

La Grande Evening Observer

VOLUME VIII.

LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1909.

NUMBER 67.

IMPROVEMENTS NEAR A MILLION

1908 SAW REMARKABLE EXPENDITURE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Year Just Passed Stands as Record Breaker—Coming Year Even More Rich in Great Things for the City of La Grande—No Year in History of City Had So Many Assured Enterprises as the Year 1908—Total is Very Close to One Million.

Improvement expenditures made or assured during 1908 are:

Irrigation	\$400,000
City water works	160,000
M. & M. Co. warehouse	60,000
Bolton-Bodmer improvements	6,000
Packing plant	35,000
Hospital	35,000
Baptist church	12,000
Residences	80,000
Downtown improvements	15,000
Sidewalk construction	15,000
Pumping plant and extensions	10,000
Box factory	20,000
Blahaffey building	12,000
Federal building	65,000
Total	\$925,000

The year 1908 dawned on La Grande with promises such as never before have been a fact, and the old year faded into history with an especially brilliant record in the matter of city development. The above table is a very conservative compilation of what has been done and some of the things assured for the city of La Grande during the year 1908. The grand total is pleasing. Greatest of all the developments assured and to become realities in the near future is the irrigation project with its varied benefits. A gravity water system will be supplied to the city within the present year, or nearly finished at any rate; the O. R. & N. railroad has been completed to Joseph during the past year, making La Grande one of the principal junction cities of the eastern half of the state; a federal building is assured and date of construction is nearby.

A Building Era.
During the past year cozy residences have been reared and others improved at a rate hard to express in figures; a drive over the city will be the best proof of the assertion that few years in the recent past can claim equality along this line of development. While private parties have spent much along building lines, improving residences and building new ones, local merchants were seized by the improvement germ and 1908 looked down on many new costly store fronts and repairs. These have been enumerated before.

Sidewalk Construction.
Not in many years past has there been such a noticeable sidewalk improvement. It is a fact that three miles of sidewalk have been constructed in this city during the year 1908. A half mile of this distance is cement walk at an average cost of about \$3 per lineal foot. Great stretches of streets have been graveled, fillings made; 11,035 feet of plank walk has been built; 4000 feet of new cross walks; six stone culverts; four bridges filled up enormous amount of grading done. The total improvements on sidewalks and streets, almost entirely expensed by the people, and not the city, totals \$15,000 at a conservative estimate. In the hands of Street Superintendent Matott, the work has been well accomplished.

Corporation Work.
The federal building, the packing plant, the extension of the city water mains and equipment of the pumping plant, the repair of the Elks' building, construction of large implement houses, the completion of the hospital, the Baptist church, the box factory and drying sheds at the Palmer mill and various other enterprises, all speak of the thrift and development of La Grande during the year 1908. The year which is now but two days old, will see the expenditure of even a greater sum of money along improvement projects. These are only

a few of the ulterior evidences of the city's rapid growth to a municipality that is to be eastern Oregon's metropolis. The advent of irrigation, new railroads, a possibility of electric lines. All these are ingredients in the city's elixir.

PASSED AWAY.

30 minutes old, C. J. Fisher, a resident of Ephraim, Utah, who had been stopping at the Hot Lake sanatorium for the past six weeks, quietly breathed his last. The deceased had been a sufferer for many months from that dreaded disease, cancer of the stomach.

C. J. Fisher was prominently identified with the business and industrial affairs of his home town and community, being cashire of the bank at Ephraim, and interested in numerous business enterprises, which constituted the commercial vitality of that little city. His death will cause a vacancy there which can only be appreciated by those who knew him best and were conversant with conditions obtaining there. He is survived by the widow and one brother, K. C. Fisher, a mining man of Nevada. Both were present at the time of his death. The remains were brought to this city New Year's morning, and were forwarded the same evening to Salt Lake, where interment will take place.

The deceased was an honored and active member of the I. O. O. F. and the members of the order here escorted the remains to the train. At Salt Lake the funeral will be held under the direction of the Salt Lake lodge.

LOCAL FIVE WINS GAME FROM COVE

MORMON TEAM TROUNCES COVE FIVE 32 TO 8 LAST EVENING

The L. D. S. basketball team last evening gave the Cove team a warm trouncing, the final score standing 32 to 8. The game was played at Cove and the one-sided score is all misleading for the game was a snappy one from start to finish. During the first half Cove vied fairly well with the visitors. It ended 9 to 6 in favor of the Mormons. With the opening of the last session, La Grande warmed up to its task and shot goals in quick succession. The players for La Grande were V. Bean, center; Walt and Ainsworth, forwards; Stoddard, Schofield and A. Bean, guards.

Following the game a dance was given in honor of the La Grande team. About the time the sun was finding its way over the mountain tops today, the players reached La Grande tired, but happy and praising their dauntless opponents.

HUNTING LICENSES. The 550 Issued During 1908 Are All Revoked by Expiration.

During the year 1908 550 hunting licenses were issued in Union county. These, by law, expired by limitation at midnight December 31, 1908. It is presumed about the same number will be issued before the present year is past history. Fifty more were issued last year than during 1907.

SCHOOL APPOINTMENT. Filed With County Court as Basis of Making Tax Levy.

County School Superintendent E. E. Bragg has filed with the county clerk his report of the number of school children within the county, a total of 5274. This means, to comply with the law, the county and state tax must provide sufficient to average \$8.50 to each child, exclusive of the district or special tax. From this source will come \$44,820.

W. R. Hamilton returned this afternoon from Summerville, where he has been the guest of his son, Fred.

KING SELLS HIS PRIVATE ESTATE

RESCUE FORCES TURN INSANE FROM HORRORS.

Sufferers in Italy and Sicily Will Derive Benefit From Sale of King's Estate—Vatican Gardens Turned Into Hospital and Pope Works With Suffering Ones—Gruesome Scenes and Hunger Drive Rescuers to Distraction and Death.

Rome, Jan. 2.—King Emmanuel today ordered the sale of his Sicilian estate in the western part of the island, to provide earthquake relief funds.

The total property loss is estimated at one billion dollars.

The Vatican gardens have been transformed into a hospital for wounded refugees from Messina and Reggio, so the pope can attend to the sufferers personally. The church authorities reported to the pope that they think many Americans are in the ruins at Messina.

Rescuers Are Falling.

Hundreds of rescuers have fallen among the victims of the quake and tidal wave at Messina and Reggio. Continued labor, lack of food and the impossibility of sleeping has driven them to a state of incipient insanity in which they found the survivors. It is difficult to tell the rescuers from the survivors. Sailors and soldiers have given clothing to sufferers, consequently they are going about almost naked. As soon as the living are removed from the ruins at Messina and Reggio the remaining buildings will be leveled by fleet bombardment. There is no possibility that the buildings will be used again.

PRESIDENT GIVEN TONGUE LASHING

IRATE FATHER ACCUSES ROOSEVELT AND REBUKES.

President Roosevelt Rebuked by a Wealthy Virginian for Speaking to Little Girl Who Was Following Horseback Party—Parent Upraised in Letter to Him—Today Refuses to Discuss the Matter—The Tongue-Lashing Severe.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Carleton B. Hazard, a wealthy Virginian, today declined to discuss the rebuke he addressed to the president regarding the president's alleged action in accosting Hazard's daughter on the road near Rock Creek park. The letter reads:

"My little daughter, Martha, aged 14, came home about two weeks ago from a horseback ride, crying. She stated she had been accosted, while riding in Rock Creek park. She informs me she unexpectedly came upon your party. Not wishing to pass, she rode slowly back of you until she came to the road leading her to her home, whereupon you turned on her and asked her if she did not think she had followed you long enough, and ordering her to take a side road, which would lead her away from her home. She refused to do this, and promptly told you she would take the other road, and she did. Did you expect my little daughter to dismount on meeting you? As for my little girl, she shall take her rides as usual. If she will be so unfortunate as to meet you again, I feel confident this communication from me will be sufficient to assure her of safety hereafter."

Norman L. Swikert to Hattie A. Robinson; Edmond C. Connally to Effie M. Corpe; John A. Glen to Nellie Murray; C. J. Baldwin to Florence B. Dehazer; Philip M. McGovern to Addie E. Gardner; George H. Baker to M. C. Woods.

Charles O. McReynolds to Helen M. Vohrs; William T. Keenan to Mary A. Hall; Roscoe A. West to Mary L. Reiland; Albert Press to Julia Pierce; John Fee to Emma Parker; William Bartz to Viola Morris; Sherman A. Chappell to Bertha E. Rinehart; Elmer M. Oberg to Louisa C. Daines; Willis J. Oliver to Lottie I. Willey; R. J. Neal to Carrie Morris; Bert C. Hutchinson to Eva McKennon; T. E. Martin to Mrs. Jessie Morrison; Ira McKinny to Bertha Lewis; Thomas E. Stafford to Theresa E. Roth; Orin McClelland to Hannah Grigg.

September.

John B. O'Brien to Carrie L. Ryerson; James R. Farquharson to Alice M. Pendleton; R. Frank McKennon to Montie Smith; William B. Barthoff to Mary Raynor; Clay W. Fox to Lelah P. Day; George W. Tiffany to Flossie Watkins; Eddie McMasters to Sarah J. Bates; Chas. H. Beach to Mary L. Grow; Charles W. Gore to Lizzie Walker; John Daniel to May E. Harris; Arthur L. Gregory to Etta Anger; C. R. Smith to Tilda C. Thompson; David J. Hanna to Affie Barnes; H. L. Sahfer to Alice Crippen; John Miller to Anna Dickens; O. J. Burnett to Laura

(Continued on page 8.)

HIGH FREIGHT RATES EFFECTIVE

RATE WAR IN CALIFORNIA TO BE CARRIED TO COMMISSION

San Francisco, Jan. 2.—California shippers will carry the fight against the increased railroad rates to the interstate commission immediately.

Their protests were ineffective. The increased freight rates are in operation today. The shippers are contemplating asking congress and Roosevelt for a government steamship line between here and Panama.

Every shipper was asked by the executive committee, which handled the shippers' fight, to keep a strict account of the increased freight bills so the evidence will not be lacking in the event an appeal to the interstate commission is successful.

THE YEAR OLD AND THE YEAR NEW

We think it well to begin the new year by expressing our appreciation of the good will and patronage extended to us during the year that is past.

Our relations with our customers have never been so satisfactory as during the past twelve months.

We have tried as never before to promote the interests of those who trade with us and we have substantial evidence that our efforts have not been in vain.

In the coming year we shall maintain the highest standards of pharmacy, the highest quality of goods, the finest possible service and, as in the past, place the interests of our customers above our own, believing that in the long run we thus promote our own interests best.

Thanking all our friends and customers for favors shown, we extend to each our kindest regards and our best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous NEW YEAR.

Newlin Drug Co. La Grande, Ore.

RINEHART ASSUMES HIS DUTIES

T. A. Rinehart has assumed the duties of assessor, to which office he was elected last June. His office assistant is Miss Nellie Morton, who assisted her father during his several years of official service. Assessor Rinehart stated today that he did not believe he

would be able to get his deputies in the field much before April, and that he intended to have a less number of deputies than has generally been the custom, and to give those so appointed larger districts. He believes that better service will be the result.

HANG FINCH FEBRUARY FIFTH

DEFENDANT ALMOST IN COLLAPSE WHEN SENTENCED.

Outcome of the Fisher Murder in Portland is Death on the Gallows for the Murderer, on February 5—Defendant Married About Two Weeks When Fatal Bullet Was Fired—Angry Because He Had Been Suspended From Organization.

Portland, Jan. 2.—James Finch, the attorney who was convicted of murdering Ralph Fisher, prosecutor for the Oregon Bar association in the latter's office a few weeks ago, was today sentenced to hang at Salem February 5, by Judge Bronough. When the words meaning his death passed the judge's lips, Finch shook his head and was on the verge of collapse. The evidence showed that Finch, angry because Fisher was instrumental in having him suspended from the bar, entered the latter's office and fired with hardly a word of warning. Finch declared he fired in self defense, and that Fisher attacked him with a notarial seal, which, it developed, was untouched all the time Finch was in the office. Finch was married only two weeks when the shot was fired.

Hangman's Days.

Three Fridays this month will be hangman's day at Salem. Besides Finch, the condemned men are: Math Jancijag, who killed his sweetheart in Oregon City, sentenced to hang next Friday; Walter Johnson, who killed Walter Perdue in a lonely cabin in the woods near Forest Grove, to hang January 22; Harry Daley, who killed his partner in the saloon business in Portland, to hang January 29.

Transmit Aid Free.

Manager De Peat, of the Western Union office, has received the following instructions from the general manager: The free transmission of domestic messages relating to the relief of the Italian sufferers is authorized when offered by regular relief committees or public officials. Applications for the transfer of money should be referred to the banks and the American Red Cross. The latter being the designated channel for the transmission of funds. Instructions in regard to free cable service will be given later.