

UNION ASSESSED AT \$7,000,000

COUNTY'S VALUES INCREASE HALF A MILLION

Assessor Has Footed Up the Tax Rolls and Finds Healthy Advance in the County's Assessment—Much More Improved Property Than Last Year.

The La Grande Observer says of the Union county assessment for this year:

Union county's assessed valuation for 1908 is almost \$7,000,000, according to grand totals that have been compiled in the assessor's office this week from assessments turned in by the deputy assessors in all the districts of the county.

There are several assessments in La Grande that have not been made for the reason that the property owners are out of the city. When they return, the assessment roll for the entire county will be complete.

County Is Richer.
By a half million dollars the county is richer than last year. There is, technically speaking, more than a half million dollars additional wealth in the county, because horses and household goods are assessed lower than last year. Then, too, there were fewer notes assessed this year than last. The only thing that is assessed higher this year is timber land. There is a large figure in timber land and this has in a measure helped to swell the total assessment figures.

The increase in valuation is largely for improved property. The deputy assessors found improvement rampant in all parts of the county and houses and buildings of all descriptions that last year were valued as ordinary property have this year been improved to such an extent that the owners will be required to pay at first-class property rates.

It is seldom that the county's wealth has increased so much in one year as it has since the 1907 assessment.

VALUES INCREASED SIX HUNDRED FOLD

Something of the enormous increase in land values in the cities of the inland empire may be gleaned from the following interesting illustration from the Walla Walla Bulletin:

Paying over 612 times as much as his parents sold the same land for 43 years ago, Harry H. Reynolds yesterday bought the lot on the southwest corner of Spokane and Main streets for the sum of \$20,400, says the Bulletin.

This is one-third of the block which his parents, Allen and Lettice J. Reynolds, sold 43 years ago for \$100. The lot purchased yesterday has 102 feet frontage on Main street and 85 feet on Spokane street.

The sale of this property shows the remarkable increase in values that Walla Walla lands have experienced. The whole block sold for \$100 43 years ago, \$6000 seven years ago, and now one-third of it sells for \$20,400.

At this rate the whole lot would be worth \$61,200. The buildings on it are but shacks, hence the only value is in the land. This is an average increase of over \$1400 per year for the 43 years. The property was sold by Joseph Tachl, who bought the whole block seven years ago for \$6000 and has made a neat little sum out of his part of the transaction.

Mr. Reynolds has not decided yet what will be placed on the block. It is likely that a substantial business block will be erected in the not far distant future, which will be a great improvement to East Main street.

INHOSPITABLE PORTLAND.

Stranger Evicted from Union Depot at Midnight.

Portland's inhospitable side is shown by the following communication in the Oregon Daily Journal from an eastern Oregon man:

To the Editor of The Journal—On my way from San Francisco to a town in eastern Oregon I arrived in Portland a little short of funds. I decided to await my train till 7 o'clock this morning in the depot.

But imagine my surprise when shortly after 12 o'clock I was told to get out; that no one was allowed in the depot; that no more trains were due, etc., and that "he" was instructed to put all out. So I was evicted into the cold and darkness. A stranger in a strange city and short of funds.

I have recently been compelled to remain several hours during the night both at Pasco and Umatilla, and was allowed to remain in the depots. But at Portland! The small city of Port-

land! I must be evicted lest they might shelter some hobo over night. I had on decent clothes, with white shirt, collar and cuffs and also had two grips, and I don't believe I looked at all like a hobo. Yet I had to get out.

It does seem to me an injustice and an outrage that Portland can't have a depot for its traveling public to remain in over night if they are short of funds, or if they have a family with them and it would work a hardship on them to go to one of the high priced hotels. And the cheaper ones are not always desirable even if one has the wherewithal for a bed.

Umatilla, Pasco, Portland. These three—but the least of these is Portland. Sincerely, an humble minister of the Gospel.

JAPS BUY LAND.

Hood River Orchard Tracts Are Taken by Brown Men.

According to Mr. Yasui, a Japanese, who has opened a real estate office at Hood River, many of his countrymen are so impressed with the Oregon country that they have forever turned their eyes away from the land of the cherry blossom and wish to become American property holders and citizens, says an item from Hood River. Already several of the orientals have the knowledge that will enable them to grow Newtons and Spitenbergs to perfection.

"No more we want to make money and go back to Japan," said Mr. Yasui today. "My countrymen, many of them have come to stay. They buy the ranch at Hood River and the Dalles and raise the apples and vegetables. You notice several Japanese have already bought ranches at Hood River and we have formed the corporation to buy 1400 acres near The Dalles up Mill creek. Here we raise the peach, cherry, vegetable and at Hood River we raise the apple."

During the past month several Japanese merchants have opened stores at Hood River and are doing a thriving business with their many countrymen who are scattered throughout the valley. In the Mount Hood country there is quite a colony, some of whom are accompanied by their wives, and the first Japanese baby to see the light of day in the new country was recently born there.

INDIANS GET BOOZE.

Portland Saloonmen Suspected of "Bootlegging" on Siletz.

Federal authorities suspect certain Portland saloon dealers of furnishing Indians on the Siletz reservation with whiskey and arrests may follow an investigation that is being made, says the Oregonian. It is charged that liquor dealers in this city regularly ship intoxicants to redskins, who carry it into the reservation.

Under the federal statutes it is a crime to ship liquor into an Indian reservation, but it is said the saloon dealers avoid violating the law technically by shipping the liquor to Toledo, which is outside the reservation and from which it is carried onto the government's land by the Indians who receive it at the railroad station.

Assistant United States Attorney Evans yesterday filed with United States Commissioner Cannon two complaints, each charging Warren Brainard, an Indian, with unlawfully carrying liquor on the Siletz reservation. An officer has gone to Lincoln county to make the arrest. Brainard is one of the Indians who is said to obtain his whiskey from saloonmen in this city.

Wheat Yielding 40 Bushels.

The best wheat yield yet reported for Washington county comes from the George R. Bagley ranch, five miles northwest of town, says a Hillsboro item. Forty bushels an acre for a field of 20 acres was the net result.

This is on the farm which has been used for irrigation experiments by A. P. Stover of the government irrigation department. The grain, however, was not grown on irrigated land. The average yield of winter wheat so far as reported from over the county, is about 25 bushels an acre.

The new town of Roosevelt on the North Bank road is said to be forging ahead rapidly. Ground has just been broken for a school house. Prohibition prevails.

COFFEE

Nothing does more for a grocer, one way or the other, than coffee. He must sell poor; (he needn't sell it to you) it is good that makes him.

Your grocer returns your money if you don't like Schilling's Best; we say him

JAPANESE IN LOSING FIGHT

CHINESE BOYCOTT DOES IRREPARABLE DAMAGE.

Finances of Aggressive Island Kingdom Said to Be in Bad Shape, as Result of Quiet but Effective Boycott by Yellow Race.

That Japan in the space of a few years will find himself ousted from China as the result of a quiet but persistent boycott and intrigue and her trade with that country irrevocably lost is the opinion of T. W. Kingsmill of Shanghai, a recent arrival from the Orient.

Mr. Kingsmill is an authority on matters Oriental, having been connected with the promotion of the harbor, railroad and mining schemes in China during the past 47 years. Mr. Kingsmill has written a number of books on historical subjects and the antiquities of China and is well posted on all matters pertaining to the flowery kingdom.

"The Japanese have by their consummate deceit caused themselves to be disliked and despised by the Chinese," said Mr. Kingsmill. "They have been behaving badly in the Manchurian troubles and they have grown so conceited that they think they could defeat the United States. But their finances are in a fearful state, and if Great Britain were to refrain from her present policy of lending Japan money the latter would soon go to the wall."

"Japan has been trying to work up a revolution, but the Chinese, owing to the education they receive, are not a fighting nation, consequently they are boycotting and intriguing against Japan in a slow but nevertheless sure manner, taking care not to give Japan

open provocation for declaring war, which at present would mean the practical extinction of China as a nation unless the other powers intervened.

"As for the 'battle for the Pacific,' if such a thing should come to pass, Japan would get beaten, for she has not got 'two dollars to rattle on a tombstone.' The Chinese are a more able people than the Japanese, but they are not trained along military lines."

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Idaho Values Increase.

The state board of equalization has received abstracts of assessment valuation from but 18 of the 23 counties, which show an increase amounting to about 30 per cent over last year, and should the belated counties come up to those already at hand the total valuation of all the property in the state for purposes of taxation will amount to \$125,000,000, as compared with \$97,000,000 for 1907, says a Boise dispatch. The board will continue to adjourn from day to day until all returns have been received.

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