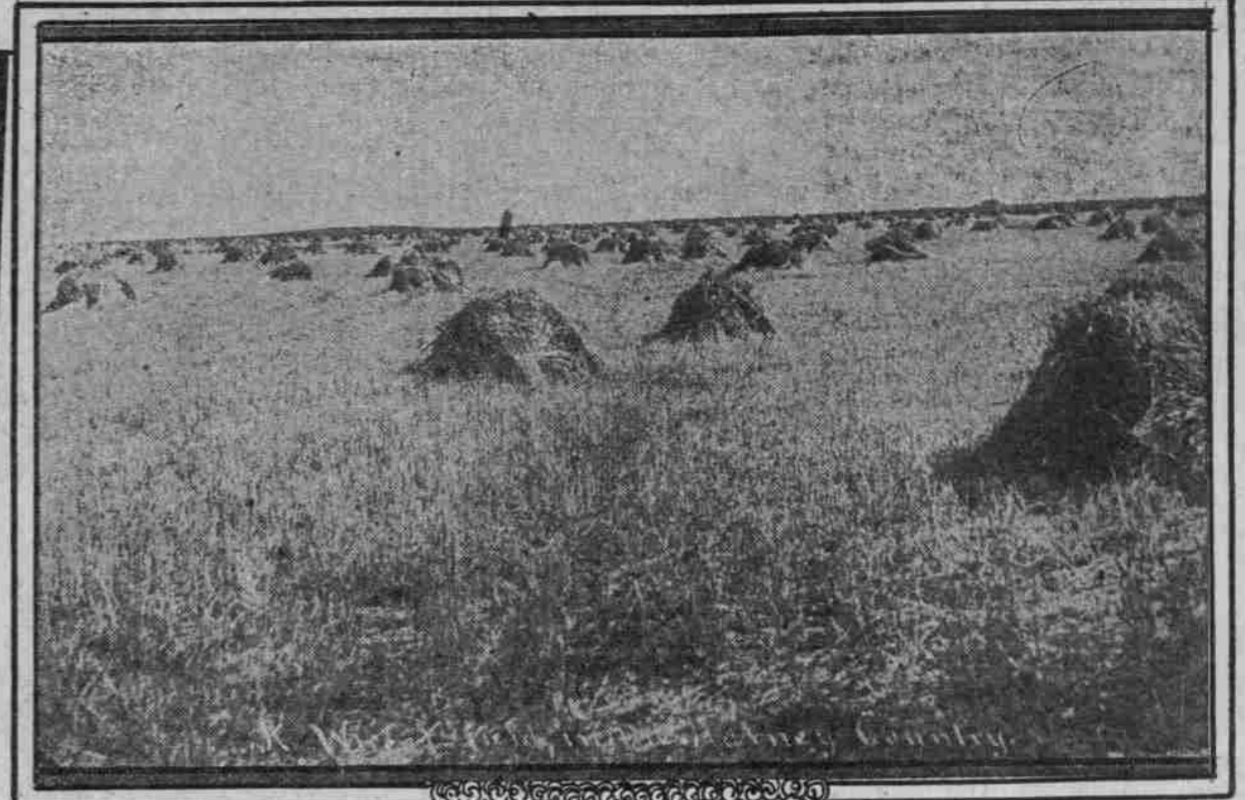


FERTILE VALLEYS OF HARNEY COUNTY

EMPIRE OF FOUR MILLION ACRES, THE RICHEST AND THE MOST UNDEVELOPED LAND IN EASTERN OREGON



MAIN STREET IN BURNS



WHEAT FIELD IN THE HARNEY COUNTRY.



POTATO PATCH WITHOUT IRRIGATION.

BY JOSEPHINE LOCHER.

IN Eastern Oregon lies a stretch of territory that is in itself an empire. An empire comprising four and one-half million acres of land and capable of supporting 100,000 inhabitants. This territory is no other than Harney County, the richest and at the same time the most undeveloped group of valleys in Oregon.

The question here arises, "If capable of such possibilities, why so neglected?" To answer this it is necessary to repeat the history of like sections in Washington, Oregon and California. Years ago these states were largely the pasture ground of vast herds of stock, owned by syndicates from other states whose interest it was to discourage the agriculturist and homebuilder from entering here, thereby maintaining this vast region as an unimpeded cattle range as long as possible. Gradually the idea became prevalent that there was no farming land here; that the altitude was too high for the successful growth of fruit and vegetables, even the hardiest; that the climate was too rigorous; and many other drawbacks were cited which convinced prospective farmers that this was a good country to stay away from. This accounts for the long delay in the general settlement of this country. Doubt still stares the stranger in the face when he observes how little has been done to assist nature in giving up even a tithe from her storehouse of wealth. To disprove the erroneous impression the years have inculcated in the minds of those who ought to know the real value of this land, one needs but to visit a few of the fields and

farms of those who have for a moment forgotten that this is a stock country, and have convincingly made manifest what the future possibilities of this practically unknown region are to be.

Rich, Enduring Soil.

With an altitude of 4100 feet, a little less than that of the Great Salt Lake Valley, Harney Valley alone, which is but one of the great valleys in this region, ought to be capable of as productive development as the great Mormon territory. Our climate is pleasant and temperate in Summer, and mild and healthful in Winter. We are so situated that frequent chinooks from the Pacific Coast region temper our Winter weather, thereby rendering it much more mild than in corresponding latitudes farther east. Cyclones are unknown, and while there are frequent thunder storms through the Summer months, no great damage is done. The soil is a rich volcanic ash, and is very enduring. The opulent natural growth of sagebrush, bunchgrasses and ryegrass most assuredly proves the fertility of the soil. Fine drinking water can be secured anywhere at a depth of from ten to twenty feet. Combining these natural blessings, viz., good altitude, favorable climate, rich soil, and easy access to water, there are many reasons why this country should not be worth the consideration of the homeseker? Harney County has attractions other than these above named. It is not a tractless waste of land and sky. From an aesthetic point of view one could find nothing more beautiful than the majestic snow-capped mountains, the rolling hills, fertile bench lands, and broad level valleys.

By referring to the map you will

find there is enough precipitation to feed three principal water courses, viz., the Silver and Blitzen Rivers and Silver Creek, besides innumerable lesser streams and lakes. Malheur and Harney Lakes alone are worthy of a volume. Harney Lake is saline in nature, but Malheur is a fresh water lake that forms a breeding place for millions of birds. A prominent naturalist recently visited this lake while making a tour of this region and found that some of the rarest species known to science abound here; birds that from a commercial standpoint are almost priceless. In this connection it must not be forgotten that Harney County has the distinction of being the greatest game section in Oregon.

The natural topography of this county divides Harney County into several valleys, the largest of which are: Harney, Catlow, Blitzen and Silver Creek Valleys. Harney, Catlow and Blitzen alone have areas of 300, 600 and 180 square miles, respectively.

Experiment in Dry Farming.

While there are possibilities for the conservation of enough water to irrigate most of this vast area through its watersheds, lakes and streams, practical demonstration has done away with the idea that irrigation is essential. In fact it has been proven that too much water is a detriment rather than a benefit. Within two miles of Burns is a striking example of what Yankee thrift and ingenuity can do. Located on a hillside on an dry a piece of bench land as could be found anywhere in this country, is a dry land farm. On this farm today can be seen an orchard of 1400 trees, two years old, covering 16 acres that are the wonder and admiration of all passersby. The growth during the last year has been remark-

able. On one side of this orchard is a 30-acre potato patch the green, blooming beauty of which can scarcely be excelled anywhere. The yield is going to be a source of pride to its owner. On the other side is a grain field that last year produced 33 bushels of Winter wheat to the acre. The wheat this year has not yet been threshed, but owing to this being an off season here as well as all over the country, the yield per acre will not be so heavy. The beauty of this farm is that all these results have been obtained not by one drop of irrigation, but by careful tillage of the soil. This may seem paradoxical, but will bear the closest investigation. This is not the only one of these farms and in the not far distant future there will be many as beautiful fields of growing grain as only a few now possess. King Cattle is fast relinquishing his arbitrary sway and this region will no longer be a vast stock range, but a network of farms and grain fields. Everywhere throughout Harney County the water levels are so close to the surface that irrigation can be carried out very easily where necessary, by wells.

The County Seat.

Harney is the richest county per capita in the state, and has no outstanding indebtedness. It is on a cash basis with \$28,000 in the treasury. The tax levy last year was only 25 mills, with an exceedingly low assessed value.

Burns, the beautiful little city of homes, is the county seat of this inland empire as well as the seat of the United States Land Office. It is a thriving town of 1200 inhabitants located in the north end of Harney Valley. It has a fine hotel, a bank, a store, hotels, banks, two good newspapers and other business enterprises. Burns is the educational center of this

country, having a county high school and a public school employing eight teachers. The most competent teachers are employed and students from learning compare favorably with graduates from other high schools in the state. All church denominations and fraternal societies are represented here. In fact it is quite a modern little city. It has a good system of electric lights installed and in operation, and the center for a number of stage routes reaching out for the territory tributary in every direction.

Few undeveloped regions have better

railroad possibilities than this same Harney country. In fact, they have been definitely settled upon. Through this great territory with its thousands upon thousands of acres of tillable land the Harriman system has surveyed and located the Oregon & Eastern Railroad beginning at Vale, Malheur County, Oregon. This road is destined to be part of the transcontinental trunk line reaching from the rock-bound Atlantic to the Pacific Coast. This work has been done at a heavy outlay of money, but they have gained by doing one of the best grades and straightest lines of the whole system. This grade is only 8-10 of 1 per cent and in the near future will become the main line for heavy traffic and fast passenger service. Branching out from this line another road is proposed to San Francisco via Lakeview, Pitt River and Sacramento Valley. Engineers are now locating this line, which will give this vast inland empire one of the best markets in the Pacific Northwest.

With the thousands of acres open to the homeseker under the Government land laws, with untold openings for the investor—why hesitate, when opportunity no longer knocks, but opens wide its doors.

THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN OREGON AT PRESENT DIFFICULT TASK THAT OUGHT TO INSPIRE VIGOR RATHER THAN INACTION

BY ARTHUR CLINTON BOGESS.

WHAT the future of the Christian colleges in Oregon shall be depends upon the thoughts and actions of those who work in them. The task of today is to mold rather than to predict. It behooves us, therefore, to consider the purpose of the Christian colleges, and to determine how, under existing conditions, such purpose can best be subserved.

Eleven years of experience as either teacher or student, in state schools and Christian schools, respectively, of higher learning, leads me to the conclusion that the two, and that this fact constitutes the chief reason for the continuance of the Christian school. In the reaching toward the attainment of the highest standards of scholarship the aims are identical. As a corollary the scholastic attainments of the respective faculties, as also the requirements for the baccalaureate degree, may be the same. But the radical difference is this: The Christian college avowedly lays emphasis upon the creation and development of Christian character in its students. The state school lays no such emphasis. The words, "lays emphasis" are used advisedly in order to avoid any charge of having stated that state institutions are anti-Christian. Few state schools are anti-Christian, yet practically all are non-Christian. In each of the four state schools with which I have been intimately connected, I have found among both students and faculty Christian men of sterling worth, but I have also found, and again in each school, men whose influence would blast any young Christian life.

This leads to a consideration of the type of teacher that a Christian college should employ. To me it seems to be an axiomatic truth that no one who is not a Christian should be permitted to teach in a Christian school. By an active Christian I mean a person who can conduct a chapel service with the spirit and with the understanding also; who cannot rest at ease while non-Christian students surround him; whose chief business in life is to be Christlike. The temptations to employ teachers who are not Christian are great, so great, indeed, that many Christian schools do not resist them. A history teacher may be found who is brilliant, popular, and a good drawing card; famous athletes may be available as coach or director of athletics; a person who writes for magazines of fair standing may be willing to teach literature; some may be very immoral; they may bring more students to the institution;

and so the fact of their being non-Christian is winked at—and the mess of pottage is secured. Christianity ought to be strong enough in the United States to be strong enough in the United States to be strong enough in the United States to believe that it is strong enough, and because I so believe I have for any Christian school with one or more non-Christian teachers less respect that I should have for the same school without such a blemish.

If our teachers must be Christian in order to accomplish the purpose of our schools, they must also be scholars. They will not be respected unless it is respectable. Scholarship is a marketable commodity. Usually it is for sale to the highest bidder. No one who is well acquainted with the teaching force of small Christian colleges will deny that a number of teachers in such schools might secure more money elsewhere, and that they continue to hold their positions from devotion to the type of school in which they labor; but, on the other hand, it is manifest that some remain because they are not wanted elsewhere. In the last category fall those teachers who from lack of business sense or of aggressiveness exert an influence that is not helpful. Wages in small schools ought to be as high as in large schools, if work of uniform excellence is to be done.

There is a limit to the amount of work that a scholarly, well-paid teacher can do. There is also a minimum equipment for effective work. Any teacher, of whatever endowment, who must teach so great a number of hours in alternate years, in many schools, strength or deprives himself of time for self-improvement, will degenerate into an uninterested, uninteresting, inefficient machine. Illustrations of this very thing are numerous, pathetic and sometimes tragic. One method of relief which seems not to have been fully appreciated is to teach courses in alternate years. In many schools classes are small and numerous. Instead of six freshmen taking American literature and four sophomores taking English literature in the same year, teach only American literature one year and only English literature the next year. This gives a double advantage; the class work is more interesting and the teacher has time to do better work. It should neither be forgotten nor overlooked that the number of hours of classroom work assigned to any teacher should be determined by the character of the work. A teacher of biology needs time to pre-

pare specimens; a teacher of physics, to arrange for experiments; a teacher of economics, sociology or current literature, to read such books and periodicals as will keep him well informed; while a teacher of undergraduate work in Latin, Greek or mathematics needs some, but not so much, time for preparation.

The minimum equipment for effective work consists of apparatus for self-study investigations and a library. Each must be sufficient to admit of the same character of work as is done in courses of the same grade in our great institutions. This may sound as if the enormous expenditures of great schools must be duplicated by small ones, but such is not the case, because much of the equipment of the former is used almost exclusively in graduate work. Permit me to say, parenthetically, that I believe that the Christian college in Oregon has such an equipment as makes it expedient to give a master's degree for a year's work done by a graduate in residence. Work done without a library in such subjects as economics, literature and history simply is not of college rank. A library is to such subjects what a laboratory is to biology. Use of the library by the students must usually take the place occupied in large schools by the lecture of the teacher. This can be successfully done if the classes are sufficiently small to make possible close supervision of reports on assigned topics.

With competent teachers furnished with sufficient equipment, it still remains to be said that if the Christian college is to successfully compete with the best non-Christian schools, the work required for the baccalaureate degree must be equal in one school to that required in the other. At present the work required for such a degree in Oregon Christian colleges varies from six years or less above the eighth grade to a maximum of eight years above that grade. This maximum is the minimum for high-class non-Christian schools. One will hardly teach even two years in Oregon without learning that the subject of uniform entrance requirements touches our Christian schools in a tender spot, yet I do not forget that the more tender the spot the more urgent is the need for a physician. Obviously if the entrance requirements remain as they are, the exit requirements ought to be changed. Most lamentable of all the results of the present state of affairs is the fact that many of the students

who attend the schools with low requirements do not appreciate the situation, but actually believe that they are as well educated as those who pursue longer and richer courses. Thus, convicted pigs who lack the substance and, even more, the form of a liberal education, are all too likely to be produced. Since but one of the Christian colleges of Oregon can meet the requirements of the Carnegie pension fund, it is easy to decry the standard set by the administrators of that fund. Many persons rich in spirit but poor in purse can spend five, six or seven years in school, although they could not attempt the eight years. For such cases the school should provide a certificate of college work, should be the minimum requirement for the baccalaureate degree.

I have nothing to say against schools that are giving, and wish to continue to give, a lesser amount of college work, except that I believe that their finished product is at present falsely labeled. Many persons rich in spirit but poor in purse can spend five, six or seven years in school, although they could not attempt the eight years. For such cases the school should provide a certificate of college work, should be the minimum requirement for the baccalaureate degree.

Another reason that of honesty exists for the adoption of such designations as I have suggested. That reason lies in the fact that our Christian schools, with certainly not more than one exception, are not universities. The freshman and sophomore years of universities is much the same in all of the various colleges—freshman engineers, freshman lawyers, etc., take about the same subjects. Differentiation becomes marked at the beginning of the junior year. Few Christian schools among us are prepared to give much of the more technical work in engineering or medicine which involves a large expenditure for equipment. It nat-

urally follows that students may often come to small schools for the first two years of their courses and go elsewhere for the last two years. If the work of a certain school closed with the sophomore year, this transition would be an easy one.

To one is more conscious than myself that the ever-present need of the Christian college is money. Few educators will disagree with what I have said concerning the maintaining of high standards of work, but a greater number will regard the ideal as impossible of fulfillment. Courses are short, teachers are inefficient and equipment are lacking because money is not at hand. If tuition is high, few students can afford to attend; if tuition is low not much money is received. We need money. Our only salvation from becoming obsolete is money. It is often predicted that some of the numerous Christian colleges of Oregon must become extinct. There is an alternative and that is got money. A college with more than 100 students could do work of surpassing excellence if some one would pay its bills. How to get the money is an insistent question. The college that held a May festival on last May day and run excursions for its friends did a wise thing. To have a financial agent in the field is often practicable. A conspicuous illustration of the expediency of not despising the day of small things was furnished recently by the success of an agent in the East who secured more than \$25,000 for a Western school, most of the subscriptions being in sums of \$5 or under. As an income from an endowment is permanent even small gifts are important. In the case of denominational schools, experience has shown that it is frequently practicable to send an agent into portions of the older states where the denomination in question is well represented. We are still about as nearly on the frontier as we can get, and our Eastern friends appreciate the fact even better than do we ourselves. Two things are precedent to gifts by some wise philanthropist to college. One is high standards of scholarship; the other is a tendency to grow. A hopeful sign for the colleges of Oregon is the increasing number of public schools that are doing ninth, ten, eleventh or even twelfth-grade work. A continuation of this transformation will result; in the public schools doing much of the work now done by the preparatory departments of the colleges. The tendency of the colleges proper to increase and of the preparatory department to decrease is already marked in some cases. The lines may not be remote at which it will be practicable to discontinue our ninth-grade work.

There are those who feel that there

must necessarily be antagonism between state schools and Christian schools. Honestly I do not think so. Since the two kinds of schools have been in existence there have been some parents who preferred to send their children to the Christian school merely because it was Christian. State schools know this to be true. Then there is a belief that a small school has advantages over a large one, and Christian schools are usually small while state schools are usually large. This fact also seems obvious. These two reasons for the support of the Christian school are of such a character as to lead to the belief that the Christian school will be a permanent factor in higher education. Different, but quite as strong, reasons exist for the support and the continuance of state universities. The very fact that they are state universities is profoundly significant. Because they are state schools their adequate financial support is almost assured. This means that such teachers can be employed and such material equipment can be furnished as will make possible work of the highest order. Further because they are universities they are prepared to minister to the needs of all types of students, both undergraduate and graduate. Almost all state universities now have, and all will ultimately have, whatever advantages come from the attendance of a large number of students. These advantages are real, notwithstanding the fact that there are certain advantages arising from a small attendance. Among the things to be said in favor of the large attendance are the following: A student meets men of many types, thus giving valuable training for the work of life; lectures, concert courses, museums and the various means of enriching one's college work are more numerous and varied than in a minor school; the presence of graduate students tends to enable the undergraduate to estimate undergraduate work at its true value; positions for graduates are usually more easily secured by large schools than by small ones. I suppose that no well-informed person takes seriously the statement so often made that the state university stands at the head of the common school system, if the implication is that any done by the preparatory departments of the colleges. The tendency of the colleges proper to increase and of the preparatory department to decrease is already marked in some cases. The lines may not be remote at which it will be practicable to discontinue our ninth-grade work.

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dom to accept this fact whether it be a palatable one or not.

Within a few years a new element has come to affect the future of the Christian colleges of Oregon. The conditions precedent to the granting of Carnegie pensions to retiring teachers are such as to place a premium upon the abandoning of any legal affiliation between a Christian college and any denomination. No teacher in a sectarian school will be placed on the pension list except as a special favor and no sectarian school will be placed upon the accredited list. The only Christian school in Oregon which can meet the other requirements for these pensions has formally dissolved all legal ties between itself and the Congregational denomination. Adverse criticism from both friend and foe has resulted, although in general the separation was accepted almost without comment because the Congregationalists declare that the school will remain as distinctively sectarian as before. The separation of other sects carry very little about the matter. It is not, however, with these local details that we are concerned. To my mind the important facts for us about the Carnegie pension fund are three: First, Christian colleges tend to increase their endowment to the sum requisite to becoming beneficiaries; second, they will raise their entrance requirements to the prescribed standard; third, they will in all probability sever themselves from their respective denominations. The separation of other sects changes no question will be raised except as to the last. It is too early for the effects of the loss of the technically sectarian character of the Christian colleges in several colleges in various parts of the United States have within a few years divested themselves of their sectarian bonds. I do not regard the change in their character as a historical, although a very important, event. To my mind the essential characteristic of the Christian college, over and above the essential characteristics of other colleges, is that it shall be Christian. That college would seem intolerably narrow that had about it such an atmosphere that students of but a single denomination could thrive in it. Those who become alarmed at the passing of denominationalism fear that with denominationalism will go Christianity. My opinion as to the reasonableness of the fear is tentative, but at present it seems to me that the danger of filling denominational boards of trustees with non-Christian church members is quite as great as the danger of filling Christian boards of trustees with non-Christian members. Short-sighted, indeed, must be any board of trustees of a Christian college that fails to know that the chief