

La Grande Evening Observer

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JOY OF THE RANSOMED.—The ransom of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.—Isaiah 35:10.

CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

Completion of Our Great Road System

Of secondary importance only to the driving of the golden spike that marked completion of the Union Pacific railroad, binding firmly the west and the east together, thus preventing a portion of the nation in time of stress or trouble from feeling an alienation that was inimical to the welfare of the land, is the completion of the small link of the Old Oregon Trail on top of the Blue Mountains, which is now practically finished.

Now we can do so and are doing so, for we know that the tourist can with his own power not only get over every mile of the road from Ontario to Seaside, but he can drive the entire distance at a speed of thirty miles an hour—the legal limit.

We shall not review the many problems this state has encountered in her immense road program, for they are matters of history. Our mistakes, if we have had any, are our own. Our debts which we have contracted to build the system of roads are our own, and the general public is not interested in that feature of the matter.

Let us then turn to our visitors with a gleeful invitation to come to Oregon. Yes, come to the greatest "young man's state" in the union today. We say she is a young man's state for the reason that our resources have not been scratched. Everything is waiting development, and those with wisdom are going to listen to the call and come with a determination not only to benefit from the development, but also for the purpose of living in a pleasant place where nature and climate combine to make a harmonious and attractive setting for the home.

The road system furnishes an artery for commerce, as well as a trail for the tourist; it furnishes convenience for our residents, as well as a playground for people in all walks of life. Nothing could have been done by this state that serves all and serves so well as the building of these highways. No money has ever been spent by Oregon, or ever will be spent by Oregon, that returns such enjoyment and business combined.

Up until now the state has been unable to reap benefits from the highways because the system was incomplete, but hereafter the good roads of Oregon will be one of her largest assets.

It is little wonder that the people of Eastern Oregon, Southern Idaho and Eastern Washington are uniting in a big celebration on top of the Blue Mountains July 4th to commemorate the great occasion of finishing the last link of the system. The importance of the event fastens itself more firmly as one thinks of what it means. To know that there will be an open highway over the mountains during the entire year; to know that the motor vehicle will run with regularity from all over this Inland Empire to Portland, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles is something to contemplate.

Plainly it is the marking of a new era in civilization. It is bidding farewell to old-time customs and adopting the new, rapid means of transportation—the individual transportation which has come to stay.

It is, therefore, the duty of the La Grande Evening Observer, published in the heart of the Blue Mountain country, to add its mite to this great highway completion and we have therefore issued this Old Oregon Trail edition, giving a resume of resources, and have reviewed the magnificent country composed of Union, Baker and Wallowa counties in order that those in whose hands this issue of the newspaper might fall may have first hand, authentic information about a country which we know is one of the choicest spots in God's whole domain.

Fifty One Graduates

More than half a hundred La Grande young people graduated from our high school last evening; more than half a hundred pupils ceased their daily book routine, but did not cease to be students for the student continues until the end of earthly life, learning each day and becoming ripener in both knowledge and experience.

La Grande's graduates join the thousands from universities and colleges who are stepping into the complex realities of life. The satisfaction over the termination of study beams in the young faces and the wonderful hope of untired youth shines from their eyes. The coveted diploma is theirs. The degree that testifies to their triumphal studies has been conferred. The old halls of the institutions no longer echo their cheery calls; and the promises of enduring friendships made in the days of study seem such as shall never be broken. And then the separation; then real life. And never is that life a mystery to buoyant youth, and always success shines ahead like a beacon, brilliant and certain to be reached.

And well it is that youth shall have that silvery hope and that golden certainty. For never in the history of the nation has there been such poignant need for such hope and for such certainty.

Doubtless many parents and earnest educators, upon whom

years of experience have accumulated, have watched, with unusual affection not unmixed with fear these throngs of happy young men and women depart from the halls of learning. It has not been a fear as to the youth merely as an individual. It is a dread aroused by the larger and harder difficulties that now confront young people as members of society—a society which the fierce and heaving forces of a troubled humanity can either awaken and disrupt or strengthen and purify.

Into this turmoil America's youth now must go, and in the contest they will have to take their part. Adult age can advise and guide; but the action that is to triumph for good is the action of the blithesome young folks who have gone home with their diplomas. The world is all before them. May they "make good" in big as well as in little things.

Each year this city adds her number and each year the faculty reluctantly let go their hold upon these young people wondering whether the superstructure has been welded together sufficiently to make it safe for them to enter the world's scramble. Then comes the race of life in which the strong, sturdy, clean student asserts himself and takes his place among men.

Prosperity is reflected in increased bank clearings, but it would be interesting to know also what the combined balance due on the automobiles of the country is.

Even the man who is most vociferous in declaring he wants all the facts known would like to scan the list before publication.

There is one Big Idea you must get, if you would take your place among worth while people.

That is the old, smooth, straight turnpike that leads directly to your goal.

The man who counts a hundred before acting generally finds someone else has acted first.

A tree formerly used as a gallows has been felled in New York, but not because New York has none deserving of hanging.

The Lausanne peace delegates must speak loudly to make themselves heard above the shooting.

Chancellor Cuno's refusal to approve the conviction of the Krupp heads does not alter the fact that they are in jail.

He Came from Tipperary To America

A son of the old sod is John H. Pearce. No one knows him by the name of John, but that is his honest, to-goodness name. It is "Jack" from one end of Oregon to the other. He was born and grew to manhood over in Carriek-on-Suir. He attended college and learned his trade in Tipperary.

In 1890 Jack came to America—the land which he had heard a lot about. He wanted to come sooner, but he had heard that every Irishman who came here had to become a policeman and Jack was not qualified for that distinction. Just as soon as he learned that the policeman part of the American restrictions was only a joke sent back to Ireland, he came and at the age of 24 he took up his abode in La Grande where he has been a permanent fixture ever since. He worked a year for G. G. Bunte, then engaged in business for himself. He is the oldest firm in La Grande in continual business, for it has been doing business here for 32 years.

As a community booster Jack Pearce has never lost heart nor laid off a single day. La Grande was his chosen home and he is still proud of it. He made the town famous in athletic circles as he was the first jockey to locate in the state, and he won the hurdles at the Multnomah club meet a number of years ago. His loyalty to athletics caused him to work at it a great deal. He brought the first boxing gloves to the town, developed a wrestling team for La Grande in the northwest firemen's tournament, establishing a record with the La Grande hose cart team of 200 yards in 23 seconds, which still stands.

Mr. Pearce has been chairman of the home service section of the American Red Cross for the past four years, the duties of that department being to look to the welfare of ex-service men. The position requires a lot of time and imposes many duties, yet he has met them in a cheerful and efficient manner. He was appointed receiver of the La Grande land office in 1921 by President Harding.

The firm is now J. H. Pearce & Son, for William Pearce, who was born in 1890 has become a very important part of the firm. He is a doctor of optometry and has established thoroughly modern offices in the jewelry store. The young man is a La Grande product, having received his education here up to the time he went east and took complete courses in the Northern Illinois College of Optometry. Inheriting the desire to run and jump he also entered athletics and made a wonderful record. His record of 22 for the half mile still stands in Eastern Oregon unbroken. Deep interest is still felt in the young men attending school for his feeling is that when properly handled athletics are very essential to manhood development.

Dr. Pearce is secretary of the state board of examiners in optometry, an honor conferred on him seven years ago and which he is conducting with credit.

Highways Concentrate Business

Geographically La Grande is the pivot around which the business of a large area revolves, according to A. T. Hill, of the Hill Department Store. This fact is just dawning upon many

residents of this city, but it is never the less apparent. "With these highways completed," says Mr. Hill, "our city occupies a remarkable position. Every road leads to La Grande—and every road is going to be a hard surfaced road so people can go and come with the greatest ease. Up until now we have contemplated these highways from a pleasure standpoint only, but I want to say that the commercial value of the roads is much greater than the pleasure feature that there is little comparison to be made between the two. As a community we are always anxious to welcome new industries and we make great effort to do so. Yet, how many of us thought when we advocated building these roads that we were trying to La Grande great wealthy communities who had not traded here? Is it not a fact that when you can secure the business of a community such as love with a good highway that we have accomplished as much as though we had located another factory in La Grande? Bear in mind we have these roads leading in all directions and La Grande is a town of size where merchants carry large stocks for the people to make their selections.

"All this being true, what is La Grande's duty and obligation to the Eastern Oregon country? It is plain, for strategic locations have a duty they owe to the general public. That duty is for La Grande business people to enlarge their vision and take care of the large territory which now belongs to this city by right of the modern highways. To do this probably larger stocks must be carried than are carried at present, although this city is well known for the large amount of capital invested in merchandise. We must as a community show to this new trade that we want it, we must exercise the spirit of hospitality, of competitive selling to a point that will attract. It does not mean by this that competition is not already keen in La Grande, for it is, but it must be even keener. Our commercial organizations must enlarge their activities and go forth into the surrounding country adding in every way possible those who desire to trade in this city. Surely, the opportunity for La Grande is with us, and it remains to see how well we as citizens grasp that opportunity and take care of the business which is sure to come this way if proper inducement is offered."

Col. Ivanhoe Helped Mould This Section

Attending every circuit court session and conducting cases in each for 25 years is a record of which any attorney can be proud. Such is the record of Colonel P. S. Ivanhoe, of La Grande.

Col. Ivanhoe located in Joseph, Wallowa county, in 1887. At that time Joseph was the county seat. Enterprise was not founded until the year following. Wallowa and Union counties were in the same judicial district, and the barrier did not arise until the terms of court held in Wallowa county from 1887 until 1922, handling cases at each and every session during the time. The record speaks volumes for the Colonel as an able lawyer.

In reviewing his residence of 24 years in Union and Wallowa counties Col. Ivanhoe says that the thing that most impressed him is the great change that has transpired within the two counties, particularly with respect to the development of natural resources. Having resided in Wallowa county during his early years here he states the change appears to be more marked in that county than here. "When I went to Wallowa county there were two classes of men living there; cattle men and cattle thieves. Growing and stealing cattle were the only industries. From-

Lou Stoop Is a Born Realty Dealer

La Grande claims many leaders in their respective lines, and the real estate game is no exception to the rule, with L. A. Stoop the undisputed leader. Lou not only has the natural ability of knowing real estate, its value and possessing real estate, but he is a natural born trader and has the faculty of engineering deals in a manner unknown to the average man. It is only justice to Mr. Stoop to say that he is one of the best posted men in Oregon on real estate values, particularly with respect to Eastern Oregon. In commenting on the real estate situation existing in Union county at this time, he says:

"Soil, climatic conditions and productivity considered, farm lands of Grande Ronde valley and Union county are held at a very reasonable figure. The fact is, improved farm lands of the county are on a lower level than they will likely be for many years to come. The depression following the world conflagration affected the agricultural interests of Union county no less than in the middle west. When the price of wheat and other farm products suffered a decline the land on which they were produced suffered a like decline and the average price asked today for Grande Ronde valley farm lands is from 20 to 25 per cent less than the prevailing price of three years ago. For a few years prior to the war agricultural lands of the county were steadily increasing in value. This increase was the result of natural values. With the ushering in of the war and the consequent increase in the price of wheat and other crops land values took a slight jump, perhaps to a slight degree of inflation.

"There is a healthy condition prevailing today in farm land values. The price per acre for farm lands is back to a pre-war basis, or a little under. Good improved farms in Grande Ronde can be had at an average price of \$100.00 an acre. It is dangerous to predict, but there is every indication that the figure will increase materially within the next ten years. "Farms located in the foothill districts and included in which is some pasture land are selling on an average of \$75.00 per acre. "In the irrigated districts well improved farm land is selling from \$150.00 to \$200.00 per acre. "Orchard lands, including apples, prunes and cherries, are quoted at \$250.00 to \$500.00 per acre, varying with location and condition of the orchards.

"With lands as fertile as those of Union county and with orchards growing apples, cherries and prunes do the orchards of the county, it is not unsafe to predict a healthy increase in the value of each. The man who understands general farming or fruit growing will make no mistake in investing his money in Union county real estate at the present value. I confidently believe that conditions point to a slight increase in the immediate future.

Transfers Slow "It is only fair to state that sales

of agricultural lands have been slow during the past 18 months, due to general unfavorable conditions brought on by the slump. Conditions are improving, and under the surface there is a strong indication that many transfers will be made within the next few months, and that real estate movement will soon reach normal stage.

Time to Invest "To one who is at all acquainted with the situation, conditions were never more favorable for the man who desires a farm in Union county. Good land can never be bought for less than it is offered at present and the only trend of prices that can possibly ensue will be upward."

BUSINESS IN EAST OREGON PROMISING

(Continued from Page One)

contained somewhat as farm returns do not warrant the employment of labor at the prices asked. A few of our farmers located favorably are experimenting this season, with the growing of head lettuce for September marketing, those familiar with the matter advising that altitude and climatic conditions are very favorable."

Ontario. H. B. Cockrum, Cashier, First National Bank—"Sheep and cattle in this section wintered excellently at less expense than usual. Sheep growers who lambd their ewes during February all had an excellent lambing with exceedingly light losses. We have had more wind than usual this spring and the ranges are getting quite dry, however, during the last few days we have had several warm rains which have materially improved range conditions. A few clips of choice fine wool have been contracted at 42 1/2 cents per pound. Most growers are inclined to hold their wool until shearing time. During the last week potato prices have materially strengthened and some sales of Idaho Burals have been made locally at \$1.00 per hundred. Sixty days ago the same potatoes could not have been sold for ten cents per hundred. Our farmers will materially increase the acreage of corn this year, and they are generally diversifying their crops. More of them are going in for dairying and hog raising. Our merchants are in good condition, and generally report business better than in 1922. The condition of the cattle-men has not improved very much as yet, but we feel that cattle prices must eventually improve. We think the outlook for this particular section is much better than it was at this time a year ago."

FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TRUST. (By Associated Press) LONDON, May 26.—Four brothers, sons of F. W. Bremner, won all the scholarships at the school they attend. The father is a janitor.

WIFE HELPS HIM DIE. ST. PAUL, Minn., May 26.—Confined to his bed by illness, George Johnson asked his wife to bring him her scissors. He cut his wrist with them and bled to death.

Smart Fashions for Limited Incomes

The point we want you to get is that these were not made to sell at low prices but, instead, the prices are low because cost-piling features have been avoided.

- The materials, in every case, are of good quality and serviceable. The linings are chosen for durability rather than luxury. The trimmings and decorations are less costly but are applied with taste and moderation. The workmanship is thoroughly honest, slighting no detail to the detriment of long service. The styles are absolutely correct—all this season's.

The variety is ample, responding to all tastes and all purposes. The price range will meet even the most limited purses. Coats, \$18 to \$70; Suits, \$22 to \$40; Dresses, \$16 to \$50



Sport Coats

For knockabout wear, at the links, or on a journey, you will find sport coats here that answer every requirement of particular dressers.

Just the right length, just the right colors, just right in every way and, really, the prices are reasonable.