

KELSO, WASHINGTON.

ON the eastern bank of the Cowlitz river is situated the town of Kelso, the principal town of Cowlitz county. Although now a mere village its population not numbering more than 500, it has a bright future, surpassed by none of the growing country towns of the new state of Washington. The town is most centrally located on the Northern Pacific railroad, midway between the Columbia river and the northern boundary of Cowlitz county. There are good wagon roads leading from Kelso to all the rich agricultural settlements of the county.

Next to Lewis county, Cowlitz is the best agricultural county in Western Washington. In the year 1888 there were entered in this county 13,000 acres of homestead and 2,210 acres of pre-emption lands, and 2,200 acres were purchased under the timber land act. The increase over these figures for the year 1889 will be enormous, for the tide of immigration and civilizing influences exceeds the wildest dreams of the past. There are 25,240 acres of surveyed lands in Cowlitz county yet open to the land seeker, of which more than 18,000 are tributary to Kelso. There are unsurveyed 133,320 acres of government lands, and of these 70,000 acres are tributary to Kelso. In addition are the thousands of acres adjacent to the city that have already been settled upon under the public land laws of the United States. The preparation of these lands in the near future for a high state of cultivation will augment many fold the rapidly increasing population of Kelso.

The Columbia river laves the southern edge of Cowlitz county and stretching northward from its waters are many broad acres of valuable land. The valleys of the Cowlitz (a navigable stream) and of the Coweeman and Toutle rivers are unsurpassed in rich agricultural lands, and the beautiful Silver lake region is also in direct communication with Kelso by means of good wagon roads.

Near Kelso have recently been discovered rich beds of coal; and two and a half miles from the town is a mountain of tested bog iron ore. Near the city are extensive forests of cedar and fir, and the big saw mills and sash factories of Portland are supplied with this valuable wood from Cowlitz county. Besides, the Portland furniture factories are largely supplied with hard wood taken from the oak forests near Kelso.

The cost of the new buildings erected in the town for the year 1888 was \$31,625, but the growth in 1889 is much more rapid than that of the past year and there is a more substantial and costlier class of buildings. A board of trade, consisting of the leading citizens and business men has been organized in Kelso with a charter membership of twenty-eight, and strong

and united efforts are made to advance the welfare of the town.

Kelso was incorporated January 1, 1889, and the city boundaries embrace nearly one mile square. Within the corporate limits has been found the very best brick clay, and the man who thoroughly understands the manufacture of brick can establish a profitable business in Kelso. The city is in great need of a bank, and he who has plenty of money to place on short time loans, at good interest, would do well to embark in a general banking business in Kelso. In addition, the following businesses to wit: a fruit and fish cannery, a drug store, jewelry store, saw and shingle mill, sash and door factory, a blacksmith shop, a bucket and tub factory, a tin and hardware store and a furniture factory, would thrive well. A large wharf and warehouse built upon the Cowlitz river, for the storage of grain and other articles, and for the easy landing of the steamboats that ply upon that river, would also pay a handsome interest upon the amount of money invested.

The Presbyterian denomination has erected a handsome academy for the education of boys and girls, which will cost, when fully completed, over \$10,000. Kelso has one live newspaper, the *Courier*, several churches and a good public school. It is a growing town of great promise.

KELSO, WASHINGTON, October 28, 1889.

Professor Wiley, the chemist of the agricultural department, in his annual report, speaks hopefully of the experiments in the cultivation of sorghum and making sugar from the cane. Kansas takes the lead in that industry. Considerable in that line is being done in Iowa and New Jersey, also, and even in Virginia, Louisiana and Mississippi considerable attention is being given to sorghum cane and sugar. In nearly every state in the union more or less is being done to determine the merits of the business. In all of the northern-eastern states the severe climate makes the raising of sorghum less certain than it otherwise would be, and that is one of the important elements of the case. The government has not pushed its experiments to the Pacific slope, where the most favorable natural conditions exist. In the Yakima valley, in Eastern Washington, the sorghum sugar industry ought to flourish immensely; indeed, it does flourish in every instance where tried, and it is rapidly becoming established there. It seems an omission on the part of the national agricultural department that the Pacific northwest is entirely ignored in connection with a product for which it is better suited than any other part of the country. It should be remembered that not all the United States lies east of the Rockies.