

# ONTARIO ARGUS

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M. E. BAIN, Publisher.

It is always too early to rip, but never too late to mend.

The country most in need of a little compulsory education is Mexico.

Too many people spend today what they hope to earn tomorrow.

You don't catch much game when you go hunting with a brass band.

A few broken promises will keep a man busy the rest of his life trying to pick up pieces.

Mexico is so fastidious that it does not permit any American citizen to become socially popular whose rank is below that of ambassador.

Nearly everybody is willing to concede that the earth revolves around the sun, but when the astronomers insist that the sun is farther from the earth in summer than in winter they pursue a perspiring populace too far.

When county funds can be found for opening expensive new roads and the graveling of the highways for auto traffic between Ontario and Vale, it should be possible to find money to provide passable roads in the communities where the cash is collected in the greatest degree.—Nyssa Journal. If the Journal would take the trouble to make an investigation it would find the improvements in the Ontario road district are paid for out of the road taxes collected in that district and not with county funds.

The postmaster general is going to increase the size of packages to be carried and reduce the cost, which will no doubt materially increase the business of the department. The parcels post system has necessitated many changes in the express business of the country, all for the betterment of the service given the people. One of their proposals is to receive produce from the farmers and deliver it direct to the consumers, cutting out the commission and retail men and delivering fresher stuff. This would be of equal benefit to the consumer and producer.

The total dairy products of Oregon for 1912, according to the records of the State Dairy Commissioner, amounted to nineteen million dollars. The market is clamoring for more milk, more cream, more butter and more cheese so there is no danger of an overproduction. The demand is growing far more rapidly than the supply. Do you know how much butter-fat each of your cows produced during the past year? Do you know what your cows have been fed to produce that fat? The biggest leak in the dairy business is the cow that does not pay for keep. Test out your cows and you may find you are keeping a beef animal and have been trying to make her do duty in the dairy.

The postmaster-general has discovered that the parcels post is a revenue producer for the department and wishes to increase the charges of packages and reduce the weights, but he has the railroads, express companies and their hired men to fight. Jonathan Bourne is in the front of the fight against a change, but it is almost a certainty he will be around in a few months begging the support of the people so he may go back to the senate and misrepresent them. The voters should not overlook his action on this matter.

Most every paper one picks up has something to say about the slit skirt that is being introduced in the cities by some of the leaders of fashions. Many cities have forbidden the wearing of them on the streets, while in others they have prepared for them and have the lights so arranged to make the most of the exhibition. There are some staid deacons who object to their being worn on the streets, probably finding it hard enough to tread the narrow path without this new temptation and we believe their feelings should be respected. The ladies have a perfect right to exhibit their attractions and between the bathing resorts and ball rooms manage to bare most of their anatomy to the vulgar gaze of the public. Where there is a censorship established on their dresses they might hold receptions and announce the especial feature they wish to display and then they could restrict the gazers to those who want to admire their beauty unadorned.

The forest reserve officers report that where permits were taken out a few years ago for 12,000 cattle, this year there are 700, which is in accord with conditions throughout the west. The taking up of the lands where water can be obtained is largely responsible for the disappearance of range cattle. Another feature is the loss through theft. You can go into any of the little hamlets and towns in the cattle growing sections and find men without any visible means of support, who at times disappear for a week or two to return almost always with a bunch of money, which they distribute among the saloons and professional poker players. It is a safe bet that in many instances this money is obtained from the sale of stolen cattle and horses, because they are occasionally caught with the goods. If the stock men were thoroughly organized, much of the rustling would stop. In some cases, where the officers and courts can not be depended on to inflict punishment, it might be advisable to occasionally resort to the methods in vogue before we had courts, lynching may be crude and uncivilized, but it is certainly very effective. With the present high price of cattle and the greatly decreased number available it is certainly an inviting field for investment.

Almost every paper one picks up contains a story of a strike and many of them are accompanied by bloodshed, all the result of the I. W. W. organization. A few weeks ago there was a small strike in this city of the workmen on the sewer and the city officials were compelled to change their policy in hiring local men and keeping the money at home, to letting

the work by contract and sending the money out of the city. The agitator can usually gain an audience of men who have no reasoning faculties and depend on others to do their thinking and they automatically do what they are told. The only man who ever gets any benefit from the work of the agitator is the agitator himself.

If Senator Lane is successful in his endeavors to have the red tape taken from the denatured alcohol law so that farmers may manufacture their own fuel it will be hard on the gasoline magnates.

Articles have recently appeared in the Nyssa and Jordan Valley papers objecting to the manner in which the road taxes of the Ontario district are being expended. At present the law provides that at least one half of the tax must be expended in the district taxed, the balance may be used by the county court as they see fit. Investigation also discloses that the Ontario district pays a large per centage of the total collected in the county, and only received the full benefit the year the bridge was built. With the building of the railroad into the interior there will be an entire change in conditions and we believe the time is ripe for a change in the manner of expending the road taxes. This year, with less than half of the money collected in this district, they are permanently improving over two miles of road by graveling, with the full amount they could cover double that distance and in a short time the valley would have a system of good roads, then they could extend these trunk lines to the other important sections of the county. Road patching will never get you good roads. It is only the permanent improvements that count.

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