

The Ontario Argus

(Established 1896.)

GEO. K. AIKEN, Editor and Publisher.

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The Pledge. I pledge my allegiance to My Flag and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ONTARIO'S PROBLEM

To solve the water, sewerage and garbage problems of Ontario is not easy. There are so many things to be taken into consideration which the average citizen does not think of that snap judgment often time does an injustice. Yet these problems must be solved or Ontario should give up its character as a municipality and abandon the pretense of being an up-to-date and progressive community.

In the first place Ontario covers 1100 acres of ground. On that much territory a city of 7,000 or 8,000 people could reasonably be cared for. If that many people were in Ontario every foot of ground would have a valuation which would permit of the improvements necessary with a comparatively low proportionate cost per lot. Then, too, there would be such a demand for service that a municipal water plant would be able, with reasonable charges for service, to show an earning that would care for the bonded indebtedness.

But Ontario is not so situated. As a matter of fact if a municipal improvement were called for here, owing to the fact that a comparatively few people own property, the burden would fall on them, and objection is bound to be raised. It is a case of too much real estate speculation. It is no doubt true that a large portion of the real estate owned by the few landed proprietors pays no dividends and never has. Yet against this land that has never paid there would be laid an additional cost of improvement, that the owners, with too much money invested now, see but a small chance of getting back.

While all these things are absolutely true; not one nor all of these can justify an evasion of the duty of the City as a Corporate body to provide the necessary sanitary conditions for the protection of the inhabitants.

As a matter of fact it is only a question of good business to provide the things necessary, regardless of the cost. What would all the property in Ontario be worth if the city takes inadequate steps to combat typhoid? When property owners realize their investments are depreciating in value and must be protected.

Merchants on Oregon street have been told during the past few weeks by more than one person that they do not trade in Ontario because of the typhoid.

Standing by the post office last Friday noon the writer heard a woman who lives between Ontario and Nyssa make this statement to her husband:

"We'll go home now, for I want a drink and I don't intend to take a chance on typhoid by getting a drink here."

On the day before in a lawyers office a man from Dead Ox Flat in discussing the situation said:

"I have not taken a drink in Ontario for two months."

The Argus is printing these statements for a purpose. That purpose is merely to make those who own property here and on whom the burden of cost will fall, realize that it is to their best interest to get behind the movement started by the City Council to get an adequate water supply for Ontario.

Unless they do this they themselves are bound to be the big losers. The man who merely rents or has his investment in personal property, while he might lose a few dollars by the continuance of these conditions does not stand to lose as does the owner of real estate and the more property a man owns the greater will be his loss, unless he sees to it that conditions are improved.

THE FUTILITY OF SILENCE

The situation in which Ontario finds itself is the most potent argument imaginable for publicity. Had Ontario faced its ty-

phoid situation six years ago, say when the trunk sewer was laid, the problem would not have had that angle to consider. Right now, due to the fact that Ontario was evidently afraid to discuss the question of typhoid, the authorities can not be certain whether or not that sewer is really a sewer or merely a bad investment of \$175,000, which instead of protecting the city in reality infects it with typhoid germs.

No one was fooled but Ontarians by this silence. Not a single story has been sent out from Ontario about the local typhoid situation, yet up and down the line people talk about it. The railroad company puts up a sign on the water tap, "don't use this water." Private letters are written from here telling of this and that member of the family being ill with Typhoid. Of course the word gets abroad. The city can not hide the fact, tho it would.

Just as clean sunlight and fresh air are the best remedial agents, so is the sunlight of publicity the very best means of cleansing a situation such as this is. Unless the people of Ontario are willing to face the problem squarely and really do something the situation will go from bad to worse. It will never be cured by merely hiding it.

Four months ago the Argus began to call attention to the fact that something must be done or another epidemic of typhoid would visit Ontario. Every week for several months in these columns various phases of the question were discussed. Every week a number of citizens commended the Argus for its fight for a cleaner and better and more healthful city.

Only a few citizens, however, took any real interest in the matter. A few discussed it. None of them went to the City Council or advanced any constructive idea as to how to proceed, except at a meeting of the Men's Club of the Congregational church where a general clean up and the enforcement of the sewerage regulations were endorsed and the question of an adequate water supply discussed.

But, when a state official comes to Ontario and puts the stamp of official disapproval on conditions here, immediately there is evidenced an interest in the matter. Ontario is to be blamed for this condition. There can be no denying it. If the men who are interested now had been on the job and giving some of their thought and ability to solving the problem and had shown a willingness to further a movement for a cleaner city, they would have been spared the humiliation of having a state health officer tell them that they were permitting "the worst conditions he had ever seen."

WHEN EVIL FAILS TO PAY

Seattle has always been known as a "tough town," and a large portion of Seattle's population rather enjoyed the reputation their city held. Of course they thought that its reputation brought it business, especially in the days of the Klondyke rush and the logging and lumbering booms on Puget Sound.

Now those same residents of Seattle who used to brag on the various kinds of iniquity that flourished are trying to claim that the city is "lily white," and if it is not, they want General Greene to prove it. All this is funny to anyone who knows Seattle.

Seattle may as well learn now as any time that it can not defy the laws of decency and expect to escape the consequences. Even for cities there is such a thing as retributive justice. Seattle has her choice. She can have her vice or she can have her share of the business that would come from the visits of soldiers from Camp Lewis. The fathers and the mothers of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho agree with General Greene and Hi Gill and his Seattle crowd might just as well recognize the fact that they are not encountering mere local opposition. The position which General Greene has taken just shows how Uncle Sam looks after the welfare of the boys in khaki, and when he does take such a position, backed by an enlightened public opinion all the buncombe and yelling of a bunch of municipal politicians will have no effect.

POETIC JUSTICE

News dispatches tell of the appointment of R. M. Dumeau of Vale as a Captain of the United States army and his many friends in this section will be highly pleased with his recognition. It is a bit of poetic justice to think that Mr. Dumeau is receiving recognition at the hands of the military authorities now, when only last fall he was defeated for office, largely because of the fact that he advocated some of the things that have become the laws of the land.



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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE.

In the County Court of Malheur County, Oregon.

In the matter of the Estate of John Shearer and Madge Shearer, minors.

Nancy E. Shearer, the guardian of the persons and estate of Jean Shearer and Madge Shearer, minors, and non-residents of the State of Oregon, and who have real estate within the State of Oregon, and who have no duly appointed and qualified and acting guardian appointed under the laws of Oregon, having under the provisions of section 1359 Lords Oregon Laws, filed her petition in the above entitled Court asking that a license be granted to her as such foreign guardian, to sell the real estate of said minors, situated in Malheur County, Oregon, and which pe-

tion is accompanied by certified copy of necessary papers from Probate Court of Washington County, Idaho, showing that said petitioner is the guardian of said minors.

And said petitioner having alleged in said petition that it is necessary to sell said real estate for the maintenance and support of said minors, and that it is for the best interests of said minors and their estate that same be sold and the proceeds thereof applied to their maintenance and support.

It is hereby ordered that the next of kin of said minors and all persons interested in said estate appear before this Court on the 3rd day of December, 1917, at the hour of one o'clock P. M., said date, at the Court room of this Court, at the County Court House at Vale, within Mal-

heur County, Oregon, and then and there to show cause why an order should not be made granting to said guardian license and permit to sell said real estate at public or private sale.

It is ordered that a copy of this order shall be published at least once a week for three weeks prior to said date of hearing, in the Ontario Argus, a newspaper printed and published at Ontario, Malheur County, Oregon.

Dated this the 21st day of October, 1917.

GEO. W. McKNIGHT,
County Judge.

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Pupil nurses needed at Holy Rosary Hospital, not under 20 years of age and one year High school. 44-3