

# The Ontario Argus.

XXII

ONTARIO, MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY JANUARY 10, 1918.

NO. 1

## COUNCIL DECIDES TO PROPOSE BOND ISSUE

PEOPLE WILL BE ASKED TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WANT A WATER SYSTEM TO COVER CITY.

## COUNCIL VOTE IS UNANIMOUS

First Step Necessary, However, Is a Change in the Charter to Permit of a Higher Limit for Bond Issue.

On Wednesday, January 30, Ontario will determine whether or not it shall build a municipally owned water system. Concurrently it will determine whether the city is to be healthful and a desirable place in which to live or whether or not it will continue to ally itself with the typhoid epidemics which have annually visited it for the past two years.

The placing of a definite date for the election was determined at a meeting held last evening. Before the date could be set it was necessary for the council to pass an ordinance providing for a means of amending the City Charter and to submit to the people the proposition of so changing the fundamental law of the municipality so that the proposed bond issue will come within the legal limit of indebtedness.

**Must Provide Means.**  
Under the present charter the Council will submit an amendment to the bond the City to a greater sum than 15 per cent of the valuation. At the present time, too, the bonded indebtedness of the city is \$75,000 and under the 15 per cent limit the city could raise only an additional \$53,000, or some \$45,000 less than the sum needed to build the proposed water system.

To remedy this condition the Council will submit an amendment to the Charter permitting on the approval of the people the raising of the limit of bonded indebtedness to 25 per cent of the valuation. This would permit of the building of the system without reaching the new limit.

**Council Unanimous.**  
When the question of submitting the two propositions to the legal voters came before the Council at each of the sessions, Monday and Wednesday evenings there was not a dissenting vote. On Monday evening all of the councilmen were present while on Wednesday evening Councilmen C. R. Emison was the only one absent. There was no debate on the question. It was merely a matter of preparing the proceedings so that every step would be legally correct. The Council has for months been of the opinion that an adequate water system is needed.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TO START BIG DRIVE

Malheur County Is Scheduled for \$3000 for Institutions for Soldier Boy Benefits.

P. J. Gallagher, leading knight of the Snake River Council of the Knights of Columbus, announced this week that the drive for \$3000, the county's quota for the national fund will start next week.

The Knights of Columbus fund is used for recreational buildings and work among the soldiers along the same lines as the Y. M. C. A. war fund, and the recreational houses are open to soldiers of all denominations. It is not the purpose of the local knights to solicit funds among those who are not Catholics, but of set for themselves the enemy of the course in their efforts to reach the goal set for them voluntary subscriptions to the fund by any citizen will be appreciated. The local organization will be perfected this week and C. C. Dufresne will be the treasurer, any contributions may be given to him.

W. C. T. U. will meet next Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 15, at the home of Mrs. Iven Arnold.

## HOWARD BOYER KILLED IN MONTANA ACCIDENT

Details of Nature of Fatality Unknown—Family Has Week of Grief-Giving Events.

On the heels of the message telling of the departure of one member of the family for the war zone in Europe, and the calling of his wife to the bedside of her stricken mother in Baker, H. C. Boyer today received word of the death of his brother Howard at his home near Moorehead Montana.

No details of the accident have been learned. Oren Boyer leaves tonight for Moorehead and it is not known, as yet, whether the body will be brought here for interment.

Howard Boyer was the fourth of seven sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Boyer of this city. He was born at Vancouver, Wash., 32 years ago and came to Ontario with his parents when but a boy. Until six years ago he was associated with the firm of Boyer Bros. and has many friends here who knew him as a boy and man of energy and ability. In 1910 he married Miss Florence Green of Portland, a niece of Mrs. J. D. Billingsley of this city. To them three children, the oldest seven, the youngest two years, were born.

With his brother Chelsey Mr. H. Boyer went to Montana to engage in the mercantile business in the Big Hole Basin country. This business they sold last summer and engaged in the cattle business.

A. F. Boyer, father of the young man is now in Texas and members of the family here are not certain where Mrs. Boyer is, for she planned to leave Moorehead, Mont., where she has been visiting for Texas, this week. On account of this fact, together with the absence of the three brothers in the army and the uncertainty concerning their ability to get furloughs, no arrangements have been made for the funeral.

## UNCLE SAM'S MAN IS COMING FOR REVENUE

Get Ready to Tell him Exactly What You Earned During 1917—Will Be here January 29 to 30.

Did you raise 60 tons of hay, or in other words did \$1000 or more pass thru your hands during the year of 1917? If so, be prepared to tell Uncle Sam about it some time between January 29 to 30 right here in Ontario.

Advices were received today by H. C. Cockrum from Mr. A. Miller, collector of internal revenue for this district that a representative from his office will be in Ontario from January 29 to 30 to supply with the necessary blanks for the return income. He will be an authority on the income tax law and his advice will be expert on the subject.

The provisions of the law are some what complicated but in a general way single men with incomes of \$1000 or more have to pay a tax while married men have to pay on a greater income than \$2000, with an added sum exempt for each child.

With a representative of the government in each county in the United States will be no excuse for anyone not knowing the provisions of the law affecting him.

## FIRST NATIONAL RE-ELECTS OFFICERS FOR YEAR 1917

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National bank was held Tuesday afternoon. The meeting was a formal ratification of the work of the directors and a re-election of all the officers and directors as follows: A. L. Cockrum, president; T. Turnbull, Mooreville, vice-president; H. C. Cockrum, cashier; C. W. Platt, assistant cashier; J. D. Billingsley, C. E. Kenyon and L. B. Cockrum, directors.

## ONTARIO MUST HAVE PURE WATER BUSINESS MEN SAY

Not a Case for Debate Now—Must be Done, Declare Those Who Are Seen This Week—Further Delay Fatal—City Has Suffered Enough Already.

In an effort to get a concrete idea of the attitude of the business men of Ontario the Argus this week started a campaign to get an expression of opinion from as many citizens as possible. Of course not all the men could be reached this week but with a few exceptions all were in favor of immediate action.

There was not a person interviewed who did not believe that the city needs a water system. The point that one or two raised was that of the advisability of undertaking such a work at this time when prices are above normal, and labor scarce.

"It is no longer a debatable question, Ontario must get a good supply of water."—A. L. Cockrum.

"It is too bad that we did not go after the situation three or four years ago. Of course the city needs a good water supply, but before I would make a statement on the proposed plans I want to see them and study the specifications."—W. E. Lees.

"There is nothing to it, we can't let the situation continue. The city is suffering, as the result and a new water system is needed."—L. Adam.

"Get it as soon as possible. Have it built immediately. Ontario can't go forward until it has solved the water problem."—Frank Rader.

"Ontario's neighbor's are seeing to it that the water situation here is advertised and it is time, certainly, that the problem is solved with an adequate system."—P. J. Gallagher.

"It is alright with me."—T. H. Moore.

"Ontario is losing every day it delays in getting a good water system. The demand for modern conditions is seen every day when people come to rent houses, and Ontario is suffering for the need of them."—S. F. Taylor.

"Ontario will be like Goldsmith's Deserted Village, abandoned to the jackrabbits unless it solves the water and sewerage problems. Get the water by all means."—M. M. Bush.

"If we don't do something and do it quick, Ontario is killing itself."—Hugh Allen.

"Many homeseekers will stay in Ontario if we can furnish them good water. This I know from expressions many strangers have made in the score during the past year."—C. S. Watson.

"This is a case where it has to be done."—Ray A. Wilson.

"Can't get along without it."—W. L. Turner.

"I had rather do without electric lights, telephones and other conveniences and have a good water supply."—W. W. Letson.

"A pure supply of water is absolutely necessary. There is no doubt about it."—S. D. Dorman.

The Argus will continue its canvass next week, for time did not permit seeing everyone of the business men. But if the ratio is maintained thruout the city the water bonds and charter amendments will carry, ten to one.

## MALHEUR COUNTY BACK H. L. GRIFFIN DIES UNDER N. W. AYER'S FOLLOWING OPERATION

Oregon Food Administrator Recalls Permission for Bicknell to Run Food Campaign Here Causes Speculation.

After a turbulent few weeks under the administration of R. F. Bicknell, Federal Food Administrator for Idaho, Malheur county merchants are again under the jurisdiction of N. W. Ayer, administrator for Oregon. Advices to this effect were received Sunday.

As the result the local merchants do not know whether there are any food regulations they have to obey. They do not know, "where they are at," to use the slang expression. But in the meantime they are following what they believe to be the general policy of the food administration as they interpret from the publications.

Why the change back to Oregon was made the local merchants do not know. Those who expressed themselves declare that since Boise is so much nearer, and can easily be reached by phone they preferred the Idaho connection, however, they are willing to do anything they are told by the Oregon administrator and are awaiting his orders.

Was Well Known Here, Having Been Resident Here for More Than Twenty Years—Leaves Wife and Two Children.

As a result of complications and other pneumonia following an operation for appendicitis, H. Lockett Griffin, formerly of this city, died in a Boise hospital last Saturday. The body was brought to Ontario and the funeral services were held here Monday under the auspices of the Knights of Pythias, of which the deceased was a member. Interment was made in the Ontario cemetery.

The news of Mr. Griffin's death was a distinct shock to the hundreds of friends of the family, for both he and his wife numbered their friends in Ontario by the circle of their acquaintance. It was generally believed that Mr. Griffin was going to recover from the effects of the operation and so much progress had been made that his brother, Henry Griffin, who was called to Boise to be with him, had returned home. So sudden was the relapse suffered that the brother could not reach the bedside before the end came. The deceased leaves besides his widow, a son, Wynne, aged 13, and a daughter.

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## THE WATER BOND ELECTION—WHEN IT IS TO BE HELD AND OTHER INFORMATION

- ◆ Date of election: Wednesday, January 30, 1918.
- ◆ Place: City Hall.
- ◆ Polls will be open from 8 a. m. to 12 m. and from 1 p. m. to 7 p. m.
- ◆ Purpose of election: First to vote upon an amendment to the City Charter providing for an increase in the limit of bonded indebtedness which will permit of the building of the proposed water system.
- ◆ Second, to authorize the issuance of bonds in the sum of \$100,000 with which to build and operate a municipally owned water system.
- ◆ Who can vote: Every legal voter resident in the City of Ontario can vote at this election. The ownership of property is not necessary to qualify as a legal voter in Oregon, since last June, therefore every legal voter can vote at the coming election.
- ◆ The officials of the election will be: Judges: S. F. Taylor, C. T. Hager, D. M. Nichols; Clerks: D. P. Dearborn, A. R. McIntosh.
- ◆ How determined: A majority of the votes cast is necessary to determine the election in favor of the issues presented.
- ◆ If you want a new water system for Ontario which will insure an adequate supply of pure, soft water, vote YES on both propositions.

## COURT ADJOURNS TO MEET ON JANUARY 28

Wire From Judge Biggs Today Further Postpones Sitting; Judge Anderson Opens Court and Adjourns.

Vale Or., Jan. 16.—Only one indictment was returned by the Grand Jury during its brief session Monday morning. Foreman E. D. McCoy reported the one charge, that of arson against Noble Pullen, who is charged with burning his father's hay stack.

Word was received today from Judge Dalton Biggs, who is in Washington urging the appropriation of funds for the Wapinitia that he will not be able to return in time to hold sessions of the court on January 21, as he had planned and ordered a further adjournment until January 28. Witnesses and jurors, therefore, who were notified to be at Vale on January 14 and later for January 21 are now notified not to present themselves at the county seat until January 28.

Judge Anderson convened the Court of Tuesday and heard arguments in a case transferred from Harney county in which the Pacific Livestock company sought to have modified the injunction granted by Judge Biggs restraining the company from taking hay claimed by Smith & Son.

The number of attorneys present was the feature of the argument. The P. L. S. company and its co-appellant, Jones & Howell, were represented by Edward Treadwell of San Francisco; John Rand of Baker; John W. Biggs of Burns and Brooke & Gallagher of Ontario; while Smith & Son were represented by McCulloch & Wood of Ontario.

The action grew out of the purchase of a big piece of land near Harney Lake by Smith & Son during a foreclosure and while they held the sheriff's title to the land they cut 750 tons of hay. The land was later redeemed by Jones & Howell with money borrowed from the P. L. S. company, which united with Jones & Howell to demand the hay. Had this been a hard winter and each of the interested parties been dependent on that hay, serious loss would have resulted. But in spite of that fact the hay is being bitterly fought for by the array of legal men here assembled.

## RED CROSS CHAPTER BREAKING RECORDS

This is the Biggest Week in Its History—Red Competition Starts Next Week—Boucher Heads Juniors.

This is the biggest week in the history of the Ontario Red Cross Chapter. An average of 1500 pieces of surgical dressings per day have been maintained so far. The tables have been more nearly filled every day than at any time in the past.

Next week Mrs. E. M. Greig, secretary, plans on having a real competition, with every day the crews endeavoring to surpass that of the day previous.

**Boucher to Head Juniors.**  
S. M. Boucher, principal of the High School, has been appointed chairman of the school sections to organize the Junior workers in this jurisdiction. All of the school workers and their officers can report to him.

**Camp Lewis Wants Socks.**  
Urgent requests for more knitted goods comes from the division headquarters in Seattle. The officials there are urging the chapters to send more often and not wait for the semi-monthly shipments. The reason for this is that the men at Camp Lewis are in need of warm clothes.

In spite of the fact that this is a record breaking week the local chapter has much to do for of one kind of small bandages alone it must produce 1400 per day to make a regular monthly shipment. There is therefore still a great demand for workers and for knitters.

## ONTARIO NATIONAL NOW 20 YEARS OLD

WAS FIRST BANK ESTABLISHED IN SOUTHEASTERN OREGON WHERE NOW THERE ARE 15 INSTITUTIONS

## OFFICERS CELEBRATE OCCASION

Ontario and All This Section Has Grown Since 1898, Declare Three of Original Directors Who Are Still Active.

On Tuesday the Ontario National Bank celebrated its twentieth birthday. President J. R. Blackaby marked the occasion by giving a dinner to his associates on the board of directors, the employees of the bank and the local newspaper men, at Fifer's.

As a historical occasion in the life of the bank the gathering gave rise to reminiscence of the early days in Ontario and Malheur county in which Messrs. Blackaby, L. Adam, T. J. Bronson and C. R. Emison each contributed their share of interesting episodes, while the more recent arrivals in this section added their store of information.

**Oldest Bank in the County.**  
Among the other facts related by the host and his associates was this: At the time of the founding of the Ontario National, first as a private bank by Stephen A. Carver there was no other banking institution in twenty odd thousand square miles now known as Malheur, Harney and Grant counties. Baker was the nearest city in Oregon with a bank, and Caldwell divided the business of all this section.

Today there are 15 banks in the three counties in which more than \$6,000,000 is deposited. Also from a time when the entire force of two used to sun itself all afternoon waiting for business the local institution now has all told 1200 accounts.

Besides relating the growth of the banking business of this section the general progress of the county and city was recorded, for practically all the buildings now on the site of Ontario have been built since the first bank started.

**Founders Still With Bank.**  
It was recalled that three of the original board of directors, Messrs. Blackaby, Adam and Bronson, are still active in its management. As related above Stephen A. Carver was the founder of the institution and John W. Lynch was its first cashier when it opened as a private bank in 1898. In 1899 it was incorporated with the following officers and directors: Stephen A. Carver, president; J. R. Blackaby, vice-president; C. W. Platt, cashier; L. Adam, T. J. Bronson, J. L. Cole and Fred Haines, directors. Mr. Carver left the institution in 1903 and Mr. Blackaby became president and C. R. Emison, cashier; later when Mr. Emison resigned as cashier W. F. Homan took that position. In a country where changes have been rapid and thousands of people have

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## PAST WORTHY MATRON TO INSTALL OFFICERS

Mrs. W. H. Riley of Caldwell Is to Be Guest of Honor at Star Chapter Banquet Session; Many Attend.

Mrs. W. H. Riley of Caldwell a Past Grand Worthy Matron of Oregon Eastern Stars, is the installing officer at the initiation of Star Chapter's officers for 1918, to be held this evening. Mrs. Riley arrived on the Mrs. W. W. Letson, retiring Worthy Matron of the Chapter. Following the installation there will be an initiation and later in the evening a banquet will be served.

The officers to be installed are: Miss Margaret Dunbar, Worthy Matron; Miss Pauline Billingsley, associate matron; Mrs. Hugh Allen, W. P.; Mrs. W. F. Homan, secretary and Mrs. J. H. Farley, treasurer.