

J. ELMER RAND, a genial and pleasant business man of Hood River, who is conducting one of the leading mercantile establishments of the city, was born in Wisconsin, on May 16, 1865. His father, Robert Rand, mentioned elsewhere in this work, is a native of Ohio and married Miss Christina Glispie, a native of New York, who died in Portland, in 1900. Our subject lived in Wisconsin until sixteen, being employed on his father's farm, which adjoined West Salem, and in attending school. In 1880, he came with the balance of the family to Iowa, where he was engaged in agricultural work with his father for four years, when they all moved to Hood River. The father purchased a farm near town and was assisted by J. Elmer one year in tilling the same. Then our subject went to Portland and took a course in the business college. After that he clerked in the Merchants hotel, in Portland about one year, then he returned to Hood River and with his father opened a hardware store. The following year, they put in a large stock of general merchandise and conducted the business successfully until the sale to A.S. Blowers and Sons, which has already been mentioned in this volume. Upon being released from the store, Mr. Rand made a trip to the east in the interests of the Davidson Fruit Company, which occupied some months. Then he returned to Hood River and purchased the stock and business of G.D. Woodworth, a general merchant. Since that time, Mr. Rand has conducted the store and has a fine business at this time. He carries a very complete stock and is up-to-date in every respect. Mr. Rand is a stirring business man and has shown excellent ability in handling the enterprises which have been placed in his hands. He has the confidence of the people and is a public minded and progressive man. On November 1, 1904, Mr. Rand moved into E.L. Smith's handsome new brick building.

At Hood River, on September 12, 1892, occurred the marriage of Mr. Rand and Miss Georgiana Smith, the daughter of Ezra L. and Georgiana (Slocum) Smith, who are mentioned elsewhere in this work. Two children have been the fruit of this union, Everett L., and Anna L. Mr. Rand has three brothers, William F., Delbert E., and Ernest C. and one sister, Mrs. Henrietta Rahm. Mr. Rand is a member of the A.O.U.W., the K.O.T.M. and the K.P. He has passed the chairs in each of these orders and is popular and influential in fraternal circles. Mr. Rand and his wife are members of the Unitarian church, having assisted to organize the society here. He is serving his third term in the city council and is now president of the same.