore regarded as undesirable on account of its location, being so far away from the wheat warehouses. All this is now removed and from Sheridan, the southern terminus, to Elk rock on the Willamette, the country is opened up, and the lands will find ready purchasers.

The location of the land around Lafayette is somewhat hilly, but the rich red soil has proven itself susceptible to the plow and yearly these hills produce abundant crops, also adding much to the scenery of this town. The business of the county being transacted here, makes it quite a lively little place, at certain periods during the year. There are half a dozen or more general stores, two blacksmith and carriage shops, two good hotels, two commodious livery stables, one public hall, good schools, churches, secret societies, etc.

The interests of this place are well looked after by the Register, a weekly paper, published by Westfield Bros.

The county courthouse is a two story brick building. Has a pleasant outside appearance, and answers fairly well for the purpose it is adapted. The county jail, located directly opposite the court house, facing toward the east, is also a two story structure built of brick. The lower floor being used for the jail and the second floor rented for public offices.

This town is so arranged by nature that it enjoys excellent drainage, being built upon the hill-side. The amount of public improvements during the past year has been sufficient to warrant a good out look for '87.