

The Ontario Argus

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THE GREAT AMERICAN

Theodore Roosevelt has passed beyond the realm of partisanship and the campaign to secure funds for the erection of a fitting memorial to him is rightly an American rather than a partisan effort.

The memory of the great work which Theodore Roosevelt did, of the life he led and the ideals he held before the American people is the common heritage of us all. His life will for all time be an inspiration to the youth of the land. It is for that reason that a fitting and adequate memorial is to be erected at Washington and perhaps at Sagamore Hill.

The progress of a nation is but the progress of its leaders, and the heights to which their example lead the people who come after them. Every nation has its heroes and the inspiration which they give is beyond human estimate.

What American is there who has ever viewed the statues of Lincoln, and there viewed the noble grandeur of the man who has not been inspired to think of the lofty ideals for which he stood? Is not even the picture of that great white marble shaft at Washington erected to honor the Father of Our country a symbol of the purity of his character and heights he sought to attain for the American people?

Among all the nations the custom of raising memorials to their leaders has been followed. Among democracies it is practically the only manner in which the services of such men may be recognized.

A memorial to Roosevelt will appeal particularly to the people of the West. He was one of them and manifested a deep concern in the development of this region. The great dam near Phoenix which impounds the water for the irrigation of Arizona's plains is a monument to his active interest in the reclamation of these mountain states.

But the greatest service that Theodore Roosevelt performed for America was his upstanding Americanism during the trying days just prior to and immediately following our entry into the world war. His attitude and his utterances cleared the clouded skies and made clear and plain the path of national duty. For him there was no double allegiance, no two standards of citizenship, no two flags. His creed and his faith was pronounced in a sentence that should be known to every American when he said:

"One flag, the American flag; one language, the language of the Declaration of Independence; one loyalty, loyalty to the American people."

Well indeed may the American people honor such a man. The spirit in which his memory is held will be manifest by the response accorded to the appeal for memorial funds next week. There is no doubt of the outcome.

SHIFTING STANDARDS

There is a reason for the apparently failure to get action in Ontario home building plans, but the situation is adjusting itself and good will ultimately come out of the agitation that has delayed progress.

Without analysing their ideas and unconscious of any desire to be unfair to the lumber dealers those who are planning on building have in mind the kind of a house they want, and what they want to pay for it. It is perhaps true that many of them want a house that used to cost from \$2,500 to \$3,000 to build before the war. They have that ideal in their mind and wish to attain it.

But when they have started to get prices for such a house today they find that the cost is anywhere from \$3,500 to \$5,000 for that type of structure.

The result is a shock. They think someone is profiteering at their expense, and the feeling is a natural one. It is the same feeling that everyone had when they started paying \$7.50 for a \$5.00 shoe, or \$45 for a \$30 suit. But we have become accustomed to the latter. We have recovered from the shock. The fact that shoes and clothing are high is an accepted fact and the public is acting according—buying what it needs and not complaining.

The Argus has no desire to hold a brief for the lumber and material men. They can fight their own battle. These observations are made in a spirit of fairness to all concerned—the man who builds and the man who sells. We, all of us have to recognize that a new high level in prices has been reached, in lumber as well as merchandise.

We can not believe that the Ontario lumber dealers are worse than the lumber dealers of our neighboring towns. In fact they are in many cases the same people. They ask that their prices be investigated. They agree to meet any outside price. What more can anyone ask.

As business men it is hardly consistent for Ontario to ask its retail lumber men to sell at wholesale prices. That can not be done long. The retail yards serve a purpose. They keep stock here the year round for the trade and now that a demand for building has come they are certainly entitled to first consideration when they are fair—as we believe they are. If they are not fair—that is a different question and they should be treated accordingly. In the mean time the discussion of the situation will do no harm and the more the people get familiar with the facts the better will be the feeling all round.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

In the years following the Civil War government in the United States was given great aid by the patriotism of the organization of the veterans thru the G. A. R. These men had fought for the Union. They had made their sacrifice and they were determined to see that these sacrifices should not be in vain, and they were not.

The part that the G. A. R. played in those days now falls upon the shoulders of the members of the American Legion. Today the problem is a greater one for it is now most evident that there are forces at work in the land whose ultimate aim is to destroy our American government.

There is no denying this. The

L. W. W., the parlor Bolshevik would do just that. What would that mean to the men and women of America? Who is there that wants this great nation to be turned over to the irresponsible hands of the disciples of Lenin and Trotsky? Who wants to have repeated here the crime of Russia?

To prevent such a catastrophe, loyal Americans must organize. They must present their views so emphatically that radicals will desist. Men who preach Bolshevism must be made to understand that they are not welcome here and that if this country does not suit them they must get out.

The American Legion has taken up the fight for Americanism. In Astoria the Legion has squelched the Reds of that town. They have taken up the fight of making the foreign language papers print translations of their product, and thus are getting at the most flagrant of the propaganda methods of the Bolsheviks. The Legion is entitled to the support of every good American, and every good American community needs the help of the Legion. It is to be hoped that the service men from Ontario will speedily align themselves with this great movement.

FAITH JUSTIFIED

The apportionment made by the State Highway Commission for Malheur county as announced last week sustains the position which friends of good roads and the disciples of co-operation with the commission have maintained during the past two years. By this apportionment Malheur county has done well, its needs have been recognized and partially fulfilled.

It would be unfair and manifest an unappreciative spirit, however, if credit for this result was not given to the County Court, and to Representative P. J. Gallagher and Senator Julien A. Hurley who presented the county's case to the Commission. Their work of course was made possible by the faith of the voters in the presentation of possibilities for good roads by the committee which went to Portland last spring. Thus on the faith of the voters rests the initial award of credit.

While we are remembering the good work of our own representatives it certainly is fitting to think of the fair-mindedness of the Commissioners, Benson, Thompson and Booth who did the actual voting on the proposition. They keep their words. It is a pleasure to record that fact for it disproves the oft repeated statements that the promises of officials mean nothing.

Without detracting from the friendliness of our feeling toward his associates, the people of Malheur county will always feel that this work here was made possible largely by the efforts of W. L. Thompson who marked the close of his term as highway commissioner for Eastern Oregon at the last meeting. Bill Thompson, therefore will always find a warm welcome when he comes to Malheur county. We thank him, we thank them all. Our faith is vindicated and when the road contractors start work our joy will be fulfilled.

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