

BUILDING A TOWN.

LEGENDS tell us of the sudden springing up of cities in the plain by the power of magic art; how the good genius of the lamp constructed in one night Aladdin's wonderful castle; how stones have been converted into houses, hills into castles and sticks and stumps into living and breathing human beings and animals, by invoking the aid of spirits of air, forest and water; but these wonders are related for the amusement of children. It has been reserved for modern times to display in the magical growth of the West transformations almost as startling and wonderful as those produced by the powers of the ring or lamp, whose relation was the delight and wonder of our childhood. Gold is discovered in some wild and hitherto uninhabited region, and lo! almost in a night, a bustling, busy town springs up in the wilderness. Circumstances suddenly indicate the concentration of business and population at some new point in a rapidly settling region or along the route of an approaching railroad, and there is a rush of people, animals, wagons and goods of all kinds, the saw and hammer are plied with nervous energy, and in a few days a full-fledged town of stores, saloons, hotels, shops, offices and residences appears where before the only animate objects were the bounding jack rabbit and the nimble coyote.

Three months ago the mingled tufts of bunch grass and sage brush alone claimed possession of North Yakima, and now a thriving town, with railroad depot and side tracks, stores, residences, a church and even thousands of shade trees, is to be seen. Only in the great West do conditions exist which render such things possible. Peopled with an intelligent, enterprising and active class, constantly recruited from the best blood, brawn and brain of the East, it accomplishes feats of industry and enterprise that may well challenge the amazement of older communities. The West is rapidly filling up with wide-awake, active and ambitious young men, who find here a broader and more inviting field for the exhibition of their powers and energy than is possible in the older and more settled regions from which they come. The drones, the cripples, the easily contented and those past the era of their greatest activity remain at home, while the younger and more energetic, filled with ambition and a determination to conquer success by unflagging effort, are crowding into the newer West and daily accomplishing things that may well make their old friends and neighbors open their eyes with astonishment. The most striking illustration of this is the town whose growth, situation and prospects we are now considering. North Yakima is the latest addition to the list of live Western towns, and in every essential particular it excels all its predecessors, presenting many interesting features peculiar to itself.

For thirty years the Yakima country has been favorably known to the people of Oregon and Washington, and yet its remoteness from the great natural routes of travel, combined with the fact that plenty of good land was to be had better situated with reference to transportation facilities and markets as they formerly existed, served to greatly retard its settlement; and even now,

though containing many settlers and numerous business enterprises of long standing, it is comparatively a new country, offering all the advantages and opportunities sought by those who desire to become possessed of agricultural land or engage in varied and profitable mercantile and manufacturing enterprises. Though traversed by hundreds of pilgrims seeking the Colville mines in 1855, and hundreds more following the golden will-o'-the-wisp into the Fraser River country in 1858, no actual settlement was made until 1861, and it was eight years later before the population was sufficient to warrant the organization of a county government. During the past few years, however, since it became evident that a railroad through the heart of that region, connecting Puget Sound with Eastern Washington, would certainly be constructed in the near future, settlers have been pouring in, and especially since work was actually begun by the Northern Pacific have their numbers largely increased. At the present rate it will not be long before all the most desirable land will be taken up or purchased and the wilderness completely transformed.

The region generally known as the "Yakima country" extends from the Cascades eastward to the great bend of the Columbia, and from the Wenatchie south to the Simcoe Mountains, having an average diameter of 150 miles. Through it, from northwest to southeast, runs the Yakima River, receiving numerous important tributaries from both sides, such as the Ahtanum, Wenas, Kittitas, Naches, Topinash, Satus, etc. Topographically it presents a series of hills, plateaus, low mountain ranges and long stretches of valley lands along the various streams. The hills and table lands are covered with sage in part, and in part with luxuriant bunch grass. They and the adjacent valleys are famous as the grandest pasture lands of the Northwest Coast. No region of Oregon or Washington has produced more or better cattle and horses. The beef has a wide reputation, and horses reared there possess great powers of endurance. The timber of that region is confined to the mountains, foothills and watercourses. It comprises all the evergreen and soft wood varieties natural to the Coast. Oak groves are found here and there. The pines and firs grow to great size and height. In places the tamarack and cedar are of large growth. The streams are usually margined with balm and alder.

In the foothills and mountains proper are found all the precious metals, with iron and coal. Placer diggings and quartz mines are an interesting feature of the country. Copper and coal are among the products which in the near future will contribute to the industries of the Yakima Valley. A great wealth of minerals exists within the area described. Recent developments indicate that to establish permanently a great mining camp in the Clel-um District, the completion of the Cascades Division of the Northern Pacific and the enlistment of capital are alone necessary. This great transcontinental road is being finished as rapidly as possible, and will reach the rich mineral and coal fields in a few months. With that result accomplished, the mining regions of the valley will be easy of access for prospectors and capitalists.