



1—Salem High School, which ranks high among the institutions of its kind in the state. 2 and 3—Englewood and Garfield schools, two of the most recent type of school buildings recently erected. 4—Lausanne Hall, women's dormitory at Willamette University. 5—Eaton Hall, administration hall of Willamette University. 6—Sacred Heart Academy.

## SALEM, CRADLE OF LEARNING

Education in Oregon Got First Impulse Here—History of Struggle for Mental and Moral Betterment Clusters Around the Early Days of Willamette University—Public and Private Schools of City Efficient—\$500,000 Bond Issue Voted

One of the most remarkable human interest stories of the whole West is that of Education.

There were, and even still are, two Wests. The one was the gold-hunting, adventurous West; the roaring Forty-niners, the bonanza prospectors to Idaho and Montana when there was nothing in the mind but gold and adventure. The Santa Fe trail to the south, and the Missouri river steamboat line to Montana Bar, Alder Gulch and Bannack and Last Chance Gulch in the early '50's, and the eastern section of the Oregon Trail to Idaho in the days of Florence and the Boise Basin were gold-roads with hardly a thought of anything else.

These adventurers had hardly a rudimentary thought of farming, of permanent homes, of education. The development of education has vividly carried on the early ambitions of the first settlers in these countries. They never did have, and do not now have, in these typical gold states, a real educational history; the early days were filled with far other thoughts than books!

But Oregon was the educational paradise. Men came to the Willamette valley—which was almost the whole of the early Oregon—to establish homes and to worship God and to educate their children. Almost every little community had its little "college," established by the evangelistic efforts of some denominational church. There are more than a score of communities, perhaps as many as 50, that have had at least the rudiments of a college. Never in the history of mankind has there been such a perfect fury, such an utter devotion to the cause of education, as that which marked the early Willamette valley settlement. There were more than a score of these "colleges," either established or projected, in Oregon, before the Civil War. In the gold states, they would have seemed as strange as for the people of nobilious Mars to come here with their strange bodies and stranger minds and ideals. But in the home-hunting Oregon program

they were as logical as two and two to start the multiplication table.

**Salem Home of Education**  
Salem was the very first educational center in the northwest; in the whole West—Willamette University is the oldest west of the Mississippi river! The city grew up around, and because of, the pioneer school, for which a charter as a university was asked in 1849. That was the year of the great gold rush to California; when men sold their souls for gold. It is a strange picture, the difference of the two ideals; the Oregonians putting their beaver-skins and bear-skins and labor into a christian college that in their children should live on through the ages, and the argonauts of the South shooting and blasting their way to the cold, yellow metal of their adventurous dreams!

The Willamette University is the foremost of the educational institutions of Salem; in age and in national standing. The old school has had a checkered career; marked by superhuman struggles, disasters, with enough triumphs to keep its hope alive. It has graduated more than 1,000 students; it has served more than 10,000 who did not graduate, but who carried some of its impress out into the world. Its oldest student, Hon. Joseph Baker, still lives in Salem; he attended first in 1849, 74 years ago. What a procession of young life has passed through its doors in that long period of time!

Willamette has struggled on under crushing loads of debt, almost from the beginning. One of the early professors thought he was mighty lucky to get \$300 a year for all his time and the use of his diploma as a drawing card. The University once owned a large tract of land in Salem, covering where the capitol building now stands; but it was too heavy a load to carry, and gradually the holdings were reduced to the present campus. This is hardly adequate to the present ambitions of the school; but it would not be easily possible to extend its holdings, what-ever the future needs.

The university has had a small endowment, of about \$600,000, for the past 10 years. This was not sufficient for its needs; it has been a constant fight for enough money to carry on the school. The tuition has cost practically three times what the students have ever paid; for the effort has always been to fairly drag the young people into school, and to find enough money from other sources to pay the greater part of their expenses.

**Million Dollar Endowment Campaign**  
During 1922, however, an endowment campaign was started, that has brought an additional endowment of \$1,000,000 for the university use. This was started by a gift of \$350,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation, which after an exhaustive investigation designated Willamette as a college of superior character and promise, and worthy their support. So certain were they that Willamette would succeed, that they have been paying the interest on this endowment appropriation, for the past two years, in anticipation of the successful campaign now ended. The rest of the money was raised by popular subscription; two loyal Oregonians, Hon. R. A. Booth of Eugene and E. S. Collins of Portland, each added \$100,000 to the fund.

**New Gymnasium Made Possible**  
In addition to this permanent endowment fund, enough money was raised in this campaign to build a fine new gymnasium, a central heating plant and to clean up all warrant and note indebtedness. The school starts in its 1923 year in far the best financial condition it has ever known. The enrollment was limited to 450, last year; but the demand for room has been so insistent, that this limit was exceeded by 100 students. With the erection of more buildings, a registration of 1000 is expected within the next three years; they could be had this year if the buildings would hold them.

**Salem School System Leads**  
Following in the wake of Willamette—and it actually is that, for the present Willamette actu-

ally preceded the present public schools—the school system is one of the justifiable boasts of Salem. The school now comprises 10 buildings, with an enrollment March first of 4128. These buildings and pupils are served by 138 teachers, an average of 30 pupils per teacher, including all the grades. The schools have been badly crowded, because of their excellence; the army of students coming in from out of town, is almost like the army of argonauts seeking the gold of California.

**Half Million Bond Issue**  
A recent election, provides for a city bond issue of \$500,000 for additional school needs. This money is to be spent over a period of years, building new, permanent, fire-proof units to supplement and eventually to supersede the present older wooden structures. The schools are growing with really startling rapidity; with the present high school enrollment of about 960, it is certain that by spring of 1923 it will be at least 1200, for a high school building that was originally calculated to be "chock full" with 800. Most of the school buildings are similarly crowded; only two of the whole number, and these being in the less populous outskirts of the town, where they were given modern buildings in advance of the city needs, are really only comfortably filled.

Because of the congestion in the high school, in 1915 the Junior High School system was adopted. This takes the seventh, eighth and ninth grades, putting them in separate schools that are especially aimed to meet the needs of adolescence. They are supposed to be provided with assembly rooms, where the pupils meet in the growing "gang spirit" stage that demands attention. The three junior high schools have been so terribly overcrowded that they have no assembly rooms, and in that much the Salem school system has fallen seriously short of its duty. The junior high system calls for treatment of its pupils as miniature men and women, not children who are to obey because author-

(Continued on page 5)

## SALEM "Y" GREAT CIVIC LEADER

Has Attained National Reputation for Efficiency in Spite of Handicap in Equipment—Sets Pace for All Movements Calculated to Improve Physical, Mental and Spiritual Condition of City's People—Brief Review of the Year's Work

In the magnificent cathedral, St. Paul's, London, there is no specific memorial to the great architect, Sir Christopher Wren, who planned the building; but there is a simple tablet which says: "If you would see his monument, look about you." The splendid structure is indeed a monument to the man who drew the design and worked it into stone.

One can find the memorials to the Salem YMCA in almost the same way, anywhere in Salem—one needs but to look around him, to see what the association is, by what it does. Here is a partial list of the public activities in which the Y has engaged during the past year; most of them it has carried on as its own initiative, and others it has assisted materially, either through its workers or its building facilities. Perhaps no one in Salem would have believed that so many things of public moment have been carried on, even by the whole city:

- Vacation Bible School, 529 pupils, 81 teachers.
- Municipal play ground
- Summer Camp, on Salmon river
- Community Swimming Week
- Twilight Baseball League
- Boys' Twilight League
- Tennis Tournament
- Willamette Class, accredited Y work
- Commercial basketball league
- Midget Basketball League
- Sunday School Athletic League
- Boys' Baseball Pitchers course
- Open house, Willamette Y
- Open house, high school
- HY Club
- Cooperation with Marion county S. S. association
- Cooperation with YMCA
- All secretaries members of some Salem Civic club
- Educational Extension Work
- Men's Handball tournament
- Handball classes for men
- Volleyball classes for men
- Swimming instruction—400 have earned to swim in Y tank during year
- Bible study classes
- Sunday School membership campaign

- Y "Twenty-Four-Hour-Day" club
- Inter-city contests, men with other cities
- Inter-city contest, boys
- Older boys conference
- Boxing classes
- Junior Hi-Y club, McKinley school
- Service membership
- Boys' clubs, 16 clubs
- Thrift Week Campaign
- Mother-and-Son Banquet
- Visitation Team
- Cooperation with churches for Easter Week
- Sunday Park Services
- Men's Class in Public Speaking
- Men's Class in Salesmanship
- Men's Class in Citizenship
- Boys' training class in Willamette University
- Hikes, paper chases, etc.
- Cooperation with County Y work
- Life Saving Classes
- Tumbling Classes
- Pentathlon for boys, April
- Pentathlon for boys, Christmas week
- Hexathlon for boys, classified
- Christian Citizenship Training
- Advertising church services
- Swimming contests for boys
- Work Highly Efficient

The work of the Salem Y as described by one nationally known Y observer, has been pronounced as without equal considering its equipment. And Harry Stone, of Portland, interrupting in the great YMCA conference in Portland last week, where John R. Mott, the greatest Y worker in the world, was the principal speaker, said: "The work of training Y workers is being done better through the Salem YMCA, and Willamette University, than anywhere else west of the Mississippi river." He should know he has three of the Willamette League, that is growing to be a real baseball classic. The schedule is arranged mostly through the Y, the listing of members, the annual banquet, and in every way it is a recognized Y activity, though of course it enlists some excellent assistance from outside its own regular membership.

But the real quantity, and much of the real quality, is done right at home. Take, for instance, the swimming week, conducted for the past two years by Tom Gawley, swimming instructor of the Portland YMCA. During Swimming Week, last May, almost 1000 young people, all the way from children up to the young women of the business classes and the Willamette University, attended; 400 became proficient enough through the Y teachings during the year, to become real lifesavers in the water. "Bill" East, one of the Y boys, was life guard at the municipal playgrounds last summer; he did save at least one life that was surely lost but for his Y skill. The classes in life-saving are of the highest efficiency; the swimming has the skilled supervision of swimmers who can teach the art—and 400 learned it during the year. This swimming week is a regular Salem Y institution.

**Helps Municipal Playground**  
Either Secretary Kells or Physical Director Boardman of the Salem Y was somewhere on the job through most of the eight weeks of the municipal playground season, last year; and for weeks before the season opened, in planning and installing the apparatus and the general scheme of the work. What this play ground meant to the tired mothers of Salem, and to the children themselves, is beyond the power of mere figures to estimate.

Salem has been curiously reluctant or unfortunate in keeping up professional baseball teams. But the people like baseball; it is food and drink for many men and boys. The Salem Y has taken over most of the burdens of the annual Twilight League, that is growing to be a real baseball classic. The schedule is arranged mostly through the Y, the listing of members, the annual banquet, and in every way it is a recognized Y activity, though of course it enlists some excellent assistance from outside its own regular membership.

Fifty boys took part in the Boys' tennis tournament last summer, held mostly under the Y supervision, and played mostly by Y members. It was one of the reddesthottest meets of the kind ever held on the coast, and it produced some stars among its 50 players. They own signal honors in the Portland tournament. The meet in Salem was almost thrilling in its rivalry; and it attracted the attention of a good many men who would have given a thousand dollars to be able to play as well as some of the Y "kids."

**Public Takes Interest**  
The New Year Open House was attended by almost 2,000 people of Salem, who crowded in to see what their boys and girls are doing. They found a delightful program of clean athletics and gymnastic, and good music, and good fellowship. The Y has always been the center of these young people's public meetings. The Willamette Y held such a reception there, attended by 300 of the students; and the Salem High school held their open house, which was largely attended.

There are 15 Boys' Clubs, groups of from six to ten boys, each group under the leadership of a young man from Willamette University. These classes have been wonderfully helpful to both the members and the leaders. Most of the Willamette men are planning either for regular Y secretarial work, or for better citizenship in which service counts as the first duty and privilege; some are planning for the ministry, and it is not to be a long-faded, sacerdotal black-cloaked ministry, but a good-fellowship understanding of humanity and what it needs to make it happier and healthier and better. Some of the leaders take their boys to their homes, for little parties; one

(Continued on page 2)