

The Ontario Argus

GEO. K. AIKEN, Editor and Publisher

Published Thursdays at Ontario, Oregon, and entered at the Ontario post office for distribution as 2nd class matter.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.....One Year \$1.50

THE TELEPHONE RATES

Perhaps there was no escape from a rise in the local telephone rates for Ontario, never-the-less there are two sides to the question, and both should be considered before the Commercial club agrees not to enter any objections to the request of the Malheur Home Telephone company for higher remuneration.

That the company cannot make money at the present rates may be granted, for everyone knows that the cost of operation and upkeep has advanced to a large degree in the past three years.

Against this admission there is set forth the fact that when the company bought the Ontario Independent company it entered into a contract specifying certain conditions, which a change in the rates and service now would violate.

Of course the company at the time of purchase did not foresee a world war and so general a rise in prices and so material a revolution in business practices as we have witnessed in the past year. But, argue those who have no sympathy with the company, "a contract is a contract," and there is no reason why we should let them break that contract with Ontario now. Again they argue that had prices fallen, had operating costs thru inventions or lower wage standards make operating cheaper, the public would not have received the benefit. The company would not be asking permission to reduce the rates.

Of course this is hypothetical. The facts are that the cost is greater, and it is a practical question of whether or not the public wants to see the company insolvent or is willing to take a rise in price and change service so that the company may prosper.

The Argus believes that there is substantial grounds for the position of both the company and those who are opposed to any change in rates or service, if viewed respectively from the personal interest of each. But we believe there is a middle ground that is safer in the long run for the public as a whole.

Ontario and the Fruitland Bench, Ontario and the Nyssa-Arcadia country have grown under the practice of viewing this as one community. Business has been predicated on that condition and to change that condition will work to the detriment of business materially, and the comfort of the people.

In the long run the public will have to pay for the cost of maintaining the telephone company, and allow it to earn a dividend—public policy has indicated that public service corporations are entitled to that. The question then resolves itself into this:

Is it better to pay telephone rentals sufficient to meet the requirements of the company, or take a smaller rise and have the exchange service between Ontario and Nyssa and Ontario and Fruitland continued?

There is of course another alternative; namely to fight any change and stand on the old contract and put the matter up to the courts to determine which shall prevail, the terms of the contract or the general law giving the Public Service Commission entire power over the rates.

The Argus believes that the citizens of Ontario want to be fair with the telephone company, and that they want the best service possible, therefore we believe that the matter will be adjusted satisfactorily after all sides have been thoroughly examined and the public is thoroughly informed of all the conditions which effect the company and the city. It is in that spirit at least that the problem should be faced, and only in that way can a satisfactory solution be reached.

USE THE GRAVEL

There is so much merit in the suggestion of W. E. Lees and H. C. Boyer that the City Council make use of the gravel to be taken off the streets that are to be paved and used on streets leading to the business district that it ought by all means be adopted.

The proper procedure, however, requires action on the part of the property owners on the streets thus to be improved. If they want this gravel placed on their streets they should take the regular method of petitioning the Council for this improvement.

LAND VALUES RISING

The Snake and Malheur Valley lands in this section have at last begun to feel the effect of the general rise in land values. The wonder is that they have not risen in price before this for there never has been a time when these lands were not as valuable as any in Eastern Oregon or Western Idaho of similar character.

The sale of the Dunphy ranch last week for \$10,000 while apparently an extreme price is not exceptional considering location, improvements and other elements that entered into the consideration of the buyer, and while it will not be equalled immediately places a relative value for all land in the orchard tracts immediately about Ontario.

Even more illuminating is the reported sale of the old Tom Brosnan ranch just three miles above Vale, on Willow Creek. This 320 acre ranch which 20 years ago was sold for \$1,500, and two years ago transferred for \$7,000, was sold last week for \$20,000.

There was nothing exceptional in this deal. No stock went with the place, but the enhanced value of the land can be attributed solely to the fact that the land is under the Wamsprings Irrigation District and will now be able to produce crops that will give earnings on the enhanced value.

These high prices for farm land in a year ought to materially effect the tax rate of this county. It will no longer be possible for the assessor to place high classed irrigated farms that the owners can get \$250 per acre for on the rolls for \$60. This increase in the total valuation will ultimately be reflected in the size of the levy thruout the county.

The hope of Eastern Oregon, so far as tax burden is concerned lies in this direction. There is no other way to solve the problem. The cost of government cannot be reduced for the people are always finding new tasks for the governmental branches, and the demand for good roads and improved schools will continue in scope and degree, therefore we must have additional population to help carry the load, and increased values on which to base taxation. The coming of the people will be accomplished by such improvements and the higher values will follow automatically.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The ultimate authority on law enforcement lies with the public. No matter what may be the attitude of the officials selected to enforce the laws of the city, county or state, they will in the long run not proceed farther than public opinion will sustain them.

Of course there are exceptions to this rule, and the zealous prosecutor rises to superior heights. Hughes and Whitman in New York, and Heney in California came into prominence thru their vigorous enforcement of the laws, but they were fighting crime in high places and the fought by powerful influences they had behind them the popular approval of the mass of the people.

In prosecuting the liquor laws the officials in smaller communities are not so sustained. As a matter of fact it is doubtful if there are many communities in which public opinion has risen to the height necessary to the successful prosecution of twenty per cent of the boot leggers operating in the territory. It is only after the most flagrant violations that such persons can be convicted before juries.

It is a question of educated public opinion, that is all, and that is coming. The bootlegger will continue as long as he can, that is certain. Gradually more latitude will be taken by the violators until some crime occurs by a brain incited with boot leg whisky. Then the public will act, and the way of the bootlegger will be hard. To avoid that the public thru its jury duty is the only hope. Of course the fact that juries fail to convict is no excuse for the officials not to continue to do their full duty, which they have sworn to fulfil. It is their duty just the same, but it must be admitted that they are not encouraged to go ahead.

WHAT A CONTRAST

A year ago all Americans were united. We had one aim, that of winning the war. What a different spectacle we present today. Apparently we are all united in an effort of tearing down the fabric of our established government and society, for nothing less than that is the ultimate result of the revolutionary strikes that threaten every industry.

The young couple that were married up in the air at Sheephead bay will come down to earth when they get their first month's grocery bills, no doubt.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

UNITED

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10:00 Bible School.
11:00 Public Worship.
8:00 Worship.
Mid-week prayer meeting Wednesday evening.
W. F. COCHRAN,
Minister.

NAZARENE CHURCH

Three Preaching Services on Sunday.
Rev. S. L. Flowers, former pastor, now of Nampa, and others from Nampa, will be with us.
Special Singing.
Rev. Flowers will stay over Monday with us and attend to some matters connected with his business before returning.
Everybody invited.
J. M. WINES, Pastor.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
8:30 a. m., Low Mass.
10:30 a. m., High Mass.
9:30 a. m., Catechism for the boys and girls.

BAPTIST CHURCH

Bible school 10:00.
Morning Worship 11:00.
Gospel Service 8:15.
Continuing the study of the Book of Revelation.
Prayer Service, Wednesday 8:30

METHODIST CHURCH

10 a. m. Sunday School.
11 a. m. Preaching.
7:15 p. m. Epworth League.
8 p. m. Preaching
Rev. Irwin of New York, direct from the Centenary Celebration at Columbus, Ohio, will speak at both services.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH
Rev. J. H. Maloney, Pastor.
During July and August:
Sunday Masses at 6:30 and 9 a. m.
No Sunday School.
Special Doctrinal sermons every Sunday morning.
Visitors respectfully invited.

An Old Fault Finder.

An irritable and fault finding disposition is often caused by indigestion. A man with good digestion and bowels that act regularly is usually good natured. When troubled with indigestion or constipation take Chamberlain's Tablets. They strengthen the stomach and enable it to perform its functions naturally. They also cause a gentle movement of the bowels.

The W. C. T. U. will meet next Tuesday afternoon, August 12, with Mrs. H. L. Poorman. A good attendance is urged.



Patent

Black Shiny Leather--Popular for Street and Evening Wear

AMONG the charming new season styles from Utz & Dunn that are meeting with the cordial approval of our customers are patent leather oxfords and pumps, the latter to be worn with or without spats.

Patent is favored by fashion and also commands itself because of its charming lustre and the slight care it imposes on its owner.

Patent low shoes have light soles and slender Louis heels.

All Widths and Sizes, \$7 to \$8.50.

RADER'S

Ontario, Oregon

Condensed Report of First National Bank of Ontario Oregon

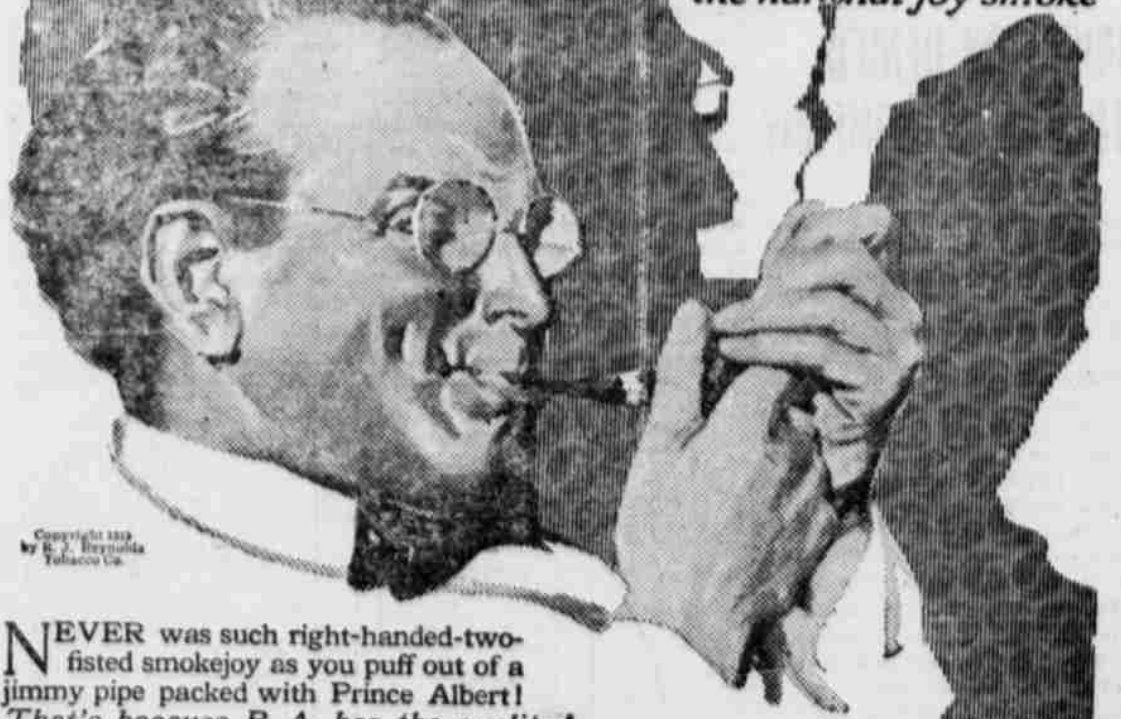
As made to the Comptroller of the Currency, a the close of business June 30, 1919.

RESOURCES		LIABILITIES	
Loans and Discounts	\$498,672.19	Capital	\$50,000.00
Overdrafts	237.93	Surplus and Profit	51,375.92
Notes and War Bonds	\$5,819.15	Circulation	12,500.00
Real Estate and Pictures	28,527.31	Federal Reserve Bank	47,200.00
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	5,000.00	DEPOSITS	732,171.00
CASH	264,609.42		
	\$891,309.88		\$891,309.88

A "ROLL OF HONOR BANK" In one possession of Surplus and Profits in excess of Capital, thus giving tangible evidence of Strength and Security. Of the 25,000 Banks in the United States, only one in ten occupies this proud position.
WE ARE AMONG THE NUMBER

PRINCE ALBERT

the national joy smoke



NEVER was such right-handed-two-fisted smokejoy as you puff out of a jimmy pipe packed with Prince Albert! That's because P. A. has the quality!

You can't fool your taste apparatus any more than you can get five aces out of a family deck! So, when you hit Prince Albert, coming and going, and get up half an hour earlier just to start stoking your pipe or rolling cigarettes, you know you've got the big prize on the end of your line!

Prince Albert's quality alone puts it in a class of its own, but when you figure that P. A. is made by our exclusive patented process that cuts out bite and parch—well—you feel like getting a flock of dictionaries to find enough words to express your happy days sentiments!

Tippy red bags, tidy red tins, handsome pound and half-pound tin humidors—and that classy, practical pound crystal glass humidor with sponge moistener top that keeps the tobacco in such perfect condition.

R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Winston-Salem, N. C.

