

THE ONTARIO ARGUS

(Established 1896)

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

One year - \$1.50 Three Months - \$.60
Six Months - 1.00 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 SECTION HOMESTEAD LAW.

Rumors of fraudulent attempts to "corner the range", according to press dispatches, have caused Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane to withhold designations under the new section homestead law.

The decision of the Secretary is of vital importance to the people of Malheur county, for it is estimated that there are 4,000,000 acres of range city land open for entry within the county boundaries.

There has been no end of speculation as to what the effect of the new law would be on the economic status of this section; "Will it all, sooner or later, get into the hands of the big cattle men, or, "will it encourage the small stock raiser to get into the business?" These are the questions which men who are giving the matter consideration are asking themselves. On the outcome, to a large measure, depends the prosperity of every town in this section of the state.

While it is true that the majority of those who discuss the matter believe that the big stock men will ultimately buy up the rights of the entry men, there are others who are equally positive that that will not be the case. The latter have one precedent on which they base their opinion, that is the result of a similar law in Nebraska.

According to them, when the range land of Nebraska was thrown open for settlement, under similar conditions the same questions arose and an investigation was made of the result ten years after the law became operative. The report of that investigation formed a prominent part of the debate in congress before the present law was passed, and according to it, there were a great many more cattle men in Nebraska, at the time the investigation was made than ten years previous.

Whatever else the law will do for Malheur county one thing is bound to result, namely, a vast increase in the taxable property. If three fourths of the land is entered upon, in six years 3,000,000 acres will be added to the rolls. At the very lowest valuation of \$1.25 per acre that would add \$3,750,000 to the tax rolls, which today are slightly under \$5,000,000. With this increased valuation and the six per cent increase limit on amounts to be raised by taxation still in force it is not hard to see relief from the present high tax rates in Malheur county.

"LOOKING BACK FROM FIFTY."

The world, that is the people who lived on this old earth, owe a great deal to the optimists. A half hour spent with one who can see the bright side of things can remove doubts and distresses caused by hours with a pessimist.

It takes a good liver and a clear conscience to mark a real optimist, and certainly such a person is George Ade, whose "Looking Back From Fifty" in February's American will cure the worst case of blues.

One cannot help, while reading the observations of Mr. Ade, whose "Fables in Slang", opened his way to fame, being thankful that he is on earth just at this time when so many things are happening amiss once in a while to be reminded that things which we regard as commonplace today were unheard of only a few years ago.

As a real estate booster Mr. Ade reaches the third degree in a picturesque manner when he describes the old pools and flower-covered prairies of his home county that are now replaced by \$250 per acre farms.

But Mr. Ade reaches his brightest pinnacle as an optimist describing how living conditions have been improved during the past half century. One is constrained to believe after reading the recital of changes that "Looking back from fifty, it seems that every year has been kicked full of dust by our efforts to improve physical conditions." No less inspiring is his final observation. "There is more brotherhood of man at large than ever before. That is my conclusion, looking back from fifty, war or no war."

HAVE DONE THINGS—AND CAN REPEAT.

Despite comments to the contrary the business men of Ontario have demonstrated their ability to unite for the betterment of the city's business interests. During the past fall with very little effort a committee of business men secured \$700 for the improvement of roads leading to the city's interests are close to the hearts of the business men, when the need is properly presented.

That incident alone shows that the city's interests are close to the hearts of the business men, when the need is properly presented. The trouble is that practically all of Ontario's business men, those who could and who do carry the burden of community work, are busy men. They have their own business to attend to before they can consider other matters. As the result that which is everyone's business has become "no-one's" business.

If Ontario would do the things that should be done it should make it somebody's business. The Commercial club should have an active paid official whose business it would be to carry the burden of detail of the work needed. With the active support financially and in personal ways of the men here such an official would be the best investment the Commercial club could make. Get the man.

MAKE THE CLUB ATTRACTIVE.

To pay for such an official the Commercial club should have a membership of not less than 200 members. And that number could be had if there were some inducement to become members. In other words to be of service to the community the club must be of service to its members. They should be enthusiastic about it.

How can this enthusiasm be realized? This question has been answered by many Ontarians, by being sociable. Instead of being open for a couple of hours once each month the club should be open every day and every evening. It should be the gathering place of the men of the city. There under the influence of good fellowship differences between citizens would disappear and a determination to work for the general good of the entire community would be fostered.

There is a lot of good fellowship in Ontario. Let the Commercial club capitalize that spirit and harness it to the latent energy of the citizens and an active membership of 200 and there is no civic problem within reason, that can not be solved.

How long is it since fifty or more Ontario business and professional men sat down to dinner together? We do not know but will hazard the guess that it has been some time.

Why not inaugurate a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly luncheon where following a satisfactory meal the city's problems can be discussed and greater fellowship developed.

This plan has been followed for some time by many organizations in cities no larger than Ontario with marked success. Why not try it?

The ARGUS is dwelling on these problems of the Commercial club and its possibilities because within a few weeks the annual meeting of that body will be held. Now is the time when the men of the city should be thinking of what can be done to get the needed results.

Representative Vernon A. Forbes of Bend has introduced a bill to regulate the manufacture and sale of snuff. Forbes comes from St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, where "Ha du snuff", is the casual greeting of citizens, so Forbes knows its dangers. Perhaps the Crook county representative thinks the "Bone Dry Bill" needs a companion.

Before kicking about what Ontario or the Commercial club has not done for the city during the past year stop and think WHAT YOU HAVE DONE?

The Traders' Day Sale received the endorsement of the Commercial club. Now it is up to the citizens to get behind it too.

One third of session of the legislature is past. The solons have enacted four new laws and have nearly 300 more before them for consideration. How in the name of common sense, in view of the almost physical impossibility of reading all these measures, can real constructive legislation result from a forty day session?

The House members down at Salem have an early-in-the-session desire for economy, but wait until the last afternoon and evening of the last day when the omnibus appropriation bill is up and witness the passing of that desire.

The Grangers find that it pays to take a day off once in awhile to gather around a fine dinner and discuss their problems. Why should not business men find it equally profitable?

CO-OPERATIVE EXCHANGE AND HOW IT WORKS

As before stated in last week's article, an attempt will here be made to explain in one or two details the practical workings of this system of co-operation and this explanation only to a limited extent because lack of space in the ARGUS forbids further explanation in this issue. Now the organization of an association of this sort here would naturally be conducted on usual lines of procedure with a few exceptions, one of which is, that each member signs his or her name to the agreement in the certificate of membership that is, to never demand legal tender money as pay for services performed, building material furnished, farm products delivered, or contributions of money to the association which is one of the rocks upon which this association stands as a future protection, but always pays for such services, deposits or contributions with its own checks, never in money as before stated. Such payments always at ruling market values of same, to illustrate, suppose a cannery, fruit evaporator or a broom making establishment had been started by this association and ready to receive its raw material from the farmers—in the cannery department the farmer in delivering his squash, pumpkins, asparagus, peas, beans, tomatoes, berries, apples, peaches, apricots and others is always paid in the exchange check of the association, never in money as the association does not do business with legal tender money but pays for its raw material with checks, pays its help with checks and exchanges its canned goods first to our own home merchants, next to our neighboring town merchants, always at wholesale at the ruling market price, thus keeping the merchant's money at home, in bank or in local circulation, thus swelling the same. The same in our neighboring towns—now when thus our farmers and others have come in possession of the checks and as our, and surrounding home merchants will need to stock up in canned goods of various kinds, a large number of those checks will naturally find their way into general circulation in and around our immediate neighborhood thus swelling our home circulation and thus more money will stay in the bank and for importation of other merchandise also for other uses for which those checks are not fitted.

Naturally thus many of such checks will gradually find their way into the hands of our grocery merchants which by them will be returned to the association in exchange for canned goods at prevailing wholesale rates, the checks having then performed its useful mission, is cancelled by the association and returned to its original owner, which would be the farmer or the workers in the cannery. All persons in all walks of life engaged in a useful occupation of good character are therefore amenable to membership.

More will be said on this and many other lines as to exportation of commodities after all home demand is supplied which should be the original object of this association, if space is furnished in the ARGUS and which will further show as to the widespread benefit to our community such an organization would eventually become.

A CITIZEN.

Mrs. E. Cope Ladies' Tailor and Dressmaker, Phone 91-M.

JAMES LACKEY RECEIVES MEDAL FROM EXPOSITION

James Lackey of this city who was one of the commissioners from Malheur county at the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Francisco in 1915 this week received a handsome bronze medal, the official emblem of the exposition. The medal which Mr. Lackey has turned over to the County Fair association is on exhibition at the city hall. On one side in bold relief is the tower of jewels the center piece of the exposition, on the reverse side are the figures of a man and woman. The medal is a beautiful sample of the designers art. Mr. Lackey is of the opinion that the individual exhibitors from this county who have not received their medal awards will get them soon.

TO WORK OUT OF ONTARIO.

H. E. Anderson, after years of faithful service as baggageman and brakeman on the Northwestern, has been transferred to the Ontario-Juntura run, with a likelihood to be promoted to conductor in the very near future. Homer and his wife have left for Ontario to make their home and Huntington will miss two estimable people, but wish them the best to be extended at their new home up the line.—Huntington News.

EXCURSION RATES CONTINUED.

Oregon Short Line week-end and Sunday excursions have been a big success and will be made permanent. You can get the special low rates every week all the time. Ask agents.

We want so much to put one of our electrically operated Apollo Player-Pianos in a home in Ontario that we will make a big discount on the first one, knowing that enough orders will follow to warrant the sacrifice. It plays by hand and pedals also. A letter of inquiry will do no harm. Or you may ask Mrs. Weese in Ontario. Wise Piano House, Boise, Idaho. 47tf



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WITH AN ELECTRIC ENGINE AND CARBURETOR HEATER

Keeps the water from freezing and makes starting Easy on Winter Mornings.

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Bring your suit and see how it is done or phone and I'll get it.

ONTARIO PRESSARY

PHONE 147 J W. C. BEAMGUARD, Prop.

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

WATCH THE ADS CLOSELY IN THE ARGUS—IT WILL PAY YOU

Ontario Laundry

Down Town Office
Everhart's