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## La Grande Evening Observer

Published Daily Except Sunday.  
CURREY BROTHERS,  
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.  
United Press Telegraph Service.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**  
Daily, single copy..... 5c  
Daily, per month..... 65c  
Daily, six months in advance...\$8.50  
Daily, one year in advance....\$6.50  
Weekly, six months, in advance... 75c  
Weekly, one year, in advance...\$1.00

Entered at the postoffice at La Grande as second-class matter.

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There was rejoicing at Commercial club headquarters when the news was received that there was to be a mass meeting held at Allice to consider the irrigation project, with reference to the Sandridge, and that it was possible to secure 5000 acres, which would increase the list to 26,000, the amount originally sought. Later, however, it was thought impossible to interest sufficient compact acreage on the Sandridge and the Sandridge was considered out. This did not check the success of the project, as by leaving the Sandridge out a great saving in expense would be effected, and the 15,000 acres that was known to be possible of securing all contiguous, made the carrying out of the project an assured fact.

The Commercial club, which represents the business interests of this city, were sorely disappointed at the beginning for in reality they expected to secure the greater portion of the acreage on the Sandridge, knowing the wonderful productivity of this section of our fertile valley, and the club is more than pleased with the announcement that the residents of the Sandridge are seriously thinking of joining the movement.

Just keep your eye on the wide-awake communities that are now forging ahead, and you will find that irrigation is no small factor. We might cite Twin Falls, North Yakima, Lewiston, Weiser, Payette, Nampa, Caldwell, Hermiston, Wenatchee, Free-water, Milton and a score of other places in the northwest where irrigation has not only doubled and tripled the population, but new cities within the past three and four years have grown from nothing to cities of from 2000 to 5000. If this present 20,000-acre irrigation project in Grande Ronde valley is assured this year, La Grande will be past the 10,000 mark within the next four years. We are doing nicely under normal conditions, but with water we will grow at a rate heretofore unknown.

We need a sewer system, we need a high school building, we need paved streets, we need city parks and many other things, but we need irrigation most of all, and when secured, all these things will follow as a natural sequence. The irrigation project is easily within our reach and if we fail it will simply be a case of inattention on the part of all interested. "What is everybody's business is nobody's."

## M. I. A. WINS FAST GAME

Lightning passes and unerring eyes in locating the baskets, coupled with determination to win, spelled victory for the M. I. A. basketball five at the link last evening, against the crack Weston Normal ball tossers—final score, 17 to 12. Schofield for the home team set a pace for sensational playing early in the game and Walt and Starr each took a turn at throwing whirlwind baskets before the game ended. Schofield's throw from the side line near the center of the long floor was the cleverest basket thrown here in many moons. The amusement club too a safe lead early in the game and was never seriously threatened with capture. They played with a vim and showed speed that their most ardent admirers had not looked for, with the result that for a time at least, the pedagogues followed each other around like an army without a leader. Careful physical training told, though, in the second half when the wildcats introduced the second canto, the score standing 11 to 4 with red ink for the visitors.

Under the recuperated field generalship of active captain SHIL, the Normalites braced up noticeably and threw enough baskets to make the game one of the most interesting ones from several standpoints, but never hugged the lead that was slowly being stretched by the locals. Throughout the game flagrant fouling was an unknown quantity. Three minor fouls were called, and only one taken advantage of. This is a remarkably good record for cleanliness, indeed. It was no child's play and 10 exhausted and thoroughly tired men limped to the dressing rooms when the curtain rang down on what is declared to be the best all around exhibition of the great indoor sport seen in this city for some time.

The visitors showed clean and gentlemanly spirit and the same sort of coaching and training. The M. I. A. treated the visitors right and the visitors reciprocated in like.

The work of Russell as referee was eminently satisfactory.

### Summary First Half.

La Grande—Goals from field, Schofield 1, Starr 2, Walt 1, Geddes 1. Goal from fouls, Starr 1. Weston—Goals from field, Sanford 1, Storms 1.

### Summary Second Half.

La Grande—Goals from field, Geddes 1, Bean 1, Starr 1. Weston—Goals from field, Storms 3, SHIL 1. Total, La Grande 17; Weston 12.

### Line-up.

M. I. A. Position. Weston  
Walt..... Forward..... Storms  
Geddes..... Forward..... Stags  
Bean (Capt.)..... Center..... SHIL  
Starr..... Guard (Capt.) Sanford  
Schofield..... Guard..... Wiener  
Subs—Weston, Weaver and Stamps.  
Officials—Russell, referee; Nelson, umpire; Holdenreich, timekeeper.

### ENGINE EXPLODES.

Engineer Killed and Fireman Believed Buried Under Debris.

Everett, Wash., Feb. 10.—Engineer John Lenahan is dead and Fireman Carl Bloom is missing, undoubtedly dead under the wreckage, as a result of an explosion on the Great Northern Owl train exploding this morning near Mukilteo. Passengers escaped uninjured. The engine was hurled over a steep embankment and Lenahan thrown into the sound.

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