

CORVALLIS GREAT EDUCATIONAL HOME CITY OF WESTERN OREGON

Makers of Oregon Promoting Scientific Orchards at Corvallis



B. W. Johnson, Postmaster and President Commercial Club, Corvallis.

Some Orchardizing Enterprises.

Twenty years ago a group of progressive spirits began organizing the Corvallis and Benton County Prune Company, which laid off and planted the first commercial orchard in this part of the Willamette Valley. It has had the fate of pioneer enterprises, ups and downs, good crops and bad crops, and in the end the proprietors found that farming by telephone was not profitable. Many Corvallis people like to look upon their first outburst of fruit culture as the magnet which has drawn all other similar enterprises to Benton county.

The Oregon Apple Company is a corporation which has acquired 1000 acres of fruit land in Benton county and is making one of the best demonstrations in development work for the fruit interests of Western Oregon that has yet been undertaken. It has enlisted some of the men of high character and complete confidence in the future of this region. This company is issuing a prospectus in which it is evident that one organization is trying to show how much it can do for the buyer of fruit tracts instead of how little, and is also seeking to give an object lesson in productive horticulture that will add materially in dollars to land values in Western Oregon.

Scientific Apple Cultivist.

W. F. Groves, who is serving on his second term as secretary of the Corvallis Commercial Club, is entitled to be ranked among the successful fruit growers of Benton county. He is cultivating from 25 to 30 acres of orchard of various stages of growth from one year old up to mature bearing trees. It is his aim to achieve success by careful, scientific treatment of his orchards along modern, commercial lines. Mr. Groves got some of his ideas of method and discipline from his former employment in the United States Navy Yard at Bremerton. He has one of the most slightly farm homes in the Willamette Valley adjoining the Oregon Agricultural College and about a mile and a half from the city. He has made a great success of irrigating for truck garden products. Each year he goes to considerable expense to make a display of the apples grown in his orchards. He tries to visit all the apple shows and keep in touch with the development of the apple industry. It is natural that such an enterprise should have produced a marked advance in the value of his property.

A few years ago some progressive men interested themselves in the organization of the Corvallis Orchard Company. This corporation purchased the Sam Wyatt ranch of 270 acres which is located three-quarters of a mile from the city.

About 100 acres has already been planted to pears and apples, and it is the intention of the proprietors to put out as much more this year and to plant and cultivate the entire tract. The owners are planting the orchard as an investment, and not for sale. They propose to keep this property until it is in full bearing. The ranch was sold for \$50 per acre and would now easily bring \$150 per acre. Mr. W. S. Brown, a Cornell College man, is the president and manager of the company. He is a practical fruit grower who has had

experience in Southern Oregon and Hood River. The farm is a slightly and beautiful location just south of the city on the Corvallis & Eastern Railroad.

Fruit Grower and Lawyer.

Professional men are making some of the most successful fruit growers. W. S. McFadden, who has practiced law for about 36 years, is the present owner of a 440 acre farm in the Willamette Valley that he has reclaimed from the bosom of Nature. Originally, it was practically a forest primeval, but now it is transformed into blooming orchards that yield larger and larger fruitage as the years roll by.

The McFadden ranch has about \$10,000 in modern barns and fruit dryers and a home where Mr. McFadden lives from June to October with his family. He has about 30 acres of peaches and has 50 acres of 13 year old apple trees and about 50 acres in prunes. Last year he sold about 7,600 bushels of apples and about 50,000 pounds of dried prunes. He is naturally interested in the solution of the problems growing out of the fruit industry, such as the proper packing, growing and marketing of the product.

An Organizer and Captain of Educators.

The state of Oregon was immensely fortunate in 1907 to secure the services of William Jasper Kerr as president of the Agricultural College at Corvallis. He came to this state from a similar institution at Logan, Utah, which he had occupied for thirteen years, and where he had made a name for himself that was favorably known all over the West and his reputation extends to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C. Dr. Kerr has one of the most perfect educational equipments possible. He was born in 1863, educated in the public schools of Utah, took the normal course in the university of that state, entered Cornell University in 1890 and put in four years graduating as Bachelor of Science, then became a principal of a public school in a western city, served for several years and was elected to the position of instructor in physiology, geology and physics in the University of Utah in 1887. He later filled the chair of astronomy and mathematics. For at least twenty years Dr. Kerr de-

and administrative ability, but he is on the top wave of progress as a believer in industrial educational. The influence of this is felt in every public school and institution of higher education of this state where there has been felt a tremendous awakening on the subject of manual training as an integral part of the public school system. As a builder and administrator it is only necessary to refer to what has been done at the Corvallis institution since he took charge. There has been added not only hundreds of students and a perfectly balanced faculty but the material development of the institution has been something remarkable. There has been added a Mechanics Art Building, costing \$50,000, recognizing the fundamental necessity of teaching the trades. Next came the dairy barns costing \$20,000, the Agronomy Building costing \$40,000; Sheppard Hall, \$22,000; an armory and drill hall costing \$40,000; not yet finished; green-houses costing \$10,000; and the central Agricultural Building, costing \$55,000. The aim and ambition of the Agricultural Colleges are to correlate industrial education to the actual wants and needs of the entire industrial and producing population, and in this ambition to serve the masses of the people. Dr. Kerr has secured the support and co-operation of the great body of rural population.

Two Telephone Systems.

Besides two telegraph systems, Corvallis has two telephone systems. It has the largest farmer's exchange of any city in the state via the Independent Telephone Company. The Independent Telephone Company started in a small room with one operator and a telephone connection with two country lines—one to Mountain View and the other to Monroe. From this the system grew until today the Independent Company has 2,100 connections in Benton county, that many families having direct communication over their key boards, with about 3,000 miles of wire and many miles of cables. There are employed fifteen operators and five line men. An automatic dial connects with any subscriber in the City of Portland of the Home Telephone. A harmonic ringing system enable subscribers on party lines to be called without disturbing others on the same line. There are no batteries in the telephones and a visit to the perfectly equipped plant shows that there has been wonderful progress in telephonic science, largely induced by the progress and up-to-date methods of the great competitor of the Bell system. The Bell system has also a large list of farmer's connections and a long-distance service that extends all over the state.

tor of the Farmers Institutes which are held in every county throughout the state whenever they are called for. He also organized and has carried on for three years the demonstration train work on the railroads of this state. This is carried on with a fully equipped train of cars and includes practical work illustrated with equipment and machinery from the college in all departments such as fruit, grain, poultry, live stock and market gardening. Everything is carried on the train from the finest Jersey cows to the humble hen and the busy honey-bee. The campaign for 1910 will start in March for Eastern Oregon, when the farmers at every station will be shown the best equipped demonstration train ever put out in the United States. It will be a veritable Colosseum of Agriculture on wheels. Dr. Withycombe has thrown his whole life work and remarkable energy into the development of agriculture to the highest state of perfection in this state and is literally adding millions to its productive resources annually.

Preserving the Military Spirit.

One of the most attractive features of life at the great Agricultural College is the military organization. This has been so highly perfected that the Oregon Farmers' College was one of the few in the United States that were specially mentioned and highly complimented by the corps of inspection officers detailed to visit all institutions having military discipline in the United States. The cadet organization at O. A. C. consists of two regiments, each with a regimental bank, sixteen companies with officers, and weekly recitations in military science conducted by Capt. U. G. McAlexander of the 13th United States Infantry who for two years has been the officer detailed at Corvallis. He has served in the regular army for twenty-seven years, went through the campaign in Cuba, and was on two tours in the Philippines. For a number of years he was detailed on general staff of the army at Washington. Wanting to improve his health he asked to be transferred to Oregon and is a living picture of the beneficial effects of our climate. There are about 800 cadets in uniform at the college. They are drilled five times a week, weather permitting, until the new army with its drill floor shall be ready. The United States army regulations are in force in detail and the same system of administration is employed as in the regular army as far as circumstances will permit. The new armory is one of the finest in the United States with a well lighted drill floor under steel arches 120 by 300 feet. The room for storing arms is 50 by 120 with a gallery to hold 600 people, and two stories of offices and club rooms. The armory

Agricultural College Carries Extension Courses to People

Willamette University, coming to the Oregon Agricultural College nineteen years ago. He took the position of Professor of English and Literature. Recently he has been promoted to the Chair of History and Political Science. Professor Horner has taken a number of special summer courses at Harvard and the University of California. His vacations are all devoted to the pursuit of literary research and he is the author of a printed collection known as Oregon Literature and also of a pamphlet, "Vacation on the Mediterranean." He has established a reputation in the lecture field on literary topics and during the present year is booking a number of appointments in the principal cities for a lecture with stereopticon slides entitled, "Oregon Legends and Literature." While he has given his life to this branch of education, way down deep in his heart John B. Horner loves every foot of dear old Oregon. It is a dream of his that sometime he will go back to nature and carry into execution some high ideals which he possesses on the possibilities of Oregon soil. Just in what form these will be cultivated and will blossom forth no man can tell, not even J. B. But he has proven that a man can dedicate himself to high ideas in every department of the commonwealth with which he has so thoroughly identified himself. The citizens of Corvallis live in an atmosphere permeated with agriculture and horticulture, and no matter what else they may do, they are dreaming of orchards, fine stock, and soil culture as the ultimate happy prospect before them.

Agricultural Interests Center Here.

Corvallis is not only the center of agricultural education for the entire state, but the work that is planned here, reaches out practically to the entire farming interest of Oregon. Here the most progressive farmers educate their sons and daughters. Here many of them, when they retire with a competence come to reside and invest their money and spend their declining years. One of the great features of the educational work that is centered here is the exhibit of work done by students in all departments, as well as products of the college farm and demonstration work by

Senator A. J. Johnson. He was for many years National Bank Examiner and removed his family to Corvallis about seven years ago in order to give his children the benefit of the splendid educational privileges to be had in this city. He set a new pace in this city by erecting the bank building and the post-office building, modern business structures that would be a credit to any town in the state. Mr. Johnson is also Chairman of the building committee of the new \$25,000 Presbyterian church that is being erected. He takes an active interest in the movements for the subdivision of the large ranches, and the promotion of modern lines of fruit growing and the breeding of improved stock. So far as is consistent with good banking policies, Mr. Johnson welcomes every new enterprise and has not been afraid to identify himself with a number of movements to establish new industries and encourage manufacturing establishments in Benton County.

He has served in both Houses of the Oregon Legislature and has been one of the champions of Benton county interests at all times.

CORVALLIS BOASTS OF THREE RAILROADS

Corvallis has three railroad lines, and is destined to become one of the railroad centers of Western Oregon. The Southern Pacific operates two passenger trains a day each way between Corvallis and Portland on its West Side Line. The Corvallis & Eastern, under Southern Pacific management, between Detroit and Yaquina bay operates one through train each way per day, and special trains to that summer resort in season. Besides there are three trains a day each way between Corvallis and Albany, making eight trains daily on the Corvallis & Eastern to the main line of the Southern Pacific at Albany and four trains a day on the West Side Line. The Corvallis & Alsea railroad, just building, is ballasting its road from Corvallis west, and will soon be running regular trains. The ballasting is done with gravel, and a train can be loaded within 20 minutes with gravel taken out of the Willamette river on a steel cable and scraper operated with a donkey engine. This gravel will also be used in improving the country roads.

The Corvallis & Alsea Ry.

A new transportation line, which promises to be of great benefit in the development of Benton county, is the Corvallis & Alsea River railroad.

The company was organized something over a year ago, for the purpose of constructing a line railroad to Blachley postoffice, in Lane county, and also to the Alsea Valley, in Benton county.

Considerable local capital was put into the enterprise and with the exception of C. E. Sprinkle and J. L. Sprinkle, two Montana capitalists, the stock of the company is held by Corvallis people.

The building of the road contemplates the expenditure of about half a million dollars and is now considerably more than half completed. It taps one of the most magnificent timber belts on the Coast, all of which will find a market through Corvallis. Two sawmills located at Corvallis and having a capacity of about 150,000 feet per day, will receive its supply of logs by this railroad. The road is in operation to Monroe in this county from which point it receives a large amount of grain and flour for shipment. As it operates through a rich agricultural section which has heretofore been without the advantage of rail transportation, it is proving a great factor in the development of the territory through which it has been completed.

Real estate values have advanced materially along its line and many large sales of farming lands during the past year can be attributed to the building of this road. In many ways it is proving a successful investment and Corvallis citizens who assisted in getting the company organized have reason to congratulate themselves.



Waldo Hall for Domestic Science, and Woman's Dormitory at State Agricultural College, Corvallis.

voted himself to higher sciences, and is today an active and honorary member of nearly all the great national scientific societies. Since coming to Oregon his work has been recognized by being elected to the presidency of the American Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, and also vice-president of the National Educational Association. With such an equipment and with such national recognition it is not possible to overstate the importance of his work in the development of Oregon. Dr. Kerr has not only great educational

Agricultural Education for the Whole Commonwealth.

This is really the greatest work of the Agricultural College and has been conducted for the past 11 years by Dr. Jas. Withycombe, Director of the United States experiment station work at Corvallis. For thirty years he conducted a large stock farm near Hillsboro, which he still owns and operates. He also fills the chair of Animal Husbandry, teaching classes in breeding, feeding and general care of live stock, as well as general farm management. Dr. Withycombe is also State Direc-

is built of reinforced concrete with a steel roof, perfectly fire proof.

Stands for Literary Ideals.

The people of Corvallis have always favored the development of literary and musical culture and one man who has distinguished himself in promoting the field of letters is John B. Horner. He came to Oregon in 1862 and has all his life been connected with educational work. His first service was rendered in Whitman Seminary, in the Blue Mountain University in Eastern Oregon. Next he held a chair in the faculty of Philomath College and

members of the faculty, at the Oregon State Fair each year. This, in itself, brings Corvallis as a center of agricultural education before practically the people of the entire state, and makes it one of the best advertised cities in the state.

Remarkable Record of a Young Bank.

The Benton County National Bank opened its doors in August, 1907, and has in that short space of time developed a splendid commercial business and has deposits at present aggregating about \$300,000. The man at the head of this institution