

## PROGRESSIVE ELLENSBURGH.

ELLENSBURGH, Washington, bids fair to become the educational center of the state. The Presbyterians have an academy there upon which \$55,000 are to be expended for improvements. Funds are being raised for the erection of a Baptist college, and the Congregationalists and Christians are also preparing to erect educational institutions in the city. The Baptists will soon begin the work of construction. These institutions, in addition to the efficient public school system of the town, will give it educational advantages rarely equaled in the west.

From all parts of the Kittitas valley this spring come reports indicating that this year will be as exceptional for the farm crops grown as for its hard winter. The deep snow lies on the mountains, and its gradual melting will send fertilizing streams through every part of the valley until late in the season, so that crops will have ample moisture. Under the law recently passed by the legislature important irrigation projects will be established this year, which will place thousands of acres of land in a condition of reliable fertility.

One hundred and fifty thousand head of stock are now feeding on the bunch grass pastures tributary to Ellensburg. The winter was hard on stock of all kinds, and the losses were considerable, but an abundance of food is assured for the season just opened.

The mineral wealth of the country about Ellensburg will be more definitely exploited this year. The Ellensburg Improvement Company is about to build a blast furnace and work the iron mines near the city. Between 300 and 500 men will be employed. Stove foundries, nail mills and other iron manufactories will follow the opening of the mines. Woolen and paper mills and starch factories are also among the institutions that will find congenial surroundings there.

## COLFAX, WASHINGTON.

THE accompanying engraving shows the "Fraternity" block, a new structure erected in Colfax, Washington, for the Masons and Odd Fellows. It is a large, substantial and ornamental structure, and, besides ample

accommodations for the various fraternal societies, has room for stores and offices.

Colfax is the county seat of Whitman county, one of the most populous and prosperous in the state, and is situated on the Palouse river at a point that renders it a center for a large area of highly cultivated agricultural land. It has two excellent newspapers, several manufacturing establishments, fine schools, an academy, good churches and a number of large mercantile houses. It lies on the line of the Union Pacific's Palouse system, and is the point of junction of two important lines of that road. It is the largest city in Washington between Snake river and Spokane Falls.



FRATERNITY BLOCK, COLFAX, WASH.