



View of Oregon State Normal School, Grounds and Buildings at Weston.

## *Weston, Oregon*

Where the hills of Oregon rise at the base of the beautiful Blue Mountains, in Umatilla County, is situated a town of prosperous and thriving people whose hearts are wrapped up in making of their part of the state as much as the resources will warrant and who are proud of the state school which is maintained at this place, people of enterprise, public spirit and progress. As the city nestles among the trees and the surrounding uplands it presents a very pretty sight, the normal building upon the hill standing out prominently and catching the attention. This little city of homes and enterprises is Weston.

Surrounding Weston are fine wheat lands. Corn yields well in localities. The high mountain lands produce the finest of timothy and late strawberries, without irrigation. Diversified farming is largely followed and has proven very profitable. The output of 1906 embraces 161,000 sacks of wheat (two and one-fourths bushels to the sack), 30,000 sacks of barley (two and one-fourth bushels to the sack), 1,200 tons of timothy hay, 15,000 sacks or 1,500,000 pounds of potatoes, shipped out of the place in car-load lots. Large quantities of strawberries and small fruits are raised and other fruits, as well.

Weston has a strong bank and excellent stores. The city maintains a fine system of gravity waterworks, utilizing pure mountain water. The flouring mill at this place has a daily capacity of 50 barrels. The saw mill has a capacity for cutting 30,000 feet of

lumber and employs from 35 to 45 men. A new hay warehouse has just been built, 30x200 feet in size. A large brick yard is in operation here, which has a yearly output of over 3,250,000 brick and employs in the busy season 30 to 60 people. This company makes pressed and building brick and ship their product for a radius of over one hundred miles. They ship goods to Pendleton, The Dalles, Oregon, and to Dayton, Walla Walla, Pomeroy, etc.

The pride of Weston, however, is the Oregon State Normal School, which is located at this place. This school is under the direction of Mr. R. C. French, president, and although it was shut down last year, is this year having a larger and better attendance than ever before in its history. The school stands as the representation of the able instructor who as its head. As Mr. French puts it:

"The School makes character. The great effort is to discover people for places in life. Everybody is not fitted for the position he holds in life. The proper thing to do is to discover what position is the one for which a person is adapted and fit that person to the position. There is no caste in this school. It appeals to all who want to do something and to accomplish something among the people of the earth. The theory here is to teach students to live in life, not fit them for life." In the conduct of the school this is strongly brought out.

Special opportunity is given students at this institution to work their way through

the school, their work being in its performance a training for the pupil. No servants are employed in, around or by the institution—the entire routine of work is carried on by the students. The janitor is one of the students, so is the electrician, and the cooks, and the laundry help, and all.

The supplies at the school are furnished in great part by the students. A boy is a student here. Perchance, he comes from another city and when he arrives he is given charge of several cows and it is the duty of that young man to feed and care for them and deliver the products from those cows. A sum is set aside for food and he is to sell milk, butter, etc., to balance the account. So, a plot of ground is rented and a young man is placed in charge of it. He sows, cares for and gathers in the crops of produce from that piece of land, thereby becoming familiar with business routine and business care.

The girls in the dormitory are given the same kind of a training. There may be chickens to be cared for. A student desiring certain rooms, they are given into her

charge, and for them she does the laundry and housework. Another girl is given charge of the cooking at a certain meal. A certain sum is given into her charge and she is to provide for the entire dormitory for one meal or for one day, as the case may be. This student will make out the menu, prepare or supervise the preparation of the meal and be held accountable for the success of the same.

All the furniture in the institution is made by the students in the manual training department. The school is in every respect "UTILITARIAN." No one is turned away from its portals, who earnestly desires an education and does not have the funds. There is room for all and work for all who come. The scope and work of the school makes it successful.

Weston is a city of pleasant homes and clean home life. It supports a very good weekly paper, a credit to the city. The public schools and the churches, lodges, and social organizations are well maintained and of high order. Weston is one of the growing towns of Oregon.

## *Athena, Oregon*

In the midst of the very richest of the wheat raising lands of Umatilla County, Oregon, lies the beautiful and attractive city of Athena, which boasts of about 1,200 population and is situated about seventeen miles from Pendleton, the county seat. It is located upon the Washington & Columbia Railroad about 33 miles from Hunts Junction, now Attalia; fourteen miles from Pasco, Washington. It is also on the Washington branch of the O. R. & N.

Athena is one of the best points upon the line between Walla Walla and Pendleton, and boasts of a strong bank and general commercial institutions. Here is located a large flouring mill—the Preston-Parton Milling Co.—which grinds annually the marketable output of this part of the country and consumes all of the wheat sold at this point. This mill will grind over 800,000 bushels of grain this season and is a great boon to the commercial interests of this place. Because of this mill the farmers get from one to three cents more a bushel for their grain than they would were they compelled to ship it out to other points.

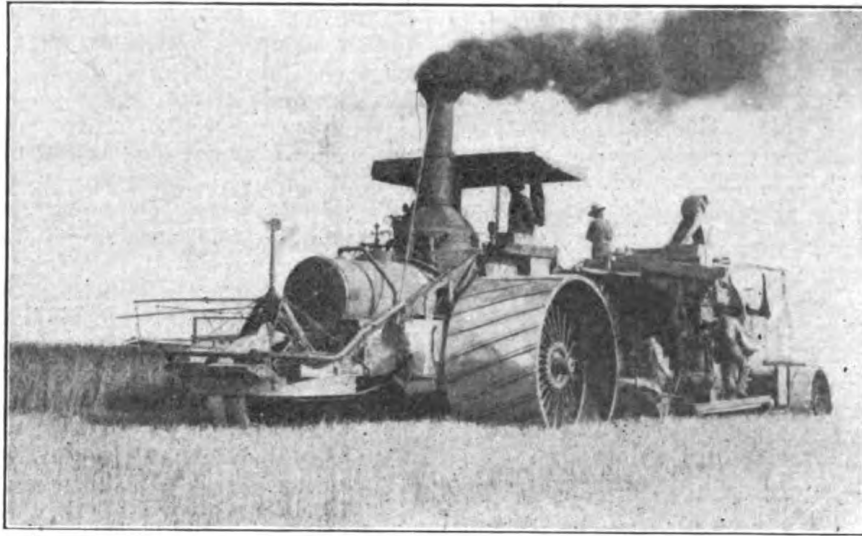
The farmers here engage almost exclusively in wheat raising, but corn and hogs form a substantial part of the ranchers' income. The wheat yield for 1906 of the coun-

try directly tributary to Athena is about 272,000 sacks, or 600,000 bushels. Herewith is presented a view of a fifty horse-power steam combined harvester and thresher as it was photographed operating on George Perringer's Umatilla Reservation lands. This powerful machine has a daily capacity of cutting, threshing and sacking fifty acres of grain, averaging from thirty-five to forty-five bushels to the acre. As will be seen, the machine merely cuts off the upper part of the stalk—that which contains the berry.

The schools and churches of Athena are well worthy of mention—the schools maintaining an excellent high school course and the churches here numbering among their edifices two magnificent structures, of \$15,000 and \$10,000 cost respectively.

The people of Athena are enterprising and public spirited. The city presents a prosperous and inviting appearance. Its clean and well-built business blocks and the cosy and well kept homes which compose the residence district make it a place to be desired. The stores carry varied and complete stocks of merchandise and as a trading center the city is the choice of a large area of country. The prosperity of the farmers makes the prosperity of this place.

One evil, however, which will mean good



A Steam Combine Harvester and Thresher at work near Athena, Oregon, by courtesy of The Athena Press.

in the days to come when others will want homes and the land owners can no longer hold on to what they have, is that the country in this vicinity is becoming depopulated, through the operations of the bonanza farmer who buys all the ground he can get and holds all he can pay for, which with the bountiful crops of the past five years has meant a great deal. Death, however, will even up all these absurdities and the foolishness of it all will be very evident when these men have passed from the scene of action.

This wheat raising country is a beautiful and chosen land and those who desire to possess all of it and do get as much of it as they can, are not to be blamed. Coming into Athena from Pasco over the W. & C. R., one of the most attractive views the writer has ever had the privilege of surveying was beheld.

After much coughing and puffing, snorting and wheezing, the train reached the summit of the plateau east and south of the valley wherein it had started. For several minutes the cars sped along with no great exertion from the steed of steel. Then it came to a standstill at a sidetrack. Here in all directions the country extended as far as the eye could see. Wheat field after wheat field covered the great rolling areas of land which extended over hills and valleys far away into the distance. The dark spots are the sum-

mer fallow areas. Every foot of this country is cultivated. High knolls and deep ravines are plowed and utilized. Here and there, homes with their little patch of orchard and green shade trees greet the gaze. This view extends in every direction and as the beholder enjoys the feast, his mind is thrilled with the immensity and greatness of the land—this land, which a few years ago was thought to be untillable, but today is a part of the richest wheat producing land in the state of Washington. The railroad people have designated this point "Grand View," and in every respect the locality implies and ratifies the name.

Such scenes are beautiful, not alone for the strangeness of the composing parts, but for the wealth and productiveness which the soil makes possible, and the great vista of glory, growing, wealth producing glory which set the eyes aglow with wonder and admiration.

Athena boasts of one of the best papers in the state of Oregon, "The Press," edited and published by F. B. Boyd, which is a semi-weekly and full of items of interest and news. With its advantages Athena is certain to grow and become a larger and better city as the years roll around. The loyalty and home spirit of the residents will make this possible and their enterprise and earnest endeavors will deserve and merit it.

H. L. W.

