

## ARLINGTON, OREGON.

WHEN the line of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company was constructed along the south bank of the Columbia, a number of stations were established between Wallula and The Dalles for the shipment of the products of the vast area of grazing and agricultural lands lying back from the river, and to be the forwarding point for supplies destined for the interior towns. Of all these, the only one that has become a town of importance, and developed into a thriving commercial center, is Arlington, formerly Alkali.

Arlington lies at the mouth of the Alkali canyon, forty-six miles east of The Dalles, and seventy-three west of Wallula. Topography has much to do with the growth of towns, and it is the advantageous location of this one which has caused it to grow and flourish while others have not yet passed the age of infancy. Many square miles of rapidly developing agricultural land, and the grazing ranges for thousands of sheep, horses and cattle, find here the most advantageous point of shipment of products and supplies. Not only is this true of a large area in Oregon, but of the opposite side of the river, with which it communicates by means of a ferry. It lays claim to the trade of Gilliam county, and much of Crook, Morrow and Grant, as well as of Klickitat, across the river.

In the fall of 1881, J. W. Smith, who had been doing a general merchandise business at the Willows, about seven miles east of this place, removed to Alkali canyon and began building a store. He found one little house kept as a stopping place for the few people who

came here, built upon railroad land near the river, and beyond him the vast uncultivated hills of Gilliam county. Henry Heppner, M. V. Harrison and Hall and Comfort followed immediately, the first building being finished by Mr. Harrison. These gentlemen, with the exception of Mr. Hall, are still residents. The little nucleus thus started gathered around itself other business houses. Coffin, McFarland & Co. came in the spring of 1883, E. N. Thomas & Son in the spring of 1884. These firms, together with J. W. Smith, comprise the leading mercantile houses, although there are three other dry goods, grocery, millinery store, etc., all doing a good business. To-day the town has between six hundred and seven hundred inhabitants. There is nothing lacking of the elements of a city. Building is being rapidly pushed forward. The one newspaper, the *Arlington Times*, is doing well. A new school house is nearly completed. There are two churches—Congregational and Methodist.

Two years of age, the town was incorporated by the legislature at its extra session, in the fall of 1883. At the same time the people voted to change the name of Alkali for the more euphonious, and less suggestive, one of Arlington. Six years have passed since the first business buildings were erected, and the site has been transformed from a dreary waste of sand, sage brush and alkali, to a bustling, prosperous, expanding town of seven hundred inhabitants, with side walks and shade trees, with two banks, a school house, churches, neat residences and substantial business blocks. Some idea of its stability and