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Salem Indian School

The Salem Indian School, at Chemawa, Oregon, is one of the oldest institutions of the kind in the country.

It was originally established at Forest Grove in 1880, and moved to Chemawa, five miles north of Salem, in 1885.

The citizens of Salem, and Marion county donated 177.32 acres of land to secure its location at Chemawa, which was increased the next year by the purchase of 84.92 acres by the pupils of the school from their earnings in the hop fields and on farms adjoining the school, and later 82.83 acres were purchased by the Government, giving the school, at the present time, a farm of 345.07 acres of land.

From the first, the school has had a steady growth until row it has a capacity of six hundred pupils, requiring a force of employes and instructors numbering forty-one.

Chemawa has always stood in the front rank as an industrial school, and the northwest has many farmers and graduates from its departments.

The Southern Pacific Railroad passes directly through the beautiful grounds, which are kept up by labor of the Indian pupils. Trains, on the main line between Portland and San Francisco, stop at the main entrance to the school.

The faculty includes many able instructors, and the school has had the benefit of their service for several years. The superintendent, Edwin L. Chalcraft, entered the service in 1883, serving at Chehlis, Puyallup, Salem, Wind River, Wyoming, then Supervisor of Indian Schools, and then back to Salem.

His assistant, W. P. Campbell, celebrated his silver wedding anniversary in the employ of Uncle Sam on the first of September. He was disciplinarian at Carlisle for thirteen years, and superintendent at Sisseton, South Dakota Wind River, Wyoming Warm Springs, then to Salem. He has always taken a great interest in athletic work and in the social side of the life at Government schools. He has seen Chemawa grow from three hundred to eight hundred pupils.

The corp of employes comprises physician, nurse, classroom teachers, instructors in farming, gardening, dairying, Mechanical trades, matron, and includes nine Indians, mostly graduates of the school.

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