

MC.

BENTON COUNTY
ORE.



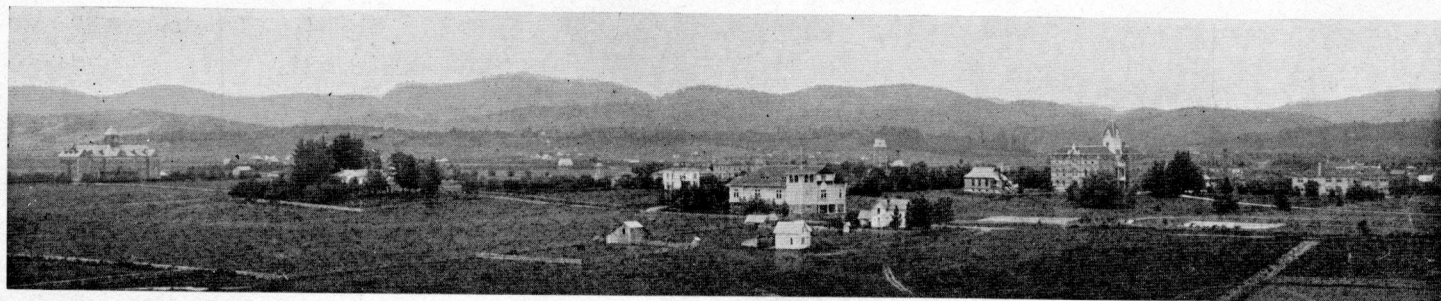
Illustrated



1920

BENTON COUNTY, OREGON

ILLUSTRATED



GENERAL VIEW OF GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS OF OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

PUBLISHED UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE BENTON COUNTY CITIZENS' LEAGUE

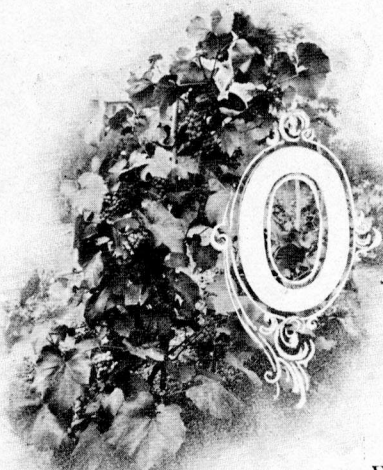
COMPILED BY

C. E. WOODSON, SECRETARY

CORVALLIS, OREGON

BENTON COUNTY, OREGON.

— ILLUSTRATED —



ONE hundred miles inland from the Pacific Coast the Cascade mountains stretch in unbroken line from the Columbia gorge southward into California. Close along the ocean and parallel with it the Coast Range raises its barriers. Between these mountain chains lies the great Willamette Valley, one hundred and fifty miles in length and fifty miles in width; a land unsurpassed in the fertility of its soil, the geniality of its climate, the range of its resources and the charm of its scenery.

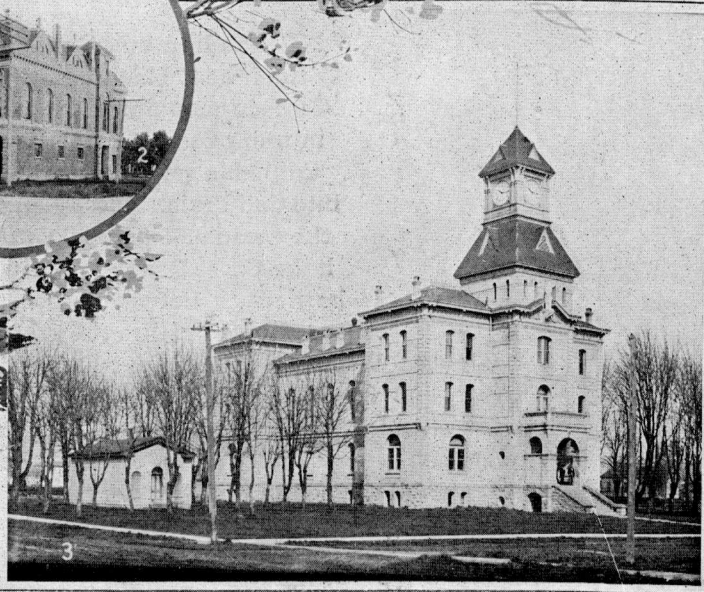
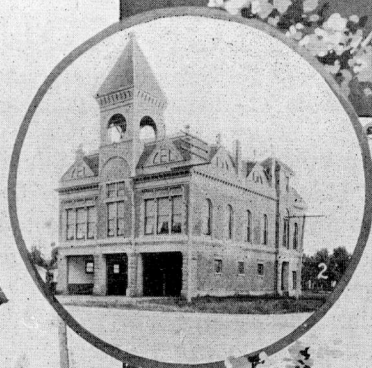
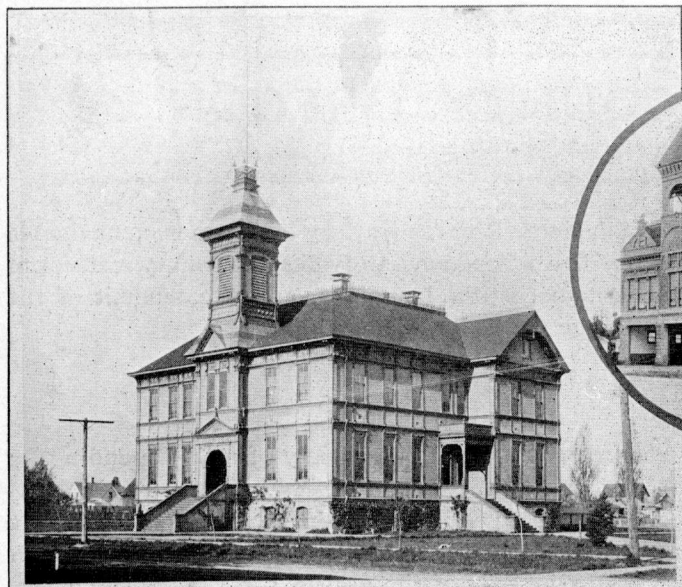
In the heart of this garden spot of the Northwest lies BENTON COUNTY, comprising an area of 440,000 acres of land. To the north is Polk county, to the south is Lane.

The Willamette River, an artery of commerce, navigable for thirty-five miles above Corvallis, the county seat, forms the county's eastern boundary, and the summit of the Coast Range marks its western limit.

SOILS

BENTON COUNTY has a variety of soils depending for character and quality upon their location. These, however, can be grouped in three general classes, namely: the sandy loam of the river bottoms, the black and lighter colored alluvial soils of the prairie, and the red soil of the uplands.

The silicious matter of all the Benton county soils is essentially basaltic, and as basalt bears a majority of the constituents requisite to fertile soils, it must follow that our loams will be among the last to require artificial fertilizers.



1. CORVALLIS PUBLIC SCHOOL
2. CITY HALL

CORVALLIS PUBLIC BUILDINGS

3. BENTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

The sandy soil along the river bottoms is a deep, warm soil, easily cultivated and never muddy, which yields excellent crops of all kinds.

The black soil formed from the wash from the foothills and Coast Range mountains are deep and fertile, carrying large quantities of humus or organic matter. This latter is a factor of extreme importance in agricultural economy. In the first place it is the source of nitrogen, the most valuable and expensive of fertilizing agents. Again, humus has a great capacity for moisture and transmits this property to the soil, thereby diminishing the danger of drought and at the same time improving the texture or mechanical condition of the soil. Under proper care and cultivation this soil will produce magnificent crops of all kinds. There are farms of this kind of land in the county which have been cropped steadily for forty years without artificial fertilization, and yet they grow large crops.

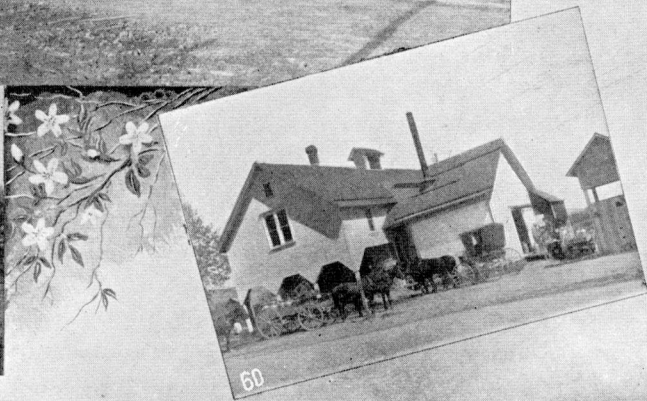
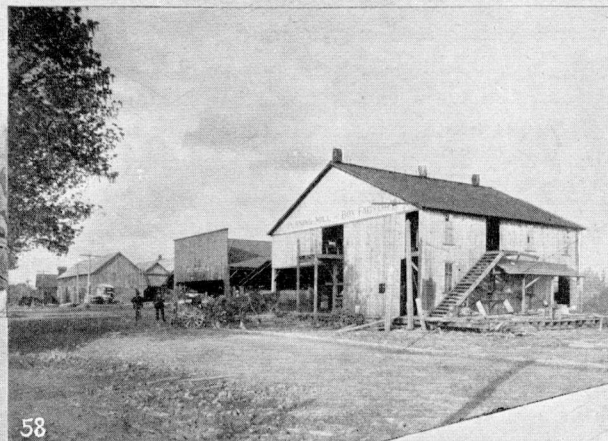
There is an occasional strip of white land on the prairie. This color is not an indication of poverty, however, as was formerly thought. The color comes from a lack of vegetable matter. This soil absorbs and retains large quantities of water, hence it is used for forage and pasture rather than for crop raising. However, where necessity has compelled the thorough cultivation and drainage of

this land excellent crops have been taken from it. From a field near Corvallis having this quality of soil, there was taken last year twenty-five tons of green vetch to the acre, and another field of like character produced a corresponding crop of clover.



INTERIOR FIRST NATIONAL BANK

The upland soils are usually of a reddish color, due to a predominance of iron. They are not quite so productive as the black soils of the prairie, but they have



57. CENTRAL PLANING MILLS
AND BOX FACTORY
58. CORVALLIS SAW MILL

CORVALLIS MANUFACTORIES

59. R. M. WADE & CO.
60. CORVALLIS CREAMERY

natural drainage, hence can be worked earlier and more thoroughly than the prairie lands, and, as a consequence, are little behind the lower soils in the crops produced.

CLIMATE

NOTHING that supports and influences life is of greater importance than climate. It determines not only the health and comfort of a people, but largely their character and fitness for the highest civilization, for climate determines in a large degree the physical and mental capabilities of a people, the annual soil product which furnishes them their sustenance, and the natural environments which go far toward shaping character and determining conduct and activity.

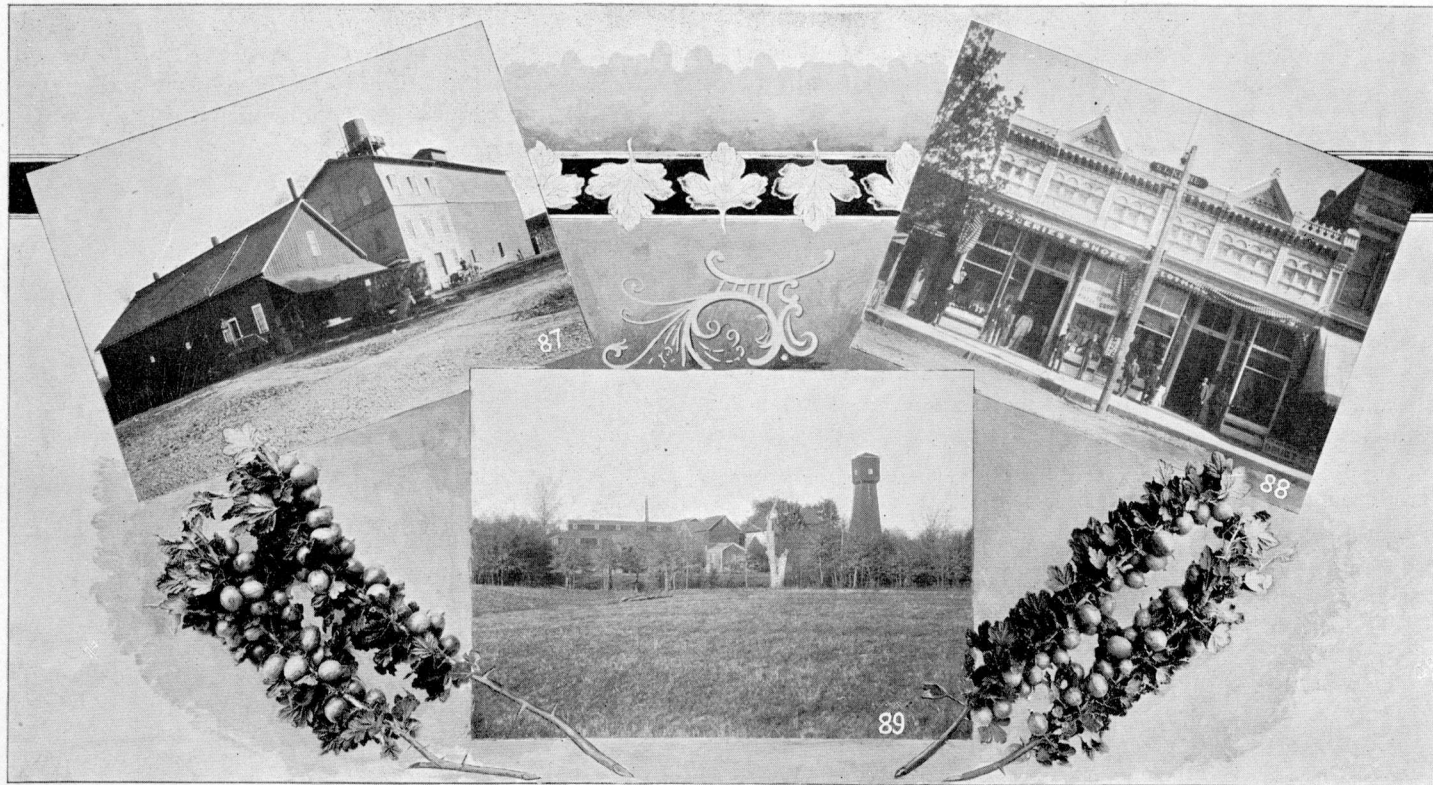
Judging from our latitude, a mild and equable climate would seem impossible, yet that is just what we have. There is no cold to retard, no heat to enervate. In the winter our high humidity wraps us in a warm water-vapor blanket which wards off the frost, while the Japan current flowing along our shores wafts us a breath of the tropics. While our friends of the same latitude in the East are wrapping themselves in flannels and furs, watching the mercury crawl down into the bulb, and trying to decide between freezing to death and an assignment for the benefit of the coal merchant and the plumber, we are

gathering vegetables in our gardens and roses in our door-yards, and working out of door without a coat. Our winter wind comes from the south and southwest and never blows hard, as it cannot attain a velocity of any consequence for the mountains. Our old settlers have not seen a nor'wester since leaving the East forty or fifty years ago.

In summer the humidity is low, and the resulting dry atmosphere causes rapid evaporation. In addition, the



SURF BATHING
ON SHORES OF
PACIFIC OCEAN



87. BENTON COUNTY FLOURING MILLS
88. S. L. KLINE'S BUILDING

FLOUR MILLS AND GENERAL STORE

89. CORVALLIS FLOURING MILLS

ocean breeze comes cool and refreshing from the bosom of the Pacific. As a result sweltering summers never occur, and the only thing our people know about prostrations from heat, sunstroke and restless oppressive nights is what they read from Eastern papers, while a Willamette Valley thunder storm scarcely rises to the dignity of a Chinese festival.

During the summer months the wind blows from the north in the forenoon; in the afternoon it switches around to the west and bears inland the cool, invigorating, saline breath of old ocean. No matter how warm the day may be, a cool, restful evening is as sure as the setting of the sun. Light wraps and overcoats are often comfortable as soon as the sun disappears, and a pair of blankets are a necessity on the warmest night.

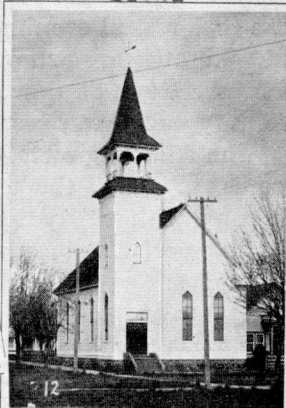
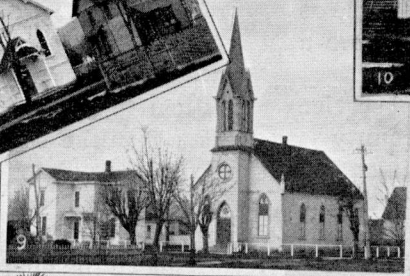
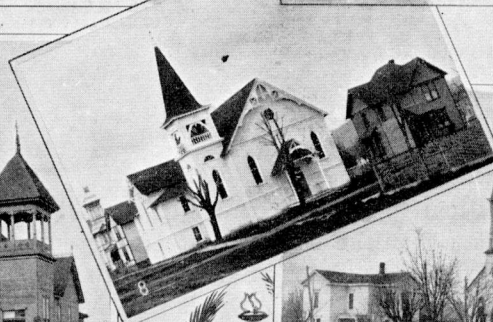
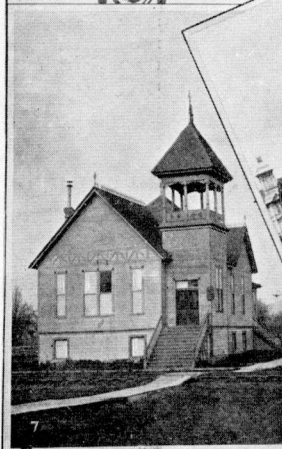
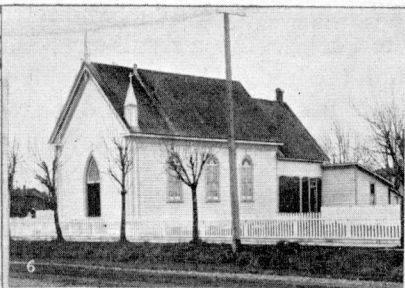
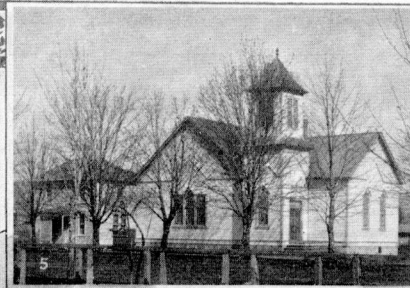
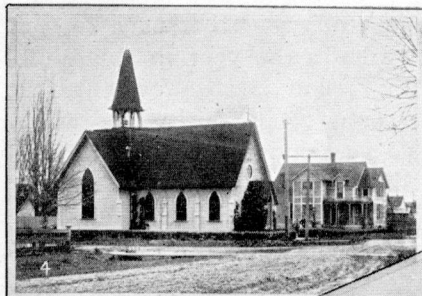
The following table, compiled from the signal service records, in which the temperature of Benton county is compared with widely separated States representing other climatological divisions, will show our excellent climatic advantages:

| PLACE. | MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE. | | | MINIMUM TEMPERATURE. | | | RANGE. |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------|-------------|-------------------------|------|-------------|---------|
| Benton County, Ore. | 93 | deg. | above zero. | 9 | deg. | above zero. | 82 deg. |
| Pennsylvania..... | 98 | " | " | 10 | " | below " | 108 " |
| Ohio..... | 99 | " | " | 18 | " | " | 117 " |
| Illinois..... | 98 | " | " | 19 | " | " | 117 " |
| Kansas..... | 104 | " | " | 24 | " | " | 128 " |
| Minnesota..... | 98 | " | " | 33 | " | " | 131 " |

"Oh, yes," some one will say, "that may be, but then it rains thirteen months in the year in the Willamette Valley." This impression is so prevalent that though we should make oath to its falsity we would scarce gain credence. To be convincing, then, we will refer all of doubting inclination or preconceived notions to the signal service records from which the following table of representative localities was taken:

| PLACE. | TOTAL PRECIPITATION. | CLEAR OR PARTLY CLEAR DAYS. | CLOUDY DAYS. | RAINY DAYS. |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Benton County, Ore. | 40.22 inches | 230 | 135 | 114 |
| New York..... | 31.65 " | 247 | 118 | 124 |
| Indiana..... | 40.52 " | 248 | 117 | 117 |
| Wisconsin..... | 29.52 " | 214 | 151 | 119 |
| Oklahoma..... | 37.55 " | 266 | 99 | 85 |
| Iowa..... | 33.40 " | 270 | 95 | 103 |

From this data it will appear that we are cooler in summer than the coolest State represented by 5 degrees, that we are warmer in winter than the warmest by 19 degrees, and that our range is less than any section represented, by 24 degrees. Our precipitation is but a few inches above the average of the sections noted, and if you eliminate our refreshing showers of April, May and June, which those sections pray for and often fail to get, we are just about on an average with them. We have fewer rainy days than New York, Indiana or Wisconsin, while



4. EPISCOPAL CHURCH
5. EVANGELICAL CHURCH
6. CATHOLIC CHURCH

7. CHRISTIAN CHURCH
8. M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH

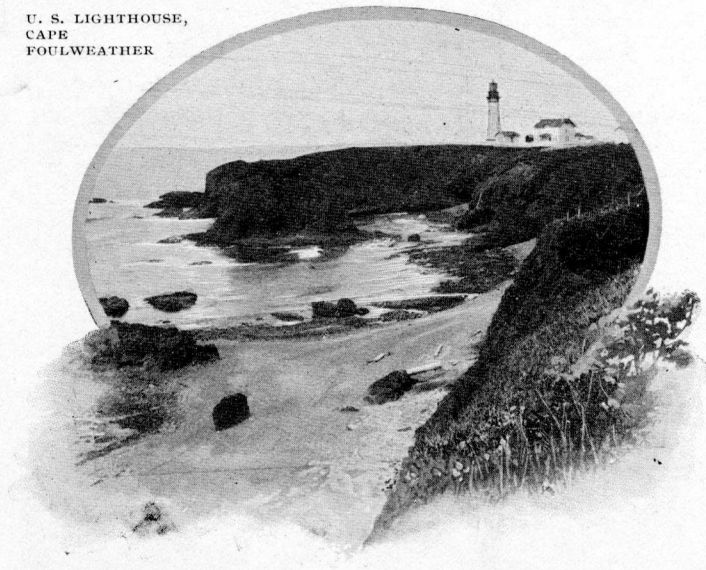
CORVALLIS CHURCHES

9. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10. BAPTIST CHURCH
11. M. E. CHURCH
12. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

the number of cloudy days with us make but half a month more than the average number of cloudy days in the sections given in the foregoing table.

Compare our small annual range of temperature of about 12 to 91 degrees, always traversed by gradual change, to a climate of five or six months of freezing, killing winter, with the mercury column nothing but a congealed vanishing point, then a change to three or four

U. S. LIGHTHOUSE,
CAPE
FOULWEATHER



months of roasting, sizzling summer, with the mercury kicking the top off the tube and boiling over, and just enough endurable weather during the periods of change to fully accentuate the tremendous extremes, and you have a comparison of Oregon climate with that of the Middle West and East.

RESOURCES

Under her favorable conditions of soil and climate, Benton County offers to the rustling, energetic man, an exceedingly wide range of productive pursuits, the principal ones of which follow.

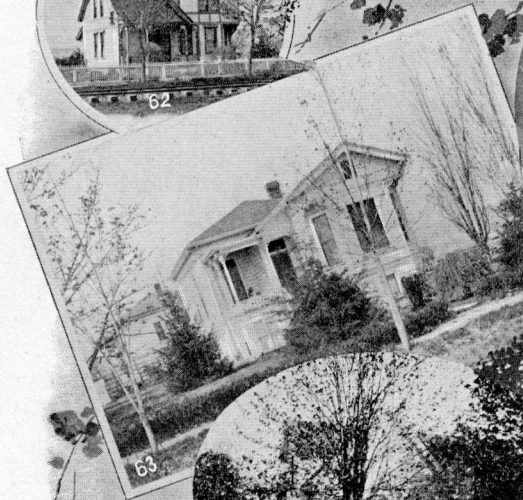
AGRICULTURE

The agricultural possibilities of the county can scarcely be surpassed by any section. The broad, level valleys of deep rich soil, the hillside and bench lands of brown and red loam invite the farmer to put forth his best efforts to secure the abundant crops which await the well directed efforts of the husbandman.

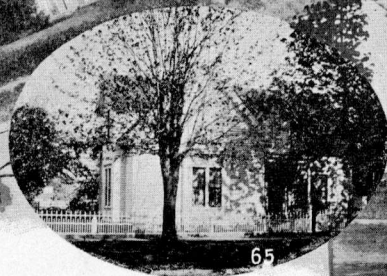
All of the cereals grow here to phenomenal perfection, yielding large crops of excellent quality. Wheat, oats and barley produce from 20 to 60 bushels per acre of exceedingly plump and heavy grain, oats not infrequently



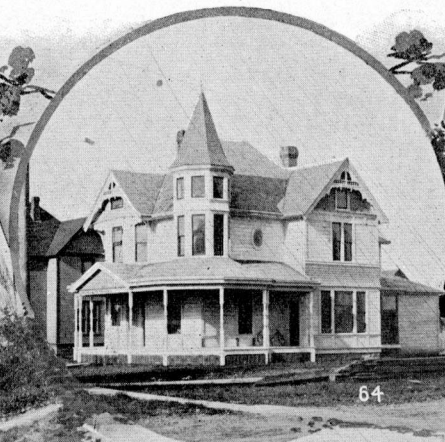
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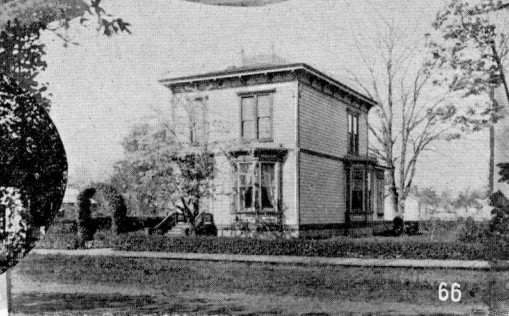
65



64



68



66



67

62. WM. BOUGE
63. LOGAN HAYS

64. W. O. HECKART
65. E. WOODWARD

CITY RESIDENCES

66. E. H. TAYLOR
67. J. H. SIMPSON

68. MRS. MARY C. BRYSON

weighing over 40 lbs. to the bushel. An average crop of these cereals is about 1,000,000 bushels for the county.

While the cool, refreshing nights of the summer do not afford the best conditions for corn growing, nevertheless large crops of this cereal may be easily produced. This, put up green as silage, furnishes a large amount of succulent winter feed for stock. The mild, humid winters, which are so favorable for the growing of grains and grasses, do not furnish ideal conditions for the storing of corn or its fodder, hence the bulk of this crop, except that which is utilized for silage, is fed out in the fall and early winter.

In addition to the large crops of grain grown on the farms of the county, there are various special crops produced yielding large returns. Flax grows well, making a remarkable growth of straw carrying an exceedingly fine,

soft fibre of excellent quality for the manufacture of fine linens. The varieties for producing seed also yield excel-

lent crops, showing that the county is eminently fitted for the growing of this plant.

Hops of the finest quality are grown, and the annual yields prove conclusively that this crop can be grown at the minimum cost. Four hundred acres of yards in the county produced last year 300,000 pounds of cured hops, nearly all of which rated first class and sold for 14c. per pound, making for the grower in many cases over \$100.00 per acre.

Aside from the large variety of cereals and special crops, the clovers and grasses grow remarkably well. This

is the natural home of the clover plant, if we may judge from the immense crops grown. It is not unusual for a farmer to harvest four tons of clover hay to the acre at one



JUMP-OFF-JOE, YAQUINA BAY



69. R. E. GIBSON
 70. JAMES HAYS
 71. J. E. FARMER

CITY RESIDENCES

72. MRS. LUCY FRANCISCO
 73. E. R. BRYSON
 74. J. B. HORNER

cutting, this being followed by a heavy after-growth, which is usually pastured or harvested for seed. In fact, all the hardier varieties of leguminous plants, such as vetch, peas, beans, etc., flourish here. The vetch grows profusely and furnishes excellent feed for all kinds of farm stock either as hay, silage or pasture. As hay, vetch furnishes three to four tons; as silage, twenty to twenty-five tons per acres. The fact that such a number of leguminous plants can be grown not only answers the question of cheap feed, but solves the problem of perpetuating the productiveness of the soil indefinitely.

The grasses do well. In addition to many valuable native varieties, timothy, orchard grass, red top, the rye grasses, festucas and other varieties, grow in abundance and furnish immense crops of hay.

Potatoes grow to perfection. There are no potato bugs, hence the raising of these tubers is an easy task. Given suitable soil and proper cultural methods, 500 bushels of fine, mealy potatoes will grow on an acre of ground.

Field root crops, such as mangels, turnips and carrots, can be easily grown, and furnish 20 to 40 tons of excellent stock feed to the acre. Cabbage, rape and crops of this description yield most satisfactory results.

There are but few agricultural districts in this or any

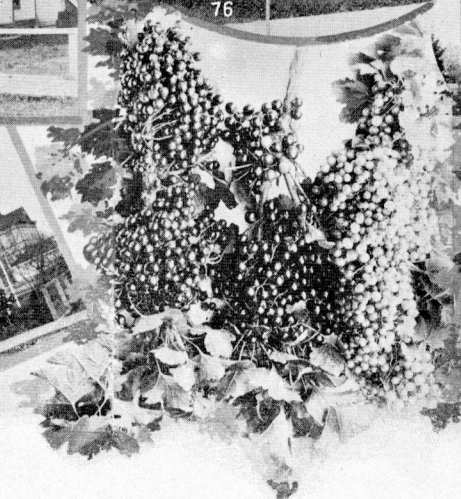
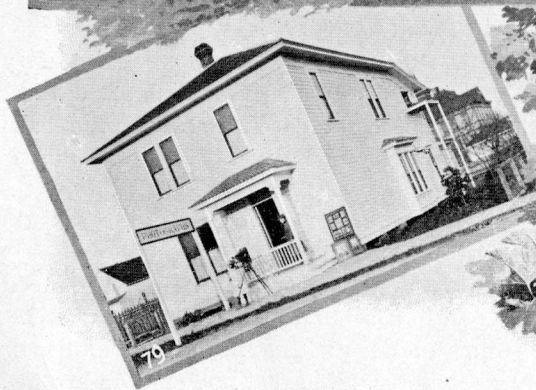
other State where such a diverse variety of farm crops grow so abundantly as here, and but few sections where the properly directed energies of the agriculturist will be more liberally rewarded.

STOCK RAISING

The topography of the country, character of the soil and abundance of vegetation all contribute to make the conditions ideal for stock growing. Besides the above conditions the water supply is all that could be asked. In addition to the several rivers coursing through the county there are almost innumerable mountain streams flowing over gravel beds and so uniformly distributed as to bring one of them within reach of every homestead.

Cattle raising is the most important stock industry. Large tracts of valley, hill and mountainside are covered with luxuriant grass which retains its verdure practically the whole year. On these pasture lands thousands of head of cattle feed and flourish. These are sold off the grass during the summer and fall or fed well into the winter and sold for a higher figure.

An excellent type of all classes of horses are produced. The soil and vegetation seem to be especially adapted to the development of horses with superior feet and limbs as well as plenty of energy and great power of endurance,



75. LEVI HENKLE
76. J. O. WILSON
77. LEWIS WILSON

CITY RESIDENCES

78. B. F. IRVINE
79. W. S. GARDNER
80. H. S. PERNOT

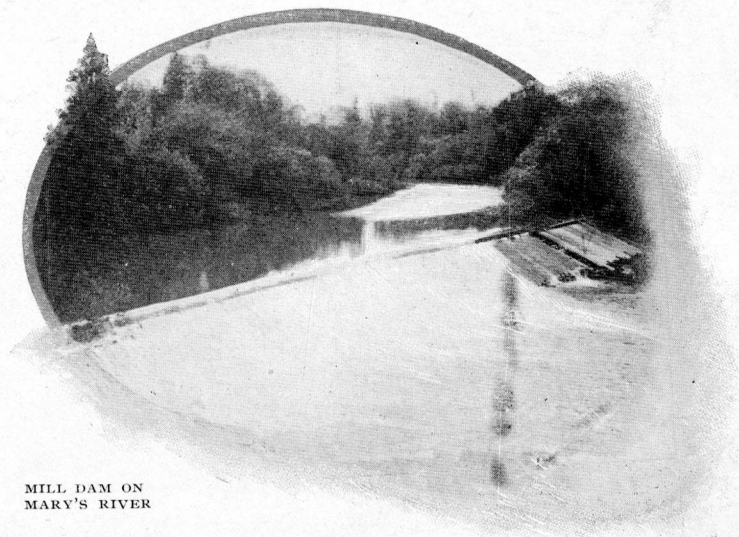
Sheep and goats do remarkably well and are found to be exceedingly profitable. It is not unusual for growers to clear from fifty to one hundred per cent. annually on their investment in sheep. The flocks are unusually prolific, occasionally giving an increase of one hundred and fifty per cent. With a slight ration of grain for a few months during the winter sheep can be maintained in a marketable condition throughout the year. A common and profitable practice is to pasture the flock on winter wheat. In this way they can be kept in excellent condition without grain feeding.

The goat industry is a profitable one and destined to assume large proportions. The brush lands of the valley and mountain slope are the congenial habitat of the goat. These animals are very profitable to the farmer as brush and weed exterminators and besides yield a handsome annual income from their mohair and increase.

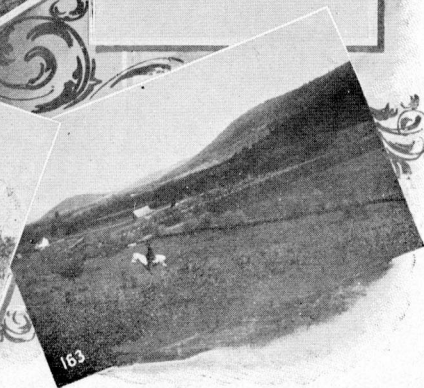
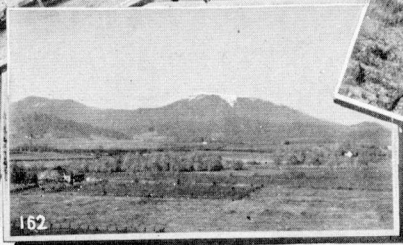
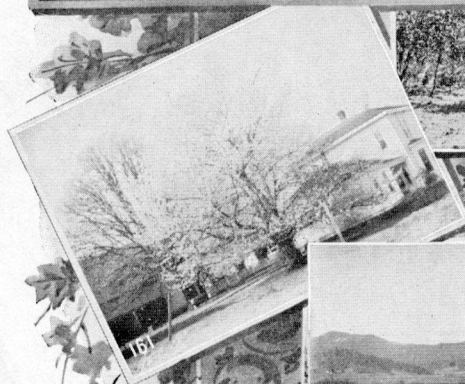
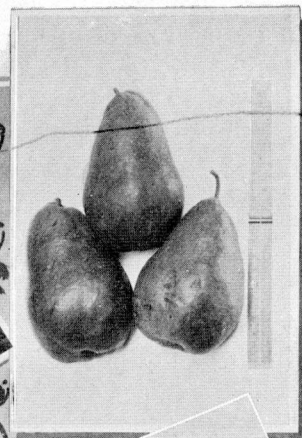
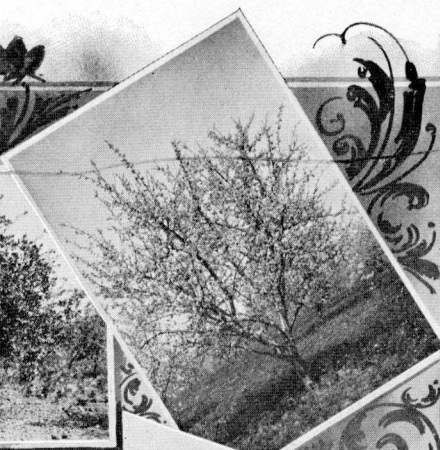
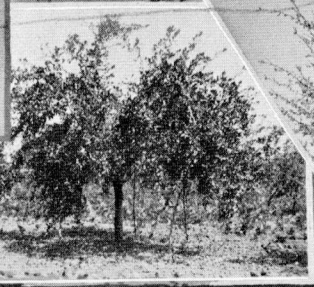
Swine raising has not assumed the proportions the profits of the industry would justify. The average American farmer has become so fixed in his belief that the hog and corn are inseparable for success that in the absence of corn he frequently fails to grasp opportunities for turning the hog to profitable account. It has been demonstrated time and again that hogs of a superior quality can be as economically produced here as in the best corn-growing

sections of the East. With the immense crops of clover, vetch and rape for pasture, and the large yields of wheat, barley and peas for grain feeding, there is no reason why hogs should not be among the most profitable stock raised.

The stock interests of the county are not insignificant, yet the resources are present to warrant its increase ten fold. Last year there were driven out of the county 30,000 head of stock of all kinds, yet the number of cattle



MILL DAM ON
MARY'S RIVER



161. LARGEST CHERRY TREE IN OREGON AT
JAMES MARTINS

162. MARY'S PEAK FROM CORVALLIS
163. UPPER SOAP CREEK VALLEY

increased twenty per cent., the number of sheep fifty per cent., the number of goats forty-four per cent. and the number of hogs eleven per cent.

The increase in numbers has been attended by a gratifying improvement in grade. There are in the county

several herds of fine registered stock, cattle, sheep and goats, and we boast some of the best animals in the state. Cuts found elsewhere in this publication will show what some of these beauties are like.

HORTICULTURE

The wide diversity of soil and aspect found in the county makes it especially suitable for horticultural purposes. On the alluvial soils of the river bottoms are grown magnificent crops of the common garden vegetables and the small fruits. No better strawberries and tomatoes are grown anywhere than those produced on the warm, sandy soils along the Willamette River. In these soils flourish all the small fruits. The crops of the common vegetables, such as peas, beans, radishes, turnips, carrots, lettuce, cabbage, potatoes, onions, cucumbers, squashes and beets are equal to any grown in the United States both as to quantity and excellence. Many of our citizens find the growing of such crops for market very remunerative.

The conditions for the growing of such crops, however, are not found on the river bottoms alone. Scarcely is there a farm in the county that has not one or more tracts of soil particularly suited for the production of vegetables and small fruit in quantity amply sufficient for the home at least.



PHILOMATH PUBLIC SCHOOL