

**THE OBSERVER**

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Editor and Owner.

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**A WEEK-END MESSAGE.**

At the close of a week that will go down in history as prosperity maker for the year 1911 in the Grande Ronde valley—these blessed rains have soaked the valley from center to circumference and made fine big grain crops and hay crops and beet crops and apple crops possible—we can think of no better message to convey to the editorial readers than a reflection of the harmonious feelings being "generated" between the several towns of Union and Wallowa counties. The newspapers, the mouthpieces of a community are quoted thusly:

(Elgin Recorder.)

The Recorder man has read with interest an account of the meeting at

La Grande to reorganize the board, having in charge the management of the county fair, and we were especially pleased to note that it is proposed to enlarge the membership so as to include prominent farmers from all parts of the county. Heretofore, if we are correctly informed, and as appears from the personnel of the membership of the board, the fair has been afflicted with focalitis, and has been in fact a La Grande instead of a county fair. In a smaller field it has about the same trouble that nearly killed the state fair, which for many years was nothing more than a local graft. The state fair board, prior to 1889, was self-perpetuating—that is, as one member dropped out the board elected his successor, and finally Marlon county obtained absolute control, with the result that the association became bankrupt—even refusing to take its own warrants in payment for stock feed and stall rent furnished exhibitors. In 1889, however, a bill introduced by the editor of the Recorder became a law, providing for a board of five members, all from different counties, and no more than three of one political faith. The fair then became in reality a state institution, and has been constantly increasing in usefulness and popularity. The lesson is a plain one for the board of directors for what should be in the fullest sense the Union county fair.

(Union Republican.)

The proposition advanced by a delegation of La Grande business men this week, relative to the amalgamation of the commercial interests of Union and Wallowa counties, was first mentioned by a La Grande man, at a banquet given in May, 1910, in honor of the Union Stock show boosters, and meets with favor by all who have heard it. La Grande is taking the initiative toward creating a better feeling among the people of different parts of this and Wallowa counties, and the elimination of the kicker and sorehead, and in this commendable work our sister city should have the support of all.

(Enterprise News-Record.)

In another column is told how the commercial clubs of the towns in central Oregon are getting together to work for the common good. The new towns along the Deschutes railroads and the old towns such as Prineville are all entering the development league for united team work. Good results will be felt immediately in the general feeling that it is better to help build up your neighbor town than to tear down and destroy, for always the latter policy reacts on the community that does it. Examples are not wanting in Eastern Oregon of the boomerang nature of the tear down policy. This harmony talk is pretty stale stuff in this corner of the state. We realize that, yet it is the only way—all the wisest publicity sharps and development experts tell us that. We know beforehand that it will take more than words or shining example to stir the indifference of Wallowa and Union counties, but it is part of the duty of a live newspaper. It is possible for Joseph, Enterprise, Lostine and Wallowa to unite efforts in development work for the valley and the whole county, but our petty jealousies and rivalries are every dear to us, and we are not mercenary. We would rather settle old scores than

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make a fortune. The same seems true in Union county. Elgin, Union and other towns accuse La Grande of unneighborly acts, yet if all would act sensibly there is no reason why they shouldn't get together. The same is true we know of Umatilla, and may be true of Baker. Here are the big four of northeastern Oregon, Umatilla, Union, Baker and Wallowa, who ought to be working in harmony for the development of this part of the state, all with resources very similar—except, of course, Wallowa county has the best—yet worse than strangers.

Maybe when settlers have no place else to go they will come to this richest but least known part of Oregon.

(Union Scout.)

We have attended a great many booster meetings in our time but never before have we been permitted to attend one where the "get together" spirit was manifested in such a degree as it was in the meeting held in Union Tuesday night when the La Grande "boys" came to meet with the Union club.

If there have been factions and fights between La Grande and Union, it now seems that the hatchet is entirely buried and from now on these towns will work in harmony for the betterment of the whole valley. The notes of harmony that were struck in the remarks made by our citizens as well as La Grande's should have been heard by our citizens. Union in the future will be known as a town in which the word co-operation is lived out in its fullest meaning. We can pull together. There's strength in Union. Let's pull together.

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