BUSINESS VOLUME RETAIL LUMBER FIRMS IS LARGE

Two Comparatively New Companies Now Operating in La Grande

BOTH SELL LOCAL LUMBER PRODUCTS

Van Petten Gets Grande Ronde Retail Department — Pratt Company Growing Rapidly.

The only two retail lumber yards in La Grande—the Claude C. Pratt Lumber company and the Van Petten Lumber company — are comparatively new in the city, the Pratt company being a little more than three years old and the Van Petten company having been here just one year.

The retail yards now owned by the Van Petten company, however, were located here for many years previous to that time, but were owned by the Grande Ronde Lumber company for 12 years up to last September. The yards were under the management of John Stoddard the last four years of that time.

Besides owning the retail yards here E. O. Van Petten, who makes his headquarters at Ontario, owns similar businesses at Pendleton, Adrian and Ontario, Ore., Payette and New Plymouth, Idaho, and Clarkston and Sunnyside, Wash. Mr. Van Petten has been in the lumber business for more than 19 years. His first retail yards were located at Pendleton, and since then the others have been established from time to time, the one here being the last added to the list.

Leonard Local Manager

H. J. Leonard is manager of the company here, and in addition to him there are five employes working for the company.

The retail yards occupy a large section of ground on Greenwood street, next to the O.-W. R. and N. railroad, making it very convenient in shipping in and out of La Grande. Much of the material bought by the company here is handled at Elgin, Enterprise, Wallowa and other Wallowa and Union county points. It is sold to these places wholesale and is sent to them by train. Building paper, roofing, wall board, hardwood flooring and bricks are some of the principal things which are sold wholesale. The company does all of its own delivering within the city, using trucks for this purpose.

Everything required to build a house, with the exception of the plumbing and heating equipment, is obtainable from the Van Petten Lumber company yards. In addition to all kinds of lumber—most of which are bought from the local lumber mills, the best grade of which is the Ponderosa pine—hardwood flooring, wall board, roofing, doors and windows, shingles, etc., the company also sells a complete line of paints and varnishes, builders hardware, and all other things that are necessary in building a house.

Several Departments

The lumber yard is divided into departments and each of the various things handled are in a separate department. Everything kept at the retail yards is under cover, there being several sheds in addition to the larger buildings. The large stock of builders hardware and paints and varnishes is found in the main room of the building, which also houses the office of the lumber company.

Materials handled by the lumber company are received in carload lots and about four carloads of shingles are carried in stock at all times. In addition to the regular shingles asphalt shingles are also carried. Bricks are also received in carload lots, two and three carloads being disposed of in one weeks time, with about 14,000 bricks to the carload. The company furnished bricks for the new Orsamia hotel here and also for the new building now under construction by the Eastern Oregon Light and Power company.

Mr. Van Petten, owner of the company, has been in Eastern Oregon for about 15 years and during that time has been prominent in the upbuilding and promotion of this section of the state.

The Pratt Company

Probably no other business in the city of La Grande has made so rapid a growth as the Claude C. Pratt Lumber company during its three years and four months in La Grande. Mr. and Mrs. Pratt came to La Grande three years ago last month expecting to build a few houses here. Mr. Pratt was located at Centralia, Wash., before that time, where he was employed in carpenter work. With them they brought to La Grande their family, which includes seven children of their own and two of Mrs. Pratt's nieces, who have their home with them.

A carload of lumber was shipped to La Grande from Puget sound for the construction of the houses, and some additional lumber was purchased locally. When one small house had been built, so much of the lumber had been sold that not even enough was left to build a garage.

Early Difficulties

The capital of the Pratt Lumber company at that time amounted to [illegible] of borrowed money. When all of the lumber was gone Mr. Pratt wrote to the company which he had purchased it from and asked that he be extended credit on another carload but his request was refused. He did not give up, however, and answered back with a long letter pleading with the company that he be trusted with another carload of lumber, and it was not long before the second carload was received. This was soon sold and the money was on route for a third carload.

A site for a lumber yard was the next thing in question, and it was not long until the yard was opened on what is known as the Tom Moore property, just across the street from where the Pratt Lumber company now stands at 1502 Cove avenue. The old barn on the property there was used to store the lumber and the old house was made into an office and dwelling.

Within a few months time the company had outgrown these quarters and the grounds where the lumber yards are now located were purchased by paying $50 down and the remainder in monthly installments. The yards are 400 feet long and at the back are 200 feet wide.

As fast as the company received money for the material sold it was put into La Grande property and several houses have been constructed and sold on the installment plan, 19 of which are being paid for at present and others are now under construction.

Cash Sales $10,000 Monthly

Cash sales of the company at the present time amount to about $10,000 monthly.

A complete line of building material is handled by the company, including wall paper, paints and oil, builders hardware, roofing, doors and windows and many other things, in addition to wood and coal. Practically all of the lumber handled by the company has been purchased from the Mt. Emily Lumber company mill since it started to operate here, and is delivered directly from the mill to the buyer.

An electrical powered cabinet shop is also found at the lumber yards, where window frames, cupboards, etc., are made. This addition was made to the business about a year and a half ago.

In addition to the cabinet shop there are several other buildings, including a storage building, a roofing warehouse, sash and door department, wall paper and builders hardware house, paint house and three lumber sheds, besides the office building.

An average of 12 men are employed at the yards during the entire year and that number is increased at times and lessened during the months when business is dull.

The business has been developing from year to year and new improvements have been made at various times. Paint was added to the other things sold about two years ago and last year approximately 6,000 gallons were disposed of. This spring wire fencing, machinery and a few other things were added to the stock, but the company is now busy cleaning up on these things and will carry only builders goods from now on.

Mr. Pratt has been much impressed with the Grande Ronde valley ever since he has made his home here during which time he has watched the marked progress of La Grande from a town to a metropolitan city.

ON DEPOT STREET

The above business buildings, located on Depot street between Adams and Washington avenues, are among the most attractive in the city. At the right is the Foley-Bowry building, housing the L. & L. Drug store, which fronts on Adams avenue. The new Oregon Hardware and Implement company building is next. The J. C. Penney company store occupies the lower floor of the two-story building and the upper floor is in apartments. The Modern Laundry building on the corner is occupied by the laundry and also The Wardrobe, a tailoring shop. One the next corner is the beautiful Elks temple, erected here a few years ago by the La Grande B. P. O. Elks lodge No. 433.

America Cited As 'Horrible Example'

LONDON, (AP)—Lord Dawson of Penn, personal physician to King George and the Prince of Wales, sees in the United States a "horrible example" of what prohibition can do.

"I have never seen in recent years drunkenness of such a terrible character as in America," he told the House of Lords in the course of a speech in which he opposed a bill proposed by the prohibition party which would put local option laws into effect.

"You will see, as I have seen, far less drunkenness in this country than in America," he said. "British people are becoming more sober."

Capitol Bath Tubs Populist Survival

TOPEKA, Kas., (AP)—Bath tubs, installed in the office suites of the governor, the secretary of state and the state treasurer at the Kansas statehouse when the Populists were in power a third of a century ago, are still kept clean and polished by janitors.

But they are never used, for since the Populists went out of power plumbing facilities have been extended to all the houses in Topeka.

Frank J. Ryan, present secretary of state, chided the Populist administration 20 years ago because use of the bath tubs was abandoned. He is now nearing his fifth year as secretary of state and has not yet bathed in the tub.

Practically all misunderstandings are caused by people who don't understand they don't understand.

It's usually the girl who never had a proposal who boasts of having jilted a number of men.

ICE BUSINESS IS SURE OF FUTURE

Two Companies Here Optimistic; Ice Is Made From Well Water

La Grande pioneers, in reminiscence, recall the days of cooler cellars and ice cream-less summers. Today, two ice companies, doing an annual business of approximately 8,000 tons, dispell all need of such inconveniences and deprivations. Ice has become a necessity to the modern city industries—its creameries, fruit companies, wholesale and retail food businesses—and La Grande is no exception to the rule.

Since the innovation of organized ice business in the latter part of the 19th century, previous to which ice was secured with difficulty from the river mill pond, the business has had a steady constant growth.

50 Per Cent Increase

In the past two years alone business has increased 50 per cent. In 1925, a radical change was made in the industry when the use of natural ice was entirely discontinued and the Grande Ronde Packing and Ice plant became the sole ice manufacturers of the city. A modern plant with a 10-ton capacity is used in the production of ice from the water of the Grande Ronde company's artesian well, located in the company's packing plant on Jefferson and Chestnut. The Pure Water and Ice company buys the ice for the manufacturing company, both to retail customers and to the other ice company, the Young Brothers.

Senior Firm

The senior ice firm of the city is the Young Brothers company which has been in the business since 1910, when Fred A. Young, now of Southern Oregon, opened, on a comparative modest scale, an ice business, using natural ice taken from the Grande Ronde river and storing it during the summer in an adjoining ice house. In 1917, Frank, the elder of the two present owners, took over the business, which had enjoyed a rapid growth since its introduction seven years previously. Cecil Young joined his brother in 1919, forming the partnership which exists today. In 1925 use of the natural ice plant was discontinued and the company began using the Grande Ronde Meat company product. Almost simultaneously it purchased the Harvey and Elledge feed company and began in industry which has, in the time elapsing, increased five times over.

An adequate warehouse for the fuel and feed is located in back of the company offices on Jefferson and Elm. Three trucks are necessary to cover the daily ice route while the company forces include three men employees and an office girl.

To Build Offices

"Business has never been better than it has this year," the Young brothers declare. "Our annual figures substantiate the statement that our business has enjoyed a constant development. Plans for the future of the company include the erection of a new office building within about the next year and the installation of a modern set of scales this fall."

The Bush Company

J. W. Bush, owner of the Pure Water and Ice company, is a veteran in the ice and creamery business, having been connected with creameries in La Grande and other cities for 46 years. His associations here stretch over a period of 21 years, during the major part of which he has been owner of or associated with the Blue Mountain Creamery company.

Mr. Bush has been engaged in his present business for nearly four years, during which time he has doubled the original capacity of the firm. Mr. Bush employs two trucks and has an office force of three men and one girl. During the period of Mr. Bush's business associations here he has not only witnessed but participated in the development of the ice industry, from the days when it was a "sideline" business which could be cared for with a tri-week wagon route, to the present day when five trucks are necessary to carry on the heavy business amounting to 20 tons daily.

Good Future

"I believe in the continued future of the ice business," declared Mr. Bush. "As the city grows and its industries develop, so will the business increase and prosper as it has done heretofore."

A SMALLER RESIDENCE

In addition to the many large, fine homes recently built in La Grande are scores of smaller residence buildings, four- and five-room homes. The above residence, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Skiff, is on Oak street between M and N in a residential district which has developed rapidly in the last two years, several new residences being constructed since that time.

Lower Milk Loss By Cooling Vats

"Keep milk cool!"

Warm containers, or milk that is not sufficiently cool when placed in market cans, may lead to heavy financial loss by spoilage.

County agricultural agents warn against the danger of leaving filled milk cans unprotected from the sun. They suggest that wherever possible, milk ready for the market should be kept in cool water until time for delivery. Cement vats, filled with fresh, changing water from a pump or spring, afford an economical means of keeping market milk cool.

OREGON PEOPLE CLEAR UP DEBTS

Records Show They Owe Banks $11,139,872 Less Than a Year Ago.

PORTLAND, Aug. 31 (AP)—Oregon residents have $3,374,474 less money in the banks on deposit than they had a year ago, but on the other hand they owe the banks $11,139,872 less than they did a year ago. This is shown in a statement recently issued by F. C. Bramwell, state superintendent of banks. The figures given are for June 30.

Total deposits in the state on that date are shown as $293,155,-[illegible], compared with $296,526,521 on the same date the year before.

On March 23 deposits in all Oregon banks totalled $284,562,426, so that the June 30 figures represent a substantial gain over the preceding quarter.

Loans and discounts on June 30 were $166,025,186, compared with $177,165,058.

Savings deposits showed a gain of $1,775,485, the total for the state on June 30 being $116,858,-710 as against $115,083,295 the preceding year.

Serve Rattlesnake In Malheur County

VALE—The west is still wild and wooly!

To substantiate this statement, George Thayer and Dalman Humphrey, members of a government survey party on the Vale project, dined on rattlesnake served au gratin, for breakfast. The story goes that the boys killed a snake while on the job near Harper. A dare resulted. The snake was skinned, cleaned and taken to the cook at Harper. Excitement prevailed and it is said that the boys passed a sleepless night.

But rattlesnake was served for breakfast, beautifully browned and coiled artistically on a platter. A bite or two sufficed, considering how long the snake turned out to be.

There are some things that come only once in a lifetime—being born and being buried, for instance.

LA GRANDE'S FINEST DISPLAY

Quality Apparel

FOR MEN, YOUNG MEN AND BOYS

Quality! Service! Goodwill!

THE strongest links in the chain of building a successful business is Quality Service and Good-will. During our many years of business in La Grande, it has been our policy to give the utmost satisfaction to our customers—always Quality goods plus Service brings Good-will.

INSISTENSE to always maintain Quality and Service has built up for this store the good reputation it now enjoys—La Grande's finest display of nationally known and advertised lines of wearables always found here moderately priced for men, young men and boys.

MICHAELS STERN & CO. clothing, Middishade Suits, Hardeman and McKibben Hats, Manhattan and E and W Shirts, Cheney Neckwear, Arrow Collars, Allen A Hose, Allen A and Hatchway Underwear, Jantzen Swimming Suits, Marx and Hass Trousers, Nettleton, Edmonds and other makes of fine footwear, Multnomah Luggage, Pendleton Indian Robes and Blankets, Standard Makes Work Clothing, Boys' Perfection Clothing, Home Run Shirts, Black Cat Hosiery, Spur Neckwear, Star Brand Footwear, Etc., always up to the minute in style.

CLINT'S CLOTHIERY

"THE STORE WITH A CONSCIENCE"

Men's and Boys' Outfitters