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THE RESOURCES AND ADVANTAGES OF THE GRANDE RONDE VALLEY

Picture a beautiful valley almost level as a floor, 30 miles in extent from north to south, and from 12 to 18 miles wide, surrounded on all sides by high mountains. Arrange to have flow through the center a sparkling, clear river, fed by numerous tributary mountain streams. Provide a soil that knows no crop failures. Build railroads so as to furnish convenient transportation from all parts of this valley. Erect telephone and telegraph lines. Endow this favored spot with a well-nigh perfect climate. Supply a law-abiding, industrious and prosperous population. Dot the valley with attractive towns and villages.

farms are not required in this valley. A few acres devoted to intensive farming yield such heavy returns, that the valley is certain soon to be entirely cut up into small farms. True this is not as yet the case, but much progress has been made in that direction. It must be remembered that these small farm possibilities have but recently been demonstrated. And the fact must be taken into consideration that this valley has received but a meager amount of advertising. Thousands of people have passed by the wonderful opportunities here to locate in sections of far less merit. The first settlers of the valley came

schools is comprehensive and satisfactory.

The telephone, telegraph and mail facilities of the Grande Ronde Valley are all that could be wished. Two telephone companies, the Pacific States and the Vergere, operate up-to-date systems. The latter reaches comprehensively through the farming districts, and is an independent company. The former has most of the city business and affords long-distance connections to all points on the Pacific Coast.

There are six rural free delivery routes in the valley, and three star routes, so that the mail service reaches every part of this immediate section.

Two R. F. D. routes leave La Grande, and one each leaves from Allice, Summerville, Elgin and North Powder. There are star routes from Union to the Cove, Union to Cornucopia, and Hilgard to Starkey.

Transportation facilities are unusually complete. (See article on Railroads).

Crops are heavy and certain. (See article on Farming and on Fruit-Growing).

Irrigation systems are in operation and about to be put in. (See article on Irrigation).

Lands are not held at an exorbitant figure. Considering the proven net value of crops here, lands are very low priced and it is certain they will steadily increase in value.

Labor is fairly plentiful and well-paid. Union county, of which this valley is a part, ranks third in the state in point of number of men employed, and most of them are at work in this valley.

Social advantages are equal to those of the middle western states. No modern convenience there enjoyed is absent here.

The people of the valley are decidedly law-abiding. There is practically no crime, and the little that occurs is promptly punished by the duly constituted authorities.

Climatic conditions are superb. The summers are quite long, but at no time is the heat excessive. In winter snow falls and ice forms, but zero weather is infrequent and always of short duration.

The air is extraordinarily pure and healthful, and sunshine is the rule. Cyclones and extremely violent storms are unknown.

The mountains surrounding the valley are heavily timbered, and from them come many cold, clear streams. The valley seems to be endowed by Nature with every possible advantage that can be utilized by man.

The various towns of the valley include: La Grande, Union, Elgin, Cove, Island City, Imbler, Allice, Nibley, North Powder, Summerville, Perry and Hilgard.

They are one and all prosperous, and most of them afford desirable locations for various mercantile and industrial enterprises.

La Grande.

La Grande, the largest, with a population of about 5,000, is the county seat of Union county. Here was made the first settlement in the valley, and here will always be the most important city.

The citizenship is alert and progressive, imbued with faith in the city's future, and possessed of the spirit of enterprise that means growth and development.



Hulse Photo.

ADAMS AVENUE, LA GRANDE.

La Grande is a division point on the O. R. & N., a fact of vital interest to manufacturing enterprises seeking a location. It is surrounded by fertile farms and orchards, and is the trading center for a populous territory.

The business section is well-built (see street scenes) and the many mercantile houses are heavily stocked with excellent goods. There are numerous manufacturing plants, the principal ones being the sugar beet factory which pays out \$50,000 monthly when in operation each fall; the George M. Palmer Lumber company, whose mill will be in operation by next March with a pay roll of \$10,000 monthly; a brewery, a creamery, a foundry and machine shops, and a large brick yard. Of course there are numerous smaller manufacturing enterprises, including a bottling works, steam laundry, several cigar factories, monumental works, wood and iron working shops, etc. The extensive railroad shops, round house, yards, etc., have a payroll of \$20,000 a month.

La Grande has a live commercial club of strong membership which has been very successful in its efforts toward civic advancement.

The press is represented by a daily and two weekly newspapers, which lose no opportunity to set forth the city's advantages.

There are four graded schools, churches of all the usual denominations and ample lodges and fraternal societies.

Union.

Union is one of the most attractive appearing Grande Ronde Valley towns and its population will exceed 1,500. It has a large woolen mill turning out very salable blankets, which is an important manufacturing enterprise. A well-equipped creamery is operated. Other industries include a large flour mill, and four planing mills. Several saw mills are soon to be built, and Union's outlook is very bright. The residence section appears like one vast orchard, so numerous are the fruit trees, and the

Grande.

It is the distributing and shipping point for the whole of Wallawa county. In the immediate vicinity and in the town are many saw mills. Their combined cut has averaged 25,000,000 feet annually for the past five years. A 60-barrel flour mill is an important industry. The mercantile houses are numerous and prosperous. There is a well conducted bank with ample capital. One of the best equipped planing mills in Eastern Oregon is located at Elgin. The city has an excellent water system and is lighted by electricity.

A fertile farming section finds in Elgin adequate trade facilities. One farming district, known as Cricket Flat, is considered to be unequalled wheat land. There are numerous orchards.

Cove.

The Cove and vicinity has a population of about 500, and in the judgment of many is the "Garden Spot" of the Grande Ronde Valley. The Cove



CITY HALL, LA GRANDE, USED AS COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

possessing all modern conveniences. When you have pictured these alluring conditions you have only reproduced what actually exists in the Grande Ronde Valley.

Words seem to but meagerly express the unusual good features of this wonderfully productive valley, and every distant reader of this article is personally urged to come and see how Nature and man have combined to make of it the "Garden Spot" par excellence of the Northwest.

The Grande Ronde Valley lies in about the center of Union county, Oregon. Union county is largely mountainous; in fact only about one-half of its area is capable of cultivation, but that half is singularly fertile. The Grande Ronde is the largest of the five valleys of the county, and the most important from the viewpoint of development.

It is not reclaimed land, in the sense of being arid or non-productive without water. While water helps all crops, there are hundreds of valley farms which produce well without irrigation. Where water can be obtained, however, it greatly increases productivity, and with the irrigation systems already in existence and those soon to be installed, the bulk of the land can and will be irrigated.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Grande Ronde Valley draws tribute from all of Union county, and is destined to become one of the most densely populated sections of the state. Union county's population is 20,000 and of that number fully 16,000 live in the Grande Ronde Valley. Large

here in the 60's and the railroad did not reach here until more than twenty years after that.

Most of the increase in population and development of resources has occurred within the past few years. From now on the Grande Ronde Valley will rapidly acquire the population to which it is entitled by its advantages. The foundation has been well laid, and the work of building has already begun.

The following table gives a conservative estimate of the value of the main products of this valley for 1905:

Commodity.	Value.
Wheat	\$1,000,000
Lumber	540,000
Sugar	265,000
Oats and barleys	250,000
Cattle	250,000
Hogs	200,000
Horses and mules	100,000
Hay	120,000
Fruit	150,000
Sugar beets	100,000
Dairy products	75,000
Poultry	50,000
Potatoes	30,000
Wood	20,000

Total

It is thus very evident that the valley is not by any means undeveloped, and viewed in the light of these figures the claim is not unreasonable that it is one of the most prosperous sections of the United States.

Not only are all of the towns of this valley adequately equipped with educational facilities, but in the country schools are maintained at convenient points. The system of county



HARVESTING GRAIN IN THE GRANDE RONDE VALLEY.

The United States Land Office for this district is located here. There remains a great deal of government land in Union, Wallawa and Baker counties, and all filings and proofs must be made in La Grande.

The beautiful residence section is ever a source of commendation and approval on the part of visitors. Large, well-kept lawns and attractive shade trees are the rule. Many of the residences would be creditable in a city of much larger size.

The streets are well graded and carefully looked after. Sprinkling wagons lay the dust, and all rubbish is collected and removed. A fine system of electric lights is furnished by the Grande Ronde Electric company. The city owns its own water system, including a pumping plant. This is about to be augmented, or rather replaced, by a gravity system which will bring the pure waters of Beaver creek a distance of 18 miles to La Grande, at an estimated cost of \$150,000.

The business section already has a sewerage system which is shortly to be greatly extended.

The City Hall (see illustration) is now owned by La Grande and leased to Union county for a term of years as a courthouse. The offices of the city officers are down town.

country immediately surrounding the town is as fertile as any part of the valley. Catherine and Little creeks which flow through the center of the town, afford ample water for irrigating a great deal of land.

The Eastern Oregon Experiment Station is located at Union, and it has been and will be of great value to the farmers and stockraisers of this valley.

Union is located on the Central Railway of Oregon which connects two miles away with the O. R. & N. road, this part of the system having long been in operation.

There is no resource or advantage common to the Grande Ronde Valley not enjoyed by this thriving place. Considerable building is being done, and the town is growing. A new bank has just been organized and its brick and stone building is in course of construction.

Union has a wide awake commercial club, and its citizens are determined to build a city there. Its two weekly newspapers will help.

Elgin.

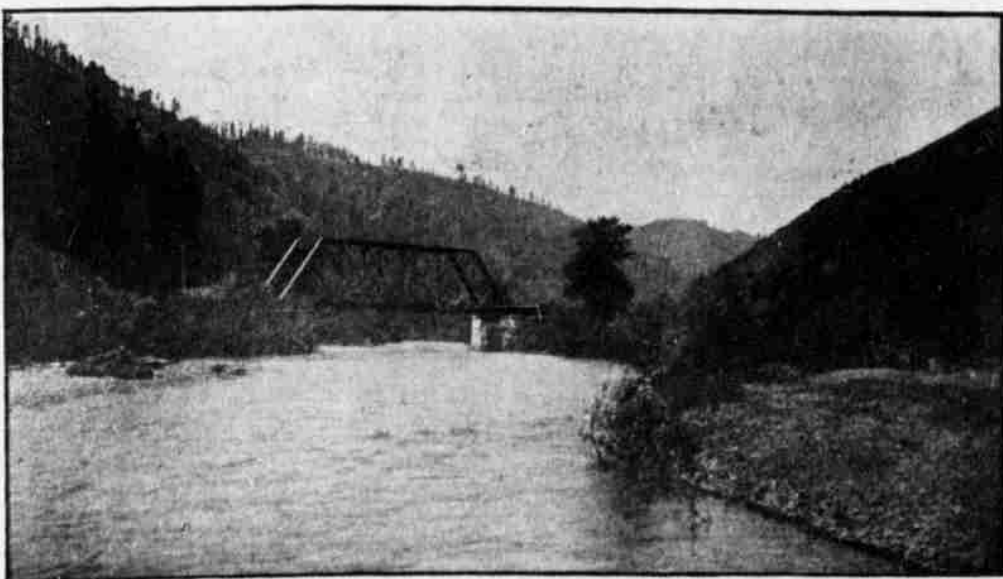
Elgin, located on the Grande Ronde River and Elgin branch of the O. R. & N. company's line, is a hustling, busy, growing town of 4,500 people, second only in commercial importance to La

Grande. It is really a valley within a valley, and the singular fertility of its soil, ample water supply, and equable climate, favor it as a producer of the highest grades of fruit and vegetables. It will soon have railroad facilities, and may then be expected to grow with extraordinary speed into an important trading point. It already has a commercial club which looks after the best interests of its citizens. Cove is incorporated, has its own city hall, and is well equipped with schools and churches. One of the important generating stations of the Grande Ronde Electric company is located at Cove.

Summerville.

Summerville is 16 miles north from La Grande, and will shortly be reached by the Central Railway of Oregon. It has excellent water power. The present population is about 200. The town has several stores, and is the site of a pine needle fiber factory.

The country immediately surrounding the town is specially adapted to dairying, and that industry has already become important there. Considerable fruit is raised in the vicinity, there being several fair-sized commercial orchards. In the mountains and foothills nearby, there is quite a body of timber which is now being rapidly cut.



Hulse Photo. VIEW OF STEEL RAILROAD BRIDGE ACROSS THE GRANDE RONDE RIVER.



A GRANDE RONDE VALLEY SUGAR BEET FIELD.