

La Grande Evening Observer

VOL. XIV.

LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1910.

NUMBER 50

NEW BUILDING INCREASE IN 7 YEARS BIG

INCREASE IN SEVEN YEARS OVER ENTIRE PREVIOUS HISTORY SURPRISING.

CITY IMPROVEMENT VARIED

Paying, Vast Extension of Water Mains, Cement Walks, Better Streets and Record Building Period Only Some of The Phases of 1910 Applied Commercially to This City—Fire Map Shows Important Data Regarding City Improvements.

FIGURES IN 1903.

The fire map contained twenty-three sheets or pages of the city proper, showing number of buildings in classifications as follows:

- 250 Commercial buildings.
- 195 barns and stables (private).
- 477 dwellings.

THE 1910 MAP.

Map contains 29 sheets of city proper and shows buildings as follows:

- 312 Commercial buildings.
- 336 barns and stables (private).
- 919 dwelling houses.
- 155 dwellings outside of fire map on account of detached and scattered locations.

Total dwellings in November 1910, 1074. "Commercial buildings" referred to above includes churches, schools, livery barns, mills, shops, and factories within the city's borders and refers to the buildings only and not to the commercial occupancies or enterprises in upper stories. The towns of Perry, Hot Lake, Island City, Alicel, are combined with the La Grande map. Total increase in buildings erected in seven years just past, 125 per cent.

OTHER 1910 DATA.

A total of seven miles of water mains have been laid this year according to Water Superintendent Gilman. Segregated, the record-breaking extension reads:

- One mile and a half 18-inch pipe.
- Four and one-half miles 4-inch pipe.
- Three-quarters of a mile of 10-inch cast pipe.
- Nine hundred feet of six inch pipe.
- One thousand feet of 2-inch pipe.
- Three thousand feet of surface pipe.
- Eleven new fire hydrants have been placed.

Paving Work Accomplished.

During the year the city has accomplished paving to the following extent:

- Bitulithic—2250 square yards on Depot; 1532 sq. yards on Chestnut; 16,132 sq. yards on Fir street; 19,075 sq. yards Adams Avenue.
- Macadam—14,717 sq. yards on Adams Avenue.

Refuting and setting at naught the story of the census enumerators, comes facts and figures from the Underwriters' fire maps, recently completed in this city and which show to the minutest detail, the building activities of the past seven years in La Grande and the fact is disclosed that the increase in growth of La Grande in buildings in that time reaches 125 per cent.

With such a splendid showing, the city can, by virtue of facts, laugh at what the census will probably say—every one of the 1074 house in La Grande is occupied and a great many by more than one family. If the census will show only about 6,000, which is conceded to be the figures yet to be given out, then the fire map—a bit of real and actual authority—will stand sponsor for the assertion that the population of La Grande is nearer 6,000 than 6,000. Be that as it may, the marvelous expansion of the city in the past seven years stands as a permanent monument to the consistent steady and always extending record of this city.

Where other cities have grown by leaps and bounds for a day and then fallen back to the old rut of retrogression, La Grande has plodded on steadily, and the banner year of 1910 which fades into history tonight, has

been but an example—a slightly exaggerated example we must admit—but nevertheless a sample of La Grande's growth. It takes booms to make Stanfields, Renos and Goldfields, but it takes years of steady and persistent aggressiveness to accomplish what La Grande has accomplished in its last decade in history.

The fire maps which are compiled about every five years are authentic, thousands, yes millions even, are involved in their accuracy. The facts which will be shown by the 1910 map are startling in their scope. One hundred and twenty-five per cent increase in the last seven years over the city's life previous to that date, means something.

CITY'S IMPROVEMENTS MANY.

Paving of Course Pre-Eminently in the Foreground—Other Things.

Citizens of La Grande can look back with pride at the accomplishment in city beautification and sanitary improvement. The table above shows the number of water main extensions, the cement walks laid this year have simply been phenomenal in extent; the paving accomplished marks the beginning of an era of street improvement that has only just been launched. Walls of course there is not data to corroborate this assertion, the Observer feels safe in gloating over the fact that no city in Oregon, outside of Portland can commence to show totals in as many various lines of city improvement as La Grande. The realization of the fond dreams of the park promoters is but another item in this class of improvements.

THIS YEAR'S BUILDING.

Scores of Cozy Little Homes Have Gone up in Remote Sections.

There is nothing at hand, without expenditure of a great amount of time to determine precisely the number of residences erected this year. One fact is self-evident however, that the remote sections of the city have seen scores of small but cozy homes erected and are now inhabited by working people. True, a half dozen residences costing thousands, have been erected during the year, but in numbers of course, the workingman's home predominates in numbers. The Fred L. Holmes residence, the W. K. Jones residence, the Zuber apartment house, the Scriber, Land, Lincoln and Garrick homes are but a few of the many places built during the year. It is useless to rehearse or parade the fact that every house built for renting purposes, was leased long before the carpenter had left the place.

BUSINESS DONE ON INCREASE.

Buying Public Increases Its Tendencies Toward Luxuries This Year.

Basing its authority on a careful canvass of the leading business men of this city, The Observer estimates the amount of increased local business this year over last year at 23 per cent. The canvass shows material increases in all instances but two and in these two exceptions the trading of last year was so big that in 1910 the figures break only slightly ahead of 1909. From ten to fifty per cent increase is where the statements read.

Several important factors enter into the proposition. In the first place last year's business was so "bumper" that in practically every line of business, all past records were knocked to smithereens, yet when all the books are closed this year, an increase of last year's business that indicates the amount of circulating money in this city will be shown. The small business houses have thrived well. The canvass discloses that the buying public has not alone spent its dollars on necessities of life, but luxuries too have been dabbled with. In this respect 1910 surpasses other years by figures. The big department stores all show a growth in business over last year's record showing. Yet the small houses have bigger per cent increases to show.

Robbers Show Speed.

Marysville, Kans., Dec. 31—Four regiments who robbed two banks and escaped in an automobile from a hastily organized posse today are being sought by a sheriff's posse. The first blew open the vault of the Citizens State bank at Waterville and took a sack of money. From there they went to the Waterville state bank and dynamited the safe. The explosion attracted the watchman who gave the alarm. Seizing the money in sight the robbers jumped into a waiting automobile and whizzed out of town. The banks report a loss of six thousand dollars.



TWO NOTABLE EVENTS OF 1910, THREE DEMOCRATS WHOSE GOVERNMENTAL SUCCESSES MAY HAVE NATIONAL EFFECT AND TWO AUTHORS OF WORLDWIDE RENOWN WHO WERE AMONG THE YEAR'S DEAD.

LABOR ATTACKS JOHN MOISSANT INJUNCTION MEETS DEATH

JAILING OF SEATTLE EDITORS TAKEN AS BASIS.

Want Injunction and Contempt Laws in Washington Remedied.

Everett, Wn., Dec. 31—Basing their action on the sentencing of the editors of the Seattle Star to jail for contempt, because the Star criticized the use of the injunction by Judge Ghilham, the Everett Labor Council is on record today as denouncing the contempt law and too frequent use of the injunction rights. The resolutions adopted declare the punishment for criticisms of a court decision in violation of the right to free speech. They urge the adoption of a law taking away from the judiciary the right to punish for contempt committed outside the court rooms.

Summerville People Wed.

William F. Chattin and Miss Elsa Baker, both of Summerville, are to be married this week. They were granted a license this morning by County Clerk Ed. Wright. Both are well known Summerville people.

SHOOTS FORMER HUSBAND.

In Trouble Over Daughter, Woman Shoots Former Husband.

Tacoma, Dec. 31—In defense of her two year old baby girl, over which she and her husband have been fighting since their divorce recently, Mrs. S. G. Harold, 13 South J. Street, shot and probably mortally wounded W. R. Williams, who with a companion, named Sidney Marks, is accused by her of entering her home and attempting to kidnap the baby. Williams is at St. Joseph's hospital and the woman was arrested.

The police are searching for Harold whom she says awaited the men in an automobile outside. The woman declares they entered the house, and she secured a revolver when they attempted to secure the baby and in the struggle Williams was shot.

FALLS WITH AEROPLANE AND IS HORRIBLY CRUSHED.

Lead Daring Life—Flew From Paris to London Recently.

New Orleans, Dec. 31—John B. Moissant, the daring California aviator, who made the famous flight from Paris to London, was killed in



Pioneer of Seattle Dead.

Seattle, Dec. 31—Mrs. Arthur Denny widow of one of Seattle's founders, died yesterday of a protracted illness aged 88. She was a member of the first party who landed on Alki point in 1851. She was born in Nashville, Tenn. The funeral will be held tomorrow.

Enormous Citrus Combine Formed.

Whittier, Calif., Dec. 31—A citrus combination, representing \$64,000,000 worth of property and the annual citrus output of \$1,600,000 is being formed today by ranchers in the La Habra district near this city. The object of the association is to protect the citron products under the association's brand.

the English aviator, Marquis Pualia and Alexander Laffon, the Frenchman.

Moissant's machine capsized while 100 feet in the air, and dropped him to the ground. The accident occurred at Harapon. People who were witnesses notified the hospital and an ambulance was rushed to the scene of the accident. He was alive when help arrived but died enroute to the hospital. He was badly crushed. He had started to alight to compete for the Michelin cup.

Moissant led an adventurous life. Before becoming an aviator he took a prominent part in the tempestuous affairs at Nicaragua. He was once a planter in Salvador and incidentally a leader in the gun powder politics of the three Central American republics.

Son Doesn't Know Fact.

Los Angeles, Dec. 31—Stanley Moissant, aged 15, son of John Moissant, came to Los Angeles several days ago to attend the aviation meet. He was accompanied by Borton Weyl and the latter's wife, who is a sister of the dead aviator. The youth went on a trip to Mount Lowe today and does not know of the tragedy. The boy is a student of the military academy at San Rafael, Calif.

Taboo on "Rough Stuff."

Portland, Dec. 31—Noise attendant to all crowds will be allowed tonight, but confetti, ticklers and noise making apparatus are tabooed to-night according to Chief of Police Cox today. A double police guard will be on duty on down town streets. All saloons will be closed promptly at midnight. An effort is being made to make the celebration as orderly as possible.

San Francisco, Dec. 31—"Freedom for all but license for none," is how San Francisco will be allowed to celebrate New Year's here tonight. Nearly 800 policemen will be on the streets to guard. The feature of merrymaking will be the midnight promenade on Market street. It is estimated at least 150,000 visitors will be in the city tonight.

Astoria, Dec. 31—No extra police here.

Victoria, Dec. 31—Victoria celebrates in the same old English way. The town will be noisy all night.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 31—The saloons will be closed at 11 o'clock tonight, so those who celebrate by drinking will be compelled to get their supply before hand. It is expected there will be a noisy time.

Spokane, Dec. 31—Ministers will combine with the police tonight in patrolling the downtown districts to prevent undue revelry. Tables in the big restaurants are at a premium.

All downtown cafes are reserved tonight. In nearly all it was necessary to pledge \$50 for champagne before the seats were reserved.

SCOUT REPORTED SOLD.

R. L. Kitchen of Richland Said to Have Purchased Union Weekly.

Union, Dec. 31—(Special)—It is reported here today that W. A. Maxwell, pioneer editor of the Union Scout, has sold his plant to R. J. Kitchen, formerly editor of the Richland News. The sale has not been officially announced, but is said to be practically closed up.

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RECORD CROP OF FRUIT IN PAST YEAR

FRUIT SHIPMENTS FROM COUNTY STILL UNDER WAY AND RETURNS BIG.

NEW ORCHARD AREA LARGE

New Orchards Given Inception in 1910 Overtop Thousand Acres—Cost of Planting Orchards Runs Into Thousands—Points Coming Into Its Own in This Valley—General Review of Crop and Orchard Data.

ESTIMATED FRUIT CROP.

Known fruit shipments from Grande Ronde valley towns, and estimated shipments to clean up the output during the next thirty days, are compiled by District Fruit Commissioner Judd Geer, of Cove and County Fruit Inspector Stillwell as follows.

Cherries.

Cove 25 cars

Union 8 cars

La Grande 8 cars

Total Estimate 41 cars

Prunes.

Cove 30 cars

Union 8 cars

Scattering 5 cars

Total 43 cars

Apples.

Cove 110 cars

Union 75 cars

La Grande 300 cars

Imbler 50 cars

Elgin 27 cars

Total 672 cars

Total cars fruit shipped 656

These estimates are based on figures compiled late in November.

NEW ORCHARD AREAS.

Tract This Year Next

Zimmerle, Cove 80 120

Thronson, Imbler 50

La Grande Inv. Co. 90 410

C. S. Williams 40 80

Cleaver & Bridges 60

Doctor Lilly 40

Williams & McCall 20 80

Elgin vicinity 90 144

Miscellaneous 50 50

Total 340 874

Grand total of orchards given

inception in 1910, 1214 acres.

Cost of buying trees, preparing ground and planting, \$22,000.

Outstripping all other years, due to unusually favorable climatic conditions and increased acreage, the fruit output of this valley looms up in encouraging proportions for the year 1910. All the fruit is not shipped out yet nor will it be for the next thirty days, but the table of estimates above is authentic so far as it deals with shipments made from fruit centers on December first, and augmented by careful estimates by men who are in close touch with the shipments.

Elgin and Imbler Increases.

Two years ago the Imbler and Elgin shipments scarcely figured in the totals for the county—this year the table tells a different story. Yet at Elgin the output is still from home orchards; the commercial orchards have yet to mature.

It is pretty much an old story to local people; all this about the marvelous increase in fruit lands, but it is also a story worthy of repetition. How Imbler land shot up from \$200 per acre six years ago to its present rating of \$500 to \$700, is but one phase of the fruit development this year that is sweet music to the loyalists' hearts.

Other Crops Equally Prolific.

Wheat this year almost reached the million bushel mark, and is bringing lucrative and remunerative prices to the growers. Potatoes, related to and with direct ratio to the amount of increased fruit orchards, has come to be a staple product of the valley, and in place of producing about enough for home consumption, carload after carload is being shipped out this fall and winter. Alfalfa has been cultivated to a greater extent and with greater profits, through better knowledge of how to handle the crop. The hay products of this valley run to big figures, and the past year has seen a material increase in the number of acres and the total acreage output. Barley and oats field acreages have

(Continued on Page Seven.)