

## CENSUS PROVES JOKE

### LA GRANDE SUFFERS BY RIDICULOUS FIGURES SENT OUT FROM THE CENSUS BUREAU OFFICIALS AT WASHINGTON

### LESS THAN FIVE THOUSAND ARE RESIDENTS OF CITY AND ITS POPULATION IS JUGGLED

Washington, Jan. 11 (Special to Observer)—The population of La Grande according to the thirteenth census is 4,843. At the twelfth census it was 2,991 and at the eleventh 2,582. The census of Oregon City is 4,289, Salem 14,004, and Eugene 9,009.

Spreading consternation and eliciting plenty of chagrin the announcement of E. Dana Durand reached this city this morning and the matter is being considered principally as a huge joke rather than seriously. Showing over a half thousand less in population than it was five years ago when the state enumeration was taken, the announcement of the census bureau cannot be taken otherwise than as a joke. During the past five years hundreds of residences have been built and today are inhabited—additions have been laid out and built upon and the residences so built are now inhabited and were when the census was taken last spring—lodging houses are crammed with railroad, sawmill and other employes and professional men who have moved to La Grande and have made this their home since the last state census. Consequently it is preposterous to assume that the city has lost in population during these five years.

**Increase in Ten Years.**  
Even though the census returns were accurate—but they are so far from correct as to be entirely ludicrous—the increase in ten years is 1832 or nearly eighty per cent.

**Estimates Disagree.**  
Estimates made by people in close touch with the census when it was taken affirm that the city census should show over five and a half thousand at the very lowest and more likely considerably over six thousand. Great discrepancies creep in however, somewhere, and unless there has been some error in the count at Washington, which is generally conceded by those who have given the matter thought today as being the real solution of the proposition, the count is, on the face of things entirely wrong. The figures quoted above have come to the Observer today from two different sources—from Director Durand himself and from the United Press correspondent at Washington. As they correspond there is little chance of a mistake in figures announced. The error is more likely in the Washington office of the census bureau.

#### BAKER CASE DECIDED.

**Supreme Court Holds that City Can Control Its Water Ditches.**

Salem, Jan. 10—The supreme court this morning handed down a decision modifying the decision of Judge Smith in the case of the Baker Mutual Irriga-

tion company versus Baker City. The court holds that the ordinance which attempted to regulate ditches was defective in that it did not prescribe the manner in which the ditch should be changed, but made this dependent upon the judgment of the city engineer. This is a legislative power which must be exercised by the council and not by the engineer, who is a ministerial officer.

The court sustains the injunction against the city but will dissolve it as soon as the city amends the ordinance in this one respect.

The opinion, which was written by Chief Justice Moore, says that the

### PROGRAM READY FOR MEETING

**SEVERAL IMPORTANT ADDRESSES TO BE DELIVERED.**

**Open and Closed Sessions to Mark Session of Many Farmers Here.**

Program numbers for the big tri-county convention of the Co-Operative and Educational Farmers' Union to be held in this city next Friday and Saturday, have been arranged and provide for an interesting series of addresses and closed sessions. Something like 300 delegates will be on hand from Baker, Wallowa and Union counties and several state officers will be on hand to take part in the program and to attend a meeting of the executive committee of the state union.

The program as outlined includes:  
**Friday's Program.**  
Open session Friday 10 a. m. Address by H. D. G. Cox, state organizer.  
1 p. m.—Close session.  
7 p. m.—Close session.  
8:30 p. m.—Open session. Opening address, C. C. Coffner, Helix; member state executive board.  
Address of Welcome—Mayor A. L. Richardson.

Response—F. S. Sykes, state secretary-treasurer of Milton.  
Short addresses by John Collier, president of Commercial club on relation of city to the country; Response by A. P. Davis, county organizer; Bruce Dennis; necessity and benefits of taxpayer's league, Walter M. Pierce.

#### Saturday.

At 10 in the morning and 1.30 in the afternoon the sessions will be closed and business of importance to the union will come up.

ditch company has no vested right in the streets of the city and is subject to reasonable regulation by the city under police power. The ditch company partakes of the nature of a public service corporation and therefore is subject to more severe regulation than it otherwise would be.

The court does not say whether the ditch could be entirely removed, but indicates that the ditch exists only under the license of the city, and this license can be revoked at will by the city. The ditch company has no right by adverse possession, as the ordinance of 1885, authorizing D. L. Moomaw to dig the ditch is void, because there was no authority in the city charter at that time to grant such a right. The plat of the townsite by the U. S. government and by Boyd did not make any reference to the ditches.

#### LA GRANDE NATIONAL MEETING

**Officers Elected at Annual Meeting of That Institution Yesterday.**

The La Grande National bank stockholders met yesterday afternoon in their annual meeting, and re-elected all present officers for the ensuing term. Little else was transacted, aside from routine matters coming before each annual election and meeting.

### General William Booth, Salvation Army Founder, Is In Feeble Health



General Booth of the Salvation Army is now practically blind, but he is still looking forward to an operation for a cataract on his right eye. He is deeply stirred by Andrew Carnegie's gift of \$10,000,000 for the promotion of the peace of the world. "What would I give for \$10,000,000 to help us win true peace?" he cried. "How would I spend it? That is no new question. Year in and year out we have pondered it, wondering when and whence the millions will come. There are many schemes and possibilities, but if they are to be effective all must begin with the one beginning, a university of humanity. This university for a beginning should have two centers—London and New York. It would be an institution to which the lowest, the humblest and the most degraded would be brought that they might be taught. The greatest and only abiding lesson would be forgetfulness of self. In these universities I would give men of healthy bodies the means of healthy work. I would have them trained mentally, morally and physically. I would see that the money was not spent on the few alone. Around each university I would have 1,000 halls, which by their brightness would attract each their thousands. There are so many ways of spending money in the direction of peace and yet making it reproductive that I cannot recount all. I only wish Mr. Carnegie would give me a chance."

W. GILBERT THOMPSON



Organizer and Prospective Cashier of New Citizens National Bank.

### BUILD MACADAM TO HOT LAKE

**FARMERS WANT ONLY EXPENSE OF CRUSHING GRAIN THEM.**

**Land Owners Fail to Plan So Readily That Seems Assured Already.**

Prospects for a macadam road from La Grande to Hot Lake about 10 miles, have become extremely bright during the past few days because of the liberal signatures affixed to the petition to that effect and now being circulated between the farmers. The plan is, according to the wishes expressed by the farmers in the territory and beyond, for the county to pay for the crushing of the rock. This plan is so equitable and so popular that the road's futurity is seemingly assured.

### NEW BANK TO BE ESTABLISHED HERE BY GRANDE RONDE CASH; CAPITAL STOCK \$50,000

Backed by many influential farmers and adjoining towns, and to be capitalized at \$50,000 a new bank is to be put in this city on March 2 or as soon thereafter as possible. This, the third banking house in the city, will be known as the Citizens' National bank of La Grande and will conduct a banking business at this point.

**Charter Application Approved.**  
The charter application forwarded to Washington last week, has been approved according to advices reaching here last evening from the comptroller of the currency and it is believed that it will be but a few days until the required papers necessary for the final organization of the concern will reach here from the nation's capital.

**Subscribers Number Forty-Three.**  
At this particular time, the subscribers number exactly forty-three and the conservative estimates of the

total wealth represented by the backers of the institution is considerably more than a million dollars, nearly all of it being Grande Ronde valley money. This money will be paid up before March 2 so that the election of officers which will be held at a meeting of the stockholders prior to March 2, will be the signal for the opening the bank to the public. The site has been selected though as yet has not been announced. It will be conveniently near the heart of the city.

#### W. G. Thompson at Head.

The new bank is primarily the fruit of preliminary movements set on foot by W. G. Thompson, a capitalist of Hamilton, Ohio, where he has been and still is heavily interested in investments. He quit the profession of law about ten years ago and since then has made a success of various financial enterprises, among them the establishment of two successful telephone companies, and, too, he has been instrumental in the organization of three other banks in the middle west.

About a year ago Mr. Thompson came to this valley on a brief business trip but was attracted to the valley by its evidences of wealth and two months ago returned with the well defined notion of adopting some permanent business here. After a careful scrutiny of the banking situation he deemed it advisable to open negotiations for another bank and the subscription list was started with the result that the capital stock has now been met and the approval of the department of the treasury is the only detail unfinished. Mr. Thompson, it is understood on good authority, will be the head of the new banking house and will have affiliated with him as assistant cashier, Hugh McCall who acquired a banking education in the La Grande National of this city. Mr. McCall has resigned his position in the La Grande National. The other officers will be elected at the meeting of stockholders to be held in February some time.

#### Thinks Room for Another Bank.

"We are convinced that there is room here for a third banking house" said Mr. Thompson today in announcing the plans of the institution. "We are going into the field with this motive as the primary and only investigation, for we have no fault to find with present banks and bankers of the valley but believe that the city and valley will become wealthier and that a third bank will be a success. I make this statement advisedly for I canvassed the situation very thoroughly for over a month before I took a single individual into my confidence in the matter and I know the field and the room is here without infringing on other institutions."

In the formation of the company the law firm of Cochran & Cochran acted as attorneys.

#### Was Looking for Taft.

Geo. W. Huber of Echo, has been pronounced insane by County Physician Garfield and the sheriff has sent for a guard of the asylum to take him to that institution. Huber for some time past has manifested a great religious zeal, but recently his brain disorder has caused him to institute a search for President Taft as he is possessed of the idea that the chief executive is somewhere in his neighborhood. Huber is a man of about 36 years of age—Pendleton Oregonian.

### SUFFRAGIST TO VISIT OREGON

**WILL WORK FOR PROMULGATION OF SHORT WORK DAYS.**

**Women's Interest in Shorter Hours to be Handled by Leader.**

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 11 (Special)—Capitals of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and the province of British Columbia will be visited by Mrs. Bay Arkwright Hutton of Spokane, president of the Equal Suffrage League of Washington in the interest of bills providing for a day of eight hours and not more than six days' work a week for women.

"I shall also attend the convention of women from Washington, Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah, where equal suffrage is a law," said Mrs. Hutton, just before starting for Tacoma, "but I expect to pass at least two weeks in Olympia to support the eight-hour bill in the interest of the working women. I may also take part in other matters of legislation in the interest of women."

Mrs. Hutton believes that sufficient pressure can be brought upon members of the legislature of Washington to pass a law for the protection of women, saying that 130,000 women voters were added to the list in this state when Governor Hay attached his signature of the official returns of the recent election.

"Of course, none of us knows what the result will be in Washington," Mrs. Hutton added, "but it would appertain upon the adoption of almost any kind of a reasonable measure for their protection against the greed of employers, some of whom work their girls and women clerks from 10 to 12 hours and frequently seven days a week."

"I expect to have conference with leaders of the movement at Tacoma some time this week. Women from Washington, Idaho, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming will be assembled there and an expression of opinion will be forthcoming and a plan of action mapped out before the convention comes to a close."