

LaGrande Evening Observer

(Incorporated)
An Independent Newspaper

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GOD BLESSES FOREVER—"Lord, thou art God, and it is before thee that I bow myself; O Lord, and it shall be blessed forever." 1 Chron. 17:25, 27.

"After the Ball Is Over—" everybody should see the New Year in at the Legion's frolic tonight.

La Grande's city commission of the past two years today officially ends its term of service and tomorrow a new administration assumes authority. Although the personnel is changed only by the retirement of Dr. Landis and the installation of Mr. Coburn, the city starts off a new year, nevertheless. The old commission deserves congratulation for its activity, its sincere desire to serve the city's best interest, its unselfish devotion to the community's welfare. It has been an extremely busy and problematical term of office. The coming term will not be less so. There is much old work to be completed, much new work to get under way as the city moves forward. The Observer has utmost confidence in the 1927-28 commission—not that we anticipate administrative perfection but because we have faith in honesty, successful business judgment, and a true interest in the city's future.

PERHAPS A NEW ERA, TOO

The passing of one year and the coming of another often signifies very little of actual worth for an individual or community. To note the transition is merely a convention in most cases and the last day of the old year and the first day of the new differ only in a matter of workday and holiday. Such is the usual New Year over the country.

With the coming of 1927, however, The Observer is inclined to the opinion that there is more than the ordinary new year in store for La Grande and the territory of Eastern Oregon it serves. Today sees the end of the first period in which this section was looked upon by the rest of the state as a rather incidental part of Oregon. During that period—the last twenty or twenty-five years—La Grande has changed gradually from a village in the Grande Ronde valley to the metropolis of Eastern Oregon with the greatest business and industrial activity east of Portland. The transition has been gradual, hardly apparent to the average resident. Without the disadvantages of a boom, with all the benefits of steady progress, the city has come into its own. Yet it is only the beginning. The new normal school is only one bit of evidence of what the future holds. In it, alone, there is promise of much more good than the mere population and resultant business growth. It demands, in fact, a new civic consciousness, elevated moral standard, a greater educational interest, an improved intellectual appreciation, a closer weighing of values that inevitably follow the establishment and growth of an institution of higher learning anywhere. They will come to La Grande and will help us as a city to respond to the challenge and responsibility now ours. The normal is not to remain a mere training school for grade teachers. It will become a teachers' college within the next few years.

This is but one of the changes in immediate prospect for this community. Others of equal importance are almost equally certain. The next decade, we believe, will mark a great population movement to the Pacific Northwest. It will see development and expansion throughout this area that will surpass any record of any previous quarter century. The bugaboo of vanishing lumber activity will be forgotten in the rush of new activity and growth. Such is the opinion of those whose view is to the ultimate future, whose knowledge of natural resources and development tendencies is broad and experienced.

The arrival of 1927 is more than an ordinary occasion, therefore. It will have little time and small place for pessimists. It will hold ample reward for those who value community welfare and the opportunity for community service.

Travel by Motor Stage
Safety Comfortably

TRAVEL BY MOTOR STAGE
Leave
La Grande for Joseph 9:00 A. M. - 4:00 P. M.
" " Baker and Boise 9:25 A. M. - 1:25 P. M.
" " Baker only 3:30 P. M.
" Pendleton 11:00 A. M. - 5:30 P. M. - 6:15 P. M.
Connection at Pendleton for Walla Walla, Pasco and Portland; at Portland all points South and North.
La Grande Depot Phone 799
All Modern Chair Car Stages.

1927 PROSPECTS ROSY IN OREGON

Prosperous Year for State Expected by Commissioner C. H. Gram

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 31 (AP)—With building construction and other industrial activities promising much for the coming year and a spirit of optimism prevailing in the state, indications point to 1927 as a prosperous year, says Charles H. Gram, state labor commissioner.

"The year 1926 has been an era of prosperity in Oregon," says Gram. "The basic industries of the state have encountered no serious obstacles. Employment has been well balanced and wages have been good with some increases in the skilled trades. No industrial disputes of any importance have occurred in Oregon in the last 12 months."

No Alarm Felt
"The year 1927 will find the people of Oregon possessed of an unusual spirit of optimism. There seems to be no alarm felt in any section, but, on the contrary, an abiding faith that the coming year will witness if not surpass 1926 in industrial activity."

Indications, Gram says, point to less construction of small houses, but that this will be more than offset by larger structural projects.

The lumber cut, he thinks will be no larger than in the past year, but production has been large during 1926 and sales enormous. Prices on most lumbering items have been unsatisfactory due to some suspensions for financial reasons.

Road Work About Same
It is probable, says Commissioner Gram, that state highway work will be about the same as in 1926, and that about \$4,500,000 will be available for expenditure on new highway construction.

"It should not, however, be inferred," he says, "that the total amount to be disbursed by the highway commission during 1927 will be only \$4,500,000, for in addition to this amount there will be expended for maintenance work approximately \$2,000,000 and for interest and maturity on outstanding bonds approximately \$2,500,000."

Farm Outlook Fair
"Those engaged in agricultural pursuits in Oregon are not discouraged and approach the new year with confidence. While there will be no increase of planting of small grain the coming season, there will be an increased acreage of potatoes, corn, mint and flax, besides a big increase of berry acreage, especially raspberries, which proved a profitable crop this year. The orchardists will not increase their holdings, except those engaged in raising nuts who expect to plant additional acreage."

Approve Prune Marketing Plan

WALLA WALLA, Dec. 31 (AP)—Enthusiastic approval of the plan submitted by the committee of nine for marketing the prune crop next season was given by growers of this district at a meeting at Freewater, Ore., about 75 of the 125 present signing the agreement.

Under the plan, which shipping concerns have approved, growers will be guaranteed their first cost and expenses of picking, packing and hauling. To safeguard the shippers, provision is made whereby, if the board—on which the growers have representation—decides the going price, would not return costs, shipments can be returned.

At the meeting talks were made by Walter Holt, Walter A. Holt, (marketing agent), C. L. Lous of the extension department of Oregon agricultural college, and P. O. Hodge, secretary of the Walla Walla chamber of commerce, and others. The next meeting will be Jan. 4 at Milton.



—NBA, Cleveland Bureau
HERE HE COMES! There he goes! The children here shown is Wallace Wade, son of the University of Alabama's football coach.

'With Interest'

One Wedding in Three Failure in Wallowa County

ENTERPRISE, Ore., Dec. 31—Divorces in the county this year show a decrease from 1925 but a gain over 1924. The 1926 record, as compiled by Deputy County Clerk O. J. Millard is 65 marriages and 22 divorces, and one divorced couple remarried. In this year and two previous years covered by government figures, the record is:

	Marriages	Divorces
1923	62	23
1924	75	12
1926	65	22

The percentage of divorces in the county for 1926 is a trifle less than 34, against over 40 for the state. Other statistics gathered in Clerk Reavis' office include a showing that the office has issued 731 temporary automobile licenses this year, and since June 4 has sent the secretary of state \$5127 for such fees. This of course is only a small part of the money paid by residents of the county for automobile licenses during the period, as most applicants go direct to the secretary of state.

No additional pay is received by the clerk for issuing the auto licenses although the state allows the clerk of Union county \$250 for this service, as compensation for extra help supposed to be needed.

WEARS SPEC'S

TOOTERIDGE, England—Harry Vardon has followed the example of a young old master of golf—Francis Ouimet, who jumped to fame when he beat Vardon Ray and Braid at Brookline in 1913. Harry now wears horn-rimmed glasses, and as was the case with Francis when he remedied his sight last year, he is back on his game.

Seventeen years ago Harry Cohn (upper), president of the American Savings Bank at Memphis, Tenn., lent \$125 to Abe Plough (lower). This fall, when a cashier defaulted and left the bank with a \$250,000 deficit, Plough made the deficit good and turned the amount over to Cohn. He had used his \$250 loan as the basis of a fortune that is now worth \$1,500,000.

Salem Population Placed at 26,750

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 31—Based upon figures reported by public utility corporations, one of the soundest barometers of population increase or decrease, Salem had a population of 26,750 on Dec. 1, and using 4.3 as the average family, generally recognized as a conservative estimate by statisticians. The month will see practically no change in the figures furnished by the utilities, it is claimed.

REALISTIC
BELGRADE—Gemma Walska is quite realistic in opera. In "Eros" she wielded the dagger so vigorously on Baron Scarpia that she broke it. Then there were some curtain calls.



Saving "THEIR BIT"

Remember how, when as a child, you loved to hear the tinkle of coins as you dropped them--one by one--in your little metal Savings bank? And how it stirred your youthful pride to think that you were saving for "something big?"

Let your children today enjoy that same thrill, only in a more modern way. Start a Savings Account with this Bank for them. Then, change the coins they save into bills and send them here regularly. They'll enjoy the experience!

The Equitable
SAVINGS BANK
Corner Depot and Adams

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Corner Depot and Adams

Lewiston Claims 9,800 Population

LEWISTON, Ida., Dec. 31—Based on the number of water services in operation by the water department, Lewiston's population is 9800 this result being obtained by using the number of services and multiplying by 4.22 as the average size family to each service. The last census of services was in 1915, when there were 1,550, and the last estimate of the population was in 1920 by the federal government. Lewiston then being credited with 6570 inhabitants.

IN SWIM

LOS ANGELES—At least 11 women are prepared to brave the dangers of sharks and shivers in Wrigley's wriggle. They have entered that Catalina Island swim without stipulation as to rainout.



We Are Now Booking Orders For Both HATCHINGS EGGS AND BABY CHICKS

We have largest selection of choice ANCONA strain of chickens in Eastern Oregon. If interested in a better laying strain, try them (none setters, and extra large eggs). Also have a few THOUSAND DOLLARS to loan on city property (to be secured by First Mortgage).
Smith's Silver Fox & Poultry Farm
East La Grande, on Highway

N. K. West & Co. Inc.
La Grande's Leading Store for Over 25 Years.

WAIT
For Our January Clean-Up Sale
Starting Jan. 3rd
10% Off to Less Than 1/2 Price

NORTON'S KIDDY SHOP

READ THE OBSERVER CLASSIFIED ADS

SALES Values!

SEE THEM!! COMPARE THEM

"Money Saving Values" at this opportune time. Quality merchandise from the foremost markets in the country at reductions that make unequalled values in the history of La Grande.

Every item in our most complete stock is included—Suits, Overcoats, Hats, Caps, Shirts, Underwear, Hose, Shoes, Leather Vests, Blazers, Etc.

"A few of our many savings"

Overcoats All Wool \$12.85	All Leather Vests Chrome tanned horse. \$4.95
Suits Special Lot \$9.85	Stag Shirts \$4.95
Sweaters Heavy shaker Sweaters 1/2 Price	Woolen Shirts \$1.39
Dress Shoes \$1.39	High Top Shoes \$4.95
Dress Hose Black and Brown 4c	Tuf-wear Suits \$4.85
Arrow Stiff Collars 5c	Woolen Underwear \$1.69 See This!

MEN'S WEAR
Money-Saving Cash Store For Men
Corner Adams and Elm
La Grande

Joel's

The wholesale house of Allen & Lewis, La Grande, announce new policy—starting the New Year. They are eliminating all unnecessary overhead and handing this saving to their customers. We in turn are passing this saving on to you. We are a service store—giving credit to all who are responsible. Losses in our credits are so small that last year it was less than one-tenth of one per cent. Our customers do not pay this. Our method of doing business, quick turnover and low overhead enable us to serve our customers more reasonable than any other service store in La Grande.

Start the New Year right by opening an account at Joel's.

Potatoes, per hundred	\$1.75
Also	\$2.00
4 lbs. large fancy prunes	41c
2 lbs. pop corn	25c
3 med. grapefruit 24c; 4 large	48c

Next Week Features
Campbell's Tomato Soup, a can 9c
Gold Medal Mayonnaise, qt. 69c
Butter, 2 lb. roll 98c
Processed Eggs, every one guaranteed, per dozen 29c
Baby Shoe Peg Corn, per can 19c
A Happy and Prosperous New Year