

wide prairies and through the passes of her hills, the iron track is laid and the screaming of the hoarse-throated engine tells every few minutes of some station reached. The stage coach, that surprised the natives, has given place to steam, as that must in turn give place to electricity. The telegraph flashes across the wires news of the Old World; we are so near New York as to publish the same day the same news its great dailies issue. Roller flouring mills use the flow of rivers diverted from their courses to do good to man. Saw mills work up and digest the mighty forests that once grew here, and the world of to-day bears little semblance to the "long ago." This is no longer a new country, but boasts schools, colleges, asylums, prisons, churches and hospitals. Every June old and wrinkled and gray-haired men and women assemble to talk over the old times and old friends, many of whom are gone—and this is the pioneers' reunion.

Salem is the second town in Oregon, with six thousand population in town and suburbs. It is the most home-like place in the state, with less pride and artificiality than the metropolis has. Spreading maples, natural to this region, are planted along its wide and uniform streets; water from the Santiam is brought in in two streams that afford six mill sites. Great flouring mills grind immense quantities of wheat, and other industries do their part to build the town. The future will see here in harmonious combination great mechanical industries, schools and colleges without superior on the coast, and state institutions that will do their share to make the city prosper. Its common schools are fine buildings and teachers who deserve high merit conduct them. Willamette University is a thriving college. The city spreads far; has generous lots and wide streets, and leafy maples shade the walks. Such as it is, the Methodist mission founded it, and it keeps pace with the growth and prosperity of our state. Salem has far the handsomest court house in Oregon, a building that cost over \$100,000, and is truly elegant in appearance. At the upper end of the avenue on which it stands is the state capitol, a building of great dimensions, that will be completed in due time. The dome and towers planned for it will not be built until the inside is finished, and this is being done now. When built and completed it will be a structure of which any state might well feel proud. East of Salem, a mile or so, the state owns several hundred acres of land, on which are the penitentiary, and insane asylum. These are rather imposing in size, well built, and furnished with all modern improvements. It is safe to say that they—as well as the capitol—have cost less than any similar public buildings in America. Silverton sits close in among the foot hills, and is a busy town. Jefferson, Stayton and Turner have mills that use the Santiam water in busy work. Home industry will make their future. On the railroad, in French prairie, are Aurora, Hubbard, Woodburn, Gervais and Brooks, all growing at a good pace. Along the river is Butteville, famous for its early history. All over the county are towns and villages, farms and

homes, with gardens and orchards that show how well they all can live—if they but choose to do so. The state has its rivalries, and a generous share of rather formidable rivalry is worn out upon Salem. The time came, a quarter of a century ago, when at a general election, all voters cast a ballot to attest their choice for the seat of government. It so happened that a few from Salem chanced to be temporarily residing at the mines in Eastern Oregon. One was a lady whose charms may have faded some in quarter of a century, but then she was attractive enough to win many votes for Salem, and carried all she could. She and others labored so well for "sweet home" as to turn the scale. Salem was indicated by less than one hundred plurality.

Every ten years the state takes a census of its own, in the middle of each decade. The national census being taken at the close and the state census in the middle of each decade, we have a tolerably effective census every five years. The state returns from 1885 credit Marion county with three thousand six hundred and five legal voters, and eleven thousand eight hundred and forty-eight population; of live stock, thirty-one thousand and seventy-two sheep, ten thousand two hundred and forty-five swine, four thousand seven hundred and twenty-five horses, two hundred and four mules, ten thousand seven hundred and two cattle. Of 1884 products, wheat, one million two hundred and ninety-nine thousand one hundred and ninety-six bushels; oats, nine hundred and fifty-eight thousand three hundred and three bushels; barley, sixteen thousand eight hundred and ninety-three bushels; hay, fourteen thousand four hundred and two tons; corn, sixteen thousand eight hundred and three bushels; butter and cheese, two hundred and fifty-six thousand one hundred and thirteen pounds; flax seed, two hundred and fifty bushels; hops, four hundred and fifty thousand two hundred and forty-four pounds; potatoes, three hundred and eighty-six thousand and thirty-eight bushels; apples, two hundred and forty-four thousand two hundred and fourteen bushels; plums and prunes, eighteen thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight pounds; (there are errors in this, as we know one man who had just about the quantity of dried plums and prunes as is credited to the whole county); lumber, nine million eight hundred and fifty-two thousand five hundred feet; gross value of taxable property, \$5,924,345.00.

Marion county is thus divided: the greatest reach of prairie is the French prairie, comprising the northern part of the county, extending twenty miles north and south and almost as far east and west. It has Aurora, Hubbard, Woodburn, Gervais and Brooks, towns on the railroad, and Butteville, Champoeg and Fairfield near the river. Catholics have a school and convent at St. Paul. This prairie is very fertile and well settled. Howell prairie lies near the Waldo hills and borders on them; it is one of the most beautiful and fruitful of all Oregon's garden spots. Salem prairie is not so extensive as the others, but is a fine piece of country just north of the capital. The Mill creek and Santiam country