

# ONTARIO ARGUS

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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M. E. BAIN,  
Editor and Proprietor

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For the past three years the Argus has labored to get something substantial started in the way of civic improvements and we believe with this issue that the matter is well started and that the next few years will see many improvements. This special issue of the Argus is but an indication of what the women are going to do and they will not be satisfied until every residence has a neat yard and the weeds are removed from all the vacant lots. The lesson will be a valuable one to the coming generation and the impression made on the visitors and home folks will be beneficial in many ways. The first of the year seemed a fitting time to start the movement.

It is remarkable what a difference the calendar makes in our life, and what an amount of sentiment it calls forth. But for the calendar one day would be about the same as another and the first of January would mean no more to us than the first of any other month. But since the calendar has decreed on the authority of the government and scientists that the first of January is the first day of a new year, the day immediately assumes a peculiar importance.

There is no other day quite like it; none that produce the same varying emotions. When the clock strikes the hour of midnight, on December 31, it means the death of one year and the birth of another, and as a consequence our feelings are both regretful and glad, and our thoughts are both retrospective and prospective. We cannot avoid a pang that the old year which meant so much to us is, "like a snowflake in the river, gone forever." Nevertheless we greet the new year joyously and with hope and expectancy, even though the past may with some make the hope a cautious one. Still it exists and with it the truly ambitious person will do his best to realize the plans he has formed.

New Year is also the time of pleasant greetings to others. The wish for a "Happy New Year" is no empty phrase, but a genuine expression of the friendly interest we take in one another. Of course we do not limit our good wishes to the opening days of the year but hope that each day in the whole circle of the year may come laden with blessings.

It is a good thing that we have these special days to relieve the monotony of life and free us from the dull routine of duties in which there is danger of losing ourselves. Were it not for such days as Christmas with its divine message and New Year with its pleasant greetings, our sensibilities would become deadened and we would grow as hard and cold as the yellow gold after which most of us seek.

Readers of the Woman's edition of the Argus, Greeting:  
 The purpose of the New Year edition is first; to record accurately, succinctly, and in simple language, the story not only of past achievement but also of present accomplishment and future possibilities as told in the history of the Snake river valley. The Ontario Woman's club are sincere believers in the three essential elements, earth, air and water; earth, as exemplified in the untold wealth of the doctrine hidden in the rich soil of our bench lands and fruitful valleys; air producing our dry sunny climate which means healthful conditions for all; water which by means of irrigation is the magic key for unlocking wondrous riches to the soil-tiller. They are grateful to Mr. Bain who by his courtesy and generosity, made the expression of their beliefs possible. They also wish to express their appreciation of the sympathy and cooperation they have received from others who share their beliefs and are working for the development of community spirit.

No state, no community, is greater than its people. Mathematically speaking, as human beings we are but an infinitesimal part of the great universe, the magnitude of which we can vaguely guess. As individuals, however, we have an influence that reaches the globe. We

cannot all be a Mozart, a Rubens, a Shakespeare, or a Diarcel, but we can each contribute our share, in our small way, to exalt the state by making the community the better for our having lived in it. We cannot all build battleships or railroads, but we can plant trees and beautify our school grounds and parks. It has been said that if all mankind could be aroused from their habitual lethargy, the world's progress would be phenomenally rapid. Let us, as individuals, resolve to do our part in making the year 1913 a wonderful one, not only in the history of our fertile valley, but also in that of a greater Ontario.

It will be noted with satisfaction that the special articles for this edition are from the pens of Prof. Shaw, dry farming expert; Prof. French, member of Country Life Commission of Idaho, editor, teacher, scholar; Mrs. French, domestic science and physical culture authority; Geo. McKnight, president of Malheur County Wool Growers association; Mrs. Abigail Scott Dunway, representative pioneer woman of Oregon, not only in point of years, but also earliest and most prominent advocate of woman suffrage, and others, all recognized authorities in their special lines.

At this time when "back to the soil" seems almost to have been adopted as the slogan of the American people, we regret that the hundreds of thousands of eastern men, women and children, in the congested districts, crowding one another for elbow room, content with a meager living salary, and those in the rural districts, vainly nourishing a depleted soil in the effort to make it yield a living for themselves and their families, cannot realize the vast and varied natural resources of the western states. Malheur county, Oregon, is but a part of the great Inland Empire, yet, possessing an area of 9784 square miles, is beckoning with alluring promises to those who wish to settle within her gates.

With apologies to Julian Josephson O. Paw's quit workin' at the mill,  
 An' Maw, she's give up washin'  
 An' Jim an' me has follered suit—  
 Lau' sakes! It's just a caution  
 The way thet Paw an' Maw an' c'us  
 Be'n writin' compositions—  
 Sence Mr. Bain tol' Maw about  
 Them Argus Cash Subscriptions!

Their typewriters in ev'ry room—  
 An' we jest keep'em buzzin';  
 They's reams o' paper on the floor,  
 An' reticks by the dozen;  
 Post-master Sproul is out o' stamps,  
 The mall bag needs additions—  
 Sence Mr. Bain tol' Maw about  
 Them Argus Cash Subscriptions!

We're livin' on col' vittles—Maw  
 Ain't got no time fer cookin';  
 Jim's eatin' at a resturant  
 Paw's orful peakid-lookin';  
 The neighbors acts ez if they had  
 Some purty quair suspicions—  
 Sence Mr. Bain tol' Maw about  
 Them Argus Cash Subscriptions!

Reader, you are now beholding  
 History again repeated.  
 Yea, before your eyes unfolding  
 Witness deeds now in the moulding  
 That will have the ancients cheated.

Homer says the Argonauts,  
 They who shipped with Skipper Jason,  
 Bade farewell to sons and daughters  
 And o'er rough, uncharted waters  
 After golden fleece went chasin'.

Till at last the fleece they spotted,  
 Guarded by a fierce old dragon.  
 Him without delay they potted,  
 Sleazed the fleece, and homeward trotted,  
 In their Argus water wagon.

Now that old adventure dimmin'  
 Which was once the poet's rapture  
 See an Argus manned by women,  
 Literary waters swimmin',  
 Setting out the fleece to capture.

Can we overcome resistance?  
 Well, we're honest, brave and plous  
 And any fleece that's in existence,  
 If it comes in striking distance,  
 Has small chance of getting past us.

slaybe, Reader, you feel badly,  
 If we happen to be baggin'  
 Certain fleece you needed sadly,  
 But come across and dot it gladly—  
 Think what happened to the dragon.

### Beautifying the Cemetery.

The burial ground situated just southwest of the city of Ontario, and which serves the residents of the city upon the sad occasions when such a place is needed, was purchased jointly by three of the local fraternal organizations. After the land had been dedicated to this purpose, it became evident that some steps should be taken in the way of planting trees, grass and shrubbery, to make the grounds more beautiful and restful to the eyes of those having occasion to visit them. With this idea in view the Ontario Cemetery Improvement society was organized.

Since its organization, the society has received financial aid from various sources, and has partly supported itself by raising money in such ways as giving public dinners. A number of cork elms have been presented the society for planting along the fence and driveways.

Provision has been made to secure water for irrigating the grounds and full pipe has been laid nearly the full length of the grounds. These can now be watered with the aid of hose and irrigating will be begun in the spring. It is planned to hire a caretaker who will have charge early enough in the season to make the grounds presentable for Decoration day. It cannot be denied that a well-kept cemetery reflects favorably upon the thoughtfulness and better instincts of the inhabitants of a community and the good work should go on.

### History of the Public Library.

It is said that Necessity is Mother of many more children than Invention. Chief among these is "Town Improvement, a winsome creature, ever flirting with Opportunity." For example, in 1906, a group of women of Ontario, wishing for better things than presented themselves at the time, formed themselves into a working body, voluntarily contributed \$55.00, added \$20 from their society's funds and ordered books for that amount. When the books arrived, Mr. L. Adam generously offered the use of a vacant building formerly used as a carpenter shop, supplied them with necessary equipment, the ladies worked with paint brushes, scrubbing brushes, hammers and nails, then opened their little reading room. This was the nucleus of the present Ontario library. Whatever is the result of their efforts, too much praise cannot be given to these pioneers in the uplift movement, who often at the expense of personal comfort and convenience, planned and carried their project into effect. This, however, would have been impossible, except through the generosity of r. Adam, who has for six years, furnished, free of rent, a home for the books.

A year later, the library had grown to the point that it became advisable to separate its funds from those of the Work and Win Club, and three years later, or 1910, the club entered into an agreement with the city council, whereby in consideration of their levying a one mill tax for the maintenance of the library it should "appoint a board of directors for said library in accordance with law, who shall have the sole control and management of said library." This was done in February, 1912, the board consisting of Mrs. L. Adam, Mrs. C. C. Dodge, Mrs. E. M. Gregg, Mrs. Stella Wilson, Mr. E. A. Fraser and Dr. H. H. Whitney assumed control. The ways and means that have been employed to maintain the library have been varied. Two tag days have been observed, teas have been given, book socials held and an annual library ball has been inaugurated. Today as a result of these activities there are 1700 volumes on the shelves and the books of our efficient librarian, Mrs. Stoezel, show there were 6,696 books loaned out the past year. Today the accommodations are very inadequate and plans are under way for the establishment of a Carnegie library in our midst. It is believed that every resident in Ontario feels a personal interest in the library and welcomes eagerly the time when he can point with pride to a beautiful building known as the Carnegie library.

### Local News.

Mr. J. E. Davis, Asst. Supt. of the O. S. L., was in Ontario Monday.

Mrs. J. B. Foreman, of Manhattan, Kansas, is visiting her son, W. W. Foreman.

Miss Anna McGivern visited in Ontario for a few days this week, leaving Tuesday evening for Portland, where she is employed as a teacher in one of the public schools.

C. C. Dodge returned Monday from a three month's absence in Kansas, where he attended his father, S. H. Dodge, who died December 21st.

Mrs. Ida F. Riddle and Miss Louise Riddle of Kuna, spent Christmas week with Mrs. C. C. Dodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Buchanan and Mr. Joe Buchanan of Harney County were in Ontario Monday on their way to La Grande, Oregon, where they were called by a serious illness of their mother.

Mrs. Smith of Portland passed through this city Monday after visiting her daughter, Mrs. M. G. Hope of Vale.

Mrs. John Lowe of Bliss, Idaho and Mrs. E. C. Belknap, of Vernie, Oregon, spent the day Monday with Mrs. H. W. Clement.

Mrs. H. B. Latham of Silverton, Oregon, was a guest at the A. M. Lackey home Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. F. C. Cagle left Tuesday for a short visit at his home in Kimberly, Idaho, and it is rumored that he will not return alone. When asked about this report, Mr. Cagle did not deny it.

Mrs. H. Gebauer left Saturday to join her husband at Enterprise, Oregon, where they expect to make their future home.

Mr. V. P. Brookover, the local express agent, who has been ill for several weeks, resumed his work on Saturday.

A. D. McKenzie of Boise the Idaho and Eastern Oregon manager of the Balfour Guthrie Co., was an Ontario visitor Tuesday.

W. J. Pinney made a business trip to Boise Monday.

W. D. Billingsley and family have moved to Ontario for the winter.

Mrs. H. L. Poorman and two children are visiting relatives in Boise.

Miss Hazel Lackey visited relatives in Weiser Friday and Saturday.

W. D. Bland, who has been in Ontario for some time, returned Tuesday to his former home in Kansas to sell out his interests there. Mr. Bland will return to this city as soon as possible, and promises to bring several of his Kansas neighbors with



RESIDENCE OF MAYOR A. W. TROW.

### Local News

Dr. R. O. Payne was in Vale Saturday.

Mayor Robt. VanGilsse of Nyssa was in Ontario Tuesday on his way to Vale.

Mrs. E. B. Conklin spent the holidays with her parents at Union, Oregon, returning home Sunday evening.

Mr. J. R. Blackaby made a business trip to Jordan Valley Sunday.

Mr. J. J. Burbridge was an Ontario visitor last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Staples of Vale visited relatives in Ontario Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Brown of Boise spent the holidays with their mother, Mrs. A. A. Brown of Ontario, returning to their home Monday.

Mr. F. White of London, Canada, arrived Saturday for a visit with his daughter Mrs. Jos. Sholes, of this city.

Mr. Elmer Orent left Sunday evening for Hubbard, Oregon, after spending the holidays at his home in Ontario.

Mr. J. C. Lawrence of Vale returned Friday after spending the holidays at Baker City. Mr. Lawrence says that he will not be such a frequent visitor in Ontario in the future.

Miss Anna Michaelson, a teacher in one of the public schools at Boise, has been visiting Miss LaVine Smith, returning to her home Monday.

Louis D. Hall, of the Alexander Clothing Store at Vale was in Ontario Sunday on his way to Boise.

T. G. Clancy of Vale stopped in Ontario Saturday on his way to Butte, Montana, where he expects to make his home in the future.

Mr. S. E. Orent, who has been in poor health for some time left Sunday evening for California in hopes that a change of climate will benefit him.

Miss Eva Schropp of Dodge Center, Minn., is spending the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Hager.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald McPherson spent the holidays at Baker City.

Mr. H. B. Gruel is confined to his home with a severe attack of the grippe.

him to look over the country and probably make their homes here.

Mr. A. N. Soliss returned from California Tuesday.

Miss Maud Bronson was home for the holidays.

Mrs. R. O. Horning of Portland arrived on Monday for a visit with her mother, Mrs. Boswell.

The physicians and druggists of the city made a professional call on Dr. and Mrs. R. O. Payne Tuesday evening and presented them with a very handsome library table.

Arthur F. Riddle of Minneapolis, Kansas, has been here this week visiting his sister, Mrs. C. C. Dodge. He went to Boise Monday with Miss Louise Riddle, and will leave for Pacific Coast points Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Landes of Boise spent Christmas with their son, E. O. Landes of this city.

Miss Anna M. Strong, one of the teachers in the public school at Walla-walla, spent Christmas with Rev. Johns and family, returning to her home Thursday evening.

Mrs. Arthur Cook and baby of Baker City returned Thursday evening, after spending the holidays with Geo. Lyells and family of Ontario.

Miss Pearl Wynn left Saturday morning for a short visit at her home in Twin Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Weatherby of Drewsey were in Ontario on their way home from Boise.

Mr. Otto Blackaby of Jordan Valley spent the holidays with his father J. R. Blackaby, returning to his work Thursday.

Mrs. I. E. Oliver left Ontario Friday morning for her home in Malheur City, after a short visit with friends here.

Miss Irene Gould, who spent the holidays with friends in Ontario, returned to her home in Weiser Friday.

Mr. Ed Roberts of Shoshone returned Friday after spending Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Nicely of Ontario.

Mr. John Hellman of Shoshone visited with Mr. and Mrs. Nicely during the Christmas holidays, returning to his home Friday.

Ben Brown and family of Vale spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Jes. Jones of Ontario.

**Wm. F. GOLDBACHER**  
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