

## HELENA BUILDINGS AND RESIDENCES.

FROM month to month THE WEST SHORE has given illustrations of Helena, Montana, and in the present number presents two more pages showing some of her business buildings, residences and industries. The Helena Iron Works are the most complete in the Northwest, and are capable of turning out machinery of all kinds. They form one of the most important industries of the city, and are indispensable to the mining interests of that region. New machinery and facilities have recently been added, rendering them more capable than ever of turning out the great amount of machinery and fittings for which they receive orders from every portion of the Territory.

Among the recent improvements in the business portion of the city are the three-story brick block occupied by R. S. Hale & Co., druggists, and the Union Block, now nearly completed. The latter adjoins the building occupied by the Montana National Bank, and is a handsome and substantial brick structure, three stories in height. Helena, as these and other improvements testify, has not remained stationary during the hard times, but is steadily pushing ahead, relying upon her own exertions and the development of her own resources for future growth and prosperity.

On another page are given engravings of a number of handsome residences in the city. The people of the East—those, at least, who have never had their ideas brightened by travel—are prone to believe that the West, especially that portion in which mining is the chief industry, is a region of crude buildings and unrefined people. Thanks to the educating influence of railroads, this impression is gradually being dispelled, yet it must be a long time before it will be entirely removed. Such people will be surprised to learn that Helena contains such residences as are shown in our illustrations, as well as others equally handsome and costly. These are all constructed of brick, are surrounded by well-kept grounds, and their interior decorations and furniture are as elegant and rich as good taste and wealth could make them. The residence of Governor Hauser is equal in every respect to the best in this city, and superior to any to be found in the majority of Eastern cities of a like population. These are evidences of culture and refined taste that greatly astonish strangers who visit Helena.

## PORT TOWNSEND IMPROVEMENTS.

ILLUSTRATIONS and description of Port Townsend appeared in the May issue of THE WEST SHORE, since which time the splendid building shown on another page has been erected by the firm of Waterman & Katz. It is a substantial brick structure, with iron front and stone foundation, and is occupied by the builders as a wholesale and retail store. The firm of Waterman & Katz is one of the oldest and best known on Puget Sound, doing an extensive business in general merchandise throughout that whole region. The success of the firm is evidence of the enterprise and ability of its members, and the construction by such men of so substantial and expensive a building is one of the best indications of the importance of Port Townsend as a commercial point.

## VICTORIA THEATRE AND NEW DRIARD HOTEL.

THE new theatre at Victoria, which will be one of the largest, handsomest and complete on the Pacific Coast, is now so nearly finished as to enable us to present an engraving of it in this issue. The architect, C. E. Apponyi, has made it both a substantial and ornamental building, admirably adapted to the double uses of a theatre and hotel. The edifice is the property of a stock company, composed of a number of the most enterprising citizens of Victoria, and cost about \$50,000. The appearance of the exterior is sufficiently shown in the engraving, but a brief description of the interior will no doubt be of interest. Passing through the iron gates at the main entrance, we enter the vestibule of the theatre and pass over the tile floor, with the ticket office on our right, to a low flight of steps, from which, either to the right or left, access is gained to the dress circle. Higher up are entrances to four mezonius boxes on each side, also to the parquet, which has separate exits on the right and left, and the four proscenium boxes. The gallery has a separate entrance and ticket office. There are altogether ten distinct outlets, exclusive of two from the rear of the stage, enabling the audience to gain the street in half a minute. The interior decorations are extremely handsome, the boxes and dress circle being upholstered in crimson plush, with the seats of the parquet, made of perforated veneers, of the same tint. The large central light is fitted with prismatic reflectors and is lighted by electricity. The curtain, instead of being mounted on a roller, is stretched upon a frame, and is moved up and down in a body, producing a much finer effect. The stage, which is of ample size, is supplied with two full stock sets of scenery, the work of W. T. Porter, formerly scenic artist at Pike's Opera House, Cincinnati, and the Baldwin and California theatres, San Francisco.

That portion of the building not devoted to the theatre will be occupied and elegantly furnished by the Driard Hotel, giving, in connection with the older building adjoining, accommodations for three hundred guests. The house is lighted throughout by gas, and electric bells are placed in every room, while fire-plugs are stationed at convenient places in every portion of the building. In its new quarters the hotel will have a larger and more attractive office, and a more capacious and elegant dining room. The table, which is admitted by travelers to be the best on the Pacific Coast, will be maintained at its old standard, and even improved upon wherever improvement is possible. The possession of such an opera house and hotel is evidence of the metropolitan character of Victoria, which is rapidly becoming one of the largest and most important commercial cities on the Pacific Coast.

As effective way of draping an ugly white mantel is to make the lambrequin with full curtains beneath to hide the sides. In a drawing-room such draperies were of golden brown velvet, with a decoration of wild roses. For a bedroom the ecrú felt draperies showed decorations of trailing hop vines.