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OUR SEPTEMBER NUMBER.

The next number of THE WEST SHORE will be principally devoted to Seattle, "The Liverpool of the Pacific." All the engravings (eight pages) in that issue are illustrative of this young and thrifty metropolis.

ABOUT OUR CLIMATE.

SOME BEAUTIES OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY.

It might not be out of place, to correct an erroneous impression prevalent among many who are not familiar with the Pacific coast. The reasons for the mildness of our climate, as compared with like latitudes on the Atlantic coast and in the Mississippi valley, are not generally understood, and in fact among many of those who have never visited us, these facts are not believed.

In Oregon and Washington Territory, west of the Cascades mountains, we are exempted from the rigors of climate usual so far north. The reasons are obvious, and only require a reasonable knowledge of physical geography to account therefor. It is an established fact, that the motion of the earth from west to east, tends to throw the Arctic currents to the western shores of the two great oceans. Hence we see that of the Atlantic driven west and south, along the eastern coast of America, chilling its atmosphere, and imparting to it a climatic influence, partaking in some degree, of that found in the Arctic regions, modified of course, as the equator is approached. While the Arctic current passes southward along the eastern shores of America, chilling them with its icy breath, the Gulf Stream, direct from the tropics, having met the continent of America, and been forced to recoil, turns east and north, across the Atlantic ocean, bearing with it, the warmer waters and balmy breezes of the south, strikes the west coast of Europe far north, where

it turns again to the southward, imparting its warming influence, to the climate of the countries whose shores it washes, and giving to the same latitude of western Europe a much milder and more genial climate than is possessed by the same parallel on the east coast of America. So, also, the Arctic current, flowing into the Pacific ocean through Behring Straits, is from the same physical causes thrown to the west, chilling the eastern shores of Siberia and Chinese Tartary, while the Japan current fresh from the tropics, is thrown to the north-east, with the same climatic influences as those effected by the Gulf Stream, to warm and cheer the western coast of the continent of America. Striking British Columbia, and southern Alaska, it also turns south, along the shores of Washington Territory and Oregon, sending its warmth and moisture inland, until intercepted by the lofty Cascade Range, which, with its peaks clad in eternal snow, acting as a great condenser of its moisture, causes it to congeal, and to fall on these dizzy heights and the country east of them, in the form of snow; while to the west warm and plentiful rains reinvigorate nature, and though ever in the presence of winter's garb, enjoying the blessing of that which elsewhere would be considered no more than the cool damp breezes of spring. It is true that at times snow falls in the valleys west of the Cascades to the depth of a few inches, but never tarries more than a few hours, and such a diversion as sleigh-riding is seldom enjoyed here. The cold winds from the high mountains, however, mingled with the wintry damp of this lower region, sometimes produces a very chilly and unpleasant atmosphere.

Among the greatest enjoyments of the people here, are summer excursions into the mountains where a few days or weeks are pleasantly spent in fishing, hunting and general rustication.

The Willamette valley is certainly one of the most favored regions of earth, in climate and general characteristics. A trip from Eugene City, near the head of the valley, and at the head of navigation, furnishes so many and such

varied attractions, that he must be a very sour and unnatural creature, indeed, who could not enjoy a ride by rail through it. The principal towns along this route, after leaving Eugene, are, first; Junction City, a wheat shipping station, though young, of great thrift and enterprise, and which bids fair to rival some of its more ancient neighbors; Albany, the county seat of Linn county, is a delightful place of about 4,000 inhabitants, situated on the east bank of the Willamette river, and also a station on the Oregon and California Railroad. It is the third place in rank of size in the state, is located in the very heart of the great valley, rapidly growing in importance. It is particularly noted for its schools, good society and strictly moral tone. Fifty-one miles from Portland, and situated on the east bank of the river, and also on the railroad above named, is Salem, the Capital city of the state. This city contains about 5,000 inhabitants, is splendidly laid out, excellently located and contains many attractive and costly buildings. The Capitol building is yet unfinished, but when completed will do credit to this great state. The Insane Asylum, the Penitentiary, the Willamette University, the court-house are among the finest on the coast—the Methodist church and the Chemeketa hotel, are all buildings of which the people are justly proud, and would rank high in any state. There are many fine residences and the city is tastefully ornamented with numerous parks and other public attractions. It is called the "City of Churches," which title indicates the character and predominant class of society here. A line of steamers ply regularly between Salem and Portland. The country surrounding it is of the finest and most productive character, and the great variety and profusion of shade, fruit and ornamental trees gives it an appearance of comfort and culture. The people of Salem are justly jealous of the good name, reputation and many attractions of their little city.

While here I crossed the river and rode to the summit of the "Polk county hills." This is a range which runs north by west, bearing away from the river