

WILBUR BOLTON, who stands at the head of the mercantile firm under the style of Bolton & Company, in Antelope, has in charge the largest general mercantile establishment in the town. His trade is extended, and he does a large business each year. His stock is always kept up to date with a fine assortment and he has constantly on hand about fifteen thousand dollars, worth of goods. Mr. Bolton is an enterprising and substantial business man and a very influential citizen, whose labors are constantly for the improvement and betterment of the country.

Wilbur Bolton was born in Wasco county, Oregon, on October 29, 1860, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Fullweider) Bolton, natives of Virginia. The father died in The Dalles, in 1887. His father was a native of England. The mother's parents were of Irish extraction. She died in The Dalles. The parents were married in Iowa and came across the plains with ox teams in 1854, settling first in the Willamette valley. Shortly thereafter they came to The Dalles, and later took land on Fifteen Mile creek, securing a donation claim and a homestead. He did stock-raising and farming and dwelt many years in The Dalles with his family. Our subject was educated in the Wasco Independent Academy, under the tuition of Prof. Gatch, now president of the Oregon Agricultural College at Corvallis. After school days, Wilbur was on the ranch with his father several years, then spent a year with the Wasco Warehouse Company at The Dalles, and in 1887 came to Antelope and engaged in the general merchandise business with his brother, Virgil, and McFarland & French of The Dalles. In 1891 the firm dissolved and reorganized without Mr. McFarland. In 1893, Virgil Bolton died leaving his interest to his widow, Nellie French Bolton, who is the daughter of J.W. French, of The Dalles. Thus the firm is comprised today.

On December 25, 1883, at The Dalles, Mr. Bolton married Miss Jennie Gilmore, a native of the Willamette valley, and sister of Mrs. Judge Fulton. Mr. Bolton has the following named brothers and sisters: Zenas, a farmer in Yakima county, Washington; Simeon, county clerk in Wasco county; Virgil, deceased; Mitchell, deceased; Ella, wife of W.A. McFarland, of Seattle. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Bolton are: Vivian Gatch and Vernon, students at Corvallis; and Virgil and Wilbur, Jr., at home. Mr. Bolton is a member of the A.F. & A.M., while he and his wife both belong to the O.E.S. She has served several terms as matron and has also been delegate to the grand lodge several times. They are both members of the Methodist church, and are progressive people, highly esteemed and of excellent standing.