

**The Ontario Argus**

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**A CHARACTER TESTER.**

Emergencies like that which the public is facing this week in the coal shortage and arbitrary enforcement of restrictions on the use of the precious fuel, serve as a means to bring out the character of citizens. Some folks are not helped in the opinion of their fellow men by their actions these days.

It may be trite to say so but the lives of the poorest people, the humblest man, woman or child in the city is of vastly more importance than the financial success of the city's biggest institution. Therefore, it follows that the work of the fuel administrator and the committee under which he is working is first of all to see that no one "freezes so long as there is a surplus in any bin in town, no matter whose bin it is.

The first and most essential duty of the citizens in general and as individuals, is to be honest. Tell the truth about your coal supply, and then give your best co-operation to the administrator and the committee to the end that justice may obtain and that no needy child shall freeze thru your selfishness or that of another that you might prevent.

There is a tradition among seafaring men in times of great danger when a ship must be abandoned, which is always followed. It is: "Women and children first." That tradition fits exactly in this situation so far as fuel is concerned. The homes wherein women and children live must be warmed first. Our business can be cared for later. So far as that goes our business would not be worth saving anyway if all, or even a large portion of the women and children customers were taken by freezing or the diseases of pneumonia and influenza, whose very ably a fuel famine is.

It would be almost ghoulish for one business man in this emergency to take advantage of a competitor and not live up to the regulations drafted by the fuel administration committee.

Let us face this situation together

determined to play fair with each other, ask for no special favors and keep clearly in mind the first essential that of keeping the homes warm and letting business take its chances.

**DRUNK OR LAZY, WHICH?**

Are the American people drunk with wealth or has a large portion of them accepted the philosophy of laziness as the rule and guide for their lives?

If this is not the proper diagnosis of the case what is the trouble that so large a proportion seems bound to strike about something regardless of how the lives of others are affected? It appears that both of these germs are active and that the industrial body does appear to throw off the complications. Dope will not do any good, and dope in this case is more laws. What we want is action, or surgery. It will be no minor operation either, so far as the miners are concerned. And this is the course of treatment we would recommend, and let the legality of it be determined later:

Declare martial law in the coal camps; commandeer the food supplies in every store in the coal regions, and serve an ultimatum "no fuel, no food."

We believe that would work, for your coal miner, especially the western variety likes his food regularly, as does every man, and he lives well. That is it. He is able to live well on what he has been earning during the past two years. The miners have planned this strike for that time and have been saving accordingly. They could hold out, so far as cash is concerned, almost indefinitely. Therefore that cash must be made of no use to them until they get to work and produce coal.

While this would solve the coal strike it would not prevent others that seem to be in the air. Conditions must change. We must get back to fundamentals, especially that basic principal that work is essential to the health and happiness of the individual. A lazy man is always useless, especially when idle by his own choice. And many of the potential strikes are fomented by men now have more money than they ever had before and therefore they find it convenient to strike so that they may idle away their time. These radicals are in the saddle of unions now tho there are signs that they are losing their grip, and labor is going to recover from its spree and get back to producing again. God speed the day. It can not come too soon for the good of the cause of unionism.

**THE WATER PROBLEM SOLVED?**

It would seem from many of the arguments on the question of how to water Ontario's lawns that this is the only town in the arid region that ever attempted to raise a lawn without an ugly open ditch.

There are dozens of other cities and towns in the inter-mountain country just as arid as in Ontario where they grow trees and lawns that are beautiful, and disprove entirely the assertions oft repeated, that "You can't grow trees if you irrigate with a hose."

A walk along Warm Springs avenue in Boise any summer day, and there is no prettier street in any city than it is, will prove the ability of sprinkling as a mean of irrigation in this section of the country. There is not much if any difference, in the aridity of Boise and Ontario.

And Warm Springs avenue is not the only section of the Idaho capital thus watered. The writer saw small gardens being watered by sprinkling there last summer.

Ellensburg and Walla Walla sprinkle their lawns, so do Pendleton and Baker, and Ontario is not more arid than any of these.

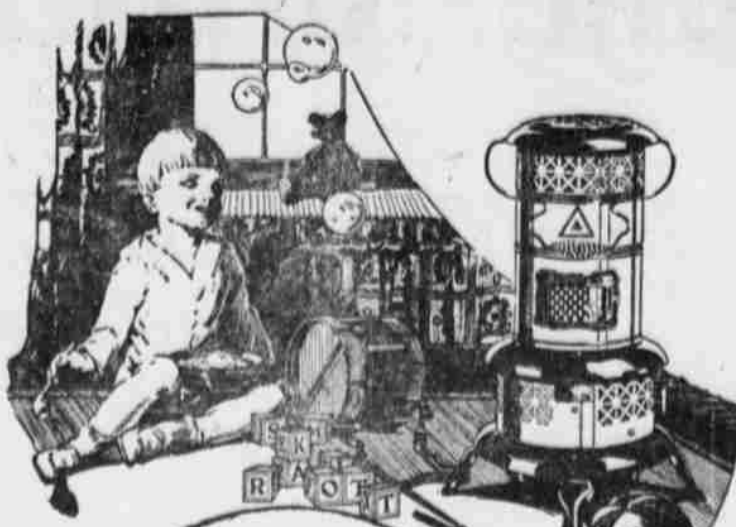
Until Ontario has paid for the present system it had better go slow, and follow the policy suggested at the Commercial club meeting and use the present system until it has been thoroughly tested.

The question of rates is a financial one. The City Council can be depended upon to solve that portion of it correctly, but there certainly is every reason in the world for being certain that the present system is or is not effective before going into debt and further jeopardizing the financial standing of the city by duplicating the present system.

Don't kick on the fuel administrator or the committee. They are liable to change their regulations any time and certainly will do so if the stringency becomes more acute. Then perhaps the ruling that you object to now will be the first one enforced.

Frick, the great steel magnate, left a fortune of \$142,000,000 but his heirs get only \$25,000,000 of it, the public generally gets the rest. Well, that is approaching a fair distribution of wealth, and we will admit that the Frick heirs ought to be able to worry along on the twenty-five and pay their coal bills, too.

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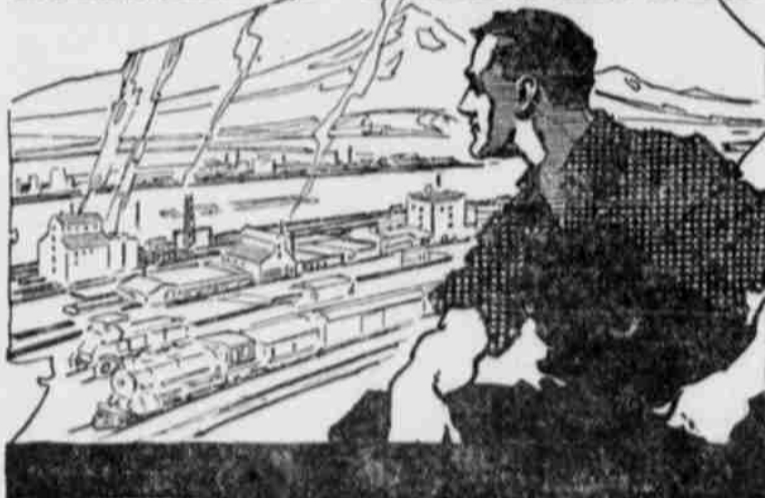
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**CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.**

Rev. J. H. Maloney, Pastor.  
8:30 a. m., Low Mass.  
10:30 a. m., High Mass.  
9:30 a. m., Catechism for the boys and girls.  
Visitors respectfully invited.

**BAPTIST CHURCH**

Bible school 10:00.  
Morning Worship 11:00.  
Gospel Service 8:00.  
Prayer Service Wednesday 8:00.

**NAZARENE CHURCH**

J. M. Wines, Pastor.  
10:00 a. m. Sunday School.  
11:00 a. m. Preaching.  
8:00 p. m. Thursday, Prayer Meeting in the Church.  
Everybody urged to attend all services.

10:00, bible school.

11:00, public worship. Sermon subject, "The Bible School."  
7:30, worship. Sermon subject, the seventh commandment, "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery."  
W. E. Cochran, Minister

**METHODIST CHURCH**

Sunday Services.  
10 a. m. Sunday school.  
11 a. m. Preaching: "Our Resources."  
6:45 p. m. Epworth League.  
7:30 p. m. Preaching: "Drifting the Wrong Way."  
W. J. LUSCOMBE, Pastor.

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