

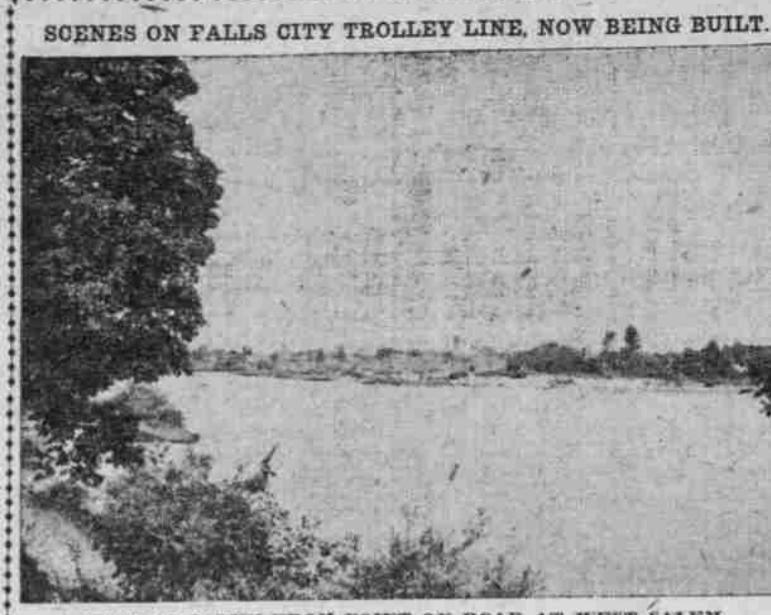
Phases of Industrial Growth in the Pacific Northwest

FALLS CITY ROAD COMPLETED SOON

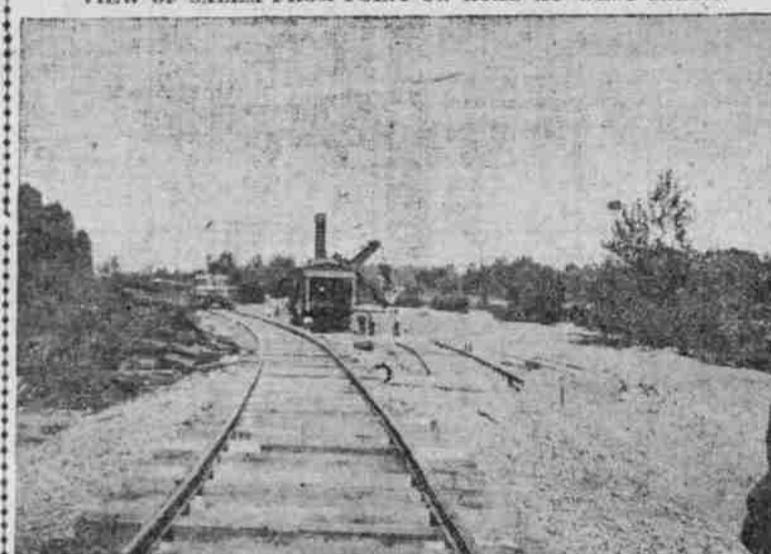
Trains Expected to Be Operating West From Salem by September 1.

MOTORS FOR FAST TRAFFIC

Steel Passenger Cars Will Be Elegantly Equipped—Railroad Will Give New Outlet Rich Timber and Agricultural Section.



VIEW OF SALEM FROM POINT ON ROAD AT WEST SALEM.



STEAM SHOVEL GRADING NEAR WEST SALEM.

SOIL LIKE SPONGE

Will Retain Moisture if Not Allowed to Bake.

CULTIVATION IS ESSENTIAL

Experiments in Semi-Arid Wheat Lands Prove That Yield Can Be Greatly Increased by Conservation of Moisture.

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PULLMAN, Wash., Aug. 1.—(Special)—A proper conservation of moisture in the semi-arid wheat belts through an intelligent treatment of the soil would increase the wheat production of the Pacific Northwest several million bushels annually, according to Professor George Severance, of the Washington State College.

Thick Timber Belt Reached.

The present passenger schedule of the Salem, Falls City & Western will be completely reorganized to cover the entire line, some 20 miles in length. The passenger traffic will be handled by the McKeen gasoline motor cars. The first car to operate out of West Salem will be a 70-foot car costing about \$3,000. It will seat 30 people, and carries baggage, express and United States mail. It is built entirely of steel and is practically indestructible. The first schedule probably will provide for two trains a day between Salem and Black Rock, the western terminus of the line, three miles beyond Dallas. A 50-cent fare to Dallas and 55-cent fare to Falls City will be established for one way trips. It is expected that the running time will be about 30 miles an hour, including stops.

There is no more fertile section of the Willamette Valley than the country between the Falls City & Western Railway and the elevation at Falls City is about the same as at Hood River, but it is claimed the soil in the vicinity of the Polk County logging town is better than that of Hood River as there is less gravel and rock to contend with while it is equally as rich as that of the Hood River country. Some of the finest walnuts grown in the state are produced in the Falls City country.

Twelve inches of water annually will produce 40 bushels of wheat an acre. With ten inches of rainfall per year, a saving of one-half acre of precipitation for two years would supply moisture enough for over 30 bushels an acre, conditions of temperature, fertility and otherwise being equally favorable. A similar percentage of a 15-inch rainfall in 12 months would furnish sufficient moisture for 50 bushels an acre.

To insure the maximum degree of moisture conservation, the soil must be kept in an excellent condition. The supply of humus must be maintained, for it keeps the soil in more sponge-like condition. Where wheat is grown and continuously harvested, the summer fall of the greater part of the straw being either removed or burned, the supply of the soil is gradually reduced. The small root system of the wheat, and the scanty stubble will not return enough humus to replace the amount that decays during the growth of one crop.

As much straw and stubble should be worked into the soil as possible.

Professor Severance says: "The straw should not be burned and the manure should not be wasted. Scatter the

manure

over the

soil

and

water

the