

THE ONTARIO ARGUS

(Established 1896)

GEO. K. AIKEN, Editor and Publisher

Published Thursdays at Ontario, Oregon and entered at the Ontario post office for distribution as 2nd class matter

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

One year	-	\$1.00	Three Months	-	\$.35
Six Months	-	.60	Single copies	-	.05

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:

All copy for display advertising should be at this office by Wednesday noon. To insure position copy should be in this office on Tuesday.

THE FAIR.

The Fair is over. After months of strenuous work the officials, directors, superintendents of various departments and the citizens generally who assisted are by this time recovered from the reaction of the last nervous effort which made the 1916 fair so great a success.

Like every public institution the management of the fair and the burden of making it a success falls upon the shoulders of a few, generous, forward looking men and women who give their time and their energy to the up-building of the community. It is too bad that this is the case, for in many instances the effort demanded is more than some can afford to give. More often than not, as in the case of the local institution, those who do a large portion of the work receive no direct, and in many instances no indirect benefit; unless the satisfaction of having performed a service for their community be so considered.

The phenomenal success of the fair this year can be directly attributed to the energy of President A. W. Trow and those immediately associated with him on the board of directors. Credit, too, should be given the individual exhibitors who year in and year out come forward to compete and by arousing a community interest enlivens the contests and materially betters the fair each year.

While the attendance this year was large, and in many respects record breaking, it did not return a financial profit to the fair association. It is not to be expected that it should. As a matter of fact, there is no within a reasonable radius, a population suffi-

cient to make a venture of this magnitude successful from a financial view point from attendance alone. But financial gain is not the only view point from which to judge the fair; nor is it the logical view to take of the institution. There are other and greater objects to be attained than the mere making of money for the fair association, and in these things the fair was a decided success.

As an educational institution the Malheur county fair is in a class by itself. It is unanimously declared by all who are in a position to know the facts, that our fair here is the best fair in Oregon, with the exception of the state fair at Salem. This being the case it is a constant and permanent asset of the county.

The fact that the fair is held each year is also of value to the county in bringing together the citizens of all sections in friendly rivalry and furnishing a forum wherein the ideas and experiences of the year may be exchanged. The value to the individual farmers cannot be accurately measured in one year or two, but in the steady advance in methods whereby the land becomes more productive, and thus more valuable to the individual and to society.

Then there is the social value of the fair as the fostering influence for the general upbuilding of a community spirit. During fair time there are no "Malheur county republicans" or "Malheur county democrats," or any other brand of citizens save "Malheur Boosters." When citizens get together at the fair and rub elbows while watching the races or viewing the prize exhibits they forget petty differences and realize that after all

that the man they argue politics or community advantages with is "a pretty good fellow."

To foster such a feeling is a mighty good thing for any community. It makes life more worth the living and that after all is the prime motive for government, and the agencies connected directly and indirectly with it.

Now that the 1916 fair is past the citizens of Malheur county in general, and of Ontario in particular, should direct their attention to that of 1917 with a firm determination to back the officials to the limit that from every stand point it will be a greater success than the fair of 1916. This can only be done by united effort. The county will back Ontario, we believe, if the expressions heard on the street are a fair criterion by which to judge, but it is Ontario's duty to lead the way. The fair cannot be permitted to take a backward step, and it will not, so long as the energy of Ontario's business men is directed toward its success.

CONCERNING TAXES.

Owing to the fact that the question of valuations on Malheur county lands has been raised it might be well for property owners to remember that:

If the valuations are decreased the tax levy will have to be raised;

That the cost of administering the county government is more apt to be increased than decreased and that money must be provided;

That if one citizen is given an unjustly low valuation some other citizen is getting an unjustly high valuation;

That equality before the assessor is as much every man's right, as equality before the courts of justice;

That if you are getting an unjustly low valuation this year, and know it, someone else is getting an unjustly high valuation, while next year it may be reversed and you will suffer;

That a square deal is all that any man should ask;

That Malheur county lands will never be sought by settlers if they feel that tax valuations are not made according to accepted principles and with justice to all;

That the value of a piece of land depends entirely upon what it will produce commercially;

That there should not be two values on lands, one for sale purposes and the other for tax dodging.

OUR DISTRICT ATTORNEYSHIP

One of the offices to be filled by the electorate this fall is that of the District Attorney, and we cannot over estimate the importance of this office nor its far reaching effect on the taxpayers. An efficient district attorney can save the county thousands of dollars that must be raised by direct taxation, and the least inattention to the affairs of the office may cost large sums.

The republicans have selected as their candidate for this office Robert M. Duncan, a former resident of this city, who now resides at Vale. As proof of the pudding is the eating thereof, so in all probability Mr. Duncan needs no introduction to our readers, for his long residence in this County and his known ability has long since won him a wide acquaintance, and assures him of election, but we desire to acquaint those not knowing him with his record.

"Bob" as he is known by all, was born in Cobden, Illinois, in 1882, his parents removing to Salem, Oregon, in 1886, where they still reside, he therefore claims to be a real "Oregonian." After graduating from the public schools of Salem he took a thorough course in our lumber industry, having worked in the logging camps, saw mills and planing factories of the coast, and so efficient at this work was that in 1905 at the age of twenty-three we find him the manager of a large saw mill in Washington, daily turning out over 100,000 feet of lumber.

An uncle, who is judge on the superior bench of Illinois, early fired him with an ambition to become a lawyer, and in June 1909, "Bob" graduated from Willamette University Law College at Salem and was admitted to practice by the Supreme Court of this state, the same month.

His energy was again in evidence for in July 1909 "Bob" landed in Ontario, and for several years was associated with Hon. J. W. McCulloch, and became Deputy District Attorney for Malheur, Harney and Grant counties in which position he served with distinction for over three years, without salary from either county, for the experience thereby gained.

January 1911 Mr. Duncan moved to Vale in order to more efficiently handle the work coming under his charge as deputy district attorney and has since resided there. During his residence in Malheur county he has had charge of some of the most important litigation before our courts and his success is well known to all.

No man in Malheur county is a closer student of social conditions

WAS LABOR GOLDBRICKED?

The legislation which Mr. Wilson has so wrongly called the "eight-hour-a-day" bill will undoubtedly have to run the gauntlet of the courts before it is established even as a "basic" principle in railroad employment. If the measure is held to be constitutional, there will yet remain several questions regarding its operation.

For instance, there is nothing in the law to prevent the railroads from working their men ten, twelve, even sixteen hours a day, providing the pay is reckoned upon the "basic" eight-hour scale; and in that case the runs of the men will be redistributed with the probable result that some trainmen will find themselves without work for any number of hours a day.

Moreover, if the eight-hour scale is to be "basic," the railroads may contend with no little force that no man shall be paid anything unless he works eight hours, or that if he works less than eight hours he shall be paid for the time pro rata according to the "basic" scale.

There are many trainmen now running on the mileage basis who complete their day's work in less than eight hours but who receive a full day's wage. Upon the "basic" principle, these men could be required to run the additional time to make up the eight hours or to have their pay reduced accordingly.

Legislation without investigation often results in some very interesting by-products—and it appears that labor has received a gold brick by the Adamson law.

Conditions after war form a considerable part of Mr. Hughes' topic as he journeys about the country. He presents the picture—and he embodies the remedy.

When Hughes takes office he will know the country from actual contact; and the country will know him. No cloistered theories will shape his policies.

Toward the closing days of the campaign of 1892 the wife of Benjamin Harrison died. Her husband was president of the United States and a candidate for re-election. Their married life had been long and happy. She had stood beside him when, as a young lawyer, he began the battle of life. She had walked by his side through the sunshine of success and through the shadow of failure. Her death made a real rupture in the president's life. Yet we do not recall that the republican campaign managers or the republican party press agents made any attempt to capitalize President Harrison's grief for the benefit of his canvass for re-election.

"Why I Quit the Democratic Party" is the subject of an address delivered before the republican convention at Chandler, Oklahoma, a few days ago, by Judge R. J. Shive, who has been a war horse of the party for more than twenty years. He confines his reasons chiefly to state issues, and charges his former political associates with extravagance, inefficiency, broken pledges, needless increase in the number of offices, running the state in debt, wastefulness, etc., all of which is true of national as well as local democratic administration. And there are thousands of other democrats who, for the same reasons, have quit the party.

Just as predicted, President Wilson is finding that his non-partisan plea is a two edged sword that cuts both ways. Editor George Harvey, of the North American Review, the original Wilson man, says that Wilson has absolved him from the obligation of party loyalty—and in two ways: first, by his appeal for re-election as a non-partisan, and, second, by his abandonment of democratic doctrine. And Harvey puts the logic of the situation in a way that will appeal to thousands of men who have been affiliated with the democratic party all their lives—just as Harvey has been.

nor more interested in the welfare of the county, which combined with his absolute fairness in all trial work makes the proper qualifications for the important office to which he aspires, and not only the republican party but the county is to be congratulated in having the opportunity of placing such a man in office.

We have confidence to believe that he will make every effort to keep his pledge of careful and prudent enforcement of all laws, vigorous and just prosecutions, at the least possible cost to the tax payers. His record justifies this belief, and we cheerfully recommend him to our friends.

Experienced officials are worth money to Malheur County Taxpayers

VOTE FOR—

VIRGIL B. STAPLES

Republican Nominee for
COUNTY CLERK

Eighteen Years Business Experience in Malheur County

For an economical administration of public business

VOTE FOR—

C. C. MUELLER

Republican Nominee
COUNTY TREASURER

VALE

OREGON

VOTE FOR—

R. W. SWAGLER

Candidate for
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Considers a public office a position of trust

VOTE FOR—

L. E. HILL

Republican nominee for
COUNTY ASSESSOR
Second Term

Your support will be appreciated



THE FIRST-BORN

The Genuine, Original Round Oak is Still Supreme

Look for the Earmarks

If you will look closely you will have no difficulty in discovering the original. It always has the name "Round Oak" on the leg.

The Ash Pit is a seamless one-piece construction. The Fire Pot is double, and the cold rolled refined Boiler Iron Body is extra heavy. There are so many advantages in the Genuine that we want you to call at our store and see for yourself.

Sold Only by

McNULTY & CO.