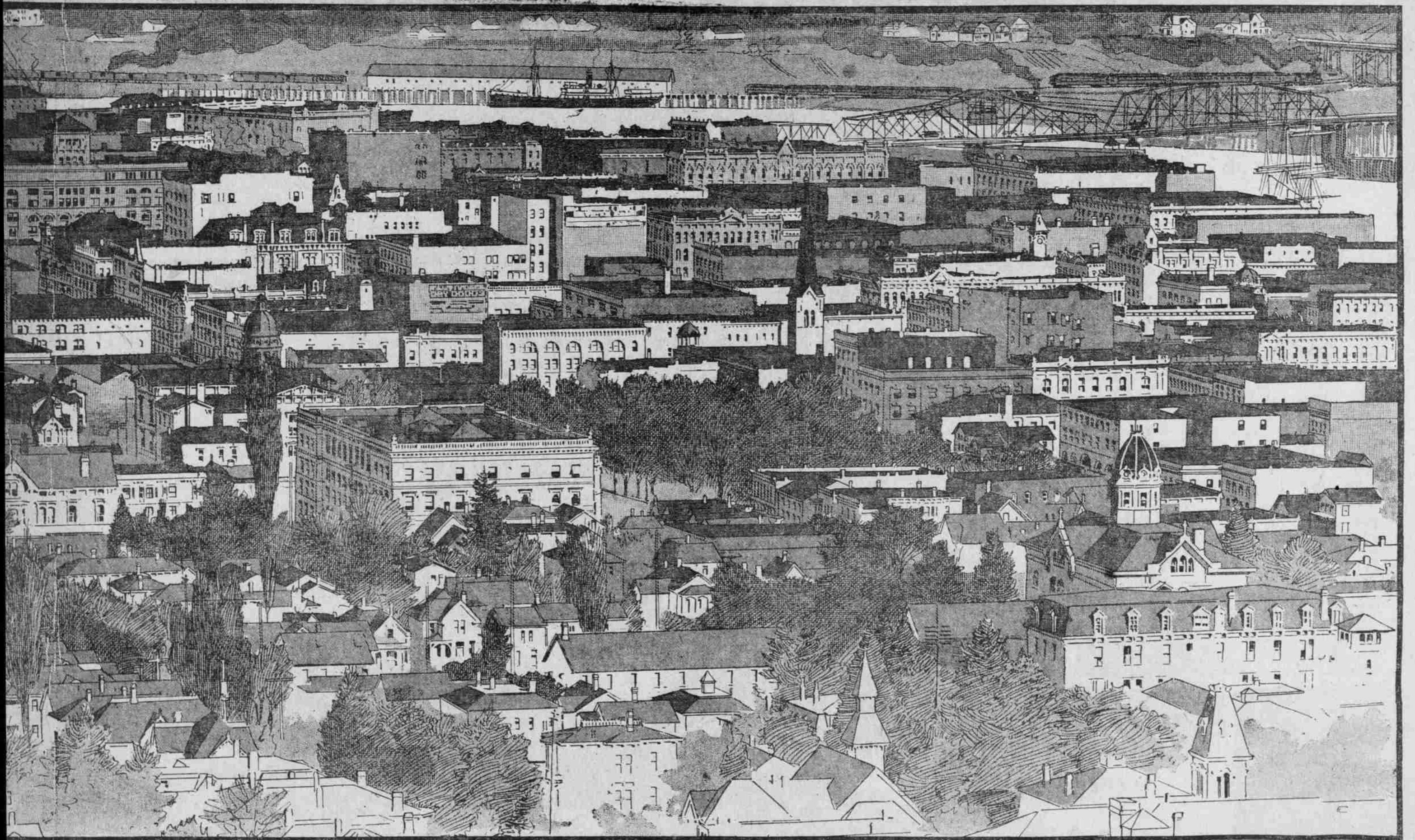


AND AS IT LOOKED AS A STRAGGLING PIONEER VILLAGE IN THE YEAR 1858



ghfare. Immediately behind the Union House is shown the Columbia Hotel, which was the first real hotel erected in Portland. It was the northwest corner of Front and Washington streets. Another the more prominent buildings the picture is the Metropolis hotel, which stood at Front and Clark streets. The solid block of frame structures facing the river near the center of the picture, was on Front street, between Morrison and Alder. The building with the tower, the left of this block and near the timber line, is the old Central school. It stood on the ground which is now covered by the Hotel Portland. The most conspicuous building to the left in the picture is the original Multnomah County courthouse, which was destroyed

by fire August 2, 1873. Still further to the left can be made out the tower of the first Congregational Church built in Portland. At the time the old picture was taken, the district now used for railway terminals and warehouse purposes was low and swampy. Where the fine Union Depot now stands was a pond, known as Couch or Crystal Lake. On rare occasions, when the weather got cold enough—it used to get cold then, old-timers say—this lake furnished skating, and also furnished the ice supply for the town. There were then no improvements on the East Side, which now is in itself a considerable business section, with residence districts extending for miles in every direction. The progress Portland had made up to 1858 was due alto-

gether to the Willamette River. With no railroads and with only the most primitive wagonroads entering it, the pioneer city was forced to depend almost exclusively upon the river as a means of communication with the outside world. Even in those days, the residents realized that Portland was situated on a great natural harbor, but none dreamed of the extent and importance of its future commerce. The only means of crossing the Willamette at Portland in 1858 was a small ferry. Now the stream is spanned by four bridges, over which immense traffic passes each day, and in addition a joint steel structure is being constructed to give access to the city for another great transcontinental railroad. The Willamette at Portland was

even then dotted with steamers, as is shown in the lithograph; but the vessels of those days were pigmies compared with the gigantic ocean carriers which now leave Portland, bearing the products of Oregon and the surrounding states to every important port in the world. Practically all the vessels which landed in Portland up to 1858, and for some years subsequent, came from San Francisco. Occasionally a vessel which had made the trip around the Horn would come up the Columbia and the Willamette, but most of these ships came no further north than San Francisco. The merchandise which they brought, consigned to Oregon ports, was reloaded on smaller vessels for shipment to Portland. Outside of these, the

only sign of life on the Willamette was a few small river boats. Not the least important contrast between the pictures is this of transportation facilities. Whereas, a few small wharves served every need at the time the lower picture was drawn, both the east and west sides of the Willamette are now lined with docks. Vessels of huge capacity are to be seen every day anchored at Portland, unloading the wares of many lands. Up to 1858 no vessels drawing more than from 12 to 14 feet were able to navigate the Willamette River to Portland. No river improvements by the state or National Governments were made until about 30 years ago. Only meager improvements had been made, and these by men personal-

ly interested in the navigation of the river. The large panorama shows only the central business district of the city. Besides the section included, there are many blocks of business buildings which lie further west, as well as a large business section of both retail and wholesale establishments east of the river. The city's extensive West Side residence district, one of the finest and most sightly in the entire country, is not included in the picture. It would be necessary to go back only a few years to find in Portland a decided contrast with the present city. In the panorama of 1907 are shown many business blocks on sites on which stood only small frame structures one year ago. The last few years—

especially 1906—have been the greatest in the history of Portland. The city has reached the skyscraper stage and property-owners are now planning and building structures of 10 and 12 stories, whereas a few years ago three stories was considered high. A typical contrast in the details of the two pictures is shown in the reproduction of the original and the new buildings of The Oregonian. The Oregonian is one of the very few institutions which has existed during virtually the entire history of Portland. As Portland has grown, The Oregonian has grown, and the contrast between its old quarters at First and Morrison streets, and its handsome new building at Sixth and Alder, is as the contrast between old and new Portland.

