

## CONTRACT SIGNED SO WORK CAN COMMENCE

MAYOR R. W. JONES AFFIXES SIGNATURE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION AT COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY EVENING—REJECT KELSEY'S BILL

## CLAIM MADE FOR 5 PER CENT

City Attorney Advises Council That Engineer at Most Could Not Recover for More Than Reasonable Fee for Work Already Performed

Mayor R. W. Jones yesterday morning signed the contract with the Warren Construction company for the street paving awarded that firm at the meeting of the City Council last week. Representatives of the contractors are expected here this week to contract for gravel and other material so that work can start in a few days, or at the outside within two weeks.

This action was not taken however until after a thorough discussion of the engineering question so far as it involved the use of the plans and specifications of Louis C. Kelsey whose services were dispensed with by the council in a resolution passed prior to the home election.

### Wanted Entire Fee.

Mr. Kelsey had been asked by the council to submit his bill for services rendered to date for the paving, and the Council was astonished to receive from him a statement claiming the full five per cent of the paving contract, or more than \$2,000. This statement also demanded the immediate payment of one-third of this amount. The council promptly rejected his bill in toto, and Councilmen Cockram and W. M. Laxon informed him Mr. Kelsey was waiting outside.

### Claim Held Unreasonable.

"The city, no doubt, will have to pay Mr. Kelsey something for the plans and specifications he has drawn," said City Attorney P. J. Gallagher, when asked for a legal opinion by Mayor Jones; "but it is my opinion that it will not have to pay any such figure as he asks in that bill."

"The city can proceed and use these specifications. They are not his property, after they were placed on file and could be secured by anyone for the payment of the customary fee. At the outside the city would not have to pay more than one-third, and with the offers that the city has for engineering service it would save money at that. Mr. Kelsey is trying to bluff the city, and after consultation with other attorneys my advice is to let him go to it and sue the city if he wants to. We have got to a point now where it is necessary to put the matter straight up to him."

"I would make him an offer to settle to avoid the necessity of a suit and if it is possible settle with him, but at no such figure as that which he has sent in here."

In discussing terms that might be offered Mr. Kelsey suggestions ran all the way from \$50 to \$500, with Mayor Jones in favor of the smaller figure. It was cited that Mr. Kelsey offered the city plans and specifications for the water system, involving far greater work for only \$400 and that was taken as a measure of what he might receive in this case.

Following the action of the Council Mr. Kelsey declared on the street that the city would pay him in full five per cent of the contract, apparently intimating that he intended to sue for that amount.

## WILMER BOYER BACK AFTER ABSENCE OF OVER TWO YEARS

Wilmer who with Everett Staples was the first Ontarian to be called to the colors in the great war is home. Staples who was a fellow member of Co. I of the old Second Idaho discharged from the service a few weeks after the organization was called, so that Sergeant Boyer, so far has the longest record of any Ontarian in the great war. Previous to that he saw service on the border during the Mexican trouble, thus having spent practically three years wearing the khaki.

## BISHOP J. F. McGRATH IS VISITOR HERE OVER NIGHT

Rt. Rev. J. F. McGrath, bishop of the diocese of Baker City was in Ontario Monday and Tuesday of this week. He came Monday evening and returned to Baker Tuesday evening. The object of this the Bishop's first visit to Ontario was to officiate at the professions of a class of sisters at the Holy Rosary hospital. Following the ceremonies the Bishop was the guest of Rev. J. H. Maloney of this city and Rev. P. J. Stack of Vale. The Bishop plans on a more formal visit to the members of the Ontario parish in the near future.

## ANOTHER DOG GOES MAD AND IS SHOT

Canine of City all Wearing Wire Muzzles—None of Victims of First Rabid Canine Develop Illness—Precautions Prevent Spread.

For the second time in three weeks the authorities were compelled to dispose of a mad dog. The latest victim of the rabies was the dog belonging to Ira Williams which it is believed contracted the disease in a fight with the first mad dog which died.

That there have been no other cases is believed to be due to the precautions taken by the city authorities enforcing an ordinance requiring the muzzling of all dogs. Fred Brinnon was named special officer to enforce this regulation and already a wholesale restraint has been put upon the activities of the city's canine population. Ranchers coming to town, too, have co-operated by keeping their dogs tied, while many have kept their dogs at home, and the demise of unlicensed and unmuzzled dogs has reduced the number of those animals materially.

## SCHOOL HEAD ACCEPTS PLACE ON U FACULTY

H. R. Douglass Tenders Resignation as Superintendent of Schools—Elected Professor of Secondary Education at U. of O.

H. R. Douglass who has been superintendent of the Ontario Public Schools for the past two years this week tendered to the school board his resignation to take effect immediately. He did this so that he might accept an offer made him by the regents of the University of Oregon to take professorship of secondary education and superintendent of the teachers' training school at the university.

Advice of Superintendent Douglass' resignation came in a telegram to President W. J. Weese of the board Tuesday from Blue Mountain Springs where Mr. Douglass is spending his vacation following a series of lectures he delivered at the University Summer school. It was while there that he received the offer of a place on the University faculty.

Mr. Douglass came to Ontario in July, 1917, from Perry, Mo., where he had been superintendent of schools for three years following a two year term as superintendent of schools at Almo, Utah, after his graduation from the University of Missouri. During the past year Mr. Douglass completed his work for his master's degree in education following two terms of summer school work at the Missouri university. The step he has just taken to enter active instruction of prospective teachers is one to which he has looked forward to during his work as school administrator.

During his two years in Ontario Mr. Douglass has made a number of innovations in the school work here, including the introduction of the supervised study methods and other advanced educational ideas. At the same time too he has taken an active interest in public affairs, served as a director of the Commercial club and last year was assistant director of the County Fair.

A. W. Nelson of the Cudahy Packing Co. is spending the week with his brother, Sidney Nelson, of this city.

## COUNCIL DETERMINES TO CHANGE EMPLOYEES

Overtime for Street Sprinkling Results in Removal of Street Commissioner—Plan Residence at Pumping Plant.

Because of the appearance of claims for over-time in sprinkling streets the City Council Tuesday night determined on a change in the position of Street Commissioner, and the Street and Alleys committee was instructed to secure a new man for the job.

The council too considered numerous complaints concerning water service charges, and complaints concerning defective cross walks. The street committee was instructed to have the cross walks repaired.

In order to reduce the cost of operation at the pumping plant it was suggested that by building a residence at the plant where a man could live it would be possible to secure one man to take charge of all the pumping, just as is done at the pumping plants of irrigation systems in this section. In fact members of the Council have been approached by men who made just that proposition to them. The water committee chairman was instructed to investigate the possibility of thus solving the pumping problem.

The question of a city engineer to supervise the paving work was discussed at length but no action was taken pending the receipt of replies to communications sent out asking state officials for recommendations on men capable of handling the work.

## OWN YOUR OWN HOME CAMPAIGN STUDIED

Commercial Club Luncers Told of Numerous Cases Where City Has Lost Families Thru Lack of Homes—Men Address Meeting.

Unless Ontario awakes to the situation and secures the construction of a number of residences the city is going to suffer badly. In fact it has suffered already from the scarcity of dwellings, numerous families who desired to reside here having been forced to go elsewhere.

This was the message that the members of the Commercial club received following the luncheon Wednesday evening, by Ontario men who have had occasion to experience the dwelling problem.

On the other hand the club men were told how comparatively easy it will be to remedy this situation if the city will avail of the co-operative spirit shown during the war in all kinds of public work. Messrs. J. A. Fennell and Floyd White of Boise who were guests of the club for the evening gave informal talks that inspired the club to action in directing that a committee be appointed to study the problem.

Mr. White who represents owners of 70 Ontario lots, and also financial interests told the club that a city possessing as much wealth as does Ontario, as shown by the bank statements, has no need to seek outside support for a building program. However he said that if the city could not be financed locally he would at a later date present a plan for erecting a number of homes here.

Mr. Fennell gave the men present an idea of what it means to live in a city-beautiful. He inspired a longing to improve the appearance of Ontario, and laid stress upon doing little things to beautify the city and thus make it an attractive home town. "Why, if you even compelled the painting of telephones and electric poles white, it would help," he said, "and that would lead to another improvement." The Commercial club, the Woman's club and other organizations could accomplish these things by constantly directing attention to them.

The condition of streets and alleys, the lack of pride on the part of many citizens was frankly discussed by the members and many told of the need for improvement.

Mrs. J. W. Cunningham and daughters returned this week to their home in Portland after spending a month here.

## ONTARIO BOY LISTED IN MILITARY CAMP

Donald J. Conklin One of 500 Students at R. O. T. C. at the Presidio at San Francisco—Boys Given Stiff Training.

Among the student officers at the Reserve Officers Training Corps at the Presidio this summer is Donald J. Conklin, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Conklin of the Boulevard. Young Conklin is listed in the Senior Advanced Course which consists of students from universities and colleges where they have had previous military training. Conklin registered from O. A. C.

Five hundred young men representing forty colleges and schools of Montana, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California, are enrolled in the Corps camp.

Fifty army officers and an equal number of non-commissioned officers, who are assigned as instructors and assistants in military training at educational institutions, have been detailed to duty at the camp, which opened June 21 and will close on August 2. During these six weeks the cadets will be given systematic instruction in rifle practice, tactics, musketry and bayonet combat, which can be better taught at a military camp than at their schools or colleges, as well as in the fine points of drill. They are also given a carefully planned course of physical training, including games and athletic contests. A feature of the camp is the week of target practice at the Fort Barry rifle range, where each cadet is required to take the prescribed Army course of rifle firing. From the cadets making the best scores will be chosen a team of fourteen to represent this camp at the National Rifle Match at Caldwell, N. J., in August, the successful contestants receiving a transcontinental trip with all expenses paid by the Government.

## WATER MASTER NAMED FOR OWYHEE DITCH

A. L. Sproul Will Distribute Water to Land Owners Under Big Ditch—Violators of Water Laws to be Punished.

To prevent losses to ranchers under the Owyhee Ditch and secure an equitable distribution of the water supply on that big ditch the State Water Master has taken charge of the distribution of the supply, and the water is being measured out to all the land owners under the ditch.

To accomplish this A. L. Sproul has been appointed deputy water master and has taken over the management of the supply. At the same time too a system of rotating the water has been inaugurated.

The shortage in the system has resulted in spite of the fact that a pumping station was built last year. First the pumps froze last winter and were not repaired in time for the pumping season according to some of the ranchers, and then the river fell so low that the pumping system could not work. The degree of loss which the ranchers have suffered from these causes is variously estimated but the lowest figure runs into many thousands of dollars.

## SHROUD OF SMOKE ENVELOPES PAYETTE LAKE CAMP GROUNDS

Frank Rader, Mayor R. W. Jones and E. C. Van Petten who returned this week from their camps on Payette Lake report that dense clouds of smoke from numerous forest fires in that region cover the lakes. None of the fires are in the immediate vicinity of the lakes and therefore the campers there are in no danger from the fire, the smoke is detracting somewhat from the pleasure of their stay.

Each of the returned vacationists report a fine time during their stay with fishing good and larger crowds about the lake than ever before.

Director E. B. Conklin of the County Fair made a trip thru the Nyssa and Big Bend region Wednesday in the interest of the county's annual exposition.

## PORTLAND PRIEST COMES TO OFFICIATE AT RETREAT

To officiate at the services of the annual retreat of the Dominican Sisters at the Holy Rosary hospital, Rev. Skelly, O. P., came from Portland last week. He was here for ten days and after the retreat returned to his home in Portland on Tuesday.

Beside the resident members of the Dominican order who participated in the retreat were Sister Magdeline from Kenosha, Wisconsin, and Sister Josephine from Hanford, California, both of whom were raised in the Sisterhood here.

## ONTARIANS JOIN IN FRUITLAND'S EFFORT

After Purchasing Tickets for This Year's Chautauqua on the Bench, Business Men Sign Fruitland's Guarantee Contract.

Thirty-seven Ontario business men have joined with an equal number of residents of Fruitland in the contract for a summer Chautauqua at Fruitland for the season of 1920. This was the result of the active work of H. H. Tunny and F. Leslie Body who were named by the Commercial club to co-operate with the Fruitland committee to make this year's effort successful.

During all the Chautauqua week at Fruitland Ontario was well represented, and a particularly large crowd went over Monday evening. The number would have been larger had the evening not been so hot.

## CARNIVAL OF FUN IS K. C. PICNIC RESULT

Baseball, Tug of War, Freak Boxing, Bouts, Races of All Kinds and Lots of Eats Make Day Memorable.

There were all told more than 200 present at the Knights of Columbus picnic held Sunday at the Lee McCoy grove by the Knights of Columbus and their families. In fact it was a picnic of the members of the parish of the Blessed Sacrament staged by the Caseys with Jas. G. Smith, Geo. Reihson and H. H. Tunny as the general committee.

And if there ever was a big time, that picnic was it, according to the reports that spread broadcast on the following day, and judging by the tired day-after appearance of prominent members.

The crowd gathered from New Plymouth on the east to Juntura on the west, from Nyssa to the south and Dead Ox on the north. Fruitland, Vale and Ontario all were represented, too.

There were games for the boys, the girls, the women and, oh what a bunch for the many athletes. C. C. Defrees captained a husky bunch that out pulled Tunny's tug 'o war team, but lost to the same bunch in a ball game.

Boxing bouts with the contestants in barrels and other stunts that Jim Smith brot back from Camp furnished a hilarious afternoon for everyone, and kept Fr. Maloney busy as official referee.

It was dusk before the crowd dispersed so fast had the day passed.

## GOES TO CALDWELL TO TAKE POSITION IN STORE THERE

Jas. G. Smith who for several years has been employed in stores here in Ontario and has been prominent in the activities of the K. of C., the Oregon Club and Commercial club has resigned his position with Alexander's and leaves next Monday for Caldwell where he has accepted a position with the Kahn Clothing Co.

## CIGARETTE STUB THROWS FROM WINDOW STARTS FIRE

A cigarette stub thrown from a window in the Carter House early last Saturday morning set fire to the awning in front of the Style shop. Owing to the early hour the fire was not detected at once and it was beyond hope when the fire was discovered.

## DAM CONSTRUCTION BREAKING RECORDS

GREAT STRUCTURE AT RIVERSIDE WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN TEN MONTHS FROM DATE OF BEGINNING—CAN STORE WATER SOON

## AVERAGE 250 YARDS PER DAY

Engineers Confident That Concrete of Dam Will be Finished by September 30 and Dam Completed by October 15, Assure Water in Spring.

Breaking all records thruout the world for the construction of arch dams of its size the Shattuck-Edinger Construction company is rapidly nearing completion of the storage dam of the Warm Springs Irrigation system above Riverside. The dam will be completed within ten months from the starting of operations; or eight months less than the record of its nearest rival for speed honors. This was the word brot down from the camp Monday by Engineer E. J. Carrillo, who is in charge of the construction work.

"We will finish pouring the concrete by September 20," said Mr. Carrillo, to the Argus, "and by October 15 the work will be completed. At present we have poured 8,500 yards and there are but 11,000 more yards to pour. We have at least achieved quantity production. In 9 hours we poured 285 yards, one day last week, and we will exceed that record this week. The average for last week was 250 yards per day."

"With the work progressing at this speed the entire dam will be built in the next 40 days, barring delay, but allowing 15 days for that element we will still be finished by October 15."

Can Store Water Soon.  
"The dam has already reached a point where we can begin to store water for next year's distribution. We could start this storage by August 10. This fact alone will assure ranchers under the project that they will have water for next summer."

"Work is progressing on the distributing system, tho there has been more delay on that than on the storage reservoir. However with the problems of the dam worked out more speed will be developed on the canals and the entire system flushed for next year."

"The engineers are now working, and have practically completed the plans for the diversion dam and that will be undertaken at an early date and will not take long to complete."

Labor Trouble Slight.  
One of the remarkable features of the construction of the dam at Riverside has been the marked lack of labor troubles. This in view of the widespread strikes of all kinds thruout the country in all fields of endeavor is the more remarkable, and has of course been a material factor in the record for speed which has been attained.

With Mr. Carrillo on his trip to Ontario was E. P. Newton, material man on the job at Riverside. While in the city they were registered at the Moore.

## AUTO CAMPING GROUNDS ARE BECOMING POPULAR RESORT

The many of the citizens apparently do not know it, the Ontario Commercial club's auto camping grounds are becoming popular. The number of campers who nightly make their abode there is increasing. Last Friday night one Ontario woman on her way down town directed seven cars to the grounds, and that is not the largest number that has been registered there for one evening.

## HEAD OF EASTERN OREGON LAND COMPANY VISITS CITY

Walter S. Martin, of San Francisco, president of the Eastern Oregon Land company arrived in Ontario Monday from the Bay City to look after his property interests in this section. After spending several days going over the Willow River properties of the company with Ivan E. Oakes, resident agent here, Mr. Martin left Thursday for Nyssa with Langley Brookes agent for the company in that section.