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CURREY BROTHERS,
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Yesterday morning presented an object lesson regarding the value of water when those on Adams avenue witnessed the line-up in front of the United States land office, by those eager to file on the Hermiston government irrigation tract, paying for the water at the rate of \$60 per acre. The land was formerly the home of the Jackrabbit, nothing else could maintain a livelihood on it. It offered no inducement to settlers; they would not live on it when the government offered them homes on it for nothing. Now we see the people sitting up all night for fear some one else would beat them to the land office, eager to pay \$60 per acre and knowing they wear limited to 40-acre purchases. "Little drops of water on little grains of sand, makes a mighty difference in the price of land."

If the county receives a bid representing the value of the poor farm situated in Union, it will be sold. This is a fertile piece of land and will doubtless bring a good price. The court desires to have the poor farm nearer the county seat. It can be handled more equinomial and be under the personal supervision of the court. A former attempt was made to dispose of the property but the court declined to sell at the bids received, and may not do so again.

It is good news to report that it is the intention of our two large lumbering plants, the Grande Ronde Lumber company and the Palmer Lumber company are preparing to operate through the winter season, thus giving employment to hundreds of men throughout the entire year.

The demand for lumber has materially increased since the presidential election and all our sawmills are shipping. Not only is this true of the immediate country, but all over. Lumber shipments comprise a large part of the tonnage of eastbound freights at present.

If you never have visited the depot upon the arrival of the train from Wallowa county, you might be surprised upon doing so to note the heavy travel of this line. The freight shipments both ways are interesting, showing how rapid is the development of a country when given transportation facilities.

There seems to be quite a contest on between the various candidates for the honor of being the next speaker of the house, which meets next month at Salem. A live book agent might do a thriving business selling the life of Joe Cannon, he might give them several pointers.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.
 Notice is hereby given that Otho Eckersley, administrator of the estate of William J. Shoemaker, deceased, has filed his final account as administrator of said estate and the county court of Union county, Oregon, has set Monday, the 4th day of January, A. D. 1909, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of said day, and the county court room in the court house, La Grande, Oregon as the time and place for hearing said report and all objections thereto.
 Dated at La Grande, Oregon, this 4th day of December, A. D. 1908.
OTHO ECKERSLEY,
 Administrator.

Grand ball Friday evening at Elks hall.

DEBATES TO HOLD FORTH

LA GRANDE MEETS HER RIVAL, PENDELTON, JAN. 8.

State High School Debating League Announces Schedule of Debates—Question is the Same for All Eastern Oregon Schools—La Grande Students Hopeful.

With the debating season only a few weeks away, the high school of this city is exerting itself along forensic lines. The interest in the coming events is marked, and La Grande will rank high in the debating department of the state high schools, when the season is ended.

The full particulars of the plan for the Oregon High School Debating league for this year, which was given birth last year, has been received by the local institution in a bulletin published by the league, and the schedule of debates for eastern Oregon has been made out. Beginning on the 5th of January at the southeastern corner of the state, a series of debates will be held between the nearer schools, ending in Pendleton on the 8th. This schedule is as follows: Baker City and Ontario, January 5; Cove and Union, January 6; Elgin and Island City, January 8. The latter debate will be held in Pendleton.

In order that all the schools may have a perfectly fair chance a set of judges will be brought from Washington to decide all of the debates in the series. These judges will begin with the Baker-Ontario debate on the fifth, and work northward deciding a contest each night until the winners of the eight schools have been picked out.

It is expected that at least 50 high schools will participate in the debates of the state league this year. In arrangement the state has been divided into four districts, Central Oregon, Columbia River, Eastern Oregon and Southern Oregon. After the winners of these divisions have been determined a new question will be prepared and the final series of debates will be held to determine the championship of the state.

Question Announced.
 The question for the schools of the eastern division is, "Resolved, That the state of Oregon should provide by general taxation for a minimum term of six months in each school district of the state." Each of the other districts will debate a different question and the winners will finally try for the state championship on the question, "Resolved, That the United States should maintain a system of bounties and subsidies for the protection of the American merchant marine."

Baker Won Last Year.
 The championship of the eastern Oregon district was won last year by Baker City defeating The Dalles high school on March 20, on the question, "Resolved, That the government should own and operate the railroads." While each high school in the state has the ambition of capturing the championship, the La Grande high school feels especially well equipped this year to make a winning run for the coveted goal.
 There is "new blood" at hand, and while no real tryouts have been held, it is the general belief here that La Grande will make a splendid showing on the rostrum.

Reception Meeting Planned.
 The W. C. T. U. will hold a reception for new members in the Baptist church on December 11, from 2 to 5 o'clock. An address of welcome will be delivered by Mrs. C. R. Thornton and a response is to follow by Mrs. J. W. McAllister. Mrs. Hattie Wolfe, county president of Union, will be in attendance with an address. Refreshments will be served during the progress of the meeting.

Grand ball Friday evening at Elks hall.

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