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THE WEST SHORE.

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THE METROPOLIS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.



IS a city having a population of fifty thousand and is situated on the west bank of the Willamette river, twelve miles from its confluence with the Columbia, and one hundred and fifteen miles, by river, from the Pacific ocean. The first settlers came here in 1843, and in 1851 the settlement was incorporated as a city. It is now the metropolis of the Pacific Northwest, and the third richest city in the world in proportion of the wealth to per capita of population. On the east side of the Willamette, directly opposite Portland, is the city of East Portland, and on the same side, to the northward, around the bend of the river, the city of Albina, which jointly contain a population of about ten thousand souls, and

are connected with Portland by two bridges. Numerous ferry boats also ply on the river between Portland and her trans-Willamette suburbs. Thus there are clustered here under three corporate names, a community of sixty thousand people, whose business intermingles, and who are actively engaged in its diversified industries.

[] The favorable position which Portland occupies for an important commercial city can be best understood by gaining a knowledge of its location relative to a large area of very rich country. The Willamette valley, at the foot of which Portland is situated, contains four million acres of land, and its products are abundant to furnish sustenance to more than a million people. Most of this territory is now under cultivation. Wheat has been the chief crop raised, but other cereals, root crops and fruits are now occupying the attention of the farmers, and on the slopes of the mountains bordering the valley, stock raising and dairying are found to be profitable industries. The finest flavored fruits in the world are raised here—apples, pears, prunes, peaches, plums, small fruits, melons, etc. In fact, all the products of the temperate zone can be successfully grown in the Willamette valley. The surplus product of this fertile valley, of course, flows through Portland, to which port it is transported by boats which ply on the Willamette, and railroads which penetrate the country on each side of the river. The Columbia river, before piercing the Cascade mountains, flows through and drains a tract of country more than four times as large as the state of New York, and with a soil of wonderful productiveness. The improvement of that vast region is scarcely begun, yet the product has already grown beyond the facilities for moving it, though they are great, and beyond all expectations. But the transportation facilities are increasing rapidly and that trouble will not last. Anything that can be grown on fertile soil in a mild climate is produced in this basin, and from Idaho, Washington Territory and