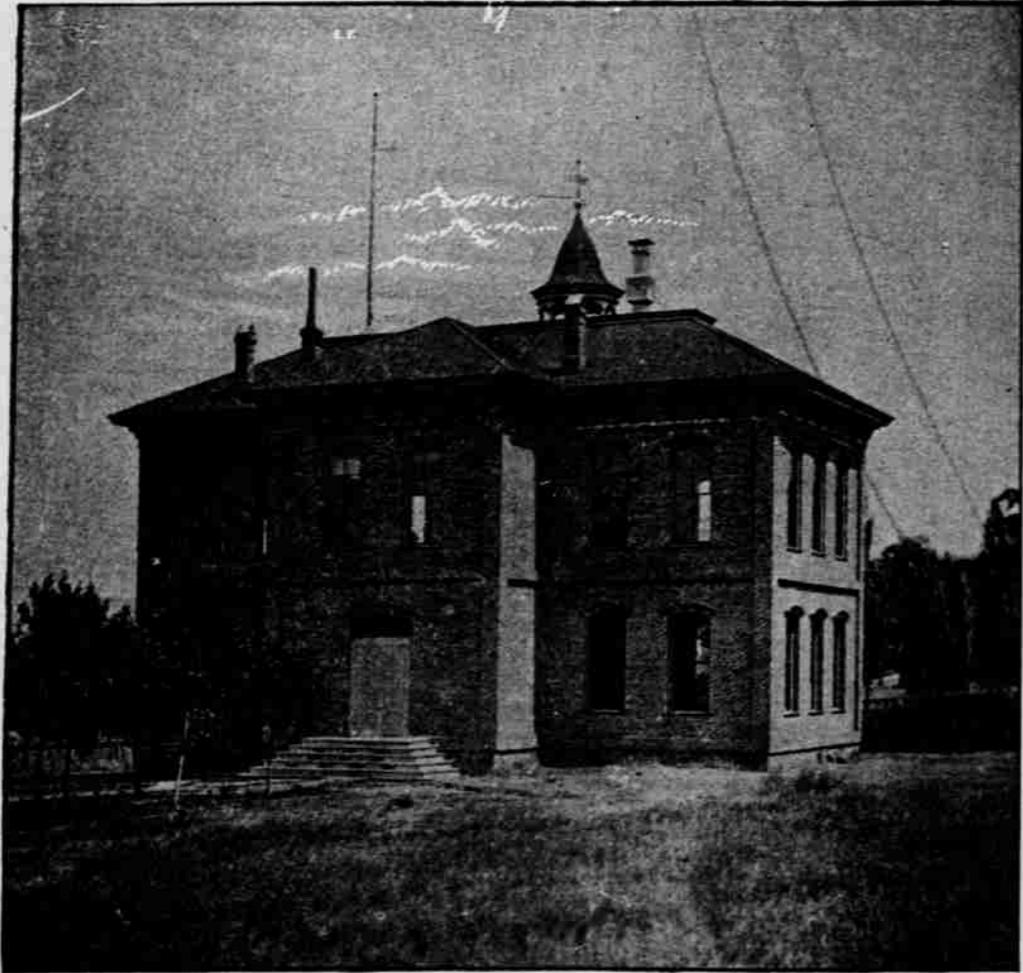


THE DALLES PUBLIC SCHOOLS.



COURT STREET SCHOOL.

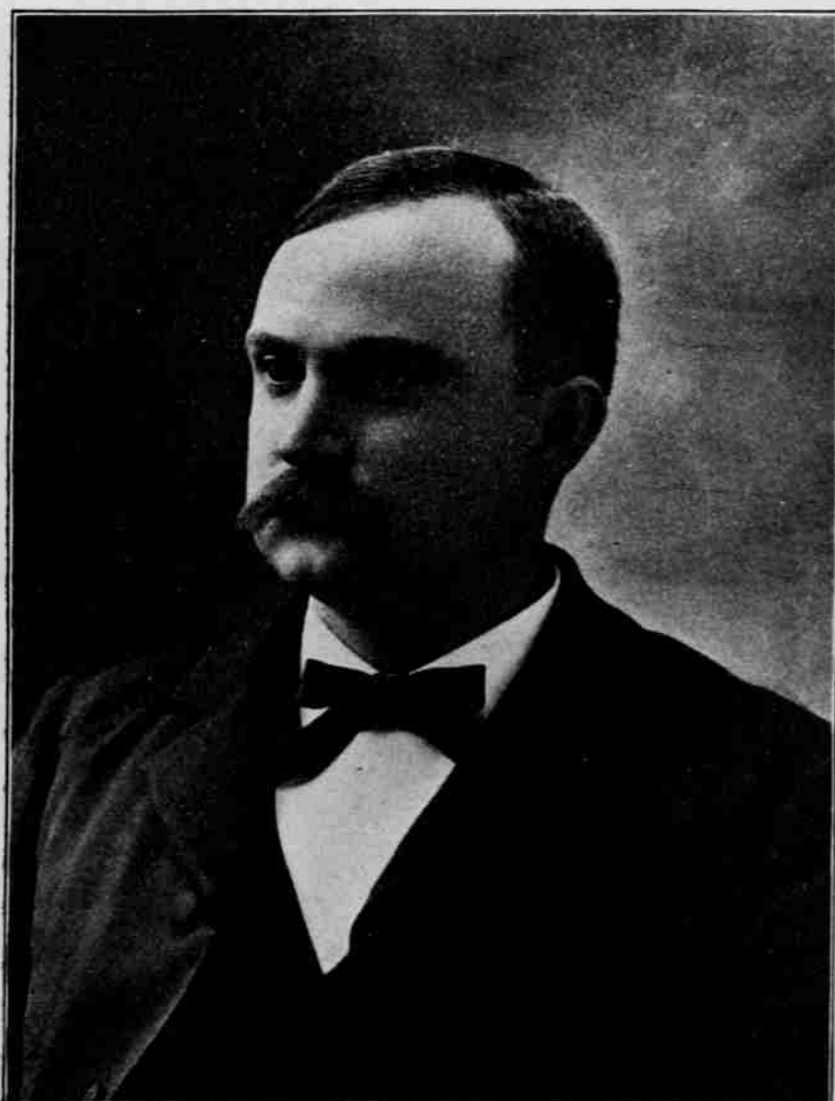
THE DALLES PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The public school system of The Dalles includes the usual eight grades (or years), comprising the primary and grammar departments, followed by three years of high school work in mathematics, science, history and English. In the primary and grammar grades, efficient teachers are doing conscientious, faithful work, drilling the children of the city in the common branches, to the end that in later years those children may become intelligent, self supporting members of the community.

The conditions of modern life are such that the parents and state do not discharge their full duty to the rising generation by providing for the mere material wants of shelter, food and clothing, but they should also provide that training of body, morals and mind necessary for the complex twentieth century civilization which the children of the present will soon enter as the creative and controlling forces. By general custom, the public schools look chiefly to intellectual development, leaving the other items mainly to home and kindred influences. The high school offers to many who could not otherwise obtain such advantages, an equality of opportunity in preparation for life work that does much to offset the conditions of inequality arising from birth to poverty or to fortune.

The high school course in mathematics includes one year's work each in algebra and higher arithmetic, and one half year in plane geometry; in science, a half year each in physiology and physical geography, one year in physics, and a half year in geology; in order after the eighth year work in United States history, follow a half year in civil government, a year in general history and a half year in political economy; in English three years continuous work is provided, as rhetoric, English classics and English literature. In addition there is an optional years work in book-keeping and commercial law.

All work done in The Dalles high school is honored by the State University and The Dalles graduates are admitted to the preparatory course with 45 credits, this being 17 credits (one year's work) less than the minimum required for admission to the freshman year of the university work proper. Under a complete system of public education such gap would not exist between the high schools and the State University, although there are only three public schools in Oregon that have the full four years' course of study and whose graduates are given 62 credits by the State University. As The Dalles district is exceeded in wealth and population by only four districts in the state, and as nine public high schools are on the University accredited list for 45 or more credits, it is seen that the work of our school ranks no higher than should reasonably be expected from



JOHN GAVIN.

our favored circumstances. The present enrollment in the high school department is 112 but as 35 of these are in the Eighth A, or grammar grade work, the true high school enrollment is 77. The eleventh grade now numbers 16 in regular attendance, the majority of whom will probably complete the work and graduate in May, 1898.

The present total number of pupils enrolled is 752, with 670 in average daily attendance. A nine months' school is maintained at a total present cost of \$11,500 per annum. The corps of teachers is as follows:

East Hill Primary School—Miss N. Cooper, 1st and 2nd B; Mrs. K. Roche, 3rd, 4th and 5th B.

Academy Park School—Miss S. Phirman, 1st; Mrs. E. D. Baldwin and Miss M. Flinn, 2nd and 3rd A; Miss L. Rintoul, 6th; Miss T. Rintoul, 6th A and 7th B.

Union Street School—Miss F. E. Rowe, 1st; Miss E. Cooper, 2nd B; Miss L. E. Snell, 4th; Miss C. M. Cheese, 4th A, 6th B.

Union Street Annex—Miss E. M. Ball, 5th.

Court Street School—Miss M. Michell, 7th A and 8th B. High School—Miss M. Hill and Mr. J. S. Landers.

John Gavin, principal.

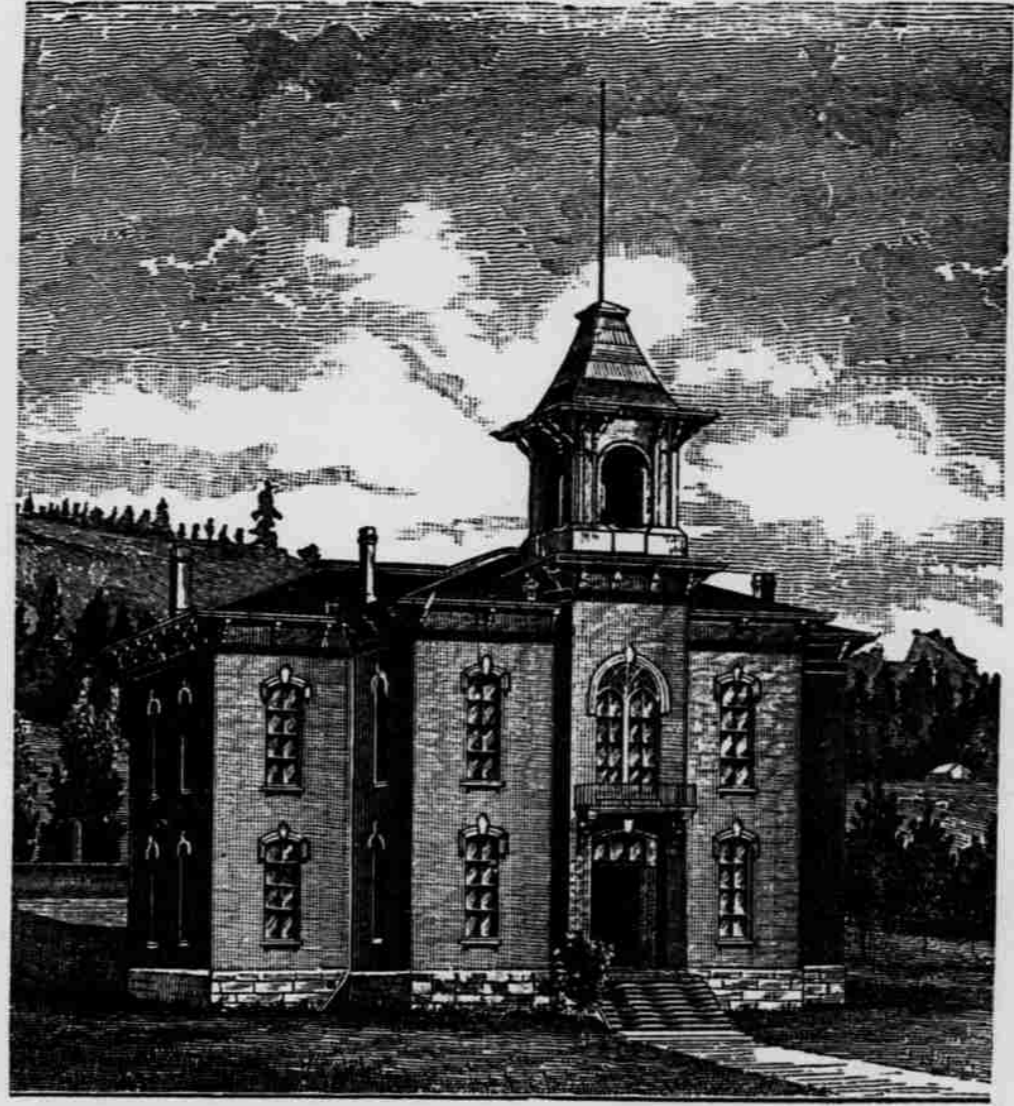
As will be noted above five school buildings are now owned by the district. The Academy Park and Court Street the cuts of which appear in this issue, were erected in 1880 and 1882 respectively; the former, as its present name implies, was the Wasco Independent Academy, and the latter as a public school. Public opinion at that time was divided as to the advisability of erecting the Court Street school, and it was claimed the Academy building would provide suitable accommodations for many years in the future, and consequently it was needless to erect a new public school to remain vacant: so the proposition met with aggressive and determined opposition on the part of many citizens, but was affirmatively decided by a majority vote of the taxpayers. Time has proved the wisdom of that decision, as during the most prosperous years of the Academy, the public school attendance continuously and rapidly increased, although at one time about 200 students were enrolled in the various departments of the Wasco Academy, and much thorough educational work was accomplished by that institution.

When this property with its eight acres of school grounds passed to public school ownership in May, 1894, it was supposed by many that the building question was settled for a long period, yet in January, 1895, every school room was occupied. So rapid has been the increase of pupils that in January and February of this year the people of the district authorized the board to provide for the erection on the Academy grounds of another brick schoolhouse. This building with furniture will cost \$19,000, and will be ready for occupancy in September, 1898. As planned by C. J. Crandall, architect, it is 94½ feet by 69½ feet ground dimensions. The first floor is divided into four school rooms, the entire second floor is arranged for the high school department. This will be divided into main room, two recitation rooms, laboratory and combined library and principals office. The north side of the basement will serve for fuel room and location for the two large Morgan furnaces which will heat, on the warm air principle, and also by means of special stacks provide ventilation for the entire building. The south side is to be supplied with a concrete floor, and the Morgan system of closets and urinals. Water for the ordinary use of the entire building is to be supplied from the Academy Park spring. However, connection has been made with the city main, and by means of a stand pipe, water is carried to the roof and each floor, to be used as fire protection. Hyloplate blackboards will be placed in each room.

Brown & Kocher have completed their contract for the basement work, and French & Sylvester are planning to actively carry forward the superstructure upon the opening of settled spring weather.

The administration of school affairs is well looked after by Chairman O. D. Doane, S. B. Adams and G. A. Liebe, directors, and George P. Morgan, school clerk.

Taken all in all, the public schools of The Dalles fairly accomplish their purpose in the community, are appreciated



ACADEMY PARK SCHOOL.

by the citizens at their full worth, and creditably train the youth of the city, distinguished as the Gateway of the Inland Empire.

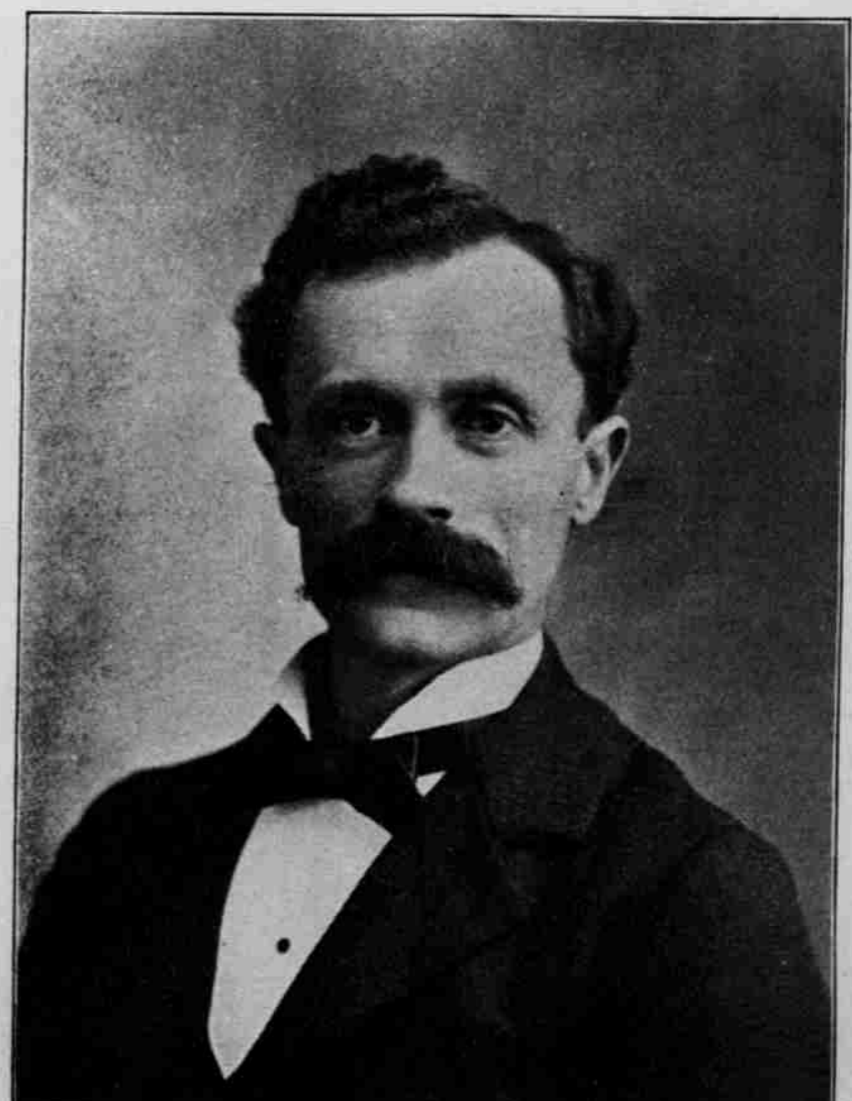
John Gavin is serving his sixth year as principal of the public schools of The Dalles. He was born and reared in Greene county, Ill., and attended the village school; began teaching a country school along the Illinois river and continued two years in the service of the district; next served two years in High school work at Roodhouse, Ill., as assistant principal and the following four years was principal of the same school. Before leaving his native state he systematically devoted each summer vacation to professional study, and graduated from the teacher's department of the Northern Indiana Normal school in August, 1887, and after a special course of study at Bushnell, Ill., was granted a life certificate upon examination in August, 1889. He was enrolled in the law department at Valparaiso, Ind., in 1891, but owing to eye trouble did not complete the work; was admitted to the Oregon bar in 1896.

J. S. Landers, assistant principal of The Dalles public schools, is an Illinoisan by birth. The close of the great civil war marks the beginning of his existence, and the common schools of his native state contributed to his education.

The first eighteen years of his life were spent with his parents on the farm, but the removal of the family to Van-burnsburg, Illinois, caused a change in his earlier inclinations. He was installed as teacher in the village school, and taught it successfully for four terms, his vacations meanwhile being spent in further preparation for teaching.

In the spring of 1885 he entered the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, Indiana. Here he finished the teachers' course the next year, and entered upon the scientific course. This was completed with the highest honors of a class of sixty-seven students.

After graduation, Mr. Landers returned to Illinois to teach. During the next eight years, he was engaged as principal at Filmore, Irving and Mascontah, and had been superintendent of the Astoria (Illinois) schools one year, when he resigned to come to The Dalles. After one year as assistant in the High school of The Dalles, on the resignation of Prof. Gavin, he was elected principal of The Dalles schools, but resigned the position later in Prof. Gavin's favor. Mr. Landers is well qualified for the position he holds and is giving universal satisfaction.



J. S. LANDERS.