

The Ontario Argus

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A GOOD TICKET

In spite of the fact that it took the voters of Ontario a long time to come to a realization of the fact that it was absolutely necessary for them to place a municipal ticket before the voters at the general election, that action was at last taken at the caucus Monday night, and the ticket nominated is a worthy one.

The caucus, tho not large in numbers was representative of those who take an interest in civic affairs and its selection of candidates reflects good judgment. All of the men presented to the voters are successful business men, home owners in the community and are interested in its well being. The City Government will be in good hands for the next two years when the voters ratify the action of the caucus and elect the men named on November 5.

THE GERMAN PEACE NOTE.

There was a vast difference between the reply President Wilson sent to Germany and the note it brot in response. The difference existed both in letter and in spirit. The honors rest entirely with the President.

Germany replies with evasion and deliberate falsehoods, the direct and simple statements of the President. Her note would give the shadow of acceptance of the President's terms, while the President demands their application in substance. In every respect in which the President utterance shows strength of conviction and lofty purpose the Hun reply responds with weakness and almost childish purpose in trying to escape the clear obligation for the manifold transgressions.

The German note, however, shows progress in the democratization of the Prussian government. It declares that the Kaiser has been shorn of his power to declare peace and war; that a universal and equal suffrage has been inaugurated with the added safety of a secret ballot.

The German government even as at present constituted, however, believes that the allied world is still childishly simple and trusting. It cannot conceive that the past four years of German ruthlessness has brot civilized nations of the world to a point where they no longer put faith in the German's word. That section of the note which admits that the military advisors may arrange the terms of armistice, takes one provision out of their jurisdiction by the assumption that if this is done that the strength of the belligerent armies shall remain the same during the negotiations.

It is almost laughable to think that they would make such a proposal in view of Germanic history, especially to so eminent an historian as President Wilson, for he knows what the Prussianism did under Von Stein, following Napoleon's victory over them, when they violated their treaties and secretly trained armies in the forests. Nor has the President nor the allied peoples forgotten von Bethmann Hallweg's famous description of treaties as: "mere scraps of paper."

With such a people, showing no greater moral regeneration that is evidenced in their latest note, there can be no negotiations. They have but a few words to say. They must accept "unconditional surrender," and permit the allied leaders to make the peace.

That from Germany there should come such a note is encouraging, despite the foregoing observations, for it indicates that a collapse is impending within the empire, brot about, not from their desire but from the pressure of the allied armies. The capitulation of Bulgaria, the practical elimination of Turkey and the steady decline of Austria-Hungary together with the gradual annihilation of the German armies in France and Flanders have been the means of bringing the haughty war lords to a realization that their game is nearly ended. They are bickering now in hope of dividing the allies and thus gain the best possible advantages. They are trying to salvage the hulk of their once proud ship of state which is drifting toward the rocks of Bolshevism, unless peace comes soon.

While the German note brings peace nearer, nearer at least than any one dared hope six months ago, that peace is not a prospect for the immediate future. Germany has still to learn that she cannot escape the payment of penalties, and that the peace which ends this war will be a peace dictated by a victorious army.

A GLORIOUS FINISH.

Ontario came under the wire of the Fourth Liberty Loan race with its head in the air and lots of reserve left, taking the finish in spirited style.

After getting off to a pretty start in which the loyal volunteers came to the pole and entered their subscriptions to Uncle Sam's Hun reducing bonds, there was a decided reversal of form after the first turn was rounded and the city went into the rack while every other community in the county rose after another nosed the "big town" out of the race.

But Ontario would not be denied. The local committee had faith in the staying powers of the loyal citizens and that faith was justified for before Friday evening the city showed a burst speed that made it a winner, for Ontario was over the top. That was not all for Saturday proved one of the biggest days of the campaign and \$10,000 was added to the subscriptions giving the city a record of \$134,000 while its quota was but \$122,000.

ELEVENTH HOUR CONVERSIONS.

Old time revillist always maintained, and there is something in it too, that eleventh hour conversions would save the soul from the hell fire they delighted to picture for the edification of the unrepentant. No doubt there are thousands of men and women who are now among the "redeemed" who entered the pearly gates, thru seeing the light just before the end.

Similarly in Ontario and in perhaps other communities there are citizens whose names will be enrolled on the scroll of honored Liberty Bond buyers who saw the light just before the end. They at last succumbed to the call of duty after being cajoled and pleaded with by fellow citizens not to deny themselves the glory and thus be cast into outerdarkness with the lovers of the German devils.

It was the delay which these few citizens gave that held Ontario back. Tho they be enrolled, and the city is glad that they are, it must not be denied that they were almost responsible for a Liberty Bond failure here.

There is this feature of the effort to secure their subscriptions, they saw the light, and having one forsaken their preverse ways will not again give concern to the Liberty Bond revivalist whose mission is to sell bonds that the world may be saved from a Prussian hell.

THE APPROACHING INFLUENZA

That Ontario has thus far escaped the ravages of the Spanish Influenza is due merely to good luck. How long the city's good luck will last is a debatable question but it will be a mericle indeed if the city escapes. In view of the fact that there are so many cases of the influenza in the neighboring towns in Idaho, its spread to this section is almost inevitable. The question is then, what can be done to reduce its extent.

The opinion of the public is divided, and since there is no law that will keep the people in regions now infected from traveling to communities that are not, the city appears impotent to prevent bearers of the germ from coming here. However the public should prepare to care for its interests and follow any regulation that the officials prescribe.

It is true that the public is all ready taking steps to guard its health by remaining away from public gatherings and is discussing the situation thoroly. That is the first step and when the public realizes the danger the remedy will be properly applied.

In the meantime there is hope that some of the many serums that have been experimented will be a proven success and Ontario citizens will be fortunate enough to receive treatment which tend to prevent the contraction of the malady.

OREGON'S KAISER.

Never in their palmiest days have Prussian diplomats endeavored to defuddle people more brazenly than has Kaiser Sam Jackson of the Oregon Journal in the two inittiative measures he and his legal minion Hagood have foisted on the ballot this fall relating to the publication of legal notices in country newspapers, outside of Portland.

Kaiser Jackson, like his prototype in Berlin is not honest in his statements, and he knows it. He is playing a double game, and into the hands of the title sharks who infest every county, when he says that the taxpayers pay for the publication of delinquent tax lists. He knows that is false for he knows that the taxpayers do not pay for such publication; but will have to pay additional taxes to make good the losses that will occur if his bill becomes a law. In the meantime he is protecting the speculator who holds big sections and lets his taxes ride until it is necessary for the state to sell them to secure payment.

The publication of the delinquent tax list is an advertisement of land for sale, its purpose is to inform the public of the chance to buy tax titles to land which will be their's unless within the specified time the owner redeem the tract by paying the tax and penalties attached. The penalties include the cost of publication and interest. That fact, which any lawyer or man experienced in such matters will verify, proves absolutely that the general taxpayers does not pay the costs of such advertising as Kaiser Jackson would have the people believe.

That is not all. The Journal bill provides that the only notice given the delinquent be by mail, and leaves the impression that such is not now the case. In fact the delinquent receives two notices by mail now. He first gets his notice of the amount of the tax as does everyone else. He later gets a notice that the tax delinquent and is given 90 days to pay the taxes before it is published that the public may buy in the tax title, if he will not himself.

Therefore the only interest that will be secured by the Jackson bill is that clique of tax title sharks who live in every county on the 15 per cent interest they secure, and use their money in that way, rather than buy Liberty Bonds.

If the public wants to aid the man who make it their business to do that sort of work the Jackson bill should pass, for then no one without examination of the records at the court house would ever know when such land is to be sold. A premium is put on non payment of taxes and the shark is aided and Kaiser Jackson's ill will at the country press will have been appeased.

Ontario can be proud of the fact that more than \$100,000 of Fourth Liberty Loan bonds were sold here without solicitation. That it was necessary to solicit the last \$10,000 is to be regretted, that won't happen next time.

Two years ago, had anyone said nearly a half million dollars worth of bonds could be sold in Malheur county in three weeks, the public generally would have thought that individual crazy. We are just finding out what we can do, and so is Germany. Let the lesson proceed.



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