

GLORIOUS MARION COUNTY

Financial Condition is First Class and Revenues for Improvements are Large

Following was presented for Marion county to the Development convention March 23:

Whatever can be said of this, the second largest county in the state, is equally applicable to Polk and Yamhill counties of which the city of Salem and the capital of the state forms the commercial metropolis. As these counties are represented in this convention and will speak for themselves, mere statements of fact will be confined to Marion county.

This county enjoys the distinction of having the best business and financial management. There is no county indebtedness, either in the form of warrants or bonds and this has been the case for a number of years. On March 1, 1905, there was cash in the treasury amounting to \$63,338.12. The current revenues for the year, 1905, will amount to \$83,834.15 for county purposes. Deducting the estimated current expenses of \$47,000, we would

have nearly \$37,000 to be expended on roads, bridges and improvements. The amount expended on public schools this year will be about \$64,000 of county funds. The assessed valuation for 1904 was \$10,373,830, exceeding any other county in the state except Multnomah. The current expenses for the year 1904 were \$44,752.27 smaller than three other counties. While Marion county is second largest county in wealth and population, it is only the fourth in current expense, some of the smaller counties costing as much or more for local government. Six counties in the state spend more for the care of poor while 11 counties in the state have a larger expense than Marion county for circuit court costs. These records are a splendid advertisement, especially speaking for good government and for a high system of moral and business ability. The city of Salem can justly claim to be the agricultural hub of the Willamette

Valley. It is estimated that within a radius of 25 miles are grown two-fifths of all the hops produced in the world. The same statement is probably true of the mohair and prune crop so far as the United States is concerned. In available water powers and opportunities for manufactures the three counties of which Salem is the center are incalculable.

The crops of small fruit that are grown and shipped from this point are increasing annually and include all kinds of berries and cherries. They can be grown here in quality and quantity and equal for canning and shipping superior to any in the world. The annual shipments of apples and potatoes and Cascara bark amount to hundreds of car loads. The entire product of one orchard was packed and handled last year by a Hood River firm under their own famous labels. A large undeveloped region of Marion county extending from the Santiam river above Mehama to Silverton is the best adapted region for growing high grade winter apples to be found in the West today. The entire stretch of country from Scott's Mills to Falls City east and west and from Jefferson to North Yamhill, north and south is a region without a parallel in productiveness whether it be big red apples, big hearted and brainy men or radiantly beautiful flowers and women. From a climatic standpoint this region is best beyond power of description. To the rich atmosphere of a region enclosed by mountains, is added the highly perfumed humidity of an ocean atmosphere.

Through a gap in the coast mountain range come the ozone-laden, invigorating breezes of the Pacific ocean. This is the ideal place for any American to call his home. Here are the mountains, the forests, the mines, the fisheries, the fruits of the land and the productions of the sea. Here is the inspiration and the opportunity to a greater, freer, easier life than the east can ever afford. Take our soft climate, our gentle winds, our great vistas, the seasons merging slowly into one another without abrupt changes, the air perfumed by odorous plants and we have a perfect paradise in a material way. The variety of productiveness is almost infinite. Practically, literally, absolutely and indisputably, the crops never fail. Ours is the land where labor gets its sure reward and where if you do not want to lead the strenuous life, the soul itself can expand and loaf and take its ease. This goodly land is beginning to be appreciated by the people of the east as never before. It will be overflowing with the choicest population of our sister states. It will be honey-combed with enterprises and grid-ironed with trolley lines. Its pure atmosphere is not yet tainted by the dingy smoke of crude oil or bituminous oil. Our pure mountain streams will flow forever clear and sparkling from their glacial fountains. Our soil, refreshed by the never-failing showers during the rainy seasons, will never be exhausted. Our forests are growing faster than they are being consumed. The confidence and spirit of enterprise among our people has only begun to be awakened. Who can forecast the future possibilities of such a region?

Mayor Waters on Municipal Finance.

I consider sound finance one of the best means of municipal development. When we are inviting immigration and offering inducements for the investment of capital in our midst, we should be able to guarantee that the public revenues will be intelligently administered and honestly accounted for. We can justly claim for the city of Salem not only a first class municipal system, but a sound financial condition. The city has a total debt of \$220,181. Deducting \$6181 of street bonds that have been paid off there would be left a net city debt of \$214,000. We must add to this, \$27,650 of school district bonds, the first of which are not due until 1901. This makes a total indebtedness resting upon this community of \$241,650. Estimating our population at 13,000, which I believe is conservative, it would give us a per capita indebtedness of less than \$19. Allowing the city of Portland to have 150,000 population and counting up the various forms of indebtedness resting upon that community, we find a per capita indebtedness for that population for that city to be about \$49. Cutting out the debt of the school district which is not properly chargeable to the city, we have a gross city debt of \$214,000. The items which comprise this debt include an issue of \$30,000 for the construction of a bridge across the Willamette in 1886. That bridge was washed away and that item is properly chargeable to an emergency properly due to casualty caused by the elements. Another item of the city debt is \$19,000 for sewer bonds issued in 1889 and for which the city of Salem has had the use of three sewers ever since. Another item of the debt was a second issue of bridge bonds in 1890 of \$20,000, which was our share in the cost of constructing a magnificent steel

bridge across the Willamette river which stands at present. The remaining \$145,000 of debt against this city is accounted for by a city hall, the substantial structure in which this development convention is now assembled, costing \$76,403. This would leave a net city debt against the capital of Oregon of \$68,600. I take the position that this \$68,600 is city debt which should not be in existence because the only true theory of conducting a city government is to keep the current expense within the revenue of the city.

I claim there are few cities of the size of Salem that can make a better showing in this respect. For the past eight years this city has lived directly within its means. No new debt has been created. In fact some indebtedness has been wiped out. I believe that is the condition in which we should keep our city. Under the charter we are limited to the 10 mill levy for current expense and in my last message I recommended that a sinking fund be created to make provision for meeting all outstanding obligations. The sound development of our city depends upon not only living within our means, but making provision for the payment of every honest debt.

Not Posted on Geography.

"Oregon may have some greenhorns within her boundaries," writes Miss Emma Roberts from Boston to the home folks, "but they're not all in Oregon." Then she goes on to tell, in her comical manner, how, while in Chicago she told a lady that she was from The Dalles, Oregon, and in turn was asked in "what part of Washington is Oregon situated." Miss Emma says that the lady evidently hasn't learned the states, let alone singing them with their capitals as she has had occasion to know some teachers and the youngest pupils in Oregon to do.—The Dalles Chronicle.

CHILDREN CRY FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA.

Weak Stomach.

A weak stomach is most frequently caused by the overworked and exhausted nervous system.

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Polk County Ahead.

Again Polk county steps to the front as a record breaker. A Chester White sow up on the Luckiamute this week gave birth to a litter of 22 pigs. The sow belongs to Frank Laughary, and 20 of the pigs were medium-sized and only two on the runt list. The mother sow is very large, weighing about 500 pounds fat, and she overlaid and killed six, but she still has pigs enough left

to make ordinary mother sows look like three 10-cent pieces, when it comes to comparing offsprings.

For the third or fourth litter for this sow, and, with the average allotted to the swine family, Mr. Laughary says that in a few years Chester White pigs will be as thick in the Luckiamute valley as hops on the Willamette river. The farm of Mr. Laughary, where the sow gave birth to 22 pigs, is near the farm of D. L. Murphy, whose cow, "Mott," recently gave birth to four calves.—Enterprise.

Sure Cure for Piles.

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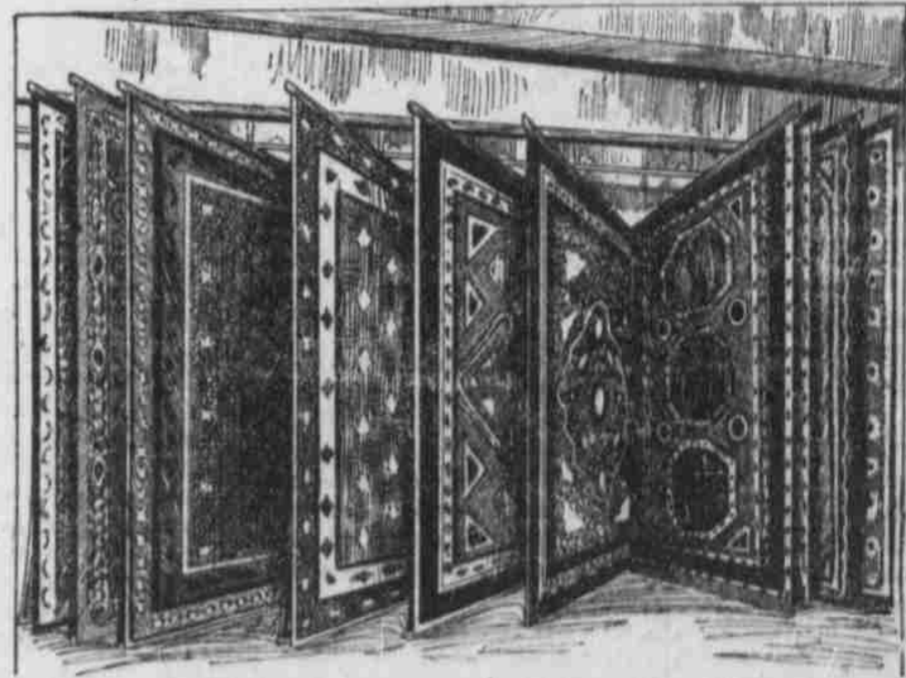
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