

THE WEST SHORE.

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THE CAPITAL CITY OF OREGON.



LYING in the heart of the Willamette valley, and very near its geographical center, is the city of Salem, the capital of Oregon. It is a city of seven thousand inhabitants, and besides being the state capital is the seat of justice of Marion county, a manufacturing and commercial town of importance and a social center. The city is platted on an undulating tract of land, and is handsomely laid out. The streets are one hundred feet wide and the blocks three hundred and thirty feet square, exclusive of an alley sixteen feet wide extending north and south through the block. The streets are lined with maple, elm and other ornamental shade trees, and present a beautiful appearance in summer time. There are several very fine business blocks and the business streets in general would be a credit to a larger city. The residence portion of the city conforms to the generous plan of the plat, and there is no evidence of crowding anywhere. Residences are surrounded with spacious lawns tastefully ornamented with trees and flowers. Pleasing styles of architecture are employed in the buildings, and whatever would add to the enjoyment of home life is observed in furnishing the surroundings of the homes of Salem families. Mansions and cottages alike bear an air of general comfort and refined taste that is quite attractive.

Salem is favored by the patronage of the state in its public buildings. The state house, of course, stands at the head of the list, both in the magnificence of its architecture and the importance which it serves. This structure is built of iron, stone and brick, and nearly a half a million dollars have been expended upon it. The corner stone was laid in 1873 and now the structure is entirely completed, with the exception of the dome and the interior of two or three of the rooms, which will probably be provided for by

the present legislature. This will make a building that could not be duplicated for less than three-quarters of a million dollars. The main building is seventy-five by two hundred and seventy-five feet on the ground, and two stories high, besides a full basement and sub-basement. On the east and west sides are wings each fifty feet long. The first floor is devoted to the main department offices and the legislative chambers, the senate chamber being in the north wing, and the assembly in the south. Both are handsomely finished and provided with every convenience. A hydraulic elevator was recently placed in the building, supplying an easy means of reaching the upper floor, where the state library and supreme court rooms are located. The dome, yet to be added, will have an octagonal base, and will be fifty-four feet in diameter, and one hundred and eighty feet in height above the ground. From the summit of the capitol dome the view includes one of the grandest scenes imaginable—rivers and valleys and mountain ranges and snow-clad peaks; rocky ridges and timbered slopes; grain fields and orchards and meadows—a wide expanse of greatly diversified scenery that makes an interesting study.

The state asylum for the insane is another of the important public buildings of Salem. It is situated on a tract of two hundred and ninety acres, lying just east of the corporation limits. The building has a frontage of four hundred and eighty-five feet, with a wing at either end extending back two hundred and twenty feet. The main department of the building is four stories in height, with an ornamental tower having a vane one hundred and twenty feet above the ground. The rest of the building is two and one-half and three stories in height. There are now five hundred and eighty-six patients accommodated in this institution. On the asylum farm is produced a considerable portion of the vegetable products consumed by the patients. This institution compares favorably with any in the United States.