

PREFACE

RETURNING to the State College in 1923 as Research Professor of Economics and Economic History I was repeatedly urged, especially by the alumni, to write a history of the college of which I had been president from 1893 to 1916. A feeling that the development of higher education in the Pacific Northwest during its growth from pioneer settlements into prosperous states has more than a local and temporary significance, impelled me to yield to the constant urging. The impulse to write the story was further strengthened by the fact that the evolution of the State College requires an interpretation as well as a record of its history.

As is well known, the State College is one of a group of state institutions of which there are more than fifty in the United States. This group marks the most significant movement in higher education, not only of the century in which it began, but of the past five hundred years. The advent of this group is both cause and effect of the shift of the basis of higher education from its dependence upon language and literature to its basis upon science and the scientific method. The movement came in response to the aspirations of the great industrial democracy which had grown up in the United States. These aspirations had found conscious expression in certain legislation, which,