

The Ontario Argus

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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.

PROSPERITY IS HERE.

There are mighty few cities in Oregon that can boast of better prospects for the summer of 1918 than can Ontario. It is a fact that the city, right now, has a better season before it than it has ever faced in its history.

This condition is not due to the war, either. This is the first place of which we have knowledge that is prosperous that can make that statement. The prosperity that Ontario is to enjoy comes from its own activity. It is due to the manifest faith which the people here have in their community. Thru that faith they have had the courage to proceed to make investments in the improvement of conditions within the city and in its immediate vicinity. The expenditure of the money needed for this work together with the great returns of last year's crops combine to make Ontario the Mecca for men seeking work and they in turn better conditions for the city.

PERMANENT RESIDENTS.

Ontario is glad to see the residences fill up that have been vacant for some time. This is a condition toward which many a landlord has looked for months, and in years past has hoped for.

Now it is a question whether Ontario will be able to hold these people here after the work for which they have come is completed. It is true that the very nature of the improvements underway will tend to make this city a more desirable place in which to live, but are these improvements alone sufficient to achieve the desired result?

What else can be done to improve the city, that will not require too vast an expenditure?

In the first place everyone will agree that; owing to the nature of sage brush land, and owing to the fact that the population is scattered over a wide area; it is hard to make Ontario picturesquely beautiful.

But that is no reason for not trying to improve the appearance of the city. If Ontario cannot be noted for its remarkable beauty it can be spoken of as, "a mighty clean city, that has improved wonderfully."

Wouldn't that be a mighty good impression to have traveling men and occasional visitors to Ontario spread abroad?

What do you suppose they are saying now?

They all admit that Ontario is a good business town. The city is not altogether to blame for that. But Ontarians can improve the appearance of the city a great deal and at a very little expense.

Why could not Ontario have a whole week's effort devoted to "cleaning up and painting up", and generally making the town one in which every citizen will take a most justifiable pride?

THE POLITICAL TREND?

What have the politicians in mind these days? So far as the outward appearances may be judged there is nothing of great weight on the grey matter under the flowing locks of the aspirants for political favors.

Of course the boys are under a handicap this year. It is hard to arouse the people these days. The war is too big an attraction to buck with a kerosene circuit act. Political platforms have so familiar a ring and are so similar that there is little to choose between: many of the candidates.

For the present at least there seems to be no political lines of cleavage, as there have been in the past. Everyone wants to win the war and do so as quickly as possible. The outstanding feature of the campaign seems to be, "don't knock the President."

If there is any political trend that is it. And so far that is the proper attitude. The being president these days is hard without adding to it the half best-

ed ideas of the candidates. Then too the people, generally speaking, out here in the west have the notion well developed that the average candidate to rail against it.

The reception which greeted the criticism voiced by Senator Chamberlain while not all one sided has proven that. Witnessing what many George's best political friends have done, is enough to call a halt on timorous strategists.

All these things being true, it appears that it is altogether likely that the usual number of Oregonians will register as Republicans and then vote any old way at the general election.

LOOKING AFTER THE KIDS.

It took the war to teach the importance of child raising. Before that time the movement was confined to small groups of interested women and "old fashioned mothers who just naturally liked their family and could not help it."

Uncle Sam has taken the matter in hand. The vast wastage of war has shown the value of the individual child as has nothing in the history of mankind. The development of the child is of such importance that the Federal Government is anxious that every child have a chance for proper development.

Uncle Sam has long been in the development business, but it is a shame to admit the truth of the statement that more time and money has been spent in developing hogs and cattle and protecting them from disease, etc., than there has been in developing children and eradicating conditions which make for the stunting of the most important of all animals, the boys and girls of America.

MAKING WASTE WATER WORK.

The duty which water has been called upon to perform in this section has been far lower than the good of the country demanded. That is evident from the demand which exists now for water rights to waste water from various drainage districts. Of course, the fact that so many acres have been totally ruined by alkali while others close beside show no such deterioration, is patent evidence of such waste.

Already there is a demand for water rights for the waste water to be drained thru the Malheur Drainage ditch and of course this water is to be used, to irrigate other lands. Thus the drainage of 5500 acres about the city means not only the reclaiming of many barren acres, but the irrigation of many now in sagebrush. And that is not all, many of the farms to be drained should and will greatly increase their yield because they will not be water logged.

THE CHAUTAUQUA.

Ontario is having a Chautauqua this week. The local committee which signed the contract did so, so long ago that it promptly forgot all about it and as the result little, very little, has been done in the way of publicity.

The attractions are worth seeing, however, and Ontarians will be doing themselves an injustice not to see and hear what is offered. The Chautauquas do fill a void in the life of most small cities. There are too few entertainments of high merit and educational value, and the Chautauqua condenses into a few days offerings that would otherwise be missed.

The citizen of the rural community cannot afford to miss the contact with the outside world which the Chautauqua gives. It is not necessary that you be pleased with every program, tho that is desirable, for many times there is enough inspiration found in one number to repay one for the entire course.

Ontario's first Chautauqua is scheduled for this week. There is time to determine whether or not Ontario is the kind of town that wants such a program. The Argus believes there are enough people here who enjoy the better class of entertainment, who want the city to be known as one of the progressive communities of the Valley, and who therefore will support the Chautauqua movement.

BUY THE BABY BONDS.

It is a shame to admit it, but Malheur County is furnishing the tail end of the state procession for the purchase of Thrift Stamps. It is way behind, not only the gross amount purchased but in the per capita purchase. Something is wrong. What is it?

Mr. Reader, is the "something wrong," partially you? Have you a Baby in our home?

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