

CREW WITH THE STATE

History of the Oregon Agricultural College.

MARKED ERA OF PROSPERITY.

Beginning as a Small Denominational School, It Has Become One of the Foremost Centers of Learning, Maintains Twenty-six Departments For Scientific Industrial Training. Its Advantages Are Open to All Persons Free of Charge.

The celebration of the quarter centennial of the Oregon Agricultural college at Corvallis on June 14 lends particular significance to the history of the institution. Its growth, which has closely paralleled that of the state, is a peculiar interest at this time. The origin of the college harks back to the sixties, the beginning of an era of prosperity and industrial development in the history of Oregon. "Home-coming" rather than "gold-seeking" people were pouring into the state, the tendency of the time leaned toward agricultural development and industrial advancement.

To this disposition of the period the Oregon State Agricultural college owes its existence and present location in part. In 1892 congress appropriated 600 acres of land for the support of an agricultural college, with the condition that the college be in operation by 1897. Under this act a denominational school of the M. E. Church with already existing at Corvallis and known as Corvallis college was merged with the management of the agricultural college. Just here it is interesting to note that Corvallis was

made, and it made good, scholarly men and women. It served its purpose well in its day, and the mathematics and science, like so many letters of the alphabet, have since spelled out in full the courses introduced later in agriculture, agronomy, horticulture, etc.

From this embryonic stage the growth of the agricultural college has been phenomenal and particularly during the last few years. There came a change in the office of the executive in 1872, but not until 1882 do we find the first emphasis by the authorities of the peculiar character of the institution as noted in the election of a trained agriculturist to the chair of agriculture and chemistry.

In 1885 the church voluntarily relinquished its claims on the funds of the agricultural college, and the state, assuming control, proposed to relocate the college at Corvallis on condition that a brick building to serve as a college building, to cost not less than \$20,000, be erected by the citizens of Benton county on the agricultural college farm previously purchased by the board. Corvallis rose grandly to the occasion. The sacrifice required for the erection of the building—the present administration building—was so heavy at the time that it came like their very hearts' blood from the makers of the college, but it came.

In 1885 the then "agricultural college" as such ceased to exist, but in its stead was born the Oregon State Agricultural college. How fitting then that this decisive point in the development of the institution should be celebrated at this time! The infant of twenty-five years ago has become a potent educational factor of today. A few comparisons of its past and present scope and usefulness to the citizens of this state will be appropos just here. The first graduating class numbered three; the class of 1910 will include approximately 130. The faculty from three in 1867 has grown to ninety-two in 1910. The proud old "ad"

name of the mechanic arts, the pharmacy building, the gymnasium and the mammoth concrete armory. Flanking these buildings are Waldo hall, the women's beautiful dormitory, the new agricultural hall, the central part of which is just being completed, and Shepard hall, the student building. Then there are the mining buildings, the poultry buildings and the farm buildings, forming a splendid group.

During the next quarter century it is safe to predict that the institution will do a more wonderful work than in the past twenty-five years and that it will become a powerful factor in every phase of the state's development. Freed from the opposition which often frustrated its efforts in the past it will take its place in the van of the progressive movement in Oregon.

Evidence of this fact is not wanting. Thousands of acres of waste land are being converted into grain and hay fields; great orchards are springing up everywhere; better roads are in the making; great stock farms, breeding splendid animals, are established in large numbers; the poultry and dairy industries have in recent years improved, and in all the influence of the college is a powerful factor.



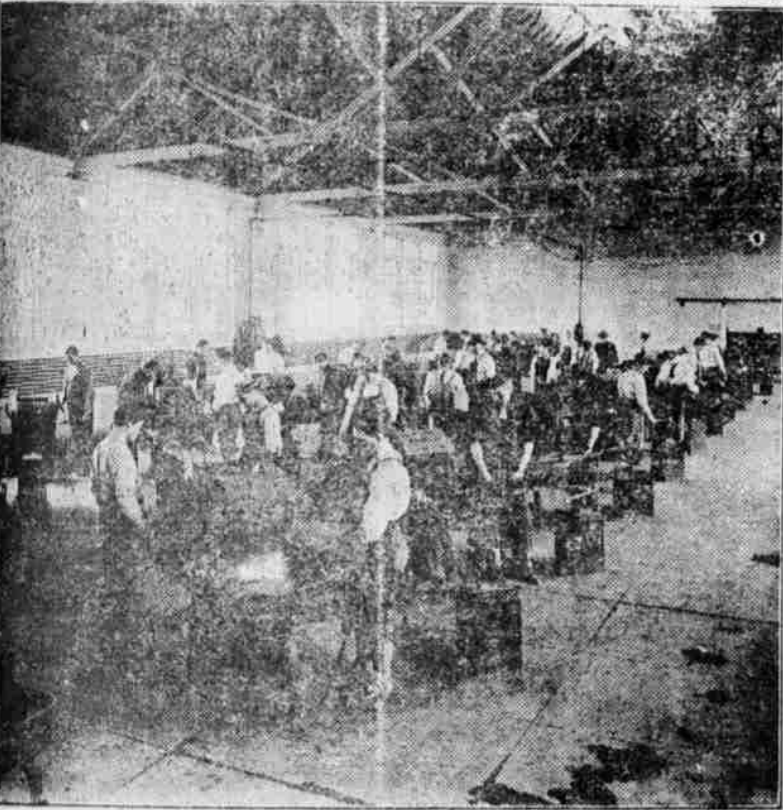
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ONE PHASE OF INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION AT O. A. C.

on a mere village, that the frame structure which housed Corvallis college served also for a time as a public school building and meeting house and at all grades from the primary to the academic department were accommodated. The Southern Methodist church came into possession of the property in 1865. Forthwith Rev. W. Finley was chosen president, with Professor Armstrong as assistant. This was the beginning.

This, then, was the institution and the conditions prevailing within its precincts when the legislature of Oregon offered to locate with it—indeed, to designate it—the Agricultural College of Oregon. Therefore in 1868, appearing that "unless an agricultural college is provided by law at this session of the legislature the grant by congress will be lost," etc., the legislature of this state passed an act offering to designate Corvallis college as the agricultural college of the state, and the board of trustees of the college accepted the donation of the state. Two years later another definite step was taken in the form of an act which permanently located the agricultural college at Corvallis.

The faculty now numbered three, Joseph Emery having been elected professor of mathematics, and these three it was who arranged a two year course of study and distributed the work of it among themselves to be carried along with executive burdens readily shouldered.

The agricultural course of two years was continued as one of the best in the nation at that time, yet it has been added to a course in pharmacy with its pharmacy left out. It was a good, long course in science and mathe-

building, born a quarter of a century ago, now has seventeen descendants. From the four courses then taught—namely, agriculture, mechanic arts, household science and general science—have developed twenty-six thoroughly equipped departments, which offer scientific training in as many branches of industry as well as an education of culture and refinement. Ten or twelve years ago only a limited number of students could take advantage of gratuitous instruction at the Oregon Agricultural college. These came from each senatorial and representative district of the state. All others paid tuition. Today any person may avail himself of the opportunities offered at the Oregon Agricultural college free of charge. From twenty-three students in 1867 the enrollment has grown to over 1,500 in 1910, including representatives of eight different countries and several states of the Union.

The college grounds, consisting of 250 acres, are located within the western limits of the city. The campus proper, covering about forty acres, is beautifully decorated with magnificent specimen trees, flower beds and groups of shrubbery. Broad drives and walks traverse the grounds in every direction and add to the attractiveness of the place.

In place of the single brick building which housed the college in 1885 and which now serves as the administration building there are twenty structures, many of which eclipse in every way the original college home. On each side of it is a beautiful gray stone building, one of which is now called the chemistry building and the other mechanical hall. The next row of buildings includes the splendid



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9:30 a. m.	4:00 p. m.	9:45 a. m.	4:15 p. m.
10:00 a. m.	4:30 p. m.	10:15 a. m.	4:45 p. m.
10:30 a. m.	5:00 p. m.	10:45 a. m.	5:00 p. m.
11:00 a. m.	5:00 p. m.	11:15 a. m.	6:00 p. m.
11:45 a. m.	7:00 p. m.	11:45 a. m.	7:00 p. m.
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