



A COMFORTABLE FARM HOME. IN THE GRAND RONDE VALLEY.

THE GRANDE RONDE VALLEY

Ah, me! I know how like a golden flower
The Grande Ronde valley lies this August night.
Locked in by dimpled hills where purple light
Lies wavering. There at the sunset hour
Sink downward, like a rainbow tinted shower.
A million colored rays, soft, changeable, bright.
Later the large moon rises, round and white,
And three Blue Mountain pines against it tower,
Lonely and dark. A coyote's mournful cry
Sinks from the canyon—whence the river leaps.
A blade of silver underneath the moon
Like restless seas the yellow wheat-fields lie,
Dreamless and still. And while the valley sleeps,
O, hear!—the lullabies that low winds croon.

ELLA HIGGINSON.

CHURCHES OF LA GRANDE

In the general development of this progressive county, the various Christian denominations have well done their part. The Methodist denomination pioneered the active work by establishing the first church in La Grande in 1865. They have a large commodious church. Rev. B. F. Meredith, recently from New York City, is the pastor. Here also is located the headquarters of Presiding Elder J. D. Gillilan of the La Grande district of the Idaho conference.

The Protestant Episcopal church was organized in this city in 1864 and was the first denomination to build a home. Rev. Upton H. Gibbs is the local pastor under whose direction the church is prospering and growing.

The Baptists were the next to organize in 1875. They have just sold their building which has been removed to be replaced by a new brick structure costing \$10,000, due to the efforts of their new pastor, W. H. Gibson.

The Presbyterians came in 1886. They have a strong church and large commodious building. Rev. E. B. Hays is the pastor.

The Catholics were the next to organize. They have a well furnished church and school. Rev. Father Whyte is the priest.

In 1892 the Methodist Church, South, built a neat house of worship and they maintained a pastor for several years, but in common with the policy of the two Methodist organizations to work in harmony throughout the land, have withdrawn from this field.

The Christian church came in 1893. In 1899, Rev. O. H. King, who has been their pastor ever since, built their present large building.

In 1899 the Seventh Day Adventists built a neat and substantial home near the High School building.

The Latter Day Saints of the church of Jesus Christ built what they termed a meeting house in 1895. A little later La Grande was selected as the headquarters for the Union Stake, which comprises the territory of Eastern Oregon, Eastern Washington and Idaho, and are now completing a Tabernacle which cost in excess of \$50,000, which will be dedicated early in December.

The German Lutherans last year built

a neat church and their organization is growing.

The Christian Scientists are well organized and have been for several years and have under consideration the building of a place of worship.

The Sunday schools of this city and county are in keeping with the progressive spirit of the various denominations. On the 19th and 20th of this month there will be held in this city, a county convention and the program, which has already been published, contains the names of active workers from all portions of the county.

The pastors without exception are learned, active, progressive men, working in perfect harmony. On the first Monday of each month the Pastors' Union meets and not only church matters are considered, but matters of public interest in which they often take an active part.

MRS. T. N. MURPHY.

Wholesale and Retail Hardware—Plumbing, Steam-Fitting, Hot Air and Hot Water Heating—Corner Adams Avenue and Depot Street—Phone Black 1131; Vergere Main 1.

La Grande deserves its high reputation as a trade center, for the live merchants of this city have provided stores and stocks that can supply every necessity and most of the luxuries. In the hardware line, place and prominence in this edition is given to the store of Mrs. T. N. Murphy because of the completeness and diversity of the high-class stock carried, and the large volume of trade enjoyed.

So complete a stock is not often seen in cities of this size, and few hardware stores anywhere present an interior appearance as attractive.

The premises are commodious, and comprise a 30 foot front on Adams avenue, this room being 50 feet deep, and a 40 foot front on Depot street, connecting with the other salesroom. There is a storage warehouse 50x100 feet on the railroad.

The main features of the stock include: Heavy, shelf and builders hardware, tinware, crockery, glassware, enamel ware, stoneware, cutlery, silverware, cut glass, art china, bicycles, fishing tackle, guns, ammunition, garden hardware, lawn hose,

blacksmith supplies, etc. An immense line of ranges and stoves are carried of such standard makes as Majestic and Bridge & Beach ranges, and Garland heaters and cook stoves. Throughout the stock of this store is one of quality, and the names of leading manufacturers are seen on every hand.

Plumbing systems, hot air and hot water heating systems are installed by competent workmen. Now is the best season of the year to have this work done. A heating system in your home will add much to the comfort of every member of your family this winter. The expense is probably not nearly as heavy as you imagine.

While, naturally the retail trade comprises the bulk of this business, quite a little wholesaling is done in La Grande and adjacent towns, and in both lines there is a steady, consistent growth from year to year.

The business was established 14 years ago, and has been conducted since the death of her husband in 1903 by Mrs. T. N. Murphy. The business policy in vogue under her direction insures that the facilities for handling an increased business will fully keep pace with La Grande's growth.

E. Z. CARBINE.

Successful Fruit Raiser and Secretary and Manager of the Grande Ronde Valley Fruit Growers' Union.

Adjoining the corporation line on the north side of the Grande Ronde River, is the 55-acre place of E. Z. Carbine, practically all of which is in fruit. There is a grove of native Balm trees, the balance of the acreage being orchard.

The apple, cherry, pear, plum and other fruit trees are in superb condition, and are giving very satisfactory returns.

Mr. Carbine, who has lived here five years, has individually taken a great interest in the fruit industry, and to him is justly ascribed the success of the Grande Ronde Valley Fruit Growers' Union. He was largely instrumental in its organization and as secretary has done very effective work. He early realized the need of organization, not only for reasons of economy in many directions, but in order to insure the betterment of orchards through proper spraying, and to secure the best possible prices for fruit.

The operations of the union have justified his enthusiasm on the subject. This year a substantial saving was effected to members by buying the material for spraying in large quantities. Through this combination of growers, a high price was secured for the cherry crop, and many have been able to contract ahead for five years, thus insuring stability of price. This year's shipment of sweet cherries sold through the union, aggregated seven carloads.

Among shipments already assured that will bear the label of the Grande Ronde Valley Fruit Growers' Union this season are:

Carloads.
Bartlett pears 2
Italian prunes 2
Early apples 3
Winter apples—at least 150

Organization is what has made possible the reputation of Hood River fruit, and attendant high prices. The same results can be attained in this valley, and from purely selfish motives, every fruit grower should join the Grande Ronde Valley Fruit Growers' Union.

Mr. Carbine's offices are next door to the Lewis Printery on Depot street, across the street from the Sommers Hotel.

Fortunes await the intelligent stock-raiser who specializes mules. Buyers will hunt them up, for the demand is far in excess of the supply.

AURELIA MINING COMPANY

The Most Important Mining Property in the Camp Carson District—Will Soon Be a Dividend Payer.

The Aurelia Mining company, with headquarters in La Grande, is developing mining properties at the headwaters of the Grande Ronde River, that will unquestionably prove very profitable to the fortunate stockholders and dividends are not far off.

Just now, the company has no stock on the market, but it is possible that in order to speed the work a reasonable amount of treasury stock may be disposed of this winter. It will find eager buyers, for the development work of the company has clearly demonstrated the existence of an immense quantity of high-grade ore, and the possibilities are incalculable.

These mining claims corner on Baker, Union and Grant counties, at an elevation of 6,500 feet and on air lines are about 15 miles north of Sumpter, 10 miles from the Golconda, E. & E. and North Pole mines, and seven miles from the Cable Cove district. They are on the right slope. They show a gray copper and silver ore in granite formation. Two carloads from the surface, yielding \$100 a ton in values, have been shipped. The veins run from one to seven feet in width, between well defined granite walls, and carry values from \$15 to \$40 a ton.

Development work has progressed speedily during this year. Suitable ore bins and buildings have been erected. Six hundred feet of tunnels and up-ramps have been made. One vein is tapped at a depth of 120 feet, and good bodies of ore exposed in both the north and south drift at this level. There is also a good body of ore in sight at the 50 foot level. Veins have been cross-cut on the surface for 400 feet, exposing fine milling ore, and high values at all points.

A 10-ton concentrating plant has just been completed. The mill building is 16x56, and contains a full modern concentrating equipment. It will be run by water power under a 110-foot head. This plant will start not later than October 1.

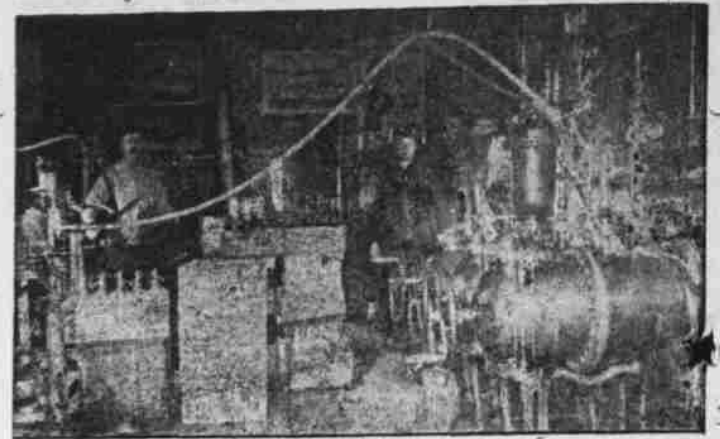
A five-mile wagon road has been built to the mill at heavy expense. It solves the transportation problem.

The Aurelia Mining company certainly has a great property. It shows the same class of ore in the same formation that made Butte, Montana. Such of the ore as would not justify shipment in bulk is of the best class of concentrating ore, and the mill is now there to handle it. Gold, silver, copper and lead are present, but it is principally copper-silver ore.

It is in the heart of the Camp Carson district, where other properties are also making a good showing. The mill properties, for instance, shipped a carload of ore last year that showed values of \$85 a ton. The Royal, owned by J. A. Thomson and J. L. Corbett is another nearby prospect that is promising big returns. It has 300 feet of development work. Ore from the Pay Boy owned by La Grande parties, has brought \$87 per ton when silver was only 50c an ounce. It too, is in the Camp Carson district. Nearby promising prospects are the Eureka, Blue Bird and others, all of which are making good showings.

J. A. Thomson and J. L. Corbett, both well known in La Grande, are the officers and principal owners of the Aurelia Mining company. They are experienced and practical mining men, who possess the confidence of the people of this section, and their faith in these properties as producers is unbounded.

No stock of the Aurelia Mining company has been sold except enough to put in the concentrating plant and build the five-mile wagon road and as said before, if any is offered in order to secure funds for additional de-



INTERIOR VIEW LA GRANDE BOTTLING WORKS.

velopment work it will meet a ready sale.

The Observer believes the Aurelia Mining company has a wonderfully bright outlook, and so would anyone who investigated this property.

OREGON'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

An increase of \$125,000 in the amount of money expended for public school purposes in Oregon in 1906 as compared with 1905, though the number of pupils in the schools remains practically unchanged, is one of the principal features of educational development shown by the annual statistical report of Superintendent of Public Instruction Ackerman.

The increase in the amount of money paid for teacher's salaries was \$150,000 in one year, this increase being due in part to higher salaries and partly to longer terms of school. Some of the other items of expense have been reduced to counterbalance in part the increased expenditures in teachers' salaries.

The total school population shows an increase of over 3400 in one year, but the enrollment increased only about 500 and the average daily attendance fell off 37. The average length of the school year increased very little, the report for 1905 showing 6.05 months and that of 1906 showing 6.19 months. Male teachers seem to have profited most by the increase in salaries, for their compensation on an average, advanced from \$55.69 per month, to \$60.02 per month, while the compensation of females increased only from \$43.50 to \$54.05. The public schools employed 137 more teachers than in 1905.

	Men	Women
Baker	\$74 00	\$51 00
Benton	52 25	33 98
Clackamas	49 76	45 78
Clatsop	67 70	46 78
Columbia	54 42	42 65
Coos	55 45	75 82
Crook	68 39	48 52
Curry	46 50	42 75
Douglas	50 00	37 52
Gilliam	49 00	46 85
Grant	61 56	47 55
Harney	75 00	60 00
Jackson	60 00	44 12
Josephine	45 00	41 00
Klamath	71 00	40 00
Lake	75 70	56 00
Lane	47 00	38 00
Lincoln	40 00	32 00
Linn	53 00	40 00
Maiheuer	72 25	37 13
Marion	53 05	40 22
Morrow	66 25	48 00
Multnomah	125 85	73 22
Polk	55 20	40 00
Sherman	52 00	46 59
Tillamook	52 21	45 11
Umatilla	58 06	48 74
Union	61 58	45 00
Wallowa	58 00	49 00
Wasco	65 11	47 80
Washington	49 78	41 28
Wheeler	57 00	42 33
Yamhill	54 48	39 06

It will be noticed that Union county stands 8th in the state for the amount paid men and 12th for women teachers.

With a larger than usual hay crop, a better than expected wheat yield, more beets than ever, the hog market all that could be desired, the price of horses almost out of sight, and lumber continually increasing in value, why shouldn't the citizens of Union county feel prosperous?

JAP H. STEVENS & CO.

Manufacturers and Bottlers of All Kinds of Carbonated Waters—Factory First and Park Streets—Telephone Black 441.

Soda water of numerous flavors, sarsaparilla and iron, orange and champagne ciders, ginger ale, mineral waters, etc., are the products of this bottling works, which find a ready sale throughout the Grande Ronde Valley.

Only the purest of ingredients are used, scrupulous cleanliness is observed, and the machinery equipment is thoroughly up-to-date. In quality, the output is simply unsurpassed. The capacity of the plant is about 600 half-pint and 600 quart bottles daily.

Besides supplying the saloons, and stores, a considerable family trade is enjoyed, and deliveries are promptly made to residences.

Mr. Stevens passed through this valley in 1854 with his parents when but four years old. At that time there was not a fence in this section, and no settlement other than an Indian trading post. In 1863, the family returned and General John H. Stevens established the Valley House, a hotel which he successfully conducted for many years. As a boy, J. H. Stevens began his career by learning the printers' trade, in the first newspaper office in La Grande, which published the Grande Ronde Sentinel, and he still has the early files of this newspaper. Later he "made up the forms" of the first issue of Baker county's pioneer paper, the Bedrock Democrat. As a printer he worked on the Eugene Guard and the Lewiston Times in early days. With E. S. McComus he became owner of the paper for which he first set type, which has been renamed the Mountain Sentinel, and they moved the plant to Union after that town became the county seat. A \$600 bonus was one of the inducements. The plant is still in Union.

Mr. Stevens and I. Hathaway established this bottling works fourteen years ago. Mr. Hathaway's connection with the business continuing about six years. Mr. Stevens has always devoted his entire time to the business which has steadily grown with the advancement of this section. Probably no one mentioned in the pages of this special number of The Observer, is more widely known or better liked than J. H. Stevens. He has seen La Grande grow from a few scattering houses to a compact city, and he believes that the beginning only has been made.

MARKET QUOTATIONS

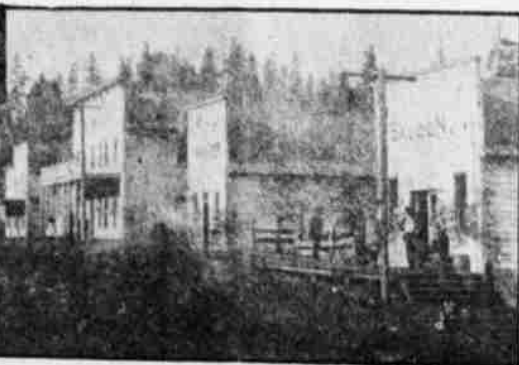
The following are the local prices quoted by dealers in this city as we go to press.

Wheat, per bu	60 cents
Barley, per cental	85 cents
Oats, per cental	\$1.00
Eggs, per dozen	30 cents
Butter, per lb	27 to 30 cents
Chickens, spring per lb	12 cents
Old chickens, per lb	9 cents
Hogs, per lb	6 1/2 cents
Beef cattle, per lb	3 1/2 cents
Sheep, per lb	3 1/2 cents
Potatoes, per 100 lbs	\$1.00
Apples, per box	75 cents
Pears, per box	\$1.25
Timothy hay	\$10
Wild hay	\$8.50
Alfalfa	\$9.50

The success of those already here is the best indication of what awaits in the Grande Ronde Valley.



HILGARD SCENE.



WALLOWA HILL.