

La Grande

Evening

Observer

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BUILDINGS AND
REPAIRS ATTAIN
HUGE TOTALSNINE MONTHS' REC-
ORD BRINGS UP A
BIG TOTALNEIGHBORHOOD OF THREE
HUNDRED THOUSAND REACHED
Comfortable Homes, Scattered Over
Entire City, Go up During the
Building Months—Repairs are Many
—Detail Table Shows Wide Range
of Boom for the City's Buildings.NEW BUILDINGS TOTAL IS
ENORMOUS

The total value of new building and repairs during the year foots up the interesting total of \$288,077. For a city of the size of La Grande the addition of 87 new residences marks this year as a banner one in the building line. All of these houses are occupied and there is a dearth of desirable dwellings for rent. It means that the city is expanding at a remarkable rate and that in the near future, it will press other cities close for second place in respect of population in the state. It means more than that. It means that the city will have to be up and doing in municipal affairs, that a policy in keeping with the size and importance of the city will have to be adopted and adhered to, if a balanced condition of affairs is to prevail.

If a city's progress is determined by activity in building, then that of La Grande is pronounced. It is regrettable that the system of issuing and recording permits was not inaugurated sooner. But judging from the detailed list of new building and improvements carried on during a period of nine months, from and including March up to and including December, and by comparing the total improvements and new buildings with the assessed property value of the city, it will be seen that almost a third has been added to property value in actual cash. The total assessed value hovers beyond the million mark. Add to this the sum total of new buildings and improvements made during the last nine months, and one gets the encouraging figure of over \$1,300,000.

About 87 buildings, either new or upon which substantial repairs are being made, were under way Dec. 1.

A glance at the figures will show how little and how much has been invested in homes. From the humble figures of \$500 growing up to \$8,000 we see along the route of calculation, figures of various dimensions. The average of some forty estimates taken at random, including the lowest, intermediary and the highest, circles about \$2,700.

A trip through the city reveals a variety of styles. From the substantial box shaped house to the up-to-date bungalow, with cobbles stone chimney, shingle sides and painted roof, there is a variety as great as that of the price paid for them. Many old houses have taken an added charm by the addition of varicolored rock porch foundations or the addition of concrete porches. Brick buildings have not been many, but those built have cost thousands and are of attractive architecture.

Nor is this growth confined to any one section of the city. South La Grande is coming forward in a new garb. The new additions on the east, south and north end are keeping pace with growth toward the hill both in attractive styles and cost. The addition of the new postoffice building and the Foley office building are the most expensive additions to the city's reality. Both are up-to-date structures of their kind and are a great credit to the city.

If the city continues to improve at this ratio, in ten years from now real estate will total about \$5,000,000. It is likely that these figures will be outlived.

The appended list gives in detail the building and repairs for the year from March 1 to Dec. 5, but are underestimated in each case for assessment reasons.

(Continued on page 3, section 2.)

New-Born In
Year RecordAVERAGE AGE OF FATHERS IS
THIRTY-TWO.

DEATH RECORD LOW

Race Suicide Not Evident in Count's
Death-Birth Records.

When you look at a huge tome and see the label: Record of Births or Record of Deaths, it would convey little or no interest. But a perusal of the pages might tell at least the story in all its accuracy of the coming into the world of some tot about whom you are concerned. Or it might tell of the passing away of some loved parent or friend and leave to posterity a record of the fact that tells how he or she passed off the stage of life. There is usually nothing in the dry recital of statistics, save for the doctor or the insurance agent. Nor can anything definite be predicated from them because of the varying circumstances that surround each individual birth or death. But to the mediator a few of the concrete results will be of interest, because they are a gauge of the number of actors on this life's stage, and predict in a way what the succeeding scenes of the drama will be. It is good to have some one tell us whether our death rate is near the birth rate mark or whether the number of births is keeping pace with the increasing influx of people. The following results taken from the recorder's books for the year 1912, will show a number of significant things:

The number of recorded births for the past year was 241, approximately 95 per cent of the total number of births in the county. Of this number 122 were male children and 115 were female. Of four the sex was not given. Of these all but one were white children. The one having the distinction of being off color was little Miss Neumato, whose parents are from Japan. She is therefore a native born citizen and will, when she arrives at the voting age, be in line to cast a ballot for some aspiring office seeker.

January was the banner month in respect of births. Thirty-two saw the light of the world during the frosty hours of this month. Whether these tots were born under any of the ruling planets, or movable nomads, we are unable to determine, since that requires a knowledge of astrology, and astronomy. February falls in line with a total of 24. March has 26 to its credit.

In the following months the number begins to wane until September ushers in 27 to cheer the hearts of those who think we are cursed with race suicide. April had a measly 20 to add to the population and May, the brightest of the spring months gave us but 16. With June, the work in the fields and in the marts and in the gardens, kept the women and the men busy and when the stork rapped on the front door and received no response he must have fancied there was no one in the house to take care of a new citizen and went away. Only 12 were left to be cared for during this month. In July, with the crops under way and the men waiting for Old Sol to ripen the wheat and the barley, the famous old bird found 21 good mothers who were glad to take "a little sunshine" into their homes. August recorded 24. September as already indicated, takes second place with 27 to its credit. In October the record shows a falling off, but it must be remembered that many of the births as recorded in the register are months behind the actual date of birth and will perhaps show up later in the year or in the beginning of the next year.

A glance at the attending physician's names shows most of them to be very prompt to register births and a number of others to be tardy in this respect. At the time of gathering the statistics October had contributed 20 to the roll of lads and lassies, November 10 and December 1. Owing to the fact that all the children born to date are not recorded in the register one would think that the present year had been remiss in respect of the biblical injunction to people the earth. This gives a total of 233, distributed over the year according to months, with eight born in no month at all, according to the register, which means whatever you chose to have it mean. According to the record the month of August got a "sneak" on the other months as regards twins. It shows without a great deal of searching that the families of Mr. and Mrs. Ormal Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Newlin and Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Lester were blessed with a pair instead of a single tramp.

(Continued on page 8, section 2.)

Christmas Eve.

Dream, little child! The shadows fall.
Over the land the mystic veil
That hides the morrow from our eyes
Is swaying in the starlight pale.
Dream, little child! 'Tis Christmas eve.
Dream while the magic hours glide by.
Each wind that blows the snowflakes wild
Is laden with sweet mystery.



Dream, little child! The glowing coals
Are painting pictures on the wall.
Out from the quivering shadows there
You almost hear the thrilling call
Of "Merry Christmas, little maid!
I hope I've brought your heart's desire."
And Santa's shadow just above
Grows lifelike by the leaping fire.

Dream, little child! The Christmas air
Is glowing with your visions bright,
And all the joys tomorrow holds
Are shining on the page of night.
Dream, little child! And may the years
To you their richest treasures leave,
And may all happy dreams prove real
That come to you this Christmas eve!

REMARKABLE GOOD FORTUNE HAS
BEEN LOT OF COUNTY THIS YEAR

Father Time and his scythe should load of the finest cherries God ever let grow; from Starkey came herds of cattle and loads of hay for the market to bring fancy prices; Hilgard Kamela and other wood centers found good prices in store for their fuel, and in La Grande the merchants have had a prosperous year indeed; Island City and her flouring mills and varied industries has thrived during the year; North Powder's stock was, like the ranges of the county, dotted with sleek, fat animals that went to the slaughter houses only after swelling the purses of the owners.

Were we to climb to the uppermost pinnacle of the world and with a high power microscope peer into the innermost recesses of industry, happiness and health of Union county at any time during the year now almost scroiled on history's pages, we would find nothing to discourage, nothing to cause a thought of pain. Would that 1913 should be as kind.

Don't spend much time on a fellow who buys his Christmas presents from a mail order house. A chap who doesn't buy from the home store isn't likely to marry a home girl.

Girls, what do you think of the fellow who gets a wife through a matrimonial ad? Or a Christmas present out of a catalog?

Cupid Shots
Coming LateNOVEMBER OUTSHINES JUNE FOR
MARRIAGES.

LEAP YEAR FRUITFUL

Total Number of Cupid-Victims in
1912 Was Substantial.

Dan Cupid evidently had a month off this year, or the game at which he directs his darts was so fleet that he failed to make the usual number of killings. So busy was everybody in the month of June, the month in which his aim is generally the best that little Dan could not adjust his sights. But he is going to get his quota wily nilly. A glance at the month of November will reveal the fact that after the crops were harvested many a lad thought of settling down to the good things of life, not forgetting matrimony. County Clerk Ed Wright has determined that the months in which the god of love has his harvest are June and December. But the accumulated strain from June would not let its victim rest and hurried him to the altar before the end of the year.

Re-Marriages Few.
Most of the names in the following list are victims of Dan's first attempt. In many instances the woman who came back for a second trial did not sign herself "Mrs." but chose her maiden name. The rosier view which will result from a perusal of the list is due to the fact that women generally war against old age. One naturally associates buoyant good health and infectious good spirits with young people. And where the circumvention will allow the contracting party to hide those things that naturally detract, even in the imagination, from something which everybody looks for, the poetry of life as expressed in young lovers, nobody will have any objection. Its one other subterfuge of the great list which is to be found in the calendar of women, who feel that magnetic quality wanting, and who are compelled to resort to some kind of artifice to appeal to the other sex. On the other hand the experience which is gained in snaring and fowling in the trapping of husbands makes them past masters of the art where their young sisters are mere novices.

Invading Vandals Not Many.

Another fact is noticeable. A relatively small number of lasses were carried away by invading vandals. For the most part they were "just the girl" for the Union county or Wallawa county boys, which speaks well for the judgement of the youthful Romeos. In comparison with the preceding year it will be seen that there was more game in this section of the country for the little bowman this year than last. Last year there were all told 178 marriages recorded for the county. This year the number is in excess of that number by several. The following will be interesting, showing the time of the marriage and the contracting parties.

Wm. Frail, Multnomah, May Rader, Union county, Jan. 2.
Orla D. Keefer, Lottie A. Tuttle, Jan. 6.
Wm. Hudson, Emma Lais Lea, Jan. 9th.
Albert Glelay, Minnie M. Sucher, Jan. 27.
Albert Ecklund, Rosa E. Bell, Jan. 16th.
Jas. Hudson, Myrtle Pullam, Jan. 20th.
Daniel Sinclair, Minnie J. McLaughlin, Jan. 20.
Clifford Kall, Ruby Juanita Antles, Jan. 2.
Trell Coleman, Wallawa county, Cora Brandon, Union county, Jan. 24.
Frank B. Conner, Carmen Stoddard, Jan. 28.
Chas. R. Broughton, Bessie Davis, Jan. 27.
John E. Bates, Florence Reed, Feb. 4th.
Brooks Campbell, Kate M. Harmon, Feb. 11.
Alva Carder, Nettie Woodell, Feb. 14th.
E. H. Guley, Vancouver, B. C., Bessie Peck, Union county, Feb. 19.
F. M. Greenough Mrs. L. A. Rutter, Feb. 21.
Royal C. Hardy, Mary J. Ryedam, Feb. 21.
Harvey H. Huffman, Bessie Tobin, Feb. 26.
Bob B. Grider, Nettie Monroe, Feb. 28th.
Elbert H. Head, Spokane, Lena M. Langley, Union county, Feb. 29.
Wm. A. McKenzie, Dorothy May Erle, March 4.
Nella Hensen, Mattie E. Peebler, March 7.
Edward A. Shelvin, Wallawa county, March 7.

(Continued on page 4, section 2.)

BANK HOME TO
BE BUILT THE
COMING YEARU. S. NATIONAL TO EN-
LARGE ITS BUILD-
INGTHREE-STORY STRUCTURE
TO BE MODERN IN DETAIL

Among the Building Projects Looked Forward to With Interest Next Year Is Proposed Bank Building—Grande Ronde Cash Also Contemplates Building Big Institution Soon.

One of the improvements that is looked forward to with much pride for next season is the extension of the United States National bank building. In speaking of the proposed building, T. J. Scroggins, cashier of the bank, said today:

"We are now making any talk yet about the new building but it is practically certain of construction. Plans are now under way for it and the intention is to start the work with the opening of building weather next year. The present building will remain as it stands but two stories will be added in height and the forty feet of ground in the rear of the present building will be covered, making a building 110 feet long and three stories high. It will be modern in every way, with tile floors, electric elevator and constructed in the very best manner possible. We feel that this will be a proper home for the United States National bank and will also answer the many demands we have for office rooms on this seemingly important business corner."

That the United States National bank officers have made no mistake in their conclusions is beyond question, for their location is immediately in the heart of the business district. The building they propose to erect will be a class A building which means that fireproof construction will prevail throughout.

The new structure will be in keeping with the steady growth and advancement of this financial institution, which although not old in years shows a remarkably healthy condition and an extensive volume of business.

BIG WAREHOUSE LIKELY.

Grande Ronde Cash Company Has a
New Structure Planned.

Another big building project and one that will add to the wholesale building district, is a big warehouse that the Grande Ronde Cash company, wholesalers, contemplate building next year. During the year 1912 two big wholesale grocery houses, the La Grande Grocery company and the La Grande Grocery company, Inc., moved into large commodious quarters and if the Grande Ronde Cash company builds the coming year it will be in the same locality as they now live, which will mean that the wholesale district will be kept close together for years to come.

NEW BUILDINGS WISE.

Much Improvement at Union During
the Past Year.

Union, Ore., Dec. 24.—(Special)—Much improvement has been going on in Union this fall in the building line, which adds very much to the beauty and attractiveness of this little city.

Among the new buildings that have been completed this fall are the L. A. Wright drug store, library, and electric theatre, all being modern, up-to-date brick buildings. The new building occupied by the L. A. Wright Drug company is a 25x70 two story brick building, with office rooms on the second floor. The drug store, on the first floor, has plenty of room, and has everything neatly arranged in the new quarters.

Leave it to Mr. Wright to keep up with the times and improve every opportunity to keep abreast of the movement for a larger and more beautiful Union.

The new electric theatre building, which is owned by a stock company and is now ready for occupancy, is a well arranged, commodious building and a credit to any town the size of Union.