

WELSO MAKING GOOD A FUTURE BRIGHT

Little City on Cowlitz River
Prosperous One.

NATURAL RESOURCES VAST

Metropolis of County Has Tributary
to It Elements That Make
for Material Wealth.

BY ADDISON BENNETT.
KELSO, Wash., May 15.—(Special.)—Kelso is located on the dual-owned and operated railway line between Portland and Puget sound, the lines being the O. & N. and the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern. As these are all, either actually or through a parent line, transcontinental lines, and as the roadway through Kelso is equal to the best in the west, it can be seen that the little city is well provided with railway transportation. Ten passenger trains a day, five each way, give Kelso as good rail facilities as any town in the northwest.

Kelso is 50 miles from Portland by rail, and 123 miles from Seattle. The city is situated on the Cowlitz river, three miles above the point where it flows into the Columbia river. So the place is admirably located for water transportation, and boats ply regularly between here and Portland, while other boats run between here and Bainbridge, connecting with the railway on the Oregon shore between Portland and Astoria.

Kelso, geographically speaking, is six miles west and 41 miles north of Portland. The railways between Portland and the sound cities follow down the north bank of the Columbia river, after crossing it at Vancouver, until the Cowlitz river is reached, then that stream is followed almost due north across the county. Kelso is the largest place on the railroads between Vancouver and Chehalis, and is also the most populous city in Cowlitz county. The main part of the town is on the east side of the Cowlitz, but most of the manufacturing plants are on the west side, a bridge connecting the two.

Swamp Land Reclaimed.

In material prosperity, Kelso has made great strides during the last half-dozen years, coming largely from the drying of about 12,000 acres of land adjoining the town on the west and south. This land was a swamp a large part of the year, as overflows from the Cowlitz and Columbia annually submerged it. Several dyking districts were formed and the entire 12,000 acres turned into a valuable land as there is in the west. The main part of the previously was worth little or no more than \$250 an acre, but it has not as yet been decided just what use it is to be generally put to. It is going to be difficult to discover its best financial use. However, the owners are not worrying as they have discovered that in growing oats it will give a splendid revenue, the crops of that cereal running as high as 150 bushels to the acre; 100 bushels an acre is considered almost a failure.

While this article is not to deal with Cowlitz county as though Kelso were the county seat, I will touch briefly on some of the facts affecting the little city, which is the real metropolis of the county, numerically, financially and in a business sense. Of the 23 counties of Washington 24 are larger than Cowlitz and 11 smaller, the county having an area of 1133 square miles. Its population is 10,000, which is the largest in the county. It is considered that great portions of the county are covered with a heavy growth of timber, and in the northeastern part of the county runs well up the west slope of Mount St. Helena. Seven townships, almost 25 per cent of the county there, has practically no population.

Kelso Beautiful City.
Kelso is a beautiful little city. Its streets are well paved, the main street, running north and south, being a part of the great highway that runs between Seattle and Vancouver and Portland, and I might say, San Francisco and Los Angeles—maybe Mexico City.

The population by the last census (the census figures already given are from the census of 1910) was about 2200, but when it is considered that there are 7000 children in the district it will be seen that the suburbs have nearly as many people as there are in the restricted city limits. The place has every appearance of a city of from \$500 to 4000.

As a business point Kelso is dominant in this region; as a manufacturing center it stands well up with many much larger places, while from an agricultural standpoint it has immediately surrounding it a large area of as good land as there is in the country. Of course the present rosy outlook of the city arises from the advent of the Long-Bell Lumber company, the largest manufacturers of lumber in the United States. But that feature is dealt with at length in another article.

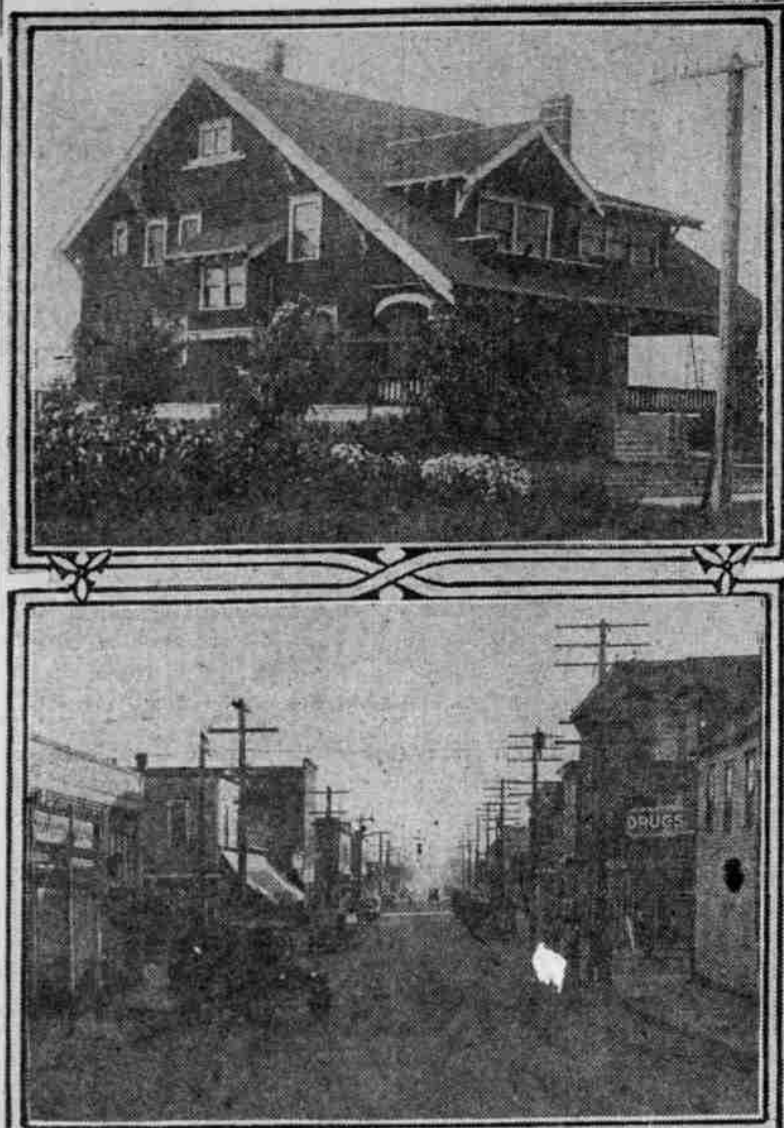
There are now in operation, I mean in Kelso and its suburbs, the following lumber and shingle plants: McLane Lumber & Shingle company, shingle mill and sawmill; Kelso Shingle company, shingle mill; Crescent Shingle company, shingle mill; Thompson-Ford Lumber company, sawmill; C. A. Taylor and company, sawmill; Kelso Box & Lumber company, box factory, and the Veiger Veneer company, manufacturers of veneer.

Other Plants Tributary.
Aside from these plants there are others of a similar nature near and tributary to Kelso. That is, they do their banking and most of their merchandise purchasing in this city and the bulk of the money paid their help is expended here.

Kelso has long had a way of selecting its foremost citizens as "dads." That is one reason why the city stands steadfast to the old system of a mayor and city council. The present mayor is E. J. McLane, who heads the lumber firm first mentioned, and the following seven citizens are the present members of the council: E. E. Knight, Curtis McFarland, C. R. Abbott, Fred McKenney, E. E. Brown, S. L. Roberts and Oliver Knoles.

The city owns its water system, the water supply being pumped from the Cowlitz river into a large reservoir well above the town. This gives a good water service in case of fires and there is a good volunteer fire department, well equipped, with C. R. Abbott as chief. Owing to these conditions the insurance rates here are very low, and the city has never had a conflagration of large proportions. The people here are proud of their public school system and the present superintendent, Lee F. Jones, is a first-class official. It is true the buildings housing the schools (there are four of them) are not of the \$100-

TWO SCENES AT THRIVING CITY OF KELSO, WASH.



RESIDENCE OF FRED TAYLOR, LUMBERMAN. BELOW—LOOKING SOUTH ON SECOND STREET.

000 class, but they are ample and sanitary, which, after all, is the main consideration.

There is a large steam laundry, the largest place of the kind in the county. Kelso has a fine smelt shipping concern, a fine and up-to-date market and cold storage plant, and, in fact, all of the branches of business conducted that one usually finds in a city of four or five thousand population.

National Bank Growing.

I will not go into the troubles of the Kelso state bank which struck the rocks some six or seven weeks ago. It was one of those dangerous one-man banks, and when Stewart quit the bank quit. But it was not a large concern. It had run down until its deposits were a mere shadow of what they had been at one time, for the Kelso National bank had been growing in strength and confidence for several years, and now it is one of the strongest banks along the line between Portland and Chehalis. In fact, I have figured out from its latest report, made April 28, that it is in the best shape of any bank in southern Washington.

Just read these figures, taken from the statement: Capital, \$25,000; surplus, \$10,000; undivided profits, \$534; deposits, \$342,168; cash reserve, more than 25 per cent, and debts due \$45,281. Only \$2,900 is tied up in real estate, while \$1,000,000 in cash, notes or dogs, scripple or summat, to look for. It is in every way a model bank. E. S. Collins is president, L. C. Wallace vice-president, C. C. Bishop cashier, and W. E. Stone assistant cashier.

The banking quarters are small, but they have a new bank building in course of construction. The present bank is on a cross street. The new building is on the main street and in the heart of the business section. It will be ready for occupancy in a few weeks. In speaking of the city government I should have gone on and mentioned the city hall and municipal auditorium. A few months ago the city purchased a large theater, too fine in every way to pay. It was bought very cheap and then equipped as a city hall, with a firemen's hall above and the water office and city library on the ground floor opposite the entrance. It is finely equipped as a theater, which is in fact a great, wonderful asset to the city.

Buildings Going Up.

Considerable building is under way here, several nice dwellings and two good business structures going forward; a store building and the bank building. The Kelso Shingle company is in every way prosperous looking and business men may trade in good and the future very rosy looking, for the Long-Bell Lumber company will double the population in less than five years.

There are seven churches here, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Christian, Roman Catholic, Adventist and Christian Science. The pastors of the first four are R. A. Walmsley, R. H. Holman, G. H. Boyce and C. C. Clark. The others have no resident pastors. The church edifices are rather pretentious and Rev. Mr. Walmsley, of the Presbyterian church, has equipped a very nice building in the heart of town as a social center, the largest manufacturers of lumber in the United States. But that feature is dealt with at length in another article.

There is but one newspaper here, a twice-a-week publication, a good and handsome sheet. It is called the Kelsonian, is now in the 16th year of its success, and going strong. I found it Johnny-on-the-spot for information. George L. Smith is the proprietor and Waldo Harris editor. And it is well edited, getting all of the local news worth while.

I have had the mention of the Kelso club until the last because it is the best item I have to offer about Kelso. I hope the residents of other little cities in Oregon and Washington will write to this Kelso club and find how easy it is, if you have the get-there Kelso spirit, to finance a great civic improvement for your city.

Club House Model One.

With this story will run a picture of the Kelso club building. At least I hope so. It is close to the business center of the town, less than a block from the Long-Bell Lumber company. It was built by selling about 125 shares at \$100 a share, on easy payments. It is a fine building, has a ground space of 100 by 100 feet, and the upper story are the billiard rooms, on the lower floor the ten-pin alleys and a very large assembly room, with a great many chairs, a billiard table and lounges, book racks and shelves, paper files, lavatories and women's rest room—and all so finely appointed that the very chairs seem to have a come-and-try-me air, while the great logs in the open fireplace lend an indescribable air of comfort and ease—at least it was so last evening when the air was chill.

Now a club house as a rule is looked upon as a gathering place for men, young men and man-size boys to loaf and lounge and perhaps, a little more than perhaps to play a little game with the pastboarders, probably called poker, maybe solo, maybe bridge. Not so with the Kelso club. Not on your life! The members come with their wives and sons and daughters, or maybe to see their future wives or husbands. It is just a great big family home, clean and

3400 to Pay Poll Tax.
GOLDENDALE, Wash., May 15.—(Special.)—Charles F. Jaekel, county assessor for Kliekikat county, has filed a list with the county treasurer showing that 2499 persons are eligible to pay the \$2 poll tax under the law recently enacted by the Washington legislature. Mr. Jaekel said the new poll tax law would add very few names to the list of individuals paying personal property tax in Kliekikat county. Very few transients will be called on to pay the tax here, but the burden of the additional taxation will fall on persons already paying taxes.

KIDNAPER OF SON IS NOW PRISON TAILOR

Youth Who Stirred Continent
in Flight Sews Clothes.

PARDON NOT CONSIDERED

George T. Stagg of Tacoma Drops
Out of Society Activities and
Becomes Industrious Convict.

TACOMA, Wash., May 15.—(Special.)—George T. Stagg, bon vivant of New York drawing rooms, newspaper man of two continents and genuine cosmopolitan, is working as a tailor in the penitentiary at Walla Walla, where he is serving a sentence for kidnaping his 31-month-old son in Tacoma. The handsome youth, who stirred a continent in his flight and involved Betty Brainerd, Seattle society girl and newspaper woman, is sewing coarse gray uniforms in the prison tailor shop. That was the worst which was brought to Tacoma today by a friend who attempted to see Stagg.

It was said that Mrs. Edith Cunningham Stagg, his divorced wife, would seek a pardon for him, but so far but little action has been taken in his case. Scott Z. Henderson, Stagg's attorney, sought to have Lieutenant-Governor W. J. Coyle take up Stagg's case a few days ago, but the acting governor refused to consider a pardon except the application came in a regular way through the prison board.

Stitching Is Incessant.

Stagg is not the near-sighted old eccentric of fiction sitting cross-legged on his table, a little fair-haired youth in blue denim, stitching incessantly, hour by hour, day by day, on a sewing machine; an amateur in a shop where they turn out hundreds of gray woollens and coarse blue cottons in duplicate.

"Tommy" Stagg once sipped tea in the fashionable drawing rooms of New York; a newspaper man of talent; a wanderer in far countries and over many seas. Though spring is calling and the wanderlust burns in the hearts of rovers, "Tommy" Stagg will continue to stitch incessantly.

Though Stagg has lived at the state penitentiary too long to be compelled to wear the number which brands him as a convict, it is still emblematic of his woe. Though his well-shaped head is no longer shorn, it does not exhibit the trimness and style of the latter collar days. Now his clothing is precisely identical with the garb of more than 600 of his companions—for the prison uniform has been abolished and the inmate repel to the lines of blue denim.

Assistant Chaplain Not There.

"George T. Stagg, assistant chaplain," was asked for at the door of the state penitentiary by the Tacoma friend.

"We have Stagg, a kidnaper, here, but he is not an assistant to the chaplain," the captain replied.

"Not even the editor of the penitentiary weekly" inquired the seeker of information.

"Stagg is just one of the boys," was the answer.

"We have no favorites here. One man is as good as another. It is 'handsome as a handsome does.' No place does the old parental maxim seem to fit more aptly than in the Washington state penitentiary. When 'one of the boys' does not act handsomely, he gets a brief taste of dungeon life and if he is not reformed, he is sent to the big Kliekikat canyon on the highway from Goldendale to Glenwood, a town which was founded here May 21 and continues through Friday morning, June 3.

Following is the convention program as announced by the program committee:

May 21—Afternoon, arrival, placing and registration of delegates; 8 P. M., convention called to order by Mrs. Ida B. Falgout, president; 8:15, invocation, Rev. G. L. Clarke; address of welcome, Mayor of Tacoma; James H. Stagg, president of Kliekikat club women; John Haller; address of welcome from Pendleton chamber of commerce; James H. Stagg, president; response, Mrs. Charles H. Casner; address of welcome from Kliekikat club women; address, Judge Lowell Pendleton; report of credentials committee; closing song, "America"; luncheon.

June 1—9 A. M., call to order, Mrs. Callahan presiding; invocation, Rev. Alfred Lockwood; "America"; "America the Beautiful"; led by Nettie Greer Taylor; reports of credentials committee, recording and corresponding secretaries, treasurer and auditor; 9:45, address, Miss Corneilia Mayrin, state librarian; minutes, 10:15, "Scholarship Loan Fund," Mrs. Sarah A. Evans; 11:15, fraternal greetings; 11:30, open forum; noon, delegates' luncheon.

Afternoon—3:00, call to order; singing, "Oregon, My Oregon"; 3:15, Oregon annual report, Mrs. Ida B. Falgout; 3:30, five-minute reports on Amelioration, conservation, thrift; 3:40, address, "Practical Pointers on Legislation," Mrs. Alexander Thompson; 4:00, play, presented by Pendleton club women; 7:45, call to order; assembly singing; 8:15, address, Mrs. Thomas G. Winter, president general federation; reception honoring Mrs. Winter; music provided by Pendleton hostess clubs; 8:30, 9:00 A. M., call to order, Mrs. Collins Elkins, vice-president, presiding; invocation, Rev. W. H. Cox; resolutions; reading of minutes; reports, arie, civic child welfare and other standing committees; special committee, reports of Mrs. P. L. Campbell, Mrs. Roy Bishop and others; address, Professor A. R. Sweetser, University of Oregon; noon, luncheon at Athena, guests of Athena club women.

Afternoon—3:30, call to order; music, assembly singing; 3:50, report, minutes; pictures; address, Mrs. Beale A. Dwyer; 4:30, discussion of endorsement fund; open forum for general club topics; president's conference and supper, Mrs. William Thomson, University of Oregon extension department; 8:45, music, Mrs. Jane Thatcher; 9:00, 9:30, address, call to order; 9:10, resolutions; 9:30, roll call; election of officers; business session; concluding ceremonies; installation of new officers; adjournment.

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PAINT-UP WEEK



Paint! This Week

EVERYBODY is going to paint everything that needs any paint—this week! It is "Civic and Home Pride Week" as well as "Paint-up Week." Do your part. Make everything about your place look new.

When you do yours, your neighbor will want to do his. Your neighborhood will look like a "brand new" community. There is nothing that can outwardly improve the looks of houses as much as paint. Inwardly, too, because housewives will want the inside to look as well as the outside.

And remember—it's not only going to make things look better, but Paint-up Week will make things last longer. Paint protects all surfaces. Constant exposure to weather eventually makes your paint crack and become faded and dull. So "Paint-up Week" may be just the thing your house needs, anyway. Take advantage of this special "Paint-up" time to make your home an object of pride.

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Remember first, it is what paint covers that you want to save and make new in appearance



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