

## HARVEY E. CROSS.

### One of the Most Public Spirited Men of Clackamas County

Ex-State Senator H. E. Cross is a product of Clackamas county. He was born in a log cabin on his father's donation land claim near Canby on the 6th of June, 1826. He remembers with vividness his first pair of red-topped boots, his first Fourth of July and his first attendance in the little log school house presided over by a daughter of the old pioneer school teacher, John D. Post, where he was kept in proper subjection by being tied, as occasion required, very securely to the teacher's apron strings. At the age of 6 he came with his parents to Oregon City and has resided there and at Gladstone every since. His education was obtained in the public schools of Oregon City. At the age of 18 his nest was stirred up, and he started out in life for himself and began teaching school at Sandy in a log school house yet standing just below the residence of F. Revenue. The next winter he taught a successful school in the Palmetteer neighborhood and in the fall of the year 1875 began studying law with the firm of Johnson and McCown at Oregon City. He was admitted to the bar on the 8th day of January, 1879 and began at once the practice of his chosen profession, which has continued uninterruptedly to the present time. Outside of the routine of a successful practice at the bar few men have so thoroughly identified themselves with the life and development of his home city and county as has Mr. Cross. As a promoter of public improvements he has few equals. He early saw the advantage of the business men of Oregon City standing shoulder to shoulder, unitedly working for the welfare of the town and county. It was this thought that led him to organize the Oregon City Board of Trade, Hon. John Myers being its first president and Mr. Cross its first secretary, a position which he retained without pay for four years. It was during this period that the first start was made in large city and county improvements—leading to the improvement of Seventh, Fifth and Main streets in Oregon City, the construction of the suspension bridge and the survey and location of main county roads leading out from the county seat.

Perhaps the most useful work of Mr. Cross as a citizen has been that done upon the county roads of Clackamas county. He has preached the doctrine of good roads for twenty years. Most people who read the county papers will remember the successful completion of the Molalla and Highland roads, and the later work in the Abernethy, Clackamas, and Eagle Creek roads, in all of which and in many others Mr. Cross has been an indefatigable and successful worker. In 1891 he raised in land and money a subsidy of \$7,000.00 and obtained the location at Oregon City of the Oregon City Fruit and Vegetable Cannery, that employed the first season as many as 250 hands. Owing to a serious mistake of the business men of the town this great industry was lost to them at the end of the first year. In 1890, with F. O. McCown and Judge W. S. Moore, he constructed the Gladstone sawmill at a cost of over \$20,000.00 and managed the operation of it until the fall of 1896, when a sudden high water in the Clackamas washed out the mill race and left the mill without power. In 1892 as president of the Gladstone Real Estate Association, he joined with other land owners north of the Clackamas river and raised the necessary subsidy that insured the construction of the East Side Railway from

Portland to Oregon City. Mr. Cross furnishing as a part of his subsidy four miles of ties and all the timber which entered into the construction of the large bridge across the Clackamas river. He shortly afterwards built the stub road to Gladstone Park and opened up this beautiful woodland to public enjoyment. It is likely however that more personal enjoyment and satisfaction has come to Mr. Cross in connection with the organization and development of the Willamette Valley Chautauqua Association, than in any other work of his life. A postal card from our talented Mrs. Eva Emery Dye and directed to the subject of this sketch in the fall of 1893 was the inspiration that led to the organization of this greatest Chautauqua Association on the Pacific Coast, and has been the means of bringing our boys and girls and men and women into mental touch and friction with the finest minds in America. The mental and moral uplift to our people flowing out from this popular gathering will never be known this side of eternity. Mr. Cross constructed the great auditorium in twenty days. At his own expense he cleared the Park of underbrush, made the fences, furnished the lumber for the railroad platforms, installed the water system and in a helpful way has stood by the management of the Association in their work of making it a success.



Some people have imagined that Mr. Cross must make money in some way out of this organization, but those who know the facts can cheerfully testify to the contrary. The real estate company which he controls gave the Chautauqua Association a fifty year lease of the 75 acres constituting the Park for the nominal sum of one dollar. For eight years he voluntarily took upon himself the laborious and thankless task of ground manager and has become a familiar figure to the many thousands of people who yearly visit the annual gatherings of the assembly. He is now its secretary by unanimous choice and promises that the assembly of 1902 shall be the most prosperous in its history.

In politics Mr. Cross is an independent republican. He has not been an office seeker

as is generally understood by that term and yet he was elected and served as county treasurer of Clackamas county for one term, succeeding F. S. Dement under whom he acted as deputy. He was also county treasurer for one year by appointment of the county court. He was also city attorney of Oregon City under Mayor Sullivan during the construction of the Seventh and Main street improvements, and done the legal work and conducted the litigation connected with these improvements to a successful termination.

In 1890 Mr. Cross was elected to the legislature as joint senator for Clackamas and Marion counties by a majority in the two counties of over 1200. He attended the sessions of 1891 and 1893 but did not seek a re-election. It was in the session of 1893 that he likely broke the record by passing eleven bills through the legislature, each receiving the signature of the governor. His monumental work however was in the introduction and passage of what are commonly known as the "cash road bill" and the "salary bill." The first running counter to the usage of the people from the organization of the state and the other meeting the intense opposition of the professional office holding class. The cash road law while not always handled in a fair and business like way, has brought about a revolution in the roads of this county. We now have nearly 100 miles of modern roads in Clackamas county as against one-fourth mile in 1893. The salary bill doing away with the old fee system in the clerks', sheriffs', and recorders' offices effects an annual estimated saving of ten thousand dollars.

### THE CLACKAMAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

The last large undertaking by Ex-Senator Cross is the organization of outside capital for the erection of a power plant at Gladstone and the development of the vast timber resources of the Clackamas river. A solid cement dam generating over 1300 horse power at low water will be erected at Gladstone next season, mills and factories promoted, while booms will be constructed and the river improved for logging purposes to the Forest Reserve. J. C. Ainsworth, the president of Ainsworth National bank, of Portland, D. C. O'Reilly, one of the principal constructors of the Columbia Southern railroad, Dan J. Moore, and the well known contracting firm of Smyth & Howard are some of the leading capitalists of Portland enlisted in this enterprise. The capital stock of the concern is \$100,000.00 and it will all be utilized in the promotion of the project. The development of this large business will center in the townsite of

### GLADSTONE.

and it will become a more attractive place for homes and investments than ever. Mr. Cross has taken great pride in the growth of Gladstone, the beautiful northern suburb of Oregon City, with its 3-cent fare to Oregon City and 15-cent fare to Portland, its level contour, its pure water and healthy locality, with the added manufacturing concerns needed to manufacture the billions of feet of timber on the Clackamas river, and utilize the water power developed. Gladstone will have a notable future. Mr. Cross has constructed 15 dwellings in his lifetime, one of which appears in this number, being the home of Thos. E. Gault at Gladstone.