

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

The very best idea of the thrift and permanency of a city can be formed by examining the character of its residences. To select the handsomest residence in Portland is a task from which we would rather be excused, for hardly two persons would agree which one amongst the many palatial mansions is really the handsomest in this city. As an average sample we present our readers with a truthful picture of the elegant residence of W. S. Ladd, Esq., one of our oldest and most prominent citizens. The grounds surrounding this homestead are the most beautiful and best kept up of any on the Pacific Northwest, and for this purpose a skillful salaried gardener, with assistants, are employed, and hundreds of dollars annually expended. The property includes two full blocks surrounded by massive stone walls, and is divided by Jefferson street, which runs right through the grounds. Not only the fortunate owner, but every resident of Portland, has a right to feel proud of this beautiful place.

Our view of the city of Colfax was in the hands of the engraver when the late fire occurred there. It destroyed but a very small portion of the part shown, and this is now being rebuilt as rapidly as possible; so that for all practical purposes our picture is a correct one. Colfax is the county seat of Whitman, which has a population of 7,168, and is the metropolis of the Palouse country. Nestled between high hills at the forks of the North and South Palouse river, and in the midst of a rich agricultural district, Colfax is doubly favored, not only by location, but also in numbering amongst its inhabitants some of the pluckiest and most enterprising citizens on the coast. They are sociable, generous and ever alive to progress. As a consequence, schools and churches are numerous, and the surrounding country is rapidly being settled by an industrious, law-abiding class of farmers. The mercantile firms carry immense stocks, surprising to strangers who are not acquainted with the large section of country tributary to the city. A splendid newspaper—the *Palouse Gazette*—is published here weekly. It has in the past and is still doing good work in making that part of Washington Territory known to the outside world. Nearly all kinds of

business is now represented here, yet there is always room on top. From Portland to Colfax the trip can be accomplished in two days with comparative ease; steamer to Dalles, rail to Dayton, stage to Colfax; total expense, about \$25, inclusive of meals. When the railroad now building to it is completed, Colfax will become a city of at least 5,000 inhabitants.

Mosier Falls on the Columbia river is formed by a beautiful double fall of Mosier creek, just as it leaps into the Columbia river on the Oregon side, 12 miles below The Dalles. The creek and falls are named in honor of J. H. Mosier, Esq., the pioneer of that locality.

The falls of the Santiam river are the most picturesque series of cascades of the thousands of beautiful ones in the Pacific Northwest. They are situated in Linn county, seven miles from Lebanon, and about two and a half miles from Sodaville, and, aside from their beauty, afford most excellent water power for manufacturing purposes. A soda spring, cold and of good strength, purls through the solid rock in the bed of the river right at the falls. An enterprising man who would purchase this property and turn it into a first-class summer resort could accumulate a fortune in a few years; for even now, with no accommodations worth speaking of, hundreds of people visit the locality during the summer season. Below the falls is a fine sheet of water, three-quarters of a mile long by 300 yards wide, where pleasure boats could be kept. Our artist, Mr. J. G. Crawford, informs us that fishing and hunting is most excellent there, and while camping at the falls a few weeks since, he caught ten fish of a variety not known in this valley. They are about ten or twelve inches long, resemble the chub, with the exception that they have fine scales and a different mouth, the upper lip being very much like that of the sucker. The lower lip is smooth, hard and cut square across. On their back these fish have a dark stripe, and some of them have a similar stripe down the side. They are game, and are fine juicy fish for the table, having no more bone than the brook trout.

SEATTLE.—We have often had occasion to speak of, and give illustration of, this thriving, growing city. We now present our readers with a view of

Commercial street, one of the principal business parts of that busy town. The picture is in every way correct, and from it a better idea of the place can be gathered than if columns were written. There is one thing certain about Seattle, since its location it has never gone back. Its growth has been slow and steady; no excitement has made it what it is. Natural causes only have contributed to its growth, and just as sure as water will run down hill, just as certain will its location—central on the finest inland sea in the world—make it in less than ten years from now, a city of 50,000 inhabitants.

PROSPERITY OF THE PACIFIC NORTH-WEST.

For two years past the wheat growers of this section have experienced harder times than they had been used to in previous years, for it had been the rule rather than the exception that the man possessed of reasonable means and capable of prudent judgment, could calculate upon receiving a dollar a bushel for his wheat crop, as a year seldom passed without this great staple reaching that figure in all parts of the Willamette Valley. It had got to be a received opinion that the pride of a farmer's heart was to get a dollar per bushel for his wheat. They associated that fact with the idea of prosperity, and often realized it. But as all "lanes have turnings," so the uninterrupted prosperity of an Oregon farmer's life has had temporary disappointments. The year 1879 saw as magnificent a promise of wheat yield the first of July as sun ever shone upon, and the middle of July saw one-third of the crop of Western Oregon damaged with rust, and thousands of farmers were seriously injured financially. This was the first and only time in our history that we have ever known even a partial failure of crops.

Then came 1880 with abundant crops, and not enough tonnage to carry it away. Here was a condition of things prudent men had feared would come, but the majority had never really anticipated.

Two such years as we have described have seriously tried the souls of our wheat-growers, and made them look about for some other resource than wheat farming. Only a few months ago the situation was apparently hopeless of improvement, with an immense crop to harvest, with a large surplus from the crop of '80 still in store and