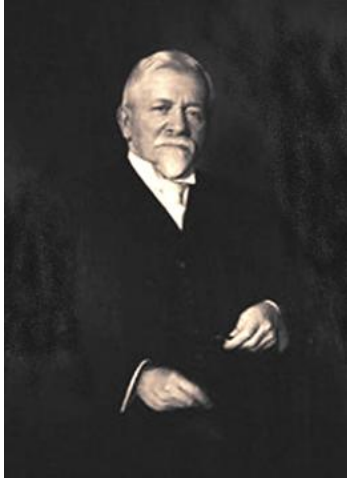


The Camas Mill



Henry L. Pittock (1835-1919)

Henry Pittock (The Oregonian newspaper founder) bought land in 1883 to build a paper mill to supply newsprint for his and other newspapers. 2,600 acres were purchased. The area was ideal because of the river for shipping, the lakes to provide water power to run the machinery, and thousands of acres of timber.

The dam at Lacamas Park was built for the mill and the lake water is still used today. The aqueduct (Mill Ditch) leading from the lake to the mill was 7000 feet long and was dug mostly by Chinese laborers.

The town of LaCamas was platted in 1883 and quickly grew along with the mill.

The **Columbia River Paper Company** was started in 1884, and in 1885 started production of newsprint from local timber, straw, rags, and old clothing.



The original mill was destroyed by fire in 1886, but was rebuilt in brick and back in operation by 1888.

The mill started making paper from wood pulp in 1892 and was the first western mill to do this.



Camas Paper mill circa 1890

The mill produced newsprint until 1930 when it stopped due to cheaper Canadian production. By removing newspaper manufacturing, Camas was able to become the largest specialty mill in the world.



Camas Paper Mill Crown-Willamette c. 1920