

SPOKANE FALLS.

A MAGNIFICENT CITY OF UNRIVALED GROWTH.—ITS MAGIC CHANGE FROM A STRUGGLING HAMLET TO A GREAT CITY.
—ITS COMMERCIAL AND MANUFACTURING ADVANTAGES.—THE CENTRE OF A
FAMOUS MINERAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGION.

BY F. J. M.

NESTLING among the pine-crowned hills, on the banks of a river whose water power is the marvel of the known world, at the western extremity of a picturesque valley that opens up its broad bosom to the eastward until it gradually diminishes and is finally lost in the blending of the mountains and the heavens, rises the splendid young city of Spokane Falls, Washington. Ten years ago it was a struggling hamlet of a hundred people. To-day it is a thriving city of 25,000 inhabitants. Wonderful, indeed, is the change that a half-score years have wrought. Historians, whose knowledge is based on the foundation of truthful research and observation rather than inhaled on the breath of fancy, have repeatedly pronounced the creation of the Falls City as simply magical in its swiftness and solidity. Looking back through the vista of time, we find that in 1872 James N. Glover purchased the rights of two white men, whose principal occupation was hunting and trapping, to the original town site, which embraced the tract on which the city now stands. Returning to Oregon in the fall of the same year, Mr. Glover's glowing accounts of the natural wealth and beauty of the inland country brought a number of "coasters" to the banks of the Spokane. The distance from the outside world and the difficulty of transportation prevented any marked progress in the settlement of the country. In 1877 the Nez Perces War broke out, and those who had erected rude houses in the then wilderness were forced to flee for their lives before the cyclonic wrath of the bloodthirsty savages. The handful of pioneers at the Falls were obliged to fortify themselves on a big island in the centre of the stream. After a little more than a year the storm of war abated, and the veil of tranquility was permitted to hang over the little settlement ever afterward. In 1878 A. M. Cannon and J. J. Browne joined the noble band of frontiersmen who laid the foundation of our importance. These three pioneers, Messrs. Glover, Cannon, and Browne, remain as landmarks of *ye olden tymme*, rich in the possessions of this life and rich in the respect of the people. They encouraged enterprise and settlement, and in 1881 were rewarded by seeing an ambitious village of 500 souls. In less than two

years the population doubled. The coming of the railroad gave new life to the place, and in June, 1887, the first city directory placed the population at 7,000, which doubled within the twelve months following. Now, almost at the birth of 1890, statisticians place the number of inhabitants at 25,000. A progressive, rust-

ling people, living in a progressive and rustling age, the growth of Spokane Falls is not to be wondered at. The city has been substantially built of brick and stone. The many avenues are adorned with brick and granite blocks, as can be seen by the illustrations in this publication. The residences, too, are exquisite in their designs, and comfortable and convenient in their appointments. The streets are broad and level, lying upon a bed of gravel as hard as the heart of Pharoah. In fact, Spokane Falls has all the natural endowments, coupled with all the modern appliances, which combine to make a great city. The city's water supply comes from the clear blue waters of the river, by the Holly system. There is a finely equipped fire department, an excellent police force, and a well-drilled military company. The city has street cars propelled by horses, others by motor, one line by cable, and the building of an electric street railway is now in progress. Hacks, omnibuses, stages, gurney and hansom cabs supplement the street cars. A steamer to navigate the river above the falls was recently launched. Gas and electricity furnish the city with light. There are eighteen churches, the Catholics owning property in lands, churches, schools, and hospitals, worth upward of \$1,000,000. There are three colleges, a Sisters' school, two select schools, and four public schools; ten christian and benevolent societies; a gymnasium and three musical organizations. The city has nine public buildings, four parks, and three cemeteries. The United States Land and Signal Service offices are located here, the former doing an im-



MAYOR FRED. FURTH.

mense business. A morning and evening newspaper, with full Associated Press dispatches, five weekly newspapers, and a monthly publication, amply supply their constituents with "all the news." There are two systems of district telegraph service. Three first class hotels, rates two dollars to four dollars per day, furnish the weary traveler a place to rest. Seven national, two savings banks, and one private