

ALBANY, OREGON.

Prominent among the interior cities of Oregon is Albany, seat of justice of Linn county, one of the largest and most prosperous counties in the great Willamette valley. On the center pages are given a number of engravings of buildings and scenes in Albany that convey an excellent idea of the city and its characteristics. The business streets of Albany are well built up with two and three-story brick blocks, some of them very handsome structures, and all of them occupied by stores carrying large stocks of goods. In fact First street presents a decidedly metropolitan appearance. Three large brick blocks have been erected the present year, also a handsome church, several elegant residences and a large number of other houses and business structures. The city has voted to bond itself for \$100,000 for the purpose of paying for a system of sewerage costing \$60,000, the work upon which is nearly completed, and for building a wagon and foot bridge across the Willamette at the mouth of the Calipoola, near the west end of the city. The bridge will be a steel structure costing about \$100,000. There is already a good bridge across the river, built by the Oregon Pacific railroad.

A line of street cars runs through the chief business streets to the Southern Pacific depot, and there is a project on foot for the construction of an electric motor line through the city and by a circular route reaching all the leading additions. The Oregon Pacific owns a great deal of property in the city, along the river and in the suburbs, and such a line would greatly increase its value. It has a round-house there, and has selected this place for the location of machine shops. This railroad connects Albany with the ocean at Yaquina bay and has been constructed eastward into the Cascade mountains, heading for Boise City, Idaho. Being where it first touches the Willamette river from either direction, Albany is its most important point and chief shipping station. Steamers on the river run in connection with the railroad. The main line of the Southern Pacific from Portland to San Francisco runs through Albany, and a branch line runs eastward to Lebanon, tapping a fertile agricultural section further to the east. The Union Pacific has a line of boats on the river, running to Portland, so that Albany has three transportation companies competing for business, rendering this the most extensive shipping point in the upper Willamette valley. Immense quantities of grain and considerable flour are shipped. Three large ware-houses, belonging to the Union Pacific, Oregon Pacific and Farmers' association supply storage room for a large amount of wheat. Four flouring mills consume a portion of the crop and ship much flour. The country for miles around Albany, on both sides of the river, is very level, and is one vast field of wheat, yielding an average of thirty bushels of the finest quality of white winter wheat to the acre. An idea of the luxuriant growth of wheat can be gained from the engraving, where is shown a man six feet tall standing in a grain field, the wheat reaching far above his head, topped with large and plump heads. This is an exact copy of a photograph. Fields of this sort yield from thirty to forty bushels per acre in tracts as high as 400 acres.

Not only is this a great grain producing region, but it is becoming a fruit growing section of importance. It is only a short while since there was a market for Oregon fruit in quantity, and though many thousands of trees have been set out the past three or four years, the new orchards have not yet reached a good bearing condition. Nevertheless, the older orchards supply a large quantity of superior fruit and in a few years the product will be enormous. It is destined to become one of the leading industries of the county. Albany is the shipping point. A small fruit canning and packing establishment already existing there, but the opening for a large industry of this nature is good.

Albany is also an important lumber depot, no less than ten lumber yards doing business there. There is a saw mill in the city, but the bulk of the lumber comes from mills further east toward the mountains. The amount of valuable timber in the tributary region is enormous, and this will always be the headquarters of large lumbering interests. In the city are a chair factory, furniture factory and a branch of the Sugar Pine Sash and Door factory of Grant's Pass. The Calipoola and Santiam rivers and the Oregon Pacific supply connection with the timber region to the eastward, and if the proposed Southern Pacific branch from Lebanon to the Santiam mines be built, it will tap great bodies of the finest timber.

There are other important industries that contribute to the city's prosperity. An artificial ice factory supplies not only Albany but all the towns in the upper end of the valley. A large woolen mill was put in operation this year, employing about 200 hands and using the superior quality of wool produced in that region. A wire mattress factory, two foundries, a brewery and several other industries are also located there. A company supplies electric lights for the streets and for private use. Three good banks, two of them national, are a good index of the commercial stability of the city, as are twelve churches, a fine public school, a Catholic seminary and a Presbyterian college of its moral and intellectual status. Several of the church edifices are large and handsome structures. The imposing court house, shown in the engraving, cost \$75,000.

Near Albany is found the finest building stone yet discovered on the

Pacific coast. This stone has been known and used for twenty years, but it has never been pushed upon the market and has not had an opportunity to make its merits known elsewhere. Portland builders are shipping stone from as far as Arizona, much inferior in quality to this and at greater expense. The quarry of fine sandstone belonging to G. L. Blackman and James Abraham, lies one and one-half miles up the river, and near both the river and railroad. Stone from this quarry has stood the test of time for twenty years in buildings in Albany. It is now being used in the Centenary M. E. Church, of East Portland, where it attracted so much attention that Mr. Abraham, a capitalist of that city, purchased a half interest in the quarry. A switch will be put in from the railroad and the quarry worked more extensively in future. Frank Wood, an expert carver in stone and marble, who has made a personal examination of all the chief quarries in the United States, owns a quarry of gray sandstone a little more than a mile from town, that he deems to be superior to any yet known. Experts who have examined it speak very highly of its quality. It splits very evenly in all directions and stands the severest tests of freezing and heating. It will carve as sharply as marble and can be turned perfectly on a lathe. It was of this stone Mr. Wood made the beautiful Oregon memorial stone for the Washington monument. The merits of this stone are becoming known, and it will no doubt soon be in great demand for the elegant structures of Portland and other coast cities. The importance of these large ledges of sandstone to the cities of the northwest can not be overestimated.

On the middle fork of the Santiam river, about sixty miles from Albany, and reached by road twenty miles from the Oregon Pacific, is a mining district that promises to equal the most famous in the country. Surface indications show exceedingly rich leads, and development work is proving both the permanence of the ore bodies and their increased richness the greater depth is reached. Both free gold and galena ores are found. The Albany Mining & Milling Co. has a five-stamp mill on its claim, which was operated for a time on a trial run of ore, showing an average of \$50 to the ton, an exceedingly valuable free gold ore, since it is mined and milled at such a low figure as to leave a handsome profit. Five more stamps will be added to the mill in the spring, at which time three Portland companies, one Salem company, and possibly others, will also erect mills on their properties. The ledges lie in a splendid position for economical working, being on the side of a hill, so that they can be tapped both by shaft and tunnel, the ore easily removed and the mine kept drained. All the indications point to the Santiam as the greatest free gold district known. There are, also, excellent galena ledges, upon which development work is showing good results. Preparations are also being made for extensive hydraulic mining by a company owning twenty-five claims of gravel, or placer, ground. The Southern Pacific will construct a branch from Lebanon to the Santiam mines just as soon as they have been sufficiently developed to warrant it, as preliminary arrangements have been made. There are also good mining districts on Blue river and Mackenzie river, where development work is revealing excellent ledges. Albany is situated so as to profit more by these mining developments than any other city in the valley.

On the south bank of the Columbia, about twenty miles from Portland, rise two high, conical masses of basaltic rock, between which runs the track of the Union Pacific railroad. These are variously known as the "Pillars of Hercules," "Twin Rocks," "The Needles," and the "Gateway to the Columbia." An excellent engraving of them is given on the front page. They attract much attention from travelers, both by rail and steamer. This is but one of the many curious shapes the basaltic rocks of the Columbia have assumed, where they have been subjected for ages to the erosion of the river and the action of the elements. Nearly opposite is the famous Cape Horn, huge cliffs of basalt rising abruptly from the river, castellated by the action of cascades that pour over their rough sides during the winter and spring when the streams above are full.

Another solution of the twenty-one puzzle, one that is even more of a gymnastic nature than the one in Roman notation given in *West Shore* Nov. 15, has been sent in. The nines are inverted and called sixes. Three of them make eighteen and three ones added make twenty-one. The puzzle can not be solved. Calling a nine a six is not using the figure nine at all, hence the above solution is far from a correct one, and not nearly so good as the solution in Roman characters, where the actual numerals in the puzzle are used. If this is the solution given by the originator of the puzzle, then it must be admitted that even he can not solve his own puzzle—and he certainly can not in any legitimate way.

The appointment of a receiver for the Oregon Improvement Co., was a surprise to all but a few intimately acquainted with its affairs. Too many irons in the fire and the sacrifice of the company's interests to the outside speculations of its managers were the causes of its downfall.