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COUNCIL HEARS REPORT OF ENGINEER ON WATER SYSTEM

COUNCIL TO SUBMIT PROPOSITION TO VOTERS IN NEAR FUTURE—DATE OF ELECTION NOT DETERMINED.

WATER COMPANY WILL SELL

After Reviewing Situation Councilmen Believe That New Plant Will Pay for Itself Within Life of Bonds

Complete plans and specifications for an adequate water system for Ontario were presented to the City Council at a special session last Thursday evening by Engineer Louis C. Kelsey of Portland.

Mr. Kelsey's plans as he explained them in detail are conceived with the idea that ultimately the system will be called on to furnish water for 4000 people and to water the lawns and gardens within the city limits up to 100 acres. The total cost, as estimated by Mr. Kelsey, is given at \$99,000. This of course is for an entirely new system.

Covers Entire City.
Mr. Kelsey's plans call for a system which covers the entire inhabited portion of the city, including all that section East of the track which is without fire protection or sewerage.

Mr. Kelsey, after counting all the residences within the city limits, declared that not more than 20 would be more than half a block from a water main. Another feature of the proposed system is the arrangement which provides for a clear flow of water through the system. There will be no "dead ends."

The plans for the system Mr. Kelsey proposes, with the maps and diagrams, are at the city hall, and a study of them convinces that Ontario's needs would be adequately cared for under them.

Water Company Would Sell.
Since the receipt of Mr. Kelsey's plans by the city council the officers of the Ontario Water company have made formal offer to sell the present system to the city. Whether there is any possibility that the present distributing system can be harmonized with the Kelsey plans and by doing so prevent an absolute loss to the company is a question to be determined.

System Will Pay Its Cost.
In a rather exhaustive study of the situation and the probable number of users on the system in a year or two the members of the council expressed the belief that not only would the system pay its operating and maintenance charges from the start but would provide the sinking fund necessary to pay the original cost within the life of the bonds to be issued for its original cost. This is especially true if the city as water company were to charge itself at the present rate for hydrant rental and as a matter of fairness to the water department credit it with that amount for fire protection.

Do Away With Ditches.
Another thing which the system as proposed would do which is of great importance to the city viewed from the health standpoint. It would do away with the need for open irrigation ditches within the city limits. Not only would that work toward the beautification of the city but would do away with stagnant water breeding places for flies and mosquitoes and promote the health of the community materially.

In order that the residents of Ontario may have a comprehensive idea of what the proposed plan is the Argus in another column of this issue, giving Mr. Kelsey's report complete.

PICTURES OF HALIFAX DISASTER HERE SUNDAY

Manager Jaquish of Dreamland received word this morning that in the Pathé News films for Sunday would be a complete showing of the awful disaster that wrecked Halifax, Nova Scotia when the munition ship, Mont Blanc exploded.

IMITATION LONDON FOG SHROUDS SNAKE VALLEY

The most continuous fog, as well as the densest "Scottish Mist" that has visited this section for years has enshrouded the Snake River valley for several days. It has been a genuine imitation of a London blanket and has been the subject of numerous imprecations.

While it has been foggy overhead it has also been muddy underfoot to such an extent that Ontario has the best appearance of which she is capable at this time.

Unpleasant as this condition is, however, Ontarians do not kick hard when they read the daily weather reports from Eastern and Middle Western points. Sub-zero weather has no appeal for them.

FOOD ADMINISTRATOR SURPRISES MERCHANTS

After Calling Ontarians to Boice to Tell Them to Inaugurate "Cash and Carry" Plan Bicknell Changes Position.

With the 400 Idaho merchants the dealers of Malheur county, who are operating under the direction of the Idaho office of the National Food Administration were, figuratively speaking, "up in the air" for several days this week.

The cause of their ascension was the last minute change of policy relative to business methods on the part of the Idaho administrator, R. F. Bicknell. The local merchants are at a loss to determine the change of plans on Mr. Bicknell's part, who just a few days before in Boise was most emphatic in insisting that the department's suggestion of "Cash & Carry" be literally interpreted and rigidly enforced. They were, therefore, greatly astonished when the daily papers of last Saturday carried an interview with Mr. Bicknell to the effect that the department had changed its interpretation of the "Cash and Carry" to mean, payment for goods every 30 days and one free delivery each day.

However, in view of the fact that they had previously announced to their customers that they would follow the administrator's request and inaugurate the first plan, the majority of the Ontario merchants have also signified their intention of again following the "Cash and Carry" plan.

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RED CROSS WORKERS SEND MORE SWEATERS

Big Box With Sweaters, Socks, Mufflers and Wristlets Leave for Soldier Boys.

The biggest shipment of knitting to leave the Ontario Chapter rooms for the soldier boys left this week. In the consignment were the following: 54 pairs of socks; 15 mufflers; 27 sweaters; 29 wristlets and 10 helmets. While this indicates that there are some industrious workers in the chapter it does not greatly reduce the supply of yarn that could be secured by more knitters. An additional 100 pounds of yarn arrived this week and the members of the Red Cross who are working every day feel that many who have not, as yet, helped might turn some of the material into garments that would warm some soldier or sailor. More workers is the crying need of the Red Cross.

Miss Mary Atherton left Wednesday morning for Nampa where she has accepted a position in one of the Junction city's banking houses.

WILL ENLARGE COLD STORAGE PLANT HERE

Andrew Robinson of Prairie City Purchases Ontario Cold Storage Company and Will Enlarge Capacity.

Ontario is going to have a cold storage warehouse and a wholesale produce company. This announcement was made this week following the purchase of the Ontario Cold Storage company's plant from J. A. Williams by Andrew Robinson of Prairie City. Mr. Robinson has taken over the plant already and Mr. Williams is to remain with him for some time.

"Of course my plans have not been sufficiently matured to give a definite announcement concerning them," said Mr. Robinson to the Argus today, "but we plan to enlarge the present plant so that we will be able to handle the produce grown in this region."

"I have applied to the railroad company for additional space on the right-of-way and will erect an ice house with 500 tons capacity and plan to bring in ice made from pure mountain lake water. The ice is to come from above North Powder in Baker county. In the meantime, of course, we will continue to handle artificial ice if needed and develop the other branches of the business."

"To start with we hope to provide a market for the produce of this region. Before buying out Mr. Williams arrangements were made for the purchase of the Ontario Produce company and I have already begun to purchase poultry from local ranches. With increased capacity and with plenty of ice to protect the goods I hope to be in position next fall to give Ontario that which it has long wanted, an adequate cold storage plant."

STUDENTS START ON RETURN TO COLLEGES

General Exodus of Ontario's University Students Begins Tomorrow—Some Few Add to Their Vacation.

The exodus of Ontario's young men and women who are attending the various state institutions begins tomorrow and according to the rag, rag boys they are not too anxious to go into the wet districts even if they have not enjoyed a dry season here.

The University of Oregon and O. A. C. as usual take the biggest delegation with the Varsity getting the following: Misses Rena Adams, Grace Sage, Irene Rader, Lallus Blackaby and Robert E. Lees. O. A. C. will be the destination of Misses Nettie Peterson, Neva Billingsley, Theodosia Wells and Arthur Cockrum. The University of Washington at Seattle will be the objective of Marcus Planey and Paul Van Pelt.

While there have been no social functions planned solely for the benefit of the students during the holidays the dances in Ontario and Payette have furnished sufficient diversion, together with the usual Christmas gatherings to make the break of college life enjoyable.

JUNIOR RED CROSS IS BEING ORGANIZED NOW

Ontario is to have a Junior Red Cross. Mrs. E. M. Greig, Secretary of the local chapter is organizing the first juniors at the schools and the new members are starting work with a will.

The boys of the manual training department are making the packing boxes for the shipments which leave Ontario and the girls of the domestic arts department are to make night shirts for the soldiers. There are 35 girls in the department and they will turn out less than 60 garments each month.

Over in the grade, building the seventh grade pupil in Mrs. Lucy B. Foxe's room have decided they want to do something too so they have agreed to provide for the care of a Belgium boy or girl.

SCHOOLS ADOPT NEW SIX DAY SCHEDULE

Pupils of High School and Eighth Grade to Work so that Vacation May Begin May 3.

With the opening of schools following the Christmas vacation the High School and Eighth Grade went on the six day per week plan. This was done following a vote of the pupils so that they could start their vacation on May 3 instead of May 31. This will enable many of the pupils to get to work on the farm in time to be of real use to their parents.

New Pupils in Schools.
The opening also showed an increased enrollment showing that a number of new families have come to Ontario since school started in the fall. In all 15 new students were enrolled, most of them in the grades, tho the High School showed an increase and has reached the highest enrollment for the year, 150. In the grades there are more than 400 pupils, making the total enrollment in the system 546.

Mrs. W. F. Homan, formerly a member of the public school faculty was elected by the school board to complete the unexpired term of Miss Jeanie Whitaker who left during the holidays to accept a position in the schools of Klamath Falls, Oregon.

The following are the new pupils in the schools and the schools from which they came: Cressa and Fern Wells, Boise; Myrna, Guy and Daisy Secoy, Fergus Falls, Minn.; Lena and James Perkins, Homestead, Oregon; Jos. Siler, Joseph, Oregon; Jack Grant Spokane, Wash.; Ellis Garcia, Harney; Vern Nelson, Weiser, Maca Wells, Idaho; Jose Johnson, Portland Oregon; Brundage Sherman and Kester Swanson, Ontario.

Ellis Garcia, one of the new pupils is a young man whose home is in sunny Spain for this is the address he gave of his parents "Cornellans, Spain." He is the only alien pupil in the school.

LARGEST GARAGE IN COUNTY OPENS DOORS

Ford Agency Celebrates New Year in Handsome New Quarters—Has Many Innovations—Will Hold 75 Cars.

The largest and most completely equipped garage in Malheur county opened its doors here on New Year's day when Manager Erbie Hayes of the Ford agency greeted customers at the new place of business on Oregon street at Colorado avenue.

The new garage is attracting a great deal of attention these days, for it has a number of innovations that make it appeal to the auto owner but of course the size of the mammoth parking space is the thing that is the star attraction.

Under the big roof more than 70 cars can be parked. The side wall spaces take care of 42 cars while in the center some 30 can be added without calling on the machine shop to assist. Already a large portion of the space is occupied and Manager Hayes anticipates further demands for room.

One of the features of the parking section is a ledge along each wall which acts as a bumper for the cars, stopping the wheels at a safe distance from the wall prevent the crumpling of mud guards on the solid wall. Besides this the floor of the

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VALLEY VIEW ADDS NAMES TO RED CROSS HONOR ROLL

Every day new names are added to the list of families within the jurisdiction of Ontario Chapter of the Red Cross whose every member is also a member of the Chapter. The following names from the Valley View District were reported this week: C. E. Aundon, Henry C. Mueller, W. S. Rees, Gus Reich, C. F. Countryman, C. A. Johnson, J. H. Dunn and Mr. Tension.

WELL SUPPLY LIMITED AND LIABLE TO CONTAMINATION

CALIFORNIANS WASTEFUL SAYS ONTARIO RANCHER

When Uncle Sam gets around to regulating the lives of his people to make them economical he will find a fruitful field in Los Angeles and San Francisco, says F. S. Bailey, who returned from a sojourn in the tourist towns Sunday.

"You would never believe that the California hotel and restaurant keepers had ever heard of the war. That is also true of the majority of the tourists who patronize their establishments. Waste in time, waste in food, waste of everything, seems to be the California motto," said Mr. Bailey.

It was so warm in Southern California when Mr. Bailey left that the fields were dry and hot and the dust moved about as it does in Ontario in August.

ONLY TEN OF STATES HAVE FILLED QUOTAS

Portland, Oregon, January 2.—Except to fill vacancies in calls already made, no more men will be drafted from Oregon or other states before February 15. As all questionnaires will be completed before that date, this will give men taken hereafter, except such few as may be needed prior to February 15 to fill vacancies, the advantage of the new classification system.

Very few men would have been taken from Oregon in any event prior to the next draft, which it is now announced will not be earlier than February 15. This is one of only 10 states that have already filled their quotas in the first draft, barring a few vacancies caused by rejections at the training camps.

Future draft quotas are to be filled first from Class 1, comprising men without dependents. They will be drafted from deferred classifications only when Class 1 is exhausted, thus making it necessary to go to the next class for enough men to fill up the quota.

An exception to this will be made in the case of experts and men highly skilled in agriculture or industries. It is announced that the Government soon call for a large number of men from this special class. They will be taken as needed for this special work from whatever classification they may have been granted.

A limited number of men not now in active service, and retired officers of the Oregon National Guard, who are physically fit and between the ages of 23 and 47, are eligible for enlistment as privates first-class for attendance at the next officers' training camps, which begin January 15. Official word to this effect has just been received by John M. Williams, acting adjutant general, from the Chief of the Bureau of Militia Affairs at Washington, with the request that it be given publicity.

Applications for the camps by such officers must be approved by the Bureau. Those qualifying at the camps which will be held in Southern California and the Southern States, will receive commissions.

NEW STORE FOR PARMA STARTED BY NYSSA FIRM

Wilson Bros. of Nyssa, members of the same family which gives Ontario a Wilson Bros. store, have branched out and at Parma this week are opening a store under the name of the Parma Trading company. The new Idaho institution will be in charge of Mr. Stiles, who for the past seven years has been with the Vale Trading company.

Due to the illness of Daniel Grady and Marlin Gramse the force at Uncle Sam's place of business had a busy session with the mail yesterday.

ENGINEER KELSEY DISCUSSES EVERY PHASE OF ONTARIO'S WATER PROBLEM IN REPORT TO COUNCIL.

FILTERED WATER IS SAFEST

City Now Has 21 Fire Hydrants—New System Calls for Installation of 46 Hydrants—Would Supply Million Gallons Daily.

In order that the people of Ontario may have before them in detail the report of Engineer Louis C. Kelsey on the City's water problem his report to the City Council is given herewith completely. The subject matter covered in the report and its importance to the health and prosperity of the city alone commend it to the careful study of every resident. This is what Mr. Kelsey's report said:

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council, Ontario, Oregon, Gentlemen:

In accordance with your authorization I have made investigations for determining the most desirable supply of wholesome water in sufficient quantity for the present and future needs of the City of Ontario, and respectfully submit my report thereon covering the possible sources of supply and estimates of cost and results of delivering water to the City, as follows:

That an adequate supply of water of pure quality is essential to the welfare and growth of a municipality is an accepted fact. Independent of the important consideration of promoting the public health, every community should have sufficient water supply under pressure for both present and future needs, for fire protection, flushing sewers and paved streets, lawn and street sprinkling, and for all domestic and municipal purposes.

The unsatisfactory character of the present water supply is common knowledge to the water consumers and to others who have become familiar with the existing conditions.

The new system has been planned to afford a sufficient supply so that the use of meters will not be needed. The policy of the city is to encourage the growth of lawns and gardens, which requires a large amount of water, much greater than that usually estimated in other localities as sufficient.

From my investigations I find only two available water supplies for the City of Ontario (except at an excessive expenditure) that can be considered, namely, wells and the Snake river.

Well Supply.
From my investigations I find that the supply from wells is limited, very hard, and in most, if not all cases, the water is contaminated. These facts practically eliminate wells as a supply for your city.

Irrigation Supply.
It is advantageous to have a sufficient supply for irrigating gardens and trees from the pipe system to do away with the unsightly ditches in

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NAILING LIES ABOUT THE RED CROSS WORK

To expose the careless ignorant, as well as the deliberately seditious and pro-German individuals who seek to injure the Red Cross and other war activities by telling the most absurd falsehoods, the Seattle Star has offered a cash prize of \$500 to anyone who can prove true a single case of graft or offense of any kind committed by the society or its officers. The offer is a broad one and if any Ontarian has any evidence to offer an excellent opportunity is given to make money by producing it. Needless to say there will never be anyone to take down that offer.