

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
Editor and Owner.

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INSPIRED BY THE GRANDE RONDE

The following very beautiful description was written by an eastern physician who was travelling through the west a few years ago. He was ill but it is claimed when he beheld this valley he acted as an inspired man and immediately penned the article. It was printed in a private book of which but a limited number of volumes were issued to near friends, each volume being numbered. It will do every citizen of this valley good to read what this physician thought when he first beheld the sight that greets our eyes each and every day:

Away off there to the west like a centipede the long passenger train is crawling, crawling around the shoulders and across the gulches of the mountain sides, leaving green fields of the wide valley to explore the gray of the lava-streaked sage-brush fringed hills. It is just as well, for I am content to stay.

Yonder among the blue green hills nestles the Cove, above it gleam in the sunlight the snowy peaks of the Powder river mountains. Away to the left the chimneys of La Grande send up a veil of blue among the nooks between the toes of the Blue mountains, while Hot Lake steams before it and Island City and Alicel support its right, and far to the north, where the haze rests on the ridges nestles Elgin where the river plunges down into the depths of the yawning earth beyond. At our feet Union City smiles up at us, while yonder at the right and left stand Mts. Frances and Emily, with their green robes drawn around them pure but austere, the chaperons of the entrancing scene.

It is Grande Ronde, and when I see it with its green fields, its walls of green and blue and white and gray, I forget, earth, paradise, heaven, everything in the universe save God and rapture, and the waters sing and the mills rumble and the happy cattle nuzzle in the emerald fields, and I am content to stay, spring, summer, autumn, among the winning scenes.

I see it in my dreams, the valley of the Grande Ronde, which lies a boundless plain just where the river comes out of the bosom of the Blue mountains, Oregon's waterbottles, where the blue birds and larks and robins sing among the apple orchards and the wheat fields and pastures carpet the earth with green, and the sheep look down from the mountain sides and smile at the cattle in the fields below, while Nature sighs with content at the picture she has painted.

LA GRANDE'S NEW HIGH SCHOOL.

(Portland Oregonian.)

The founding of a new high school at La Grande is not one of those event which the great world will herald with the sound of trumpets. Still it has its importance. Nothing measures the advance of civilization better than the steady growth of the means of education among the people. To a democracy, such as Oregon is becoming, education is the breath of life if not life itself.

It is easy to remember a time when Oregon was almost without real high schools. Portland, of course, set the example of establishing them, but for a long time the old Lincoln school went far beyond the eighth grade

was the only one in the state which really does is to increase the possible constituency of the college. This no educational man in the state would now think of disputing. The uplift of the public schools has carried every one of our colleges with it. Now almost every little town thinks it a shame not to have a full high school course and the whole system is intimately connected with the university and agricultural college as it ought to be.

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THIS DATE IN HISTORY.

April 19.

- 1775—Battle of Lexington, first engagement in the American revolutionary war.
- 1813—Benjamin Bush, physician-general in the American army, died in Philadelphia. Born in Byberry, Pa., Dec. 24, 1745.
- 1824—Lord Byron, the poet, died in Greece. Born in London, Jan. 22, 1788.
- 1850—The Clayton-Bulwer treaty was signed.
- 1855—The planet Atalanta discovered by H. Golschmidt.
- 1861—The ports of the seceding states were declared to be under blockade.

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