

La Grande Evening Observer

INDUSTRIAL SECTION

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BOUNTEOUS CROPS BACKED BY VARIED INDUSTRIES PUT FAITH IN UNION COUNTY SOIL

Surprising Totals Tell Reason County's Wealth Has Few Ups-and-Downs

MANY BRANCHES AMOUNT TO OVER A MILLION EACH

Wheat, Apples, Lumber, Cherries, Factories and Railroad Payrolls Run Resources of County to an Enormous Annual Figure for Year 1913.

Why are La Grande and Union county so prosperous every year—crop shortage or no—and more especially why so prosperous in 1913? The answer is:

The O.-W. has paid out in wages to people living in La Grande and working out of La Grande \$1,440,000; the George Palmer Lumber company has paid to workmen in the mill and at the camps, \$480,000; the Ferry mill about \$300,000 and much of it was spent in La Grande; one million and a half bushels of wheat will bring about \$100,000,000 to the growers; a thousand tons of cherries, \$70,000; apple orchards produce 200 cars of apples at approximately \$89,000 in cash returns; small grains, small fruits, combine to bring about \$75,000; stock of all kinds netted \$201,000 this year, subdivided as follows: Hogs at an average of \$900 a car bring about \$10,000 a month or \$120,000 a year; cattle this year brought \$40,000; horses \$35,000; sheep \$5,000; (these figures are very conservative); local and foreign creameries paid into Union county in 1913 a large sum; small factories, the brewery and the other lines of industry in the city add fully \$100,000 more; throughout the county there are factories, mills and other business and mercantile establishments that bring a vast sum of money to the size of which cannot be computed, but \$3,500,000 as listed above were distributed this year, but of course are only partial and form but a part of the income of a strongly endowed county, whose assessed valuation is \$20,000,000. No possibility of computing the county's gross income exists, but the figures above give an estimate basis at least.

Annually the Observer has chronicled more or less of the development of Union county and the cities in it about this time of the year, but the files will show, and residents will remember, that at no time has the population of this county dealt in such tremendously large figures as in 1913; know that an unprecedented streak of prosperity and advancement has struck the county; citizens of La Grande know that her building and her advancement in every phase has been marked; North Powder, Union, Cove, Island City, Alicel, Imbler, Summerville, Elgin, Kamela, Hilgard, Perry, Starkey and all the various localities know and report the same thing precisely for their respective sections. The county's industrial calendar is spreading at the expense of no established industry.

Today, as Father Time is about to swoop down upon 1913 and with his sure scythe reap down another year that can never return, Union county holds her head high and erect, boastful of her resources, confident of her financial affairs, keenly interested in her industrial welfare, and happy as a community.

RESOURCES UNLIMITED.

Critic Pictures What Might Be Done With Grande Ronde Soil.

"I estimate that the Grande Ronde valley has 300,000 acres of excellent dairy, fruit and general agricultural land and that if it were farmed as Denmark for example, it would produce crops representing fifteen million dollars annually." So spoke James Withycombe a day or two ago while housed at the Sommer hotel during a brief visit to La Grande. Mr. Withycombe, who as head of the agricultural department of O. A. C. at Corvallis, has become a master of facts and figures carefully compiled, went on to say: "The latent agricultural possibilities of this valley are simply marvelous. In fact opportunities for dairying are infinitely better than they are even in Denmark, where they have made a phenomenal success of the industry."

BIG PROJECTS MANY.

Library, Church, Federal Building and West Building erected.

It is safe to say that no town in Oregon, except Portland, has built as many big buildings as La Grande this year; no sooner was the Foley 5-story building ready than work was commenced on the West-Jacobson building. The federal building was completed this year, the Methodist church built and dedicated a few days ago, the Carnegie library was built, the

erected. All this was in addition to the building of 87 homes and repairs to a great many others. Local contractors affirm that extensive repairs to homes has almost equalled that done to the new projects. Expenditure of thousands of dollars on the building occupied by N. K. West's department store has made of that place one of the very foremost buildings of its kind in the state, and it is elegantly arranged within, giving three distinct departments.

Hill's drug store was another structure in the downtown section that received considerable attention.

Disaster often brings greater things than were destroyed, and such was true when the three-story Bohnenkamp furniture store was completely ruined and practically all furniture stock wrecked during the middle of the summer, by one of the two big fires that raged at different times in the city this year. Before the ashes were cold, work of reconstruction was commenced, and with a fine burst of speed, Contractor Rush, a local man, completed the reconstruction, making four stories of the building. It is now being furnished and restocked.

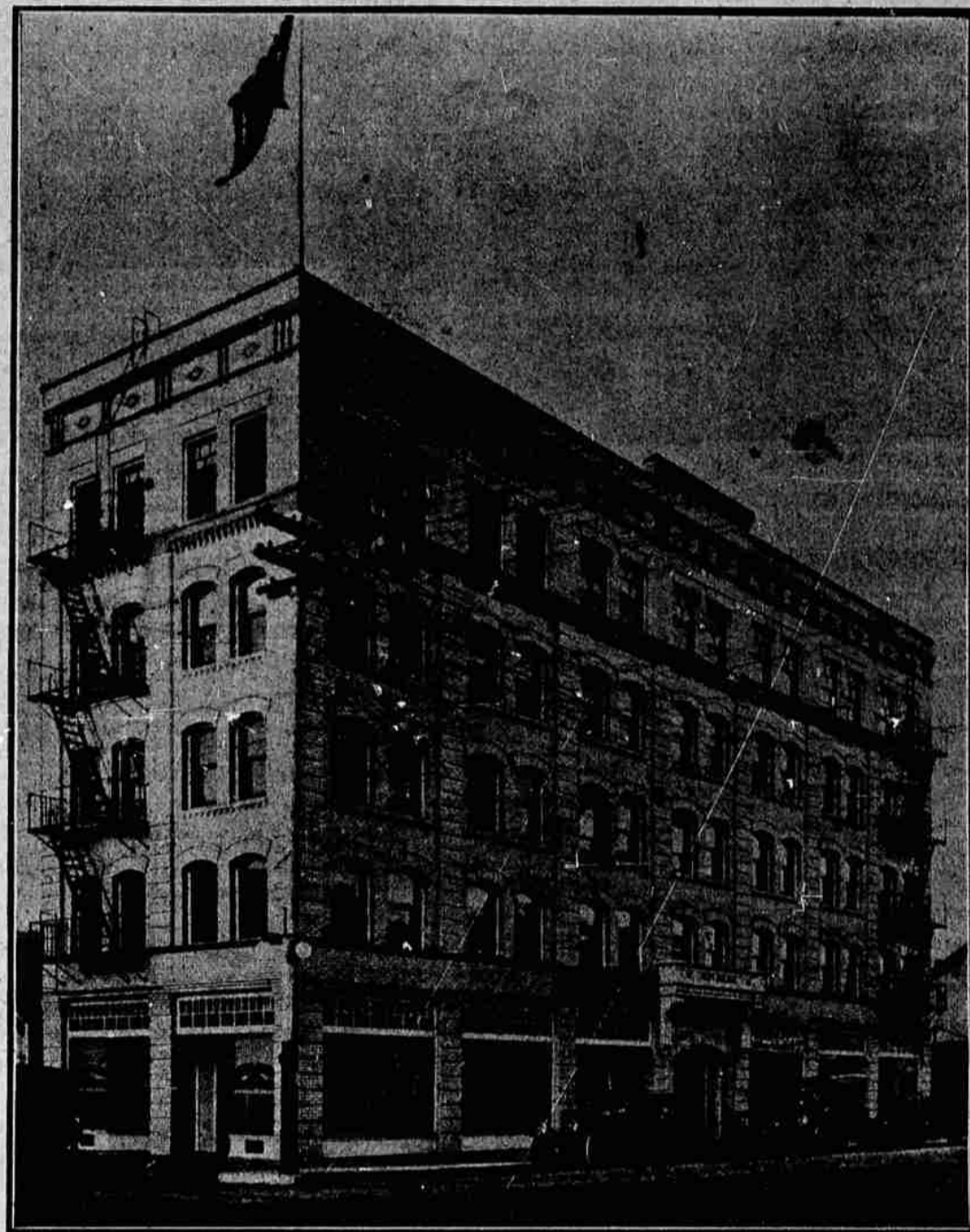
WATER DEPARTMENT BUSY.

Seventeen Thousand Spent by Water Superintendent Office in 1913.

La Grande's water department has grown with great rapidity during the past year and at a cost of \$17,058.23. City Water Superintendent L. M. Hoyt anticipates there will be far less expenditures for the water mains the coming year, for the city is pretty well provided with laterals and service pipe will probably be the chief expenditure in the immediate future.

The department reports for the year show material bought amounts to \$9,094.08, but of the material, there remains material on hand to the value of \$646.74. The salaries for labor cost \$6,944.15 and the Beaver Creek upkeep went to \$1,020. This total is \$17,058.23. The Jefferson avenue relay of eight-inch pipe and the Palmer mill line which gives the city added fire protection, were the big undertakings during the past year. On Jefferson avenue there were used 4,486 feet of eight-inch, 746 feet of four-inch and 1500 feet of six-inch pipe. The cost was \$3,617.22. The Palmer mill line of which the mill company paid one-half, amounted all told to \$1,617.81. During the year new extensions put in amounted to the following: Two-inch pipe 2,986, three-fourths inch service pipes, 6,227, and the four-inch mains totaled 6,422 feet. Much of the city has now been covered and for a year or two, there will

EASTERN OREGON HEADQUARTERS OF THE O. W. WHICH SPENDS MILLION IN LA GRANDE YEARLY



The Foley building a new office building which houses the office of Superintendent Wm. Bollons and is the home of the La Grande Commercial club of which Joe Williamson is secretary. The Commercial club, one of the liveliest in Eastern Oregon, occupies the fifth floor, with ample lounging and amusement rooms and commodious meeting room facilities. During the past year it has been host to nearly a dozen different big conventions. The railroad company offices occupy the third floor and the balance of the offices are filled by various tenants. A sister structure, an eight-story hotel, is to be built by the Foleys opposite this building next year, making the largest hotel in Eastern Oregon when complete.

VAST AMOUNT OF NEW WORK DONE IN 1913

PERMITS ALREADY PASS THE THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR MARK.

GENERAL PREDICTION UPSET

Six Hundred Thousand for Buildings During Last Two Years.

In sharp denial and refutation of predictions made last year that La Grande could not equal or approach again the remarkable building record of \$287,000 in 1912, came in 1913 when La Grande erected buildings and repaired homes and business blocks to the tune of \$300,000. And the year is not closed by several days. Practically \$600,000 in two years is a remarkable total for a city of La Grande's size, and her inhabitants look with pride upon the achievement.

The building activity month by month, shows a total of 87 homes built. The monthly permit totals are: January—Three residences built and total expenditures for buildings and repairs \$5025.

February—Three residences built, total building activity \$3450.

March—Six residences built, f. O. O. F. hall repairs started; total for

CITY MANAGER PLAN LIKED

COUNTRY GENERALLY WATCHING LA GRANDE.

Demand for Charters From Many States Indicates Interest.

America's foremost method of city government has made 1913 a mile stone in La Grande's history; has marked a new epoch; has put La Grande to the point where her charter is in demand and is watched from the four corners of the country.

The radical changes in the form of government that prevailed from 1888 to 1913, came when, as the climax of a movement that was started two years before, the city by a big majority voted for a managerial form of government. Hurriedly the change was made and La Grande is now governed by a commission of three men, one of whom is a president, and a manager. The commission legislates and employs a manager and appoints a municipal judge. The manager is held responsible for every department of the city and has the sole naming and discharging of all heads of departments. They must report to him and he to the board which meets weekly. The system has been in vogue about one month now and has already cut off material bunches from the salary list. The street commissioner job and the plumbing inspection, costing the city \$100 per month previously, was instantly cut off, making the city engineer the head of the street maintenance, and also making him plumbing inspector.

La Grande is well pleased with the progress made by Commissioners Mac Wood, John Gardner and J. A. Russell and believe that the best man possible

STREET, SEWER AND BUILDINGS COST \$453,000

STREET IMPROVEMENT ITEM ALONE RAN TO HUGE FIGURE IN 1913.

WATER MAIN GROWS LARGE

Big Spread of Water Department Is Seen—Ten Miles of Pavement.

Considerable more than \$300,000 for new buildings and repairs, \$136,000 for new pavement and cement walks and sewers, \$17,000 for the water department, make up a total of almost a half million contributed by La Grande taxpayers during 1913 towards property and municipal improvements. One hundred and thirty-six thousand were expended through the engineering department and Engineer R. R. Neal compiles the following:

Street Pavements.	
O avenue, Seventh to Washington	\$ 5,691.23
O avenue, Fourth to First	9,045.71
Fourth street, O avenue to C avenue	41,000.00
Second street, Spring to O. W. R. & N. Co.	15,400.00
Jefferson avenue, Fourth to Hemlock	28,400.00
Alley in Block 114	1,130.00
Spring avenue, Washington to Alder	24,300.00

TREMENDOUS PAYROLLS AID TO LA GRANDE

MILLIONS SPENT EVERY YEAR BY O.-W. TO RUN LINE THROUGH CITY.

PAYROLL ALONE IS MILLION

Additional Engines, New Buildings, Division Headquarters and Increasing Payroll is Lot of La Grande from Railroad Standpoint—Material Account Runs Into Millions.

Three million dollars were required to maintain service over the O.-W. insofar as the division point at La Grande was concerned during the year of 1913. To operate the line from Huntington to Umatilla and all branch lines in this division, required another half million, for numerous trainmen, laborers and material expense accounts required at points other than La Grande but within the division district.

Based on actual figures from June 30 to December 1, the payroll is \$1,440,000.00 for the year and material \$1,500,000.00.

La Grande Great Benefactor.

So tremendously big are the expenditures from O.-W. coffers in La Grande that they are amazing. During the year just closing there have been numerous improvements to pay for but aside from that the operating expense runs into figures that startle the average citizen.

Coal An Enormous Item.

Take for instance the coal used on the division. Three hundred tons of coal a day. Such is not the everyday requirement, but figures reach to that point. To keep eight locomotives steamed up costs \$450,000 at the low average.

Salaries Biggest Items.

Figures that startle are created in all departments but the salary sheets alone shows an expense of \$1,440,000 a year while the company must pay wages other than those which come here. The \$1,440,000 comes to La Grande for distribution and about the city.

Material Used Immense.

The store house in La Grande handles \$250,000 worth of material for roadway department and maintenance every year. Such a sum was expended this year. These items were all handled in La Grande but the company of course has been under tremendous expense on this division that La Grande knows nothing about. The bringing of division headquarters to La Grande this summer has added materially to the payroll, but has also added prestige to railroad circles.

New Engines Purchased.

These items enumerated above are incidentals. The company has added ten new super-heater freight engines, at a cost of \$200,000, six new super-heater passenger engines at a cost of \$120,000 and two switch engines for here also at a cost of \$16,000, all of which brings the engine complement up to 90 locomotives that are cared for, kept up and used out of the local round house. Hundreds of men are required to operate them and there is where a portion of the big salary expense comes.

New improvements have been many this year. A storehouse shed, an automatic coal bunker of the newest type, steel water tank, paint shop, coke bins, new boiler shops 80x100, carpenter shop and machinery equipment, turntable motor of the most approved type, freight house addition, and a new cinder pit.

Added together, these expenditures for permanent improvements, salaries, new power, equipment, necessary expenses insofar as payment of checks through La Grande are concerned, the total amounts to considerable more than \$3,000,000. When the overhead expenses are all considered, the totals swell remarkably, but suffice it to say that by the time the shops are kept up in La Grande, the engines and trains equipped with men—and the three brakemen rule has increased the