rie, and the plowing was done in the Spring.

Wheat is the great cereal staple of the county. The best results are obtained by sowing in the Fall on land that has lain fallow or been planted to corn, potatoes or other vegetables. Such a crop is safely counted on to yield from 25 to 40 bushels of wheat to the acre and often still more. The average yield of Fall wheat for the past three years probably has exceeded 30 bushels to the acre. Barley, oats and rye do equally well, and 50 to 80 bushels to the acre is no uncommon yield for barley. For these cereals the higher the lands the better the crops, while the valley lands, where irrigation is possible, reward the husbandman with phenomenal crops of timothy, clover, alfalfa, roots and vegetables. As confirmatory of what has been said of the productiveness of the soil of Wasco County I submit the following short extract from a recent report by the Department of Agriculture on the wheatgrowing industry of the Pacific Coast, which is all the more valuable because the Government reports do not "boom" any particular section of the country, but aim to give the exact facts. Speaking of Wasco County, the report says: "The soil yields well, holds water admirably and is practically inexhaustible. Heavy crops are raised without a drop of rain from seed time to harvest." Then speaking of Eastern Oregon in general the report adds: "Farmers in Eastern Oregon state that wheat can be grown in all this region for a trifling expense, some even claiming that it can be raised and sacked for 20 cents a bushel."

Wasco Apples Always Prizewinners.

Oregon apples have a world-wide reputation. They are shipped to England and Germany, and bring 50 per cent more in those markets than other apples. They are not only known in every corner of the United States, but they have been shipped to Siberia and the Philippine Islands, and Japan regularly buys them in large quantities. Oregon apples are the best in the world, and the best apples in Oregon are produced in Wasco County. In every competing fruit exhibit of the Pacific Northwest for years Wasco County fruits have carried off, practically, all the honors there were to carry. At the late Pan-American Exposition, where Wasco County fruits had a generous representation in the Oregon exhibit, the National Pomological Association awarded this state the Wilder medal for the excellency of its fruits, an award that is the highest possible distinction that could have been conferred, while Wasco County fruitgrowers received from the exposition three gold medals, three silver medals and seven bronze medals for the superior quality of their apples, cherries and strawberries. Although the land surface of the resident portion of the county varies greatly in elevation, apples, pears, peaches, plums, prunes, cherries, grapes and similar fruits and berries are grown almost everywhere, apples attaining the greatest perfection in quality and flavor in the higher altitudes, and peaches and grapes doing best in the lower valleys, and especially in proximity to the Columbia River, which bounds the county on the north to its full extent of about 60 miles. In this latter region the night temperature is higher during the season when peaches are ripening than in any other district in the Pacific Northwest. Hence the peaches and grapes grown here are not excelled in size and flavor by any in the world. Hence, too, especially in the district nearer to The Dalles, the county seat, berries and early garden vegetables mature two weeks earlier than in any other section of the Northwest. These early products find a ready and profitable market in Portland, the Puget Sound cities and the Rocky Mountain states on the east.

Hood River Valley, that is renowned almost the world over for its apples and strawberries, occupies about 100 square miles of the northwestern portion of Wasco County. This valley has given its name to the "Hood River Seedling" strawberry, whose reputation for attractive color, exquisite flavor and superior shipping qualities is known all over the United States. Here, and in the Mosier and Dalles districts, this berry attains such perfection that it has never found a peer either at home or in the numerous states where it finds a ready market. Just what it is that gives this berry its excellence, whether soil or climate, no one knows. It is not the same elsewhere. It can be shipped for distances of 1000 to 2000 miles and more, and is as firm at the end of its journey as it was at the beginning. That the market for Hood River strawberries is practically unlimited, and that their cultivation is profitable, may be gathered from the following report of the crop of 1901, as furnished by the secretaries of the Davidson Fruit Company and Fruitgrowers Union, two Hood River shipping concerns:

These two shipping concerns this year shipped 32,000 crates of the 40,000 crates of strawberries shipped from Hood River, or four-fifths of the entire crop. They shipped 23 straight carloads under refrigeration, and between 15 and 20 cars by express, or about 50 cars, all told. The cash returns to the growers for their 40,000 crates amounted to about $85,000. A deduction of $25,000 for cost of picking and crates leaves the growers about $60,000 above all expenses. The entire acreage in strawberries in Hood River Valley and White Salmon is about 350, which would make the average net to the grower above all expenses something over $150 per acre.

The output of Hood River strawberries should be gradually increased until we have three or four times as many as we have now. The markets are taking more each year than they did the previous season, and there will be no trouble about the markets increasing with the production. There was no market this year that got all it asked for. Both the Fruitgrowers' Union and the Davidson Fruit Company made several sales of strawberries for shipment to the Klondike country, and the berries were reported as arriving there in good condition, and selling at $5 per pound box.

The sheep and wool industry is still of considerable importance, notwithstanding that the rapid influx of agriculturists during the past few years has forced many a flockmaster to seeek ranges in less thickly settled districts. The county has still about 150,000 head of sheep, that yield an annual clip of about 1,500,000 pounds. The price last year averaged about 12 cents a pound. The county seat of Wasco County has for years held the distinction of being the largest primary wool market in the United States. During the year, The Dalles warehouses and scouring mills handled about 8,000,000 pounds of this staple, while some 3,500,000 pounds more was handled at the new market of Shaniko, a rising town in the southeastern part of the county, the terminus of the Columbia Southern Railroad. Oregon wools carried off first honors at the Pan-American Exposition, and scoured wools from The Dalles mills received a special gold medal in competition with wools from every wool section of the United States.

The lumber industry, while yet in its infancy, is gradually assuming important proportions. The county has 14 mills, most of them small, whose cut for the past year is estimated at about 65,000,000 feet, the average price of which is in the neighborhood of $9 a thousand.

The poultry business and dairying have never received the attention they deserve, and a sure competence awaits those who shall intelligently embark in either business. Most of the butter used in The Dalles comes from districts outside the county, much of it from our sister state on the north, and some of it from as far off as Kansas. There ought to be money for Wasco County producers in butter at 30 to 35 cents a pound, in eggs at 30 cents a dozen, in dressed chickens at 40 to 50 cents apiece, and in dressed turkeys at 15 to 18 cents a pound, the present prices.

Climatic Conditions Favorable.

The climate of Wasco County, by which is meant the rain, snow, temperature, winds and all those phases of the elements which are commonly called the weather, is an important consideration to those who would seek a home here. The mean temperature decreases, as a rule, with distance from the Columbia River and with elevation. Covering a period of 29 years, the mean temperature at The Dalles for July, August and September was 72, 71 and 62 degrees, respectively; at Hood River, for the same months, 66, 66 and 56. The mean annual temperature for the county is 49 and 52 degrees. The mean Winter temperature—December-February—is from 31 to 36 degrees, while the Summer—June to August—is from 58 to 73 degrees. During the heat of Summer the highest temperature is from 98 to 105 degrees, extending from May to October; during Winter, from December to March, the lowest is 1 to 19 below zero. The extremes, however, are seldom experienced, and these figures afford to a stranger no true conception of the climate of Eastern Oregon. There is no section exactly similar. Neither the cold of Winter nor the heat of Summer brings half the rigor and discomfort incident to other places of similar temperature. A normal Winter day is bright and clear as a day in June. The hottest day in Summer is generally tempered by a cooling breeze, and sunstrokes and prostrations from heat are practically unknown.

The precipitation occurs principally from November to April, except at Cascade Locks and a few miles east, where, owing to local causes, there is an annual precipitation of 80 inches. In the Hood River Valley the annual precipitation is 38 inches; at The Dalles it is only 15 inches, while south of The Dalles the precipitation increases with the distance and elevation, till in the great wheat belts of Dufur, Kingsley, Victor and Wamic, it probably exceeds 20 inches, although no accurate data has ever been kept. It may be said that we have only two seasons, the wet and the dry, but even this must be modified by the explanation that the wet season is never wholly wet, and the dry season is seldom wholly dry. From April to July showers occur, but the total precipitation for any one of these months seldom exceeds an inch. Snow falls in varying depths from December to March, but seldom remains long, owing to the prevalence of warm Chinook winds. Stockmen seldom expect to feed longer than two months.

The streams of Wasco County have sufficient water power to turn all the machinery of the state. That of White River, 30 miles south of The Dalles, is now being harnessed by the Wasco Warehouse Milling Company, a wealthy local corporation, and the power will be available in a few weeks for running the electrical machinery for lighting The Dalles and for running the company's new 500-barrel flouring mill, now practically ready for operation. The same power will be used to run an ice plant, now in course of construction, while the company has still, unappropriated, nearly 1000 horse-power, which outside capital could obtain at advantageous rates to run any desired machinery or a woolen mill, for example, in one of the best locations for such an enterprise in the Northwest.

Irrigation for berry culture, for gardening and domestic uses has received considerable attention and should receive more. In the Wamic district two or three ditches taken from mountain streams have contributed much to the comfort and material prosperity of the settlers. Wapinitia suffer in comparison with any similar community in the United States.

The books of the United States land office show that Wasco County has still 512,408 acres of land open to entry under the existing land laws. By far the larger portion of this is timbered and mountainous and unfit for homesteads. All the most desirable claims were taken years ago, yet, from the number of entries made in the local land office every week, one is forced to conclude that there must still remain some tracts in this half million acres of unappropriated lands that are worthy of the attention of the intending settler. Improved lands have greatly increased in value during the past two years, and are still increasing. Still there are many farms with fair improvements that can be purchased at $8 to $15 per acre. If I am asked to name the price of fruit lands I can only say that any land in Wasco County that will produce grain will produce the larger fruits, but berry lands, accessible to irrigating ditches, range all the way from $25 to $400 an acre, and I lately heard of $1000 an acre being refused for a few choice acres which were highly improved and in a very desirable neighborhood. The ordinary price of Wasco County land, however, is wholly disproportionate to its real value as a wealth-producer. It is no uncommon thing for a purchaser to realize the full price of his farm from two or three crops and sometimes from one.

The following table of facts and estimates, which I have prepared with care, and have endeavored to make as nearly correct as it is possible to do with the available data, will give some idea of the resources of a county that 40 years ago was practically a wilderness, with a little hamlet forming a trading post and way station for travelers up and down the Columbia River gorge, where now stands a solid, well-built city, and here and there in favored spots in the lower valleys the lonely log cabin of the frontier stockman:

		Value.
Population	15,000	.....
Acres under cultivation	103,477	.....
Bushels of wheat	800,000	$400,000
Bushels of oats, barley and barley and rye	111,000	42,000
Bushels of potatoes	100,000	50,000
Tons of Hay	20,000	160,000
Pounds of butter and cheese	25,000	6,000
Value of salmon catch	.....	22,000
Bushels of apples	100,000	100,000
Dried prunes	.....	90,000
Green Prunes	.....	21,000
Blackberries	.....	5,000
Strawberries	.....	70,000
Peaches, plums, cherries, pears	.....	30,000
Garden vegetables	.....	15,000
Eggs and poultry	.....	20,000
Sheep	60,000	165,000
Wool, pounds	1,250,000	162,000
Cattle	15,000	525,000
Hogs	20,000	240,000
Horses	2,000	100,000
Lumber, feet	65,000,000	585,000
Cordwood	.....	50,000
Slab wood	.....	20,000
Cedar posts	100,000	6,000

This makes a total income for the year of $2,894,000, or $193 for every man, woman and child in the county, or $1068 for every voter at the last National election. Some countries may beat this record, but they are not lying around promiscously.

HUGH GOURLAY,

The Dalles.

THE LAND OF FINE FRUITS.

The Charming Resort and Rich Valley of Hood River.

Situated on the line of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company, 66 miles east of Portland, and also on the Columbia River, between Portland and The Dalles, is the charming townsite of Hood River, nually claims the interest of large numbers of Portland's people, Hood River is one of the most attractive towns of the Pacific Northwest.

First impressions may go far in claiming that recognition which is not without its advantages as bearing directly upon the commercial supremacy of any populous center of country. The man who views the townsite of Hood River for the first time wants to stop there. A closer examination of the town itself, its many beautiful surroundings, and the rich section of country from which it derives its support, will inevitably make an enthusiast out of him who from passing interest alone started in to make a casual observation of a point that had impressed him favorably.

Extending for 20 miles or more inland from Hood River station is the most wonderful stretch of fruit lands in the United States. Hood River strawberries today are the finest strawberries sold in the Portland market. The carloads of these berries that were shipped East during the past year opened the eyes of the Eastern people to the possibilities of fruit production in the far West. The Hood River strawberry is the largest strawberry raised in the world. It is firm in texture, it is delicious in quality and it is especially adapted to shipment over long distances. All of the varieties of small fruits grow equally as well in the Hood River Valley as does the strawberry.

The market value of a crop of 350 acres of strawberries in Hood River Valley in '91 was $75,000. The net profit to growers of this fruit product averaged $150 an acre. The Hood River district last year exported 40,000 crates of strawberries alone. Eight cars of this product were billed to Montana, seven cars to North Dakota, three cars to Winnipeg and one car each to Duluth, Denver and Omaha. Only about one-quarter of the acreage specially adapted to strawberry culture is now in cultivation in the Hood River Valley.

The value of the Hood River strawberry may be appreciated by the statement that in the Middle West when placed in competition with the Arkansas and Missouri strawberry, it readily commands a price in advance of the Southern product. The Hood River berries have been sent by express to cities even on the Atlantic seaboard, points which the fruit reached in perfect condition.

Like the strawberry, the finest apples sold in the Portland market during the Fall and Winter season are from Hood River. The great value of Hood River apples is attested by the statement that in the Portland market during the Winter months this apple brings from $2 to $3 and even more a box (bushel). The Hood River apples are of the brightest color. The quality of the fruit itself is unsurpassed, and it possesses keeping qualities which commend the Hood River product especially to dealers. With a full acreage of the Hood River Valley planted in apples and strawberries, there would never be any trouble whatever in finding a ready market for the entire fruit product of this section at profitable prices.

The climatic conditions of the Hood River Valley are especially favorable. The average annual precipitation is 38 inches. There is practically an entire freedom from any extremes of either heat or cold. Residents of this valley suffer none of the rigors from cold during the Winter months nor discomforts of extreme heat during the Summer season.

Hood River Valley extends from the mouth of Hood River to the foot of the Cascade range of mountains. It is about 20 miles in length, with an average width of five miles. It contains a total area of about 64,000 acres. It is estimated that about 50,000 acres of this land are tillable. Here all kinds of fruits are raised without irrigation, yet in some sections the quality of the fruit is greatly improved by the aid of water during the dry season. With a view of affording irrigation facilities Hood River has been tapped 14 miles above its mouth, and from this point a large irrigating ditch with a capacity of 2000 inches supplies water to the principal part of the west side of the valley for irrigating purposes. The construction of this ditch involved an expenditure of $28,000. On the east side of the valley there is now in course of construction another large irrigating canal which will cost when completed about $12,000. This canal will irrigate fully 15,000 acres of tillable land.

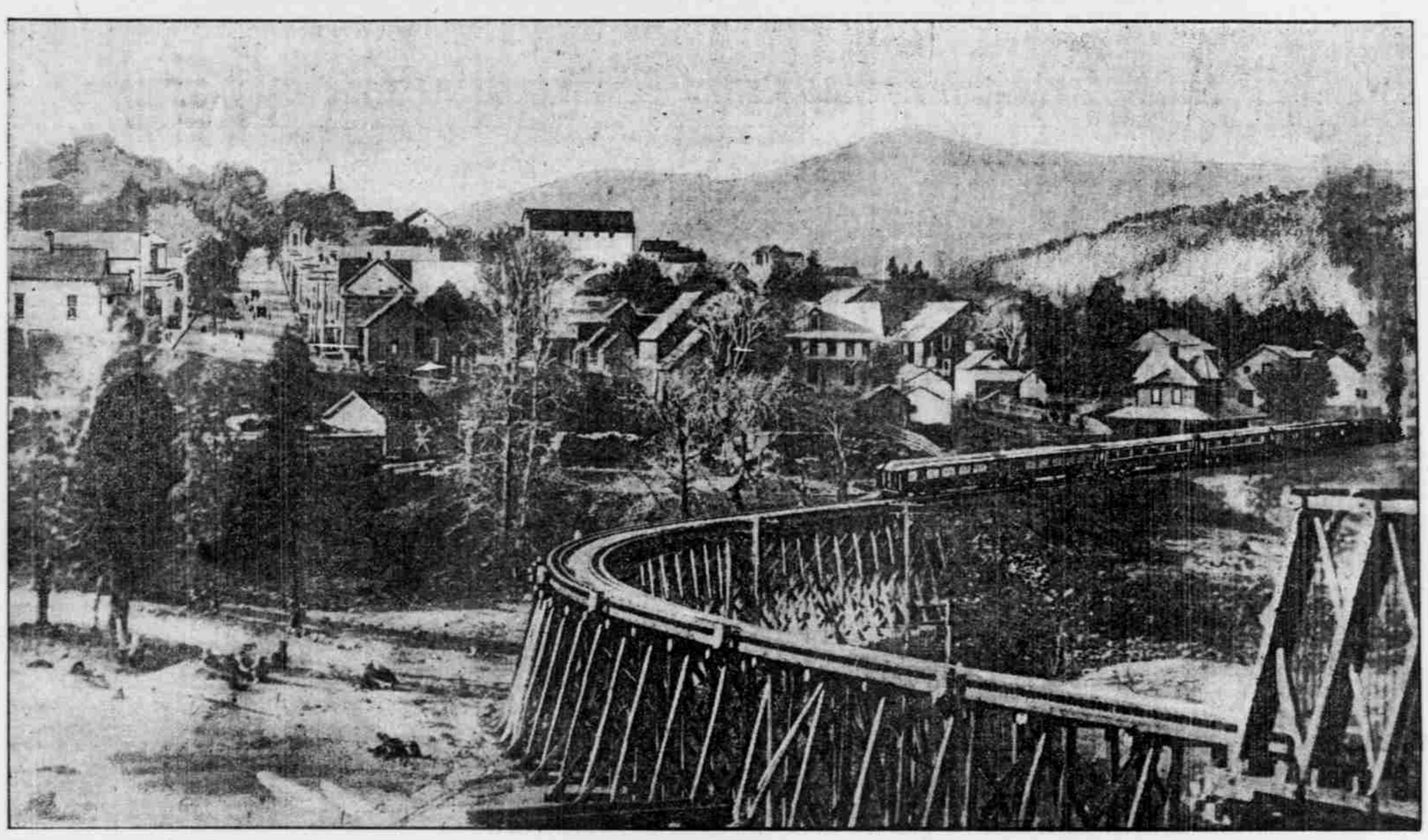
It is as a fruitgrowing section that the Hood River country makes its principal appeal to settlers. A man can come to this point, plant an orchard covering a few acres of ground and live the balance of his days happily and in a contented frame of mind. A small orchard well cared for in a good fruitgrowing district will produce a revenue that farmers cultivating three or four times the amount of land devoted to raising grain can hope to enjoy.

While fruitgrowing is today the principal industry of the Hood River country, it is still a section that is rich in the diversified industries of agriculture, lumbering and manufacturing. There are today three lumber mills in the valley which manufacture lumber for shipment East on an extensive scale. One of these mills, located near the mouth of Hood River, has a cutting capacity of 200,000 feet of lumber a day. Near Hood River on the line of the O. R. & N., is another mill with a cutting capacity of 75,000 feet a day. From the forests of the Hood River country are cut large numbers of railroad ties, cedar posts and cordwood, the market for which is found principally in Eastern Oregon and Utah. In addition to the above mills are a number of smaller plants in Hood River Valley, operated by water power.

The average fall of Hood River is about 60 feet to the mile. This insures an available water power fully equal to that of Spokane, Wash., today one of the principal manufacturing centers of the Pacific Northwest.

The town of Hood River is the chief trading point for the White Salmon settlement in Washington, directly opposite this point on the Columbia River. The White Salmon district is one of the most fertile sections of the State of Washington. Hood River itself contains today a population ranging from 700 to 1000 people.

The established line traveled from Portland to the northern slope of Mount Hood during the Summer season is by way of Hood River. A line of well-appointed stages covers the 28 miles of distance from Hood River to Mount Hood during the Summer on schedule time.



HOOD RIVER, OREGON.

AT THE DALLES, OREGON.

Great Power Plant and Flouring Mill of Wasco Warehouse Milling Co.

One of the most prosperous cities of the West today is The Dalles, Or., located on the Columbia River and on the line of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company, 88 miles east of Portland.

The Dalles is the seat of the heaviest woof production in the world. The rich country directly tributary to The Dalles possesses wonderful powers of production, and the hundreds of square miles of this tributary district, in the diversity of its resources and in the extent of its productive powers, is one of the most favored parts of the United States.

A representative corporation of The Dalles is that of the Wasco Warehouse Milling Company. The Dalles, like Portland, is a city of large accumulated wealth. Its business enterprises are conducted almost wholly by the support of local capital. The extent of the business enterprises at The Dalles is best shown by the statement of the Wasco Warehouse Milling Company that in carrying out work in the purchase and improvements of these properties they have expended no less than $350,000.

This company during the past year acquired the ownership and all the rights of the local electric-light plant from the French Bros. The new owners immediately perfected plans to greatly enlarge the capacity of this plant. The main incentive for the extension of the facilities of this electric-light plant was the effort to provide power for the large flouring mill owned by this company, and to furnish light and power for miscellaneous purposes at The Dalles. The source of this generated power will be at White River Falls, some 30 miles south of the city. White River at this point makes a sheer fall of 135 feet.

The plans of the Wasco Warehouse Milling Company contemplate the eventual use of the entire 3000-horsepower which can be developed at the site of these falls. Their present plans, however, will provide only for the use of 1200 horsepower, 250 horsepower of which they will use for running their new flouring mill, while 1050 horsepower developed at the falls will be used for running the electric-light plant and for furnishing power for general purposes at The Dalles. The plant and all of its equipments will be modern in every respect, and neither pains nor expense will be spared which will in any way conduce to an economical use of the electrical energy the company will transmit to The Dalles for general use.

The new flouring mill of this company is one of the finest and most modern mills on the Coast. The machinery is all new and of the latest pattern. The company will manufacture two brands of a high-grade family flour and special brands of flour for bakers, for the manufacture of macaroni and for export. They will also manufacture a very high grade of wholewheat flour.

The special high-grade wheat of Sherman County, directly tributary to The Dalles, will be utilized by this company for the manufacture of their best family brands. The present capacity of the mill is 600 barrels of flour per day. Facilities have been provided, however, for the easy enlargement of the plant by the installment of additional machinery to double its present capacity.

The size of the mill building on the ground floor is 70x100 feet. It is four stories in height. Every facility has been provided for receiving and storing grain. Grain at the warehouse is received direct from the wagons. The company enjoys ample facilities for easy handling of this grain under cover and for shipping by rail.

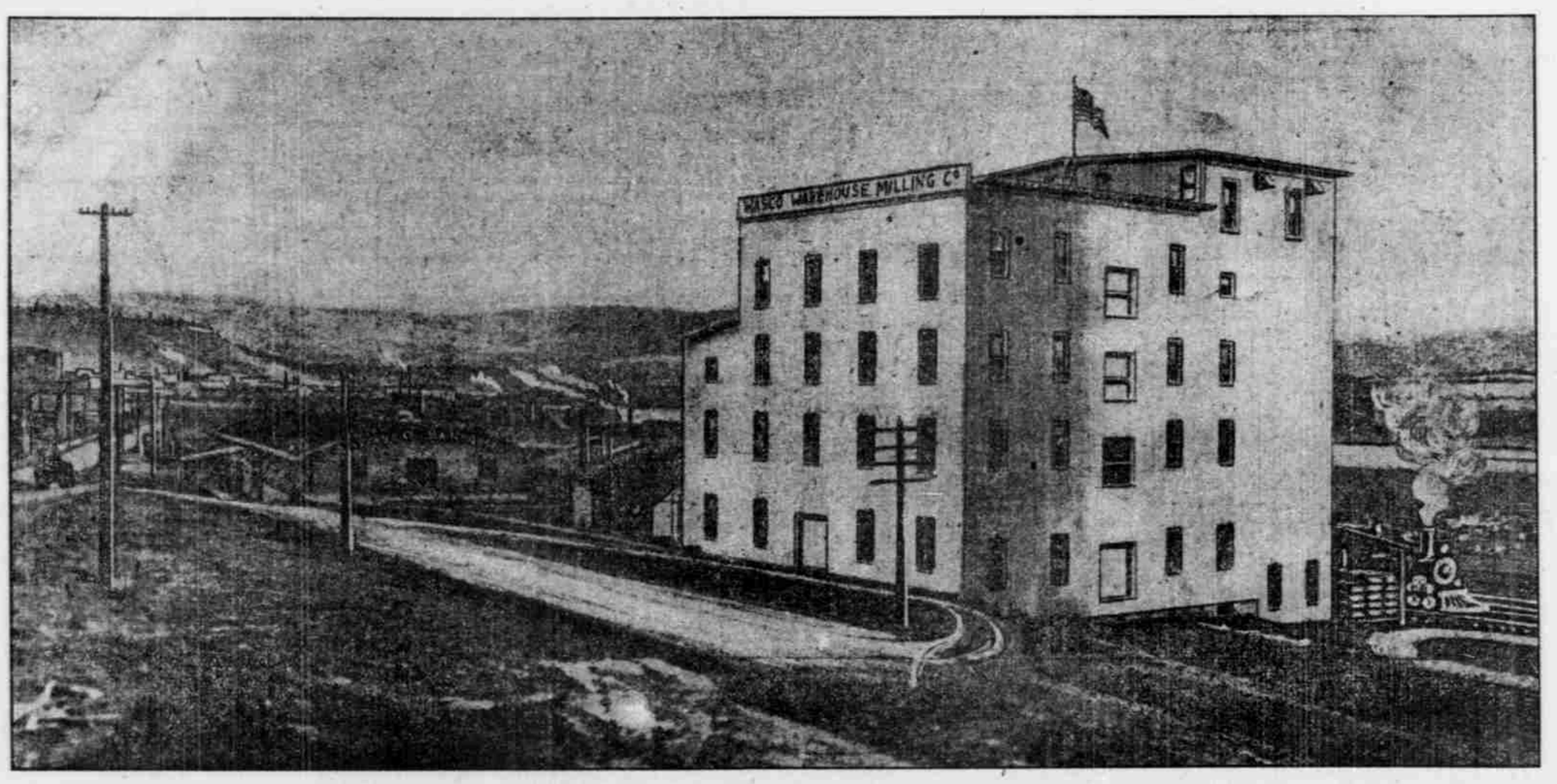
During this season the company has handled about 2,000,000 bushels of wheat. They own 14 warehouses in Sherman County, one in Klickitat County at North Grant, and big warehouses at The Dalles. From a single warehouse at North Grant last year the company shipped 400,000 bushels of grain. The warehouses at The Dalles are 100x300 feet in size. They are built of brick, and are two stories in height. These warehouses have 20-foot porches, extending the full length and abutting on the tracks of the railroad company. The Dalles warehouse has a storing capacity of nearly 500,000 bushels.

The Wasco Warehouse Milling Company handles one-half of all the wheat raised in Sherman County, and a majority of the wheat produced in Klickitat and Wasco Counties.

The people interested in the Wasco Warehouse Milling Company are moneyed men and representative citizens of The Dalles and Wasco County, the principal among which are French & Co., bankers; B. F. Laughlin; E. O. McCoy, the wheat king of Sherman County; Seufert Bros., the big cannerymen of the Upper Columbia, Smith French, and the Johnston Bros., of Dufur. Mr. W. Lord, an old and respected citizen of The Dalles, is president and manager.

A great deal of the heavy wool business formerly handled at The Dalles is now done at Shaniko, the present southern terminus of the Columbia Southern Railway Company. Mr. Lord and a number of his business associates have built at Shaniko the largest wool warehouse on the Coast. It is 400 feet long by 92 feet wide, and is two stories in height. The storing capacity of this warehouse is from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 pounds of wool.

The Dalles is prosperous, and its prosperity is doubly assured by the same kind of enterprise that has contributed to the development and maintenance of the immense business at this point now handled by the Wasco Warehouse Milling Company.



WASCO WAREHOUSE MILLING COMPANY, THE DALLES, OREGON. Photo by Gifford, The Dalles.

SHERMAN COUNTY.

Transportation Facilities Are Good and Farming Land Is Cheap.

Two years have rolled round since we wrote an article on Sherman County for the great annual number of The Oregonian, and this year it again falls to our lot to give a brief review of this county and its resources, showing the inducements it offers to Eastern men who contemplate making a home in the Golden West. The county, which is one of the smallest in the state, comprises some 340,000 acres of what may be classed as rolling prairie, interspersed with canyons and small watercourses and advantageously situated with three large rivers forming the eastern, western and northern boundaries. The Columbia, which is destined to become one of the great waterways of the Nation, bounds the county on the north. On the west we find the Deschutes, a splendid river from