

THE WEST SHORE.

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SPECIMEN NUMBER.

Any one receiving this copy of THE WEST SHORE will please consider it an invitation to become a regular subscriber.

The next number of THE WEST SHORE will be one of the best ever issued. Those desiring extra copies should send in their orders at once.



Wherever the fame of the Columbia river salmon has penetrated, Astoria has become a familiar word. At home or abroad the sight of a can of that delicious fish upon the grocer's shelf suggests it as much as a clipper ship suggests the Clyde. Situated on the left bank of the Columbia, about twelve miles above the bar, where the river widens out into a broad estuary, she is the gateway and natural shipping point for the entire state of Oregon.

For beauty and healthfulness of location Astoria has no superior on the coast. Situated on the margin of the river and extending up the sloping hill, with a forest-crowned ridge rising cool and beautiful above, never suffering from the overpowering heat of the sun, but constantly fanned by cool and healthful breezes from the open sea, she affords a delightful place of residence. To be sure the rainfall is large in the winter season, but this is amply compensated for by an entire exemption from snow and excessively cold weather. The sewerage is perfect and no malarial sewer gas or diseased-breeding slough exists to people the cemetery on the hill. The business portion of the city is built upon piling above the tide flats. Drains run into this from the hill, and twice a day the ebb tide bears away the filth and completely purifies the city.

From the heights back of Astoria a view can be obtained that is worth miles of travel to one who has an eye for the beautiful. On the east, four miles above, Tongue point thrusts its mass of green pines far out into the stream, forming one side of the graceful bay in which the city lies. Though hidden from view, the course of the river can be plainly discerned by the contour of the hills, whose fading blue melts into the horizon many miles beyond. Immediately at our feet lies the broad estuary of the Columbia, freckled with little caps of white, and dotted with the spread sails of hundreds of fishing boats. Some are standing across the river, others spreading their nets, many beating out towards the bar, while still others are coming home wing and

wing, with a load of the royal salmon. It is no uncommon sight to see five hundred of these little boats darting about, as well as several large ocean steamers and deep-water vessels, and a whole fleet of river craft. As far as the eye can distinguish their sails these little boats are seen, until they disappear amid the white breakers of the bar. Across the bar Cape Disappointment juts far out into the ocean, thrown into bold relief by the sun just setting at its back, while the low line of Point Adams lies opposite on the left. As the twilight deepens, the cape gradually fades from view, but its position remains firmly fixed by the brilliant star that gleams from the light house on the point.

Astoria is divided into two parts by a high ridge that comes down to the water's edge, the two divisions being connected by a long plank-way built upon piling. They are known as the upper and lower town, the business houses being nearly all located in the lower or main portion of the city. The upper town is expanding rapidly along the river and back upon the hill.

HISTORICAL.

In 1810 John Jacob Astor organized the Pacific Fur Company and dispatched the ship *Tonquin* around Cape Horn, sending at the same time an overland party from Mackinaw under Wilson P. Hunt. The *Tonquin* arrived off the bar late in March and a landing was effected and a settlement made about the first of April, 1811. The place was named Fort Astoria in honor of the founder of the enterprise. It was located on the site now occupied by C. Adler, Esq. October 16, 1813, owing to the war between Great Britain and the United States, the fort and business were sold to the Northwest Company, and two months later the British flag was raised over the place and the name was changed to Fort George. October 6, 1818, it was formally restored to the United States and the old name was again given it. After the consolidation of the rival English and Canadian fur companies as the Hudson's Bay Company, the headquarters were moved to Vancouver, and Astoria became of secondary importance.

Thus matters continued until 1845 when several American settlers took up claims along the river, some of them on the present town site. In 1848 A. Van Dusen settled here and opened a store, trading with the few settlers and the many Indians of the Clatsop tribe who occupied this region. He is still residing in the city. Early in 1849 the custom house was established, the only one then on the coast, and quite a little town sprang up in a few years, though it was not for some time that vessels in any numbers entered the river. A saw mill was soon built, and the town gradually expanded with the development of the country and the increase in commercial traffic. In 1867 the business of canning salmon began and from the inception of that industry dates the substantial and permanent growth of the city. The increase was slow for a few years, there being but 500 people here in 1870, but from that time on it grew so rapidly that in 1876 it was in-

corporated by the legislature. The past few years have been ones of remarkable increase of wealth, population and business, and the indications are the future will witness a growth still greater than that of the past.

POPULATION AND BUSINESS.

The population of the upper and lower towns combined was given by the census of 1880 as 5,840 including 2,000 Chinese. This has been increased by the addition of fully 2,000 white people and a large number of Chinamen, so that the present population can not vary much from 8,000. The increase is steady and permanent of about 1,000 annually. The majority of the fishermen are single men, but during the last few years many of them have sent to Europe for their families or have married, and the population is being rapidly augmented in this manner.

The number of buildings completed within a year or now in process of erection is very great. Six new canneries were built at an average cost for building and machinery of \$30,000. Gas works with a capacity of 20,000 feet have recently been completed at an expense of \$75,000. Two small systems of water works exist, but these will be supplanted in August by a more extensive one. Water is being brought from Bear river in large iron pipes a distance of eleven miles. The reservoir on Bear river has a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons, and there will be a pressure of 240 feet at tide water. These improvements will cost \$85,000, and are the work of the Columbia Water Co., composed of J. W. Braze, D. P. Thompson and F. Dekum. The Odd Fellows' temple is a magnificent three story brick building, 50x100 feet, just completed at an expense of \$45,000 inclusive of the ground. The Bank of I. W. Case and the large drug store of W. E. Dement & Co. occupy the ground floor. Pythian hall was finished this year by the Knights of Pythias at a cost of \$17,000, and is a fine frame structure. Mrs. Eliza Kinney has laid the foundation of a two story brick building, 50x70 feet, that will cost \$22,000. The Odd Fellows' building is at present the only brick in the city, owing to the fact that the business portion of the town rests upon pilings. The method of laying the foundation for one is very peculiar. Piles are driven into the mud and sawed off at the surface. Upon these are placed cross-beams, which form the foundation for the brick work. Many smaller buildings have been erected during the past year, and more than 200 dwelling houses have been completed or are in process of erection. The indications are that the class of buildings erected for business purposes in the future will be a great improvement upon those in the past, larger and of brick instead of wood.

The handsome and substantial custom house was erected about twelve years ago. It is a solid stone structure two stories high, and standing in the center of a block. It is occupied by the custom house officers and the post office. Owing to the character of the population the number of hotels, boarding houses and restaurants is very large. The leading hotels are