

**La Grande Evening Observer**

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CURREY BROTHERS,  
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS

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**DENATURED ALCOHOL.**

On June 7, 1908, congress passed a law removing the internal revenue tax of \$2.97 per gallon on grain alcohol which had been properly denatured or rendered unfit for drinking purposes by the addition of certain materials such as wood alcohol, benzine or pyridine. It was hoped that by the removal of this tax alcohol could be obtained cheaply enough to compete with petroleum for light and fuel. The demand for such alcohol can be readily seen when we note that approximately 3,000,000 gallons of gasoline are consumed daily in the country and that the increased demand for it, due to the development of the modern explosion motor, has doubled its price in the last 19 years. Indiana and Ohio oils contain only about 5 per cent of gasoline and the per cent of the lighter distillate in California and Texas crude oil is very low. The supply of gasoline therefore seems to be limited but the demand increasing. Alcohol, it has been demonstrated, can meet this demand. Furthermore, the annual consumption of kerosene in the United States approximates one billion gallons, three-fourths of which are probably used by the farmers. Since one gallon of alcohol is equivalent to two gallons of kerosene for lighting purposes, 375 million gallons of alcohol could be used on the farms of this country each year. This would require for its production 140 million bushels of corn, or five million acres—an increase of 5 per cent over that now grown. If made from potatoes this 375 million gallons of alcohol would require 450 million bushels, or five million acres, an increase of 60 per cent over that now produced. The present consumption of alcohol amounts to but 16 million gallons per year.

Ethyl or grain alcohol is a natural product formed by the fermentation of various kinds of sugar through the agency of yeast organisms. Since starch is readily convertible into sugar by either natural or artificial means, materials which contain notable quantities of either starch or sugar may be utilized for making alcohol. The more important sources of alcohol are the cereals, potatoes, molasses and fruits. In France alcohol is chiefly made from the sugar beet, in Germany from the potato and in America from corn. A bushel of corn will yield approximately 2 1/2 gallons of 95 per cent alcohol; a bushel of potatoes three-fourths of a gallon and a bushel of apples one-third of a gallon. The yield depends directly upon the sugar and starch content of the material used and, in general sugar will yield one-half its weight of alcohol.

In the large distilleries it costs about 17 cents to manufacture and place on the market one gallon of alcohol and the cost of the raw material used brings this ordinarily to approximately 30 cents. Allowing for the necessary profit, alcohol will reach the consumer at about 40c per gallon. But alcohol at 40 cents can compete with kerosene at 20 cents for lighting purposes and in competition kerosene can never demand more than one-half the market price of alcohol.

For making cheap alcohol a cheap concentrated raw product and a well equipped plant are necessary. The plant should have a capacity of at least 100 gallons per day, the cost of such a plant being in the neighborhood of \$10,000. No such plant can operate successfully on waste products alone, especially in such as to be obtained for only a brief part of the

year as for example waste fruits. There must be some more staple product as a basis with the waste materials handled as a side issue. For a staple in the northwest we must look to potatoes or sugar beets and damaged grain when it can be secured, on which materials together with various waste products, a plant could be operated throughout the year. The combination of a starch factory and an alcohol plant seems also to be a feasible plan for obtaining cheap alcohol. —Agricultural College Bulletin.

**REAL VALUE ASCERTAINED**

**SCRIBER ESTATE MAY PAY ABOUT 20 PER CENT**

Appraisers Appointed to Probe Schedule of Scriber Estate Make Report to Trustee Phys-Mach Property Listed as Assets Proves to Be Held as Collateral—Liabilities Uncertain

Appraisers T. J. Strougan, Frank Kilpatrick and J. C. Henry, of the bankrupt estate of J. W. Scriber, filed their report with Trustee Frank Phy yesterday afternoon as follows: Two-story brick building .....\$33,900.00  
Lot in Piedmonte Add. .... 490.00  
Home residence ..... 4,500.00  
Timber lands ..... 690.00  
Personal property ..... 25.00

Total appraised value...\$38,525.00  
From the above amount must be taken the \$11,000 mortgage against the two-story brick building which reduces the appraised value of the estate to \$27,525.

Upon this basis, taking the schedule of liabilities in bankruptcy filed by Mr. Scriber, which totaled \$94,805, some idea may be formed of what the creditors may expect.

So far as the appraisers have been able to ascertain, all of the other property listed by Mr. Scriber consisted of securities and forged paper hypothecated for its full face value which, in some instances, will not be sufficient to pay off the liabilities to which it was pledged.

Those who are interested are of the opinion that the creditors will be fortunate if the estate pays 20 per cent.

At the recent meeting of the creditors all of the claims scheduled by Mr. Scriber were not verified or represented, but on the other hand, there were several claims presented which he did not schedule. Consequently the true liabilities are not known at this date.

**FINE ICE AT PERRY**

For he who loves ice skating, Perry now presents itself as a mecca. With one more night of hard freezing, the safe ice on the river at Perry will be materially increased in size. Skating is now the order of the day at the lumber town, and tomorrow it is very likely that many will go up from this city. Reports from Perry are to the effect that the ice is safe for considerable stretches; but one night more is needed to provide ample room for a large gathering.

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.**

Department of the Interior,  
U. S. Land Office at La Grande, Or.,  
November 23, 1908.

Notice is hereby given  
CHARLES FARRIER,  
of Hilgard, Oregon, who, on November 14, 1908, made timber and stone application No. 02319, for NE 1/4 SW 1/4, NW 1/4 SE 1/4, S 1/2 NW 1/4, section 24, township 2 south, range 36 E. W. M., has filed notice of intention to make final timber and stone proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before the register and receiver of the U. S. land office at La Grande, Oregon, on the 9th day of February, 1909.

Claimant names as witnesses: John Pyburn, of Hilgard, Ore.; A. L. Richardson, of La Grande, Ore.; Frank Laceyford, of Hilgard, Ore.; Wilson K. Lindsay, of La Grande, Ore.  
F. C. BRAMWELL, Register.

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**D. M. HUNT, La Grande**

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.**

Department of the Interior,  
U. S. Land Office at La Grande, Or.,  
November 23, 1908.

Notice is hereby given  
JOHN W. MALESTRU,  
of La Grande, Oregon, who, on November 16, 1908, made timber and stone sworn statement No. 02321, for E 1/2 SE 1/4, section 29; NE 1/4 NE 1/4, section 32, and NW 1/4 NW 1/4, section 33, township 4 south, range 28 E. W.

M., has filed notice of intention to make final timber and stone proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before the register and receiver, at La Grande, Oregon, on the 9th day of February, 1909.

Claimant names as witnesses: Joseph Santos, Clyde Santos, Aaron Murphy, John Steinbeck, all of La Grande, Ore.  
F. C. BRAMWELL, Register.

GEORGE PALMER, President W. H. BRENHOLTS Ass't Cashier  
J. M. BERRY, Vice President C. S. WILLIAMS, 2d Ass't Cashier  
F. L. MEYERS Cashier

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Of La Grande, Oregon

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WOULD YOU CARE TO INSPECT?  
**J. H. PEARE**

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.**

Department of the Interior,  
U. S. Land Office at La Grande, Or.,  
November 23, 1908.

Notice is hereby given  
CHARLES R. GEKELER,  
of La Grande, Oregon, who, on November 19, 1908, made timber and stone sworn statement No. 02370, for W 1/2 SE 1/4, NE 1/4 SE 1/4, section 31; and NW 1/4 SW 1/4, section 33, township 3 south, range 37, E. 1 4, has filed notice of intention to make final timber and stone proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before the register and receiver, at La Grande, Oregon, on the 8th day of February, 1909.

Claimant names as witnesses: Ernest Delong, William J. Hughes, William Deal, Arthur McCall, all of La Grande, Oregon.  
F. C. BRAMWELL, Register.

**Kelley's Market**

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