

THE FORUM

LETTER WRITING WEEK JAN. 17

La Granders Should Advertise Wonders of Blue Mountains.

La Grande, Jan. 12.—(To the Editor)—Portland's Chamber of Commerce has declared a letter writing week for all of Oregon, January 17 to 22 asking every citizen to write at least 10 letters to eastern friends and business connections setting forth the attractive wonders of Oregon for the tourists, California every year increases its resources by \$200,000,000 taken from tourists. Only 250,000 tourists to Oregon will leave at least \$5,000,000 of new money in circulation. Oregon is so favored by nature that she can keep herself by production and has long overlooked the profit gained from a large tourist traffic. The best way to attract homeseekers and capital is to first stimulate travel. Seeing is believing, and the rest is easy. But it is the tourist we are after now.

Oregon Is Nature's Wonderland
Nature's Wonderland for the ideal contrasts of symmetry and ruggedness, and combinations of curious and inspiring freaks and great natural and useful resources is Oregon and the tourist world will learn this as fast as we Oregonians tell them about it and induce them to come and behold for themselves. The Portland Chamber of Commerce has prepared form letters telling of the wonderful Columbia Gorge and the highway America's finest, of Crater Lake and the beauty of Mount Hood, of Oregon's unsurpassed sea coast, the Willamette valley, and the Caves of Josephine county, the Portland climate and the City of Roses itself, all of which is great and grand and true; but nearly a word is found about the Blue Mountains, the Mecca of the great Inland Empire from the time of the first emigrants to the present day.

Blue Mountains Will Be Famous.
Surrounded as they are on all sides for many miles by sagebrush and sand hills, the beautiful, inviting timbered and rich Blue Mountains with their many productive and homelike valleys present a contrast that to the tourist is never forgotten. Grande Ronde valley, the largest and central vale of the Blue Mountain section is according to Gov. James Withycombe "the largest and best single body of cultivated land in Oregon." Surrounded and protected on all sides by hills and mountains this valley has detained travelers who were bound for "farther west from the early 60's to this day. The mountains are wealthy in minerals, rich in the famous Blue Mountain Pine, and valuable for the thousands of acres of bunch grass, the most nourishing pasture on earth. The city of La Grande is the metropolis and center of this Blue Mountain country comprising Union, Wallowa, Grant, and parts of Baker and Umatilla counties. La Grande should take the lead in attracting and entertaining tourists.

Tourists Are Profitable
10,000 tourists stopping over in La Grande spending an average of only \$10 will bring \$100,000 of real new money into circulation. Is it worth while?

La Grande as a city offers every-

thing for the accommodations of tourists including many churches, fraternities, Y. M. C. A. Library, paved streets fine mountain water, a good sight seeing climate and will someday have a first class hotel. All this goes to make up the general setting, but we must pick out our special objects of interest to tourists and make them known. When you write your letters next week do not fail to mention some of our best, special made to tourist order attractions. Following are a few:

Mount Emily
Unique among all the peaks of the world is Mount Emily, a natural lookout over the Grande Ronde valley rising almost perpendicular from its base a height of 1500 feet above the valley below. Largely through the efforts of Mr. Blumenstien an auto road was first completed last summer and with but little more labor can be made a good mountain highway to the very peak. From the edge of the cliff protruding as it does into the valley the tourist sees spread out on three sides a checker board of varicolored fields marked here and there by the towns of the valley. On a clear day the peak of Mt. Hood 250 miles to the west is clearly seen and the fifty miles to the east the Seven Devils and their chief Eagle Cap loom plainly in view, the one favored spot from where the two highest snow capped peaks of Oregon can be enjoyed at once. And if the tourist selects August as the time for this trip he may be treated to the Blue Mountain's rarest delicacy, a pair of juicy refreshing huckleberries.

The Upper Grande Ronde
If the tourists wishes to take a combined fishing, hunting, camping, and sightseeing trip, an excursion to the Grande Ronde lakes will equal any other. There mountains, lakes, forests, streams etc abound. And there are many interesting placer and ore mines to be taken in.

Catherine Creek
For good angling for the rainbow trout and the nicest camping sites in the west, Catherine creek above Union is hard to equal.

Hot Lake Sanatorium
For the weary and unadventurous traveler Hot Lake Sanatorium offers many attractions. A fine hotel and a boiling hot mineral spring equipped with full length bath tubs. Baths from sticky mud to the natural stream in many varieties relax weary muscles and comfort aching bones.

Cove and the Minam
Leaving Cove, one of the most appealing little home towns of the West the Government trail leads to Big and Little Minam where real fishing and hunting abounds. And onward the trail leads to the Seven Devils, by far the most rugged section of the West. These peaks, all nearly as high as Mt. Hood, covered in perpetual snows, are surrounded by many lakes and streams and cliffs and canyons in which the ducks and eagles and mountain sheep are seldom disturbed by man.

Grande Ronde Valley
A tour around our own valley, the garden spot of the Inland Empire, never fails to bring forth praises from either the oldest settler or the

natural roads are ideal, and before long it is hoped that a system of permanent roads will be completed circling and connecting the valley.

Lower Grande Ronde
Leaving Elgin the O. W. R. & N. follows the Grande Ronde River to Rondowa, where the Wallowa flows into the River. This road twisting and winding with the bends of the river, its grade often cut through cliffs of solid rock is to those who live far enough away to appreciate it a trip worth the taking. Elgin people are working for the improvement of the auto road to Walla Walla and to Wallowa and are doing their share to prepare for the tourists, for more and more are tourists coming by the gasoline route and we must have good roads to attract them.

Wallowa County
Union county's sister Wallowa really excels the whole field of nature's contestants for real wonders. There is the upper and lower valleys, the Wallowa canyon, the streams where is the best fishing for salmon and trout and white fish. There is Wallowa lake, a deep gorge in the earth made by thousands of years of glacier activity many thousands of years ago. A perfect example of a terminal moraine forms the lower end of this wonderful four mile lake nestled at the very base of high and rugged mountains.

Then there are the vast and aweing lava beds near Joseph, also the Wenaha country where many a grandparent has never yet heard the toot of a locomotive altho most of them have now heard the honk of the jitney. But last and greatest is the truly wonderful Innaha country in the extreme north eastern part of the state. Bounded on the East by the Snake river flowing in a deep gorge which looks like a silver thread when viewed from the crest of the hog backs 5000 feet above. Here where the mountain peaks are covered with snow, the deep little valleys but a mile or two away produce peaches, watermelons and many semi-tropical products. This country has gorges that excel the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, mountains that for ruggedness outclass the best of the Alpine peaks, lakes that make the Swiss sigh in envy, forests of far more wealth than a Morgan can boast, and besides all of these, contains large and productive valleys supporting four little cities averaging about 1200 people.

But How About Those Letters?
Let us get our dictaphones, and typewriters and pens and pencils and write some letters. Inclose a picture of Mount Emily or Wallowa lake and start the tourist in the right direction.
GEORGE HUNTINGTON CURREY.

For Rheumatism.
As soon as an attack of Rheumatism begins apply Sloan's Liniment. Don't waste time and suffer unnecessary agony. A few drops of Sloan's Liniment on the affected parts is all you need. The pain goes at once.

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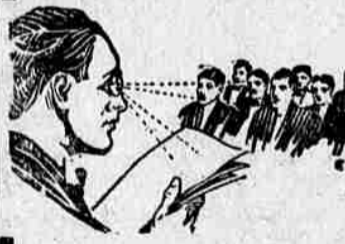
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