

UNION COUNTY FAIR IS A BIG COMING EVENT

PPlans Formulated That Insure Even Better Exhibit Than Shown Last Year

SEPTEMBER 25 TO 29 IS THE DATE SET

Premiums Are Increased in Many Departments, Especially for the Livestock Exhibits.

The Annual Union County Fair will be held at Elgin September 25 to 29, inclusive. The event is being looked forward to with increased interest, due to the event having been an excellent success last year.

Premium lists are now in the hands of printers and will be circulated at an early date. A glance over the list will show that the premiums for this year's event have been increased, over that of 1922. Particularly is this true in the livestock division, for which the premiums have been doubled, insuring it is confidently believed, an excellent display of pure bred livestock from many sections of Eastern Oregon.

Officers of the fair association are: President, Earl E. Chandler; vice-president, E. G. Bailey; secretary, H. L. Shoemaker; treasurer, Guy L. Patton.

Members of the county board are: Wm. H. Jackson, of Alsea; Fred Huffman, of La Grande; and H. H. Weatherhead, of Elgin.

Elgin Men Are Game

Without previous experience, Elgin business men and farmers took hold of the County Fair late last year and with a determination seldom equalled in any town, succeeded in staging a successful fair in all departments, with the exception of livestock. The class of exhibits was a marvel to all who attended this event and served to develop plenty of enthusiasm for coming years.

Incorporating with a capital stock of \$7500.00, Elgin residents determined to back the fair to the limit and to see that all bills were promptly met. Prosperity of crops, unfavorable weather, together with the fact that no fair had been held in several years, forced a loss of approximately \$2500.00, which Elgin met with a smile, and in addition all premiums were paid within a week following the fair. As a result, the County Fair has re-established credit with the public, a credit that will again be maintained this year.

Success Is Assured

There are many assurances that the 1923 fair will prove a success, not only in the matter of exhibits and program, but in a financial way. With the event established as a certainty a five-day period this year, together with an excellent highway leading into Elgin, both from Walla Walla county and from Union and Baker counties, the attendance is expected to more than double that of a year ago.

WEATHERSPOON GIVES SOME TIMELY ADVICE

H. H. Weatherspoon, well known apple grower of Elgin, in discussing fruit growing in Eastern Oregon and the methods of attracting outside people to the industry, says:

"It takes grit and backbone to make a success of nearly any business nowadays, and the fruit game is no exception in this line. We can not expect home-owners to look us up and start the business for us. On the other hand it is up to us to give a partial development along these lines, to get us to start the ball rolling. In this line we can expect the home-owner and the stranger passing through a strange land to take notice of the enterprising development and eventually get us to get on as it is a well known fact no good businessman would miss an investment where the spirit of enterprise is manifest."

Union County Is Rich In Agricultural Resources

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fact that the wheat production of Sherman county, Oregon, where the land has been farmed on an average of twenty-five years, has not decreased, but has steadily increased as better tillage methods were put into practice. Some of the Union county wheat land has been farmed longer than twenty-five years and yields are not only increasing but are better than in Sherman county, and should be able by the use of this plant, in proper crop rotation, to bring the soil back to its original fertility and maximum of yielding power.

From 750,000 to 1,250,000 bushels of wheat have been produced in Union county annually during recent years. The adoption of better yielding varieties has somewhat increased yields during the past two years and it is possible that the total yield will still further increase, provided the average is not too drastically curtailed.

Fruit A Valuable Crop

Some ten years, or more, ago it was freely predicted that Union county would become a wonderful fruit producing area. Much capital was invested in orchard tracts at that time. At the present time horticultural plants are not nearly as large when invested alone in isolated tracts, many of the orchards having been pulled up, or otherwise destroyed. Orchards in bearing, however, abundantly demonstrate the good judgment of the fruit enthusiast, for far as adaptation of this section to fruit growing is concerned.

Union county is each year producing a considerable amount of very high quality apples, cherries, and peaches. The apple crop, scattered generally throughout the county, is most successfully produced principally in the Imbler and Elgin districts. Cherries which are produced in all sections of the county, to a limited extent, are the main crop in the Cove district. Over one hundred cases of sweet cherries were shipped from the Cove section last year. This cherry tree likes a fairly deep soil, but is successful on shallow soils under irrigation. Peaches have been chiefly raised around Union and Cove, but there are successful orchards producing in nearly every section of the county.

Cherry growers, apple growers and peach growers all assert that they produce a finer fruit than that produced in most other sections of the Pacific coast, and one which stands shipping or storing better. Although these Union county fruits are ripe each year somewhat later than in other sections of the north-west a ready market is usually found for the crop, unless the total crop of the United States is considerable above requirement.

Competition of fruit raisers from other sections for Union county fruits supports the claim that they are of superior quality. Development of the fruit industry in Union county is limited only by the growth of a market for the product.

Irrigation

Abundant water for irrigation of much of Union county agricultural land is awaiting storage and development. Irrigation of the Grande Ronde valley has long been a dream of our pioneer farmers. Many schemes for irrigation have been tried, or devised, but not carried through—not all farmers believe irrigation worth while. With a rainfall of close to twenty inches in most of the valley and a water table rising in many cases close to the surface of the ground, a majority of farmers have never become convinced as to the value of irrigation here.

Irrigation is quite feasible for most of the Grande Ronde valley and could be accomplished by building storage reservoirs on the Grande Ronde river, and Catherine creek. These reservoirs would be a help in checking the flood water which runs off each year, doing considerable damage to the lower lands of the valley.

Compared with irrigation, however, must come extensive drainage systems, otherwise much of the land in the valley would be ruined by deep water, flooding from waste water. When these developments are all brought about the agriculture of Union county will be the equal of any in the west. The intensive farming practiced near La Grande, where irrigation is accomplished by pumping, is an example of what could be done in the entire valley with irrigation development. At present, all crop yields stand far below the northwestern farming areas. Better farming methods which are being adopted by many farmers, equipped with rotation of crops and the use of alfalfa growing, more livestock and dairy cattle, and feeding the hay grown on the land, will not only increase money returns, but will also put the average farmer in a better position to make his farm pay for itself up to its actual standard of returns.

Elgin Possesses Excellent Opportunities and Resources

DISTRICT IN NORTH END FORGES STEADILY TO THE FRONT; APPLE ORCHARDS PROVE UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS

(By E. G. Bailey)

The history of Elgin is like the history of a good many human lives. In fact it is like a majority of them. While it has had its ups and downs, its joys and sorrows, its trials and tribulations, and its many hardships, it has never been able to give up its struggle for a better life.

In early days there were two settlements in this northeastern Oregon country: La Grande, with its wonderful valley of wild grass covered plains, and Elgin, with its fertile soil, its abundant water, and its many hardships. The two settlements were separated by a wide river, the Grande Ronde, and following the trail to Joseph with its Walla Walla lake, had it been a day of automobiles it is hardly likely that the little city of Elgin would ever have been conceived. But a stopping place was needed to rest and eat, and when a few years later the branch line of the U. S. R. & N. made it the terminal point for all the inland empire—the Walla Walla country, it looked as if there could be no possible mistake in prediction for Elgin, splendid future.

The present site of Elgin, at that time, was pretty well covered with pine timber while no matter which direction you went you were in almost a continuous pine forest. The wooded section has been gradually cleared back until at the present time it is a fertile field in most any direction you may look to the marketable timber.

During the last fifteen years the writer has taken a good many trips to other places. Each time upon his return he has been able to see more and better opportunities for the development of natural resources here in which money, much and, really are a necessary asset—this brings us to Elgin resources.

In writing of Elgin's resources, we understand the term to apply to all that country naturally adjacent to the little city. This means many thousands of acres of hill and mountain land, present five per cent of which is tillable. It would mean a possible territory of more than a hundred square miles, amply large enough to feed and maintain a city of considerable proportions.

We would claim her lands from which she raises her cattle, horses, sheep, and timber; this with the open "cut over" the land and rocky hillsides and for pasture makes up for considerable resources.

We have two buildings in which to store the grain grown around Elgin. The farmers warehouse where each fall thousands of sacks of wheat and oats are stored, and the Elgin Flouring mill, where several thousand bushels are made into flour. This is all the grain of the valley, and it is a good thing that it is all here, for it is a good thing that it is all here, for it is a good thing that it is all here.

Excellent Apple District. It has been proved by Henry Weatherspoon that as an apple section there is no other superior in the entire apple country. He has demonstrated this by planting on his land and forty acres, now all bearing. Seed trees have been purchased and twenty acres more, part of which lies on a different slope and has proven a thoroughly money making area. It is the natural home of the DeLima, Rome Beauty, Winter Red, and other standard varieties. There is no doubt but that in the near future capital will cover our hillsides with apples, cherries and peaches. With this line of effort his "apple pie" for other localities, but really no favored, remains for the future generation to take and the growing generation to later draw its sustenance. Could the reader of this article have been at our County Fair last fall and seen through our agricultural and horticultural departments, he would have found an "apple pie" indeed—all kinds of apples, the best apples, pumpkins, peaches, strawberries, cantaloupes, and such variety of the best that could be grown anywhere in the temperate zone, produced in the Elgin country.

It was only a few years ago that all the apples grown around Elgin could be handled very nicely by the growers, who, in fact, did not even go to the market. Today a large warehouse and a steady one is needed. A good many orchards of a fine grade of apples were shipped to the coast markets in the past fall and winter from Elgin. The fruit buyers will want to be right with the grain growers. But the harvest of the apple picking, packing and shipping business makes the making of money. Good money gives employment to that industry means the distribution of much money.

Excellent Offers Opportunities. Elgin is still surrounded by a good many thousand acres of red fir and yellow pine, and contributing the white fir of which there are several million feet. This would mean a number of lumbermen for a number of years. The lumber industry is an important one for a growing and busy town. The lumbering is here, the raw material is here,

and only capital with a little nerve is needed to build up a splendid business.

Good Fishing

Elgin is the center of the fisherman's paradise. The Looking Glass lake, North Park and Boomer creek, the Walla Walla, with its deer creek, and South Park, are only a few short miles from here. And, oh boy, the trout! It is no trouble to fill a basket in a few short hours. You can get to most any of these places, catch a mess and have trout for breakfast. Elgin needs a new hotel where the hunter and the fisherman between camping spots could have the accommodations so many travelers feel the need of. Our one hotel is not enough.

Coming Hub City

In the not far distant future, Elgin is destined to be the hub of this northwestern country, the town from which will radiate roads that lead to great scenic beauty, a well equipped saloons everywhere, midway between La Grande and Joseph on our over La Grande-Walla Walla highway with a road running down the Grande Ronde river by way of Troy and Paradise to Lewiston, across the mountains to Weston and the Walla Walla country, to Baker and Pendleton from La Grande who can say we do not tell the truth when we name it "The Hub" of a most wonderful country.

Within this country is scenery unsurpassed; charming and secluded lake meadows, deep canyons, rugged peaks, marvelous mountain streams with great towering mountains all combined to add a wealth that the eastern man goes miles and miles to see. He even crosses the continent and oft times the ocean to reach a better view of what he has seen here. And yet there are citizens of Union county who would think that Elgin had passed its growing stage.

Modern Opera House

We are twenty-four miles from La Grande. One census has given us the population of twenty thousand and forty-eight. We have a city water system fed by a mountain stream that gives us every month in the year clear, cool, sparkling water, fed by the eternal spring that comes out of the mountain sides miles away. We have what few cities of many times its size can boast of, a city opera house, with a seating capacity of five hundred, a well finished stage with excellent settings. In the same building with our city council rooms is a well conducted library with several hundred volumes of books, and a well equipped, guarded by an efficient librarian, Mrs. W. L. Willis.

Business Lines Represented

Every line of business is represented—a First National bank is a repository for the money of the community, the dentists, keep our teeth in good repair. Two law firms attend to our legal wants. While one doctor looks after the enforcement of our laws of health. We have a goodly number of grocery stores. We are in possession of one of the best blacksmith shops in the territory. The drug business is amply cared for.

It would seem that Elgin for the present is well situated as well as well taken care of. What we need is more permanent payrolls. These would all come with the building of an ample sewer. We need more power and look after ten thousand acres of prime and cherries. And in time all this will come. It may not be long. It may be many years. But in time the wants of man will demand the doing of all these things which nature has placed here for him to develop, and in the meantime here is a home, far from the maddening crowd and strife of the city. A home which has for its setting all that primitive man could ask for and civilized man could seek for in its development. What if the winters are a little long. The longer the winter the better the sleighing. What if the nights are a little cold, there is plenty of wood for the fuel; what if the spring is a little rainy? The more rain the greater the harvest.

Our word more: He who comes can receive plenty of spiritual advice. We have three churches—Presbyterian, Methodist and Christian. We also have a school house which stands for all that is American. Efficient teachers prepare the boy and girl for college work as well as the practical work of the big world. Here the domestic science, manual art, shop work and the State-attached Department Agricultural work is well equipped and taught.

STOCK SHOW AT UNION WILL BE BEST EFFORT

(Continued from page 1)

up to the big Stock show that is held in Union each year, for it is well known by most of the people of this and many adjoining states. The local organization that has good shoulder is shoulder during the last fifteen years, seeking each succeeding year to make better if possible the Union Livestock Show, is set in the middle, and will do its level best this year to keep the show up to its well-known standard.

And one of the most gratifying things about the city of Union and the Stock Show organization is the splendid spirit of co-operation, encouragement and good-will shown by the commercial organizations, newspapers and the people in general who live within a day's drive of the city of Union. It goes without saying that the success of the big Stock Show has been largely due to the help given by the people of the territory above referred to. And if the stock show has been the means of bringing closer together the people of this part of the state, and consolidating their efforts

toward a greater Eastern Oregon, then a long step forward has been made in this line, in addition to a betterment of the livestock industry of the state.

Union is proud of its friends, rejoices in their co-operation and assistance in many ways; and hopes to merit the good-will and approval of its neighbors for all time to come. This year the Stock Show proper will be along former lines, with as many new features as it is possible to secure for the occasion and the association and the people of Union and vicinity in general feel certain that the 1923 show will prove the equal in point of entertainment and stock exhibits of any show held here or recent years.

There are some discouraging features relative to stock exhibits this year, that the association feels certain to overcome, realizing that in the face of depressed conditions in the beef cattle industry, the hard times, and money shortages among farmers and horse-owners, it will take more than the ordinary effort to awaken interest among stockmen and secure the desired exhibits of the classes named.

Dairy Exhibit Is Planned

The dairymen's interests, however, upon which many farmers and stockmen just now are relying for the monthly check that pays the ranch grocery bill, and more, will no doubt be well represented. There will also be many of the finest types of draft horses, a good sprinkling of saddles, some light-boned exhibits, and showmen of the best breeds of cattle that will show the different classes most acceptably, and make a total exhibit that will demonstrate again that Union is the center of a vast livestock region, and a wide-awake people.

A feature of this great stock show also will be the stock judging contest, to be participated in by teams from the public schools of the state. Nine teams having already sent word of their coming, and there may be more. This feature will be handled by a special judge and corps of assistants, and will in no wise conflict with the regular judging of stock from day to day.

In the arena and on the race track will be given the very best program of sports and racing committees have been able to secure, and no doubt there will be thrills galore for those who come to be entertained for four or five hours each afternoon. The night program is in the hands of a special committee, promising entertainment to those who care to tarry after the afternoon at the stock show grounds.

Facilities Better Than Ever

If anything, the organization for holding the various features of the stock show grounds this year will be better than in former years, the different departments having been assigned to individuals who are responsible for the successful handling of those departments, and thus relieving the secretary's office of a task that has grown in volume from year to year until additional help is required.

With a complete organization that is working with clock-like regularity and precision, every department in the hands of special committees, Union naturally feels that nothing has been left anyone looking toward the success of the meeting of the Cattle and Horse Raisers' show June 4 and 5, and of the Stock Show proper, June 6, 7 and 8. Beyond this, our little city is relying upon God Almighty and our neighbors, whose co-operation and good-will have been apparent in years gone by, and in whom we trust for 1923.

Passing along from Stock Show affairs to other things of importance to Union, and naturally adding to her possible advantages are the operations of the Blue Mountain Lumber Co., which now contemplates the building of a railroad from Union to the big timber to the east of us, the construction of a modern saw mill in or tributary to Union, and the establishment of a sawmill that will supply the needed lumber to make prosperity for our little city.

This proposition is a gigantic one which naturally will require time to work out, but optimistic ones look to this as one of the things that is likely to happen at almost any time and toward which the eyes of our people have been turned for years.

A Good Commercial Club. Under the watchful eye of one of the strongest and best organized commercial clubs in the state, Union has advanced very materially in many ways during the past few years, until today it has been recently designated by a writer as "a big little city." The secret of its success being "the splendid co-operation of the community and the energy with its representative citizens exert toward making the town better and better in every way every year."

Another writer says of Union: "Our neighbor is doing other things than holding stock shows. It is a progressive town, reaching out for things that will build and make Union a better town, etc."

Progress Is Made. The progress of the city of Union, during the past three years especially, is the splendid spirit of co-operation of the strong men of neighboring towns and communities, and the gradual breaking away from the stand-still policy of years ago have encouraged our people to greater effort, and there will be no relaxation as long as there is a ray of hope for the betterment of our city. Just now Union sees light ahead, is optimistic to a degree not reached in years, and gladly welcomes an opportunity to become a part of the working force that is continually planning for the betterment especially of this portion of the great state by to happen at almost any time and toward which the eyes of our people have been turned for years.



Residents of Union county are proud of the new hotel at Union, said to be the finest on the Old Oregon Trail between Salt Lake and Portland. The service afforded at the popular hostelry is in keeping with the magnificent structure.

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The Policy of This Store

In 1915 the Union Hardware Co. Was Organized with ideals and principles which have been followed through its years of business.

But the outstanding principle was our duty to our community, our county, and state.

An institution built on profit alone can not stand.

Good goods, the best of service, fair and honest dealings, together with an honest desire to please, makes any business honored by its patrons.

L. A. WRIGHT, UNION HARDWARE CO. C. L. CADWELL Secy.-Mgr. UNION, OREGON ON OLD OREGON TRAIL

This Convenience is for You

If you have not already tried ordering drug store goods by mail you should start in to take advantage of a privilege that is so great a convenience.

Hundreds of people have been pure using their goods of us in this way for TWENTY-SIX YEARS and as the orders keep coming in we are satisfied that our

MAIL ORDER SERVICE

is appreciated. This service is sure to be satisfactory for we guarantee our goods.

Our large stock provides everything in the line of drugs and medicines, as well as other articles, such as paint, stationery, toilet goods, etc.

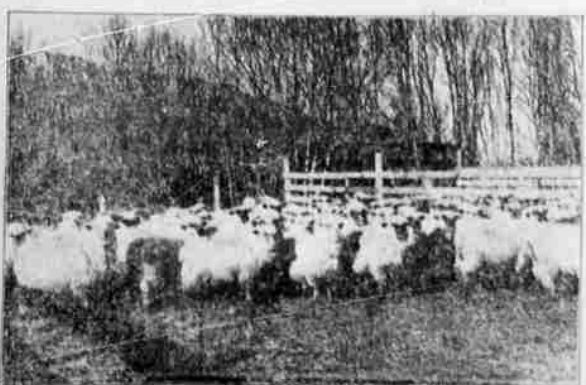
-ON OLD OREGON TRAIL

L. A. WRIGHT

Reliable Druggist — The Rexall Store

Union, Oregon

Sheep of Excellent Type



Herewith is presented a view of another pen of sheep at the State Experiment Farm, Union. Much attention is given to improving the various breeds.