

SEATTLE'S NEW COURT HOUSE.

ON the first page is given an engraving of the new court house now under construction in Seattle. When completed, it will present a most imposing appearance, and can be seen from a great distance, as its base will rest on a commanding eminence nearly 300 feet above the harbor and its lofty tower will project into the air 160 feet, or a total of 460 feet above the water. This will be the finest building of the kind in the northwest, and will outshine any state capitol Washington is likely to have for a number of years.

A few months ago the county voted to issue bonds to the amount of \$200,000 for the erection of a long needed structure for the courts and county offices, and the commissioners immediately selected a site and secured plans. The site chosen is a high hill a little east of the business part of town, facing west on Seventh street, between Terrace and Jefferson streets. The engraving shows the Seventh street front, facing the business part of the city on the harbor. The only objection to the site is its height and the steepness of the approaches from the business streets, but in these days of cable and electric cars such an objection loses much of its force. On the other hand, the elevation adds much to the commanding appearance of the structure and renders it so much the more an ornament to the city.

Plans for the edifice were prepared by Mr. Ritchie, an architect of much experience in the erection of public buildings, and were drawn with an idea of combining beauty, solidity and fireproof features as economically as possible. He has so far succeeded, that this structure will probably be the best and handsomest yet erected on the Pacific coast for the money it will cost. The building is two stories and a basement in height, and solidly constructed of stone, brick, iron and cement. The building sets back from Seventh street a distance of seventy-five feet, the lot being terraced up to it and flights of steps descending to the street in the center and at the corners. The basement is high and almost entirely above ground, the walls being constructed of rough, blue sandstone. The superstructure is of brick and iron. The main entrance is situated on Seventh street, in the basement story, directly under the large portico, which is twelve feet from the building proper and is sixty feet in width. The floor of the portico is on a level with the first floor of the building, and it will be reached by means of windows. It has huge, block, cut-stone bases, of the height of the basement and the pedestals. Six large Ionic columns are supported by these blocks, which in turn support the low gable front roof, which projects fourteen feet from the main building, forming the por-

tico. Directly above this, on the apex of the roof, stands a copper statue of "Justice," twelve feet in height. The six columns, each four feet in diameter at the base and thirty-six feet in height, are in pairs, or in coupled columns at each end, the two remaining being spaced an equal distance apart in the center. The floor of the portico, level with the first story floor, has a massive balustrade extending across the front between the columns or pillars. At the center of the north and south ends of the building are porticos similar in appearance to the one in front, twenty-four feet in width by eight feet in depth. Each projects the same as the front portico, but has only two columns instead of six.

Beneath each portico is an entrance to the basement floor, the halls uniting in the center in a corridor 32x54 feet in size, from which masonry pillars extend to the roof as supports for the central dome. The ceiling is finished with vaulted arches between the pillars. The main inside stair begins on the floor of the corridor and runs up to the observatory in the dome. The dome surmounts an octagonal tower, which is thirty-eight feet in width and rises 100 feet above the cornices of the roof. Midway of the tower are huge pillars, one on each corner, between which and the stairway is a large portico, from which a splendid view can be had. Rising above the main dome is a smaller one, in which is another observatory, the floor of which is 430 feet above the harbor. The grandest view offered from any vantage point on Puget sound may be had from this lofty observatory. Tacoma, twenty-six miles to the south, and all the cities and objects of interest within a radius of forty miles, can be distinctly seen on clear days. In the large dome will be placed a huge clock, with large dials facing on each street, the clock to be contributed by the citizens of Seattle. The dials are ten feet in diameter and will be illuminated when the clock is put in so that the time can be seen at a distance of five miles.

The interior arrangement of the structure is admirable for the purposes for which it is intended. In the rear of the main hall, and projecting thirty feet to the rear of the building, is the jail, containing twelve steel cages fronting on a steel corridor. Each cell will accommodate four prisoners. In the basement are also located the kitchen, boiler room, fuel room, jailor's office, a cell for insane prisoners, a jail room for ordinary prisoners with ten cells, a dark cell, a room for female prisoners, another for minors, four offices, lavatory, etc. On the first floor are the waiting room, to be used also as a grand jury room, commissioners' offices, auditor's offices, recorder's office, abstractors' room, record vault, treasurer's offices and vault, assessor's offices and vault, county attorney's offices, sheriff's offices and vault, school superintendent's of-