

JOHN W. ELTON, who resides six miles out from The Dalles, is one of the prosperous farmers of Wasco county. He was born in Montgomery county, Missouri, on August 27, 1848, the son of John W. and Louisa J. (Pennington) Elton. The father was born in Missouri, and his parents in Maryland. His grandfather was a native of France and came to America with the French troops and fought in the Revolution for the independence of the colonies. Our subject's father died when this son was eight. The mother was born in Kentucky and now lives in Missouri, the wife of William Jasper Skinner. John W. was reared and educated in Missouri and Wisconsin, to which latter state he went in 1865. In 1870 he came west to Oregon, settling in Washington county. For five years he did farming there and also wrought in the logging camps. In 1876, he came to Wasco county and then went to Klickitat county, Washington, where he lived for eight years. Then he sold his homestead there and bought the place where he now lives. It consists of one hundred and twenty acres, ten of which are bearing orchard. As the soil is especially adapted for cherries, he is planning to plant many more trees of the best varieties. He also raises prunes and peaches and berries. Last year he sold one thousand boxes of fruit besides much dried. He also raises fine blooded Jerseys and some hogs, and is a prosperous man.

On May 19, 1875, at Cornelius, Oregon, Mr. Elton married Miss Mary J. Davis, who was born on "Five Oaks Farm," in Washington county, Oregon, on August 30, 1856. The farm was taken by her mother's father in 1843. Mrs. Elton's parents were Andrew J. and Catherine (Zachary) Davis. The father was born in Illinois and came from an old American family. His father was in the war of 1812, and some members of the family have been in all the struggles from the earliest colonial days until the war in the Philippines. The mother was a native of Texas and came to Oregon with her parents in 1843. Her father took a donation claim called the "Five Oaks" and there she was married. Mr. Elton has the following named brothers, Thomas J., Samuel H., W. Albert, Robert T., and James A., and two half brothers, David L. and John W. Heebner, and two sisters, Rebecca Holder, and Jane Mounts. Mrs. Elton has three brothers, Ralph A., James, Albert, and one sister, Zillah Metsdorff. To Mr. and Mrs. Elton, the following named children have been born; Mary E., superintendent of the telephone office in The Dalles; Minnie J., a teacher in the primary department of the schools in The Dalles, and the possessor of a life diploma from the state of Oregon; James, graduate of the Pullman college and now civil engineer at Mace, Idaho, and formerly a noted athlete in college circles, and a veteran of the Philippine war of Company L. Second Oregon Infantry; Albert J., a student at the state university at Eugene; Eugene R., a mining man in Baker City; Ruby C., aged nine; and Ruth, aged six. Mrs. Elton's grandmother on her mother's side was Zillah Grant, a cousin of the late U.S. Grant. Mr. Elton is a member of the A.F. & A.M., of the I.O.O.F., and of the W.W. Politically he is a socialist and nominee of his party for state senator.

In 1904, Mr. Elton went to the World's Fair at St. Louis as a representative to the National Good Roads Convention, he being an enthusiastic promoter of good roads. Also, he wished to study concerning building and architecture, being a building contractor, and he had the pleasure of meeting many noted men in that line, from whom he received much profit. To make the journey more enjoyable, Mr. Elton visited his mother at Jonesburg, Missouri, and the occasion was utilized for a family reunion and four generations were represented, there being forty-eight relatives at the meeting. Mr. Elton was much gratified to find all of the voters of the family on both sides ardent Socialists, and good expounders of the doctrines of that growing party. However, he returned to his pleasant western home, more than ever satisfied with the bountiful resources and good things Nature has strewed here with a lavish hand.