

FARMINGTON, WASHINGTON.

Farmington, Washington, was platted in the fall of 1878, by G. W. Truax, a pioneer in that section. There were few settlers then in the adjacent country and no immediate prospect of railroad communication, but the configuration of the country argued so strongly the importance of the Upper Pine creek valley as a good location for a trading post that it was deemed a wise move to plat the town. The region was unsurpassed in richness, and the trend of the hills and valleys made Farmington the most convenient trading point the settlers could have. In 1888 the town was incorporated under a law that was afterward declared of no force, and re-incorporated the past spring. Its population numbers about 600, and it is in every respect a flourishing young city with the most substantial agricultural backing.

Pine creek, which takes its rise in the mountains two or three miles northwest of Farmington, winds through a valley of unusual richness to Rock lake, some thirty miles to the northwest, which is drained to the Palouse river by Rock creek. To the northeast of the town are the Cœur d'Alene mountains, spurs of which break the surface of the country and throw promising mineral lodes within the reach of the prospector. Steptoe butte, the most important land mark in the whole Palouse country, lies fourteen miles southwest of Farmington. Stratton's butte is a smaller elevation a short distance south of the city. Silver creek, Cedar creek and Deep creek valleys to the south and southeast, and Dutch flat to the north, are the local names given to extremely rich and beautiful tracts of land embracing a large area all under cultivation and directly tributary to the city of Farmington. The rolling hills and valleys extend to the west indefinitely across that famous farming region known as the Palouse country.

Farmington has the best public schools of any similar town in the whole upper country. The building, equipped for work, cost more than \$10,000. Three teachers are employed and school is maintained nine months in the year. The city has one bank with a capital of \$50,000, a weekly newspaper, two good hotels, three churches, and there is now a good prospect for having located there a Seventh Day Adventist college to cost about \$30,000. A donation of an ample and most attractive site has been made, and other inducements offered that command careful consideration. The beautiful location and healthy moral tone of the community must appeal strongly to any one charged with the duty of selecting the site for such an educational institution. There is the usual class of mercantile establishments and shops in the city. The flouring mill is now exchanging its buhr stones for a full roller system. There are three large warehouses and an elevator of 50,000 bushels capacity, which are not enough to handle promptly the grain harvested each season. A planing mill, and harness maker's, blacksmith's and wagon maker's shops attend to their respective lines of manufacturing for the community.

In the hills three or four miles east of Farmington there have long been noticed indications of mineral wealth. Prospectors have done more or less work about the ledges, but not until a few weeks ago was any important strike made. An experienced miner from the lower country became interested in prospecting the hills near the city, and he soon struck a quartz lead of such unusual richness that considerable excitement was created, and people worked night and day staking off claims. There is no question as to the richness of the Farmington find. Nuggets of gold larger than beans have been found, and the rock where the principal discovery was made is seamed with gold and silver. The character of the rock makes old miners confident that the output will increase in richness

with development and there is a favorable prospect for the opening of a very important mining camp at that point. A superior quality of building stone is also found within two or three miles of Farmington. It is a gray sandstone of great durability and is quarried at small expense. Granite of dark color and fine grain, capable of taking the finest polish, is found in the adjoining ledges and it is being sought by stone workers from Spokane to Walla Walla. It is especially suited for monuments, mantels, etc. The convenience of railway transportation is an important consideration in the development of the various minerals lying in abundance about Farmington, and the prospect of soon having a competing line connecting with the Palouse branch of the Northern Pacific affords additional encouragement to those who are investing in the mines and quarries. The town is now on the main Spokane line of the Union Pacific, which owns valuable property there. There is a natural pass between the foothills and Stratton's butte, east to the broad and highly cultivated valleys of Silver and Deer creeks. From this connecting divide one obtains an extended view of the above named valleys stretching east and south for twenty-six miles to the Palouse river. This valuable country in Northern Idaho would be tapped to best advantage by way of Farmington, the country offering no obstacles in cuts or fills worthy of mention. The Idaho boundary is the eastern limit of the city.

The rare beauty and general healthfulness of the country surrounding Farmington make it a most charming residence locality. The vast expanse of rolling surface covered with grain fields, orchards and grass land presents a scene by no means common even in the fair land of the Palouse. The uncultivated tracts are covered with a variety of wild flowers more than half the year. The luxuriance of both wild and tame grasses is unexcelled anywhere. The soil is easily worked and of remarkable fertility. The yield of wheat is from twenty-five to forty bushels to the acre, and the other cereals, roots and fruits produce proportionately. The complaint is sometimes heard that Eastern Washington with her grain fields is yet not a section of beautiful home making. This in no sense can be applied to that portion of the Palouse country adjacent to Farmington. The scenery is beautiful, the location of the city all the eye could desire. Orchards, broad fields of timothy extending well up on the hillsides, shade trees and the prevalence of green verdure causes one to recall familiar New England localities. The pleasant home of General Tannatt, on a slight elevation overlooking the city, is a forceful illustration of what may be accomplished by a little attention to one's surroundings in this favored section. Cultivated grasses grow luxuriantly and find a ready market in Spokane Falls and the mines. Board of trade statistics show eighty-five cars of baled hay shipped during the past winter. Potatoes were also shipped in large quantity and with other vegetables are produced in abundance by nearly every farmer.

The past and present strength of trade in Farmington are shown in the large stocks carried by her merchants, and in the additional fact of importance that her large store buildings, hotels and warehouses have been erected and are owned by their occupants. The trade of the surrounding country and that of the Cœur d'Alene Indians fully explains why Farmington, in her mercantile interests, presents stocks of goods that at first sight would seem more in place if offered in a city of much larger proportions. It must be borne in mind that the Cœur d'Alene Indians are farmers, using all the modern appliances, such as mowers, headers, threshing machinery, etc. Between these Indians and the people of Farmington the most friendly relations have ever existed, and in consequence of this the