

THE ONTARIO ARGUS

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The jitney bus—something new to this section of the country—will soon become an accustomed sight in Ontario and the surrounding country. It will be the same type of jitney bus that has caused so much consternation to street car companies in all the coast cities during the past few months. From all indications the jitney has come to stay. There is a real place for it in the business world of today. It is another step toward advancement and there is no power that can long keep it down.

Luckily in this section of the country we will not see the keen competition between the jitney and street car, as has been the experience of other cities. We have not yet reached the stage of the street car, and the jitney comes into a virgin field. But lack of competition has not caused high charges. On the other hand there is much speculation as to whether the rates to be charged will allow of a financial success of the proposition. In this connection it is probably well to remember that the management of the Ontario jitney is a man that has had much experience in the jitney business and is no doubt satisfied with the schedule of prices for he has had the sole fixing of them, and would undoubtedly have made them higher were it necessary.

The jitney has caused a great deal of comment during the past week. It is said that merchants of Nyssa and New Plymouth view the advent of the jitney with considerable apprehension. But there is no call for it. There is no reason why the jitney should bring all of the business to Ontario. For the jitney is concerned only with the hauling of people—not with where the people are going. The jitney will make two round trips each day from Ontario to Nyssa and from Ontario to New Plymouth. And there is nothing to keep the people from using the jitney to go to Nyssa or New Plymouth to trade.

Merchants and business men of our neighboring cities will find that the more means of transportation available, the more business that will be created. It matters not whether the means of transportation be a jitney bus, a passenger train or a street car. The result is all the same. It is a step forward—a real progressive move—and it will benefit Nyssa or New Plymouth just as much as it will benefit Ontario.

The plan of Ontario merchants to refund fares paid the jitney is a legitimate trade getting scheme. And merchants of other towns are in no wise barred from working out some scheme just as good if not better. The jitney is not owned in any manner by Ontario merchants. True, our local merchants are responsible for the coming of this jitney. But it is a private enterprise that is out for all the money it can make, and is not tied up in any manner with Ontario merchants to the detriment of merchants of neighboring towns and cities.

The jitney will surely prove a success in this section, for it is one of the cheapest forms of transportation. It is a progressive move, and like all such, will successfully weather a storm of adverse criticism or protest. Let us all realize that it is a step forward and instead of fighting or knocking, employ our time making plans for the use of it. It presents many opportunities and is worthy of a great deal of hard thinking.

People who said there would never be another man to fill the position held by Porfirio Diaz have nothing to take back, up to the present time.

THE perfection of the permanent organization last Thursday night in Payette, of the Lower Snake River Power Users Association is an important step toward the ultimate reclamation of a large amount of land throughout this entire district. The purpose of the organization is lower power rates for irrigation purposes, and with so large and sweeping an organization there is no doubt but that a vast amount of good will be accomplished.

There is no richer land anywhere than is found in this section of the country, provided it can be placed under irrigation. And there is a world of water available for irrigation purposes. But in order to get the water on the land it is nearly always necessary to raise it a few feet, and it is here that cheap electric power means much to the development of the country.

The Power Users Organization was not organized with a view of being antagonistic to the electric power company. On the other hand it is hoped and expected that the relations and dealings of the organization with the power company will always be friendly. And the fact that officials of the power company were anxious that the organization be made a permanent one, shows that the power company believes such an organization will be a benefit to all parties interested.

It is the intention of the new organization that every power user in the Lower Snake River Valley become affiliated with it. In fact, practically every power user has already become interested in the organization. With such a strong organization it will be far easier to bring about cheaper rates, and work out schemes with the company for cheap power, than would have been possible for individuals.

One of the problems which confronts the power company, and which keeps high pumping rates, is the fact that the vast amount of power used for irrigation purposes during the summer month, remains idle and with no market during the winter months. It has been suggested that the company make a rate that would allow of the using of the power during the winter months for heating purposes. But in order to do this it would necessitate the expenditure of a large amount of money in additional equipment by the company, and the company feels that the investment is not warranted at this time.

However it is possible that the power users organization to work out some scheme with the company whereby the investment for addition equipment could in some manner be prorated, thus making it possible for the company to market its power the year round, instead of just through the irrigation season.

The fact that the new organization has sixteen directors; one from each town in the district, and one from each locality around each town, gives all the people good representation. And it makes possible a thorough understanding between the towns and the irrigationists on the subject of power difficulties and the wants along that line of the whole people.

One of the first duties of the organization will be to take up with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission a proposed change in the power rates for pumping plants. Members of the organization are now collecting a vast amount of data to present to the commission when it meets next week, and it is possible that immediate effects of the organization may become apparent.

The Oregon State Editorial Association has just honored M. E. Bain, former editor and publisher of the Argus with the appointment as one of the representatives from this state to the International Press Congress, which meets in San Francisco July 5 to 10. While Mr. Bain is now out of the 'harness,' his long experience in the newspaper business fits him to make an able representative at the Press Congress, and the present Argus editor congratulates the state organization upon the selection of a man so well qualified as Mr. Bain, to be one of the representatives from Oregon.

WILSON ASKED TO INTERVENE IN CHINA

(Special to The Argus.)

Pekin.—Intervention by the United States in the negotiations now proceeding between China and Japan is recommended to President Wilson in the appeal recently sent to him by American missionaries in this country. The message of 5000 words was cabled to Washington. It characterizes the Japanese demands on China as acts of aggression such as eventually will present a menace to the United States. Recalling the fact that Japan has at present in this country doubled her usual quota of troops (amounting to 60,000 men), the missionaries urge that Japan be notified that the excess of troops should be removed.

The understanding here is that a Chinese official or several officials paid the cable charges, amounting to nearly \$6000, on the message to President Wilson. This communication was signed by Revs. E. W. Thwing, John Wherry, C. H. Fenn, and W. A. P. Martin, all connected with the American Presbyterian Mission at Peking; Rev. Chauncey Goodrich, of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, who is stationed at Tien Tsin; Rev. H. H. Lowry, of the Methodist Episcopal Mission at Peking, and Rev. C. F. Hubbard.

The petition asks President Wilson to demand of China and not of Japan American participation in the conferences now under way. It is suggested that Great Britain and other nations be invited to participate.

WASHINGTON TAX REDUCTION SHOWN

(Special to The Argus.)

Olympia, Wash.—The total 1914 taxes being collected in Washington this year amount to \$36,818,416, the state tax commission shows from a compilation of county treasurers' tax rolls. This represents a reduction of \$1,492,765 from the taxes of the previous year, or a little less than 4 per cent.

PORTLAND FIRE LOSS IS OVER \$300,000

(Special to the Argus.)

Portland.—Property worth \$300,000 was destroyed and 30 firemen were overcome by a fire which started in the Blake-McFall six-story building, Fourth and Ankeny streets, in the heart of the wholesale district, at 7 o'clock Sunday night. In a few minutes the building was turned into a raging furnace which no fireman could enter.

The loss was covered practically by insurance. The heaviest loser is the Hughes estate, which owns the building, and the Blake-McFall company, which occupies three-fourths of the building. More than 40 other firms have offices in the building.

C. D. Bruun, president of the Blake-McFall company, estimated the company's probable stock loss at \$150,000.

ROOSEVELT NOW ON TRIAL FOR LIBEL

(Special to The Argus.)

Syracuse, N. Y.—The trial of the suit of William Barnes, Jr., against Theodore Roosevelt for \$50,000 damages for alleged libel began in the supreme court here Monday.

HUERTA DENIES RESPONSIBILITY

(Special to The Argus.)

New York.—Vehemently asserting that he had nothing to do with the death of Francisco Madero, General Victoriano Huerta, ex-provisional president of Mexico, issued a long signed statement setting forth what he termed his side of the Mexican question. General Huerta declared that he knew who was responsible for Madero's death, but that he was keeping it as a "professional secret."

RUSSIANS DEFEAT 400,000 TEUTONS

(Special to The Argus.)

Petrograd, via London.—An official communication concerning the progress of the campaign as issued from general headquarters states:

"The enemy made a most desperate resistance to our offensive.

"They had brought up every available man on the front from the direction of Bartfeld as far as Uzsook Pass, including even German troops and numbers of cavalrymen fighting on foot. The enemy's effectives on this front exceeded 400 battalions. (An Austrian or German battalion numbers 1000 men.) Moreover, our troops had to overcome great natural difficulties at every step.

"Nevertheless, 13 days after the opening of our offensive, the bravery of our troops enabled us to complete the task assigned and we had seized the principal chain of the Carpathians on a front between Reghetov and Volosat, of 110 versts (about 75 miles).

"To sum up: On the whole Carpathian front, the enemy has suffered enormous losses and has left in our hands in prisoners alone at least 70,000 men, including about 900 officers. Further, we have captured 30 guns and 200 machine guns.

"On April 16 the actions in the Carpathians were concentrated in the direction of Rostoki.

"The enemy, despite the enormous losses suffered, delivered in the course of that day no less than 16 attacks in great strength. These attacks, all of which were absolutely barren of result, were made against the heights we have occupied farther to the east of Telepotch."

CANADA INTENDS TO HOLD ENEMIES

(Special to The Argus.)

Seattle, Wash.—American steamship companies operating between Seattle and Alaska ports and Seattle and San Francisco were notified by the British admiralty that all German, Austrian or Turkish passengers or members of the crews would be removed from any vessel calling at a Canadian port and held as prisoners of war. As a result of the order, the Pacific Coast Steamship company immediately discharged 10 German members of the crew of the steamship President, which sailed for San Francisco. Two German passengers who had purchased their tickets were not allowed to board the President.

WEST WINS IN COPPERFIELD CASE

(Special to the Argus.)

Baker.—Ex-Governor West won in the suit brought in circuit court here against him by William Wiegand, Copperfield saloonkeeper, for damages alleged to have been caused by the removal of liquor and saloon fixtures from his saloon, when Governor West declared martial law in Copperfield, after Fern Hobbs' visit on January 2, 1914.

The result means that the other damage suits against the former governor, in which Stewart and Warner are suing for the same amount as Wiegand, will not be tried.

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