

settlement on the town site by American immigrants was in 1845, and the first store was opened in 1848, by A. Van Dusen, whose customers were the few settlers and the many Clatsops who lived in that region. With the settlement of California, by the gold seekers, in 1849 and 1850, sprang up a coasting trade between San Francisco and the Columbia river, all tending to build up Astoria, where a number of new stores and a saw mill were built. The increase of population was slow for a number of years, there being not more than five hundred in 1870, as nearly all ships ascended the river to Portland. A new element of growth was then introduced, which has had a marked effect upon the city. The canning of salmon was begun on the Columbia farther up the stream, in 1867, and in a few years this became quite an extensive industry. It soon became apparent that Astoria was the most suitable place for the location of canneries, since it offered splendid shipping facilities, was better located for the transaction of business and the receipt of supplies, and was contiguous to the best fishing grounds, just above the bar. Since that time, nearly all the new canneries have been erected at Astoria, and several previously erected in other localities have been removed to this place, until it now contains two-thirds of the canneries on the river. In this business are invested nearly \$2,000,000.00, in the form of buildings, machinery and equipments, and nearly as much more is required annually for material and running expenses. Five thousand hands are given employment during the fishing season, and the annual product reaches \$3,000,000.00 in value. This industry is specially treated in an article on page 548, to which the reader is referred for particulars. This industry is the center of a great volume of business, to a large degree dependent upon it. Boats have to be made, five hundred thousand wooden cases are required annually, machinery has to be made and repaired, and the refuse of the fish is manufactured into a fine quality of machine oil. The great number of workmen have to be housed, clothed, fed and amused, and this represents an enormous volume of business. The retail trade of the city exceeds \$1,000,000.00 annually. There are thirty stores carrying stocks upwards of \$5,000.00 in value, some of them reaching \$40,000.00, and numerous smaller establishments. The wholesale trade of the larger stores is quite a feature, and this will increase largely with the construction of a railroad up the river. Two wholesale establishments, dealing in general supplies, do a large business. The stocks of goods carried by the merchants are large and well selected, and ladies can find there almost anything to be had in a city store. The commerce of the city consists of foreign shipments of salmon, lumber, wheat and flour, domestic shipments of salmon, lumber, leather, oil and fish, and the importation of merchandise, machinery, supplies and canning material. During the year 1886, there were imported from foreign ports, tin plate to the value of \$153,975.00, and other articles to the value of \$15,725.00, while the domestic freight received aggregated thirty-eight thousand four hundred and forty-five tons. Of this, twenty-seven thousand two hundred and fifty tons were wheat and flour sent down from Portland, to be loaded on vessels at this point. Wheat and flour to the value of \$8,500,000.00 went to foreign ports via Astoria, shipped from Portland, while the shipments of the same products from this city direct reached \$710,050.00. Foreign shipments of salmon were \$776,325.00, of lumber \$24,865.00, and sundries \$14,020.00. Salmon to the amount of twelve thousand tons was shipped to