

The Ontario Argus

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USE YOUR BALLOT.

The greatest danger to American democracy is the neglect of the fundamental safe guard, the ballot. In fact voting has become so common place that it is held cheap by the average citizen, yet that same citizen were he denied the privilege of voting would be willing to start a revolution to secure the privilege he now neglects.

In face of the fact that every man and woman in Oregon has the right to have his or her opinion expressed in the government of the Nation, State, County and City affairs thru the use of the ballot, there is still going abroad in the land the cry of malcontents that we are ruled by predatory interests and other catch phrases calculated to make the people believe that they are not exercising the degree of control over officials and policies to which they are entitled. If this cry has any truth in it, which is doubtful, there is no one to be blamed but the electorate, the people who do not go to the polls to vote.

The very fact that in almost every election only a comparatively small percentage of the men and women take the necessary time to go to the polls to vote, and only do so after but little consideration of the men and measures upon which they are to pass judgment is itself a mighty strong indication that the government of the State and Nation is not as grossly in error as the preachers of dissention say it is.

However there should be no ground whatever for such statements. It is up to the men and women who believe in our great American institutions to remove whatever possibility ever existed for such claims by constantly using that vigilance in public affairs which is the price of good government.

THE COMING ELECTION.

Next Tuesday there are many opportunities to demonstrate the capacity of the people of Oregon to determine governmental issues. We have beside the election of United States Senator, the choice of a Governor and legislature; the election of the County officials, and in Ontario a complete City government. Beside there are six measures to be voted upon.

With all the war work, with help scarce and other elements present to prevent the consideration of many of the measures that is due them, there is some excuse, perhaps, for little study of all the problems to be presented next Tuesday. However, since a decision must be made on each of them it is up to the voters to consider all the evidence available before casting a vote; and likewise it is safe, if close study has not been possible to vote No in case of doubt.

For example there are two fishery measure before the people concerning the right and manner of fishing for Salmon in the Willamette and Rogue rivers. On these measures the people of Eastern Oregon are not in a position from actual experience to form a personal judgment and have to rely on the words of well informed persons and publications on the West side where they are familiar with conditions.

On each of these questions, the Argus would vote No, since the issues are not clear.

On the question of the Eastern Oregon and Southern Oregon Normal Schools the Argus would vote yes, because it is self evident that the one Normal school now at Monmouth is absolutely unable to care for the growing educational needs of the state.

The Argus would also vote yes on the deficiency appropriation requested by the State Emergency Board, for common sense dictates that the war has so increased all State expenses just as it has increased the expenses of every household and every business house in the State, and likewise it has made necessary extraordinary expenses not anticipated when the last appropriations were made. The state officials if they are to be trusted at all can be trusted to spend no more of the deficiency appropriation than is absolutely necessary.

Likewise the Argus would vote yes on the proposed levy of \$20,000 for the County Road Fund so that Malheur county may receive the \$80,000 provided by the Federal and State government for the building of post roads in this County. This is merely a matter of common sense. Malheur county voters would be most unwise to refuse

to make provision to secure this preferred assistance.

The other two measures are the personal pets of Sam Jackson of the Oregon Journal. They are thofoly reprehensible and designed to injure the country press, while not effecting the papers of Multnomah county, save in respect to the delinquent tax bill. This bill is vicious measure designed to aid the tax title grabblers in their efforts to corner all the 15 per cent delinquency charges in the State. Similiar laws have been passed in other states and have been repealed because they were impracticable.

In using his paper and a staff of men to further these measure Kaiser Jackson has perverted the initiative law and should be repudiated. On each of these measures a negative vote is justified.

WORTHY OF SUPPORT.

When the majority of the Republican electors selected P. J. Gallagher of this city as their nominee for Representative from the Twenty-seventh district in the legislature they knew what they were doing. They did this in face of presistent and insistent campaign by C. M. Crandall, his opponent, based upon what Mr. Crandall declared was his record in the past legislature. Since the voters repudiated that record in the primaries there should be no need for them to have to pass upon the matter a second time.

Mr. Crandall was beaten fairly and squarely. After the election he wrote a letter to Mr. Gallagher admitting his defeat and gracefully declared that it was the duty of every Republican voter to support Mr. Gallagher. That was the message of a good loser, one who recognized the decision of the voters of the party as he should, as final.

Why then has Mr. Crandall gone back on his word given in May? What purpose actuated him in entering the race as an Independent, at the last moment? What has happened that he should thus repudiate his written word?

There has been no demand for his return to the legislature? Nothing has happened, save that Mr. Crandall, recognizing that Mr. Gallagher has been busily engaged in promoting war work, in working for the advancement of the County Fair, and other public matters, as a good citizen, has given no time to his personal political fortunes. Mr. Crandall conceives that by slipping in at the last minute he could thus capitalize, to his advantage, the work Mr. Gallagher has done for the public.

In the two years past that the writer has lived in Malheur county there have been many public movements prosecuted for Liberty Loan drives for local Red Cross drives, and all of the various war drives. In each of these Mr. Gallagher has been a prominent and effective worker. He has given, of his time, too freely, perhaps, for his own good, but he has given just the same. No call for his service has gone unanswered.

Is that true of Mr. Crandall? It is not. People from Vale, members of organizations of which he is a member declare that since the primaries, until a few days ago, Mr. Crandall has repeatedly refused to aid in any of the drives. He has refused to play with the band, to speak in the Liberty Loan campaign, has been lukewarm for the Warm springs, and has otherwise played the part of a peevish old man. And yet he asks to be rewarded with an office at the expense of one who has worked for every public movement.

From every view point of fairness, judging the ability of the two men and their natural adaptability, the choice of the voters should return Mr. Gallagher.

Ontarians certainly should rally to Mr. Gallagher's support. Here in Malheur county he has devoted his time without stint to many good causes and has worked for the upbuilding of this region. If public service is to attract men of ability it deserves recognition. We believe that Mr. Gallagher will receive that recognition at the hands of his fellow citizens.

PLAN TO GIVE ALL YOU CAN.

Every man and woman with a lively sense of his or her obligation to do the boys over there who are placing their bodies between those of us at home and the Hun, will unite in the campaign for the Seven societies to be waged from November 11 to 18

The appeal is made under the authority of the National Government. Each of the seven organizations is officially recognized as an important part in the great war machine. These seven societies and their representatives follow the men into the trenches to do all that man or woman can to alleviate the hardships of war.



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If we were to get up a Practical Dress Chart, we would suggest an all-purpose overcoat.

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ALEXANDER

ONE PRICE CLOTHIER

ONTARIO,

OREGON

While the men fight, and these societies do their part, it is the task of those of us at home to furnish them the funds necessary. Ours is the smallest part. Ours is the easiest road to travel.

In Ontario there are many men who can give \$100 each as easily as others can give \$1; while there are some who cannot give at all.

There is no way for a committee to positively determine what your share in this great work is. The greater your contribution the greater will be your pleasure, for surely this is a case where it is "better to give than to receive."

Think the situation over. If you can be one of the \$100 men or women, do your part. If you are less able join the \$50 blems is faced in that spirit the task will be an easy one and Ontario will raise its share of the great fund.

DESERVES A BIG VOTE.

Representative N. J. Sinnott deserves a unanimous vote from the people of Malheur county for his efforts on behalf of the Warm springs bonds. He has worked valiantly for a rehearing and for their approval by the Capital Issue committee.

There is only one way in which the people of the county can let a representative know that they appreciate efforts in their

behalf and that is by voting for their continuance in office. Since there is conceded to be no chance for the election of Mr. Sinnott's opponent members of the Democratic party in this county might profitably wave their predilection and give Mr. Sinnott a complimentary vote for his work in the interests of this section.

OBSERVE THE QUARANTINE

The expected epidemic of influenza reached Ontario this week. It is now mildly raging in the community. While there are a number of cases, fortunately few are of serious nature and the physicians are not anticipating serious trouble combating the disease, if the public will give its co-operation.

The public has but one real interest, that is to protect itself. That can best be accomplished by observing the quarantine. Avoid crowds, cheerfully comply with the regulations, and above all else do not endanger yourself or others by visiting homes where the influenza exists unnecessarily.

Parents can assist the authorities by keeping their children near their homes, and not permit them to gather on the streets up town, or in crowds about the residence districts. Keep homes and business places filled with fresh air and by using good common sense aid in every way to prevent the spread of the disease.