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What a delightful weather we have enjoyed for the past six months of the passing year. Hardly a time but what a buggy ride through the valley was not a real pleasure, or when a farmer could not bring in a thirty hundred pound load of hay or grain. The roads have been ideal all fall and winter. Now when a little rain begins to fall, don't growl, but remember the grounds need a good soaking and the fall grain will grow so much better. Where will you find a better country 12 months in the year, and every year, than old Grande Ronde—you may have to travel quite a distance. Ponce de Leon wasted his life trying to find the springs of youth. So many in this age waste their means and time trying to find a better home than abounds everywhere in Grande Ronde.

We all think without thinking very much about it that the present year has brought about much in general improvements, but a careful review of conditions will show that 1908 with all its panicky feeling, a presidential year and bank failure, has forged to the front. The beauty of La Grande's growth, it continues year after year, with no boom, but a continual steady growth. We are beginning to be known as the city of homes.

The moving picture shows have put out of business a great many of the inferior traveling troupes. They could not make expenses. Theatergoers have all noticed the high grade attractions, almost without exception that have played in the opera house so far this season, and there are a string of strong attractions yet to follow.

Just as soon as the year 1909 arrives some one should start out with the petition to have the school board arrange for a special election to authorize it to build a new school building. It must be completed in time for the opening of the school year in the fall of next year.

Do not think for one moment that the park project will sleep on. Just wait until the holidays are over; you will find the enthusiasm abroad in the land as of yore. This park project is one of the few undertakings that we must not permit to pass by until the desired end has been accomplished.

It is more than probable that we will secure a cannery during the coming year. It requires about so much talking before any enterprise is started and it seems that the usual probation as far as the talking period is concerned, has been served.

The days between Christmas and New Years are the longest of the year—practically speaking, not scientifically.

In the death of Mr. Spreckles the Pacific coast loses one of its pioneer citizens, who within one lifetime built up an immense fortune.

Pendleton business men are concentrating their efforts in an attempt to secure a woolen mill and doubtless will secure it.

District Attorney Bryson of Corvallis, has issued an order prohibiting the drug stores of Eugene from selling Peruna, Hostetter's Electric Bitters, Lash's Bitters and other medicines of the same order.

# UNITE ALL ATHELETICS

Time was never riper than now for La Grande to fall in line with Pendleton in the formation of an athletic conference in eastern Oregon, that will mean something. True, there is one now that bears that name, but aside from agreeing to meet in eastern Oregon meets shall be held. It has little real prestige. Ontario, Cove, Island City, Elgin and Weston, and Wallowa county towns are cities that are rapidly forging to the front with athletic teams of all classes, and Pendleton, La Grande and Baker City are no longer the "whole show." Consequently it is only right that a conference comprising the entire eastern section of the state be formed to do real work and accomplish much good. Every town has passed the stage where high school can unblushingly run in "ringers," or send men out under their colors who for years and years have "attended high school." The four year rule should be adopted and vigorously enforced. Until a boy is in the high school he should not represent his school athletically. Neither should he require seven or eight years to complete the high school course.

It is time that these eastern Oregon towns copied after the best in the land for the sooner it is done, the sooner will prestige be worth something. As long as Pendleton sends out its Jay to pole vault and hurdle and do divers other things as a high school student, so long will eastern Oregon be classed as a community of ringers. The other cities in this section each have their Jays. It is not true of Pendleton alone.

### Movement Started.

Mark Moorhouse of Pendleton, has already started the ball rolling for the organization of such a conference, and it behooves La Grande to breast Pendleton in this great work and perfect something along this line that will lift high school athletes from its present stage, where most athletes are welcomed for the particular season in which he excels, to a point where each school can unblushingly affirm: "These young men attend school for school sake and not for football, basketball, track work or baseball."

### SIGNS OF OREGON'S GROWTH.

Albany will soon witness the change from the old horse car to a modern electric line.

Grants Pass is the latest town to begin to make efforts for a new railroad depot. The ladies of that city are preparing to make a park around the railroad grounds.

The convention of the Oregon Woolgrowers' association in Heppner recently, was very successful, and was a great benefit to the woolgrowing industry throughout the state.

The citizens of Woodburn are determined to be connected by rail with the Oregon Electric company's line, which runs on the opposite side of the river from them.

The tax levy of Wallowa for the coming year has been fixed at 10 mills.

One-fifth of a million is the amount of the increase of the assessed valuation of Enterprise, Wallowa, and Joseph over last year.

The city council of Eugene will act as the city water commission till the regular commission can be legally appointed.

The new Clatskanie co-operative creamery is reported as progressing very favorably, and those interested in the concern are confident that the venture will be more successful than they at first thought possible.

Pendleton's railroad business has shown no decrease this year. The postoffice business has shown a heavy increase over past years; the school attendance this year is 20 per cent greater than in the past, and at this time a suitable dwelling house can hardly be found by a prospective renter.

### Fresh Poultry for New Year's.

We now have a liberal supply of turkeys and other poultry for New Year's dinner. 29-1t  
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WANTED—Several roomers with or without board. Excellent rooms. Phone Black 1761, or call at 2103 First street.

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Williams Mfg. Co., Props. Cleveland

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Edison Phonographs and Records at NEWLIN BOOK & STATIONERY CO.

### Together.

Robert Herrick's new book, "Together," at Ferguson's. Also Charles Rann Kennedy's "The Servant in the House."

The citizens of the progressive little town of Banks have decided that the

time has arrived when they should incorporate, and a bill for the issuance of a charter has been drafted.

FOR RENT—One or two rooms for light housekeeping. Phone Red 561.

## TABLE RELISHES

We receive fresh consignments of Hot House Lettuce, Celery, Sweet Potatoes, and Cranberries, Cauliflowers and Pine Apples and Cocoanuts for the Holidays. Pop Corn that will pop and Nuts that are fresh

**City Grocery and Bakery,**  
 E. PCLACK, Prop PHONE MAIN 75

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Made by The WEBB C. BALL WATCH CO. Cleveland, Ohio. Adopted by 78 Railroad Systems of the U. S. as their Official Standard. We will be pleased to show and explain this watch to anyone. Every railroad Man knows what it is.

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Every article in house Reduced Sale Holds from Monday, January 4th to Saturday, January 30th

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