

first person to settle between the John Day and Deschutes rivers was Mr. S. Price. He came somewhere about '58, and settled at the place now known as Love Grove. He and his aged companion still live in Sherman county, proud to witness the wonderful development of the country in which they are the oldest pioneers. Mr. Price put the first horses on the range, and soon he was followed by others, until the number of horses and cattle in this county alone amounted to no less than 100,000 head.

Mr. Price was followed by Mr. Jesse Eaton, who settled in Spanish Hollow canyon, and whose family still live on the old home place. Mr. Eaton came in the early '60's, and was closely followed by Mr. Leonard, who built and operated Leonard's bridge across the John Day river. At this time there were but three houses between the two rivers.

Next came Mr. Gould, who settled near Rosebush, five miles east of Grass Valley, on a farm that still bears his name. He was practically the first settler in Southern Sherman.

Closely following came Mr. Jas. Peterson, who settled out east of Monkland in 1870. Mr. Pierson was long identified with the best interests of the country, and he was one of the largest stock raisers in it.

Mr. Pierson was followed by Mr. Barnum, the first to settle near Moro. And he, with Mr. Pierson, was the first to bring cattle on the range.

About this time Mr. Jas. Jenkins came into the country with a big band of horses, settling at what is now known as Murray Springs, and starting the first fruit orchard. And they were the first to demonstrate that the lands along the rivers would produce excellent fruit (which has since been proven that the uplands, as well, produce the finest fruit that was ever put on the market). This with other orchards adjoining has since become one of the most valuable pieces of property in the Inland Empire.

In 1875 Mr. Cornwall settled on what is known as Mack-in Flat with cattle, and in 1878 a sheep man, hailing to the sobriquet of "French Pete," settled on "Jack Knife." This marked the beginning of the era of sheep. His little flock was not large, but from small beginnings grow great things, and in only a few short years the sheep industry grew to gigantic proportions. Mr. Jas. Frazier was not long in finding out the advantages of Sherman county, and came with an immense business.

Perhaps actually the first stock that was ever run in the John Day country, was put here by Mr. Gordon, (after whom Gordon Ridge took its name) and Col. Fulton. But it was later when they actually moved to this side of the gorge. To Col. Fulton is due the honor of raising the first wheat in what is now the greatest wheat belt in Oregon, although wheat was not extensively raised for some years. Following this Mr. Eaton made an experiment of rye, and it was so successful that the idea of growing cereals pushed rapidly forward.

Not less important were Messrs. W. H. Biggs, Jas. Gibson, Clarke Dunlap and W. M. Reynolds who came looking after homes in 1883. Mr. Biggs was the first man to use a gang plow; while Messrs. Henry Jack and Wm. Reynolds were the first men to operate a header; it having been done in 1881.

Prominent among the pioneers in the south end of the county is Dr. Rollins, a happy old gentleman, who has done much for the country that has given him a home.

Sherman county was first cut off as an independent body in 1888; the southern boundary being just south of Grass valley. Two years later a strip was added, extending the boundary south to Buck Hollow. Wasco was the first county seat, and in 1892 it was changed to Moro. The first officials of the new county were: O. M. Scott, judge; V. C. Brock, clerk; E. M. Lester, sheriff; John Moore and John Medler, commissioners; C. C. Myers, assessor and L. Armsworthy, treasurer.

Since the county organization no county in the state has made a better record. Starting in with a debt assumed pro rata from the old county, together with the obligations naturally incurred in getting started, of about \$25,000, the officials have, by careful, though liberal management, succeeded in wiping out everything. Never has the cost of running the county caused an exorbitant taxation. No expensive buildings have been erected, though the county officials are comfortably situated. Indeed, most money has been expended in improving roads, etc. Sherman county may well be proud of her roads. Again this is where the light sandy soil excels. Not easy to work into mud, during the rainy season the roads are almost at the best.

Sherman county boasts of schools that are second to none. Peopled with a class naturally intelligent, this branch has received particular attention all through the county; splendid buildings have been erected, and to our knowledge, not a district is without a fair supply of apparatus, most of them are abundantly supplied. Not only is this a fact, but a careful selection of teachers has put the school system on a solid basis that will attract the attention of educational people far and wide. In three towns of the county are graded schools; all of them under the care of the most competent corps of teachers that can be procured. One of them at least is on a rating with the University of Oregon. Perhaps few schools are so favored that its pupils may step into a university course without first having to take the preparatory course. It is always true that a community well up on educational matters; a country that places the culture of the rising generation above all else, is a good place to live. Such people know how to appreciate the good things nature has provided us with. And last, but by no means the least, is the Grass Valley Baptist Academy. This institution of learning carries all branches, and is one of the best advertisements the county could have. All these advantages go to make the social features one of the highest possible order.

The mercantile business is without doubt the largest, taking into consideration the population, of any one section to be named. All the different towns—eight in number—support large mercantile firms, and the immense quantity of goods turned out by these business houses seems almost beyond reason. A conservative estimate puts the figures for a business year at two-thirds of a million. A seemingly enormous bill for twenty-two hundred people to pay, but

when it is easy to pay it only evidences the enormity of business being done, and vast means of acquiring. That the business of the county is vast is assured in the fact that the Columbia Southern Railway is doing a prosperous business. This road hauls all the freight that comes into the county. Leaving the distributing point, heavy freight teams supply the more interior points. The machinery trade in itself is a matter of many thousands of dollars every year. Every farmer must needs have two or more gang plows, the same number of heavy farm wagons, a header or combined harvester, and often a threshing machine. These with numerous other articles of machinery necessary to successful farming, make the granger's actual capital invested a matter of considerable moment. No class of business men have a higher standing in business circles than these fellows who have cast their lot with the Sherman county farmer.

After all, the backbone of the country is the farmer. Intelligent, shrewd, hard-working and honest, he produces the wealth that makes Sherman county famous. And he does it easily; he owns from 300 to 4000 acres, and machinery plenty to farm it. The condition of the soil and the climatic influences are favorable, so that he may labor while the sun shines. The farmer is the man who develops every industry to be used; his surplus money is to be found in various institutions. He nearly always has a bank account, and through this means Sherman county handsomely supports two banking institutions—not small ones, such as may be found in small country towns,—but the amount of business done reminds one of the class of business done by metropolitan institutions. No place on earth is the farmer more independent than in this little Oregon Klondike. He dictates the volume of business. The social features, the educational doings, the business of the county—everything that pertains to the welfare of himself and his neighbor.

In conclusion Sherman county greets the business world simply candidly, with the assurance that she cannot be excelled. Her people are happy, contented and prosperous. The good angel of plenty has been kind to her and her people; she welcomes all who may come within her confines for legitimate benefit. Peopled as she is by a highly desirable class of citizens, she still has room for more. She expects to more than double her population within the coming year; giving to each one that comes a comfortable home and a bright prospect.

Sherman county is easily accessible by way of the O. R. & N. and Columbia Southern Railroad, the latter reaching out into the very heart of the vast wheat fields. Her treatment of visitors will be in keeping with what may be expected of the banner little county of Oregon.

kept steadily improving year by year, until the fall of 1891, which witnessed the advent of a newspaper—The Moro Observer—then edited by J. B. Hosford, but who shortly afterwards disposed of the paper in order that he might devote himself exclusively to the practice of his profession as a lawyer, which he has successfully followed here ever since.

It should be stated that prior to 1889 the territory now embraced within Sherman county was a part of Wasco county, and by an act of the Oregon legislature, approved February, 1889, Sherman was organized as a separate county, with the town of Wasco as temporary county seat. The creating act provided that the question of locating a permanent county seat for the new county should be submitted to the legal voters at the next general election thereafter, and accordingly in 1890, several candidates for county seat honors appeared in the field, among the number being Moro, Wasco, Kenneth and several other towns, the result being that Moro and Wasco headed the list when the votes were counted; but neither place receiving a majority of all votes cast, it became necessary under the law for Moro and Wasco, the two highest, to again compete two years later. In 1892 the final heat between the towns was run, and the voice of the people declared in favor of Moro for the permanent county seat by a handsome majority. Since then, within the short space of five years, Moro has made rapid progress, chiefly due to the energy and enterprise of its public spirited citizens, who have ever labored harmoniously as one man for the upbuilding of the town. Its central location in the heart of one of the richest and most productive agricultural districts in Eastern Oregon, with a healthful and salubrious climate second to none in the State with cold water, pure and abundant—no saloons, no gambling dens, no vice of any kind—and with a community composed of a moral and lawabiding class of people, it is not to be wondered at that "prosperity shines like a rising star." The religious denominations represented in Moro are the Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists and United Brethren; mission circles, Christian Endeavor, W. C. T. U., King's Daughters, L. T. L., &c. The secret societies consist of the I. O. O. F., A. O. U. W., W. O. W., D of H, W & C. We also have a good horticultural society.

One of the most important institutions of the town is its graded public school, (a cut of the building appearing in



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, MORO.

#### CITY OF MORO.

The county seat of Sherman county is pleasantly situated between the John Day river on the east and the boisterous Deschutes on the west, in a picturesque valley that winds its way southerly through the county. Located near the center of the county, where

"The lofty hill, the humble lawn, with countless beauties shine,"

the town possesses special advantages as a commercial point.

The name "Moro" is not of local origin, having been given to the town by Judge O. M. Scott, one of the early settlers here, who formerly lived in Moro, Ill., and desired to perpetuate the name by christening this town after it. The original townsite was purchased by Scott & Co. in 1882 from Mrs. Hunter, who afterwards became Mrs. Fox, of the firm of Fox & Scott, then the leading merchants of Sherman county, and consisted of six blocks of ten lots each. Today the recorded plat of the town shows 36 blocks each containing 10 lots, a large proportion of which are covered by substantial buildings. The first building erected here was that which now enjoys the proud distinction of being used by the "Observer" force as a newspaper office, and was occupied at that time by Scott & Co. as a merchandise store. In 1884 the Moro hotel was built, and during the same year McKenzie & Somers erected a blacksmith shop and foundry; but it was not until 1887 that Moro began to assume the proportions of a village, when the townsite passed into the hands of Moore Bros., the present owners, who established a large general merchandise store here, and have since by their energy, industry and enterprise contributed largely to the development of the town. Shortly afterwards a well equipped hardware store, with R. J. Ginn as proprietor, proved a welcome accession to the town, the headquarters in Sherman county for the famous Knapp-Burrell farm implements and machinery being then and now located here under his efficient management. Thus Moro

another column of this issue,) which offers as good educational advantages as any pupil might desire outside of an academic course. The school is always under the close supervision of a competent board of directors, and none but instructors of recognized talent and ability are employed. There is an excellent library in connection with the school.

Moro is the only town in the county that has an organized fire company. Equipped with a fine new hose cart, hook and ladder truck, and all the necessary appliances for fighting fire, danger from that source is reduced to a minimum. The Moro Water Co., with a plant that cost over \$4,000.00, supplies the citizens with plenty of good water, and a large reservoir close to the town is always kept full so that in case of a fire the aqueous fluid can be readily utilized by men in any quarter of the town almost at a moment's notice.

A long distance telephone line enables the people of Moro to communicate with "all the world and his wife." There is a daily mail by stage route from Grant, another stage route connecting the town with The Dalles in Wasco county. The nearest rail road, the Columbia Southern, now at Wasco, is within ten miles, and present indications are most favorable for the establishment of two different lines of road through the county, with Moro as a central point, in the near future.

The business houses are lighted with gas, but ere long they will be supplied with electricity. The latest practical showing of the enterprise and progressive spirit of the people is the establishment in Moro of a large foundry and machine shop which will prove an immense benefit to the farmers all over the county, enabling them to procure all kinds of machine extras, farm implements, and repairing done at a reasonable cost, without being compelled to send out of the county for the same. The foundry is an incorporated concern, many of the most substantial farmers in the county being among the stock owners. An imposing structure on First street gives ample assurance that the business of the company is on a sound basis, and augurs well for its future