

# The Ontario Argus.

The Ontario Democrat

XXIII

ONTARIO, MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1919

NO. 6

## LAUNCH MOVEMENT FOR ADVANCEMENT OF OWYHEE

**MALHEUR COUNTY CITIZENS IN AUGURATE EFFORT BRING WELL KNOWN PROJECT TO ATTENTION OF OFFICIALS.**

### COMMITTEE TO DRAFT PLANS

Information to Be Brought Down to Date so as to Be Presented Properly When Time Comes to Send Men to Washington.

For the Promotion of the Owyhee project, that is to get all information necessary, and to secure funds, when the time comes, to send men to Washington to urge the construction of this project as a government undertaking, a committee of fifteen was named at a meeting held in the Commercial club rooms Tuesday evening.

The meeting was well attended by men interested in the project. Four auto loads of Nyssa men came to the gathering and there were some 20 Ontarians present. G. H. Currey of Vale was also present.

The meeting was called to order by President G. K. Aiken of the Commercial club, who was made chairman of the gathering, while E. B. Conklin was elected secretary.

County Judge E. B. Test, who years ago worked for the construction of the Owyhee Project briefly outlined the history of the project and the early surveys and declared that he believed this to be the time to proceed to get aid to build the project. He declared that the storage capacity of the reservoir as shown by surveys would be for 364,000 acre feet of water.

J. Bydell, of Nyssa, secretary of the present Owyhee District board told of the present financial standing of the district, and of the desire of the residents and landowners of that section to have the project built. He discussed the various plans for the project as shown by the State and Federal surveys, and also of the Trowbridge-Nivers survey.

J. R. Blackaby after discussing the general prospects for development and prospects for favorable governmental action moved that a committee on permanent organization be named; five to come from Nyssa, five from Vale and five from Ontario, Vale and Nyssa to name their members and the chairman of the meeting to name the Ontario members.

The motion was seconded by Judge Biggs who then warned the gathering that it would be needless to send a committee to Washington at this time, since there is not now money in the Reclamation funds with which to start new projects. He urged that the people here interest themselves in the several bills that are proposed for the raising of funds and endorse the one which they believe will best serve the purpose. He gave a lucid explanation of the features of the Smith-Chamberlain bill and discussed other measures, urging above all else that the committee appointed get information together, see to it that the legal requirements were provided for, and after keeping in touch with Washington authorities, go to Washington when the time comes that the money is available.

W. J. Pinney endorsed the position taken by Judge Biggs, as did other speakers, and it was determined that the committee be appointed with power to secure the information necessary and to call for another meeting.

In the meantime it was deemed advisable that the question of financing such a trip be considered that that funds will be available. E. M. Greig suggested that the people of Ontario and Nyssa advance the necessary funds on warrants issued by the district, declaring that he knew the money could be thus secured.

J. R. Blackaby said that Ontario business men would care for the expenses of one representative without cost to the district.

T. W. Claggett declared that one of the first things to do was to bring the data on the project down to date. He urged that an effort be made to secure an appropriation from the

### GALLAGHER GOES TO HELP MANUFACTURE OREGON LAWS

With only a few proposed laws in his grip P. J. Gallagher left Saturday evening for Portland and Salem to take his place in the coming legislature. Prior to going to Salem Mr. Gallagher intended to be present at the State Irrigation Congress.

On the same train with Mr. Gallagher went ex-Sheriff Ben Bown who was called as a witness in the case of Zorness, a draft evader, captured in this county. On Monday County Clerk A. M. Moody was called in the same case.

## PAYETTE AND NYSSA MASONS VISIT CITY

Acacia Lodge Holds Afternoon and Evening Sessions With Dinner at Six and Feed at Midnight.

It took the members of Acacia Lodge A. F. & A. M. all Tuesday afternoon and all that evening to confer the degrees on candidates who have been waiting for work for some time. The lodge had the unusual distinction of having candidates for the first, second and third degrees in one day.

After the sessions of the afternoon members of the Lodge with their guests, including a large number of Payette and Nyssa Masons enjoyed a banquet between the hours of 6 and 7:30 when lodge work was resumed and work in the third degree was exemplified for two candidates.

This session, too, was followed by an informal dinner and smoker before the visitors left for their homes.

### EASTERN STAR OFFICERS INSTALLED THIS EVENING

The members of Star Chapter this evening will install the newly elected officers of the chapter and following the installation will have a social session, in which a number of visiting members will be present.

Parley Woolsey who has until recently been in the chemical corp of the army, stationed at Cleveland, O., arrived here last week to join his wife who has been at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Hale since Mr. Woolsey entered the service. If arrangements can be made they will make this section their home.

Mrs. James H. Bell is visiting here with her mother Mrs. P. M. Johnson while her husband is in France.

state's revolving fund for that purpose, just as the Warm Springs district had secured it. He also asked that a resolution be adopted disapproving any attempt on the part of the Warm Springs board to evade the return of state funds of which it has had the benefit.

During a recess the Nyssa delegation present selected its members of the permanent committee as follows: H. Walters, Dr. Sarazin, S. Goshart, C. Thompson and Langley Brooks; the Ontario committee appointed was E. H. Test, W. J. Pinney, T. W. Claggett, J. R. Blackaby and H. C. Boyer.

The meeting also wired P. J. Gallagher who is in Portland attending the State Irrigation convention, asking him to secure, if possible, the endorsement of the state body for the project. It was also reported that steps had been taken to secure, if possible, a joint resolution of the legislature endorsing the project.

J. Bydell told of the financial status of the district and of the apparent difficulty of getting a ten cent per acre tax on the tax rolls. The committee on permanent organization was instructed to make an earnest effort to have this matter adjusted at once.

Before the meeting concluded coffee and sandwiches were served to the guests by the club committee.

## NEW COUNCIL TAKES OVER CITY'S AFFAIRS

**MAYOR R. W. JONES SUCCEEDS W. F. HOMAN, WHO HAS SERVED THREE YEARS STEARNS RENAMED RECORDER.**

### HAYES DOES NOT QUALIFY

Administration Leaves Several of Previous Officials in "Acting" Capacity Until Situation is Canceled—Conway Night Policeman.

It is Mayor R. W. Jones now. Likewise it is proper to address as, Councilman, the following: H. B. Cockrum, Hugh Allen, Irwin Troxell, A. L. McDowell and Dr. A. G. Moore. Erbie Hayes the other member elected to the council did not qualify, and does not intend to do so, and it will be necessary for the council to select a member for his place.

It took quite an effort to get the new municipal machine in running order. In the first place it was hard to get rid of the old office holders for no quorum could be secured for a meeting Monday night to wind up the affairs of the old body. A quorum was secured Tuesday evening and the slate was cleared of business and the new council was installed.

Mayor Jones took the oath administered by Judge C. M. Stearns, and the councilmen, all but H. B. Cockrum were sworn in. Mr. Cockrum took the oath of office Wednesday evening at a special session.

Just to be of service if needed, ex-Mayor W. F. Homan stayed at the first meeting of the new council and watched them get down to business.

### Son Succeeds Father.

The council organized by electing H. B. Cockrum chairman of the council, by virtue of which he presides in the absence of the Mayor. In this position he succeeds his father A. L. Cockrum, who has been chairman of the council for two years past.

Mayor Jones then, announced his appointments to various city positions as follows: City Recorder, C. M. Stearns, who succeeds himself; Dr. H. H. Whitney, health officer, who likewise continues in office; N. M. Davis, street commissioner; Louis Kroessin, Chief of the Fire Department, re-appointed; G. W. Aldrich was appointed engineer at the water plant and D. F. Conway was appointed night policeman.

The Mayor passed, without appointing the following officers: City attorney, superintendent of the water system, city marshal. The present incumbents of those offices are for the time being continuing to perform the duties of their offices: P. J. Gallagher, city attorney; Marion Jones, city marshal; H. L. Holcomb, superintendent of the water system.

### Recorder Gets Raise.

All the Mayor's nomination were confirmed without debate, and the subject of salaries for various positions were considered. The only change definitely made was that of C. M. Stearns as city recorder, which was increased from \$125 per month to \$150 per month.

### Committees Named.

Mayor Jones named the following committees: Streets and Lights; Cockrum, Moore, McDowell; Parks and Cemetery; Allen, Moore; Water and Sewers; McDowell, Troxell, Cockrum; Heath and Police; Troxell and Allen. To several of these committees Mr. Hayes had been appointed.

The council also decided to advance the hour of meeting from 8 o'clock to 7:30, at least for the winter months.

Since all of the members of the council are members of the finance committee of which the Mayor is chairman, the special meeting Wednesday evening was given over entirely to consideration of the question of finance.

Considerable time was devoted to studying the water situation. No definite conclusions were arrived at however, concerning rates, and for the present existing rates will be continued.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Adrian who stole a march on their friends and were married Christmas eve, were here from Boise, Saturday. Mrs. Adrian was formerly Miss Margaret Hoffman.

## QUOTA REACHED IN RED CROSS CAMPAIGN

**AUXILIARIES STAGE GARRISON FINISH AND SEND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP FOR CHAPTER UP TO 1900—MORE COMING.**

### CITY RETURNS 1100 MEMBERS

Local Chapter May Contribute to Support of Canteen at Huntington—Considers Furnishing \$40 Per Month—Local Accounts Audited.

Ontario Chapter A. R. C. equalled the quota set for it in the Christmas Red Cross membership drive this week when the reports from auxiliaries sent the total membership over the 1900 mark.

In the city so far the membership has reached 1100 which demonstrates that the adults of the city are almost unanimously enrolled. Mrs. W. J. Pinney, chairman of the drive committee, expects that additional members will be enrolled before the end of the week, especially in the Nyssa section.

### To Help Support Canteen.

A committee from the Huntington Auxiliary of Baker Chapter was in Ontario this week to seek support for the canteen they are operating for the benefit of the service men traveling through this section. Twenty-eight Huntington women, working in relays keep the canteen open every hour of the night and day, and have been meeting a great deal of the expense.

At a meeting of the directors of the Chapter the request of the Huntington committee for a donation of \$40 per month was taken under advisement and Mrs. E. M. Greig, secretary and L. Adam, chairman of the home service section, were appointed to investigate the situation and act.

The district auditor for the Northwest Division was in Ontario Wednesday and completed an audit of the accounts of the chapter.

## GRAND JURY FINDS SEVERAL TRUE BILLS

Several Indictments Not Made Public—Threat to Kill Causes Jordan Valley Man Trouble.

The Grand Jury in session at Vale on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday brought several true bills according to reports received here, but few of them were made public pending the arrest of men accused.

William Lambert of Jordan Valley was named in one indictment charged with having threatened the life of a neighbor. A true bill was also brought against John Hanlon of Jordan Valley for shooting District Attorney Swagler.

The members of the Grand Jury were: Saxon Humphries, Vale; Ward Canfield and A. A. Wright, Ontario; J. Branson, Westfall; Dan Murphy, Beulah; Allen D. Kyo, of the Lower Dead Ox; and C. O. Powell, of Brogan.

The members of the trial jury who will take up the regular calendar are: Ernest E. Adam, Vale; Sam Armstrong, Crowley; A. W. Athey, Ontario; Jerry Branson, Vale; Cleve Cramann, Westfall; G. R. Dickson, Ironside; J. M. Duggan, Nyssa; W. B. Eaton, Brogan; Henry C. Edwards, Jamieson; J. D. Paby, Westfall; George Green, Nyssa; John W. Hankins, Westfall; Samuel Hill, Payette, R. No. 4; A. C. Holly, Parma, R. No. 3; C. Hunt, Nyssa; W. W. Latson, Ontario; Ernest Lacey, Ironside; H. McDonald, Nyssa; W. McGeirick, Juntura; J. C. McNulty, Ontario; Otto C. Miller, Payette; M. Moore, Ontario; A. C. Palmer, Nyssa; M. Randleman, Westfall; Homer Hambo, Ontario; A. A. Reed, Brogan; Mark Rutherford, Ironside; E. E. Scott, Vale; B. W. Tillotson, Beulah; A. R. VanBuren, Ironside; E. C. VanPlaten, Ontario.

## COURT HOUSE AT VALE IS SCENE OF SENSATIONAL ACT

**DEATH CLAIMS WELL KNOWN RESIDENT OF WESTFALL**

At the hospital last Friday Mrs. Levi Wilson of Westfall died after an illness of but a few days. She leaves beside her husband who was with her when the end came, two daughters, Iva aged 20; Ruby, 7, and one son, George 15. She is also survived by four brothers and two sisters.

Mrs. Wilson was a native daughter of Oregon. Her maiden name was Ada Blaylock, and she was born at Prairie City in 1878 and on June 2, 1897 was married to Levi Wilson. For years they have lived at Riverside and Westfall and both are well known throughout this entire region.

Mrs. Wilson was brought to Ontario ill two weeks ago for medical attention. The body was taken to Riverside Monday and funeral services were held there on Tuesday.

Her brothers and sisters are Robert Blaylock, now a resident of California; S. E. Blaylock of Homedale, Idaho, and Ed and William of Riverside; her sisters are Mrs. Florence Cox of Riverside and Mrs. Ethel Armstrong of Coquille.

## UNUSUAL ICE HARVEST GATHERED FROM RIVER

Ontario Ice & Cold Storage Will Store 900 Tons of Ice Cream Material for Ontario's Torrid Days.

The biggest harvest of ice ever gathered in Ontario is being stored this week by Manager A. Robinson of the Ontario Ice & Cold Storage. In all he expects to have 900 tons packed away for the torrid days of next summer.

The ice harvest, which is an unusual one in that it is coming this year entirely from Snake river, is furnishing employment for a large crew of men, including a number of returned soldiers and sailors, and thus Ontario is going to have its ice bill stay at home, which is no small item in itself. Last year the city used a carload of ice every week, and ice was at the highest figure ever.

But next year, owing to the present cold snap, and the fact that the ice is being secured locally Ontario's ice bill so far as the householders concerned will be at least 20 per cent lower than last year.

Speaking about the ice harvest Mr. Robinson said: "When Judge Wood, continually urged me to come to Ontario from Prairie City, I did not think that I would celebrate the first year in business here, harvesting an ice crop, but that is what is happening."

"To get the ice, which is now 11 inches thick, I had a dam built near the Ed Long place between the east bank of the river and the island. The dam just retards the flow slightly so the water freezes, but there is enough current to float the big cakes of ice from the head of the ice pond to the dam where it is taken out.

"But cutting our ice from the river we are accomplishing several things for Ontario, first we will have certain of an adequate supply for the entire season, for though there is a shrinkage of fully fifty per cent in ice thus packed, we will have enough to supply the local demand; next, we are giving employment to men and teams now; and at the same time while keeping the money here at home instead of sending it out of town, we are going to be able to reduce Ontario householders' ice bill fully 20 per cent next summer."

## N-N CLUB GIRLS BUSTERS FOR MERRY SKATING PARTY

The girls of the N-N Club were the busters for a merry skating party that left Ontario last Friday evening and journeyed to Washou to skate. After doing the outer-edge and the Dutch roll for two hours the party returned to Ontario and went to the High School where warm refreshments furnished a fitting finale for the evening's fun. The young men of the party were all members of the Nut Club.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY R. W. SWAGLER THRICE SHOT BY DESPERATE CHARACTER, JOHN HANLON OF JORDAN VALLEY.**

## NONE OF WOUNDS IS SERIOUS

One Bullet Pierces Left Wrist; Second Perforates Right Side; Third Enters Left Thigh—Hanlon Indicted, Refuses Counsel.

District Attorney R. W. Swagler was the victim of a sensational shooting affray that was staged almost at the door of the Circuit Court room at Vale on Tuesday morning. Although three bullets penetrated various parts of his body Mr. Swagler was not seriously injured and is rapidly recovering.

The man who did the shooting was John Hanlon of Jordan Valley, who used three bullets of an automatic six shooter. He evidently thought he had killed his victim for though he followed him down the stair from the point where he shot him, and had plenty of opportunity to shoot again, he did not.

William Jones of this city and his son, Ben Jones of Juntura, were the only eye witnesses of the shooting. They were standing at the foot of the stairs when Mr. Swagler started up to the grand jury room, and it was into Mr. Jones' arms that Mr. Swagler stumbled and fell after the third shot hit him.

That the act was premeditated was evident for Hanlon appeared at the top of the stairs and waited until his victim almost reached him before opening fire. How he failed to hit a vital spot is a mystery to those who went over the tragedy, for he was shooting down upon his victim and could not miss him.

### Admits Crime.

Sheriff Lee Noe who was in his office, heard the shots and rushed to the scene. He reached the hallway just in time to meet Hanlon at the foot of the stairs and put him under arrest. To the Sheriff's question: "Did you do the shooting?" Hanlon answered "Yes," and handed over the weapon.

In the meantime Mr. Jones and others from the clerk's office took Mr. Swagler inside and administered first aid. Dr. Brown of Vale was on the scene in a few minutes and in less than an hour Drs. Wessie and Payne of Ontario reached the scene. A thorough examination showed that none of the bullets remained in his body and that where a steel projectile had been the wounds were clean.

In the meantime Mr. Swagler had deputized Attorneys W. D. Brooke and J. W. McMillan to prosecute the presentation of evidence in the Grand Jury.

The cause of the shooting as far as any cause can be determined, arises from an incidental grievance entertained by Hanlon against the District Attorney growing out of a complaint he registered with him concerning a robbery said to have been committed by Mrs. Basques at Jordan Valley last summer.

Hanlon claimed that the Basques had stolen \$475 from him. He had them arrested at Jordan Valley and they were tried by a jury in the local court there. They were acquitted. He then came to Ontario and told his story to Mr. Swagler who declined to take up the matter after it had been passed upon by a jury. Hanlon then went to Salem to see Governor W. W. Wernicke. He made two calls upon the State Capital.

Hanlon appeared before the Grand Jury on Monday, having been subpoenaed by Mr. Swagler, and after listening to his story, the Grand Jury declined to return a true bill.

This infuriated Hanlon. He is said to have walked the floor of his room at a Yale hotel all night, and acted so suspiciously that the grand jurymen contemplated directing the attention of the sheriff's office to his action. Before action could be taken, however, he had shot Swagler.