

BIRDEYE VIEW OF LA GRANDE

Resources and Advantages of Grande Ronde Valley

North Powder.
North Powder is a town of over 400 population, located on the Powder river 20 miles south of La Grande. It has a live weekly newspaper, a bank, and saw mill, besides a number of stores. There are several large stock ranches nearby. In the vicinity are some important mining properties.

Island City.
Island City, two miles from La Grande, is the home of the Pioneer Mills and the Island City Mercantile & Milling company, one of the largest mercantile enterprises of the valley. It is an incorporated town with a population of about 300 and is admirably located on the Elgin branch of the O. R. & N. line alongside the Grande Ronde river. There is a fine brick school house, and the full state course, including the eleventh grade, is taught. Island City has an adequate water system, which affords ample fire protection.

Imbler.
Imbler, a town on the Elgin branch, has about 300 people, several stores, a large flouring mill, a planing mill, grain warehouses, blacksmith shop, etc. Educational facilities are decidedly good. It is a thriving little place, in about the center of the valley.

saw mill town of about 250 people. There is a hotel, a store, saloon, blacksmith shop, etc. The town is in the heart of the lumber section of Union county. Several saw mills are operated in and near the town.

STOCK RAISING

HORSES, CATTLE AND SWINE THRIVE HERE—GREAT IMPROVEMENT OF STRAINS IN RECENT YEARS—DAIRYING.

Cattle-raising was at one time the chief industry of this section, fostered and encouraged as it was by the abundance of natural forage grasses, the unlimited supply of pure water, and the mild climate. Until La the '80s little attention was paid to the quality of cattle raised, numbers being the object. There was ample free pasturage up to about that time. With

part of all visitors to this section. There are no better or cheaper hay foods than alfalfa and wheat, and as these are both grown to advantage in the Grande Ronde Valley, this branch of stock-raising is naturally quite general. Swine are healthy in this valley, and hog-raising is decidedly profitable.

While sheep do well, they require an immense acreage for pasture, and this branch of the stock industry is waning. Only a few thousand sheep now remain in Union county.

Location of Union County, Oregon

Union county is situated in the northeastern part of the state of Oregon and contains about ninety townships or 2,000,000 acres of land. An idea of its extent may be better appreciated when it is known that this is three times the size of the state of Rhode Island and nearly double that of Delaware. The population of the county is about 20,000.



HERD OF JERSEY CATTLE IN THE GRANDE RONDE.

GRANDE RONDE VALLEY HAS FERTILE FARMS



STACKING ALFALFA IN THE GRAND RONDE VALLEY.

Conditions favor diversification of crops in the Grande Ronde Valley for both soil and climate suit a wide variety of products.

The soil is rich in all the elements of fertility. It is a black, sandy loam, easily tilled, and contains that admixture of decomposed lava which renders it remarkably retentive of moisture. Owing to this fact, the rains, if sufficiently copious at some time of the year, need not be specially opportune in order to produce abundant crops. Timely rains are however, the rule. While desirable, irrigation is not essential to successful farming, although it undoubtedly is a valuable adjunct. Already a considerable acreage is under ditch, and plans are now being matured that will bring water to the major portion of the valley lands.

Wheat, oats, barley, hay, sugar beets, vegetables, fruits and berries are the principal crops. Corn, the great staple of the middle west, receives little attention here. The yields of wheat, oats and barley per acre are frequently enormous. Large tracts of land have averaged 50 bushels of wheat to the acre, and instances of 100 bushels of oats and barley are by no means rare. Such yields are, of course, above the general average of the valley, which is, however, very high.

In the production of hay, no locality in Oregon surpasses this valley. The hay brings a premium over the common market price because of its high quality. Grain, alfalfa, timothy and wild grasses are cured in great quantities every year. The annual hay crop reaches about 125,000 tons.

Sugar beets have become an important farm product since the establishing of the big beet sugar factory at La Grande. The yield per acre is heavy, and the quality of the beets excellent. The warm days and cool nights of this valley tend to the development of unusual quantities of sugar in the beets. The heat of mid-day develops succharine matter in the leaves and the cool nights, by causing contraction, force it down into the roots. There is a magnificent future for sugar beet culture here, and, as a pursuit open to the farmer, it is second in profit only to fruit-raising. Potatoes, tomatoes and garden vegetables generally do well here, and this is also true of small fruits, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, currants, etc., all of which are of notably fine flavor.

A separate article in this edition treats of apples and cherries, which are the chief commercial fruit crops. Peaches, pears and plums are also raised to some extent.

The demonstration of the returns from intensive farming has had its effect in showing the real value of Grande Ronde Valley lands and the tendency now is toward small farms. True the major part of the land is owned by a comparatively few men, but they are becoming aware of the fact that this land is entirely too well adapted to fruits, bees, vegetables, etc., to be profitably held in wheat fields, and are selling small tracts to those desiring same.

The day is fast approaching when a 50-acre farm will be considered large, and already many are content with 20 or 30 acres.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES UNSURPASSED

No Valley on the Pacific Coast and Few in the United States Have Transportation Facilities Equal to Those of the Grande Ronde

Elsewhere in this edition is an article on the Central Railway of Oregon, now being built in the valley, which will tap every important point, and become probably the most important feeder of the O. R. & N.

The transcontinental system of railroads, known popularly as the "Harriman lines," includes the Oregon Railway & Navigation company's road, which traverses the state from Portland to Huntington. It is the shortest transcontinental line, effecting a time-saving of ten hours from New York to Portland. This road crosses the Grande Ronde Valley, and affords outlets through its connections with all parts of the United States.

LA GRANDE A DIVISION POINT
La Grande is a freight division point and an important one. Every 24 hours about 14 freight and four passenger trains get their orders at the depot and pull out east or west.

The following table shows the freight originating in the Grande Ronde Valley in a single year, that is handled by the O. R. & N. trains:

Commodity	Carloads
Lumber	3,000
Wheat	2,000
Oats and barley	600
Wood	500
Ice	500
Fruit	250
Sugar	200
Potatoes	200
Hay	200
Cattle	150
Hogs	100
Horses and mules	50
Total	7,750

Equal to 194 solid trains of 40 cars each.

This means a solid train load every other day on an average the year round. Of course, most of this freight is moved in the fall and winter.

The railroad payroll here is about \$20,000 monthly. In the machine shops and round house about 120 men are employed. There are some 150 men in the operating force out of here—engineers, firemen, brakemen and trainmen generally. Then there is the depot force, the yard men, etc. Altogether about 350 railroad men live at La Grande.

A new round house and shops to cost \$200,000 is now being built, and on its completion the force will be materially increased. Oil storage tanks are also to be erected and oil-burning engines used exclusively in the near future.

A branch road connects with the main line here and runs to Elgin. It was built in 1889. This branch is now being extended into Wallawa county. Another extension will soon be built from Elgin to Lewiston, Idaho, and thence to connect with the main line at the Columbia river. When completed this will give the O. R. & N. a water grade from La Grande to Portland, and over it will be sent most of the heavy freight trains.

The main line of the O. R. & N., the Elgin branch and the belt line of the Central Railway of Oregon will afford this valley ideal transportation facilities, which could scarcely be more complete. Every part and portion of the valley will have railroad conveniences.



TURNING THE SOD IN THE GRANDE RONDE VALLEY.

Wheat and beets are raised extensively in this vicinity—in fact, there is scarcely an acre of waste land in this part of the Grande Ronde. A number of new orchards have been set out, and the trees are doing extra well. The older orchards are all money-makers.

Alice.
Alice has about 100 people. It is surrounded by wheat and other grain fields, and has large warehouses. It, too, is located on the Elgin branch. Alice has a fine public school, and is in the center of a populous district.

Nibley.
Nibley is the baby town of the valley in point of age, but already numbers about 100 people. It is located in a rich farming district.

Perry.
The Grande Ronde Lumber company's mill is located at Perry on the O. R. & N. main line, and the Grande Ronde river, three miles west of La Grande. Perry has about 200 inhabitants and a well-stocked store, is conducted there. It is essentially a saw mill town.

Hilgard.
Eight miles west of La Grande on the river and railroad is Hilgard, a

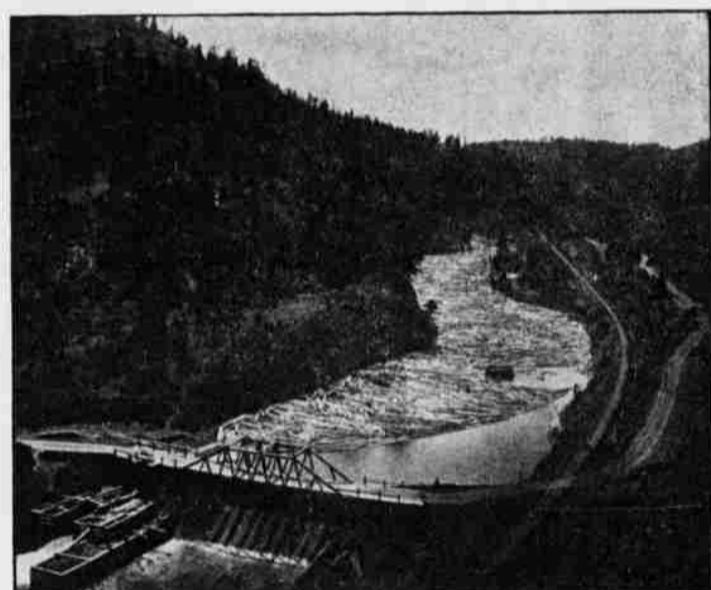
development of farms the range cattle were forced back into the hills, and the reduction of herds led to an improvement of the breeds. In 1905 Union county had 17,418 cattle, most of them, however, being graded stock. Herefords, Shorthorns and other thoroughbred cattle now predominate, and cattle-raisers are all prosperous. Hundreds of farmers maintain dairy herds, finding a cash market for the cream at La Grande, Union and North Powder creameries, which are all modern butter-making plants.

In the nature of things, the dairy interests are yearly becoming of more importance.

No section of the state has finer horses than are seen in the Grande Ronde Valley. In early days much attention was paid to running stock, and there is still a considerable demand for saddle horses, but of late years breeders are most interested in trotting and draft animals. Standardbred trotting horses, Percherons, Clydesdales, and French and English coach horses are raised in ever increasing numbers. The high-class horses used by valley farmers is a subject of favorable comment on the



LOGGING SCENE IN UNION COUNTY WOODS.



A LOG BOOM ON THE GRAND RONDE RIVER.

TROUT FISHING

Ideal Conditions in Union County Afford Sport for Anglers

There are few indeed of the local readers of this edition who have not enjoyed the excellent trout fishing of this section. Many regard the hours spent in summer with rod and reel along the swift-flowing waters as the happiest in their existence.

The outing pleasures experienced on the beautiful and picturesque trout streams of this section are treasured memories of hundreds. It is not alone the thrill of hooking and landing "a big fellow," on tackle that makes the fight fair and even, (although this is the crowning joy), but the mere being out in the open, the getting close to Nature and the mastery of her secrets that brings unforgettable pleasures to trout fishermen.

Some there be whose only happiness lies in a full creel, and who bend every energy unceasingly toward the capture of the greatest possible number of trout in the shortest time. But they make work of sport, and miss much of the possible enjoyment of their outing. A reasonable number of trout should reward the angler, but it is not necessary nor desirable to catch 100 or more in one day. Take time to look about you. If you would understand this, there, did you see that mink slipping so easily through the thick underbrush on the edge of the stream? Watch him fearlessly turn and coolly regard you

before he slips silently into the pool below a fallen tree. What's that rustle you hear a short distance on the right. Investigate, and the family of pheasants you discover will make you want to bring at least a 22-calibre rifle up here in the fall. What are these tracks in the wet sand alongside this shady pool? A deer has certainly passed this way recently.

It's a little interesting. The language of the woods is hard to learn, but close observation soon works wonders.

In Union county alone there are over 400 miles of clear, swift trout streams, and with care and general interest fishing can always be maintained as good as it is today. In fact, it can be improved.

The Eastern Oregon Fish and Game association, organized October 12, 1904, is a most potent factor for the improvement of fishing and hunting conditions. Your membership is highly desirable, and your support is needed. The membership fee is only \$1—yet every dollar helps in the good work of stocking streams, posting same law warnings and maintaining a local game warden. During 1906, a million fish will be planted in the streams of Union county, and several hundred thousand will grow up to gladden the hearts of future fishermen. Every stream in this county will be annually stocked with brook and rainbow trout from the government hatcheries. Expense is unavoidable. True the government delivers the fish at railroad points, but they must then be taken to the streams and properly liberated.

Surely no reader of this edition who fishes in Union county would be so selfish as to knowingly benefit from the commendable work of the association without a desire to assist by paying dues of only \$1 a year.

The officers of the association are: H. J. Hockberry, president; A. V. Andrews, vice president; G. L. Cleaver, secretary, and C. T. Bacon, treasurer. Get a membership card from the secretary before you go fishing again.