

PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA

Purcellville is a thriving, progressive town of approximately 1,000 inhabitants, situated in the heart of the rich agricultural district of upper Loudoun. It took its name from a family of Purcells who kept a store for the greater part of the last century in a building now occupied by Joseph Jenkins as a residence.

For many years, Purcellville was merely a cross-roads town on a post-road with a tavern, a store and a black-smith shop as its chief attractions. In the early eighties, the railroad was extended from Hamilton to Round Hill and the town began to grow slowly. In 1908, the town was incorporated and since then has been growing more rapidly, perhaps, than any other town in the County. Twice its business section has been wiped out by fire, but each time it has been rebuilt more substantially and on a larger scale than before so that today, it is one of the most modern-looking towns in northern Virginia.

The principal occupations of the people in the surrounding community are dairying, fruit-growing and farming and the character of many of the industries in the town reflect that fact.

The creamery company which was organized in 1925 has increased the output of the local plant from 40,000 lbs. of butter a year to 150,000 lbs. The plant also makes ice cream.

One of the oldest industries in the town is the manufacture of flour, and corn meal, and the grinding of feed for livestock from the fine wheat and corn raised in this section, and the shipping of these products to other markets. The mill which was built in 1890, burned in 1906, and the building which replaced it has been adapted

to meet modern requirements. In 1924, electricity replaced steam as the motive power for the machinery and the capacity of the plant at the present time is 60 barrels a day.

One of the newer industries in the town is a fruit-packing plant which was built, in 1920, by local fruit-growers for the better handling of their products. Its increase in business necessitated a 35x95 foot addition to its main building last year and the purchase, this year, of improved grading equipment. Its output in 1928, was 17,000 bbls. of apples and during the apple season, 25 persons were employed.

The cooperage plant which turns out some 40,000 barrels a season finds that most of its output is being taken by local apple growers.

A business rather closely associated with farming and cattle-raising is the slaughtering of live-stock. An abattoir was built in 1924, where, during the past year, some 13,000 hogs and 1,300 calves were slaughtered under Federal inspection. While in operation, the plant requires the services of 10 men.

Another important industry, also established in 1924, is the manufacturing of concrete products. An up-to-date plant with modern equipment turns out building blocks, drain tile, culvert pipe, ornamental cement work and garden furniture. Some six men are employed in this plant.

Two firms dealing in lumber have mill-work departments, where window sash, doors, screens, and interior trim of all kinds is made. Both have suffered from fire during the past two years which for a time seriously interfered with their output but both

are now equipped with new and up-to-date machinery and are kept busy supplying the ever-increasing needs of the prosperous communities around them.

An electric light and power plant which was established in 1912 has contributed greatly to the development of the County. The lines of this company extend all over Loudoun County west of Leesburg and into parts of Fauquier. One thousand meters keep tab on the electrical current being used in the County and 20 persons are on the pay-roll of the company. Ice is also manufactured at their plant in Purcellville and is widely distributed over the county during the summer months.

That the community is both thrifty and prosperous is proven by the thriving condition of the local bank which was established in 1902. Its total resources at its last quarterly report, amounted to more than \$1,300,000.

Purcellville, as might be expected in such a prosperous community sells a great deal of merchandise. There are three large grocery stores and three general stores which also sell groceries, a bakery which supplies in part the local demand for bakery products, two hardware and furniture stores, a stove and tin shop, a jewelry and book-store, a pharmacy, two barber shops, a plumbing establishment, two feed and seed depots, a harness shop, two shoe repair shops, a farm implement company, a movie hall, and five garages.

The Blue Ridge Library furnishes good reading matter to people in this section and its room on Depot street is used as a polling place on election

day and for other community purposes.

An organization which has played a very important part in the social, moral, and religious life of the community, is the Loudoun County Community Association which, this year, held its fifty-second annual Bush Meeting. These meetings were held originally by the Good Templars to create sentiment in favor of prohibition. Later, evangelistic features were added but more recently, programs similar to those given by the Chautauquas have found favor during the week, while the Sunday meetings are still evangelical.

This same organization, of which J. D. Dillon is secretary-treasurer, also has charge of the County Fair and Horse Show, which this year is giving its eleventh annual exhibition on the grounds of the Association at Purcellville. Here is located the largest auditorium in northern Virginia where for many years have been held important meetings of all kinds. There is also a large grand-stand on the grounds and all necessary buildings for caring for the Fair and Horse Show. The local ball diamond is also on the Association grounds and many a thrilling game of ball and other athletic events have been staged in front of the grandstand.

The Loudoun County Golf and Country Club is a recently organized enterprise in this community which has already made great progress. A nine-hole golf course has already been laid out on the 160-acre tract which the Club has acquired just at the west edge of town. Plans are under way for the erection of a commodious club house this fall.