

L. D. HOLDEN.

L. D. Holden was born in Benton county, in 1865, and received his education at the public schools. At the age of 20 he moved to Wasco county, now Sherman, and became engaged in the stock business, which he followed until six years ago, when he came to Moro and engaged in the livery business.

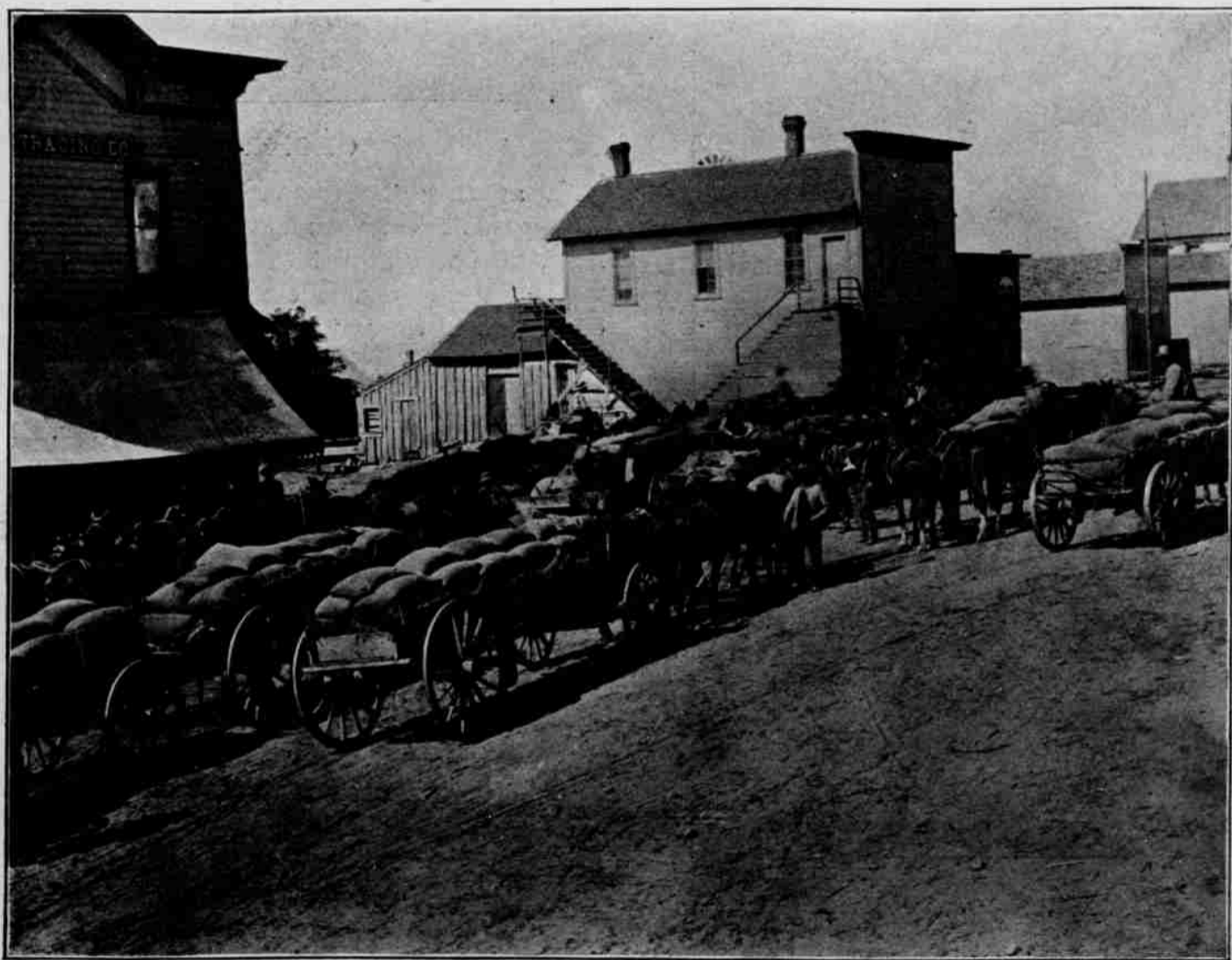
His barn, of which we give an illustration, is known as the Altamont, Jr. It has a frontage of 60 feet, and a depth of 58. It is two stories in height and is conveniently arranged for a general livery, feed and sale stable. Mr. Holden has some fine turnouts which he keeps on hand for the benefit of the public, and rents them at very reasonable prices.

Cheap lands, healthful climate, productive soil, and certain returns on investments, are a few of the inducements which Wasco and Sherman counties offer all who find homes within their borders.

Wasco county schools are equal to those in any section of the northwest. There are 61 school districts and each averages six months of school a year.

WASCO, OREGON.

Wasco is not the oldest town in Sherman county; but it is the oldest in the interior. It is the terminus of the Columbia Southern Railway. Leaving the line of the O. R. & N. Co. at Biggs Station—in itself not a very inviting place because of huge mountains of sand that, when agitated by wind, to constantly filling ones eyes, ears and nose—the route lays off up the Spanish Hollow Canyon. Immediately on leaving the river, great high rocky bluffs meet the gaze. The squeaking of the ponderous wheels fill the air with unearthly voices, as the train rounds a curve. A small stream tumbles down over the rocks, occasionally lost to sight, as it seeks subterranean cavities, only to reappear lower down. After all, the large imposing piles of stone and the lower surrounding are not so inviting. It is something new with every turn; and one is constantly interested until aroused by the shrill whistle announcing that the first half of the journey has been completed. The train is at Gibson's. From this place the scene changes; and the transformation is most complete. The track still continues along the bottom of the canyon; but it is scarcely a canyon now. It is not nearly so steep, the hills are not so high. Every vestige of rock has disappeared. Farm houses stand here and there, giving a solid appearance to the country, that is just now attracting so much attention. Spreading out over the hills are the broad acres that produce all the immense volume of wheat that Sherman county boasts of. A band of horses, some cattle or other live stock may be seen at a distance—another great evidence of the wealth of this country.



STREET SCENE IN WASCO.

Again the clarion tones of the whistle are heard, and houses begin to flash in sight. The bell clangs, the train slows up, and after having traveled ten miles, Wasco is reached. Looking about, the visitor is impressed with the amount of business apparent. On every hand are new houses, both business and dwelling. Many are finished, others under construction. It is harvest field for mechanics. The sound of the hammer is incessant. Looking about the railroad yards, the immense volume of business is more apparent than ever. The tracks extend along one side of the town for nearly a mile, and every available foot of this space is taken up by warehouses, woodyards and business features of different sorts. Huge ricks of wheat, amounting to over a million and a half bushels, are stored here during the year for shipment. During all of the autumn months and far into the winter heavy wheat trains, four, six, eight and ten horses, with two or three heavy wagons, come in, bring in thousands of sacks daily. Indeed four hundred of these teams have been counted in one day. It takes almost an army of men to handle all this produce, to say nothing of the large quantity of other freight that goes out as well as comes in. The Columbia Southern hauls all the freight into the county, and it amounts yearly to

considerably better than half a million dollars. Daily heavy freight teams leave their depot with great loads of supplies for other portions of Sherman county.

Wasco was first thought of as a town in 1883. It was platted by Chas. Dunlap in the month of May, and a better site could not have been chosen. Situated near the head of Spanish Hollow, it is comparatively level, yet sloping enough that the drainage is excellent. Not only for this reason is the situation so good, but the general topography of the country is such that all roads easily and naturally lead to it. It was intended by nature as a business center. Gradually sloping back, and those same sloping hills always covered with wheat fields.

Wasco has never built up rapidly. It has been a steady growth, and one that is healthy. It will never recede, but rather, as the country grows, develops and gets older, it will keep on a pace—always ahead. It will always be the supply point of this vast wheat country tributary to it.

The first building to be erected in Wasco was a store building by W. M. Barnett, the pioneer merchant of Sherman county. He has been continuously in the business since 1880. He has acquired considerable property, and today his business is large in its proportions.

Mr. Barnett was closely followed by Messrs. MacKenzie & Somer, with a machine shop. Mr. MacKenzie's mother was the first white woman to live in the city. These people were followed next year by Messrs. Tozier & Holland, also blacksmiths. Mr. Tozier is still in business.

The same year the M. E. Church was built. In 1897 Messrs. Webber & Armsworthy associated together in the general merchandise business, and Mr. Webber still conducts the business, having enlarged it until his store has

almost the appearance of a department store.

During the same year L. Armsworthy built the Oskaloosa Hotel, which still caters to public taste.

Later came Jos. Marsh with a drug store, Dr. S. E. Koontz, Jas. Haas, a contractor, followed by a considerable contingent of people, many of whom are yet Wasco's best and most honored residents.

In 1888 agitation was begun and Sherman county was formed, with Wasco as a temporary county seat, which it retained until 1892. From the formation of Sherman county, Wasco's growth has been steady. Shortly after this came more business houses, etc. And in 1892 the Sherman county bank was founded. Its stockholders are the best business men and farmers in and about Wasco. Its officers are conservative business men. John Medler, president, and V. C. Brock, cashier, are men who have long been identified with the best interests of the city, and they have the confidence of all the people. Under their direction the Sherman County Bank is one of the most solid financial institutions in the country.

Since 1892 hard times all over the country have left their mark everywhere. But Wasco has felt it really but very little, compared with other places. It is during the past year that Wasco has made her rapid growth. She has more than doubled her population and the amount of business has doubled up in an amazing fashion. The first starting of



BARN OF L. D. HOLDEN.

this growth was the commencement of the Columbia Southern Railway. And the projectors of this line deserve especial credit for the persistent manner in which they prosecuted their project until they saw success crown their efforts and began to transport freight to and from Wasco. This road is without doubt the best paying piece of railroad property in Oregon. Since the line began to operate in October, over 1000 loaded cars have been hauled out, and an equal proportion in. Its officials have interested themselves in Sherman county, and, business like, have nothing undone that will help the development of the country. Both Mr. Lytle and Mr. O'Reilly have been identified with best roads in the United States for many years, and their experience and business energy has done more to develop business and build up Wasco than any other men who have made it their objective point.

About the time, or rather before the railroad proposition was agitated a company of five, namely: Geo. Crossfield, A. C. Sanford, E. M. Williams, W. A. Johnston and E. O. McCoy, formed a corporation known as the Oregon Trading Company, for the purpose of doing a general merchandise business. Mr. Crossfield has the management, and his business amounts to many thousands of dollars yearly. This firm occupies the finest store building in the town.

Another splendid business started in the past year is the Union Lumber Company, under the management of Mr. L. Clark. And at the same time the Wasco Lumber Company, with Mr. G. A. Vananda as manager, was started. The amount of business these two companies have done since they have begun, makes one pause and wonder how a small county can use so much material. Car load after carload of building material, wood, coal—all kinds of supplies comes to these firms, and yet it goes out in a rush. Much of their lumber has been used in building up Wasco.

There are three immense warehouses. The Columbia Commercial Company being the largest. Then follow the Farmers Co-Operative Warehouse Association and W. M. Barnett. These warehouses handle the immense wheat crop, and during the season that it moves employ a small army of men.

Two drug stores and three physicians look after the welfare of the people. One of these stores—that of Marsh & Medler and Drs. Edgington & Hartley, have been in the town for considerable time. Dr. H. H. Sutcliffe has recently located.

The traveling public is looked after by two hotels and a restaurant. The hotels are old established, and the business they do is probably the best index to the enormous business done in the town that could be found. Not a day passes that they are not crowded to their utmost capacity, and often to overflowing.

Four blacksmith shops do the iron work of the community as large. These are not small concerns, and their business amounts to many thousand dollars each year. Two of these shops employ several men, and do a great deal of new work.

The handsomest business house in town is H. Krause's harness shop. He virtually supplies the whole country, and his good work and honest dealing makes it hard for competition to live.

An undertaking establishment, with Mr. Geo. Pulliam as proprietor, takes splendid care of all the business in that line.

Like all towns in Eastern Oregon, Wasco supports an elegant butcher shop. Naturally adapted to stock raising, the country produces the very best meat ever put on the market.

An immense livery stable under the management of J. M. Hoag, does a rushing business all the time.

Other business of the town consists of a neat little stationery store at the postoffice owned by Mrs. Mary Jory; Golden & Andrews, confectionery store; Davis & Westfall, Monogram cigar store; and Mrs. J. E. Taylor's millinery store, as well as real estate offices, a newspaper, and a law office. Indeed attorney Bright has a practice that is immense in its proportions.

Wasco is well supplied with secret societies, there being eight, besides numerous charitable and religious organizations. She is lucky that she has no saloons, and not much likelihood that there will be any. Though she has all the amusements necessary, consisting of whist rooms, billiard rooms, and of course a bowling alley. No town would be metropolitan without that.

Her schools are only equalled—never excelled. A large handsome school building has been erected in a prominent part of town, and under the guidance of county school superintendent W. J. Peddicord, the lads and lassies have every advantage possible to acquire a good education. It is the highest graded school in the county, being on the accredited list of the State University at Eugene, and the Normal School at Monmouth. Many people have been attracted to Wasco on account of its exceptional educational facilities.

Taking all in all, Wasco is a pleasant place to be in. Elegant houses, good society, courteous business men, and congenial surroundings are strong magnets that draw people to it. Its prospects for the future are brighter as time advances. It will always be an attractive place.