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## GEO. KRIEGER

Phones—Residence, Black 701, Yard, Red 521. La Grande, Oregon



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MAKE YOUR SLEEPER RESERVATIONS NOW.



### CONTRACT CLOSED.

#### Home People Get the Carnegie Library Work at Baker.

After thorough investigation and weighing all matters in a deliberate manner, the city council at a special session last night, awarded contracts for the Carnegie library building as follows: Charles Baldwin was given the contract for construction for \$19,958 and J. J. Gleason received contract for heating and plumbing at \$2578, relates the Baker Herald.

According to agreement the building is to be ready for occupancy on March 1, 1909. Architects Wayland & Penell of Boise, who are superintending, made few changes in the original plans for the library. It was possible, however, in the alterations, to save some of the cost, enabling constructors to get within the appropriation.

The bids, when first received, were all too high for the amount of money that was to be expended for this building and members of the council put in a good deal of time trying to cut the cloth without waste. Baldwin's bid was the lowest and after the council had considered the advisability of rejecting all bids, it was decided to consult with Mr. Baldwin and the architects with a view to making a few changes in the plans, and bringing the cost within the limit. This was successfully done and now work will begin at once.

\*\*\*\*\*  
♦ AT THE PLAYHOUSES. ♦  
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♦ AT THE SHERWOOD. ♦

#### A Pleasing Feature for Tonight's Entertainment.

"King Scatterbrain's Troubles."—A young nobleman goes to an old wizard and begs his aid in getting the old king's consent to marry his daughter. The wizard goes with the lover to the council chamber, where the monarch is sitting in state, surrounded by all his courtiers. When the old magician states the nature of his mission the obdurate old king orders him from his sight. But not to be thwarted so easily, he tells the king that he will bring down the maledictions of the spirits on him, and hereafter he will receive a beating from ghosts every time the clock strikes until he gives his consent to the marriage. The old king does not heed the warning and retires to his private chamber, and as the clock strikes two he receives his first beating from the supernatural beings. He is at a great banquet when they again attack him and spread terror among the guests, who flee for their lives when they see the king and his valet receive a terrible thrashing. Everything is upset and broken and the king is left to himself among the ruins. He goes to the kitchen to give orders and while there he is again attacked, and everything is in an uproar as the spooks belabor him with knives and forks. Finally he goes to his bedroom and, after getting patched up, he retires. He has just fallen asleep when the ghosts visit him again and drag him out of bed and throw him on the floor. When the attendants rush to his assistance they find everything in chaos, and the king and the valet nearly dead from the experience. The former, seeing that there is no use in battling with the supernatural powers, summons the wizard and the young lover to his council chamber and gladly gives his consent to the marriage. The happy young couple receive his blessing, while old Mr. Wizard looks on triumphantly.

#### Call for Bids.

Notice is hereby given that the county court of Union county, Oregon, will receive sealed bids for the construction of a wooden bridge over the main channel of Catherine Creek on Main street, in the city of Union, Union county, Oregon, said bridge to be constructed in compliance with the plans and specifications on file in the office of the county clerk of said county, at La Grande, Oregon. Said bids shall be filed in the office of the county clerk of said county, on or before August 22nd, 1908, at 12 o'clock noon. Said bids to be accompanied by a certified check for five per cent of the amount of said bid. The court reserving the right to reject any or all bids. Dated at La Grande, Oregon, this 5th day of August, 1908.

ED WRIGHT,  
County Clerk.

For the Ladies.  
The Ladies Home Journal is in. At Ferguson's. A20-21

## PAINTS NEW PICTURE

#### FORMER LA GRANDITE ASSUMES FINE VANTAGE.

#### Query for Information as to How La Grande Received its Name, Starts a Former Citizen, Now at Portland, to Think, and His Letter Follows—Highly Interesting.

A pretty bit of imagination that plausibly accounts for the name "Grande Ronde," to designate the valley in which La Grande is noted, is drawn by a former citizen of La Grande, W. W. Curtis, now of Portland. The appended communication was occasioned by the request for intelligence as to how La Grande came by its name, and it is evident that the writer has not yet seen the publication of The Observer containing Ben Brown's version of the matter. Mr. Curtis has evidently given the matter some attention, as his communication is fertile with historical facts. The highly interesting letter follows:

Portland, Ore., Aug. 19.—(Editor Observer.)—Have not yet noticed any answer as to the question "How La Grande got its name, who named it, and what the name means," I thought it would not be amiss if I could throw a little light on the subject. The name "La Grande" means "The Great," and is a derivation from "Grande Ronde," the name of the valley in which the town is located. The original government townsite (40 acres) was given the name "La Grande" by some official of the interior department (see 1870 census, report of department of the interior). The prefix "La" was incorrect grammatically, but the town was put that way on the maps for a good many years until some more intelligent government employee—probably a democrat—made the correction to "La." While searching the proper authorities for these facts I became interested and have spent a great many hours trying to find out how Grande Ronde valley received its name, and think I succeeded—to my own satisfaction, anyway.

A student of the history of the Pacific will know that the earlier exploring expeditions were composed mostly of French-Canadian voyageurs and, very naturally, they gave French names to all places of special interest. In the old Hudson Bay days, all places that now have common, every-day American names, were only known by a French appellation. There remain only a few of these and "Grande Ronde" is one. How many of the present citizens of La Grande have taken the trouble to go upon the ridge back of the old Coggan pasture and look down through Mill creek canyon? Those who have done so, may be able to thoroughly understand what the voyageur thought when he first saw that view, and I think they would exclaim with him, "La Grande Ronde!" or in plain English, "The Great Circle," or "The Great Round Valley." Try it. This all is no guesswork on my part, but is the result of long hours of searching in the numerous books, papers, and manuscripts in the library and at the historical society. Refer to "Fremont's Explorations," "Father De Smet," "Dr. Whittman's Letters and Reports," "Dr. Carver's Travels," "Peter Burnett's History of Oregon," "Joseph Gale's Personal Letters to J. W. Nesmith," and scores of others.

Yours, as a native son,  
W. W. CURTIS.

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