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A Newcomer's Impressions of Salem: Its Government, Climate, Industries

(By Henry M. Hanzen of Missoula, Montana, Capital Journal Staff.)

Situated as it is on the banks of the beautiful Willamette river, a stream which for scenic and picturesque beauty is unsurpassed by any river in the state...

Salem was the scene of one of the first permanent settlements in the state of Oregon, and its development and growth from a small village up to a modern city of 20,000 population has been slow, but steady and stable.

Its Climate.

The climate of the city of Salem and surrounding country is ideal—is almost perfect. There is absent here the cold winters of the eastern states...

world; scenery and surroundings which can not be surpassed and the cheapest of all kinds of building materials; schools, both public schools, and the higher institutions of learning, and which have no superior in the west and religious facilities which are unexcelled—in fact everything which enters into the composition of the ideal and perfect home.

Imposing Business Institutions.

The business institutions of Salem are modern in construction—modern in equipment, and present to the eye both a pleasing and imposing appearance. Salem has never in its history had the unpleasant experience of a boom and as a consequence it is possessed of none of those structures which were born and constructed in a hurry with little regard to either beauty or substantiality...

Its Citizenship.

The citizenship of Salem is composed of a people, who as a whole are contented and happy, progressive, enterprising, and public spirited.

That is evidenced by the universal desire of its people to own their own homes—to own them though some of them be small, and to preserve and adorn their premises; that is evidenced by the many handsome, modern and imposing business structures in the city, and the up-to-date and modern stocks of merchandise carried by its mercantile establishments...

Indirect Taxation Has Made Very Remarkable Progress in Oregon

The problem of securing revenue to carry on state and local government has been partially solved in Oregon. The Editor of this paper is proud of having contributed to this reformation. The Capital Journal is an advocate of indirect taxation. It believes the principle resources for defraying the expenses of both local and state government should not be levied upon property and merchandise, but upon franchises, earnings of corporations and intangible sources.

Journal Has a Record.

The editor of this paper, when a member of the Legislature in 1905, secured the enactment of the law levying a tax of two per cent on the gross premiums of all insurance companies doing a business in the state, which law is now yielding a net revenue to the state of nearly \$100,000.00 a year.

For marine insurance there was collected in premiums in 1904, \$83,584.04, paid in losses \$41,734.78 and in return premiums \$3,382.31. In 1908, these companies collected gross premiums amounting to \$170,003.88, paid losses of \$39,927.19 and returned premiums in the sum of \$3,549.76.

In the year 1904 life insurance companies collected in gross premiums \$1,877,994.72, paid losses amounting to \$491,274.97 and returned premiums amounting to \$107,934.40. In the year 1908 these companies collected gross premiums amounting to \$3,190,545.27, paid losses of \$544,231.46 and returned premiums of \$287,463.99.

During the year 1904 there was collected in premiums by casualty companies \$224,639.23, paid in losses \$64,186.95 and premiums returned \$9,457.11. In the year 1908 there was collected from these companies in gross premiums \$395,392.23, paid in losses \$177,084.05 and in return premiums \$38,409.06.

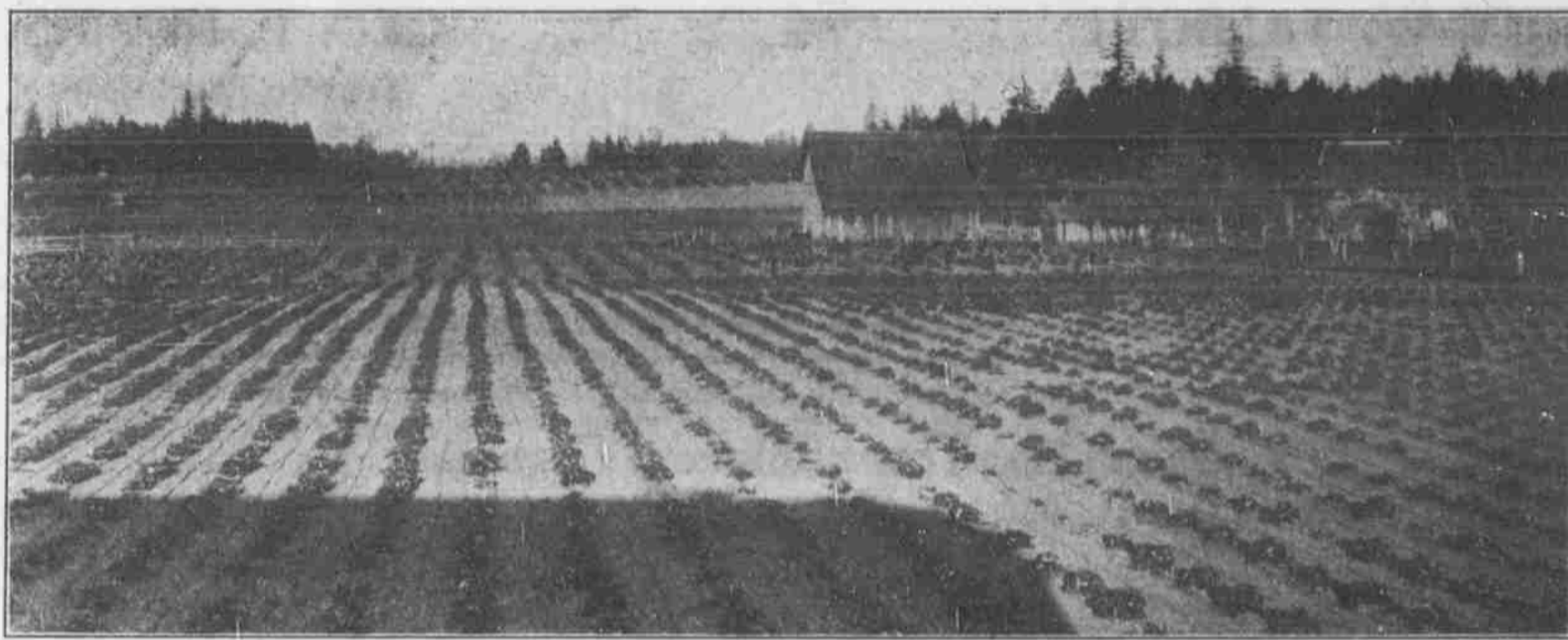
The fees from the Department of Insurance in the year 1887 when the secretary of state was made ex-officio Insurance Commissioner amounted to \$2,921.72. In the year 1904 the total received from the fees, licenses and taxes on gross premiums amounted to \$59,271.86 and in the year 1908 from these same sources to the sum of \$88,265.82. The total for fees and licenses for the year 1909 will aggregate about \$23,000.00 and with the amount which will be received on account of the tax provided by law on net premiums will bring the total fees for the year 1909 to about \$100,000.00, as there appears to have been a large increase in the volume of all classes of insurance business, and also that the losses sustained by the companies during the year have not been a considerable sum.

From the foregoing it will be observed that the increase in the various classes of insurance business has kept pace with the natural growth and development of the state, especially is this noticeable in marine and casualty insurance.

The fees of the department have increased somewhat on account of the increase in the annual license fees of fire insurance companies, and further from the fees received on account of the great increase in the agency force of the many fire and life companies now transacting business in the state.

At the present time there are 38 authorized life insurance companies, 39 companies engaged in the miscellaneous lines and 87 companies transacting fire and marine insurance, while 12 local associations are authorized to write mutual fire insurance in the state under our laws. Other companies have signified their intention of entering the Oregon field and doubtless during the coming year there will be many new competitors for the insurance business of the state and at the same rapid rate of increase in the commercial development of the state there will no doubt be sufficient business for all strong companies which may desire to extend their operations to Oregon.

The New Year's Journal is indebted to Insurance Commissioner Koser for the above statistics about his department.



Strawberry-patch and Orchard on the Main Line of the Oregon Electric.

The strawberry, as a variety of small fruit, grows here longer and to better advantage than most any other Willamette Valley berry. It is exceptional in size, flavor and keeping qualities, and commands a most satisfactory figure in the markets of Portland and Salem right at the door, as well as the markets of Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane but a few hours away. The demand for this fruit is in excess of the production.

growth and progress has been slow but steady and its business men and citizens in the construction of their business structures have given consideration to both their substantiality, their architectural beauty, and the convenience and modernness of their interior equipment. Its professional men rank with the best and greatest in the state, and their offices are handsomely furnished; its merchants and business men are wide-awake, progressive and enterprising, and as the people of Salem demand, not alone of its mercantile establishments superior quality, but also that the merchandise be in accordance with the prevailing styles of the day, the stocks are all modern and measure up to the high standard of style and fashion set by the markets of the east.

Municipal Improvements.

Salem is a well groomed city—clean physically and clean morally. It is one of the best governed cities in the United States and in municipal improvements its citizens have

Salem Minister Has Continuous Marriage Register for Nearly 50 Years

Rev. P. S. Knight, Congregational pastor of this city, holds the record for continuous service as a minister in Oregon. He began April, 1865, at Oregon City and down to the present has kept in the work.

In April, 1867 he took the church at Salem and remained in the pulpit here until 1884. From 1885 to 1887 he preached at Corvallis. From 1887 to 1889 at Eugene, from 1893 to 1907 at Central church, Salem, and from 1904 to the present at Willard also.

In nearly 43 years Rev. Knight has performed about 500 marriage ceremonies—up to Christmas the record was 498—and the end of the year will probably see the half-thousand completed.

Of these 500 couples, 35 couples were on one side or the other, children whose parents he had united in marriage. He proudly refers to the fact that nearly all pairs stayed matched—but few have been divorced.

His first wedding was Chauncey Bell to Margaret C. Edwards at Oregon City, Aug. 13, 1865. Fee, \$10. The last in the register was Dec. 22, 1909. Henry Werner to Nellie Binger. Fee \$5.00. Here are some between:

- G. P. Terrill to Emma Smith, 1867. Paul Oberhelm to Penelope McDonald, 1868. S. R. Jessup to Sophronia Coshou, 1868. Samuel Rundlett to Harriet Gessner, 1869. John W. Gilbert to Sarah R. McAlpin, 1870. John C. Booth to Sarah I. Headrick, 1870. C. W. Heilenbrand to Alvina Short, 1871. Squire Farrar to Martha Watt, 1871. F. J. Babcock to Ida M. Pratt, 1871.

- H. Stapleton to Josephine Allen, 1871. Z. M. Scott to Martha E. Gilbert, 1872. Y. W. Davenport to Nancy E. Wisner, 1872. Robert Grant to Nellie R. Elgin, 1873. John T. Bushnell to Carrie Croesynth, 1873. J. C. Stratton, to Matilda Spang, 1874. Perry H. Raymond to Edna Dickenson, 1874. Owen D. Hutton to Sarah E. Barker, 1874. Frank W. Gilbert to Emma F. Gilbert, 1876. Norris H. Looney to Harriet D. Clark, 1878. Seneca Smith to Maggie Gilliland, 1874. J. D. McCully to Lillian E. Patton, 1880. W. F. Ogle to Cora M. Cox, 1882. Prince Byrne to Ella Savage, 1882. Wm. J. Dwyer to Sarah J. Clark, 1883. E. P. Keller to Nellie W. Mellen, 1884. D. H. Looney to Jessie K. Thompson, 1885. A. E. Strang to Lillian A. Carpenter, 1886. O. E. Krausse to Lizzie Dalrymple, 1887. Francis Feller to Ida Garrett, 1895.

The rest of the marriages are recent history. This newspaper has chronicled nearly all of Rev. Knight's weddings since 1889. The fees received for the 500 weddings were all voluntary, and many couples were united in a solemn and impressive manner for life and paid no fee whatever. Most of the fees are \$5 and \$10 gold pieces, with an occasional \$20 and a few are \$50 fees. Rev. Knight married many Portland people and some in California.

secured the enactment of the ordinance by the terms of which the City of Salem banks are made public depositories and pay the city two per cent interest on daily balances. The Capital National Bank and the United States National Bank are complying with this law, which will yield the city a net revenue every month, amounting to several dollars per annum.

Insurance Fees and Taxes. In the year 1904 stock companies collected for fire insurance \$2,542,424.59, paid losses amounting to \$775,304.88 and returned premiums to policy holders to the amount of \$549,744.94. The mutual fire insurance associations of the state collected \$110,211.46 and paid of that sum in losses \$53,212.47. In the year 1908 stock fire insurance companies collected in premiums \$2,925,480.59, paid in losses, \$1,096,022.52 and in return premiums, \$643,268.02. In the year 1908 local mutual fire associations collected \$278,675.91 and paid losses amounting to \$128,692.84.



Champion Car Load Cattle

At Portland Union Stock Yards, Christmas Beef Show, Dec. 14, 1909. Exhibited by A. D. Goodale of Gazelle, Calif., and sold to Union Meat Co., at \$9.00 per 100 lbs. The champion cow came to Steusloff Bros., Salem and cost \$10.25 per 100 lbs.



Marion County Court House.

This is a snow-white building costing \$100,000, constructed in the Italian style of architecture.

City of Beautiful Homes. Salem has been denominated the city of beautiful homes, and deservedly so, as there is probably no city on the Pacific coast two or three times its population which can boast of more handsome residences than can Salem. The material entering into the construction of these homes are the best available on the markets; their architecture reflect the latest designs in the architectural world; their furnishings are for the most part elegant and luxurious, and their premises well preserved and adorned, and present a beautiful appearance the year round. There are but few cities, not alone on the Pacific coast, but on the American continent, which can offer to the teacher for an ideal home more advantages than Salem. It can offer a climate, one of the most pleasant and best in the

kept abreast with the times. Its streets are paved, clean and wide and shaded by handsome trees; it is provided with an excellent sewerage system, a good water work system, a splendid illuminating system and street railway service. Its parks are the most beautiful in the state because of the mild climate the foliage on the trees in those parks are kept perennially green, and not infrequently the roses bloom the year round.

Educational Facilities.

Salem is the seat of the Willamette university—one of the oldest and best educational institutions among the higher schools of learning in the west. Besides giving a collegiate course which measures up well with the standard of the large eastern universities and colleges. This

Bridge Across Santiam River Is Needed.

To enable people to come to Salem to trade in a larger section of country than all the Waldo Hills, there is a new bridge needed across the Santiam river where the Golden Ferry was formerly operated. The ferry is no longer in commission, and the people are forced to drive twenty miles in some cases to get to a trading place when Salem would be their nearest point. There is no bridge or ferry for nearly twenty miles of the river bottom and petitions are being circulated on both sides of the river asking Marion and Linn counties to join in building a bridge. Petitions are also to be circulated at Salem.

THE PIONEER GALLERY.

T. J. Cronise still conducts the Pioneer Photograph Gallery of this city, but every year sees progress made, for he is determined to keep up with the demands of the times in his profession. During the past year he has had made a fine lens especially for portrait work—one of the best lenses made. He has had some beautiful backgrounds in soft colors painted by the Stanley Bros., of New York. He has also put in an Aristo electric lamp, by means of which he takes pictures on the darkest night, but by appointment only. If you want a fine portrait made do not fail to visit this art gallery.

Institute for Feeble Minded and Epileptics.

Last year there was established near this city, another state institution by the above title, for the care of two classes of unfortunates, who had hitherto been cared for at the State Hospital for the Insane, and county institutions. Hon. H. J. Bickers, formerly superintendent of the State Reform school was placed in charge of the new institution. During the past year the following improvements have been made at this institution: Two new dormitories, \$29,000. Improvements on grounds, 10,000. New barn, 2,800. New roadway, 2,500. Heating plant and furnishing buildings, 31,000. Total, \$76,300.

The two new dormitories are equipped for sixty patients each and the entire capacity of the institution is between 200 and 300 patients. The most modern system of education has been introduced. The feeble minded are instructed with kindergarten methods, and the simplest games and toys are used to awaken the sleeping faculties and arouse the dormant and stagnant perceptions of the children to the end that they may become contented and useful individuals. Many of them are qualified for learning plain work, and the simpler occupations. Mr. W. D. Pugh was the contractor for the new buildings, and his work is notable for strong construction, durability and good taste in architectural finish. The dormitories were first occupied about December 15th.