

Pullman Primer circa 1911

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The State Library recently acquired a promotional brochure about Pullman, Washington from circa 1911. The Pullman Chamber of Commerce, the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company, and Sunset Magazine Homeseekers' Bureau all had a hand in producing the brochure.

The brochure, titled **Pullman Primer**, is in a question and answer form with the lamp of learning gracing the upper corners of each page. It states that in Pullman, "A man of industry, intelligence and ambition can acquire a competence, if not a fortune. It depends upon the man; the opportunity is here. It exists at Pullman. And Pullman, moreover, possesses certain advantages peculiarly its own. Chief of these is the State College of Washington."

Under the *Location and General Situation* section, the brochure describes the basalt and clay soil as having the following characteristics: "It is fertile, deep, well-drained and easily cultivated. In the top foot of soil on each acre there are 16,000 pounds of potash, 26,000 pounds of lime, 8800 pounds of phosphoric acid, and 6840 pounds of nitrogen. The soil experts of the State College of Washington at Pullman have determined that the supply of these essential constituents is sufficient to produce crops of 50 bushels of wheat to the acre for 68 consecutive years without fertilizer or the use of restorative crops."

In the *Agricultural* section it lists wheat as the principal crop with Bluestem and Little Club being the favored varieties but with the best results coming from the "College Hybrids." It gives the production of wheat as being 1,500,000 bushels in 1909.

Under the *Horticultural* section the question "Is fruit raising a success at Pullman?" is answered, "Without question" To the question "Is Dairying Successful?" it replies, "Entirely so. . . ."

In the brochure's center is a bird's-eye view of Pullman and the Palouse Country. Photographs of the college campus, livestock, and crops including wheat and fruit are located throughout.

"What is Pullman's appeal to the homeseeker? Pullman offers an exceptional opportunity to any man of industry and intelligence, especially to the man who wishes to make a living from the soil. If there are young people in the family, the educational facilities offered by the State College should prove attractive."

Pullman Primer concludes by giving the railroad rates to Pullman from such places as Boston, Charleston, Detroit, El Paso, Memphis, and Omaha. It also delineates three special fares that are in effect at certain times of the year: "The Summer Tourist," "The Regular Round-Trip Excursion," and "The Homeseekers' Fare." Freight rates on household goods to Pullman are given in carloads. Railroad contact information for Canada and Europe is also presented.

The State Library hopes to digitize this brochure in the near future.

Pullman Primer: Pullman Washington: Home of the State College of Washington.

Pullman, Wash.: Pullman Chamber of Commerce, 1911? 28 p.

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