

LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER

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SUMPTER VALLEY RAILROAD AS A DEVELOPER.

The Sumpter Valley railroad has been extended from Austin to Prairie City and Saturday night trains were run into the town in the John Day valley for the first time. This piece of railroad has been no easy task to construct for it is built over a very rugged country.

But the fact that Mr. Eccles and his associates built the line is the important feature, for it opens the wonderful John Day valley to the outside world and aids the traveler in cutting off considerable time on a trip to Burns. Soon another link will be built in all probability and then the old prediction of "Sumpter Valley line will be the first to reach Burns" will have come true. That, however, is in the future and the thing of present importance is the John Day Valley, which is noted already for its fruit, its stock, its timber.

And right here let us draw a slight comparison. For years land in the John Day Valley has been selling at higher prices than land in the Grande Ronde valley, and yet the John Day country has had no means of transportation while this valley has a transcontinental line and a branch line of standard gauge.

No one will attempt to say that live in John Day more can be raised per acre than in the Grande Ronde valley. No one will attempt to say that live stock is more profitable, or that the timber industry is greater. Then why has the land over there sixty miles from a railroad been selling for a higher price?

There is just one reason: The John Day people have always had confidence in their land and asked the price. Here in the Grande Ronde people have grown rich from their farms and never seemed to realize what the land is actually worth. But that day is dawning and real estate in the Grande Ronde is beginning to get to a point where it belongs.

MAGIC TOUCH OF THE TROLLEY.

Plans are now pending in Lewiston for the development of a comprehensive trolley system that will have the inevitable effect of transforming the city from a condition of moderate growth and activity to one of rapid and enormous development. This has been the experience of many cities, not possessed of any important natural advantages, and Lewiston should

have superior opportunities of benefit from such improvement.

With unlimited water-power that can be transformed into electric motive force, and with the natural resources for industry and commerce, an interurban trolley system with Lewiston as a center, would have a rich field for operations. Everywhere that electric roads are established they produce rapid development of both urban and agricultural resources.

Electric lines should be as common as telephones, and should unite city and country in closer union. The trolley roads don't displace or rival the steam roads nor do they take the place of river traffic, but they supplement these, acting as feeders for the other transportation lines. Lewiston will be rapidly transformed when it is finally touched by the magic of the trolley, as it doubtless will be in the near future. —Lewiston Teller.

THE USUAL CIVIL SERVICE TALK.

An interview has been given out at the postoffice department stating that all postmasters who are doing their duty satisfactorily will be retained regardless of political prestige or choice of congressmen. And it is alleged that President Taft has asked the department to adhere to this matter.

Well, as long as the postoffice department is a creature of politics there will be little service about postmasters of the second and first class, with possibly a semblance of it in third class offices. About once a year it is in order for a civil service interview or statement to be sent out for effect, but if you will watch later developments you will notice that invariably the man secures postoffice who has been "right" with the administration.

The insurgents in congress are asking for appointments now and that may be cause for the late decree from Washington, but if there is an insurgent holding an office and a regular republican wants it, watch the change occur at the expiration of the said insurgent's term.

And, while it may not be popular at the present time, to advocate that old adage, "to the victor belongs the spoils," yet is it not the way of life in everything else, and why not in politics?

Get out the brass bands for Teddy will soon be in sight in his native land. Let the cymbals clang and the firecrackers shoot for the world is worshipping the "man from Elba" at the present time. One thing is sure, Teddy will not make a speech favoring government ownership of railroads when he reaches New York, as Mr. Bryan did after his trip around the world. But if Teddy should do such a thing doubtless the United States treasury would begin at once to make arrangements for the purchase of all railroads at once.

The Harriman lines have placed orders for over a million dollars in rolling stock to be delivered this year. Not only that, but the same lines are making substantial improvements in many ways including the large sum of money that is to be spent on division terminals here in La Grande.

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WADDELL'S PITCHING DAYS MAY BE OVER.

It looks like curtains for Rube Waddell, the star pitcher of the St. Louis Americans. The great southpaw twirler whose eccentricities have made him a byword among baseball fans may never pitch again.



Waddell was struck on the left arm by a pitched ball in Boston recently and the bones in the elbow fractured. Attending surgeons fear that the pitching arm will never be able to work again. Erratic and uncertain, Waddell was, with all his faults, one of the best southpaws who ever shot a ball up to a batter. He had everything in the curve line. It has often been said of him that if he had been gifted with the brains of Mathewson he would have been the king of pitchers. Connie Mack managed Rube better than any other manager, and the Rube responded by pitching the Athletics into a couple of pennants. If he ever had a sore arm no one heard of it, but there was never any telling whether Rube would appear at the ball yard or go on a hunting or fishing trip. In Houston this spring Rube renewed his antics, and Jack O'Connor had a heart to heart talk with him. O'Connor told him he would either keep in shape and give his best services to the Browns at all times during the season or he would be released. O'Connor meant it, too, and the Rube kept close to the lines.

Primer of Explosives. The geological survey has issued a primer for the use of those who have to do with explosives, telling in untechnical language how and of what explosives are made, pointing out the dangers and showing how these may be reduced to a minimum.

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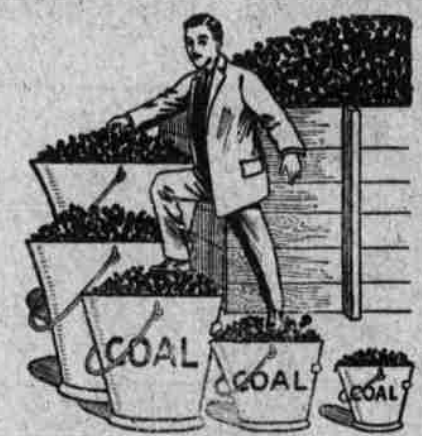
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