

Editorial Section of The Ontario Argus

ONTARIO AS A TRADE CENTER

THIS ISSUE of The Ontario Argus is the largest in point of circulation ever issued for distribution in Malheur County. It's been our ambitious aim to provide a copy of this week's paper for practically every resident of the territory about Ontario which can properly be styled our trading radius. For that purpose hundreds of extra copies have been printed for distribution in every town, village and hamlet in this great, prosperous, growing Snake River valley.

We believe that Ontario is entering on a new era. We will never be a mighty city. But we always will be the largest city in the geographical center of one of the finest communities on earth. Our prosperity is dependent upon the prosperity of the great valley which surrounds us. But our growth will be greater than that of the valley, because we are, and surely are destined to be more than ever, the natural trading center of a great empire.

The business men are awakening more than ever to the fact that it is their privilege and responsibility to cater to the needs and desires of an immense population on all sides of us within a reasonable distance. The automobile may "take money out of the country" but it just as surely brings money into Ontario by providing a constantly increasing number of people with means of easy access to the metropolis of the valley.

Mail order houses are becoming less the bug-bear of Ontario merchants. With a steady increasing trade comes the ability to purchase stocks of size and style to meet the desires of the most fastidious shopper, and as customers are attracted more and more from the great territory that is tributary to us, they are coming to realize better the truth of a plain fact which it has before been hard to demonstrate: that sending money to mail order houses is a double mistake it is a disastrous drain upon a community, and nine times out of ten better goods for less money could have been purchased nearer home.

The Malheur County Fair exhibition is one of the important agencies which is emphasizing Ontario's position as the natural center and permanent metropolis of a valley where thousands will annually congregate to commemorate the success of the year just passed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE—FINANCE

There ought to be nothing but pure patriotism enter into the question of military preparedness, of which we hear so much of late. Undoubtedly the most of those who are strong for a big increase in our army and navy act from pure motives. But there are exceptions, undoubtedly. For instance politicians of a certain type think that in these times such a move is popular and the purity of their patriotism is mixed with a little alloy.

Along this same line we have doubts if some of the big newspapers of the country do not inwardly chuckle a little when they commend President Wilson for bestirring himself on the national defense question. They remember that even if a conservative program of additions to the army and navy is carried out it will mean an additional tax burden for the national government of about \$200,000,000.

In contemplating how the administration will meet this problem we must remember that the treasury is now running behind, and even if this additional tax for defense purposes is not required still steps must be taken soon to make up a deficit already staring us in the face. And we must remember also that this condition is true in the face of the "war tax." Theoretically this was made necessary because we lost the revenue from a tariff on goods that would have come to our ports had it not been for the war in Europe. But if the war should stop tomorrow this revenue would not be restored. A little of it would, and in the time an appreciable amount. But we would not go back to former conditions for a long time to come. The reason is simple. The war has played havoc with business as well as with men, and there would be little commerce with any ports until there can be a financial and commercial regeneration in the war-stricken lands.

So the administration has a reason to worry, and which the national defense problem only makes a little harder. Patriotic Americans, however, will not object to paying the tax bill for a reasonable increased budget for the military and naval defenses of the nation. This appeal may aid in covering up the necessity for raising additional revenue besides what is wanted for defense purposes. Thus the administration was lucky to have the war as an excuse for the additional tax called a "war tax," and it will be lucky in having the "national defense" slogan to rely on in defending its own plea for more finances.

In fact President Wilson has been mighty lucky in many ways. At the very outset when he undertook the difficult peculiar-to-the-Democrats plan of maintaining the revenue by cutting down the income, he was favored by the timely adoption of the income tax amendment, which permitted the government to raise many million which would have otherwise been lost by the re-

ductions that were made in tariff duties. Then when the war in Europe started we had the "war tax" with special tolls on bankers, brokers, commission merchants, proprietors of amusement places, tobacco dealers and manufacturers and stamp taxes on all kinds of commercial paper.

The war tax law now in force expires by limitation December 31. But instead of the tax becoming obsolete then it will be re-enacted with increased rates and many additions to its schedules. It is reported that among the additions will be a tax on gasoline and possibly automobiles, and an internal revenue tax on flour, salt, sugar, coffee and tea is said to be under consideration. This is believed, will be necessary even if there should not now be an additional outlay of \$200,000,000 made necessary by the adoption of a national defense program.

HERE ARE SOME; TRY THEM

The Gate City Journal of Nyssa has invaded the realm of higher mathematics and proposes a mathematical puzzle. The statement is that if the sum of five dollars is multiplied by five dollars the result is \$25.00, but if five hundred cents, the equivalent of five dollars is multiplied by five hundred cents the result is not \$25.00 but \$2500.00. Nothing extraordinary at all.

One cannot multiply five dollars by five dollars nor can he multiply five dollars by five jack rabbits. If five dollars is multiplied by five, an abstract number, the result is \$25.00. But in the second case the five hundred cents, the equivalent of five dollars, is not multiplied by five, but by five hundred, hence the result of \$2500.00, which appears to the editor to be too large.

Another way to explain the case is by considering the multiplication of ten feet by ten feet which gives 100 square feet, but if ten feet is multiplied by ten the result is 100 linear feet. If reduced to inches we have 120 inches X 120 inches or 144,000 square inches which reduces easily to 100 square feet. In the case proposed by the Nyssa editor we do not have the conception of "square dollars" and "square cents." If we assume that conception and reduce the "square cents" to "square dollars" the results are consistent.

We have several simple ones which we think beat the case presented in the Journal. Suppose a steel band were fitted around the earth so that it touched at every point, and suppose that the earth were smooth, thus making a perfect circle. If the total length of the band were increased by eighteen inches, by how much would it be raised from the earth at all points, or, stating the problem in round numbers, by how much is the radius of a circle increased when the circumference, already twenty-five thousand miles, is increased by eighteen inches.

The Gate City editor may also enjoy himself by multiplying the number 142857, by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, making a separate multiplication for

MAKE THE VISITORS WELCOME

THOUSANDS of out-of-town people will be visitors in our city next week, particularly on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, to attend the great Malheur County Fair.

It behooves us to extend the glad hand of a cordial welcome to every stranger who enters our gates. We make a public appeal to the citizens of Ontario to keep "open house" for the coming week. Officers of the Fair Association and the Commercial Club have taken the lead in preparing to receive our guests, and let every business house be designated as a place where strangers can assemble without the fear of intruding and where each visitor will be tendered a sincere and a cordial greeting.

But the citizens as a whole must do their share. No fair can succeed by the mere activity of its officers, no matter how capable or energetic; no fair organization can thrive that does not reflect the enthusiasm and spirit of the people of the community. The success of any undertaking of a public nature is dependent upon the great mass of the "common people."

Malheur County's Fair has already attained a high reputation throughout the entire County and our neighboring Counties. This has been, in a large part, due to the directors in charge of the great event. The loyalty of the people of the community has been a great factor, and it must ever remain so if the affair is to be the permanent success which every loyal resident of Malheur County hopes it will be.

Loyalty to the Fair and loyalty to our home city can be shown in other ways than by our attendance and our "boosting." We can welcome the visitors. And in this work every person can do his share.

For this week keep your latch string out. Wear a smile and be happy. Forget your grouch and leave pessimistic thoughts for other days. If you believe in a little gaiety at times to relieve the monotony of existence, "loosen up" this week, and enjoy yourself. But above all communicate a little sunshine disposition to the strangers who come to our fair. It will help your own disposition—and digestion—make the visitor feel at home, and reflect credit upon the community for showing a genuine spirit of hospitality.

each number, and noting that in all but the last case the sequence of the figures is unchanged. For example if multiplied by three the result is 428571, the same number as we started with originally except that the 1 is transferred to the other end. We should be glad to have an explanation of this phenomenon. We have some others when these are finished.

FARMERS AND GOOD ROADS.

One of the principal reasons why there is certain to be much greater interest shown by all kinds of people in the construction of good roads is the constantly increasing general use of the automobile. Users of motor cars have from the first been leaders in boosting for better roads, but for a long time there was a feeling by a good many people, particularly farmers, that automobiles were for the pleasure of the tourist, and that these were a comparatively small number of the population. Thus there was a prejudice against the automobile and suspicion directed against the boosting which auto enthusiasts did for easy-to-travel highways.

This is changing rapidly. Prejudice against the automobile has almost entirely disappeared. This is because the gas machine has become so common, and because it is now looked upon as a necessity where formerly it was classed entirely as a luxury for the few. Furthermore farmers are now greater users of automobiles in proportion to their numbers, than the business man or pleasure seeker from the city.

The farmer has become more of an enthusiastic good roads man with using his machine on the hard surfaced highways which lead to the cities. But what the farmer needs most is not a system of highways parallel to the railroads, but rather good roads running from the town back into the country so that country produce can be easily and cheaply transported to market centers.

GAS FOR PESTS.

A new use for the deadly gas, used in the European war, has been found. It will kill pests. Near San Antonio, Texas, prairie dogs are a pest just as rabbits, squirrels and grasshoppers are here. In Texas, chlorine, produced by an apparatus, attached to an automobile, is forced into the holes through a hose. The holes are then plugged. The plan may be used with benefit in this vicinity. The suggestion that a "pest army" could wear respirators and explode gas bombs over rabbit, squirrel or grasshopper fields, sounds like the work of a wag. Some plan is needed for fighting pests in this vicinity and the gas idea may be worth considering.

The farmer, fruit grower and the stockman who fails to do his part to make the county fair a success is standing in his own light and is an obstacle in the way of progress. For after all

the fair is in their interest and can be made a potent factor in the upbuilding of the farm, orchard and range. Publicity of soil and range production is what attracts new population and increased popularity. The county fair is the medium for this advertising. It stimulates activity in all lines of industry. The progressive farmer, fruit grower and stock raiser will appreciate this and feel his bounden duty to do his part to advance not only his own individual interests, but those of the whole community.

The man who takes no interest in the county fair shows selfishness personified. While others are showing that public spirit which has community progress for its aim, the indifferent individual is content to live within himself and reap the benefit that comes through efforts of others.

All lovers of good racing will be pleased to know that a rare treat is in store for them at the Malheur County fair. A galaxy of horses from all over the northwest are already on the grounds and such racing as they will offer has never been seen in Ontario or in Malheur County.

PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION

(Sermon by Rev. W. N. Brown, of the United Presbyterian Church.)

On this day of prayer for public schools, not a few sermons will have to do with some phase of school work. Our attempt along this line will be as far from the fault finding spirit as we can make it. It is our desire to deal with the positive side of character development thru the schools. In this development the home church schools and state must unite or the efforts of any or all of them will be a failure in proportion as they fail to work together. If anything in this message will help the parents, church, school or any citizen of our great state to see that the aim of all these institutions should be development of character and usefulness in the young people, and if any word of ours will help to bring about more united effort toward this end, we will rejoice that we could have some part in so great a work.

Both the text and the morning scripture lesson from the first chapter of Daniel, refer to schools supported in part or in full by state funds. These schools correspond to our public schools of today. Our text records an act of Jehoshaphat the good King of Judah in the third year of his reign. Among the reform works initiated by him was the movement to give public education to the people of his realm. He selected a number of prominent persons and "Taught in Judah, having the book of the law of Jehovah with them." We shall not take time to follow the record to note in detail the success

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