

Ronde river near where the stream enters the valley. The river has a considerable volume and fall enough to admit of water being used three or four times within a mile of its course. At Oro Dell, about a mile from the city, there is an excellent water power, but a mere fraction of which is utilized. It is a valuable site for factories. There are now twelve saw mills within a few miles of LaGrande, all in the country legitimately tributary to the city, which is the base of supply and the point from which the business is conducted. These mills are all in the hills to the westward of the city. A lumber syndicate from Wisconsin is constructing a large saw mill within three miles of LaGrande, where preparations are being made for an extensive manufacturing plant, including saw mill, shingle and lath mill, planing mill and sash, door and blind factory. This plant will be ready for work the coming fall and have a capacity for manufacturing one hundred thousand feet of lumber a day. It will employ two hundred and fifty men. This will raise the daily manufacturing capacity of the saw mills in the LaGrande district to two hundred and fifty thousand feet. The timber belt tributary to this city extends back in the mountains a distance of about a hundred miles and most of it is accessible immediately. Instead of attempting the somewhat difficult task of getting the timber from the forests to the city before it is manufactured, it is found more economical to erect the mills near the timber and float the lumber out by means of flumes or draw it with teams to suitable points for shipment. The mountain streams generally have a too rapid descent to make them satisfactory for driving logs. In some cases it is found advisable to bring the logs from the mountains before they are sawed, a great deal depending on the character of the land from which the timber is cut and the location of the manufacturing plant. The vast timber supply lying immediately to the west of the Grande Ronde valley affords a broad field for the operation of saw mills and all manufactories of wood. There is an abundance of wood of the best quality, never failing and easily developed water power and shipping facilities to a greedy market are good.

Besides the twelve saw mills mentioned above, La Grande has car shops of the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company, two brick kilns, a sash and door factory, a creamery recently constructed, a brewery, and a grain elevator just being completed having a capacity of one hundred thousand bushels. It is a divisional point on the railroad, and one of the largest shipping stations on the line. Besides the larger portion of the Grande Ronde valley, which pours its products into La Grande for transportation, the Indian valley and Elk flat country below, as well as a

considerable part of the Wallowa valley, are also drained in the same direction. The chief shipments are grain, live stock, wool and lumber, and the gross amount is prodigious. The actual bulk shipments of produce from La Grande last year aggregated twenty-six hundred car loads, of which one thousand cars were grain, six hundred cars railroad ties, four hundred cars live stock, two hundred and fifty cars lumber, one hundred cars each of hay and flour, fifty cars wool. The grain, live stock and wool are raw products of the country that might be utilized to much better advantage by the building up of manufactories. Flouring mills, creameries, cheese factories, meat packing houses, tanneries and woolen mills may be mentioned as among those manufacturing institutions for which the valley is best suited by reason of having abundant supplies of raw materials and favorable conditions in which to operate. At the present time LaGrande offers special inducements to secure the location of a good flouring mill or woolen mill in or near the city. Parties giving proper assurance of building and operating enterprises of this kind will have no trouble in getting bonuses from the business men that will make it an object to invest there. There is no doubt that the business would, in itself, prove profitable.

LaGrande is an unusually attractive place for people from the east. Those accustomed to the Mississippi valley, or even the rocky hills of New England, do not often fancy locating in a country where they can not see green grass throughout the summer season. One of the things they are seeking to escape is the drouth that so frequently carries devastation to the erstwhile promising fields of the region from which they have fled. It is difficult to convince those people that there is much merit in sage brush or bunch grass land, even if irrigation is easily obtained. They want a country that has moisture of its own—where some of the same grasses and flowers they have seen wither in the scorching sun of their eastern homes flourish through the entire season, and where the same crops they have fruitlessly toiled over never fail but ordinarily yield results hardly dreamed of before. The very objections the eastern farmer is fleeing from he finds to be absent from the Grande Ronde valley, and, naturally enough, that seems to be the place he is looking for. But not everyone is informed of the merits of that section. Too many easterners have but a very vague idea of the Pacific slope. Comparatively few of those who pass through the Grande Ronde valley are induced to make a close examination of the country; but those who do stop are not in a hurry to leave. As a location for farming, stock raising or manufacturing it is equaled in but few places in the world.