

La Grande Evening Observer

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CURRY BROTHERS,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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Hello, Observer. How is the big irrigation project coming on? This was the salutation of a Portland business man as he stepped off of the sleeper this morning to fill his lungs with our pure air, while en route to Chicago. This only goes to show how much interest generally is taken in the Grande Ronde valley irrigation scheme. It has been demonstrated that water is a valuable asset in any country. Without water Grande Ronde has become famous for her crops, and greater things are expected when we get the water.

Today marks the beginning of a new era for the great commonwealth, our sister county, Wallowa. This, Monday, morning the first regular passenger and freight train to enter the county pulled out of La Grande at 8 o'clock, destined for the city of Wallowa. Wallowa county has been waiting for this event for many years, and at last her hopes have been realized.

One week from today our county fair opens. The farmers in this vicinity are already beginning to pick out the best of everything they have to place on exhibit. We can have one of the best exhibits of any county if we take the pains and trouble to bring it out. If you have not already received one of the premium books call upon the secretary, Fred Holmes, and he will gladly supply you.

Now for the beet harvest. It is one perpetual harvest in Union county. Every month in the year we have something that comes into market. It is not beets it is hay, grain, brick, lumber, sugar, stock, ice, wood, etc. Union county is noted for her large diversified interests.

Ho, ye boosters! You cannot do this kind of weather justice. Some of you are first-class ingratists, but boys, you will find that your vocabulary is altogether too short on adjectives when it comes to attempting to, describing these beautiful mornings.

Everybody who have returned have nothing but praise for the state fair, but not a few wish it was located nearer Portland. Salem is too small to take care of the crowds and impose upon the public by charging double ordinary prices.

"It was more like a pioneer meeting than an excursion," was the way one expressed himself this morning, in speaking of the results of the first train into the city of Wallowa.

Some folks evidently made failures turn to success. For instance, Mr. Bryan is getting rich running for president, and we understand that Carrie Nation is worth \$250,000.

All aboard for Wallowa county.

BRAGG LEADS DEMOCRATS.

Union County Democrats Band Themselves Like Republicans.

E. E. Bragg heads the Bryan-Kern club organized in this city last Saturday night. Turner Oliver is secretary. This club is organized along lines duplicate to the Taft-Sherman club and will exert energies along much the same line with Bryan and Kern as the incentive. Vice-presidents will be selected from every precinct in the county.

12 HUNDRED TO WALLOWA

WALLOWA OUTDOES ITSELF YESTERDAY.

One of the Most Delightful Excursions Partook of Yesterday by 339 From La Grande—Grand Time for Everybody—Initial Trip to Wallowa County Made Without Accident to Mar it.

Twelve hundred people—crowding the aisles, vestibules and overhead spaces, taking advantage of crude seats in box car and caboose—went to Wallowa on the first passenger train to penetrate Wallowa county yesterday morning. Three hundred and thirty-nine went from La Grande and when the excursion train had reached Elgin, the under-anticipation of the O. R. & N. became noticeable. Accommodations were entirely too limited. But with some inconvenience, the enormous crowd was safely placed in the little town of Wallowa and for a period of four hours Wallowa outdid itself as host. Everything that could possibly tend to entertain the guests was done and of the vast throng to take advantage of the affair, not one has an adverse criticism to make against Wallowa.

Beautiful Camp Grounds.

About two miles out from Wallowa town, where meadows and forests abound, where cool streams wind their way in and out among the green fields—there it was that the excursionists finally came to a halt. Lunch baskets numbered practically the same total as the human beings and in a short time the cool shady spots were occupied with picnic luncheon. Wallowa apples, of a most delicious grade, and aromatic coffee supplied gruffs by the citizens of Wallowa, helped to fill out the menus in a grand style.

Then came the Enterprise band with its ear-pleasing music that was wafted through the woods and over the foothills at frequent intervals during the afternoon. Leonard Couch of Wallowa, and J. D. Slater of La Grande, took the rostrum and in brief speeches, outlined the interest of the day from their respective standpoints.

A Delightful Day.

Of the concourse of people from Union county, every individual enjoyed the pleasures of the initial trip to Wallowa. The splendid ride over a first-class roadbed through 35 miles of canyon, was a treat to all. The last stage to leave Elgin was passed by the train and many who have lived in La Grande for years were given the first and last glimpse of the primitive mode of travel, as the cumbersome stage lumbered along the Nine Mile canyon road.

Horses Take Fright.

The advent of the steam horse, that enemy of the real horse, was the occasion for much snorting, considerable fright and at least one brief runaway yesterday. The horses of that county, as a rule, have not been introduced to the steam horse and drivers invariably exercised much care when the puffing locomotives pushed their way into the interior. One team ran away, but was brought under control before it did damage to the people it was hauling. Oftentimes the drivers would unhitch their teams and snub them to a tree to avoid runaways.

Those who carry the distinction of being in charge of the first passenger train were Conductor Grady and Engineers Jackson and Thompson. The double header train was handled carefully and yet in good speed. The roadbed was a surprise to many, as oftentimes the travel was as smooth as any main line road.

BUILDING STEEL BRIDGE.

Structures of Steel to Be Built on the Wallowa Extension.

The O. R. & N. is now building a steel bridge across the Grande Ronde river, where it is joined by the Wallowa river. The structure that stands now is only temporary, but before another year arrives the biggest span on the Wallowa extension will be made of serviceable steel. The cement abutments are now being constructed.

This is only one of several of its kind that are to be built the coming year. The track crosses and recrosses the Wallowa river several times, and before expenditures cease there will be more like the one now being built on the Grande Ronde.

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THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.



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START NEW MEETINGS

Blue Mountain grange held its first all-day meeting Saturday. There was a good attendance, a big dinner and a most interesting program rendered, consisting of songs, recitations and a round table talk on several topics. One that produced much interest was the proper growing of alfalfa. Alfalfa is one of the coming crops, in fact is now grown extensively.

The contest commenced at this meeting between the married folks and the younger members of the grange. Points on literary, attendance and social features will be footed up next June some time and the losing side is to furnish a grand banquet and program. The leaders are W. R.

Gekeler for the young people, and J. W. McAllister for the married side.

These all-day meetings are to be held every two weeks. At the next meeting the discussion will include the advantages of having a branch agricultural college established in this county. It being understood that Senator-elect Turner Oliver will introduce a bill for this purpose at the coming session of the legislature. The grange starts off the first of the season in a most enthusiastic manner and much good will result, both in a business and social way.

Charter in Book Form.

The city charter which will be voted upon at the November special election is now off the press and can be had free at the city recorder's office.

Ten thousand dollars' worth of new buildings are being constructed in Freewater at the present time, with preparations being made for many more homes after the fruit harvest.

It looks as though even the Wright aeroplane will go wrong sometimes.

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