

chief business thoroughfare, is one hundred and twenty feet wide, and Natches avenue, the principal residence street, is one hundred and forty feet in width. In laying out the city, the projectors thought of the future, and made these provisions for creating one of the most beautiful and attractive capital cities in the West, with wide streets lined with beautiful shade trees and handsome residences.

Topographically, Yakima county presents a series of hills, plateaus, low mountain ranges and long stretches of valley land lying along the streams. The hills and table lands are covered in part with sage brush, and in part with luxuriant bunch grass. With the intermediate valleys, they have for years constituted the best pasture lands on the Northwest coast. Thousands of cattle have grazed on the nutritious bunch grass, as thousands are still doing, and many of the rich men of Oregon and Washington owe not a little of their wealth to the grassy slopes of Yakima.

Owing to the lightness of the rainfall, and its almost total absence during late spring and early summer, the best results in agriculture are produced by irrigation. Happily, there is an abundant and never failing supply of water for this purpose, which may be easily utilized. Capital is required to accomplish this, but not in such large amounts as is necessary in many regions. Through the center of the county runs the Yakima river, carrying a large volume of water from the mountains, and receiving, within the county, the waters of the Ah-tanum, Wenas, Natches, Topinish, Satas and other tributaries. Along the course of the main river, and extending up these tributary streams, is a series of valleys, embracing many thousand acres of arable land, which can all be irrigated by water from the neighboring rivers. There is, among farmers who have had

no practical experience with irrigation, a prejudice against that method of farming; but an investigation of its merits can not but convert every intelligent, practical man. Its merits are briefly stated. The farmer who has his land well covered by irrigating ditches is independent of the caprices of nature. Neither drouth nor flood menace him. If his crops need moisture, he has it ready at any time, while at the same time he is exempt from the damage which follows too copious rains. He can, also, feel free from the mental burden which the farmer in the rain belt always bears, the fear that, at the last moment, an unlucky storm will ruin his harvest, and deprive him of the reward of his year of hard toil. A farmer in a dry country, with a good soil and an unfailing supply of water at his command, which he can, at will, turn upon any portion of his land which may require moisture, and shut off from other portions which may already have sufficient, comes as near being his own master as an agriculturist ever can. A comparison of what has been accomplished in California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington upon irrigated lands, with the results upon lands in any region dependent upon natural rainfall, is most flatteringly favorable to the former. The prejudice against irrigation will disappear so completely before the light of facts, that people will wonder that it ever existed. The greatest agricultural achievements of ancient civilizations were accomplished by this means, and in the "scientific farming" of the future there is no doubt that the proper manipulation of the irrigating ditch will be counted as one of the most essential features. There is another feature which must be considered. The water comes down from the mountains and plateaus freighted with the fertilizing materials