

In all Washington there is no no handsomer country town than North Yakima; yet no longer ago than 1885 I drove across an absolutely desert country--startling the jack rabbits from an unbroken expanse of sage brush--where this town with its three or four thousand people now stands.

Everything accomplished since in building homes and planting orchards and vineyards and hop fields has been made possibly solely by irrigation.

The poplars and cottonwoods which shade the streets seem to be thirty or forty years old but not one of them dates further back than 1886. Wonderfully rapid is the growth of all kinds of trees and shrubs in this climate of much sunshine and little rain when the abundant waters from the streams are diverted upon the soil.

The town has no appearance of newness. The blossoming fruit trees the lilac bushes covered with bloom, the trim gardens, the vines and shrubs in the dooryards all speak of an old occupancy of the place and it is hard for an eastern man to believe that there was not even the vestige of settlement here until 1886.

Prior to the advent of the railroad there was a little village for (four?) miles away hemmed in by the steep hills on one side, by the river on another and by alkaline bottom-lands on a third. The railroad people determined that this was no site for an important town. They set to work and laid out a townsite on broad, high ground farther up the valley where the Natchez river joins the Yakima. They planted trees conducted water along all the streets and then invited the people in old town to move their buildings up, offering them lots free in the new place. Most of the Yakima City people accepted the offer and so North Yakima was started. The old town still exists with a few hundred people but it is merely a suburb of the flourishing new town.

The special charm of North Yakima and its surroundings is found

in successful horticulture. The farms are nearly all small and the chief reliance of the farmers is evidently their fruit--apples, peaches, plums, prunes and cherries.

The village houses have large grounds with lawns, gardens and fruit trees and just outside the well built section is a belt of little places of one to five acres each, planted mainly in orchards. Then come larger farms with hop fields, alfalfa fields and big orchards. The mountains that rim the valley in forming a basin five miles across are bare of trees and covered with bunch grass which feed large bands of sheep. You see few homes that indicate wealth but there are a great many places that show the possession by the occupants of what in a country town is a comfortable income, the luxuriance of the growth of foliage, fruits and flowers make these places very attractive. Their owners have taken the bare desert and in a very few years with the help of water and sunshine have transformed it into a region of beauty and comfort.....

Save here and there a quarter section owned by some eastern speculator and held for a high price the entire basin is now pretty well covered with settlement. Even across the Yakima in the Moxee country, high above the range of irrigation canals, artesian wells supply a constant flow of water and a prosperous settlement has grown up there.

North Yakima does not need any more merchants or lawyers or doctors or preachers or newspapers or real estate agents but there is still room for more fruit farmers in the surrounding valley and country and in the town there should be a cannery to put up the fruits and vegetables grown close at hand and save the people the extra cost on the canned stuff they now bring from California and the east. Here is an excellent opening for a practical man who understands the business and such a man can count on a liberal cooperation from the citizens of the place--E.V. Smalley in the Northwest Magazine--June, 1897.

....There is not a vacant house in North Yakima. This year about fifty new residences were built and there will probably be as many more before the season closes. The majority are handsome residences, costing \$6,000 to \$7,000.

The census of 1890 gave Yakima county about 4,500 population. Now the population of the county exceeds 14,500 and there is no portion of the state attracting more attention.

About a year ago a colony of Dunkards settled in Yakima valley near Sunnyside and more recently a colony of Hollanders came. At the North Yakima Commercial club Friday night your correspondent met a man from Hungary who is there for the purpose of making arrangements for a colony of Hungarian immigrants.

The commercial club is an important feature of North Yakima. It has 150 members, comprising the majority of the business men of the city and they have comfortable rooms nicely furnished. The club will move into new and more convenient quarters in one of the new buildings now being erected.

The county is famous for hops, fruit, hay, vegetables, all raised by means of irrigation.

There are fine business houses either of brick or stone now in process of construction. For a little city that does not claim over 4,000 inhabitants that is not so bad. There are something over 900 children in the public schools.

In the vicinity of North Yakima there are between 30 and 40 experimental crops of sugar beets now growing. They are to be shipped for treatment to Waverly in Spokane county where D.C. Corbin, the Spokane millionaire has invested a half million dollars in the beet sugar works. If the experiment proves to be successful the raising of sugar beets will be an important wealth producer in Yakima county hereafter..

Yakima now furnishes to public service one supreme judge, one congressman, one member of the legislature, the chairman of the state board of audit and control, the warden of the state penitentiary, the acting attorney general, the receiver of the United States land office, a member of the United States Indian commission, a deputy United States marshal and a score or two of salaried employees in various public institutions, state and national--J.J. Anderson, Tacoma News, July, 1899.

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North Yakima has made a wonderful record of progress in the year which closes tonight(copy) Approximately \$5,000,000 has been expended by the city and territory surrounding the city, the result of which expenditure will directly benefit North Yakima.

Of the total approximately \$1,500,000 has been expended in permanent improvements within the city. Buildings and building improvements amount to \$996,740..business buildings: \$610,809; residences , \$279,440; smaller buildings and improvements \$106,200.

The city expended \$92,913 on permanent improvements; the electric company \$200,000 in extending the trolley; the telephone and gas companies \$60,000, the state fair commission about \$14,000, the printing and publishing establishments about \$40,000.

Railroad activity in the valley tributary to North Yakima has called for the expenditure of \$790,000. It is estimated that \$713,000 has been spent in planting new orchards and caring for old ones.

The county has expended \$65,619 in building new roads and bridges, the Commercial club \$15,000 for publicity and the Yakima Valley Power company has spent upwards of \$400,000 for building a new power line down the valley .

The amount spent by the government in the year on projects immediately adjacent to North Yakima reached the enormous sum of \$700,000. The amount expended in the work, especially on the Tieton project, will be of direct benefit to the city.

In addition to all this it is estimated that there was expended on new and old orchards above and below the gaps the enormous sum of \$1,025,000. In this connection it is estimated that the sale of fruit last year amounted To \$380,625.

Another evidence of the remarkable progress that has been made is found in the total of real estate transfers. In the year which closes today this amounted to approximately \$11,000,000 in round numbers over three million dollars more than in 1908.

(George E. Wise, building inspector)

Marquette college, the Catholic school for boys was completed at Fourth and B streets during the summer. It was erected at a cost of \$30,000 is two stories high and has a frontage of 58 feet and a length of 114 feet.

The Catholic girls' school, a block farther up Fourth street is practically a new building. Its size having been more than doubled during the past summer and the old portion of the structure remodeled, the total cost of the work being \$45,000. It is now a three story building (Brick) over 100 feet long. The old portion of the building has become an ell; the new construction is the main part. The portion build this past year is 86 by 56 feet. This school is St Joseph's academy.

~~MOORE~~ The Morrissey apartment house, with a frontage of 130 feet on A street and 43 feet wide and two stories high was built at a cost of \$25,000 on Fourth street and A. It has accommodations for eight families.

Over on Yakima avenue between Fourth and Fifth is Libby and Ford's new garage. This was built at a cost of \$20,000. It has a 50 foot front and runs back 130 feet.

Almost opposite is the Scudder building, two stories high, 50 X 130, costing \$31,000. This was built by H.R. Scudder for occupancy of the ~~DOBO~~ Barnes-Woodin company.

On South Second street ~~is~~ in the first block is the Minnesota building, the largest building in the city. It is five stories high,

additional stories were built on top of this building which was owned by Pat Mullins and a four story structure erected on the corner lot so that the entire 50 feet are now occupied by a building unit.

The new Northern Pacific station is an architectural gem. It is of gray brick with a red tiled roof. Its dimensions are 164 X 43 and the central portion is two stories high. The express building of the same style is one story high, 74 X 42. The cost of these two buildings is \$60,000.

Across Front street from the station is Hotel Miller, a three story building costing \$35,000. The building was erected by Mrs. Julia Hess Miller.

The first three-story building erected on the west side was the one built by Chris Christianson and now known as the Savoy hotel. It is valued at \$12,000.....

Plans for a Masonic temple to cost \$140,000 are now being drawn. It will be three stories high, modeled inside after Solomon's temple and will be located on Yakima avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets.

The Christian Scientists will either build a new church or add an addition to the old one.

The Presbyterians are planning on an addition to their church to cost about \$10,000.....

Approximately 10 miles of sewers were constructed during the year. Cements walks, 2.1 miles long were also laid and 1,809 lineal feet of street grading has been done. More than 55 miles of street levels have been run by City Engineer Harold J. Doolittle. The consideration for purchase of the water plant at a cost of \$310,000 ^{will come} ~~came~~ before the people for a vote on January 31.

has a frontage of 125 feet and runs back 132 feet. It is of brick, the front being faced with cream colored face brick and ornamented with terra cotta. It was build by A. B. Davidson and F. Copy) Larson at a cost of \$100,000.

One block beyond on the same side of Second street is the Gleason building, a stone structure used as a hall by the Eagles. The lower floor is occupied by Inman & Rose and the Central Washington Monument company. This building is two stories high, 50 X 140 feet in size. It cost \$15,000. Next to it is the one-story brick building erected and occupied by the Model U.S. Laundry. This is 50 X 140 and worth about \$6,000.

On the corner of South Second and Pine streets is a seven family tenement built by the Washington Accident & Health insurance company at a cost of \$15,000. It is a frame building having a frontage of 140 feet on Pine street and a depth of 40 feet.

On North Second street next to the court house, the Elks' Temple is in process of construction. This is a stone and brick and is 60 x 112 feet and is to be, for the present, one story. It is to cost \$22,000.

On the corner of North First and B. streets Marshall Scudder is erecting the new home of the Read laundry. This is of reinforced concrete. It is to cost \$14,000. It is one story and is 50 x 140 feet.

Between A street and the avenue on North First is the building erected by the Benoit brothers and used by them as a meat market. It is two stories high, 25 X 100 feet and cost \$7,500.

On the corner of South First and Chestnut street is the Mullins building, four stories high with a frontage of 50 feet. This is a complete building, the second lot from the corner having already been occupied by the Royal cafe. Two

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The growth of North Yakima during the past year has not been marvelous but steady and sure. Numerous improvements have been made and premises on every street give evidence of prosperity and thrift.

Among the improvements worthy of note is the James creamery, a convenient establishment equipped with the most modern machinery and having a daily capacity of 1,000 pounds of butter. Its product is not excelled by any like institution in the state.

Another improvement has been the beautifying of the State Fair grounds which have been leveled and seeded. The buildings have been painted and a permanent water right has been secured for the grounds. Credit is due our state fair commissioners for their judicious and enterprising efforts in this work. The fruit and vegetable evaporator recently put into operation was a much needed improvement and speaks much to the credit of those who were instrumental in securing the plant.

Another institution which we must not neglect to mention speaks volumes of praise for a society composed of many of the good people of North Yakima.

This is the completion of plans commenced during the extreme financial embarrassment of '96 in the building of a fine house of worship for the Congregational society. It has been erected and dedicated free from debt during the past year.

A number of minor improvements have been made in building some very neat cottages and fine residences. Older homes have been artistically improved. Yakima Herald, February 17, 1898.

City Expansion

Nearly as great an area of land will be taken in and made a part of the city of North Yakima as is now within the city limits if the annexation election to be held March 19 favors annexing the outlying territory.

According to City Engineer Harold J. Doolittle, the present area of the prescribed limits of the city is 1,340 acres while all the districts to be included in annexation would have a total acreage of 1020 acres. The land area of the city would be about 3.67 square miles.

The population within the city is estimated at 12,800 and the new territory would give it a population of 15,400...Yakima Republic, March 4, 1910.

Northwest Magazine, February , 1889.

I have not yet spoken of one of North Yakima's best prospects for further growth. Public opinion in all parts of Washington has settled upon place as the capital of the new state. At the last session of the territorial legislature, a bill for the removal of the capital from Olympia to North Yakima failed by only two votes. There is no concentration of opinion on any other town. North Yakima is the geographical center and is much nearer than any other town being the center of population. It is on the main trunk line of railroad which traverses Washington from east to west and is thus easily accessible from all parts of the territory. Besides, it has the facilities and resources in climate, soil and abundant water to be made an exceedingly attractive city. Probably nine out of ten of the people of Washington already look upon it as the future capital of the new state.

City Growth

All floating indebtedness of the city of North Yakima is now paid; warrants are worth 100 cents on the dollar and there are \$3,000 in the treasury. This is a good showing for the present council to leave as a legacy to its successors. Five years ago warrants were worth 10 cents on the dollar less and this has been true until this year.--Yakima Herald, May 25, 1893.

Statistics on Yakima compiled by Wayne Richardson, assistant secretary of the Commercial Club were mailed last night to the state chamber of commerce.

According to the report Yakima has an assessed valuation of \$11,806,695 with a population of 20,000 living on 2,355 acres in the incorporate limits and 40,000 persons within trading radius of the city.

There are 40 manufacturing plants with a production of \$8,220,000 worth of goods and a payroll of \$2,327,000 annually. There are 50 miles of graded streets, 25 miles of paved streets, 69.5 miles of sidewalks, and 47 miles of sewers.

Seven thousand telephones serve 5,000 families living in 3,700 dwellings. Ten grade schools have a teaching staff of 110 instructors and 3,210 pupils attend. The high school has 44 teachers and 995 pupils. There are 25 churches, 13 Boy Scout troops and four civic organizations in addition to the Commercial club, he says--
Yakima Republic, February 15, 1924.

Doctors in the city are prophesying a war some time in the distant hence, basing the prognastication upon the fact that 99 per cent of all children born in Yakima during the past year have been boys. The doctors need not look to futurity for explanatio . It arises in the Yakima watch word":Irrigation is King"!W Yakima Herald, May 2, 1 895.