

LA GRANDE HAS ATTRIBUTES OF A MODEL TOWN

REASONS WHY LA GRANDE IS WHAT IT IS TO EXACTING SEEKERS AFTER HOMES

VAST ARRAY OF FINE FEATURES RECOUNTED

Observer Offers Christmas Tonic to Commercial Soul of La Grande By Reviewing Some of the Things That Make La Grande a City Worth While and With a Future That Will Stay.

Tonic is good for the physical system. The Observer believes that once a year a community's soul needs tonic, and can think of no better message of cheer, elixir and encouragement to bring its readers than to review some of the things which go to make La Grande an ideal community in which to live. In this issue there are recited only a few of the features used commonly in parading La Grande's substantial business stability, and why it is a city worthy of pride and confidence. In these columns appear much in the way of statistics, but so far as it is possible for human minds to make it, it is the truth, and therein the article may differ from over-enthusiastic boost literature frequently turned out from enterprising communities.

Some reasons why La Grande is a city with a future and attracts exacting families:

It has a water supply the government inspectors call ideal; mountain water, pure and uncontaminated—and plenty of it.

It has a modern, well-equipped and exceptionally well-regulated library.

It has nine miles of paved streets.

It has a city park second to none in the state in its facilities and scenic setting.

It has a chautauqua of established merit.

It has a school system embracing all the tried and true advanced ideas.

It has a Y. M. C. A. doing a greater work than any similar institution of its size in the Northwest.

It has splendid churches, well attended and well administered.

It has the commission-manager form of government.

It has had no tuberculosis originating here in years, or contagious diseases.

It has enterprising businessmen.

It will be on the Lincoln highway next year and is already a station in transcontinental automobile travel.

It has Chicago-to-Portland passenger train service of an ample sort.

It has many active and enterprising lodges and several exceptionally fine lodge homes.

It has a modern hospital.

It has a low death rate.

It is the county seat.

It has a population of approximately 6500.

It has the immensely rich Wallowa county tributary to it.

It has the second largest payroll in the state.

It has two big sawmills near it.

It has a division point with a railroad payroll this year of \$65,000 monthly.

It has a Commercial club.

It has cigar factories.

It has up-to-date moving picture houses.

It has a paid fire department with automatic alarm and volunteer auxiliary.

It has a daily and a weekly news paper.

It has a railroad men's club home.

It has a modern and spacious packing plant.

It has candy factories.

It has modern tailor shops.

It has annual grand prize motorcycle races.

It has a big cider mill.

It has big flour mills.

It has a bottling works.

It has a United States land office and postoffice housed in federal building.

It has headquarters for postoffice inspector.

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COUNTY RESOURCES STUPENDOUS

Exchequers of the O.-W., the George Palmer Lumber company, and the Grande Ronde Lumber company—three principal channels of payroll in La Grande—poured a golden stream of dollars into La Grande during 1916. The amount is \$1,222,800.00. The figures are conservative. Beware of confusion—these are but the bulky ones, and obviously not inclusive of packing plants, wholesalers, flour mills, the army of clerks and various business establishments, the land office, the postoffice and other enterprises too numerous to mention. Of these The Observer will make no estimate—simply calls to the reader's attention that they exist and leave for individual cogitation what the full amount in payroll might be.

Bald figures don't mean much, so The Observer dissects the payroll of this city for its readers thusly: The Perry mill, running one shift this year instead of two as prior to the nation-wide lumber market chaos, has a payroll of \$19,000 monthly or \$228,000 annually. The O.-W. payroll this year averaged \$65,000 monthly or \$780,000 for 1916. The George Palmer Lumber company, operating on the same basis as the Perry mill—one shift in every 24 hours—contributes \$35,000.00 monthly or \$420,000.00.

That much for direct payroll in La Grande exclusively—Perry's mill must be reckoned as a part of La Grande. Consider now some of the enterprises in the county which leave their golden shekels in La Grande largely, either directly or indirectly. Wheat actually sold and not that reserved for seed and feed, totals 800,000 bushels at an average price of \$1.25 or \$1,000,000. The yield was a million bushels, cut down from last year on account of the need of Summer fallow. In the chase after war-wheat last year, the alternate rest to soil was skipped. Barley yielded 400,000 bushels of which 350,000 was delivered and sold at an average price of 80 cents or \$280,000.00. The oats yield was 350,000 bushels of which 250,000 was actually sold at 50 cents a bushel, or \$125,000.00. These figures are not wild guesses but accurate estimates. The hay yield was largely for home

consumption only. Corn, just coming into its own is not a commercial product. The fruit situation this year is decidedly off-color, Imbler apples alone being up to normal. Cove's apple and cherry crop was two-thirds or less under normal but as if in mockery to those who saw almost a complete apple failure except at Imbler. These figures are authentic.

Union shipped 30 carloads, Imbler 125, La Grande, including Alice and Conley, 30; Elgin 25, Cove 20. Total 230 cars. Not all these cars were first grades—cider mills got many culls but the average price received is \$1.00 per box, or a total of \$138,000.00. Prunes, often overlooked, totaled 31 cars out of Cove and 36 out of Union for a total of 67,000 crates at an average of 75 cents per crate. Total for prunes \$50,250.00.

Cherries were principally produced at Cove, and sparsely there this year—only 15 cars going out, at an average of \$80 per ton or \$12,000.00. All these fruit items do not consider home consumption.

Then there is the county income from hogs. Basing the estimates on the actual shipments of one of the principal dealers, there were shipped out this year 100 carloads of hogs, bringing an average of \$1800 per car to the grower, or a total of \$180,000.00 for hogs. The potato yield this year in addition to that used at home, amounted to 125 carloads out of the principal shipping centers, which at an average of \$1.25 a sack brings \$93,750.00 to the county.

Cattle shipments amounted to 125 carloads at an average of \$2500 per carload, a total of \$312,500. Horses were a big source of income. Not inclusive of the fancy stuff sold, 150 carloads were shipped out for a total return of \$528,000.00.

Therefore, in addition to the \$1,222,800.00 in payroll, there is the grand total of \$2,737,450.00 from industries in the county noted above to keep La Grande and her sister towns running the year round.

WHOLESALESA A TANGIBLE ASSET

La Grande Stands Out As Second to None Outside Portland Among Oregon Distributing Centers.

Benefits accruing to the inhabitants of La Grande through wholesale grocery, fruit and produce lines as carried on here, are, obviously, unlistable, but in dollars and cents, at least, and in comforts and luxuries therefrom, some idea is gained by a perusal of aggregate figures and outstanding features. During the last four years La Grande has attained a position as a distributing point second to none in the state outside Portland, Boise and Walla Walla, especially the former, lead—a trifle—and in eastern Oregon, Baker is the closest contender for this distinction. Two wholesale grocers, each housed in finely equipped plants, employ a total of 19 men who with the exception of one, live here and spend the wages here. The joint overhead expense for these two wholesale houses amounts to \$43,000.00 annually—a sum left here even to the last penny. It enriches the banks and the merchants. Extensive wholesale facilities at this point bring about cheaper goods through less freight rates, for edibles come in by carload lots rather than in small parcels. The merchant has his goods delivered him fresh; there is no twice-a-year stocking up and storage.

But, great and desirable as the wholesale grocery business is, and the source of payroll that it is, there remains another wholesale business and retail line that has been developed marvelously in the past four or five years. It is the fruit and produce line. Produce, fruit or fuel are handled from six different firms in La Grande employing an aggregate of 19 men and with annual expense of fully \$30,000, which added to the purely wholesale grocery lines bring the total commission and wholesale business in La Grande to a payroll of \$70,000 annually. A half dozen years since, this item was a mere bagatelle. La Grande's geographical location is primarily responsible for the extensive distributing business done here, practically all of the rich Wallowa county's business is swinging to La Grande now instead of Portland previously.

THE CLUB A FINE STORE
Elegant Equipment, Various Lines of Goods and Drinks Popularize Place

Only now and then does a city boast of as neat, and well equipped cigar store as that which makes up The Club. Arch Bacon, proprietor, bought the store from the proprietors of The Club pool hall, several years ago. Housed in a spanking new building, embellished with elegant furnishings and always neat as a pin, the Club cigar store becomes at once a meeting place of the idle rich and busy poor alike.

For a time Mr. Bacon contented himself with a full line of pipes, cigars and tobaccos, carrying many of the popular lines, and a soda fountain but not long ago he added to his business by installing a fine lunch counter over which are served hot tamales, oyster cocktails and the customary beverages of a dry state. In order to accomplish this it was necessary to rearrange the elegant partition to the card room in the rear, but a fine big plate mirror was in-

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LA GRANDE'S CLIMATIC STATISTICS ACCURATELY KEPT FREE OF SALARY

Musty Records Rich in Valuable Information Once Dug Out and Compiled—This Community Blessed With Much Snow

RAIN AND SNOWFALL IN LA GRANDE FOR 15 YEARS EXPRESSED IN INCHES

	Rain	Snow
1901	18.29	18.50
1902	19.99	37.00
1903	17.36	20.00
1904	19.89	36.25
1905	18.02	40.50
1906	22.08	27.50
1907	21.31	53.50
1908	15.11	33.00
1909	17.19	29.60
1910	20.51	72.75
1911	15.46	48.25
1912	28.41	89.50
1913	23.39	75.75
1914	12.50	16.50
1915	18.61	50.05
1916	*16.62	*24.75

* December not included.

Musty climatic records, maintained by volunteers under the direction of the federal government, are rich in interesting statistics. Delving into the continuous and daily figures for a period of 15 years, and beyond that except that prior to 1901 they are not complete and continuous, strange and interesting figures are found. Rainfall, snow-fall and clouds have been accurately tabulated for that period every day. For the last year Claude Mackey, fire chief, assisted by Firemen Riley and Rowe have attended to the minute readings and observations daily. They don't get paid a penny for it either but do it for the love of the thing. Daily readings are summarized at the end of the month and year, and the government returns to them in due course.

EPITOME OF TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DURING YEAR ENDING DEC. 1, 1916.

	Hottest	Cooldest	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Snow	Total Precip.
Dec.	53	3	38.8	25.5	19.5	1.84
Jan.	56	1	29.1	13.4	41.0	.91
Feb.	57	9	43.7	28.3	39.0	1.95
Mar.	68	24	52.7	34.0	3	1.80
Apr.	80	30	60.5	36.5	1	1.28
May	76	28	62.0	38.4	1	1.43
June	100	38	74.5	45.4	1	1.16
July	99	40	81.1	52.1	1	.57
Aug.	96	38	86.0	53.9	1	.20
Sept.	94	35	75.5	45.0	1	1.09
Oct.	78	22	62.0	33.7	1	5.09
Nov.	62	3	45.1	27.2	7.5	1.14
Total for 11 months 1916						103.80 16.62

of time, statistics for the entire state, fully as minute as those taken here—fact there is uniformity in this respect throughout the entire national volunteer and paid climatic compilation.

Union County Clear Community
For instance in the matter of clouds. Taking the current year and 1915 which appear to be symbolic to a fair degree of the general average for the whole. Union county, more especially La Grande has far more clear days than cloudy. Thus far this year there have been 88 entirely cloudy days and 186 clear ones. Rain fell on 87 of the days to date. Last year there were 181 clear days and 114 rainy.

La Grande Not Cold
Notwithstanding popular belief to the contrary, La Grande does not suf-

fer from extreme cold. For instance in the past two years there hasn't been a single instance of "below zero" weather. Private and inaccurate readings frequently report severe zero weather in La Grande but the government records don't show it.

Snowfall Is Material

One reason for the frequency of good range, and the scarcity of areas where irrigation is an absolute necessity, is seen in the amount of snowfall in La Grande. Were days continuously cold, this vicinity would have as much snow as any given winter month day as the middle west, probably, but snow falls and melts away hurriedly in this vicinity. But the total snowfall is nevertheless material, and, generally, consistent. In 1914 there was a serious paucity and the water mains froze up and the spring range was lean and the water supply curtailed. But that was an exception.

People who lived in La Grande last January and February will not soon forget the snow blockade, but great as the snowfall for 1916, it had not at the beginning of December reached the high mark set in 1912. With that lone exception the 84.75 inches of snowfall to date in 1916 is the greatest total on record.

Rainfall Deceiving
Nineteen fourteen saw the lightest rainfall in the 15-year rain period and 1912 the greatest. The average is somewhere around 18 or 20 inches per year. The snowfall is included in this, measured as melted snow and not as snow. After the snow is melted and is added to the rainfall, the final and total precipitation is determined.

In this issue are many valuable climatic and precipitation tables. Clip them out and save them for future reference. It takes time, patience and effort to get them together, and The Observer did it for the benefit of its readers, acknowledging the kindly assistance of those who keep the records.

CLOUDS, RAINY DAYS AND CLEAR THE PAST YEAR SHOWN IN EPITOME

	Rainy	Cloudy	Part Cloudy	Clear
1916				
January	19	9	5	17
February	12	7	3	15
March	12	13	7	11
April	7	8	3	19
May	12	12	5	14
June	5	8	3	19
July	0	4	3	24
August	2	2	2	27
September	4	6	3	21
October	4	4	8	19
November	10	15	15	0
Total	87	88	61	186
1915 (Total)	101	114	70	181

CEMENT SHIPMENTS SHOW CONSTRUCTION WORK
Two principal cement dealers in La Grande this year handled 35 carloads of cement. With the exception of probably four carloads this was used in La Grande alone. Wholesale house basements, garage floors and cement walks took the most of this aggregate shipment of cement.

SCHOOL SURVEY OF CITY TAKEN

Out of 1100 Heads of Families in La Grande Which Students Tabulated Only 14 Are Aliens.

Alien family heads in La Grande are a great scarcity. During October the seniors of the La Grande High School, in connection with its study of economics under Principal Hampton, took a detailed survey of families in La Grande, ascertaining their occupations, and their numbers. In this survey they ascertained that there were about 1100 heads of families in the city, variously devoted to something like 64 occupations. While the survey is accurate so far as it is possible for the students to make it without going over the field a second and a third time, it is not entirely impossible that errors have crept in. But the table is a fair comparison of occupations followed. During the time the data was being accumulated, the surveyors found only 14 heads of families who were aliens.

Of all the many occupations that employ the supporters of these 1100 families, that of railroading is of first importance. This single occupation employs 259 heads of families. The occupation of milling is next in importance, employing nearly 100 men who have dependent families.

It is largely through these two sources that La Grande is able to boast of being the second largest payroll town in Oregon. Of this distinction we should be justly proud. The payroll each month, of the Palmer Mill alone, is estimated at approximately \$35,000, this firm having a total of more than 400 men in its employ.

Merchants too, whose families number about 74, are in no small minority, and the number of clerks is about 41.

The number of farmers having families totals 59 and retired farmers, 48. Of common laborers, there are 95. Doctors 13; Attorneys 11; Teachers 7; Carpenters 35; Bankers 9, etc.

The following table represents what the students found, it being again emphasized that the table deals with heads of families, not all employees in the city, by any means:

Number of families	1091
Railroaders	259
Clerks	41
Dressmakers	6
Retired Farmers	48
Barbers	10
Civil service	8
Lumber Business	16
Farmers	59
Doctors	13
Carpenters	35
Traveling Salesmen	11
Real Estate	15
Plumbers	3
Theaters	4
Garages	16
Nurses	5
Wood haulers	13
Dairymen	4
Architects	2
Marble workers	2
City officials	6
Teachers	7
Telephone employes	5
Painters and paper hangers	12
Tailors	2
Druggists	6
Electricians	2
Landlords	7
Butchers	5
Hotel Proprietors	4

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CITY MAINTAINS ITS RECORD OF NEW BUILDINGS

IN THE WAKE OF BOOM DAYS WHEN BUILDING WAS ABNORMAL, FIGURES ARE GOOD

PRIVATE GARAGES BUILT SHOW TREND OF TIMES

Homes, Business Blocks, Wholesale Warehouses and Extensive Repairs Have Been the Trend of Building—Year-Excess Over Last Year Is Considerable Item—Repairs Numerous.

Plodding along in the wake of the tremendous building boom which struck La Grande three and four years ago and back as far as five seasons since, 1916 has seen a commendable and delightful thrift. It exceeds last year several thousands. Four years ago La Grande put up 80 substantial homes, the year after that about 60 and for a period of four seasons the average stood around that figure. Then, too, there were built many big structures, such as the Foley building, the West building, the Y. M. C. A., the Elks' home, and numerous other structures including school houses. Three hundred thousand dollars, more or less—principally more—were spent annually for a considerable time until three years ago when the building activities commenced to ease up. To date this year, the building expenditures are considerably more than \$92,000.00 which is the sum total as shown by building permits figures, for in almost every instance the builder puts in his estimate much under the actual cost. The extensive additions to the railroad roundhouse, and the big bridge across the yards are not included in figures given from permit records.

Garages have been quite the craze this year. Nearly 60 private and commercial garages have been built. Representing but a trifle in dollars and cents to the lumber dealer and contractor, but emphasizing the other side of the question—the great growth of auto owners' ranks. The Julius Roesch garage on Adams and Fir now being built is one of the largest commercial garages in the county.

A quarter hundred very substantial homes were put up during the year, a large warehouse was built, additions to another made, and the Sommer building remade at heavy expense and an item that gave La Grande a new and very up-to-date business block in the heart of the city.

Thirty-two homes were extensively remodeled and repaired in the time involved in this discussion. It cost an average of \$74.00 to build each private garage.

Thus the building has been along permanent and cozy homes, better business house facilities, and greater wholesale equipment. Running up to December 15, the permits issued this year total nearly \$93,000 a figure that is not representative of the real outlay; it is under as analysis of the items will show, but are used here because they are the ones on record.

Last Year's Building Exceeded
In 1915 La Grande expended \$84,871.00 and the present year \$92,000 in round figures.

January Building Activities
It was on January 13th that the first piece of construction in La Grande for 1916 was commenced. William M. Rollins, a contractor, commenced building a one story frame dwelling on lot 9, block 2, Sugar addition on Y avenue between Spruce and Pine street for his own use. Cost \$600.00.

Other buildings erected and repairs made in January are:
Repairs to brick building on Adams avenue Fourth and Depot street, cost \$250.00. O. Johnson was the contractor, S. A. Gardiner, owner.
Goodnough & Sons repaired the brick on Depot, Adams and Washington for the Levy-Vogel Drug company. Cost 200.00.
John Mars built a two-story brick on Depot street for Julius Roesch. Cost \$3000.00. Total for January \$4,050.00.

February Not Building Month
Much of February was the snow-

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