

The Ontario Argus

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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 CHANCE FOR WARMSPRINGS.

It may be bromide to say it, but, it is hard to resist the observation that, "it's an ill wind that blows no one good", when one thinks of the possibility of building the much needed irrigation systems of the west with the labor of interned Germans, should war be declared.

Such a solution of what would otherwise be a perplexing problem, has the elements of justice, as well as sound common sense. Certainly it would be far better for the health and happiness of the German interned in this country to be engaged in out-of-door labor than to be confined within prison walls. In this day and age we would have no Libbys or Andersonvilles.

According to the press dispatches it is even proposed that these laborers be paid something for their work. Tho the sum would be small it would permit them to get smoking tobacco and other luxuries and thus, permit them to enjoy a few of their pleasures of life.

Should the war continue for a year or more the labor of a few thousand efficient Germans would go far to transforming the desert lands of this section into highly productive region. Having once seen this region and having, tho forced to work, been considerably treated, many of the men who helped bring this about would settle here and renouncing their allegiance to the kaiser, become, like thousands of their fellow countrymen loyal American citizens.

WHILE ONTARIO TALKED.

While Ontario has been discussing the need for, and the advisability of obtaining, a canning factory it appears that Fruitland has proceeded to acquire just that very thing.

Of course the suburb on the Idaho side has an advantage in being two miles nearer the bulk of the fruit and small truet garden region, but had Ontario a year or more ago arisen to its possibilities they would have been no need for the Fruitland venture.

The Argus does not know, whether, with the Fruitland cannery established that there is room for another such institution in the valley. There will be no doubt when the land to the west and south of Ontario, and Dead Ox Flat is as intensely cultivated as is that region on the Idaho bench about Fruitland.

After seeing Fruitland quietly proceed to secure an industry which the business men of Ontario have long talked about acquiring this city should be aroused to exert itself. What is true of a canning factory may be true of some of the other things about which Ontarians have dreamed and talked during the past few years. It should also emphasize the fact that the only way to get what you want is to get it.

THE FOUNDATION.

The people of Fruitland, the business men and the ranchers of the bench have faith that means something for they are so convinced of the prosperity of their territory that they are willing to invest their cash in developing a basic industry. That kind of faith, which means work, is going to insure the success of their region.

Has Ontario that kind of faith in itself? How would you answer that question? Ontario has without doubt the best retail stores in this section of the Snake river valley. As a retail city it is the peer of any city for miles around.

Ontario has as fine business blocks and as much money invested in retail store buildings as many towns of twice its population. And in all endeavor it must be admitted that not an insignificant number of them are now without tenants.

As an interest earning investment, retail business property has a high earning power when such buildings are in demand, and are rented. When they are vacant the taxes eat heavily into the capital of the owner. Vacant business property is therefore a

white elephant on the hands of the unfortunate owner.

It is also true that usually the owner of business property is a man of wealth and one who is presumed to have faith in his community or he would not have invested in its real estate and bought or erected business blocks. What would be more natural than than to believe that such a man would be a leader in every movement for the upbuilding of the industries on which his home town is depending upon for existence. Would not self interest dictate such a course?

By promoting industries which would add to the population and thus increase the number of persons with whom the merchants could do business his reward would come with enhanced valuations and greater demand for property. Rents which would pay reasonable interest on investment can more readily be secured from business men who are operating a profitable business, but any rent no matter how small is a burden that eats the heart out of a merchant who sees the number of his customers diminish or remain stationary for years.

There is another phase of the same question. While the welfare of a community is close to the heart of every mercantile man and the established reputation of his firm is a big business asset, yet when the worst comes to worst he can move his goods, he can sacrifice profits and clean-up his stock and seek other fields, while the man with business property on his hands is bound to loose if the town falls behind in the procession.

Ontario's Commercial club in taking a new lease on life indicates that there is no desire on the part of its members to let the community slip back a single step. It is true that a number of the members in the club are among those who have property interests and recognize their duty to themselves and the community in furthering its object. However it must also be admitted that this feeling is not as unanimous as it should be. Why this is the case the Argus does not profess to know, yet it is a fact. Now is the time to change that condition, and all unite for a bigger and better Ontario by showing the kind of faith in the community which will bring industries here to employ labor furnish customers for the merchants and tenants for the empty store buildings.

IT IS MIGHTY STRANGE.

There are still a few persons who persist in declaring that Germany was justified in declaring and in now enforcing its unlimited submarine warfare. These individuals, it is apparent have never taken into account the fact that every single neutral nation in the world has unqualifiedly declared that it was illegal and contrary to the laws of humanity.

It certainly would be strange indeed if the United States and China who have broken relations with Germany on account of it, and all the other neutral nations, including all those of South America, as well as Norway, Sweden, Holland and Denmark, should be wrong and Germany alone right.

Of course those who continue to express their belief in the justice of Germany's actions ignore entirely international law and the precedents of history. Their one answer is that if England can seize mail ships and detain food cargoes, then Germany is justified in her action. To them there is no difference between opening a man's mail and killing him outright. To them it is all the same to hold a freight steamer in English or French port or to sink it 100 miles from shore and leave the passengers and crew to perish in the bitter cold winds of the open ocean. Such reasoning can not be accounted for on any logical ground.

TOO LATE FOR ARGUMENT.

A series of clippings dealing with various phases of the International situation have been received anonymously by the Argus during the past few weeks. A few of these have contained what appeared to be plausible arguments why the United States should not engage in war with Germany, if the conclusions were drawn from correct premises, but as has been true in most of them this was not the case.

The Argus, however, refuses to discuss a question with one who hides behind anonymous communications but will say this: The time for arguing the matter has ceased. A state of war does now exist whether we will or not. Germany is making war on us now in violation not only of international law and specific treaties with her, but contrary to the laws of civilization and humanity.

THE BOISE CAPITAL NEWS.

The Boise Capital News has the only full leased wire day news report published in the state of Idaho. This gives it the complete market reports, all the war news, with the expert comment thereon and all the news of this country, as correspondents in every small place, as well as all the regular news centers contribute to this report. In addition to this comprehensive service, special correspondents at Washington and the larger cities of the United States are always on the lookout for important news for the Capital News.

In reporting the happenings of Idaho, special and regular correspondents send all the important news from their communities. The system that has been established to secure the State House news is proving very practical. By its means every public act of the officials of the State House can be reported.

Arrangements have recently been made by which the minutes of the Land Board meetings will be published. Heretofore the complete publication of these minutes has never appeared. This Board does more business than any business house in Idaho and every resident of the State is vitally affected by their acts. It is fortunate that the Capital News is able to publish these reports.

The subscription price is only 50 cents per month, seven issues a week. —Adv.

The Sanitary Barber Shop

Is the place to get your tonsorial needs supplied, as well as the place to secure the best toilet articles and shaving materials. Look for the Revolving Sign. And see the fine new bath rooms.

The Sanitary Barber Shop

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