

residence property than comfortable, healthful and pleasing surroundings, and there are few surer indications of a refined public taste than beautiful parks. The avidity with which property of this sort is taken shows that people who want homes appreciate the advantages of such locations. The haunts of vice and crime in the large cities are not about their carefully tended parks or where any particular effort is made to cultivate a taste for the beautiful in nature. Those provisions are, in a measure, a check upon the evil influences that infest most cities and tend to spread as the city grows to metropolitan dimensions. Fairmount park is another of those pleasing and useful ornaments of Salem that contribute so much to its reputation as a picturesque city.

But Salem is by no means devoid of picturesque attractions aside from its parks. Every street is lined on either side with shade trees, even the main business thoroughfares containing a number of large trees that afford a grateful relief to the parched appearance which rows of business blocks in any city present in warm weather. The prevailing varieties of trees for ornament and shade in Salem are maple, oak, elm, locust, poplar and evergreen. These extend their long branches and thick foliage out over the streets, many of which are vistas extending as far as the eye can see. The trees are not of such rank growth that all sunlight is prevented from reaching the earth or penetrating the habitations of the people. The stately mansion and the embowered cottage derive a tone of refinement and genuine comfort from the presence of large trees and flower gardens that could not be obtained in any other way. Wild birds sing and build their nests and rear their young in the swaying boughs, and even squirrels make bold to take up their abode, unbidden, in some inviting knot hole, which they fill with acorns from their own home tree or toothsome dainties from the neighboring warehouses or orchards. It is indeed rare that such scenes of sylvan beauty are beheld in a city the size of Salem and the infrequency of their occurrence give them an additional value to those who love rustic surroundings, while they may yet enjoy all the conveniences of the modern city.

The street railway that has been built entirely this year extends from end to end of the city, traversing the principal streets. There are now over four miles of track in operation, and extensions are in progress to afford suburban residents a cheap and easy means of reaching the business center. Railway station, hotels and parks are on the street railway line. The city has good hotels, by the way, and the Southern Pacific company last year erected one of the finest passenger stations on its Oregon lines at Salem.

The Willamette river, flowing placidly by the

city and bearing a considerable portion of the commerce of the valley, adds much to the attractiveness of Salem. On this stream timber is floated to Salem factories, and steamers ply regularly making connections with transportation lines for all parts of the world by way of Portland or Yaquina bay and San Francisco, as well as handling a very considerable volume of strictly local business. In many places on the margin of the river there are stretches of woodland where boating and camping parties find the most charming spots for enjoyment, and sportsmen have ample use for both rod and gun. On both sides of the city the river flows through woods, and from the long bridge, which spans the stream at a height of some eighty feet above the water, a delightful scenic picture greets the eye. To the west are the rolling, grain-laden hills of Polk county, increasing in altitude in the distance back into the Coast mountains. The fields of ripening grain or stubble and the green growing crops, with patches of small timber, make a landscape of pleasing variations. The hum of the farmers' harvesting machinery reaches the city. Up and down the river the stream winds away out of view behind the luxuriantly-growing verdure along the banks. Water fowls may sometimes be seen even that near the city enjoying themselves as if there were no enemy within a thousand miles of them. To the east, on the bank of the river, lies the growing city, with its spires and towers plainly visible above the buildings of ordinary height, and away beyond the city are the rich farms and loaded orchards of Marion county. Some of the largest manufacturing factories are in plain view on the immediate bank of the river where they have access to both rail and water shipping facilities in obtaining their supplies and marketing their manufactured products. Salem has the largest flouring mills in the northwest and many other factories, all run by water power from an eighteen-mile canal constructed for that purpose.

In driving through the city one can scarcely fail to note the large number of fine residences that adorn every quarter of the town. Nearly all are built of wood, which is the prevailing material for residences in the west, and are of pleasing designs of architecture. The illustrations of Salem residences in this issue of THE WEST SHORE afford a better idea of the general appearance of the homes of the capital city than words could convey. The great number of neat and pretty cottages owned by families of moderate means is a very significant feature. The working people own their homes and are in every way identified with the best interests of the city. There are rich and costly dwellings, too. Every home has its lawn, where, thanks to the favoring influence of a mild climate, flowers often bloom through the entire