

THE ONTARIO ARGUS

(Established 1896)

GEO. K. AIKEN, Editor and Publisher

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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 COAL SHORTAGE

It takes heroic action to impress the need of foresightedness on the American people. Speaking broadly, we are all more or less the victims of procrastination. "Sufficient unto the day, is the need thereof," is almost a national motto. The most emphatic reminder of this, just now, is the coal shortage which has reached an acute stage.

While most citizens are indulging in vitriolic abuse of the railroads and the coal dealers for the shortage there are a few who are placing a part of the blame upon themselves, and it is on the public, too, that a large part of the blame belongs.

Why should the public expect the coal dealers to carry enough coal for emergencies such as that which exists at present? Or why should it expect the railroads to keep sufficient cars and engines idle during the summer months just so it can supply them with all the coal needed during an excessively cold spell?

What is to prevent the public from helping both these agencies handle the situation by purchasing at least a portion of the winter's supply late in August and early in September? If this were done the railroads could furnish the cars and engines needed, and the retail coal dealer could make the deliveries at a lower cost than during the cold weather when snow adds to his difficulties.

Unless the public wants to pay the additional cost necessary to meet interest on the investment if the retailer dealer alone stocks-up and wants to take chances on going cold and worrying during the winter. It has but scant reason for "kicking" at this time.

Several years ago the coal dealers and the railroads combined to further the purchase of fuel by the public during the early fall. Reductions in prices were made, but when an "open winter" came along and it was possible for both the railroads and the coal men to make deliveries all winter. Mr. Easy-Going citizen figured, "what's the use," and proceeded to discourage the practice by not buying. Now everyone, who was not foresighted this fall is suffering.

So while regretting the present shortage and realising that discussion of the causes at this time may be useless the experience will be worth something if it again makes popular the practice of buying the winter's coal in the fall.

THE GOLDEN EGG

We have with us this week the lowly hen. It is the hen whose virtues are often overlooked that adds more to the prosperity of these United States than all its gold mines, for the value of the product of the poultry farms surpasses the output of the mines.

We could get along without gold mines, for something else would take gold's place as a medium of exchange. But what, kindly tell us, could replace the egg as the centerpiece to accompany the succulent ham?

The egg, and the chicken which produces it make for health and happiness, but like other species of life there are useless as well as profitable hens. No farmer and no country can afford to keep profitless stock. The hen that does not produce enough eggs to more than pay for her keep is a boarder on the farm and the sooner gotten rid of the better off will be the farmer.

The purpose of poultry shows is not to give ribbons and prizes, nor to display only ornamental fowl. The principal object of the show is to create a livelier interest in better breeds of chickens, turkeys and other wealth producing fowl. This can be done by exhibiting the best birds and by thus setting forth before the voice in the business the results secured by experienced men and women in the business.

Since the poultry men in the vicinity of Ontario bring so small amount

of cash into the community each year the business men can assist themselves by promoting the show and doing everything in their power to promote the business it represents.

THE TOURIST CROP.

While Oregon has been busily engaged in preparing the ground for the planting of crops such as alfalfa and fruit it has, in a large measure overlooked another bountiful harvest. It has apparently failed to take into account among its resources the harvest of dollars that is scattered each year by eastern tourists throughout the West.

While Oregon and Washington have slept California has worked. She has reaped the fruit of her enterprise so heavily that the tourist crop is actually the best resource she has.

Judging from the past attitude of Oregon men the money of tourists is not wanted in this state, yet there is no better money to be had anywhere. It comes entirely from without the state and being spent by those who have abundance gives a wider margin of profit to the local people without bickerings.

Oregon has attractions of as great merit as those of California. During the summer months, while it is extremely hot in the Bear state, Oregon offers an ideal place for the sojourning tourist. In Crater lake, the magnificent Columbia river, the Des Chutes, the scenery of the Blue mountains, to say nothing of the attractions of Mt. Hood and other places in nature's playground. Here there is plenty to entertain the most jaded traveller.

Of course the American tourist is should be he? What has Oregon done to inform the world of its possibilities? Has she ever advertised the attractions here in abundance as has California? Has she built roads and trails so that after coming to the state the tourist could reach sight seeing points easily and comfortably? Has Oregon made any real effort to divert the California tourist northward on their home going journey? No none of these things have been done, or at least in but a half hearted haphazard manner. The individual efforts of the Portland Chamber of Commerce and other Willamette valley associations have been meritorious, but having followed no systematic plan the greatest results possible have not been secured.

So far as Eastern Oregon and Malheur county is concerned this crop of tourist money never will reach the people here until the state highway up the John Day and down the Malheur is built. It is to be hoped that the coming legislature will take the necessary steps to promote the building of the highway and at the same time start a movement to secure returns from the money thus expended by advertising the attractions of the state so as to divert tourist traffic this way.

The coming year should be one of the best in the history of Ontario. Never have prospects been brighter. The business men of the city enjoyed prosperity during the year just closed. They did so because the ranchers first were given good prices for their crops. These good prices, combined with good crops are bound to serve as a magnet to draw other ranchers to this region. The addition of more ranchers, more home builders, will spell prosperity to Ontario.

The problem is, how is Ontario to get into touch with these ranchers? The growth of the city depends on the addition of hundreds of them to the trading population of this section. Is the city to sit idly by while other communities are actively engaged in systematic efforts to induce immigration to the productive lands about them.

With plenty of snow in the mountains and the valley, prospects are blue for bumper crops for 1917.

CAN WE AFFORD TO DELAY LONGER.

From an industrial standpoint the general public does not seem to realize the importance of the passage of workable water power legislation at once.

Never was the need so great. Our good American dollars are pouring into investments in South American, China, Canada, Norway and European countries for power development purposes simply because our own laws do not encourage the investment of capital for this purpose in our own country.

Never before has such an opportunity been offered the investor to put his money into power development and yet we are standing still.

Congress has not failed to recognize the importance of this matter and many measures have been discussed.

The Ferris bill as amended in the senate and the Shields bill seem to offer workable legislation under which the public interests are protected and at the same time capital encouraged to invest.

Statesmanship instead of politics should decide this matter and legislation encouraging our industrial growth should be the demand.

The passage by congress of laws permitting, under suitable safeguards the development of available water power at sites requiring federal permits would result:

First: In construction under government supervision but with out cost to the government of navigation facilities vastly improving waterways now used for transportation and opening up for navigation thousands of miles of waterways not now navigable.

Second: In creating in connection with such navigation improvements an enormous total of hydroelectric power to be used in making

nitrate fertilizer to supply at low cost to the farmers of the South and East.

Third: In beginning great construction works which would use capital now idle and keep it in this country against the competitive demands of European countries rebuilding at the close of the war, and against further competition from attractive investment opportunities in South America and elsewhere.

Fourth: In beginning great construction works which would employ many thousand men, skilled and unskilled.

Fifth: In the development in connection with such navigation improvements of hydroelectric power for the operation of railroads by electricity with added comfort to passengers and enormous savings of labor, fuel and operating expense, thereby vastly improving the financial situation of the railroads without increasing the expense of shippers.

Sixth: In enabling this country to take the lead in producing "electric steel" at low cost and in enormous quantities, "electric steel" bringing into use low grades of ore heretofore economically excluded.

Seventh: In irrigation developments dependent upon cheap power for pumping purposes and upon water storage, both supplied in connection with navigation improvements.

Eighth: In preventing floods thru regulation of stream flow by reservoirs and other navigation improvements constructed without cost to the government.

Ninth: In retaining in the United States the energy, skill and capital of Americans who, if restrictive laws continue, will be forced as some already have been, to seek and develop hydroelectric power for their uses in Canada, Norway and other foreign countries.

No. 5822.

REPORT OF CONDITION OF

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

At Ontario, in the State of Oregon, at the close of business on Dec. 27, 1917

RESOURCES.

1. a. Loans and discounts	3411,859.90
2. Overdrafts, unsecured	16.24
5. U. S. bonds:	
a. U. S. bonds deposited to secure circulation, (par value)	22,500.00
6. Bonds, securities, etc.:	
b. Bonds other than U. S. bonds pledged to secure postal savings deposits	\$ 3,000.00
c. Bonds and securities pledged as collateral for State, or other deposits (postal excluded) or bills payable	5,000.00
e. Securities other than U. S. bonds (not including stocks) owned unpledged	8,944.70
Total bonds, securities, etc.	16,944.70
8. Stock of Federal Reserve Bank (50 per cent of subscription)	3,000.00
19. Furniture and fixtures	7,388.43
11. Real estate owned other than banking house	2,000.00
12. a. Net amount due from approved reserve agents in New York, Chicago, and St. Louis	4,411.63
b. Net amount due from approved reserve agents in other reserve cities	27,546.13
13. Net amount due from banks and bankers (other than included in 12 or 20)	36,989.67
14. Exchanges for clearing house	126.30
15. a. Outside checks and other cash items	12.64
b. Fractional currency, nickels, and cents	131.56
17. Notes of other national banks	144.20
20. Lawful reserve in vault and net amount due from Federal Reserve Bank	960.00
21. Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer	42,381.67
Total	1,125.00
Total	\$576,487.87

LIABILITIES.

23. Capital stock paid in	50,000.00
24. Surplus fund	50,000.00
25. a. Undivided profits	15,802.95
b. Less current expenses, interest, and taxes paid	9,729.27
28. Circulating notes outstanding	6,073.68
31. Net amount due to banks and bankers (other than included in 29 or 30)	22,500.00
Total	4,652.59
32. Demand deposits:	
Individual deposits subject to check	263,066.50
Certificates of deposit due in less than 30 days	24,610.42
Cashier's checks outstanding	1,987.40
Postal savings deposits	1,063.51
State, county, or other municipal deposits secured by pledge of assets of this bank	5,000.00
Total demand deposits, Items 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40	305,727.83
Time deposits (payable after 30 days, or more notice):	
41. Certificates of deposit	102,353.23
43. Other time deposits	35,180.54
Total of time deposits, Items 41, 42, and 43	137,533.77
Total	\$576,487.87

State of Oregon, County of Malheur, ss.
I, H. B. COCKRUM, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

H. B. COCKRUM, Cashier.
Correct—Attest:
A. L. COCKRUM,
J. D. BILLINGSLEY,
L. B. COCKRUM,
Directors

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3rd day of January, 1917.
W. W. WOOD, Notary Public.
My Commission Expires October 17, 1920.

DREAMLAND

One Night, Tues., Jan. 9

CIVILIZATION

THE GREATEST PRODUCTION OF MODERN TIMES

PRESENTED BY THOS. H. INCE. THE MILLION DOLLAR SPECTACLE

The most astounding and daring production since the beginning of cinematograph and the theatre.

A picture that appeals to humanity—A lesson to old and young, never to be forgotten. The greatest love story of the ages—the love of humanity. Don't fail to see this great production.

WHY SAY MORE?

50c THE COPE SPECIAL PRESS 50c

Suits pressed by the only mechanic in town.

50c Promptly and Properly

PHONE 105-W ONTARIO.

Horses Wanted

War horses 14.3 to 15 hands high, riders, cobs and artillery animals, full aged, five to nine years, sound. Also mules. Prevailing prices. See—

A. McWILLIAMS

ONTARIO OREGON

Good Nursery Stock Cheap

FULL LINE OF NURSERY STOCK. ALL BEST VARIETIES, FRUIT, SHADE TREES, BERRIES AND VINES, ACCLIMATED TO THIS COUNTRY. WRITE FOR DETAILS OR CALL AND EXAMINE STOCK.

Inter-Mountain Nursery

H. S. WAYNE, Proprietor. PAYETTE, IDAHO.

Vale Hot Springs SANITARIUM

VALE, OREGON

Board, Rooms and Baths.

Massage, Diet, Rest

RHEUMATISM OUR SPECIALTY

DR. THOS. W. THURSTON, Superintendent