

division of the Northern Pacific is almost completed, offering an outlet to Puget sound, the citizens are extremely anxious to embrace the opportunity thus presented for a competitive route to the seaboard. The construction of a line from the city to Ainsworth, at the mouth of Snake river, or to Wallula, would effect this result, and strenuous efforts are being made, to accomplish it. Three trustees have been appointed, to whom have been given powers of attorney to make a contract, binding the signers to deliver a certain quantity of wheat and flour, for two years, to any company which will transport it to any seaport, at a rate not to exceed \$4.00 per ton. It is thought that this will be a sufficient guaranty to induce the construction of the desired line to Ainsworth. Besides this line, the city is now connected with Portland by the O. R. & N. Co., whose branches reach out from Walla Walla to Pendleton on one side, giving it a route east over the Union Pacific, and to Dayton, Pomeroy and Snake river on the other. By the O. R. & N. Co. making connection with the Northern Pacific at Wallula, another eastern route is given, over the line of the latter road. Direct railroad connection with the Palouse country and the wonderful Cœur d'Alene region is among the probabilities of the coming year. A line of narrow gauge road extends from the city to Dixie, in the very heart of one of the finest agricultural sections of Eastern Washington. These transportation facilities add to the metropolitan character of the city, and to an increasing extent enable it to do a considerable jobbing trade.

Walla Walla has the advantage now that its growth is not in advance of the country tributary to it. The circumference of its influence must widen. The population in this domain will certainly become much more dense, and with this increase the city will advance in popula-

tion, business and influence. Farming on a large scale is not profitable generally in this country. Large estates were the ambition of slave holders. They became popular in California, through the acquisition of Spanish grants at small figures, and to some extent the system has been initiated into the Northwest. The land of small farms, worked by owners, is the most productive. The force of circumstances will, ere long, bring us to the condition of every quarter section supporting a family. The farms around Walla Walla are, generally, too large, and are worked by hired help. Among the seventy-four signers of the powers of attorney alluded to, are twenty-four farmers promising from five to ten thousand bushels; twelve from ten to fifteen thousand; seven from fifteen to twenty thousand; seven from twenty to thirty thousand; five from thirty to forty thousand, and one fifty thousand bushels of grain. It is evident that the farming population now living on the cultivated land can be doubled, and even trebled, to advantage, and from that source alone the volume of business done must be increased proportionately.

Except in the matter of the reduction of wheat to flour, manufacturing has made but slight progress. Five mills utilize the power of Mill creek, having a total capacity of five hundred and fifty barrels per day. Some of them are fitted with complete machinery for the gradual reduction process, and the flour made by them is of the finest quality. Mill creek has a fall of about sixty feet to the mile, representing a force of from forty to fifty horse power at a low stage of water, and fully three times as much for eight months in each year. A planing mill, a factory where several kinds of agricultural implements are made, a soap factory, a foundry, a cooper shop, several wagon shops, furniture factories,