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To appreciate what water does for a country one should visit the great Boise valley and note the substantial growth of her cities and agricultural localities that have all sprung up like magic, where a few years ago was the sagebrush and alkali banks. Water, and water alone, has produced this change. To one not accustomed to mingling in such communities, it is interesting to enter any public place, in an attorney's office, real estate, grocery store, hotel or a bank, and invariably the conversation is land and water. You see in front of dozens of real estate offices, "Homestead relinquishments, \$700." On the trains agents have their representatives out trying to find a quarter section here and there that yet remains in the hands of the government that lies under some of the many irrigating ditches. Everything must lie below either "the upper or lower ditch," or adjacent to the proposed line under construction. When you remember that in all no less than \$7,000,000 have been, or are being expended on the various irrigation projects, and that there are a score of little cities and some big ones that have sprung up with the completion of these projects, it is no wonder that the chief topic of conversation is water, water, water.

What once was considered the irredeemable waste lands of Idaho, are now being turned into the most productive land, and is being bisected by steam and electric roads, and while the era of cheap land is a thing of the past there is no doubt whatever but what the next 10 or 15 years will make as great a change as the past decade. While we are securing our irrigation project it would amply repay any farmer or business man to spend a few days in Boise or Payette valleys, and see what water is doing, and what it means, not only as a developer, but how it is utilized. Things there are not like Grande Ronde valley, for the reason that they must irrigate each and every season; irrigate in the spring, in the summer, and in the fall. Notwithstanding all of this they are making it pay big. They have not a single irrigation project that did not cost several dollars more per acre to secure the water, than our project will cost, and some of them two and three times as much. Then again, their annual expense of irrigation will greatly exceed the cost of the same here, from the fact that so few irrigations are needed here. While that is true, the two or possibly three irrigations at most, that we do need every season, will work as many wonders for us as their several. What water has accomplished in other places; it will likewise do here. Think one moment! Do you know of a single locality where an irrigation project has been launched, where land is selling for less than \$100 per acre. You do not know that the great bulk of it cannot be secured for less than \$150 per acre. How much \$100 per acre land have we? How much would we have the moment the water is ready to turn into our proposed ditches? That is easy—no less than 20,000 acres, and we really believe it would result in as many more acres being sought after at a similar price. We must become enthused with the irrigation spirit; we must talk it; we must become interested. It is a campaign that will bring mighty results to this valley.

There is no question but the results of the committee securing the irrigation acreage will have no small weight upon determining whether or not the

sugar factory is to be moved away. There is no use of attempting to conceal the fact that the sugar factory has lost money every season, with possibly one, or at the most, two seasons. Water would change matters so that this big institution would immediately pay dividends.

The Commercial club of Astoria is taking steps to secure a permanent Chautauqua. This is something that La Grande should have. The proposed new park would be an ideal location for holding it. We have no trouble on location sites, but we do seemingly lack leadership in starting.

The Christmas spirit is abroad in our midst. Even the suggestion of sleighbells adds interest.

Investigation of O. R. & N. Accident.
 Trainmaster J. D. Matheson, of La Grande, came over Saturday for the purpose of investigating the accident which happened on the O. R. & N. crossing in the west end of town on Thursday evening in which young Gorton and Stover were slightly injured by being struck by passenger train No. 8.

A committee, consisting of Judd Fish, of the Bowman hotel; Bert Huffman, and Agent Schuyler, of the O. R. & N., was appointed by Mr. Matheson, says the Pendleton East Oregonian, to investigate the cause of the accident, and it was found that the young men in the milk wagon were watching a freight train in the yards at the time and had evidently forgotten the incoming passenger train. They drove upon the track immediately in front of the passenger and although the train was stopped instantly, the wagon was demolished and the young men were slightly bruised. The horse escaped uninjured. No blame is attached to the railroad employees.

GLEE CLUB STUNTS.
 Coming Glee Club Attraction Teems With Many Fine Features.

Stunts, as the name of a feature of a Glee club program, is applied to the monologues, dialogues, impersonations or comedy acts, with which the program is interspersed. This phase of the entertainment given by the University of Oregon Glee and Mandolin clubs—which comes to La Grande soon—this season, is extremely lively and interesting. Among the stunts which are put in are dialect monologues and dialogues by Voight and Van Dusen, a piano farce by Ogden and Geisler, a song and dance by the convict quartet, Cooper, Nelson, Wood and Burke, and comic selections by the whole club.

Scrums on Druggists.
 Eugene, Ore., Dec. 13.—Acting under the local option law in Lane county, District Attorney E. R. Bryson has just notified the druggists of Eugene that they must not sell certain kinds of bitters, which, it is alleged, have been sold regularly since the local option law went into effect to a large number of persons for beverages, on account of the great amount of alcohol said to be contained in them. Among the medicines placed under the ban by the District Attorney are four patent emollients. The druggists have written to the manufacturers of each of these compounds to see whether or not they will take up the matter and test it in the courts.

Notice has been served not only upon the druggists of Eugene, but those in every town in Lane county, as well as in Benton and Lincoln counties which comprise Bryson's district. This order has created consternation among the local druggists, as they have always done a big business in the sale of these medicines, both before and since the local option law went into effect.

Joseph to Build Large Warehouse.
 Articles of incorporation have been filed by E. F. McCully, P. F. Scribner and Albert Wurzweiler as incorporators of the Citizens' Warehouse company of Joseph with a capital of \$5000, says the Joseph Herald. The new organization is composed entirely of Joseph citizens—no outside help being asked from stockmen or ranchers.

The warehouse will be built large enough to take care of the entire wool crop of Wallowa county. It is estimated that between 75 and 80 percent of the wool crop will be sold and shipped from this point. Work on the building will be started in time to have it completed and ready for business about May 15. The building will be surrounded by sheltered platforms, car-floor high, to facilitate the handling of freight. This warehouse will be large enough

to take care of the entire Wallowa county wool crop; it will also accommodate all ranchers who wish to store their hay and grain before making a shipment. The building of this large warehouse by the citizens alone, without begging contributions, insures the continuance of Joseph as the leading city of Wallowa county.

RICHEY RECOMMENDED FOR REAPPOINTMENT

G. M. Richey will in all probability continue to be postmaster here for the next four years. His name has been recommended for reappointment, and in view of the fact that he has a solid delegation from Oregon behind the appointment, there is every reason to believe that the recommendation will in the end mean his reappointment.

Mr. Richey has been postmaster here for the past four years and has seen the office grow from an ordinary office to one that now commands a new federal building.

Mr. Richey has not received definite advice from the delegation, but for all that believes the appointment will be forthcoming in due time.

Doubt About Appropriation.
 According to recommendations made to congress last week, there will be only \$45,000 for the promised federal building purposes in this city. The total appropriation passed at the last session was \$65,000, and it is taken by some to mean that the \$45,000 is for building alone. The highest bid for building site was much less than \$20,000, hence the doubt about the meaning of the \$45,000 appropriation for building. One interpretation put on the recommendation is that the cost of site and the extensive improvements of the grounds will expend the balance.

Phonographs will be popular for gift purposes this year. We carry a fine line and have hundreds of the most desirable records.
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Lind Saloon Wrecked.
 Spokane, Dec. 14.—Yeggmen wrecked a saloon at Lind, Wash., early this morning with nitro-glycerine. They stole \$125. The charge shattered the windows of adjoining houses.

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