

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

IMPROVED ROADS COST MONEY.

Seven thousand dollars per mile for the graveling of a road that has already been graded, is perfectly straight and has no hills to increase haulage cost, seems a mighty high figure. Yet that is the price, the lowest price, offered the State Highway commission for the graveling of the Cairo-Nyssa section of the John Day Highway.

At first glance that seems a steep price to pay, most people hereabout think it is. For the ordinary gravel road such as we have around this section it is entirely out of reason. Perhaps, tho, the kind of road that the state and federal government have built is so much better that it is worth that price. If it is, there will be no kick coming, for the best road possible is none too good for the Boulevard with its heavy gravel.

According to the newspaper accounts of the proceedings of the Commission, the contract for this work was not let on Saturday when the bids were opened, but the proposal was turned over to the commission's engineering department. Just what that means is not apparent at this distance.

It is possible that the engineering department may deem the bid too high and seek to do the work under a force account; or that it will endeavor to have the county take the contract.

BUILDING GOOD ROADS.

At the meeting of the State Highway Commission at Portland last Saturday that body presented a definite program of co-operation between it and the people of Klamath county and the federal government for the construction of the good roads proposed for that section.

Under the terms of this agreement the people of Klamath county know exactly what is to be done, and what their share of the burden is to be, and they have it all before them. For every dollar of Klamath county money that is to be spent the Highway commission is to spend one, and the federal government another.

As yet no such proposition has been made to Malheur, Baker, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa or any of the other counties in this section of the state. No doubt there is a good and sufficient reason for this.

So far the commission has agreed to spend several thousand dollars, more than \$100,000 in Malheur county and as yet has not required a definite statement of co-operation with the county. The only work undertaken as yet in the county—the Nyssa-Cairo road was graded by the county. Since the state engineers have estimated that the cost of graveling this road would amount to \$3 per yard and the plans call for 2,000 yards per mile, the county's proportion of the co-operative expense is far less than the ratio given in Klamath county.

If the county can secure co-operation on this basis on all the program contemplated for Malheur county, including the Old Oregon Trail, the John Day Highway and the General Oregon Highway a far greater benefit will accrue to the people of this county than that being given Klamath. However a definite statement on the part of the Commission would be appreciated, so that the County Court would know how it can proceed.

MORE PROPAGANDA.

Attorney General Palmer would calm the agitated minds of the people with the report that the cost of living has fallen in many states 10 or 15 per cent. The trouble is he did not specify which states. If he did there would be such an exodus to those favored commonwealths that the cost there would probably rise again. That is the trouble with most of the government propaganda—it deals with generalities and does not give specific facts. What we want to know is: "When will the price of shoes come down, and how does the bacon price stay up, and likewise mutton chops, while hogs and sheep take such awful slumps?"

WHOSE BUSINESS IS IT?

On the front page of the Argus appears the statement of "An Old Soldier," who declares that Ontario has lost a large family because they could not find a house in which to live. The mere statement of that fact should cause some good, hard thinking on the part of those who have vacant lots about the city, and likewise it should give the merchants of the city reason for using their business judgment.

Now it is not necessarily the business of a city to provide homes for everyone who wants to come to live within its confines—but a good live city will attempt to do that very thing—if it can.

There is no lack of space in Ontario for homes—and there is no desire on the part of owners of vacant property to keep their property in that condition. Also there is a demand for homes—what more need a man ask who has property—who has with it too, money to put both to use and ultimately profit thereby.

The merchant who is anxious to increase his business knows that the surest way to do that is to have the city in which he lives grow and thus provide him with a growing clientele. Good business would dictate that the merchants of Ontario would assist in any movement that would increase the number of homes here. And we believe that they will do this if the matter is properly presented.

An effort has been made to improve the situation here. The subscription list for a home building company has been signed by a comparative few—why others have not signed is hard to understand.

The "Old Soldier" is not the only person forced to leave Ontario in recent weeks because of no place in which to live. There have been others and there will be more. Next week a man leaves Ontario who has been employed here for months, because the house in which he lives has been sold and he could not find another.

Unless Ontario is to stand still while its neighbors profit at its expense something must be done. The owners of vacant lots are losing their golden opportunity—the condition they wanted to see exist when they gambled on those lots is here now. Apparently they do not realize it—or have not sufficient faith in their original investment to add to it the price of construction—to convert the whole investment into cash.

MILLIONS IN FRUIT.

It has been estimated that fruit ranchers of the Payette Valley, just across from Ontario will receive approximately three million dollars for their crop.

It is to be hoped that these estimates are low in reality and that the sum will be even greater. But even if it does not reach that great figure it is certain to be sufficient to place that wonderful section on the list of wealthy communities.

While considering the ranchers of the bench as wealthy, for many will be that, it is well to remember that they have had many lean years, and they are entitled to this fat one. We hope that they will repeat the performance as often as possible. It takes a rich farmer to make good business for all of us.

HOW ABOUT IT?

If the Kendrick bill will prohibit the Big Five packers from engaging in the fruit and grocery business, will it likewise prohibit the corner grocery from selling hams and bacon? And to go a step further will the drug store have to stop selling newspapers, and soda water, jewelry and stationery?

The above are sample questions that The Crane American propounds to its readers, but does not attempt to answer.

What would become of department stores, under the operation of such a law? And say, what a wallop that would take to Reers-Sobuck and their tribe of mail order businesses?

The State Highway Commission will pave the county road from the East city limits to the Bridge. This is the finest thing that has happened for Ontario in a long time—but to finish the job the road thru the cut on the other side should be paved, also. Now is the time to get busy.

EXTRA---SATURDAY OH! BOY!

It's September 27th Dreamland Theatre

One Day Only

Bob Findley, the Mack Sinnett comedian

— and the —

6 Famous Bathing Beauties 6

Direct from Sunny California Beaches
Appearing in Person

They Give a Jazzy Little Song and Dance

— also —

Wally Reid in a 5 Reel Picture
"Alias Mike Moran"

Prices: 25c and 50c
Two Complete Shows and a Half
First Show Begins 7:30 p. m.

Some Show! . Let's Go!

Our Special Offer During September

Gives every Ontario housewife an opportunity to own a

Thor

Electric Washing Machine.

ONLY
\$10
DOWN

During the Month of September. Balance in small monthly payments

Take Advantage of These Unheard of Terms.

Here is your chance to turn your dreams of a pleasant washday into a reality. You can have one of these splendid Thor Electric Washing Machines in your home on a first payment of only \$10.00 if you place your order before the last day of September.

THINK IT OVER

If you are inclined to let this opportunity pass—think it over—wait until the first washday comes along after you read this advertisement, then with the rub-rub-rub of the washboard and every turn of the squeaking wringer remember the Thor will do all this for you in less than an hour. And the cost of electric current only two cents.

Get in touch with our nearest office or agent today. You cannot afford to delay.



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