

La Grande Evening Observer

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EXTRA NUMBER

IRRIGATION FOR ALL OF THE GRANDE RONDE VALLEY

The Waters of the Grande Ronde and the Minam Will Be Used--Irrigation Companies Incorporated



IRRIGATION DAM.

And he gave it for his opinion, "that whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass, to grow upon a spot of ground, where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together." —Dean Swift.

There is scarcely an acre in the Grande Ronde Valley that cannot be reached by one of the two irrigation projects that are being worked out by leading Valley citizens.

Every bit of land so watered will at once increase in value fully \$50 an acre. Lands now worth \$50 an acre will be worth from \$100 to \$150.

There are at present under irrigation in this Valley about 4000 acres, and this land is the highest priced. While irrigation is not absolutely essential to the growing of most crops, it is of astonishing value in increasing the yield of the land, and well worth all its costs.

GRANDE RONDE RESERVOIR CO.

The Grande Ronde Reservoir Company, with a capital stock of \$100,000, and incorporated under the laws of Oregon, seeks to reservoir the waters of the Grande Ronde River in a basin known as Meadow Brook, 25 miles from La Grande. Sufficient water can easily be held to supply 20,000 acres in the north end of the Valley.

The company has gone ahead with the preliminary work, and the outlook now is that it will be delivering water next summer.

The making of the reservoir at Meadow Brook calls for an 80-foot dam to impound the water. So favorable are the natural conditions that the expense of this project will be comparatively small, and of course the farmers who buy water rights will benefit from that fact. The estimated cost of water rights is only \$25 an acre, payable in ten annual equal payments. Aside from a small annual maintenance fee to keep up the dam and ditches, this will be the total cost for a perpetual water right from the Grande Ronde Reservoir Company. The certain

increase in crops each year on every irrigated acre makes this expense trivial. It is less than half the Government's charge per acre for land watered by the Echo project, and about half that required from land owners under the Malthuer project.

It is confidently expected that the land owners in the part of the Valley reached by this reservoir project will unanimously accept the company's proposition. To do otherwise would be folly.

The directors of the company are all well known local men, and include: G. W. Hunter, George Stoddard, F. S. Bramwell, C. H. Crawford and Walter M. Pierce.

GRANDE RONDE WATER CO.

At an expense of about \$2,500,000 the Grande Ronde Water Co. will divert the water of the Minam River to the Grande Ronde Valley. The Minam will be tapped above Horse Ranch and enter the Valley by a 37-mile ditch at the Cove. Thence it will be conducted via Union and Sandridge, watering 100,000 acres of valley land.

The water rights of the Minam have been secured, and the final surveys are now being made. It will require about three years to complete this project.

The estimated cost to farmers who own valley land is only \$30 an acre for a perpetual water right, and this amount can be paid in ten equal annual payments.

This is a much less amount than is asked by the Government in connection with its Oregon irrigation systems. The Echo project costs land-owners \$60 an acre, and the Malthuer project, \$45 an acre.

The Minam had on July 1st last a flow of 50,000 miners inches of water, and at its lowest stage there is always at least 25,000 miners inches at the point where the company will divert the stream. This gives ample water for all possible contingencies. Los Angeles is spending more than \$25,000,000 to bring a smaller stream—Owens River—to that city, a distance of 160 miles.

The Minam is probably the finest mountain stream in Eastern Oregon, and

of such convenient access to this Valley that it solves for all time to come the question of water here. Fortunately it is not being used at all, either above or below Horse Ranch, for irrigation purposes, and the Grande Ronde Water Co. has secured the entire water rights.

The directors of the Grande Ronde Water Co. are J. H. Romig, T. R. Barry and Walter M. Pierce. The project is not of recent date, although the company was organized only last July. Surveys have been made in every possible direction, and engineers have searched for the most available route for several years. Catherine creek was examined to its headwaters with the result that no available location for a reservoir was found on its entire length. One big advantage of the Minam project is that a reservoir is unnecessary, the regular flow being ample.

Within a reasonable time, practically the whole of the Grande Ronde Valley will be under irrigation.

THE GRANDE RONDE VALLEY FRUIT GROWERS' UNION.

EVERY ORCHARD OWNER IN THIS VALLEY SHOULD JOIN AT ONCE.

Through organization, the fruit growers of the Grande Ronde Valley will receive many benefits unattainable as individuals.

The Grande Ronde Valley Fruit Growers' Union is an incorporated organization, whose sole object is to foster the interests of local fruit growers. Its officers and directors are:

L. Oldenburg, president; P. H. Dickinson, vice-president; E. Z. Carbine, secretary and manager; B. A. Davis, F. L. Coykendall. All are well-known citizens of the Valley, and fruit-growers of prominence.

The Union was formed last January, and already represents the product of 1000 acres of bearing orchard as well as 200,000 young trees that will in a few years come into bearing. Its operations tend to secure for fruit-growers the very highest market price. The Union proposes to ship not only in car lots but in train loads.

It will furnish fruit growers all needed information on how to grow fruit and get the best results. There are very few pests or blights in this Valley that affect fruit trees, and these few can be eradicated by intelligent and well-directed effort. The Union proposes to see that this is done.

The Union intends to stop the shipment of any imperfect fruit from the Valley, and suggests it be remembered that any man has the right, and will be doing a service to this Valley's fruit industry, if he calls the attention of the Union's secretary to imperfect fruit that should be condemned.

It is indeed short-sightedness to permit any inferior fruit to leave the Valley.

All fruit of members will be packed under the supervision of the Union, and with care in this respect there is no reason why the fruit growers of this Valley should receive any lower prices than those received at Hood River or elsewhere.

The primary object of the Union is to secure due recognition of the high quality of this Valley's fruit, with attendant high prices.

It is a Grande Ronde Valley enterprise, and it is emphatically to the interests of every fruit grower in this Valley, large or small, to become a member at once.

A big-savings is effected by members in securing the necessary boxes, nails, paper, etc., but this is the least of the benefits derived.

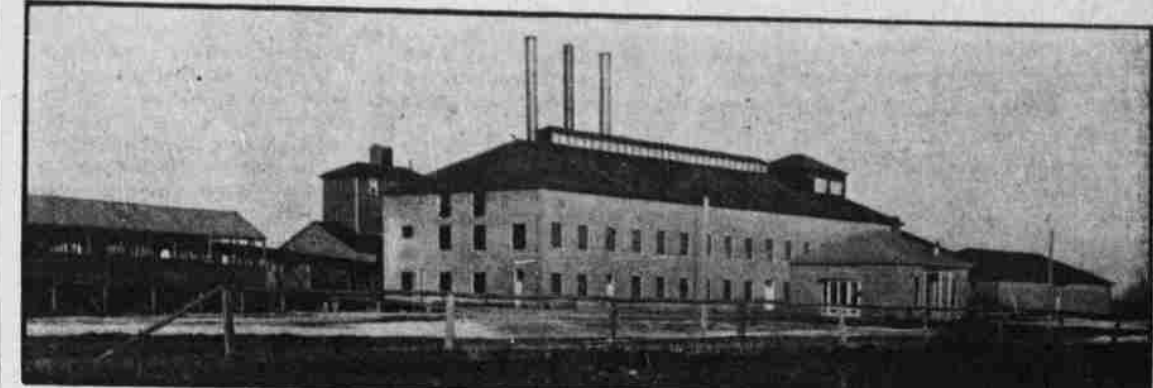
Grande Ronde Valley fruit is mostly raised without irrigation, although irrigation admittedly helps materially where it is possible.

The fruit is marketed all over the United States, and some of it is shipped to Europe.

No higher quality of fruit is produced anywhere. The Union made a small exhibit of this Valley's fruit at the Irrigation Congress at Boise early this month. Vice-President Fairbanks said: "Your exhibit is not large, but it is of the very best." Many fruit experts in attendance were loud in their praise of Grande Ronde Valley fruit.

Experience everywhere has clearly demonstrated that a well-managed organization is of incalculable value to fruit growers, and the Grande Ronde Valley Fruit Growers' Union will prove so here. Whether your orchard be large or small, join at once. See E. Z. Carbine, secretary, at his office, opposite the Sommers Hotel, Depot street, La Grande.

To visit Grande Ronde Valley and see it and to investigate its advantages, is to locate here. In no instance have people, who have visited this valley, given it other than the best of reputation in regard to climate, soil and everything that goes to constitute a good country.



BEEET SUGAR FACTORY AT LA GRANDE.

BEEET SUGAR MANUFACTURE LA GRANDE THE SITE OF THE ONLY BEEET SUGAR FACTORY IN OREGON.

The Grande Ronde Valley Has Been Materially Benefitted by This Industry—Increased Acreage Devoted to Raising Sugar Beets Desirable.

The year 1898 witnessed the erection in La Grande of a large and thoroughly equipped beet sugar factory, having a capacity for treating 350 tons of beets daily, and producing an unequalled quality of commercial sugar.

A sufficient time has elapsed since the factory began operations to show the benefits accruing to this section through sugar beet raising and manufacture. While the maximum capacity of the plant has never been reached, and while the fact is very plain that a much increased offering of beets could be advantageously handled, the manifold benefits that have resulted locally from this industry are too self-evident to be unobserved even by the most pessimistic.

The Observer sums them up as follows:

Many thousands of dollars have been distributed among the wide awake farmers of this section who have devoted part of their land to beet raising. Light, congenial and healthy work has been provided for those who could be induced to accept it in the fields.

The operation of the factory has furnished employment all the year for some (and during a part of each year for a large number), of well-paid employes.

The money thus put in local circulation has been derived from sales of sugar at distant points, and in consequence money that under no other circumstances would have been seen here.

Unquestionably the beet sugar industry has strengthened farm values and has been one of the direct causes of the gratifying increase in price of all farm property in this section.

The adaptability of Grande Ronde Valley land to the raising of sugar beets has been definitely proven, and the fact demonstrated that successive beet crops on the same land increase, instead of decrease, its productiveness. Larger crops of beets per acre each succeeding year on the same land has been the almost invariable experience, and it is evident that increased fertility results from sugar beet raising under right methods and conditions.

These are in the main the material benefits so far received from the industry locally.

In this vicinity, beets are a certain crop, and as they are contracted for at a stated and agreed price, at the time of planting, the element of chance which applies so universally to other crops is eliminated. At \$4.50 a ton, which is the usual contract price, the farmer is certain of larger net returns per acre than from any other producer of the farm save and excepting fruit. The returns from either grain or hay by no means equal the returns from beets, and no man can stay until harvest time, with any accuracy, what the market price of wheat, oats, rye, hay, potatoes, or other farm products will be.

While orchards bring in more money per acre to their fortunate owners, there is a period of several years of net loss before the trees reach the age of bearing. Not so with beets. Handsome returns are secured the very first season, and a steady increase is noticeable from year to year.

The main difficulty met with in beet culture is in securing the necessary labor in sufficient numbers during the weeding and harvesting periods. But an increased population is steadily remedying this handicap. There is a big advantage in the fact that the work is not heavy, and boys and girls as well as their parents can do effective work in the fields.

It is distinctly to the interests of the land-owners of this valley to endeavor to supply all of the beets that can be used by the factory, for its maximum operation will directly or indirectly benefit every resident of this section. This fall the prospective offering of beets is estimated at 30,000

tons, which is by far the largest offering to date, and indicates a more general realization of the opportunity for profit that is afforded by sugar beet raising will be cheerfully furnished, raising. The factory can easily handle 50,000 tons and that amount would gladly be purchased. In fact, there is not the slightest danger of over-production, for the Amalgamated Sugar company will contract, before the seed is put in the ground, to buy every ton raised. Furthermore all possible advice and all necessary information of value to those inexperienced in beet raising is really no question of failure to secure a crop upon even the first planting.

The best criterion of the possibilities of the sugar beet industry in this valley is what has been accomplished under practically equal conditions elsewhere.

In Colorado in 1904 there were planted 46,100 acres of sugar beets from which were harvested 459,000 tons, of a value to the farmers of over two million dollars. In 1905, there were 60,000 acres devoted to sugar beets, in that state, and this year the planting is even heavier. There are now eleven sugar beet factories in Colorado and many of them handle from 60,000 to 80,000 tons each. Without exception all beet-sugar-communities are prosperous.

Amalgamated Sugar Co.

In 1898, in response to the expressed desire and financial encouragement of the people of La Grande and vicinity, the large factory was built here by David Eccles, C. W. Nibley and their associates, organized as the Oregon Sugar company. Later the property was acquired by the Amalgamated Sugar Co., which owns and operates beet sugar factories in Ogden, Logan and Lewiston, Utah, as well as in La Grande. The officers of the company are: David Eccles, president; Hiram H. Spencer, vice president; Henry H. Rolapp, secretary and treasurer, and the directors include Joseph F. Smith, Fred J. Kiesel, Ephraim P. Ellison, Joseph Clark, William H. Wattis, Hiram H. Spencer, Joseph Scofield, Adam Patterson, George Stoddard, M. S. Browning.

The four plants of this company have a combined capacity of 1800 tons of beets daily—sufficient to care for the probable production for some years to come.

The La Grande plant has for the past six years been under the local management of F. S. Bramwell, who possesses the acquaintance and confidence of the people throughout this section.

The superintendent, F. G. Taylor, who began his duties here this year, was formerly superintendent of the Logan factory, and has had a wide and valuable experience in scientific practical sugar-making, having visited and worked in some of the largest plants in the country.

The process of sugar-making from beets, while not extremely complicated, requires accuracy of method and unceasing watchfulness if the best product is to be obtained.

The pioneer beet sugar makers were unable to obtain scientific help, and their product suffered accordingly. Among people who used this inferior sugar, a natural prejudice in favor of cane sugar arose, which, however, present-day manufacturers have but little difficulty in overcoming. The truth is that perfect beet sugar does not in any way differ from pure cane sugar, either in taste, appearance or sweetening properties. The non-sugars in the product from the beet are exceedingly unpleasant to the taste, whereas the non-sugars from cane are not so characterized, with the result that imperfectly refined cane sugar will easily find a market where there is no sale for beet sugar carrying an excess of non-sugars.

The coarseness or fineness of sugar crystals is governed entirely by the degree to which crystallization is carried in the process of manufacture, and it is in this one respect that the element of chance enters. Practice, however, confers on operators a decided expertness in controlling the size of the crystals.

Although there are, of course, many larger sugar plants the La Grande factory has every essential of equipment for the production of the highest-grade sugars. Storage facilities are ample, and shipping facilities are excellent.

A detailed description of the equipment and the process would perhaps hardly be of wide general interest, and it will suffice to say that the beets are handled and converted into sugar with a maximum of economy by the most approved modern methods.

Beets are ready for harvesting about the middle of September, and then for the next 30 or 40 days a steady stream of wagons makes deliveries to the factory. During the operating season, which begins as soon as beets are delivered in quantity, the factory runs night and day without cessation until the entire crop is cared for. The pulp of the beets, from which the sugar juices have been extracted makes an excellent feed for fattening cattle, and is stored in silos for that purpose. The molasses refuse is also used for stock food, although from it alcohol and other chemicals can be readily extracted and these by-products may in time be made here.

The main thing at present, is to materially increase the beet acreage, and in any effort to do so farmers may absolutely rely upon the co-operation and assistance to any reasonable extent on the part of the Amalgamated Sugar Co. If you have available land and are interested, call upon Mr. Bramwell at your earliest convenience, and discuss this matter.

GEO. PALMER LUMBER CO.

PLANT NOW BEING BUILT AT LA GRANDE.

The company was incorporated January 1, 1904, and this summer secured a very desirable site on the Grande Ronde river, at La Grande, to manufacture into lumber the heavy timber holdings it has acquired.

The plant will be in operation next March, and will give employment to a large number of men. The company's pay roll will include from 200 to 300 hands at the mill and in the woods. The timber holdings are in Union and Walla-walla counties, and the O. R. & N. extension taps them. The capacity of the plant will be about 100,000 feet daily, and all kinds of rough and dressed lumber will be turned out. The equipment will include dry kilns and a thoroughly modern planing mill.

The officers of the company are: Geo. M. Palmer, president; D. S. Priest, vice-president; Geo. L. Cleaver, secretary; G. M. Byrkit, treasurer.

SUMMERVILLE LUMBER CO.

IMBLER'S BIG SAW AND PLANING MILL—OUTPUT FOUR MILLION FEET ANNUALLY.

At Imbler, on the Elgin branch of the O. R. & N. Co.'s line, is located one of the important lumber industries of the Valley—the Summerville Lumber Co.'s plant. About seventy men are employed in the saw and planing mill and in teaming. On the average, fifteen teams are kept on the road.

The output includes all kinds of rough and dressed lumber, and shipments are made throughout the Middle West. There is now on hand about 2,500,000 feet of lumber.

The company was established some four years ago, and is successfully handling a large business. The owners are: J. I. Wado, an old resident of the Grande Ronde Valley; P. S. Robinson, formerly of Kentucky, who came here in 1901, and W. B. Bach, who came west from Ann Arbor, Mich., a few years ago.

The mountains of Union county are covered with timber of the best quality for lumbering purposes. The timber consists of pine, fir, spruce and tamarack.



FARM RESIDENCE OF J. M. McCALL.