

WHOLESALE WELL STARTED

HALF MILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS REALIZED BY TWO NEW WHOLESALE.

BOTH INSTITUTIONS PIONEER

Exports and Imports From La Grande Run Into Huge Figures.

How much wholesale business is done in the City of La Grande in one year? To the business man, the real estate man, the merchant—and in general—this question cannot but be of vital interest because it is one of the meters of growth, one of the sure signs that there is money about, that people are spending it. Without a demand there would be no supply and without money people would confine themselves to the necessities of life and let those things which represent growth in building and development to await the times when money was easy to get. It would be impossible to give an absolutely accurate estimate of all the business done in one year, because some of the sources are not accessible and would involve an amount of research work beyond a reasonable time limit. Data gathered from the different wholesalers in the city enables the Observer to give figures that approximate the real, and methods of calculating averages will help to put the figures pretty near the actual.

The wholesale grocery business for the year ranges in the neighborhood of \$500,000. The two firms are only just well launched. Of this amount the figures that would represent the business done in the city of La Grande would be in the vicinity of \$325,000. The rest is done in the county of Walla and between the towns of Kamela and Telocaset. If all of these provisions came to La Grande at the same time and on the same train it would require about 275 cars of the largest capacity, or a string of cars almost two miles long.

The population of the two counties is in the vicinity of 37,300 or some 9,352 families. This would make the average cost of groceries and such other articles as are usually sold by grocery concerns about \$480 for the year, per family. According to U. S. government statistics, this is about the average cost of maintaining the average family in food stuffs, exclusive of meats.

The figures above given represent the business done by the two local wholesale grocery houses alone, and does not include the amount that is done by outside concerns, which is said to be but a small fraction of the total business transacted in the year.

There is a vast amount of material shipped into the city each year, some of which is retailed and some of which is wholesaled. In the course of last year 64 cars of cement came to the city, exclusive of the twenty odd cars of material consigned to the Morrison-Knudson company, which had the contract for paving Spring street. Much of this was sold in car lots on the track. Twenty cars of wall plaster and eight of lime, added to the above are some indication of the building done in this city alone. Small quantities went to the country points but is not appreciable in estimating the amount used in this city alone. One would hardly think that a valley as fruitful and prolific as the Grande Ronde was this summer would import any great quantity of flour, but thirty or more cars laden with various outside brands found their way into La Grande and were disposed of, representing an outlay of \$21,000 or more. The value of all the products shipped into the city is in the neighborhood of \$2,500,000.

The other side of the story, namely, that representing the value of the products shipped out, is another story and full of interest for the farmer and fruit grower. In some respects this year is below that of last year, but in regard to money returns it is vastly superior. For instance, the apple crop, one of the mainstays of this section was a good many cars short of the preceding year but the returns have been in most cases very satisfactory, allowing the grower to realize good returns on his investment. The crop this year, as compared with the 395 cars of apples last year is about 195 cars short. But the returns on the 200 cars is going to be considerably more flattering than those of last year when markets were in a fainting condition most of the time.

The cherry crop was unusually large this year and the returns were good. It is conservatively estimated that the total amount of tons of cherries is approximately one thousand tons, bringing about \$70 a ton. A great portion of this crop was bought by the Oregon Packing company, much was sent east and south in the fresh state. Last year this valley produced 32 cars of prunes, 11 of pears, 13 of mixed shipment and 54 cars of potatoes.

OFFICE BUILDING HOUSES "CLUB."



In the West-Jacopson building erected on what was for years a "dead" corner of the city business district, are located many offices in the second floor and in the basement is the "Club," a combination pool, billiard and bowling alley with as fine an equipment as can be found in any city of the state. Liberal patronage has been afforded the new venture this winter and bowling has been put to a white heat by the advent of the firm in this new building owned by N. K. West of this city and Mr. Jacopson of Portland. The building is modern in every way. Practically every room and rental space in it has been leased.

It is a bit difficult to arrive at fairly accurate figures on these fruits for the current year, but it is safe to assume that two thirds of last year's crop would about represent the figures for this year.

The potato crop this year is as good as last on the whole. Prices are much higher.

Among the crops that paid best this year was the prune crop. The five cars that were shipped this year averaged about \$1.50 per box in the markets of New York and Boston. Peach plums and pears found ready markets in the middle west at good figures.

The wheat crop is conservatively estimated at 1,500,000 bushels and will represent a value of \$1,000,000 or more. The oat crop was as good as last year, if not better and amounted to a record mark.

Work has been plentiful on the farms and about the city, which condition may be at the base of several other observations out of the ordinary for the year just closing.



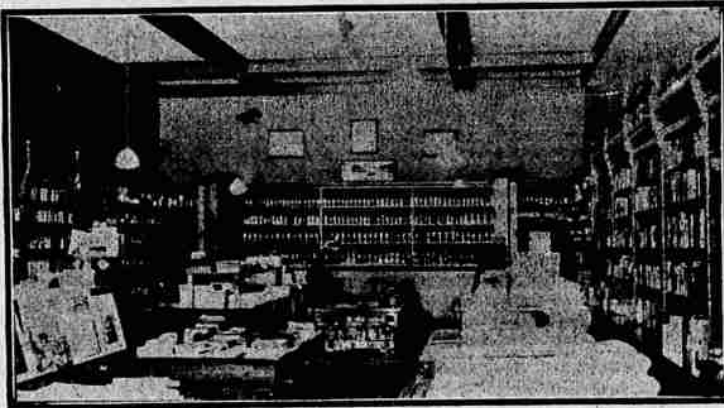
SPLENDID NEW I. O. O. F. HOME BUILT DURING 1913.

NEW CARNEGIE LIBRARY HERE.



New Carnegie library just about completed but yet to be opened to public use. The structure cost \$11,000 and will be equipped in beautiful style. The ladies' clubs of the city will have their home in the building, provided with reading and meeting rooms and a small auditorium for ordinary gatherings. The equipment and furnishings are of the very best and few libraries in Eastern Oregon can even approach it for perfection. Miss Jacqueline Noel is the librarian and before occupying the fancy home utilized the basement of the Guild hall where very good facilities were afforded but not of the order that is in store. The library has a fairly good assortment of books but the library commission, of which Dr. J. W. Loughlin is head, has rounded out plans to perfect the complement of books and the fond dreams of a Grande people first conceived years ago, have been realized.

THE RED CROSS MODERN STORE.



Much repair was done this year to the interior of the "Red Cross" drug store, reproduced herewith. The prescription department has been put in full view of the patrons and the place generally renovated this year. The picture shows the neat arrangement of the goods and the year. The picture shows the neat arrangement of the goods and the prescription department in the rear.

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TAXES WELL COLLECTED.

Tabulated Statement of County's Taxes Interesting.

The sheriff's statement of collected and uncollected taxes for the year is completed and will be of interest to the taxpayer.

Charged on the rolls	\$304,901.46
Sheriff's assessments (overlooked by assessor)	246.00
Charged on account of errors	5.53
Penalty charged for non-payment at proper time	1312.86
Interest charged for non-payment at proper time	413.01
Total	\$306,888.18
Paid to treasurer	\$288,885.48
Rebates allowed	6,158.47
Errors and double assessments	850.00
Delinquent and uncollected	10,994.23
Total	\$306,888.18

Of this amount the state and county taxes charged collected and delinquent is:

State and county taxes charged	\$169,979.30
Collected	164,599.84
Delinquent	5,379.46

This latter does not include the city and the special school assessments.

Last year the statement of the sheriff had the following figures:

Charged on the rolls	\$383,220.81
Total delinquent	9,101.57
Collected	374,119.24

Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the State Bank of Imbler.

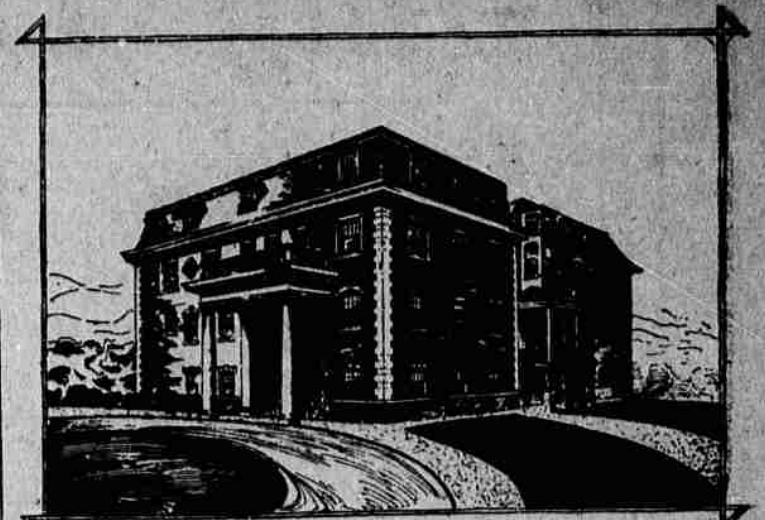
Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholder of the State Bank of Imbler, will be held at their banking rooms, at Imbler, Oregon, on Tuesday, January 13, between the hours of 2 o'clock and 4 o'clock P. M., for the election of a board of five directors to serve for one year and the transaction of such other business as may come before such meeting.

SHERWOOD WILLIAMS, Cashier.

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GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL IS TO MADE BIGGER NEXT YEAR



Proposed Hospital Wing to be added to Grande Ronde Hospital as it stands now.

From an institution primarily built to care for emergency cases from the Palmer and Grande Ronde Lumber companies' mills and from railroad circles, to an institution that provides hospital needs for private individuals from two counties, all in the brief space of four or five years, is the marked progress of the Grande Ronde hospital.

From its present size of 30 rooms of excellent type and equipment, the new wing, of 40x64 feet dimensions, will swell the total accommodations to 75 rooms. The hospital was first conceived and maintained by La Grande doctors, but the purpose for which it was built proved to be only a partial field and the institution is today a haven for private individuals other than corporation employees who seek bodily repairs and physical improvement. With the coming of spring the new wing is to be built on the south end of the hospital, facing with its long axis east and west and its front entrance to the south.

During the past year it has handled 400 cases and to care for these sick the superintendent and a school of 10 nurses advanced to various degrees in the nurse-training course, have been kept actively engaged. The rooms have been filled much of the time, and from an institution that required financial backing from local doctors, it has grown to one that is self-supporting, due to careful management, excellent facilities and is one of the very few private hospitals of the state that do not require added appropriations to keep its accounts out of the red. From all points of Walla and Union counties come cases to this hospital supplied in every way to care for its patrons.

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