

PROSPEROUS YEAR FOR FARMERS OF THIS VALLEY

CONDITIONS VERY GOOD OVER MOST OF GRANDE RONDE

Some Small Sections Suffer But Yields Are Far Above Average Generally; Cherries Injured by Winter Freeze; Grain, Hay, Potatoes Apples and Stock Very Profitable

T. J. Scroggin, vice president, United States National Bank: Crops in the valley are in wonderful condition—prospects were never better in the history of the county. There is also an excellent prospect for good crop prices. Although there are a few exceptions, agriculture this year is prosperous and it should be reflected in fine business conditions the balance of the year.

H. E. Coolidge, cashier, La Grande National Bank: The average crop in this valley is the best we've had for many years. Hay is way above average. One section on the Sand Ridge was affected by early frosts and some other land that has previously given bumper yields, has the appearance of being worn out with continuous wheat crops and needing rotation, but the crop average is high. Potatoes look fine. Five years ago we shipped in one carload of seed potatoes. This year we couldn't supply the demand with five cars of the certified seed.

Sherwood Williams, president, Equitable Savings Bank: From every indication the year 1927 should be a very prosperous year with almost universally good crops and every indication of good prices for every commodity produced in this county. Farmers and fruit growers should make money with a bumper wheat crop, grain and hay crops much better than in past years and with prospects for an apple crop that has not been equaled since 1921. In fact, not excelling that year. This should be one of the biggest years financially in the history of the valley.

Despite many apparently discouraging circumstances and conditions the season of 1927 promises to stand out as a very prosperous year in the annals of Grande Ronde valley and Union county. The outlook for crops and prices of all crops, including fruit, is bright. The weather, together with the unusual amount of rainfall, were all responsible in a measure, for damage to berries, fruits and other crops which are grown so extensively in this locality.

Cherries. This year's cherry crop, compared to other years when a shipment of around 50 car loads would be made, may be called a failure. Winter injury, frosts and poor pollinating weather are given as the reasons for the failure.

Berries. The berry crop was right around or slightly below normal, red raspberries, black and strawberries.

Prunes, Pears. There will be no prunes this year in Union county, the crop being reported as a complete loss.

Apples. It is reported that conditions this year are better for the apple crop than in years, and they are expected to get more for their crop. The maximum crop for this county has been set at two cars and is an extraordinary prospect that the maximum will be reached.

Hays and Grasses. One of the most outstanding things in the way of crops in this county this year, has been the hay crops and the improvement of pastures—said to have been the best year experienced since 1921. The alfalfa crop this year has been exceptionally good.

Sheep. The grain crops look like bumper crops. In many cases in the valley, winter wheat did not produce so much of a yield as the farmers had expected. The blame for this is quite generally placed on frost injury and too much wet weather. The last three weeks of hot weather just preceding the coming of harvest and caused a withering in the crop. The heat coupled with the frequent north winds have had a harmful effect.

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Potatoes. There is good promise in this year's potato crop providing there is late August or early September rains. The potato average this year is probably 15 per cent greater than any previous year with about 1,200 acres planted to them. Six cars of the certified seed was brought into the county for this season's planting.

Forest Receipts. Total receipts of \$1,209,173 are reported by the forest service from the 22 national forests of Oregon and Washington during the fiscal year 1927, which ended June 30 this year.

Poultry. There is very strong competition for poultry in the valley. The price of chickens has not reached any great proportions in this county. The extreme winter weather here has not been as conducive to poultry raising as in the other mentioned locality.

Dairying. There is a decided tendency toward increased dairymen in the county to buy more cows and increase the size of their herds. This is said to be due mainly to the amount of feed on hand.

Stock. There is a decided tendency toward increased dairymen in the county to buy more cows and increase the size of their herds.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB MEMBERS AND PRIZE-WINNING STOCK



PRIZE WINNING WHEAT PRODUCED

Hugh Huron, of Imbler Wins Many Awards with Bushel of Hybrid 128

No wheat story is complete without including in it the story of the prize winning bushel of wheat produced last year by Hugh Huron of Imbler. Mr. Huron exhibited the wheat which was a bushel of Hybrid No. 128, first at the county fair at Elgin and won first place. It was exhibited a second time at the Enterprise fair winning first place there. Later he took the wheat to the International at Portland and was awarded first prize there also.

The remarkable thing about this particular wheat is the manner in which it was grown. Mr. Huron tells the story. He had had a field which was badly infested with morning glories. It has been subjected to various treatments and finally one year, a plot 70 feet across was staked off and given three and one half tons of salt. Then the ground laid bare for four or five years. It was very stony and baked hard. However, there must have been some element which the salt supplied. For Mr. Huron, the following year, that is after the four or five years had elapsed, planted wheat, Hybrid No. 128. There grew up from that field and that salt one of the finest pieces of wheat he has ever grown.

An amusing incident occurred in connection with this wheat which ought well to be related here. Not long since, County Agent Harry Avery was over in the vicinity of Pendleton and a wheat grower there asked him to identify a certain piece of wheat which he was growing as something of an experiment. He told Mr. Avery, rather enthusiastically, that he was impressed with the bushel of wheat from this county which had been given first place at Portland and so he had sowed a handful of it to try for himself. It is reported that he was a little discouraged when Mr. Avery told him the variety was some other than Hybrid No. 128.

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IRRIGATION MOVE GAINS HEADWAY

Is One of Most Discussed Subject Among Farmers of This County

The question of irrigation in Union county is one which has had the interest and attention of residents of the county for several years, and in all one of the much discussed subjects among farmers of the county. A few years ago, a group of men who had a special interest in irrigation and a conviction that such a movement would contribute much to the productive power of the valley, perfected an organization, which still exists. A reservoir was planned and other steps taken looking toward commencing irrigation.

As with all new projects, opinions have varied, and those who are better informed in the matter, feel that the question will not be definitely settled for some time to come at least they feel confident that irrigation on what might be called a wholesale scale will not be in preparation in this county for some years.

Some Agent Avery is a firm believer in irrigation, and that plenty of water regularly applied is a great benefit to the land and the crops produced. Under present conditions however he favors the plan of individually operated irrigating systems, rather than those of large propositions, such as the reservoir project. It is his opinion that the physical character of the valley does not lend itself well to the irrigation theory or plan which operates on the big scale. He points out the fact that the natural drainage in this general locality is not right for such a project and unless the proper kind of drainage is secured it may be possible to do some damage by artificial irrigation as a goodly amount of water regularly applied is a great benefit to the land and the crops produced.

An irrigation demonstration is being held on the Hugh Huron farm near Imbler, under the combined auspices of different organizations and groups interested in the best things for the valley, among them being the experiment station and the county chamber of commerce. On the Huron or Imbler farm has been set aside a 12-acre section on which has been planted a dozen or more varieties of farm products. The object is to ascertain how these different crops will be helped or hindered by such regular application of water, and if benefited, how much.

The demonstration was started last year, and it was found that some crops were particularly benefited by the use of the water. With the wheat, however, it was reported that the yield was greater than that of the untreated plot. The first year of the experiment may be this year is a question, as there has been some difficulty with the water pipes and the project has not gone along as smoothly as it would have been without these interruptions.

Organized Each Spring. The clubs are usually organized early in the spring and vary on through the spring and summer months. The executive committee of the clubs are the annual officers and are elected by the members. The clubs are organized in the form of a club and are organized in the form of a club and are organized in the form of a club.

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FERTILE SOIL ONE REASON FOR FAME OF GRANDE RONDE

Supports a Total of 1,218 Well Kept, Productive Farms with Total Acreage of Around 420,000; Valuation of Land and Buildings Placed at Nearly \$20,000,000 by Survey

The famous Grande Ronde valley in eastern Oregon has been very generally referred to in all sorts of printed material, circulated far and wide for educational as well as advertising purposes, within the past few years. That descriptive is coming to be used with considerable frequency, and that the phrase is fast becoming a household word for our beautiful valley agree. It is certain, city and country residents alike aver, that there are characteristics about the valley and Union county which have brought and will continue to bring no little fame.

Perhaps because of its natural beauty and ideal location, the Grande Ronde valley has become famous. A valley having a width of about 15 miles and a length nearly double that— it lies in the heart of the always beautiful Blue mountains. Its climate—healthy, invigorating at an altitude of 2782 feet—is an attraction of itself.

It has become famous perhaps because of its high productivity. With an apple crop this year which will find its way early to the markets clear around the world—having been sought early by world buyers because of the fine flavor and peculiar texture, which guarantee long distance shipping and wonderful keeping qualities—the Grande Ronde valley will become more famous. Producing cherries that have won, justly, world prizes and which have never failed to find a market where the best was demanded, the Grande Ronde valley has acquired fame.

Fertile Soil. The high fertility of its soil which has produced annually great crops of the cereals, especially wheat, has attached fame to the name of the valley, among those to whom this line of industry appeals. In fact, the character of the soil, climatic conditions, amount of rainfall, etc., all conspire to make this valley, the "largest single area of highly fertile land in the Pacific Northwest"—a veritable garden spot.

It is also true that while in this valley and this county, there are many who follow some special line in their farming activities, yet the valley is above all else, the place for the man who believes in diversity of crops, and divides his time and attention among a number of farm activities.

According to the last United States census, there are in Union county, farms of larger or smaller proportions to the number of 1,218, and these include an acreage of around 420,000 acres. If these farms were of uniform size, each farmer in the county would have to his credit not far from a half section of land. The total farm population at that time was 5,654, of whom 3,724 were over ten years of age and able to contribute labor to the work on the farm.

Valuation. The total valuation placed upon the land and buildings was placed at \$19,239,525, and of this sum, the buildings alone were worth, according to the report, \$2,200,000. This figure would make the value of the buildings on the average farm to be rather low, or average farm, worth \$1,800. This would be corrected when it is found that about 24 1/2 per cent of the total farm acreage in the county is found in farms containing more than 1,000 acres and another 25 per cent in farms of between 500 and 1,000 acres.

It is interesting to note, in this connection, that of the 420,000 acres of farm land, about 2,000 acres are in farms of 20 acres or less; about 4,300 acres in farms of 25 to 50 acres; about 8,300 acres in farms containing 50 to 100 acres; 174 acres require about 25,000 of the total acreage; those from 175 to 500 acres, 104,000 acres; those from 500 to 1,000 acres, 102,000 acres; and those in farms of 1,000 acres or more for a total acreage of around 175,000 acres.

The total valuation of land and buildings as given of \$19,239,525, the division among the interest of various states is rather interesting. The farms whose content is more than 20 acres are valued at \$19,762,225; 20 to 49 acres \$4,444,000; 50 to 99 acres \$3,981,000; 100 to 174 acres \$1,771,400; 175 to 500 acres \$2,827,600; 500 to 999 acres \$4,452,400; 1,000 acres and over \$4,451,125.

Farm Population. The matter of the population on the farms in Union county is quite a study, too. There was at the beginning of 1925 a total farm population of 5,654, of whom 2,061 were males over ten years of age and 1,673 were females of the same age. The rural population was all white, with one exception, two farmers have had in their family a negro. The farmers have adopted the practice of dairy irrigation of alfalfa at the suggestion of the agent. One farmer modified his potato growing methods with the use of irrigation this year at the agent's suggestion. His

Great Progress Made in Boys' and Girls' Club Work in This County

One of the most outstanding features of the work done under the supervision of the county agent and also the county superintendent of schools, is that being done for the boys and girls of Union county through the Boys' and Girls' Clubs. The instruction and training in the various fields of useful knowledge, and the bringing of excellent results, which real worth may not be fully realized for perhaps years. While definite results may not be seen in all instances now, leaders are confident that results will be seen and much good accomplished as the years come and go.

As there is no appropriation for the work, and as there is no of, the club members in this county, the work at present is divided and conducted by the county superintendent of schools, H. A. Sayre, and County Agent Harry Avery, who share the responsibility connected with the work. The club members are the boys and girls of the county, who are under Mr. Avery's supervision. Mr. Sayre says that the great need of the club is for some one who has the time and means and is interested in the project to take over the direct management of the work. He says an appropriation for car expenses would be a great assistance. The different groups are under the immediate direction of a club leader, some of whom are interested in the particular line followed, and who is willing to devote the time to the instruction of the club members. The club work is the