

PROSSER.

A COMING COMMERCIAL CENTER.

Prosser Falls Irrigation Canal—Prosser Falls Water Power—Prosser Town a Market Center for Horse Heaven and the Sunnyside.

Moving white specks on the plains and hillsides, and tiny clouds of dust hanging over them, excite the curiosity of visitors to Prosser in April and May. These are herds of sheep on their annual pilgrimage to Prosser for shearing. A thousand a day was the stint of the little bunch of ready wielders of the shears that I watched for a while, piling up the golden fleeces. Some 50,000 to 70,000 sheep cart their own wool to the railroad at Prosser, where more are clipped than at any other point in Washington.

On the same visit bands of horses from the ranges are seen coming down for shipment by rail to distant markets. Many hundreds find their way east and west from this point every year. Their home is the vast Horse Heaven country, an elevated plateau of a half million acres or more, where now are great wheat farms, whose produce in large measure finds its easiest outlet at Prosser, that lies on the railroad just at the foot of the slopes in the Yakima valley. That these fertile hills will produce ten-fold more of horses, cattle and sheep, and grain as well, in the near future is as certain as anything in this world.

Just across the river from Prosser stretches away the great irrigated Sunnyside country, that is fast cutting up into small farms of ten to forty acres, which will make a dense population, and most of that within a dozen miles will make Prosser its market town. The present Sunnyside canal will water 65,000 acres, and another to follow, called the High Line canal, will water 100,000 acres more.

At Prosser is the intake of the Leadbetter canal, now in construction, that is destined to water 125,000 acres.

As the town of Prosser lies centrally at the foot of the Horse Heaven hills, between them and the Sunnyside, it is seen to possess as fine a location as any market town in an agricultural country could possibly have. Such a town needs manufacturing facilities, and these are supplied by Prosser Falls, which develop a 6,000 horse power even in the dry season of the year, and these are the only falls of any consequence in the entire valley. With the raw materials produced at every hand, the openings for woolen mills, packing houses, tanneries, flour mills, jute and other fiber mills, beet sugar fac-

ories, condensed milk works, etc., are seen to be exceptional.

To establish the town on a firm foundation, the Prosser Falls Irrigation Company have built a canal that irrigates 3,000 acres of highly fertile land extending eleven miles along the railroad and the river bank, including the streets and gardens of the town itself.

The Prosser Falls Irrigation Company controls the south side of the river. The land on this side of the river is too high to be covered by any gravity system, and though it is as productive as any in the state, it would, without water, be worthless. The power of the falls is utilized to raise water 100 feet high to cover this land. The water power here is the best on the Yakima river. The fall is twenty feet in a half mile, and during the dry season in October, 1893, the river discharged 2,662 second feet, equivalent to 6,050 horse power.

The headgates are placed in the rock on the south side of the river. The headgate frame is made of 10x16 timber, is 22 feet high and 36 feet wide, and has six openings for gates, each four feet wide in the clear. A wing dam has been built from the headgates out into the river to direct the current toward the flume.

The headgates supply two flumes, each ten feet deep and twelve feet wide in the clear, and the water will be six feet deep in the flumes when the river is lowest. One of these flumes will supply water for the factories, the other furnishes water for the irrigation canal and the power to raise the water 100 feet, also water to supply the town. From the headgate to the power house is 650 feet. Part of this fall is lost during high water, and the machinery has been designed for a 12-foot fall. The flume connecting the headgate and power house is made of 2-inch tongued grooved plank with bents every two feet made of 6x10 lumber. The water from the flume enters a forebay 10 feet wide, 17 feet deep and 65 feet long, and from the forebay enters three penstocks, from which it is discharged through the turbines.

The turbines are 48-inch special Victors and develop 135 horsepower each, 12 feet head. Each turbine drives a duplex power pump, 25-inch cylinder, 24-inch stroke. Each pump has a capacity of 4,000 gallons per minute. This is the discharge at an 80-foot per minute piston speed, and the pumps can, when necessary, be worked at a 100-foot piston speed. Two pumps and two turbines are now in successful operation, and when the third pump is in the plant will have a daily capacity of 17,280,000 gallons. The turbines and pumps were furnished by the

Stillwell-Birce & Smith-Vaile company of Dayton, O.

From the pumps the water passes through 2,800 feet of 28-inch steel pipe, to the penstock at the head of the company's canal. Three hundred feet from the penstock the canal divides into two branches. The west is nine miles long; the east is now three miles long and it is expected to continue it down the river and to cover a fine piece of land several miles beyond.

The water supplied to the canal is 27 second feet, which at a duty of 150 acres to the second foot, will irrigate 4,000 acres.



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