

The Ontario Argus leads in Prestige, merit, and Circulation. Watch us grow

# The Ontario Argus.

The Produce from 15,000,000 acres is marketed from Ontario each year

Representative Newspaper of Ontario and Malheur County.

VOLUME XVII

ONTARIO, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1914.

NO. 12

## PROF. HODGE TO PLAN EXTERMINATION OF GOPHERS

**In Speech at the Boulevard Grange Hall the Noted Biologist Promises to Take Up Experiments Along this Line**

The extermination of the gopher was one of the subjects taken up at Boulevard grange last Thursday evening by Prof. C. F. Hodge, one of the leading biologists of the country and an authority on natural history.

For a number of years Prof. Hodge held the chair of biology at Clark university, one of the leading graduate schools of the country and he is the author of a number of books that are recognized authorities in their lines.

His ready grappling with the practical problems shows that he is not only familiar with his subjects, but that he is interested in putting his knowledge to practical uses.

The success that has attended the work of Prof. Hodge in doing away with the fly and mosquito nuisance lends hope to the farmers who heard him promise last Thursday evening to take up the study of the gopher. In the crusade against flies and mosquitoes Prof. Hodge has invented a number of traps that have radically changed the methods used in eliminating these pests and these inventions he freely gives to the people.

With the gopher he admits he has not made a sufficient study of the rodent to give an authoritative opinion and he promises to take up the matter and see what can be done. One point he emphasized above others is that any work to be efficacious must be community work. Not only must every farmer do his part, but all must work at the same time, preferably in the fall of the year and by such a plan there is no doubt that the gopher could in a reasonably short time be exterminated.

In his own home Prof. Hodge has so solved the fly and mosquito problem that he does not screen his house and yet there is not a fly or mosquito to be found showing how the ingenious methods he employs work for the advantage and comfort of the human race.

Prof. Hodge was pleased with the number of Bob White quail he found in this section and gave figures to show of what vital importance they are to the farmer. They are really insect destroying machines, one quail eating by actual count 1280 insects in one day, while as is well known they seldom do any damage to the cultivated crops.

## TRAIN RUNS INTO BUNCH OF CATTLE NEAR HUNTINGTON

Oregon Short Line train, westbound No. 17, on last Friday ran into a big bunch of cattle a mile from Huntington. The carcasses of 14 were scattered for over a quarter of a mile along the Huntington right of way. They were part of a band owned by Henry Blackwell, a stockman and had only been driven in Thursday.

## WOULD INSTALL PUMPING PLANT IN BIG BEND SECTION

J. S. Napton, who has been spending the winter at his home in the Twin Falls country, has returned to his large estate in the Big Bend section. The Colonel is trying to interest the people owning land in the Bend to join a movement to install a pumping system with two lifts, the first to cover all lands under fifty feet and the second to reach the hundred foot lift. This would cover about all the lands on the south side of the river and the system can be installed at a small cost per acre.

## 400,000 ACRES THROWN OPEN

Land in Deschutes And Paulina Reserves To Be Settled  
Portland.—More than 400,000 acres of land in the Deschutes and Paulina National forests in Cook, Lake and Klamath counties will be thrown open for settlement within 60 days through an order just signed by President Wilson withdrawing this land from the forest reservations.

It is reported that the land will be opened for actual settlement May 9 and that filings will be permitted on and after June 8.

Officials of the Forestry Bureau in Portland estimate that of the aggregate of 410,763 acres thrown open, approximately 120,000 acres are occupied by settlers. These settlers will be permitted to remain. Settlers on the remaining 290,000 acres will be permitted to take up homesteads of 160 acres each in accordance with the Federal land laws.

The formalities of transferring this land from the Agricultural Department of the Federal Government to the Interior Department now are in progress at Washington, D. C.

The entire area will be placed under jurisdiction of the local land offices at Lakeview and The Dalles. Intending settlers are instructed to make inquiries concerning the lands at those offices.

## MISS ELEANOR WILSON



Miss Eleanor Wilson, youngest daughter of President Wilson, whose engagement to Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo has been announced.

## PORTLAND FIRE \$600,000 LOSS

Portland.—Two great docks were burned, half a million dollars' worth of grain was ruined, a steamship badly damaged, a steam schooner destroyed, almost totally, and a dozen buildings were injured by fire on the east side water front. The loss, at first estimated at \$1,000,000, is cut to \$600,000, and of this amount insurance covers more than half.

**Oldest Elk Dead at 109.**  
Owosso, Mich.—Daniel O'Connell, 109, known during the last few years as the oldest living member of the Elks, died at his home near here.

**British Navy Estimates Grow.**  
London.—The British naval estimates for 1914-15 amount to \$257,750,000, an increase of \$13,700,000 over last year.

**Social Centers Planned.**  
Ashland.—"A social and intellectual center" is planned as the outgrowth of a movement now under way by residents of Evans valley, in this county, for the institution of a central farm or country life school. Several districts would be consolidated in the merger in a territory of which Rogue River station is the hub. Roads in that section are of the best and other conditions are favorable.

**Sand Spit to Be Sown.**  
Marshfield.—Roy Rozelle, United States engineer in Coos Bay, started the planting of 35 acres of sea grass Monday on the north sand spit. Mr. Rozelle is also expecting to plant bull pine and willows in the sand country.

## POSTOFFICE OFFICIAL PAYS ONTARIO VISIT

**Arrangements Made For Handling Mail to Interior Points.**

J. S. Blakalee, fourth assistant postmaster general, was here Monday looking after the parcel post business.

He made arrangements to have the mail for the interior points handled and the contractors to be paid for what they have to care for. The mail carrier will get three cents a pound for all fourth class mail from Vale to Alberson, in addition to his regular pay.

Where shippers are making extra large shipments by parcel post they should notify the department at Washington so they can prepare for it.

While there is quite a heavy loss in handling the parcel post business of the west in the east conditions are different.

## WILL PLACE DAM ACROSS SNAKE RIVER NEAR LEWISTON

Application is to be made to construct a dam across the Snake river below Lewiston to develop 25,000 horse power and regulate the water of the river so boats can be operated throughout the year. It will be but a few years when there will be a series of dams in the river and the stream will be navigable to Ontario and beyond.

## COMPULSORY TRAPPING FOR GOPHER MAY SOLVE PROBLEM

The lecture given by Prof. Hodge at the Grange hall the other evening leads one to ask the question why it would not be possible to establish compulsory trapping and poisoning for the extermination of the gopher after the manner of the fruit inspection and the inspection that has been done for the purpose of eliminating the weed pests.

There is probably no one agent that today is causing a greater loss to the farmers of this community, both in produce and labor than the damage that is done by gophers and so rapidly are they increasing in spite of all that the farmers have been able to do that they are becoming a menace to the future prosperity of the county.

While many of the farmers in this section are spending hundreds of dollars for the purpose of getting rid of these rodents others are allowing them to thrive and the new generations quickly spread to all the neighboring farms. Even where all the farmers in a community work against the pests they do not do the work simultaneously and only succeed in chasing the animals from one farm to another.

It is generally conceded that it will be impossible to rid the country of the gopher without community work and that requires organization. For that purpose nothing has been discovered that compares with county supervision. The expense would be trifling compared with the benefit to be counted as the department would be combined with that of fruit inspection and would require very small additional outlay while the benefit to the county would be beyond computation.

## CORN PLANTERS AND BINDERS BEING PURCHASED BY FARMERS

The machinery men report a big demand for corn planters and listers, cultivators and corn binders, indicating the great interest being taken in the growing of corn in this section this year. One man on the Dead Ox Flat is preparing 90 acres, another 50 acres and many others smaller tracts. Those big prizes offered by the Ontario Commercial club through the grange is what is doing the work. More cows, hogs and corn will mean larger revenues for the farmers.

## COUNTY JUDGE HOLDS JUVENILE COURT HERE

**Two Boys Are Sent To Reform School--Three Out on Parole.**

Geo. McKnight, the county judge, was here Tuesday and held a session of the juvenile court, several youngsters having been guilty of breaking into the Ontario hotel and stealing case goods and tobacco from warehouses.

Wilbur Turner, aged 13 and Douglas Pruett, aged 14, were sentenced to the Reform school and were taken there by Officer Noe.

Three other boys were paroled during good behavior and will have to report to Recorder Grauel. In case of any further irregularities in their conduct they will be taken to the Reform school without further trial.

The boys had a complete set of skeleton keys and had been guilty of many depredations.

## THOS. CLAGETT WILL GO INTO HOG RAISING BUSINESS

Thos Clagett, who has a fine ranch on the west side of town is getting into the hog business. He has 24 brood sows and some 75 pigs at present, but will gradually build up the herd. For foundation stock he has thoroughbred Durocs, from the best strains in the west, with some grade sows.

Mr. Clagett has had several years experience in the hog raising business in other sections, but finds it costs less here to raise hogs than any other place he has been. He uses the alfalfa pasture and a few weeks on grain to fatten them for market. He used barley for the hogs turned off last fall, but will raise corn this year to fatten with.

## HOODLUMS ABOUT TOWN DESTROY SCHOOL PENNANTS

A man and a boy went out on the Boulevard road and around the Valley View school house one night last week, annoying the inhabitants and destroying property. They were accompanied by two young girls and all had been drinking. Judge Grauel fined the boy \$50 and the man \$150. The girls got off with a lecture, but were told that any offenses in the future would land them in the reformatory.

On Friday evening some thieves broke into the Ontario hotel and took some pennants belonging to the high school girls and destroyed several of their signs around town. It is only a few weeks since some one stole a sign from Copeaud Dunnuck. Apparently there is an utter lack of regard for the rights of others by a gang of hoodlums around town and they are going to land behind the bars sooner or later. When a person ignores the rights of others he forfeits all rights he might otherwise have.

## SILVER MEDAL CONTEST AT OPERA HOUSE DRAWS CROWD

The silver medal contest given by the W. C. T. U. at the opera house last Thursday evening was a success in every way. Financially the ladies are well pleased with the sum received and morally was an uplift and a lesson to the many present.

The eight young lady contestants were beautiful and all are deserving of special mention. Miss Crystal West was the winner of the medal. Her reading was a good one and was given in a clever and most creditable manner. Prof. Bailey presented the medal.

The judges were Miss Johnson, of Payette, Mrs. Yockey, and Prof. Cotton, of Fruitland. The singing by the quartet was nicely rendered and the children could not have done better if they had tried. The extra reading by Frank Winston was splendid.

## ELEANOR WILSON WILL WED

**Bride-to-Be Youngest of Family and Father's Pet.**

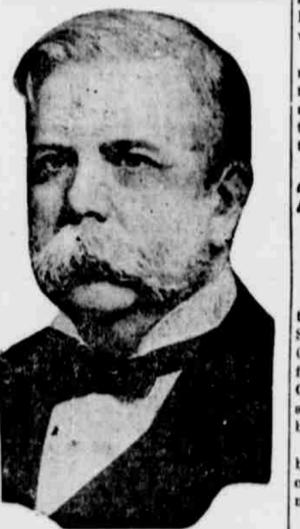
Washington—Formal announcement of the engagement of Miss Eleanor Randolph Wilson, the youngest daughter of the president and Mrs. Wilson, to William G. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury, was made at the white house.

Mr. McAdoo is 50 years old and for many years has been an intimate friend of the Wilson family. He has six children, two of whom are married. Miss Wilson is 24 years old. The marriage will probably take place at the white house in June.

The youngest of the family, Miss Eleanor, is said to be her father's pet, and there is a strong personal friendship between the president and the man who is to marry his daughter.

**Newport Has Herring Run.**  
Newport.—An unusual run of herring has brought a bonanza to Newport residents, for the fish were so plentiful that it was possible to pick them out of the bay, where they swarmed around piling, with one's hands. One rowboat caught five tons in a net and small dip-nets were responsible for hundreds of pounds being caught. The fish are near the surface of the water only at low tide.

## GEORGE WESTINGHOUSE



George Westinghouse, a foremost figure in the engineering world and inventor of the air brake, who died recently in New York.

## BOX CAR THIEVES ARRESTED

The Dalles.—One of the worst bands of boxcar thieves the northwest railroads have had to deal with in years was rounded up, it is said, when E. B. Wood, chief special agent of the O-W. R. & N. company, brought about the arrest of five men in this city and in Arlington. The prisoners are all alleged ex-convicts. They are said to have been operating for several months. Two of the five are in the county jail here and three, who were arrested at Arlington, are in custody there.

## Polk Fair Plans Set.

Monmouth.—At a meeting of the Polk County Fair association, committeemen and committeewomen were named for the fair this year, and Rev. Edgar W. Miles, a retired Presbyterian minister, was re-elected secretary and general manager. A bond issue of \$4800 to purchase a tract of 16 acres, west of Dallas, was voted by the directors. The dates of the annual exhibit have not been fixed, owing to uncertainty as to the time set for fairs in neighboring counties.

## Tax For July 4 is Plan.

Baker.—A levy of half a mill on all taxable property in Baker City for a fund for an annual Fourth of July celebration here was indorsed at a meeting of the merchant's committee of the commercial club.

It was proposed and decided to start initiative petition to call a vote at the next regular election to determine whether the city should make such a levy.

The total on half a mill levy would be \$3000 on present valuation.

## COMMERCIAL CLUB HAS VERY INTERESTING MEETING

**Ladies Auxiliary to be Organized To Work In Conjunction With Club--New Members Admitted and Other Matters Considered**

The regular monthly meeting of the directors and committees of the Commercial club was held Monday evening with about twenty present.

Applications were received from three new members and they were duly elected.

The committee reports presented showed that several of the members were doing what they could to advertise this section. Prof. Bailey wrote 125 letters and A. W. Trow some 600. There are scores of boys and girls and men and women who should be writing letters to their acquaintances in other sections, telling them of the many advantages we have here.

Nine of the organizations of the twenty-two women clubs here responded to the invitation to form a ladies auxiliary and Secretary Grauel was instructed to organize them.

The members were requested to notify the secretary when any new families come here so that the ladies may call on them. It is believed that this will be a valuable addition to the work already being done.

## 200,000 ACRE EASTERN OREGON LAND DEAL

The Oregon and Western Colonization company consummated a deal on Saturday whereby they trade 200,000 acres of land in Crook county for the Transportation building in Chicago, valued at \$3,500,000, assuming the mortgages against the building.

The land includes much fine timber east of Prineville and will be colonized by a group of German farmers this spring.

W. P. Davidson and L. W. Hill, who own these lands are men who do big things.

## PURE FOOD INSPECTORS MAKE A VISIT AROUND TOWN

We are publishing the report of the inspectors who made the rounds of the markets, dairys bakeries, and hotels a few days ago, but it is due to the owners to state that this is the first inspection ever made here and few of the people knew what was expected of them and others were given low rating because they had not all the equipment deemed necessary by the inspectors. To illustrate, the I. & E. bakery fell way off because they had no store room separate from their bake room, others had similar experience and when the next inspection is made it is safe to say that there will be a much higher standard given all of them.

## NOTHING NEW IN RAILROAD MATTERS AT PRESENT TIME

The railroad situation does not develop as rapidly as some would like to see it but is coming around gradually and in a few weeks something will be announced to satisfy all.

The bridge crews that have been at work on the bridges near Nyssa expect to be transferred here in a few days and work started on the two bridges across the Snake at this place. The water is too deep to work on the Nyssa bridges to advantage and as the spring rise is due most any time now the situation is not improving.

There was a load of laborers taken to the front Tuesday for the railroad and they are busy extending the road to Riverside as rapidly as possible.

William Hanley says the road will reach Harney this season.