

# The Ontario Argus.

XXIII

ONTARIO, MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1919

NO. 35

## TELEPHONE COMPANY WANTS HIGHER RATES

GENERAL MANAGER FRED B. JONES LAYS CASE OF LOCAL SYSTEM BEFORE MEMBERS OF COMMERCIAL CLUB FOLLOWING LUNCHEON

## DECLARES RATES INADEQUATE

Club Members Ask for Data for Further Consideration—General Rise in Operating Cost Basis of Request—History of Company Reviewed at Length.

Fred B. Jones, general manager of the Malheur Home Telephone company, appeared before the members of the Commercial club last night to ask that the club enter no objections to a request which the company is to make for increased rates in this territory.

Mr. Jones declared that when a similar request had been made to the Vale Chamber of Commerce that body had declared its willingness to stand for a reasonable increase, provided the company's plan of eliminating the manager's position at Vale was not acted upon.

The history of the telephone business in Ontario and the surrounding territory was sketched by Mr. Jones who declared that upon the book value of the telephone system which is placed at \$90,000 no dividends had ever been paid. In fact he said that the system had never made depreciation charges.

## Free Service Must Go.

According to the outlook at present there is every indication that the practice of giving free toll service to Fruitland and Nyssa will have to be abandoned, said Mr. Jones, for the company can not stand it; also he said that the Public Service commission would not approve such a practice, especially between Ontario and Nyssa. Between Ontario and Fruitland, that being an inter-state connection he said the state authorities lacked jurisdiction. There will be no charge between Fruitland and Ontario however until there is a charge between Fruitland and Payette.

## Old Contract Referred to.

Mr. Jones referred to the contract which was entered into between the old Ontario Independent company and the Malheur Home Telephone company by which the Independent system was purchased. In this contract certain things were agreed to, including the free tolls to Nyssa and Fruitland. It was Mr. Jones' contention that since the Oregon Railroad commission as it was then called was authorized prior to the making of that contract the provisions regarding rates is invalid and illegal.

Mr. Jones asked the club members to investigate the statements he had made concerning the earnings of the company its cost of operation and other data available in the office of Public Service commission at Salem. W. F. Homan and E. C. Van Petten questioned Mr. Jones concerning numerous statements he made during the evening to bring out additional information. Mr. Homan also told how the sale of the Independent company was negotiated and the understandings agreed to at that time.

The club finally determined to seek information from the Public Service commission and to study the same and have Mr. Jones present at a meeting to be held at an early date.

## PARADISE VALLEY MAKES A HIT WITH ONTARIO LAWYER

Back from what he declares to be one of the finest trips he ever made, J. W. McCulloch arrived home Monday after an extended stay in Portland and Tacoma. While in the vicinity of the City of Destiny, Mr. McCulloch, with Captain Robert Duncan, whom he visited at Camp Lewis made the premier trip of the Sound region, up Mt. Tacoma to Paradise Valley.

"I have heard men tell about flowers blooming in the snow, but that they were drawing a long bow," said Mr. McCulloch, in telling of the sights seen on the big mountain, "but there they were in Paradise Valley, as beautiful as one could picture. Next summer I want to take the whole family there to enjoy the trip as I did."

## RECORD BREAKING PRICE PAID FOR SMALL TRACT

What is declared to be the highest price paid for farm land in this section was reported this week in the sale of 15 acres in the Ontario Advancement tracts by John Dunphy to Burbank Clay who came here recently from the interior. Mr. Clay paid Mr. Dunphy \$10,000 for the 15 acres, or \$666.66 per acre.

Recently other sales have been made in the neighborhood of \$400 for small pieces, while larger ranches have been transferred at \$250 to \$300, but there have been none that approached the price paid for the Dunphy ranch.

## SALES SHOW THAT HAY PRICES ARE STRONGER

Contracts Made During the Week Vary from \$15 to \$18 Per Ton, With Measurements From Sept. 15 to November 1.

That hay prices are holding their own this week is indicated by the reports of sales made. In fact generally speaking the price has shown rising tendencies in sections, while in some of the other portions of the valley no change has been noted.

That the same buyers are paying different rates indicate that they are taking the hay at the ranchers' figures, the quality, too, is being considered and some of the buyers are indicating that they will not pay as much for fox-tail as they will for alfalfa.

The highest price reported during the week was that paid for the crop of the Newman-Test-Gregg ranch near Nyssa which sold Tuesday for \$18 per ton. J. A. Haley was the purchaser. Quality of hay and exceptional feeding facilities counted, it is said in making this price.

John Wood paid the second high price, \$16 for 400 tons, while numerous sales at \$15 were recorded, among them being the sale by J. L. Mullen of Luce station.

Another feature of the buying is that several of the purchases made have been by men who contemplate baling and shipping to other sections. This is the first time in which such purchases have been made so early in the season.

## SEEK TO STOP WORK ON WARMSPRINGS RESERVOIR

Thru its attorney Edward Treadwell, the Pacific Live Stock company, owners of the Warm Springs Reservoir site have filed an action in the federal court in Portland to enjoin the Warm Springs Irrigation District from proceeding with work on the Warm Springs Dam.

The order was made returnable next Monday. In the meantime suit was filed here in the Circuit Court of Malheur county to condemn the land by the Board of Directors of the Warm Springs system. Mr. Treadwell is expected to arrive in Ontario tomorrow, when the matter may be adjusted so that work may proceed.

## SPECIAL PREMIUMS BREAK ALL RECORDS

COMPETITORS AT ANNUAL FAIR WILL RECEIVE BIGGER AWARDS THAN EVER BEFORE—MERCHANTS COMMITTEE GETS RESULTS

## PORTLAND AND ADRIAN HELP

More than \$500 Worth of Merchandise Will Supplement Cash Prizes Given by Fair Board—Wide Variety of Prizes Offered

More prizes and of greater value have been offered as special premiums for the Tenth Annual Malheur County Fair, which takes place September 9, 10, 11 and 12; than have been offered at any of its predecessors.

In all, more than \$500 worth of merchandise prizes will augment the long list of Premiums given by the Fair Board.

These special premiums were solicited by a committee consisting of D. M. Taggart, O. H. Graham and E. W. Howland who met with a generous response from the business men of the city. Then the Big Bend mercantile company and the Citizens Lumber company of Adrian added prizes voluntarily, and the Vogan Candy company of Portland contributed to the list which includes every firm in Ontario and many individuals not engaged in business but who are boosters for the Fair.

In the premium book this year the special premiums are all listed by departments in the back of the book where contestants can find them readily.

With the increase in cash prizes by the board, together with the special premiums ample inducement is offered to everyone in the county to enter products for competition. In fact already there have been many calls for premium books on the part of men, women and children who are planning on getting into the competition so that there seems assurance that lively contests will mark every department.

## DREAD ANTHRAX MAKES ITS APPEARANCE HERE

Two Cows and Dog Die on Dead Ox Flat Victims of Disease—Rancher Contracts Disease but is Expected to Recover.

Anthrax, one of the most dreaded diseases which attacks cattle has made its appearance in Malheur county during the past week. Already it is known to have resulted in the death of two cows and a dog on Dead Ox Flat, and to have attack one man, Pearl Crane a rancher living five miles northwest of Ontario on the Dead Ox Flat. Crane is expected to recover, however.

The first knowledge of the presence of the disease was reported by the rancher.

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## OWYHEE DITCH WATER HOG PAYS NEAT FINE

COST DICK GROOT JUST \$35 FOR RUNNING WATER ONE HOUR AFTER HE BROKE LOCK AND RAISED HEAD GATE—JAIL SENTENCE SUSPENDED

## WATER MASTER MAKES ARREST

Religiosity Meetings on Upper Owyhee Presage Interesting Session at Director's Meeting Here on Saturday Say Officials of the Company.

The first prosecution for violating the regulations of Deputy State Water Master, A. L. Sproule, who now has charge of the distribution of the water of the Owyhee Ditch took place last Saturday at Vale. Dick Groot, who rents the Mrs. Minnie B. Stevens ranch was taken before Justice of the Peace Robert D. Lytle and fined \$35 and sentenced to 30 days in jail. The jail sentence was suspended on Groot's promise to observe the laws in the future.

While the money fine was small, had Groot succeeded in taking all the water he contemplated, yet it was high for the amount he was able to steal, for he had opened the head gate during Friday night, but had only been able to secure the additional water for one hour.

## Ranchers Discuss Situation.

According to reports that have been coming to town during the past week there will be a stormy session of the board of directors of the Owyhee Ditch at the regular monthly meeting here Saturday.

Meetings have been held, so it is said, almost every night, by farmers living on the upper end of the ditch. What action these men will take is not known, but that they are thoroughly out of sympathy with the attempt to

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## OFFICERS ROUND-UP LIQUOR PURVEYORS

Carter House and Farley Rooms Raided and Proprietors Taken Into Tolls—One Man Caught Pleads Guilty and is Fined \$250.00

For the second time in the past year the Carter House and the Farley Rooms were visited by officers. The latest visitation which took place about 10 o'clock last night resulted in the arrest at the Carter House of Sylvia and Bert Lewis, proprietors, and Henry Worth. At the Farley Rooms, Mrs. Marie Driscoll, proprietress, was arrested. All were charged with selling liquor.

Immediate trial was had of Henry Worth before Judge C. M. Stearns who fined him \$250 after he entered a plea of guilty. The other defendants determined to stand trial before a jury. Their cases will be heard tonight.

The raid was made by Marshal H. C. Farmer with the assistance of some special deputies.

## BUSINESS MEN URGED TO ATTEND BOARD MEETING

A special meeting of the Fair Board has been called for next Tuesday evening, at which it is desired that the business men of Ontario be present in a body. There will be many important questions up for consideration concerning which the board desires the opinions of the business men.

Among other questions to be discussed is that of early closing of business houses during the Fair, the uniform system of decorations and other features that will add to the appearance of the city during the stay of visitors here.

## THIS WILL BE GOOD NEWS FOR THE KIDS

Commercial Club Asks School Board to Dismiss School During County Fair—Teachers Needed—And Kids Want to Attend.

By a unanimous vote the members of the Commercial club Wednesday evening asked the School Board to abandon its plan of holding school during Fair week, and this should for all time win the undying gratitude of juvenile Ontario. It was not even a close vote.

H. H. Tunny, president of the Fair Board called the club's attention to the rumor that the Board of Education intended to keep school open during the Fair and explained the necessity of having the assistance of the teachers who have always cared for the records during every Fair week. He said that the Fair could hardly run without them. P. J. Gallagher gave voice to similar sentiments.

Judge W. W. Wood, said that he was the member of the school board who wanted school to run, but that he was not hide bound in his opinion and that if the citizens generally and the club members wanted the schools to close during the Fair he would not object.

After E. C. Van Petten, and E. B. Conklin championed the cause of the boys and girls, and incidentally the Fair board, a motion passed unanimously requesting the Board of Education to close the schools during the Fair.

## AUSTRALIAN TRAVELING MAN COMES TO AMERICA

John Laird McDonald, Sydney, N. S. W. was the way his name appeared on the register at the Moore. Following it appeared the following signature: H. C. Renner, Auckland, New Zealand.

The travelers from the Antipodes, it was learned, came to America to sell their products. Mr. McDonald also stopped in Ontario on his way to New York and thence to Scotland, to look into the affairs of the estate of his brother who died here last winter of the flu. While here he arranged for the erection of a head stone over his brother's grave.

Mr. Renner whom Mr. McDonald described as an "orchardist" is also the inventor of a new gas carburetor which he is taking to the automobile capital of the world, Detroit Mich. "I am willing to tell you," said Mr. McDonald, "that I like America. I like the people and am particularly impressed by the civility with which a stranger is received."

"Yes we are having some what the same troubles in Australia that you are having here in repatriating the returned soldier. The cost of living is lower with us than it is over here, tho. We still have a large part of the 1917 wheat crop as well as the 1918. It is selling at \$1.25 per hundred compared with \$2.26 over here. We also have a large surplus of wool as well as cattle products which we will ship to the world markets now that we can secure cargo space.

"I have come to America to sell you leather goods. I believe that I am the first Australian traveling man to come here to sell the product of an Australian factory."

Mr. McDonald left Wednesday for New York. While he was in the city he spent a great deal of his time with John Wood for whom his brother had worked before his death.

## COUNCIL CONTINUES EMPLOYEES SHAKE

VERNE CHAMBERS SUCCEEDS FRANK STOWELL AS SUPERINTENDENT OF WATER SYSTEM—CASIDAY TO RUN PUMPS ALONE

## CHANGE ASKED IN PAVING PLANS

Shortline Wants Paving to Stop at Westrail on Colorado and at Alley on Washington street—Garbage Question Puzzles—Repair Sidewalks.

With the dismissal of Frank Stowell as water superintendent and the appointment of Verne Chambers as his successor, the City Council at a meeting Tuesday evening continued its shake-up of employees in its effort to secure greater efficiency.

At the same time the Council accepted the proposition of Henry Casiday to run the pumps at the plant alone for \$150 per month, the no definite time limit on this arrangement was made pending action on the plan to erect a residence at the pumping station for the use of the pump man. Offers to run the pumping plant for \$100 per month if given house rent, heat and light have been received by the Council and while considering it, the present program will be followed.

To increase the efficiency and reduce the cost it is proposed to install alarms to notify the pump man when the tank on the tower is filled, and also when the power goes off. With these arrangements made it is believed that one man can operate the pumps and filters without difficulty.

## Several Engineers Want Job.

That the city will have no difficulty in securing engineering service was indicated by the number of applications on file for the position. A. O. Kratz, one of the assistant city engineers of Portland was the most favored one on the list, and Councilman H. B. Lockrum who will be in Portland this week was instructed to see him and if satisfactory arrangements can be made to employ him.

## Railroad Wants Changes

City Recorder C. M. Stearns reported to the Council that the officials of the Shortline object to the paving of the right-of-way on Colorado avenue, since the district merely goes to the east rail, and also objects to the paving of Washington street from the alley to the freight station. It is their claim that Washington street from the alley to right-of-way was vacated years ago and is the company's private property.

The company has no objection to the rest of the paving program save on California street from the alley to the right-of-way. The Council instructed the Recorder to endeavor to compromise the matter by withdrawing the paving between the tracks on Colorado and on California from the alley eastward, if in turn the company will pave Washington street to the freight station, and clean up the clutter pile on the stub end of California.

Instructions were issued for the repair of a number of cross walks, and a general discussion of the garbage question was indulged in. The street commissioner it was held need not collect the waste paper from alleys in the business district, and that the business men for the time being at least must dispose of this trash themselves.

## MAKING A TWO-YEAR TRIP THRU ENTIRE NORTHWEST

Out to see all the West, even if it takes two years to do it, Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Boals and family of Dakota City, Nebraska, arrived recently at the home of Mr. Boals' brother, P. M. Boals, of Dead Ox Flat where they will remain for several weeks. They came just in time to assist Mr. Boals harvest his second crop of hay.

After spending some time here Mr. and Mrs. Boals will drive on thru the Northwest and later will go to California. When they have finished their trip they may return to Nebraska to reside, or having fallen in love with the West thru their long sojourn they will return; perhaps to the Snake River valley.

