

# REPORT SHOWS UMATILLA COUNTY LIBRARY TO BE SECOND IN SIZE IN STATE; THIRD IN CIRCULATION

In response to inquiries from widely different sources as to the Oregon methods of establishing and operating county libraries, the State Librarian has made this work a special feature in the biennial report of the Oregon State Library just published.

The Umatilla County Library is given a conspicuous place in the report with six printed pages as well as illustrations of exterior and floor plans of the new Central Library. As the Oregon report is studied and kept on file in all the library schools of the country as well as in the State Library Commission and hundreds of the larger libraries east and west, this may serve in one more way to put Umatilla County on the map.

The libraries of Portland, Pendleton and The Dalles were each asked to give a resume of their county systems in Multnomah, Umatilla and Wasco counties. Miss Marvin, State Librarian, introduces the subject as follows:

**County Libraries.**  
The tendency in the support of libraries, as in the support of schools, is toward a larger taxing and administrative unit. Under the library law as it applies to cities, county districts and villages are deprived of library privileges except those offered by the State Library. The county library system has been developed as a solution of the problem of equality of library services for town and city, the main library being located at the county seat with branches, deposit stations, and mail order service for the people throughout the county.

The Oregon law does not define the manner in which these county libraries shall be administered beyond giving the county court full authority to maintain libraries or to contract with existing boards for their maintenance. The systems have therefore, differed somewhat and have been experimental. They have all been carried on

by contracts through the county courts and existing library boards but there has been some conflict of authority and the experiment has shown the need for amendment of the law in some respects. It will undoubtedly take some time to work out an ideal law, but in the meantime we have in Oregon some splendid county library service which should be studied in detail by those who are considering the extension of this service to other counties. The reports from Multnomah, Wasco and Umatilla counties which are given herewith are included for historical as well as for inspirational purposes as they prove conclusively the wisdom and success of the county system and are very interesting in showing the development under this system in three widely different counties.

(1914-16) This central library of the Umatilla County system has had a most remarkable growth during the past biennial period. The Carnegie Corporation gave \$25,000 for a county library building, and in September, 1914, the county voted to add \$10,000 to this. Architects Johnson & May of Portland, have designed a most practical and attractive library building, a cut of which heads this sketch. Floor plans are included in this report. This building was opened to the public the 26th of August, 1916. Umatilla County is the first county in Oregon to plan a system of buildings with the Carnegie Corporation. The gifts for Milton and Hermiston, noted above, being part of the county plan. The librarian's report for the year 1916 shows a gain of 116 per cent in the number of books circulated. In September, 1916, a bronze plaque was put in the library in memory of Samuel P. Sturgis, who left a book fund to the library which has increased from \$500 to \$16,225.

Miss Nason's report for Umatilla County follows:

**Umatilla County.**—Umatilla County has an area of 3173 square miles, which extends from the beautiful Blue Mountains to the fruit farms of the Walla Walla Valley, and over the sagebrush to immense wheat, sheep and cattle ranches and to the reclamation projects where progressive towns are growing amidst the fertile irrigated lands. The county population, according to the 1910 census, was 29,309, but conservative estimates place it at 30,000 in 1916. Pendleton, the county seat, is estimated at 7500. There are also twelve other incorporated towns in the county, all but one connecting directly by rail-

road with Pendleton. There are 162 school districts, ninety-three of which are rural schools. The cities of the

	Population	Miles from Pendleton
Pendleton	7,500 (est.)	0
Adams	205	34
Athens	586	19
Echo	400	25
Freewater	688	27
Hermiston (1)	447	37
Holtz	128	37
Milton	1,250	37
Pilot Rock	200	20
Stanfield	318	29
Imapine (2)	200	44
Umatilla	200	44
Weston	500	22
Ferndale school	225 enrolled	10

(1) Population 1,850 within radius of five miles.  
(2) Incorporated in 1916.

**The Pendleton Public Library.**—The Pendleton Public Library, which preceded the Umatilla County Library, was opened as a free public library in May, 1909, with city funds amounting to \$511.20, or two-tenths of a mill, besides room given in second floor of the city hall, with light, heat and janitor service free from the city. The Commercial Association allowed the books of its library to be moved to the public library and administered from there. The Civic Club, in 1911, started a fiction rental fund from which several hundred books have been acquired and these were placed in custody of the library. The city continued its library service for five years from 1909 to 1913, when the library board began preparations to extend library facilities throughout the county.

As may be seen from figures given later, the Pendleton city levy in 1913 was used only for library service and none for books. This was also the case in the years 1909, 1910 and 1911, according to the city treasurer's records. In the five year period as a city library only \$71.65 could be spared for books from the two, three, and four-tenths of a mill library levy. That the library board was able to furnish good reading for the public, amounting to 4733 volumes in 1913, was due to gifts, private subscriptions, the untiring efforts of the women of Pendleton, and to the books placed in their custody by the Commercial Association, and the Civic Club.

**Founding of the Umatilla County Library.**—To have a library whose service would be county-wide and which would be adequately supported by public funds became the aim of the library board. In October, 1915, circular letters were sent throughout the county explaining the advantages of a county system with branches in every town. On October 20 the state librarian, president of the library board and committee began a three-day tour of Umatilla County holding mass meetings from which petitions were sent to the county court asking for the establishment of a county library system with the proper tax support. The county court was already interested and immediately placed a \$5000 levy for county

county which are the main distributing centers for the Umatilla County Library are:

	Miles from Pendleton
Central Library, \$35,000.00	
Branch Library	34
Branch Library	19
Branch Library	25
Branch Library	27
Branch Library to cost \$5,000	37
Branch Library	37
Branch Library to cost 9,500	37
Branch Library	20
Branch Library	29
Branch Library	44
Branch Library	44
Branch Library	22
Branch Library	10

library maintenance in the annual budget.

A contract was then drawn up between the county court and the Pendleton library board, of which the main provisions were that the county should levy not less than one-tenth of a mill (about \$5000) for library purposes, which should be spent only for books, periodicals, binding, supplies, salary of county librarian, traveling expenses and transportation of books. It was provided that the City of Pendleton should maintain a library building and that the Pendleton library books should be freely sent out to county residents. The county library board consisting jointly of the county court and Pendleton board were to establish a system of branches and stations and provide books and supervision in all communities that would agree to maintain such branches. This was signed January 6, 1916.

**Development of the County Library System.**—On January 15, 1916, the county librarian arrived and began her duties. The library was at this time thrown open for the free use of all county residents and plans started for opening branch libraries in the eleven incorporated towns of the county. A tour was made of these towns and by personal visits, letters to mayors, and newspaper items announcement was made that the first town to notify the librarian that a suitable room was ready, with proper light and heat and attendant, would be the first to receive branch library service. Other towns would be served in the order of their preparation of library quarters.

The Umatilla County plan has been to foster locally a personal interest and responsibility in the success of the branches, therefore, the city councils were asked to appoint local library boards of six members, just as provided by law in towns under 2000 population where independent libraries are established. By February of the first year eight towns and the two largest rural school districts were making active preparations for libraries with the help of councils, women's clubs and commercial clubs.

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SIDNEY C. WHITE  
1420 ALAMEDA DRIVE  
PORTLAND, OREGON

February 26 1917

Domestic Laundry  
Pendleton, Oregon

Mr. Robinson—Dear Sir:

There has been something coming to you for a long time, and now I believe I'll just "hand it to you" right and proper.

When a person gets bum service in a grocery or a shoe store or even in a laundry, he has a right to kick—yes, he ought to kick. But kick to the boss; he, really is the one responsible for the poor service, if such it be. And, conversely the boss's "fine Italian hand" shows in good service. So, to be fair, one should be equally ready to compliment.

For five years I have had frequent occasion to send work to many laundries in Oregon. I have tried most every one outside of Portland. So it has come about that, whenever I am within one hundred and fifty miles of Pendleton, I always send my work to the Domestic. I have found it first in workmanship (you do my collars superbly), first in promptness and first in courtesy. When you mail a bundle to me it always is properly and securely wrapped; this I cannot say for many others.

It is not surprising, therefore, that now I send my work past other cities to have it done by the Domestic at Pendleton. And while I am not personally acquainted with you, it gives me pleasure to commend your service and to tell others about it whenever the occasion arises.

Very sincerely,

*Sidney C. White*

The above letter speaks for itself. It is only one among many of similar nature on file in our office.

## Help is Often Needed

You cannot neglect the stomach, liver and bowels and not regret it.  
Be wise in time and TRY

**HOSTETTER'S Stomach Bitters**

# Stockmen! Business Men! Workingmen!

## DO YOU KNOW?---

**THAT** the Pendleton Meat Co. during 1916 expended for labor in Pendleton, the sum of **\$13,000**

all of which found its way into the hands of local business houses and local workingmen?

**THAT** the Pendleton Meat Co. during the year 1916 paid the farmers and stockmen of Umatilla county the sum of **\$180,748.04**

all of which went towards building up their industry upon which Pendleton partially depends?

**THAT** the local meat markets shown below, who retail the Pendleton Meat Co.'s products in this city, expended for labor during 1916 **\$11,500.00**

all of which was spent with local institutions and Pendleton betterments?

**THAT** institutions like the Pendleton Meat Co. who put into circulation the sum of \$205,248.04 each year in Pendleton and territory tributary are worthy of your co-operation, because they are the institutions contributing to Pendleton's and Umatilla county's prosperity.

**THAT** the Pendleton Meat Co. is always in the market for more livestock; pay the highest market cash price for the best quality and that farmers and stockmen of Umatilla County should see them before they market any of their livestock.

**THAT everyone should buy Pendleton Meat Co.'s "PEMECO" products because the quality is always "there" INSIST ON GETTING "PEMECO" MEATS AND LARDS, SOLD BY THESE MODERN MARKETS.**

**Empire Meat Market**  
607 Main Street Telephone 18  
Charles Greulich, Pres. F. DeYoung, Sec.-Treas.

**The Central Market**  
106 East Alta Street Telephone 485  
Ross E. Carney, Pres. J. H. Loeding, Sec.-Treas.

**Pendleton Cash Market**  
303 East Court Street Telephone 101  
L. B. Ramsdell, Pres. H. P. Whitman, Mgr.  
Harvey McPherson, V-Pres., Mrs. Nellie Horton, S.-Treas.

Hams, Bacon, Lard, Steaks, Chops, Cutlets, Sausage, Hamburger, Fish, Poultry, Etc.