

THE CITY OF PENDLETON.

THE city of Pendleton in Northeastern Oregon, the Umatilla county seat, is coming to the front in a manner that is attracting the attention of business men and capitalists of the northwest. Just now the completion of the Hunt railroad into the city is the most important enterprise that is in progress. That road halted six miles outside of Pendleton last fall while the proposition made by Mr. Hunt for a bonus of \$80,000.00 and certain depot facilities was being considered by the business men of the town. The advantage that would accrue from having a competing railway was appreciated and the proposition made by Mr. Hunt was accepted. All terms have been complied with and the road has just been completed to the city. This gives Pendleton first class railway connection to the seaboard either by way of Portland or Puget sound. It also gives it connections with two great transcontinental railway systems—the Union Pacific and the Northern Pacific. For several years the city has had the main line of the Oregon Railway & Navigation company and its real growth dates from the advent of that railroad. The competition of another well equipped line must result in benefit to the business interests of Pendleton. All traffic over the Union Pacific between the east and the west passes through Pendleton on the Oregon Railway & Navigation line and considerable transfer freight for the branch that extends up into the Walla Walla and Palouse countries is also handled there.

Last year the building operations of the city aggregated in value a quarter of a million of dollars. This year they will far exceed that figure. The court house just being completed cost \$70,000. A public school building erected last year cost \$20,000. To prevent damage by the annual floods of the Umatilla river, which flows through the city, a stone wall was built at an expense of more than \$35,000. Large brick blocks were reared and others are now in course of construction so that the business streets of Pendleton present the appearance of a city three times its size. It has a dozen business blocks that would be a credit to any city. The warehouse capacity of the town has been increased by the construction of a grain elevator this year. A live daily newspaper and two weeklies are well supported there, two banking houses do a flourishing business, the public schools are ably sustained and a private academy has a large patronage from the city and the tributary settlements. The city has water works, electric lights and macadamized streets, and a street railway line is projected. Three large hotels provide good accommodations for travelers. Many other improvements are in contemplation and the steady growth of the town will push them on to completion. The population is now about 4,000. The

Umatilla river furnishes a reliable water power that now turns the wheels of a large number of manufacturing plants, among which is a flouring mill with a capacity for turning out three hundred barrels a day. Furniture, lumber, brick and iron castings are among the other manufactured articles that are produced in Pendleton. There are admirable facilities for conducting manufacturing operations there.

Pendleton is situated so near the Umatilla Indian reservation that congress was constrained, in 1884, to open to settlement one section of land that had previously belonged to the reservation, so as to permit the expansion of the city without encroaching upon the domain of the Indians. The town has occupied that tract and is still reaching out for more territory. A bill passed congress nearly two years ago providing for the allotment of the lands of the entire reservation, but so much time has been consumed in arranging certain preliminaries that the law has not yet been carried into effect, though it probably will be the coming fall. Then there will be opened to settlement a large tract of very desirable farming and grazing land and only homesteaders can take it. By this arrangement the land will be kept out of the hands of speculators and it will be made immediately productive, which is one of the chief objects in imposing restrictions as to entries. Pendleton justly regards the matter as one of the most important having an immediate bearing upon the prosperity of the city. The country to be opened is fully as rich as any other tributary to that center and under the meager tillage of the Indian there is little of the reservation that is in any better state than absolute wildness. A portion of the reservation may be classed as almost suburban property.

The whole country about Pendleton is rich in agricultural advantages. Its characteristics are the same as those of the celebrated Walla Walla country, but it is less thoroughly brought under cultivation because less thickly settled. Irrigation is not necessary in farming there. Grain, fruit and all ordinary farm products are raised in abundance. The foot hills of the Blue mountains, a few miles from Pendleton, afford the best of pasturage and the stock interests of the country are important. Umatilla is one of the principal wool growing counties of Oregon. The whole Umatilla country is not a level plain, but is rolling land and there are differences of climate and soil between the exposed ridges and sheltered valleys so that people of different tastes can secure locations that will suit them. A number of streams traverse the region and afford it a good supply of water at all seasons of the year. Pendleton is surrounded by a fertile country that is being developed by a good class of citizens and the town is sure to continue the rapid growth that is now in progress.