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The imposing brick and cement court house, of which an engraving is given, was completed in 1882, at a cost of \$60,000.00. The handsome opera house was built two years later, and is the finest in the territory. The city has a splendid fire department, and possesses two steam fire engines and a hook and ladder apparatus. There is an ample supply of good spring water, which is thoroughly distributed by water works. Gas works, an electric light system, a telephone circuit, three daily and weekly newspapers, good hotels, numerous large stores, carrying valuable stocks of goods, two breweries, many shops, etc., combine to make a wealthy, populous, busy and prosperous city, possessing the advantage of known stability, gained by a gradual and steady growth through a long series of years. Such advantages must commend it to all persons seeking to invest their means in one of our growing western cities, and draw the attention and careful consideration of all promoters of new enterprises in this region.

Until 1875, Walla Walla county embraced all that portion of the territory east of the Columbia and south of Snake river. It was then divided, the eastern portion being made the county of Columbia, which has since been apportioned to the three counties of Columbia, Garfield and Asotin.

The census of 1885 shows that there were cultivated in Walla Walla county, a total of one hundred and seventy thousand and fifty-two acres, or one-third of the total area. The average yield per acre, for a number of seasons, is twenty-five bushels of wheat, forty bushels of barley, forty-five bushels of oats and thirty bushels of corn. The maximum yield is more than double this amount.

The annual rainfall of this region, as a general rule, is proportionate to the altitude, as shown by the following table:

	Altitude.	Mean An'l R'n'l.
Walla Walla	340 ft.	9 inches.
Walla Walla	1,000 "	18 "
Dayton	1,670 "	27 "

Observations are rather meager, but so far as made, indicate the altitude of one thousand feet as about the limit, below which it is dangerous for the farmer to venture, if he is to depend on rain and snow for moisture. Above this limit is situated the famous wheat belt; below is the arid desert. So far as irrigation has been introduced on the dry, warm soil of the lower levels, it has proved to be highly successful. By the aid of a large amount of capital, furnished by associations or the territory, vast tracts on the Lower Umatilla, Walla Walla, Touchet, and Yakima can be turned into rich garden spots, and without doubt, at no distant day, this will be done. Private enterprise has already accomplished much in this direction in Yakima county. The climate of this region is both healthful and pleasant. It holds a mean between the moist, equable climate of the coast districts and the great extremes of heat and cold in the interior of the continent.

The following data and statistics for 1886, kindly furnished by H. D. Blanford, observer at the Walla Walla U. S. signal office, are of general interest:

Lowest temperature,	-5, in Jan'y.
Highest temperature,	104.0, in July.
Lowest mean temperature,	25.8, in Jan'y.
Highest mean temperature,	76.7, in July.
Yearly mean temperature,	53.3.
Greatest monthly range of temp.,	64.8, in Jan'y.
Least monthly range of temp.,	39.0, in April.
Maximum temp. below freezing point,	16 days.
Minimum temp. below freezing point,	32 days.
Maximum temp. above 90 degrees,	39 days.
Rainfall,	16.29 inches.
Direction of wind,	85 per cent. from S. W.
Clear days,	142
Fair days,	148