

The Ontario Argus

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THE MALHEUR LAKE CONTROVERSY

Among the misleading information that has come into this section concerning the activities of the legislature, no item has been fraught with more injustice than that disseminated concerning the opponents of the McFarland bill, which would have deeded Malheur lake to the Federal Government.

Letters written by State Biologist, Finley, would have the people of the state believe that in opposing this measure Senator Hurlley and Representative Gallagher were actuated by improper motives, which is actually false. As a matter of fact it was the stubborn fight which these men put up against the bill that saved the state from suffering another grievous wrong.

In the first place a false impression was started by the statements emanating from Mr. Finley's office to the effect that an effort was to be made to drain the lake. This was not true. The facts are that C. B. McConnell and hundreds of Harney county citizens are merely planning to dam Silvies and Silver creek for purpose of storing water with which to irrigate thousands of fertile Harney county acres. The draining of the lake was not contemplated.

When this was made clear the legislature passed the amended bill providing for preservation of the nesting portion of the lake which was never in danger but eliminating that portion which would have ceded the lake to the Federal Government.

As the Argus now understands the measure the promoters of irrigation in Harney county may proceed to dam Silvies creek and Silver creek which flow into the lake and thus make possible the irrigation of Harney county. That is a consummation to be desired. Better have homes for thousands of people in Harney county than bow to the sentimentality of a State of Officials who wants to create a barren waste for the habitation of ducks and geese.

But the ducks and geese will be preserved, too, under the amended bill. The seepage water from the irrigated lands, the waste water from the ditches and canals, the waters of Donner and other creeks that flow into the lake from the South will continue to provide sufficient moisture for the feeding and nesting places for the blue Heron, the ducks and geese and other fowl over which Professor Finley has shed so many tears.

And in the meantime the people of Harney county, those who want to see the country develop and throw off the shackles that have retarded development can thank Representative Gallagher and Senator Hurlley for the able fight they made to protect the district they represent from the attacks of misguided hearists.

WANTED; MORE CIVIC PRIDE.

Is it not strange that in almost every small town or city only a comparatively few citizens take a real pride in their home town?

During the past few weeks a number of citizens have approached the writer with: "Why don't you go after THEM, to clean up the city. The alleys and vacant lots are a fright. It's a disgrace the way THEY let the town go."

But the writer does not conceive it his business to regulate the city, or to tell the public what must be done. Nor does the writer intend that the Argus shall become a common scold.

We agree with our advisers that Ontario's alleys and many of the vacant lots are dirty, that they are filthy, that they are a disgrace to the city, many of them.

We wish that this were not true. We wish that the residents who own these lots or have business houses located on the alleys would see to it that the conditions were improved.

In fact if every citizen would take care of his or her vacant lot, would see that no refuse is thrown in the alley back of his store, and would inform the City Health committee of the transgressor in his or her neighborhood, then there would be no need of all this complaint.

The Argus knows that the City Council is seeking light on how to solve this problem. The City Council knows of the conditions that exist, but the Councilmen and the Mayor can not perform this work themselves. They must have funds with which to work. They must secure a competent man to enforce sanitary regulations and having done all this they must still be given the active support of the citizenship.

As a matter of fact what Ontario needs in this respect is more civic pride. And Ontario is not the only town in this section that needs an inoculation of that beneficial bug.

If those who want to have Ontario a cleaner, a healthier and a better city in which to live, will set a good example by keeping their homes clean, their alley free from refuse, and will make complaints to the authorities when they see neighbors transgressing, and will constantly in and out of season, preach community pride, then, and only then will Ontario reach the desired standard. Now let's all get-together and go over the top on that basis.

PARENT-TEACHERS' COLUMN

"God give us men, a time like this demands—
Great hearts, strong minds,
true faith and ready hands."

More than half a century ago an American poet uttered this prayer and we of today might, in all sincerity, make the same plea, for never in the world's history has there been a more pressing need for men of "great hearts, strong minds, and ready hands." Before us lies a period of reconstruction which must necessarily be fraught with many difficulties. Perhaps, we may not be called upon directly to meet these difficulties, but certain it is that to the parents and teachers of America is given the sacred trust of preparing the men and women of tomorrow to cope with the problems which will surely be theirs to solve.

What are we as parents and teachers doing in this matter? Are we installing into the hearts of our boys those habits of sincerity, honesty, industry and trustworthiness which will make them big men and women, fit to take into their hands the destiny of their country? If not, then we are failing lamentably in our duty.

In dealing with boys and girls one cannot help but be impressed by their lack of responsibility. The majority of them are either wilfully indifferent or incapable of assuming responsibility in the simple duties of every day life. They will go late to school, thus missing an important class, and give as an excuse that they slept too long of just couldn't get to school on time. They will stay out of school for no cause at all, appear in class the following day with lesson unprepared and so miss two days work. Often they fail to perform an assignment and when taken to task about it they complacently answer, "I forgot." Who is to blame for this woeful lack of responsibility? Assuredly parents must bear at least an equal share of blame with the teachers in this matter.

Another noticeable fault among our young people, and one greatly to be deplored is their tendency to waste time, to get along with as little work and effort as possible. While under the eyes of the teacher they work of necessity, but that is as far as their habit of industry carries them. A great part of their time out of school is spent on the street in idle gossip or worse. They have not learned to "fill the unforgetting minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run."

Many of our great writers, statesmen and men of affairs have preached the doctrine of work and no habit can be more valuable to our boys and girls than that of industry. Not only is "every man's task his life preserver", it is also his soul preserver. Parents, see to it that your boys and girls have something definite to do each day. Keep them reasonably busy. There are very few normal boys or girls who will do more work than is good for them. Altho he may think so at the time, blessed is that boy whom necessity forces to make his own way in the world. Time to idle away and too much money to spend have ruined many a boy whose future was bright with promise.

If we parents and teachers can install into those under our care, habits of industry and trustworthiness; if we can give them that "stiffening of the Vertebrae which makes them faithful to a trust, able to the thing— carry a message to Garcia," then indeed, we shall have answered America's prayer in her hour of need.

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Two Excellent Recipes in which
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is used with pleasing results.

DOUGHNUTS
1 cup sugar, 2 1/2 tablespoons COLUMBIA BRAND OLEOMARGARINE, 2 eggs, 1 cup milk, 4 teaspoons baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg, 1 1/2 teaspoons salt, flour to roll.
Cream the butter and add one-half sugar. Beat egg until light, and remaining sugar, and combine mixture. Add 2 1/2 cups flour, mixed and sifted with baking powder, salt and spices. Toss enough more flour to make dough stiff enough to roll. Toss one-third of mixture on flour board, knead slightly, pat, and roll out to 1/4-inch thickness. Shape with a doughnut cutter, fry in deep fat, take up with a fork, and drain on brown paper. Repeat this process until mixture is used.

BISCUITS
2 cups flour, 4 teaspoons baking powder 1/4 teaspoon salt, 2 tablespoons COLUMBIA BRAND OLEOMARGARINE, and 1/2 cup milk.
Mix dry ingredients. Work in oleomargarine with tips of fingers; add gradually the liquids, mixing with knife to a soft dough. Toss on a floured board, pat and roll lightly to 1/4-inch in thickness. Shape with biscuit cutter. Place on buttered pan and bake in hot oven. It is impossible to determine the exact amount of liquid owing to the difference in flour.