

EVANGELICAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES OF PIONEER DAYS IN NEHALEM

To the Evangelical Church and Community of Nehalem Valley, assembled in picnic festivities, at Vernonia, Oregon. Greetings!

Over the wire came a phone message from one of your members, Mrs. Spencer, asking me to write up a brief sketch of the Evangelical Church doings of pioneer days in the Nehalem Valley, which I consented to do.

The Nehalem Valley had its pioneer day, and was a little world all by itself, shut off by a huge timber belt and the Nehalem Mountain from Willamette-Valley Communities, but is destined to become a great residential community of prosperous homes, of which Vernonia is the hub and center of activities. The sunbeams are smiling upon the Nehalem, promising a prosperous future. But some of you remember former days, when things were not so promising; days when you were domiciled in homes surrounded with dense forest trees on every side, like a mighty fortress, forbidding you even the pleasure of seeing your near neighbor's home. Some of you well remember the pleasure of packing your sugar, bacon, bedsteads, cookstoves and flour on packhorses or mules over the Nehalem mountain. Some of you will remember the exceeding great pleasure of riding over the mountain, going and coming, on an auto composed of two shoe soles, propelled by human gas and perspiration, and how you puffed until you got over the hill! How glad you were when you were through with the jolts of Soft mud, a half dozen inches deep, and arrived in your humble, but sweet home. Ah! those were days of true heroism. Had it not been for your undaunted courage and the prospective outlook of a thrifty future as it now has.

But to Church Activities

What inspired the Oregon Conference to begin missionary operations in the Nehalem Valley, I do not know. But at the Annual Conference session of 1887 the Oregon Conference of the Evangelical Association (church) planted a mission, named "Nehalem Mission" including all of the Nehalem Valley. Where the preaching points were located I have no means of knowing. Rev. M. H. Jackson, who had come into the Oregon Conference from the United Brethren Church, was the first missionary with an allowance from the mission fund of \$75.00. No other results of his labors are reported than that he received fifteen persons into church fellowship.

For the years of 1888 and 1889 Rev. James A. Ray, who had come into the Evangelical Church from the Free Will Baptist Church, was appointed missionary. I think Rev. Ray had taken up a homestead in the valley and lived there. He received the first year of his pastorate \$98.30 for his salary.

In the year 1890, being the year of division of Conference, there was no appointment nor appropriation

made. What became of the membership, if any, I have no means of knowing. However during the winter of this year, 1890, Rev. Marshion, of the M. E. Church was appointed by the Presiding Elder, Rev. H. I. Bittner, who did render some service, but with what results there is no record to show.

During the year 1891 Rev. M. Burlington served as pastor. At a bush meeting or campmeeting in the summer of this year, Rev. T. S. Fisher of Portland, Oregon, as evangelist, held a meeting of great and happy results. This was a memorable meeting, never to be forgotten. Many were converted at this meeting. And a society of 28 members was arranged. This was, in a way, the real beginning of permanent results. Vernonia became the heart and center of missionary operations from thenceforth. I think if I remember correctly, it was at this meeting that the Pecks, Kieser, William Spencers, Hess, Campbells, and the Weeds—not such weeds as grown in gardens and fields but real weeds—I mean such as grow over human hearts and are helpful to church and society—came into the church organization. Rev. Fisher returned to Portland with glowing clors and immortalized Vernonia in the Evangelical church. I cannot furnish you with results of this year because the statistics were reported jointly with Columbia mission which was also served by Rev. Burlingham.

At the conference session of 1892 Rev. R. D. Strayfeller, a young man just stepping into the ministry, was appointed pastor to serve the mission, and Rev. H. I. Bittner was the Presiding Elder. A campmeeting was held on the north bank of Rock Creek up a little further than your permanent ground later on. The meeting was a great success spiritually. Allow me to tell you a fish story, not a fishy one, but a real occurrence at that meeting. I was invited in from Portland, Oregon to aid in the meeting. One evening after the meeting Bro. Bittner and I resolved to get up before sunrise the next morning and go up the creek and fish down the stream and catch fish for breakfast. It was a well known fact that I could not catch fish. I could fish but not catch them. It seemed that when I took hook and line to fish, the fish assembled in convention and resolved not the bite at my bait. At any rate they never did, no matter when and where I attempted to fish. They seemed to laugh at me and say "Shopp is no fish catcher". But for once I fooled them. That morning, fishing down stream until in sight of the camp, Rev. Bittner then placed the fishpole into my hands saying now you catch the fortieth fish. Of course I was game! I took the pole and threw the hook and line into the water and then gave it a quick jerk as I saw Rev. Bittner did, and to my surprise there was a fish on the hook. The fellow did not bite at the bait, but I fooled him by hooking him on the

side of his body by a mere happen. Well! I caught the fortieth fish and we had him for breakfast. Pardon this digression.

I think this was the year the church and parsonage was built. At any rate they were begun. The result of this year was 30 conversions, and 49 accessions to the church. The Sunday school enrollment numbered 46. The conference appropriated \$280.00 from the mission funds, leaving \$275 for the local church to raise, which was large, considering the financial condition of the society. The Presiding Elder received \$38.24 for his services. Rev. Strayfeller was returned in the year of 1893, and had a fairly successful year.

At the conference sessions of 1894 and 1895 Rev. G. W. Lamer was appointed pastor. He also was a young man first stepping into the ministry. During Rev. Lamer's pastorate, Rev. H. Schmknect was your Presiding Elder. It is reported to me that he will be present at your picnic festivities. He is big enough to toot his own horn. He is gray enough to tell the truth and to inspire confidence in you to believe all he tells you.

Brother Lamer had a successful pastorate all things considered. The first year there were some 50 conversions and 29 accession. The enrollment of the Sunday school kept creeping upward during his pastorate and was very encouraging.

At the conference session of 1896 Rev. Geo. McElroy became pastor. He was succeeded by Rev. F. M. Fisher in 1897 and 1898. Campmeeting was held each year of his pastorate and proved to be a great power and spiritual uplift. Souls were converted and others entered into deeper Christian experiences. Brother Fioles had eight preaching points. All the way up the rim at the North appointment down to Jewell. Some fifty miles in length. At one of my quarterly meetings he arranged 11 services for me and that in mid-winter, which required 142 miles on horseback from the time I left Houlton until I returned. And roads! Ach! Ach! Ruin every step of the way and a cold rain at that. Just before we reached Jewell and about night fall we came to a freshet lake of about 30 rods across it, and deep enough to swim a horst part of the way. I said I cannot pass through this lake, I am a coward in water and have not sense enough to swim if any thing should happen. We parlied. Brother Fisher said, "there is no possible way around it" I said "you go on and fill my appointment at Jewell, and I will go back and stop all night at the first house I come to". He said "it is ten miles back to the road there." "Then I will sleep out here". He said "You will freeze to death, having no blankets to cover you." Then I remembered that I was not only a coward in water but also in the woods because of the Cougars and bears. Then I said "You go ahead and I will follow. If you go down under the water I'll stop if I can before going down." We

landed, and Oh! the horrors that creaped over me! I can feel them now by imagination. But when we reached the other side I felt like a hero! Yes I did! The next morning we returned and had to go through the same lake. My heroism fell to the courage of a genuine coward. Fisher launched in to the lake. I said "If I must I must" and Oh! what horrors! But when I landed on the other side my heroism came back to me again. I could have shouted.

The great menace to the development of the mission work in pioneer days, was the almost impossible roads. Most of the years there was no way of going but afoot or horseback. But mostly it was afoot. But the more serious menace was the people moving out of the valley, caused by the money panic of 1893 to 1899. This panic worked a great hardship on the church and community. The people of the valley were dependent and there was no enterprise to earn the needed money to meet the demands of the family. If there was a little surplus of production of any sort there was no market for it being so far from market centers. Because of this many families were compelled to move out, leaving their farms or homesteads, so that many years after the first settlement there were less than half the number of former years. Every where discouraging scenes appeared. Even Vernonia, the heart of the valley, instead of thrift and growth, carried the hoar of age and dilapidation.

But a better day has dawned, and as the sun is rising to her noonday meridian the present enterprises of the Nehalem will bring forth encouraging returns, thrift and growth. The church will rise in the strength of her master, lift the moral character into a higher plane, lead many to the gateway of the land of many mansions, a land of thrift and perpetual sun shine. With best wishes.

Very respectfully
N. Shnpp.

THE LAND OF A LARGE CHANCE

In the struggle to get ahead, most men ask no more than this: an even break.

To such men this announcement is addressed. It has no thought of luring you upon a wild goose chase after easily won success. Its only purpose is to set before you certain established facts.

These facts pertain to a country which offers unique and exceptional opportunities to any man who is seriously concerned with the business of his own advancement.

You owe it to yourself to weigh and consider them carefully.

What the Pacific Northwest Offers You

About the Pacific Northwest, the basic truth is this; it offers you a great opportunity to get ahead because the Pacific Northwest itself is getting ahead at a rate almost phenomenal.

Consider these few facts. In the past 20 years—

Population has more than doubled. Foreign commerce has increased more than 500 per cent.

The number of farms has more than doubled.



Map showing the location of Vernonia, with reference to Portland and the Columbia River. Vernonia is fifty-miles from Portland.

The value of manufactured products has increased 804 per cent.

In every way the Pacific Northwest is growing and developing with astonishing rapidity.

To succeed in the Pacific Northwest is simply a matter of keeping pace with a great natural development. Of growing with a rich and prosperous country. This is not to say that hard, serious work is not as essential here as elsewhere. But its rewards are quicker, surer and larger.

A future Assured

Nor is this growth of the Pacific Northwest a "boom" growth. It is rooted deeply and firmly in the tremendous natural wealth and economic advantages of the country itself.

The Pacific Northwest today has—The greatest reserve of standing timber in the United States—960 billion feet.

More than half the nation's water power resources—26,000,000 horse power.

Millions of acres of the world's richest farm, fruit and stock lands.

Mineral riches almost illimitable with mines now producing \$1,000,000 a day.

Ports now handling more ocean tonnage than all the rest of the Pacific Coast ports combined.

A splendid system of highways reaching through the region in every direction.

The Pacific Northwest has within itself the raw materials with which to continue to build an ever greater future with ever greater opportunities for its people.

The Proof of Opportunity

But there is no greater proof of the opportunities offered by the Pacific Northwest than the prosperity of the people who make their home there.

Their per capita income is notabel higher than the average for the nation. The number of home owners is 24 per cent greater. Fifteen per cent more of them own automobiles. They spend per child almost twice as much for education. In the past ten years their savings deposits have trebled.

And not only are these people more prosperous, but they get more out of life. They live in a natural

wonderland. They enjoy a delightful climate. Their group of states is the healthiest in the country. Their cities are models of up-to-date planning. They have the best of schools, homes, churches, theatres, libraries, everything that makes life finer and better.—We know of no better section than the Nehalem valley around Vernonia. It is new. Get a farm or establish an industry.

A FEW FACTS OF INTEREST ALL OREGON CITIZENS SHOULD EXPLOIT

Portland is not only the leading lumber manufacturing, but also the leading lumber exporting port in the world.

Portland is the leading wheat shipping port for American wheat in the United States.

Portland is the leading flour exporting port on the Pacific Coast.

Portland is the leading apple exporting port on the Pacific Coast and is also a shipping point for large quantities of dried fruits and canned goods.

Portland is the leading export in the Pacific Northwest.

Portland now has 54 steamship lines giving regular service to the principal ports of the world.

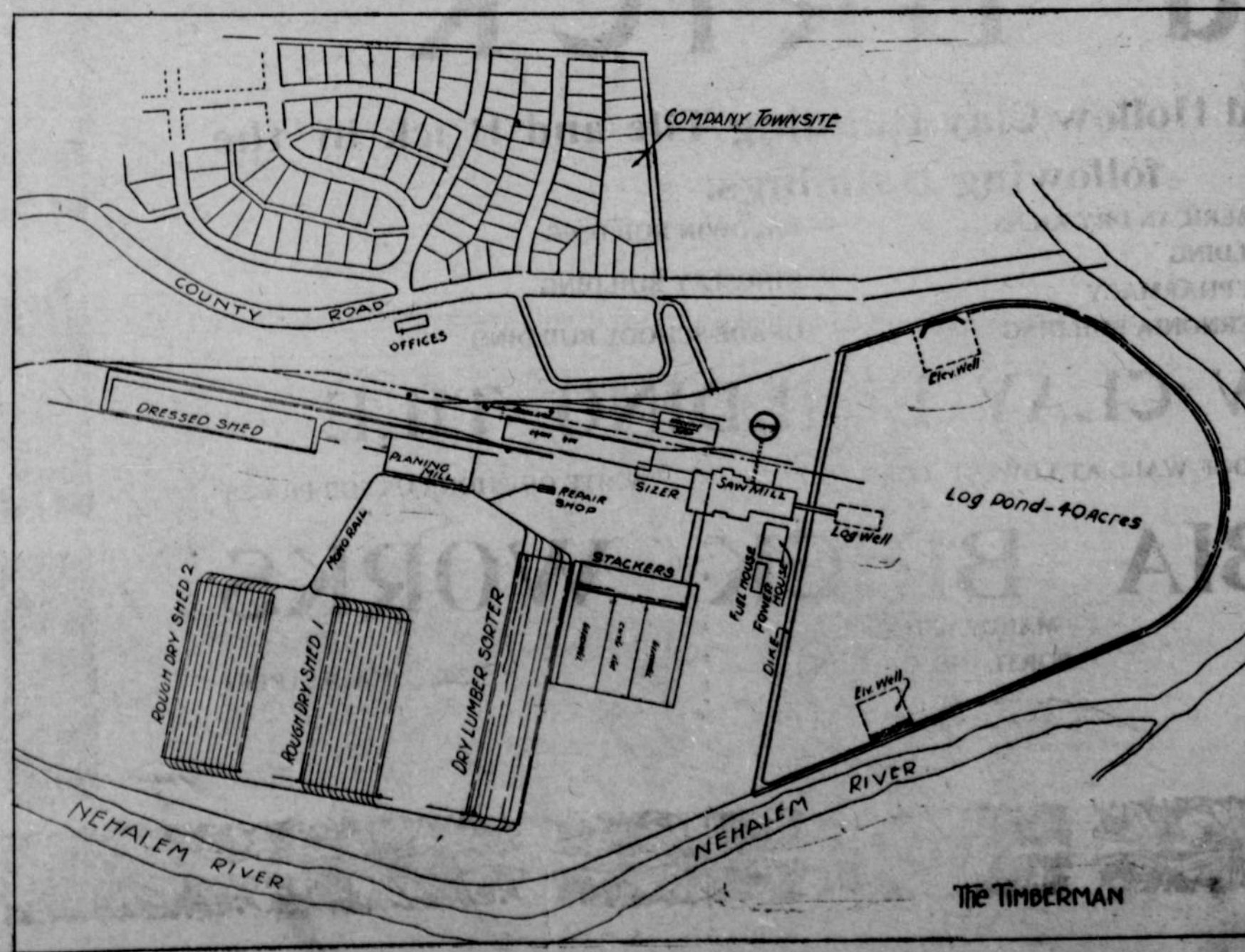
Portland handled last year a total of nearly 4,000,000 tons of cargo in ocean going vessels and 7,413,000 tons in all including that freight moved by river steamers.

Portland is the gateway of an empire containing 264,000 square miles, with ten railway lines including five transcontinental lines, giving service.

Ships of the principle maritime nations of the world including the largest freighters afloat are moving the Columbia River channel Portland to the sea.

Portland has four municipal, thirteen private lumber, ten private grain and seven private general wharves, as well as a number of city docks, and the market docks.

Christmas day begins in the middle of the Pacific ocean, and there is where Santa Clause starts and end his great and only journey of the year.



GENERAL LAYOUT OF THE PLANT OF THE OREGON-AMERICAN LUMBER COMPANY AT VERNONIA, OREGON

Sawmill Building	92X354
Power House	82X116
Fuel House	36X100
Timber Sizer Building	50X192
Timber Dock or Crane Run	76X512
Stacker Building	84X412
Lath Stacker Shed Addition	34X48
Front Kiln Platform	156X328
Twenty-eight Dry Kilns, each	11X110
Back Kiln Platform	156X328
Dry Sorter Building	180X888
Two Rough Sheds, each	258X594
Planing Mill Building	120X288
Dressed Shed	108X728
Machine Shop Building	70X200
Transfer to Stacker	30X257
Loading Platform	50X150
Monorail Repair Shop	30X30