

THE WEST SHORE.

THIRTEENTH YEAR.

OCTOBER, 1887.

NUMBER 10.

YAKIMA AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.



GENERALLY speaking, the "Yakima country" embraces all that vast region lying between the Cascade mountains, on the west, and the Columbia river, on the east, and is a large belt of agricultural and grazing land which has for its business center the prosperous city of North Yakima. Until the past year this region has been so isolated from the routes of travel by rail and river, that its development has been exceedingly slow. It has been known for years as one of the best ranges for cattle in the entire West, but its agricultural possibilities were scarcely thought of until the near approach of the Northern Pacific drew attention to its fertile acres, its delightful climate and splendid situation as regards a permanent market for its products. No greater revolution in the conditions of trade and production was ever witnessed than that which followed the construction of the Cascades branch through the Yakima country. A region which had formerly purchased much of its supplies abroad freighted them in on wagons, at great expense, suddenly found itself open to market, and began, not only to produce enough for its own support, including its rapidly increasing population, but for export to other localities. There suddenly sprang up as its commercial center, a town which now ranks among the leading cities of the territory.

The birth and growth of North Yakima is unparalleled in the West. Two years ago it was an unbroken sage brush plain; to-day it is a thriving business city, with three newspapers, a population of one thousand souls, and all the adjuncts of an important trade center. Mushroom towns have sprung up in a night all along the line of advancing railroads, and have almost as rapidly declined; but this was not a mushroom growth in any respect save its rapidity. From the time the first foundation was laid to the present, not an improvement has been made which was not intended to be permanent, or for occupation only until an opportunity could be had to build a better. Not a step has been taken by the citizens which has not had the future welfare of the city in view,