

# William D Plue

W. D. PLUE. At one time the owner and manager of the largest and most successful sash and door manufactory in Rainier, employing between twenty-five and thirty-five men, Mr. Plue is deserving of great credit for having attained great prominence in his undertakings, and presents to aspiring boys, without money or influence, a fine example of having made the best possible out of little. December 5, 1902, Mr. Plue sustained the loss of his entire factory, and \$22,000 worth of lumber and machinery were destroyed by fire. Undismayed by this disaster, he soon afterward began the erection of a new mill one-half mile west of Rainier, which when completed will be known as the Columbia River Door Company, with Mr. Plue as president and manager.

A native of the vicinity of Lancaster, N. Y., Mr. Plue was born December 25, 1868, and is one of the eight children born to his parents, who were also born in New York state. The father was a carpenter by trade, and also conducted a small farm, engaging in general farming and fruit-raising. The numerous members of the family, and the comparatively small income of the father, made it necessary for the children to early in life make their own way in the world, and it thus happened that W. D. Plue started out at the age of fourteen to relieve his parents of the necessity for his maintenance. Up in Wisconsin he worked on a farm for some time and attended school during the winter season, and for four years of his residence in the state worked at learning the trade of carpentering. In 1887 he

came to Redlands, Cal., and built and contracted for a year, and thereafter followed his trade in Portland for several years. He then branched out into contracting, and in this capacity was associated with many of the principal structures in the city of Portland. During 1887 Mr. Plue removed to Rossland, British Columbia, where he conducted a sash and door factory for one year, and then located in Rainier, where he started the sash and door manufactory previously mentioned. From a business standpoint Mr. Plue is easily at the head of this line of industry in this county, nor is he content to rest upon the efforts and investigations of others similarly engaged. He possesses inventive ability of no mean order, and among his contributions to the patent office may be mentioned a device for making doors which has met with an enthusiastic reception and is a great success, and he is at present engaged in building a machine for his new mill. It will thus be seen that the boy of fourteen has traveled a long way, and is indebted solely to his own determination and ability for the success that has come his way.

September 18, 1895, Mr. Plue was united in marriage with Eleanora Howard, a native of Portland, and who is the mother of one child, Vilas L. Mr. Plue prefers the principles of the Democratic party, and has given his support thereto ever since casting his first vote. He has served one term on the village council, but is not what may be called an office seeker. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order Odd Fellows of Portland. Mr. Plue has invested to considerable extent in real estate in different parts of Oregon, and owns considerable property in Portland.

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