

THE OBSERVER

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EDITOR AND OWNER.

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A WHITE CHRISTMAS IN THE GRANDE RONDE.

The story books where inspiration for stories was obtained in the extreme New England states cannot tell of a more desirable weather condition for a Merry Christmas than that which prevails in the Grande Ronde valley this year. There is just snow enough and not too much; the air has been sharp and crisp for several days inspiring life and energy in every individual and bringing on that good cheer which should prevail at Christmas time.

Some way we always pity the people in Southern California on Christmas day, for how could it be an enjoyable Christmas without real winter? How could the story of Santa Claus and his reindeer and sled be told in a way that would interest when one looked from the window only to see everything green and a soft summer atmosphere hovering over?

The children of the southern clime cannot fully appreciate Christmas as do the children of the country where the snow flies, where the sleigh bells ring, where the merry laughter of the boys at snowball fills the air.

There could be no nearer ideal Christmas weather than we are having in this valley at the present time. And the commercial side of the present weather when translated by those who are looking for the dollar side of the situation, means larger wheat crops, larger fruit crops, harder people and greater tonnage of all products to goon the world's markets the coming year.

With everything considered, how would you find a better climate than Grande Ronde? You can take the New England stories of Yuletide and they fit this section. You can take the stories of family worship on Christmas day in old communities and they fit the people and their customs here.

And besides all of the good comparisons, in which the Grande Ronde stands forth boldly, you may add to them the facts telling of little human

suffering, less want and poverty according to population than elsewhere in the whole country. Compile this table of cheerful statistics and review it tomorrow at the Christmas dinner table. It will cause everyone who takes part to rejoice and give thanks that he is permitted by a kind providence to dwell in such a glorious country, where honest effort always wins; where poverty is almost an unknown thing; where earnest application at any line of work through the producing period of manhood insures a competency for old age that will care for the individual, his wife and his children.

Blessed is the Grande Ronde valley and the people who dwell therein.

AUTOMOBILE CLUB AND GOOD ROADS.

The Union County Automobile club will recommend some interesting legislation at this session. Briefly stated, it is to keep the money for automobile licenses in the respective counties, excepting a small percentage which will pay the secretary of state's office for issuing the state licenses. If successful this will abolish the automobile department at Salem, release a bunch of employees from the state payroll and close a suite of offices which have proven expensive to maintain. In return it will put into Union county all license money to be used on the county roads and will make the collection of license fees a county duty which will be looked after. Instead of only a small percentage of the machines paying license as is now the case, every machine will pay for the county can collect whereas the state cannot, owing to the extensive territory.

While the idea originated with the Union County Automobile club it is being assisted by other counties wherever it has been explained.

Little has been said of the road work done by the local automobile organization, but nevertheless, it amounts to a great deal in the aggregate. A few items of expense that we call to mind include the grading of Wallowa hill, making it passable; work on the county road near Kamela, considerable work on the Island of a number of county roads.

City road, and the systematic rolling. When Hot Lake Sanatorium invited Union county autoists to join in a big banquet at the Lake some time ago it was hardly thought such an effective organization could be perfected as there has been. But, like many good things that Hot Lake has started, it has progressed beyond the knowl-

To All Our Friends and Customers---
GREETING

We wish to extend to our thousands of customers and friends our thanks for their patronage during the past year. With your help we have builded from a small beginning (15 years ago) the largest and most up-to-date department store in Eastern Oregon, and we trust that our future effort will meet your approval as heartily as they have in the past.

We Call Your Special Attention to our Great Annual Saving Event which starts soon after the holidays. Watch for

West's 15th Annual Sale

Opening date and particulars will be announced soon

WEST'S

THE QUALITY STORE

Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

NEWLIN BOOK AND STATIONERY CO.

Thankful Words To Our Patrons

can only express our feelings for their liberal patronage the past year. We will, during the early part of the coming year, enlarge our store so the room will be 110x30 feet with large balcony.

This will keep La Grande in the front rank with the largest tailoring establishment in Eastern Oregon, just as we have kept La Grande in that enviable place for years.

We have engaged two of the most expert Ladies' Tailors for 1913 on the Pacific Coast.

With our best wishes for a Merry Christmas, we remain,

Yours to Serve

The TOGGERY
AL ANDREWS

After checking up all flour dealers for 30 days we find that from all brands of flour sold in La Grande 75 per cent is

LA GRANDE MILLING CO.'S BLUE STEM

Now do you suppose if this flour was not the right kind the per cent would show up this way? And one more item: Do you suppose we dare print anything we can not prove? We are home fixtures and must make good. So, now to the few who are not using this particular kind, ask your grocer to send you a sack. It won't hurt because they will hand back your money if it don't do the work. There's nothing cheap about it, only the price.

edge of many. Dr. M. K. Hall, as president, has been constantly on the job and he has been backed up by

ally by Vice President Merton Kiddle Secretary Al Andrews, Treasurer C. C. Penington and the entire membership.

This latest movement to appear before the legislature with a request for the license money on machines to be left in each county is looked upon as the most important step for better roads than has been taken, regardless of the many bills which have been proposed, carrying huge appropriations. No one should oppose the club's movement for this money to remain local. It is right and just. As matters now stand the automobile license money, that is the portion that is received at Salem, is eaten up by department heads and clerks. Under the proposed plan all machines would be forced to pay and the money will be used on the roads where the respective machines travel.

Every owner of a machine would much more willingly pay his automobile tax if he knew the money was to be spent in his home county.

THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING.

Advancement means advancement. La Grande is advancing as no other city of her size in the northwest is advancing, and with that advancement comes needed improvements. The one that now confronts this city and cannot be waived aside is a new school building across the railroad tracks.

The school census shows in round numbers 1700 children of school age in this district, yet there is now only a seating capacity of 1200 in the different buildings. As a result every teacher is crowding and jamming the youngsters into close quarters in order to make room for a few more.

This is especially true on the east side of the city. Children are being housed in the basement of one building. Sanitary conditions are not good and it would be criminal on the part of the population of La Grande to continue this condition any longer than it takes to erect a new school building. The petition is out now and will be signed freely for the new structure. It must come next season so that when school is called in September every parent will know his boy or his girl will be properly housed in a comfortable building during the following school year.

Clean Things To Wear

The corporation known as Cherry's New Laundry is among La Grande's most progressive concerns. Since buying Mr. A. B. Cherry's interest last April the new management has added over fifteen hundred dollars' worth of equipment and improvements with the view of bettering the service to patrons and improving the working conditions of employees. With respect to lighting, ventilation and sanitary conditions Cherry's New Laundry easily occupies first place among all the laundries of Eastern Oregon. Its employees are experts in their line and perfect work the untiring effort of all.

The management takes this opportunity to thank the people of La Grande for their liberal patronage and considerate treatment, and to wish them all the felicities of this delightful season of renewed good will to all.

We Now Have On Deposit
\$800,000.00

of money accumulated by residents of La Grande and the Grande Ronde valley.

We Now Have Loaned
\$700,000.00

to business men, farmers and others in this community. The money deposited here is not "laid away" as some of it might be if its owners had not deposited it, but it is industriously at work all about us, doing good. By depositing your income here on open account and paying it out by check, you will safeguard your interests, build your credit and cultivate an acquaintance at a strong financial institution, which can and will help you when you need help. Don't delay, you can begin with a small deposit at the

La Grande National Bank
La Grande, Oregon

Capital \$100,000.00 Surplus, \$120,000.00 Resources, \$1,110,000.00
FRED J. HOLMES President W. J. CHURCH Vice President
E. L. MEYERS, Cashier EARL ZUNDEL, Asst. Cashier