

the numerous grasshoppers, in the garden and grain fields of Kansas. During those ten years their crops were visited by two swarms of locusts. One year he harvested five bushels of wheat; the next he got but four. Besides the successive failures of crops, he was attacked with a brief spell of the chills, that lasted two years and a half. Being reduced to the verge of poverty, physically, as well as financially, he concluded to travel west. As an illustration of the want and hardships endured by the early settlers in Kansas, Mr. McRae relates an instance of his personal experience, that should for ever silence the crackers in this land of abundance, from ever thinking of hard times, when there is never an occasion for anyone to go superfluous to bed.

He says: "One fall, after the grasshoppers had paid us an unseasonably long visit, went west in unusually early, and as the grasshoppers had not yet reached the orchards, gardens and grain fields, there was nothing left for the people to exist on but corn husks, and hope, and there was precious little of the latter. We managed to live through the winter on second grade flour, and cane molasses. I worked for a neighbor one day for a mess of bread pudding. Reduce I as we were, for the bare necessities of life, the fact remained that it was a rare and to someone dish. He left Kansas in 1874, and came to San Francisco. Hearing there was a demand for men on the Canadian Pacific railroad, he moved to Victoria, B. C., where he remained two years, regaining his lost health. September 25, 1877, he landed in the inland Empire with barely enough capital to set up house-keeping. From that day dates the beginning of his prosperity. Mr. McRae has earned and saved a sufficient amount of this world's necessities to enable him to live in comfortable ease the balance of his days.

In 1890 the democrats placed him on their ticket for the responsible position of County Commissioner. Although opposing a popular candidate, he was elected by a 4-7 majority. As evidence of the esteem and confidence of his neighbors, he received the unanimous vote of his precinct except three, and it will never be known who they were.

The greatest achievement of his life, the one achievement of all others, to which a career ending in success might justly point to with pardonable pride, is a derrick contrivance, especially adapted to the lifting of cumbersome and weighty bodies. It is becoming a general favorite with the farmers. Mr. McRae has christened this new farm's friend and helper, "The Walla Walla Stacker," but it matters little by what name it sails under, so long as it does its work well, and is always ready for use. The stacker is the simplest machine of the kind made, and has the greatest amount of hoisting capacity. Ricks of hay 30 feet high are put up as easily with this machine, as half that height by any other. As it has only been placed on the market a couple of seasons, and as Mr. McRae has an extremely delicate notion about puffing his own invention, it has not met with the widespread circulation it would have, had it been in the hands of a less sensitive, and retiring proprietor. The time will come, however, when the knowledge of its virtues cannot help from becoming universally known, and its owner and inventor will reap a golden harvest for his genius. Without a moment's hesitation, or fear of contradiction, Mr. McRae cheerfully states the happiest and most contented days of his life have been passed in Umatilla county. And here in the pleasant companionship of his four children, two boys, and two girls, he and his estimable "Tina," expect to spend the winter of their declining years.

JOHN LUHRS.

John Luhrs, a member of Umatilla county's board of commissioners, and one of its oldest and best respected citizens, was born in Province Hanover,



JOHN LUHRS.

Germany, April 4th, 1836, and lived on a farm with his parents until his 15th year. At this early age he became imbued with a desire to see the world, and he came to America. After spending five years in New York he came to the Coast in 1856 and remained for a time, and then engaged in packing from Crescent City in Northern California to Happy Camp on the Klamath, Hungry Camp and Jacksonville. He came to Umatilla Landing, 1864, and ran his pack train from there to Idaho points. On one trip he had a train of eighty mules which packed 115 tons from Umatilla to Leubli, Idaho, on Salmon river. A mule train was the best means of transportation in those times, for an experienced packer could crowd lots of goods on these enduring animals. One of Luhrs' mules once carried a mirror seven feet long, and 200 pounds of flour, to Boise without accident. Freight from Umatilla to Idaho City was 33 cents a pound, and provisions tasted of "dust" when they arrived. Gold dust was the only medium of exchange.

In 1888 Luhrs formed a partnership with J. M. Watson, which they have since maintained, owning everything in common.

Luhrs settled down in 1871 on Stewart creek, this county, where he has since lived. He has engaged principally in stock raising. In 1872 Watson & Luhrs

started a saw mill on Pierson creek, which they afterward removed to Canas Prairie and sold to J. M. B. Wiley and Newt. Hahn, receiving in part payment the planing mill in this city, which they still own, and which has become one of Pendleton's most important industries.

In 1886 Jacob Prochbel resigned as county commissioner and Luhrs was appointed. In 1888 he was elected commissioner on the republican ticket by the largest vote received by any candidate.

In private life Mr. Luhrs is one of the most genial and kindly of gentlemen and has an equally pleasant wife whom he married, then Miss Julia L. Pomroy, at the McCoy ranch on Starkey Prairie, in 1872. They are now enjoying the fruits of Mr. Luhrs' industry in his younger days, and are happy also in the possession of three children, two sons and a daughter, the latter now attending St. Helens Hall at Portland.

WALTER M. PIERCE.

The subject of this sketch is essentially a self-made man. No place was found for him in the lap of luxury, but he has won success, while yet young, by an intelligent application of the virtues of industry, energy and perseverance. Walter M. Pierce was born in Grundy county, Illinois, May 30, 1861. He was "raised on a farm," and experienced all the exacting yet beneficial toil which this sort of early training involves. He remained on the home place until he was fifteen years old, when he entered a normal school at Morris, Ill., where he studied two years. After teaching "destrist school" for about two years he had the advantage of attending school for nearly a year at Ann Arbor, Mich. In the spring of 1882, feeling that the world needed his services and beckoned him to enter the industrial race, he went to the mines in Colorado. He worked for



W. M. PIERCE.

a while in a lumber mill and held a responsible position, also, as mule whacker, its importance partly compensating for the small salary vouchsafed. Yet he gave this up and that fall went to Kansas, teaching school near Ottawa. He then felt a yearning to explore still further the great West, and journeyed to Portland, where his few dollars were fast disappearing and he was left nearly penniless and friendless in a strange land. He came to Walla Walla, and while there, hunting for a job, ran across Nathan Pierce, of Milton, Umatilla county, who gave him employment as a farm hand. This was in the spring of 1883, and Mr. Pierce's remaining history is quite familiar to the people of this county, hence it needs but be briefly told. He was given the principalship of the Milton public school in September, 1883—Nathan Pierce, one of the directors, remarking that the young man knew well how to teach and ought to be able to teach school—and held that position for three successive years, doing farm work in the summer. In 1886 he was elected County School Superintendent over J. F. Slaughter, then a well known teacher of Pendleton, by a majority of 210. He moved to Weston and held the principalship of the public school there four years, being, in 1888, re-elected school superintendent by a majority of 278 over L. B. Reeder. The efficiency with which he conducted his duties as superintendent is too well known to need comment. He is a competent and obliging clerk and is constantly winning friends in the position which he now fills so acceptably.

WILL J. FURNISH.

The present sheriff of Umatilla county, is the youngest man by several years who has been chosen to this responsible position in this magnificent county—and yet, despite his scarcity of years, he has



W. J. FURNISH.

made one of the most efficient officers that held that important trust. As a successful tax collector, his efforts stand out in bold relief, compared with those of former years. There now remains uncol-

lected on last year's tax roll only about \$300, as compared with \$5000 to \$15,000 in former years. Had the tax collections of the past been as complete as they have been under Mr. Furnish's administration, the county today, instead of carrying a burden of \$50,000 indebtedness, would have "money to loan." Mr. Furnish was born in Randolph county, Mo., Aug. 16, 1862, and came to Oregon in 1885. He was graduated at the Portland Business College March 18, 1882, took a position in the wool commission house of Frazar, Sperry & Co., as chief clerk, remained with the firm three years, when they dissolved, and he and Mr. Sperry started business under the name of J. L. Sperry & Co., which lasted two years, when he withdrew and returned to Eastern Oregon and was at once appointed deputy U. S. Marshal. This position he filled from Dec. 31, 1887, to March 15, 1890. At the June election of that year, he was chosen sheriff by 719 majority out of a total of about 3400 votes. The early life of Mr. Furnish was not one of affluence and ease. His father died on the plains, and was buried in one of the most desolate and lonesome spots on earth, at the sinking of Lost river. Most of the books used in his early education were purchased by money earned in chopping wood. At the age of 16 he had a hard work and strict economy he had accumulated a band of about 100 cattle, but during the Bannock war of 1878 they were all at ten but a few, and those died the hard winter following.

July 23, 1889, he was united in marriage to Miss Jessie M. Starkweather of this place, and the union has been blessed by a fair-haired little miss, now one year old.

J. H. ROBBINS.

J. H. Robbins was born near Salem, Oregon, May 12, 1859, and moved with his parents to Umatilla Landing, this county, in 1861, at which time the "Landing" was the distributing point for the whole Northwest.

His father was engaged in running a pack train to the Boise, Owyhee and Bannock mines during the "flush times" around those old camps. In the meantime the family lived on the meadows, and the subject of this sketch spent such portion of his time as could be spared from necessary labor at home in attending school in the "old log school house in the lane."

In 1864 the family moved to Independence (now Granite) in the granite mining district, in Grant county, it being a new camp at that time. They spent the following sixteen summers in this locality, usually returning to Pendleton or Baker City to attend school during the winter. While attending school in this city he took his first lessons in book-keeping from David E. Durie, now of Seattle. Mr. Robbins evinced a disposition early in life to equip himself with an education that would qualify him for something better than the lot of an ordi-



J. H. ROBBINS.

nary miner or day laborer. In 1878 he entered the Commercial Business College of Portland, graduating the same year. In 1879 he moved to the Monumental mine (his father being one of the eight original locators) where a position in the mill and assay office awaited him, and remained until 1880, when the mines were abandoned. In that year he assumed the management of Alexander & Lobenstein's store, at Pilot Rock, and in 1881 purchased the firm's interest therein. After conducting it three years he found his capital was not sufficient to carry on the business successfully and he transferred it back to them, moved to Echo and kept books for Helstead & Lovelodge from 1880 to 1886. Ill health compelled him to abandon this position and he came to Pendleton, where he engaged in the real estate business with C. P. Davis, and later with G. C. Greene.

In June, 1888, he was elected county treasurer, and again in 1890. In 1889 he accepted the position of assistant cashier in the Pendleton Savings Bank, which position he now ably fills.

He was married in 1882 to Miss Edith V. Carr. They have two children, both boys.

W. W. BRANNIN.

William W. Brannin was born in Morgan county, Missouri, March 10, 1842, and was reared on a farm. After obtaining the advantages afforded by the public schools of that section, he completed his education at the Westwood Academy, of Boonsville, an institution of learning renowned for its splendid system. Shortly after he had graduated from this school, he was stricken with severe attack of the Pike's Peak gold fever, and in company with a few choice spirits of the neighborhood, started to find the new Eldorado. A fruitless summer's search revealed no such riches as their imagination pictured, and they returned sadder but wiser men. Arriving at St. Joe he enlisted in the employ of Alexander, Russell, Majors & Co., the well-known government supply contractors, to drive a team of six yoke of oxen. The first trip was made to Denver, and the next to Salt Lake, to furnish supplies to General Joseph E. Johnson, who was stationed at Camp Floyd, a few miles from the lake, where Uncle Sam's boys had established an out-post, garrisoned by a strong force of artillerymen and dragoons for the purpose of aiding the civil authorities in bringing the government

of Brigham Young under subjection to Uncle Sam.

When war was declared next spring Mr. Brannin was one among the first to respond to his country's call, enlisting in the 9th Missouri cavalry. He served three years with this regiment, and when discharged, re-enlisted in the 45th Missouri infantry. He was in the battles against Shelby's army in Missouri in 1863, and those against Price, Vandorn and Dick Taylor, west of the Mississippi river. The armies that he belonged to did splendid service in driving out and wiping out the renegade bands of guerrillas and cut-throats that made life such



W. W. BRANNIN.

an uncertainty to the loyal citizens of Missouri during the first few years of the war. In 1864, not long after his regiment was transferred to the army of Tennessee under General Schofield, and took part in that bloody and decisive engagement with General Wood, before Nashville.

After the fall of Nashville and the surrender of Johnson at Mobile Bay, there was but little for the soldier to do, but await his discharge and come home. After the war had closed he returned to the old home and engaged in teaching, preaching, farming and carpenter work till 1885, when he came to Umatilla county and settled on an arid farm, north-west of Pendleton. Here was fought the greatest battles of his life. Crop after crop was planted with the vain hope that a remunerative harvest might be gathered, but they were all failures, and he was forced to abandon them until more moisture could be procured. In the event of the Umatilla irrigation company completing its ditch, his lands, with all others in that section, will become valuable, as they are as rich in mineral and vegetable compounds as any in the world, and a little artificial moisture will make them yield marvelous crops. At the June election of 1890 he was elected county assessor, and, although his majority was small, he was opposing a man whom many thought it would be impossible to defeat. It is admitted by every one who has looked the matter over that he has made the most complete and uniform assessment that the county has ever had, the result of which has been the lowering of the tax levy 4½ mills. Aside from performing the duties of assessor, he continues to hold a position in the Presbyterian pulpit, and is said to be a very forcible speaker. He has a wife and three children—two girls and a boy, all nearly grown.

JOHN C. ARNOLD.

John Calvin Arnold has been prominent in public affairs of Eastern Oregon so long that it seems everybody would know his life's history as well as they do their own. He was born in Henry county, Iowa, February 16th, 1842, and crossed the plains with his parents in 1852. Mr. Arnold experienced on that trip such hardships and privations as few of the poor emigrants in the early days escaped. Before they reached The Dalles the last of their team had succumbed to the fatigues of the long



J. C. ARNOLD.

journey, except one ox, which they yoked up with that of another emigrant and had met with the same fate, and thus equipped they reached The Dalles early in December. There they embarked on a flat boat for the lower Willamette, exchanging everything they could spare, including a Newfoundland dog, for transportation down the river. The family were so reduced in financial circumstances that the bill of fare during the greater part of the winter consisted of boiled potatoes. Flour sold for \$30 a hundred, cash down. Mr. Arnold says he can remember on many occasions of his and his father going to the timber to make rails when the dinner pail held nothing but cold boiled spuds and a pinch of salt.

After graduating from the Willamette University in the class of 1868, being only 19 years of age at the time, he began teaching in the public schools, which occupation he followed for the brief period of twenty-five years. A number of the present business men of Pendleton were once his pupils, among whom are, W. J. Furnish, J. H. Raley, Harry Hexter, E. E. Sharon and many others.

He came to Umatilla county in 1875 and shortly after was appointed county school superintendent to fill the vacancy

caused by the resignation of L. H. Lee. The distance to be traveled in visiting schools was about 200 miles long by 70 wide, and the fees amounted to the handsome sum of \$125 a year, and no allowance was made for office rent, wood or lights. In 1876 he was elected to the same position, and again in 1878 and 1882. In 1886 he was elected county surveyor, also in 1888 and 1890. At the two last named dates he had little opposition, having obtained the confidence of his fellow men that none other could supplant. He holds a life diploma for teaching in Oregon, issued on an examination requiring a correctness of 99 per cent. This diploma was issued in 1876. Mr. Arnold is at present city surveyor of Pendleton, county surveyor for Umatilla county, and deputy U. S. surveyor, and thoroughly understands mining and mechanical engineering.

JOHN M. BENTLEY.

John M. Bentley, ex-sheriff of Umatilla county, was born in Boone county, Missouri, March 9, 1842, and lived with his parents on the farm until 1863, when they came to California, settling near Modesto, in Stanislaus county, where for several years he worked for wages until, by dint of strict economy, he had accumulated a sufficient sum to set up business for himself. In the spring of 1871 he disposed of all his property at Modesto and started for Eastern Oregon. His first business venture in this new field was the lumber trade. He built a saw mill on the mountains and furnished lumber for nearly every home between Pendleton and Butter Creek. After disposing of his mill property he and Jerry Despain purchased 2,500 acres of good wheat land north of Pendleton, and for the next few years turned his attention to farming.



J. M. BENTLEY.

We next find him running a hotel; also a large stockholder in the EAST OREGONIAN; again we find him sheriff of the county, having beaten a very popular opponent by 124 votes. He made an able and efficient officer and one in whom the entire people had confidence. He owned and operated the first steam planing mill in the county and the whistle from his engine was the first heard in Pendleton. He is now the owner of 2,300 acres of land and controls a one-half interest in the old Hawn & Guyer saw mill on Camas Prairie.

Miss Mary F. Yeakum became his bride January 2, 1883. They have had born to them eight children, four of whom are now living, three girls and one boy. Mr. Bentley has a great penchant for secret societies and is now a Master Mason, a P. C. in the K. of P.'s P. G., in the I. O. O. F., and is a member of the A. O. U. W.

REUBEN ALEXANDER.

Mr. R. Alexander occupies a front rank among Pendleton's business men, a position he has won by steadfast industry and perseverance. He has been uniformly successful, and has now built up an independent fortune. Mr. Alexander was born in Hengsfeld, Germany, May 14, 1850, and came to America when 15 years old, a penniless boy. He reached Oregon in 1870 and located at Baker City, where he held a position as book-keeper for Bamberger & Frank. In 1874 he was elected treasurer of Baker City by the largest majority of anyone on the ticket. Removing to Pendleton in 1878 he engaged in merchandising with the late E. Lobenstein under the firm name of R. Alexander & Co. Two years after Jacob Frazar became a partner, and in 1887 presented his interest to his son, N. K. Frazar. Upon the latter's decease Mr. Alexander purchased his entire estate for \$25,000 and became sole owner of the store, building in 1890 a handsome brick, centrally located on Main street, now occupied by his firm. The brick and property cost in the neighborhood of \$18,000. February 1, 1891, he took in as a full partner Mr. H. L. Hexter, his faithful clerk, who had been with him some twelve years, and the firm is now Alexander & Hexter. Their establishment is among the finest in the Northwest. During 1891 Mr. Alexander visited his old home in Germany after an absence of twenty-five years.

The subject of this sketch is prominently connected with several Pendleton enterprises. He is a public servant, also, being elected councilman two years ago by the largest vote received by any candidate, evidencing his popularity. He is an active member of benevolent societies, ranking high in Odd Fellowship, in which he has received nearly every position within the gift of the order. He has been Grand Master for Oregon, Grand Representative, Grand Patriarch, and is at present Sovereign Grand Representative to the Sovereign Grand Lodge, being instrumental in securing the next meeting of the Sovereign Grand Lodge for Portland. He has been for twelve years treasurer and trustee of his lodge, Eureka No. 32, I. O. O. F., of Pendleton. In Masonry he has taken the Mystic Shrine Degree, the only member in Pendleton who has attained that degree.

Mr. Alexander has a handsome home on Water street, where his estimable wife and three children share his joys and prosperity.

JOSEPH T. HINKLE.

The subject of this sketch was born in Cumberland county, Kentucky, Nov. 2, 1867, and is the second son of Geo. W. Hinkle and Lanthia Hinkle nee Phelps, whose connections with two representative families, the Gray and the Blue respectively, and romantic marriage during the civil war are among the never-to-be-forgotten legends of the county. When Joe was 3 years old his parents left their beautiful home on the Cumberland and engaged in the mercantile business at Glasgow in Barren county.



J. T. HINKLE.

The country had not yet recovered from the devastations of the invading armies that had recently passed over it. The elder Hinkle, however, prospered until the financial crisis of '73 when he received a blow from which he, like many in his business, could not recover. Selling out in 1880 Mr. Hinkle with his family removed to Henry county, Mo., and there engaged in farming for three years when they again moved—this time to Umatilla county, where his own indomitable energy, and that of his wife and five boys, have assured prosperity and strengthened the bonds uniting a happy and envied family. Upon the arrival of the family in Oregon the subject of our sketch was but 15 years old. The frequent moves of his parents and their indulgence of his marked aversion to books and teachers so noticeable in early life, interfered seriously with his educational advantages, 14 months being the extent of time spent in a school room except a brief term of eight months at the Willamette university. Immediately upon his return from the university he secured a position in one of the public schools of this county and gave such satisfaction that he was retained until May of the last year when he accepted an editorial position on the "Oregon Alliance Herald." Shortly after, having proved himself an able, forcible and fearless reform writer, he was appointed editor in chief, and has since conducted that paper, and is winning for it and for himself a position of exalted trust and honor, reflecting great credit upon the cause he has espoused and to which he is so regularly devoted. Besides being a good farmer and the owner of 320 acres of Umatilla county's fertile soil, he has a rare gift of versatility and oratory that is sure to carry him to the front ranks in the political world.

W. D. HANSFORD.

W. D. Hansford, one of the leading business men of Pendleton, is a native of Harrison county, West Virginia. He was born at Clarksburg, Dec. 14, 1840. At the age of 28 he emigrated to Paola, Kansas, where he worked at his trade as an engineer until 1871, when he moved to Denver and engaged in the same pursuit in the mining districts of Colorado until 1874. His next field of operation was Nevada, where he remained until '78; coming thence to Umatilla county, and settling on a farm near Echo. From 1883 to 1887 he was employed by the O. R. & N. Co., in keeping their pumps and water tanks in repair. In June, 1888, he was married to Mrs. Caroline Carr, of Portland. He commenced business in Pendleton in the spring of 1887 on Main street, under the firm name of W. D. Hansford & Co., dealers in hardware, tinware, stoves, ranges, cutlery, etc., and moved into new quarters in the Thompson-Barnhart building in July, 1891. The firm is enjoying an extensive and rapidly increasing patronage, the natural result of fair dealing and low prices. Mr. Hansford is an active member of the city council, his portrait appearing in the group of city officials on the first page of this paper.

UMATILLA COUNTY CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY.

Dealers in Agricultural Implements and Grangers' Supplies.

The company was organized and incorporated during the year 1883. The capital stock of the company was at date of its organization \$3,000. The stock is held by the members of the Patrons of Husbandry and members of the Alliance organizations. The organization of the company was the result of grange education. The management of the company has been conducted by a board of five directors, all of the members being practical farmers and business men. George Gibson, a member of the board of directors, was chosen for salesman and under his supervision was the interest of the company conducted the first year, which position he filled with credit to himself and the company. The increasing business of the company demanded an increase of the capital stock which, during the year 1891, was raised to \$50,000, and the management as salesman was given to Mr. Clark Walder, Mr. Gibson wishing to attend to the duties of his farm. Mr. Walder, finding the conditions of the firm in good shape, has by his good management been able to declare a profitable dividend to the stockholders, and the result of this company is a monument to farmers showing what can be done, when done upon business principles, to promote their interests socially and financially.

W. A. S.