

## ALBINA.

## The Actual Terminus of Our Railway System.

## THE CHICAGO OF THE NORTHWEST.

Vast Improvements being Rapidly Pushed to Completion--Work on the Immense Freight Depot, Warehouses and Passenger Depots to Commence Immediately--The Round House Nearly Finished.

Plans Completed for the Grand Consolidated Machine and Car Shops--Work for Thousands of Mechanics--The Dry Dock, Coal Bunkers, Wheat Elevators, Wharves, etc.

AN OREGONIAN reporter made a tour of inspection through the city of Albina yesterday and we must confess our surprise at the rapidly with which the terminal work is being pushed forward by the railroad companies. It is a matter, too, of some surprise as to the way events are shaping. It seems now from all we can learn that Albina is to be the actual terminus of no less than five different railroads. The O. R. & N. Co., the N. P. R. R. Co., the O. & C. Co., the Oregon Short Line, and the Multnomah Narrow Gauge, are all arranging for terminal facilities in and around Albina. No one can fully comprehend the vast improvements that are going forward on the companies' grounds unless they visit the seat of action and see for themselves. A perfect net work of track is being laid, the round house is well on to completion, work will commence next week on a splendid and commodious passenger depot, while plans are already completed for machine shops, which in magnitude will be second to none on the American continent. Immense freight depots will also be constructed as rapidly as possible, as also will the dry-dock, coal bunkers, wheat elevators, wharves and warehouses now in course of construction. One contractor with whom we conversed said in substance that the works already planned could not, with all the mechanics and laborers it would be possible to get, be completed short of two and a half years. We hardly believe the residents of Albina realize themselves the full measure of prosperity which is dawning for them. Take, for instance, the number of mechanics that are to be employed in the car and machine shops alone. It is estimated that not less than three thousand will be employed the year round, when these shops are finished. Then take into account the many hundreds of workmen required in and around the freight and passenger depots, the dry-dock, grain elevators, warehouses, roundhouse, coal bunkers and along the wharves, etc., and we think that four thousand mechanics and laborers would be a low estimate of the number of men which will be required to do the work that will be carried on by the O. R. & N., O. & C., and N. P. R. R. Companies alone. Then come the Oregon Short Line and Multnomah Narrow Gauge roads, each of which will have works of no mean dimensions at Albina and which will augment the number of workmen by many hundreds. One can readily see by this what a rapid growth in population there will be in Albina within the next few years. When one takes into consideration the vast number of other business interests which are the natural outgrowth of railroad and manufacturing centers, such as hotels, dry goods houses, hardware stores, grocery stores and an hundred other establishments which must be carried on, and it is no wild assertion to say that Albina will have a population in five years of twenty thousand souls. We do not say this to the disparagement of any other locality. Portland and all its additions will grow up the river, down the river and spread on either side of the river—but we are writing now of Albina. Already many enterprising merchants and business men are securing property there, and stores are occupied as soon as built. There is a great demand for both stores and dwelling houses. And, although over a hundred new houses have been erected there this summer and fall, still tenants could be had for at least a hundred more immediately. But the great drawback to building at present is the scarcity of lumber. All the mills have orders for months ahead, the demand exceeding the supply by nearly one-half. One of the most healthy signs for the prosperity of the place is found in the fact that hundreds of merchants, business men, mechanics, clerks and laborers have bought building lots in and around Albina, while others of the same class are constantly buying. But very little of the property in the vicinity is held by speculators. The high table lands below and back of the railroad works are most beautifully located, having a sufficient elevation for magnificent views, easy drainage and the advantage of nearness to the business center, and will afford picturesque homes for those who have bought in that vicinity. We learn that the work has already commenced on the buildings for the great consolidated machine and car shops in which will be done the combined work of the O. R. & N. Co., the O. & C. Co. and the N. P. R. R. Co. It will be of brick and will be an immense structure. The location selected is just northeast of the round house.

## MIXED NOTES.

The iron is on the way for the Multnomah Railway company, and as soon as it arrives track-laying from Albina ferry toward Vancouver will commence.

It has been decided to commence work soon on the Vancouver military road, for the improvement of which \$2500 was appropriated by the last congress. The starting point will be from the Albina ferry and thence the shortest route to Vancouver.

The O. R. & N. Co. have suggested to the Albina ferry company the necessity of improving the approaches to their ferry on each side of the river in order to accommodate the immense traffic in the early spring. The ferry company were quick to take the hint, and are acting accordingly.

The fine ferryboat Veto No. 2 will be placed on the Albina ferry route to day. She has been enlarged and otherwise greatly improved, and is a much larger boat than the one in use heretofore.

Plans are being drawn for a \$30,000 hotel to be erected on Russell street.

J. B. Montgomery will build a very costly residence on a beautiful site due east of the ferry landing, early next spring.

A paper to be called the *Albina Herald* will be started on the 1st of January. A job printing office will be run in connection with it.

Joe Barbare has a \$300 boarding and lodging house nearly completed on Helm street. His rooms are all engaged.

Hill's block on Russell street presents a lively appearance.

A large sash and door factory, a grist-mill, brewery and a large agricultural implement manufactory are among the enterprises already projected.

An Oregonian collector will canvass the city of Albina during the week, and subscribers will have their paper delivered at their doors instead of receiving it through the postoffice.

Clark, Tower & Thompson have a large force of men at work in their machine shops.

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