

La Grande Evening Observer

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CURREY BROTHERS,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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This is the week that the irrigation committee is to inaugurate its great campaign for increased acreage. We have done some mighty good boosting in the past; we have secured large industrial institutions, but we feel that we are warranted in saying that no one undertaking ever attempted has as much possibility in it for immediate development as the irrigating of 20,000 acres of our valley land. One-half, or nearly so, is already taken, it doubtless will not be very difficult to secure the remaining 10,000 acres. However, the first half is always the easiest, so it behooves every one to lend a helping hand and assist the committee during the next few days, all we can.

If land, practically worthless land, that even had no value from a range standpoint—and that could be secured from the government in large tracts at \$1.245 per acre, becomes worth \$100 per acre the moment water is put on it, what would land that is now selling from \$50 to \$75 per acre be worth if water was available when needed. Some think land values are already high in Grande Ronde valley, but within three years after the completion of our irrigation project we will look back at our present values and wish we had invested when the prices were low.

Go which road you may between La Grande and Cove and you will not pass more than 10 or 12 houses, a distance of 16 miles. The holdings running from 160 to several thousand acres. What a change will take place along this route when this land is irrigated. It is safe to predict that there will be more new houses and barns built along this line during the two years following the completion of the ditch than there were built in La Grande the present year.

The striking of an artesian well on the famed Blalock fruit ranch has added a cool million dollars to the value of the land. Water, when needed, on the land of this valley will add the same value in the same, if not greater proportion here, as well as elsewhere.

Remember the school meeting to be held Saturday of this week. We need a new school building. If you entertain any doubts whatever, one visit to the high school building will convince you.

President Roosevelt will always have a warm spot in the heart of Governor Chamberlain, possibly much warmer than the anti-statement No. 1 boys.

Roll Call Well Attended.

Nearly 150 members of the La Grande Lodge, No. 16, I. O. O. F., responded to its first roll call last Saturday evening. Though the La Grande lodge has been organized for nearly 50 years, this is the first time that the entire roster has been called. Scores of members who were unable to attend, sent written communications. The letters were read to the lodge when their names were called. Some of the brothers were in Panama, others in Alaska and others in the sunny southland. Over 100 members were able to answer in person. As each name was called by the secretary, the brother called would rise and answer "Present," and then proffered to the lodge. A number of

specially prepared addresses were delivered. All devoted to various degrees of Odd Fellowship. After the roll had been called and the lodge called the members were invited to the banquet hall, where a splendid repast awaited them. After doing proper justice to the refreshments they again returned to the lodge room, where a pleasant hour was spent in the recital of personal Odd Fellow experiences. Though this is the first roll call for Odd Fellowship in Grande Ronde valley, it will not be the last, and that the first meeting night in December of each year shall be roll call night hereafter.

For the finest stock of cut glass for the money you will go to Silverthorn & Mack's drug store.

BLAZE THREATENS GUESTS

(Continued from page 1.)

their belongings into a promiscuous bundle, the three headed toward the shaft in a hall that was dark as pitch on account of smoke, though it was broad daylight outside of the building. In the hall they encountered others, they, too, searching for the elevator. The smoke had a peculiarly hacking effect on the throat, and two or three minutes more in the smoke-filled hall would have meant complete strangulation. Without a moment's loss of time, the elevator carried its load of fleeing humanity to the hotel lobby, which by that time also began to fill with smoke. Every guest of the hotel was awakened and taken to places of safety without injury to anyone beyond the annoyance caused by the smoke. More excited ones were staggering from exhaustion when they reached the open air. Mr. and Mrs. Bramwell took rooms in another hotel for the rest of the day.

The damage done to the hotel is expensive, though no figures have been given out. It is presumed the smoke worked its way up the hallways from the furnishing room where combustible material had been ignited. The fire department was over a half hour locating the fire.

A very pretty assortment of burnt wood material of latest patterns will be found at Silverthorn & Mack's drug store.

Attention A. F. & A. M.

There will be a special meeting of the Blue Lodge this evening at Masonic temple at 7:30 o'clock, for the purpose of arranging for the funeral of our late brother, W. G. Peach.

L. H. RUSSELL, W. M.

Shopping bags and purchases make pretty and useful presents for Christmas. You will find them at Silverthorn & Mack's drug store.

BISHOP SMITH IN OREGON.

Passed Through La Grande This Morning En Route to Portland.

Bishop Chas. W. Smith, the newly elected Methodist bishop, whose episcopal residence was established at Portland, passed through the city this morning for his new home.

Bishop Smith has been for 24 years editor of the Christian Advocate and is regarded as one of the ablest men in the Methodist church. Besides being noted as a churchman and editor, he has an enviable reputation of a business man and has been president of the Central National bank of Wilkesburg, Pa., for years. During his term as president of the bank the bishop was frequently complimented by national bank examiners as having the most methodical and best regulated bank in the Pittsburg district.

District Superintendent J. D. Gillilan had the pleasure of riding on the train from Haines to this city with him.

An endless variety of pretty dolls, dressed and undressed, at Silverthorn & Mack's drug store.

A Notice.

The man that took down the fence to Mrs. Honan's lots and took off a load of sidewalk lumber is requested to return the same at once, or he will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. He is known.

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