



CONDON "The Wheat City"

LARGEST PRIMARY GRAIN SHIPPING POINT IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1907-8.



Thirty years ago the present site of the thriving city of Condon was a bunchgrass pasture land inhabited only by herds of roving cattle. In 1879, twenty-nine years ago the first sign of a settlement was established here by Oscar Smith who had a sheep camp near the old spring which was formerly a familiar landmark on lower Main Street. The next year the present site of Condon was homesteaded by Wm. F. Potter who built a cabin and a small barn. Three years later, in 1882, the first store was established by Miller & McBride. At this time the inhabitants of this section of the country were all stockmen, very few had any idea of the wonderful possibilities of the rich bunchgrass soil. The first farming was done by J. H. Downing in 1879 when he plowed fifteen acres. Cultivation of the soil has gradually increased until at the present time this county ranks highest among the wheat-growing counties. The first school building was built in 1888 by the members of the community. There were only about twenty-five scholars in the whole county. At that time the country was being rapidly settled. The first church was built by the Catholics in 1891 and was fol-

lowed the next year by the Congregationalists. The post-office was established in 1884 and the first stage line in the following year. The little town prior to the opening of the post-office was known far and near as "Summit Springs" from the fact that the only water between Rock Creek and Thirty-mile was the spring which flowed in the center of the town. The petition for the post-office was made out by Harve Condon and the town was named after him. D. B. Trimble was the first postmaster. The county seat was located at Arlington but was finally established in Condon.

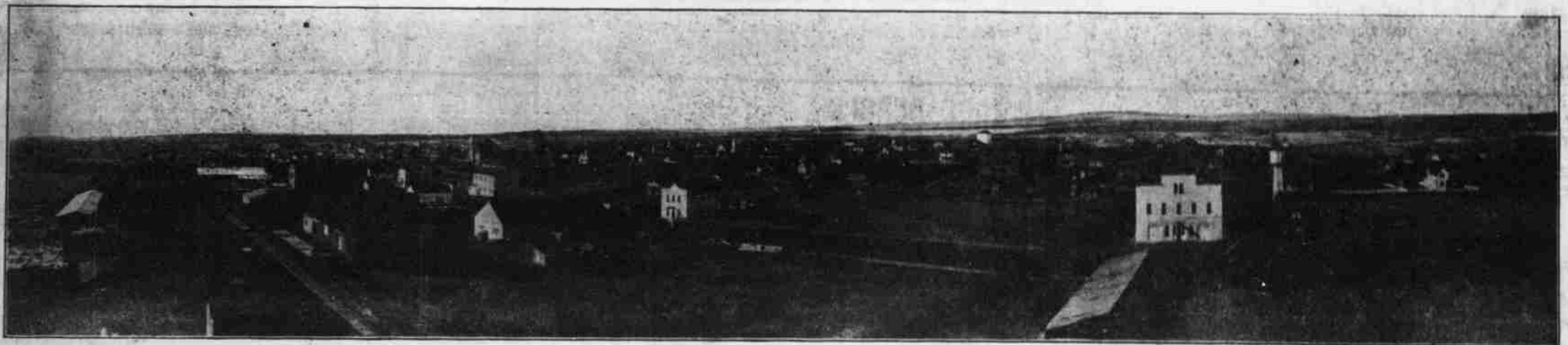
This county has grown and the county seat with it. The "land of barrenness" blossoms as the rose, the straggling trading posts have grown into thriving centers, and uncultivated stretches have yielded to the patient industry of the ranchers until hundreds of thousands of acres yield enormous wheat crops bringing exceedingly large returns to its residents. It is a pleasure today to be called a resident of the "Wheat City", for it means living in the largest primary grain shipping point in the United States—a center of wealth.



CONDON—A STAGE POST IN 1892.

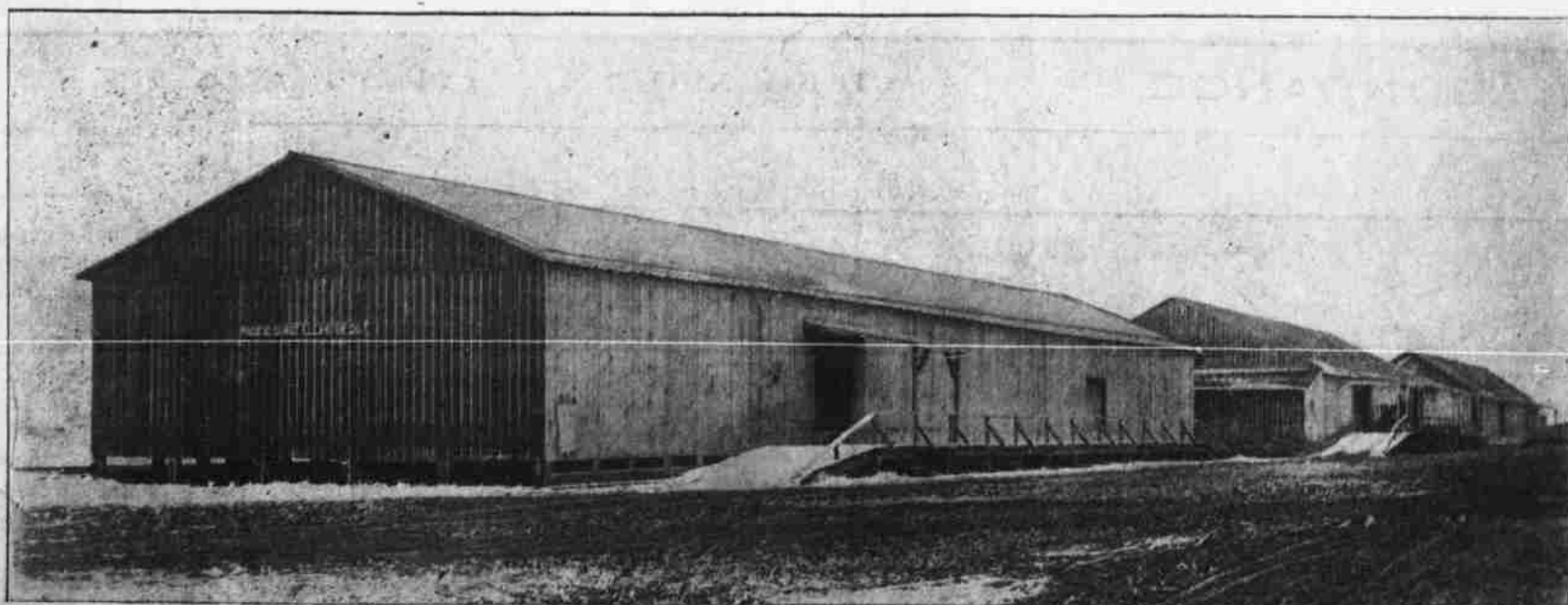
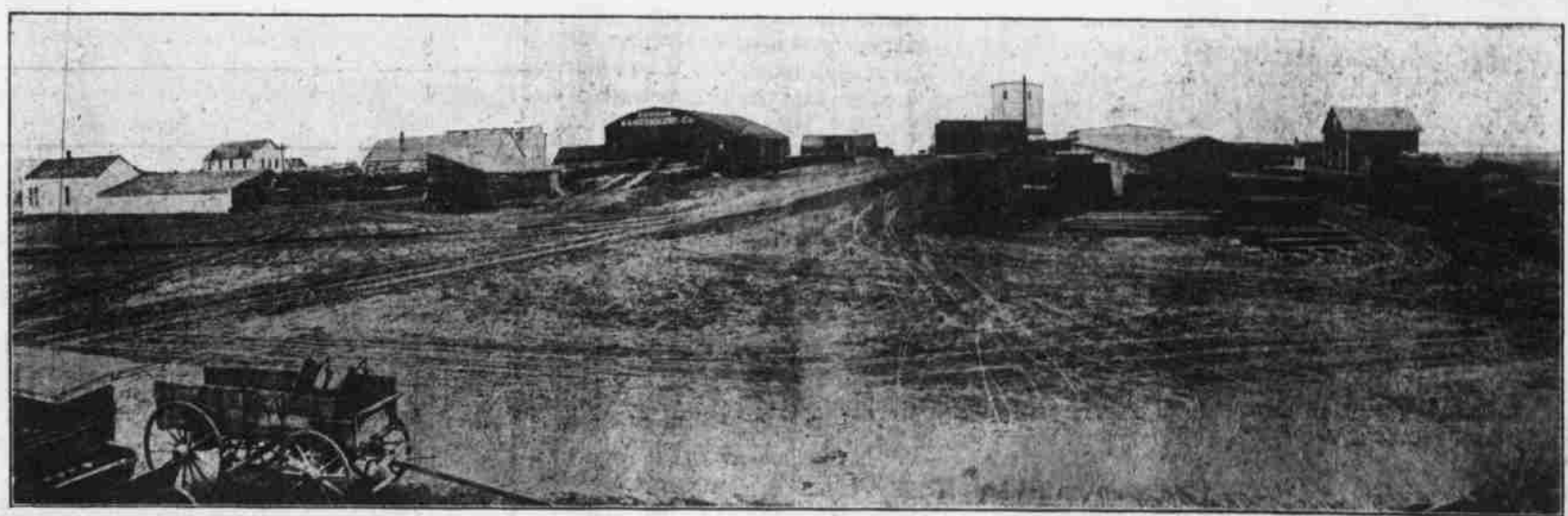
The Wheat City's greatest strides in growth have been in the last few years, since the building of the O. R. & N. branch. Business houses have prospered and during the past year many new places of business have been opened—two real estate offices, restaurant, ice plant, secondhand store, moving picture theatre, music store, bowling alley and a tailor shop, while a number of buildings have been erected. In the past few months has been organized the Condon Athletic Club, now a strong institution located in roomy quarters on Main street, while the latest organizations are the Wheat City Cornet Band and the Wheat City orchestra.

Condon, today, offers excellent school advantages and is destined to become an educational center. The religious character of the city is well represented by the Congregational, Baptist, Latter Day Saints and Catholic churches. The city owns its water system; the town is well lighted with electricity. Condon's wide awake businessmen are all represented in the advertising columns of this number.



GRAND PANORAMIC VIEW OF CONDON, THE WHEAT CITY, 1908.

The accompanying cut shows a panoramic view of the warehouse, lumber and wood yards of the Arlington Lumber Co. This company handles all kinds of rough and finished lumber, pine, fir, alder and oak wood in different lengths. They also have on hand a large amount of coal, the sheds not being shown in the cut. They handle wire, salt, nails and in fact almost all kinds of ranchers' supplies and also the Hodge machinery. This company has been established in Condon for many years and has built up with the city. E. J. Clough is the manager assisted locally by G. A. Berry.



The picture given here shows three of Condon's big warehouses. The first in the picture is the Pacific Coast Elevator Co's house. The dimensions are 50 x 200 feet and it has a total capacity of 200,000 bushels. The company deals exclusively in the buying and shipping of grain. Chas. Kennedy is the local agent.

The house in the center belongs to the Interior Warehouse Co. The dimensions are 50 x 260 feet and the total capacity is about 200,000 bushels of grain. This company also makes a specialty of lumber. H. A. Thiessen is the local agent.

The Kerr, Gifford Warehouse is the last in the row. This company besides dealing in grain also handles salt, wire, grain bags, etc. The house is 50 x 230 feet and the capacity is 200,000 bushels. D. B. Thomas is the local agent.