

The Ontario Argus.

XXIV

ONTARIO, MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1920.

NO. 9.

DEVOTED TO THE UPBUILDING OF THE AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS OF THE MALHEUR AND SNAKE RIVER VALLEYS. GIVING THE HISTORY AND GROWTH OF THE INDIVIDUALS AND FIRMS PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF THIS GREAT BUT PARTIALLY DEVELOPED EMPIRE. OTHER EDITIONS WILL FOLLOW.

POWER USERS WILL MEET HERE SATURDAY

WEISER, PAYETTE, CALDWELL AND NAMPA ORGANIZATIONS TO BE REPRESENTED AT GATHERING TO CONSIDER PROBLEM.

NO NOTICE OF HEARING AS YET

February 10 Considered Too Short Notice in Which to Gather Data for Adequate Presentation of Case at This Time.

On Saturday at the City Hall will be held another meeting of the power users of the Snake and Malheur valleys. The meeting is called for 10 a. m., and will be more representative of the users of the valley than that which was held two weeks ago.

Thos. W. Clagett, chairman of the Malheur County Power users, who called the meeting has received advice from the committee appointed at a recent meeting in Weiser that they would be represented, and similar advice comes from Nampa and Caldwell. Payette users will be here, too, so that the gathering will be comprehensive and will be able to act for practically every power user in this section.

As yet no official advice has been received from the Oregon Public Service Commission of the joint hearing scheduled for February 10 at Boise. The only notice of this was that which appeared in the papers under a Salem date line.

Senator Julien A. Hurley, who arrived in Ontario last Friday on his return from the special session, said that just prior to his departure he had a talk with Commissioner Fred G. Buchtel, who said that the date had not been set and that ample time would be given the people to prepare for the hearing.

It is the generally expressed opinion of the ranchers that they will not be able to prepare statements of all the power used and bring other data for an adequate showing before the Idaho meeting on February 10, and if the hearing is held then they will ask that further time be given them by the Oregon commission.

CAIRO FARMERS ORGANIZE DISTRICT

Indications Point to a Strong Community Bureau There in the Very Near Future.

Following a thorough discussion of the matter at hand by those present at a well attended meeting of the farmers of the Cairo district last Friday night at the Cairo Grange Hall, preliminary steps were taken for the organization of a farm bureau, and committees were named to complete arrangements. A membership committee of five was appointed, namely: C. F. Lecker, Ira Dale, Hans Oft, G. W. Dean, Arthur S. King and V. V. Hickox. Persons wishing to join the organization should get in touch with one of these men. A committee was also named to arrange for the final organization meeting and another to prepare working plans for submission to the members at the final meeting. The next meeting takes place at the Cairo Grange Hall on Saturday night, February 7, at which time W. W. Beal, master of the State Grange of Idaho, will be present and speak on farm bureau projects.

Cairo is one of the last thickly populated communities of the county to take up the farm bureau organization work, but all indications point toward a strong community bureau there in the near future.

Mrs. H. C. Boyer is ill at her home, one of the many victims of the prevailing "flu."

"CURLY" EASTLEY WILL ESTABLISH GYMNASIUM

"Curley" Eastley, a well known pugilist in this part of Oregon, has been in Ontario since the first of the week interesting the business men and young people in establishing an up-to-date gymnasium here. His enterprise is receiving cordial encouragement and every indication points to the fact that Ontario will shortly have one of the most modern gymnasiums in the state.

Mr. Eastley has rented the Zimmerman building and is moving his equipment of boxing gloves, rings, tumbling bars, punching bags, etc., from Vale. He expects to install shower baths and a steam room, in fact he will have an establishment of which Ontario will be proud.

VALUE OF COMMUNITY ADVERTISING SHOWN

Commercial Club Secretary Sets Forth Purpose of Special Editions of Argus to Carry Ontario's Message.

F. LESLIE BODY Secretary Commercial Club.

Advertising is the life of commerce. It is the voice of selling. Advertising develops new markets and strengthens old ones. For some time past the Ontario Commercial club has realized that trade which rightly belongs to the merchants of Ontario has been going elsewhere. An investigation was ordered and an analysis of the whole situation made. The conclusion arrived at was that the people residing outside of the city did not realize how important a point Ontario really is.

When the statement is made that Ontario is the natural trading metropolis for a large territory oftentimes the remark is allowed to pass without comment, and in a few instances it is doubted, but the club has always been disposed satisfactorily upon investigation. This arose the question as to how to drive home the truth of the assertion to the largest number of people at a minimum expense.

A commercial club is usually a conservative body of public men which makes certain of its powder and then fires. In this case after months of preparation the method adopted by the Ontario Commercial club was to deliver Ontario's message to all interior points by a systematic educational campaign, and the medium adopted was through a local newspaper. The whole could not be told in one issue, so it was too big a task—therefore a special edition of the Argus will be issued twice a month for five months dealing with different phases of Ontario's growth and development.

This, the first issue, handles matters civic; the next will deal with the merchants; the third with the Commercial club; fourth schools and educational facilities; and so on until every activity of the city's welfare has been covered. By this method it is hoped that thousands of interested parties heretofore not trading at Ontario will at least be sufficiently interested to come and look the field over. Before the series is completed photographs of over 250 prominent merchants and professional men will appear, so that a closer relationship between Ontario's live wires and the buying public will be established.

The Commercial club stands sponsor for these issues and any suggestions will be gladly accepted. This is your Club; use it. Our activities are not confined solely to matters pertaining to the City of Ontario, but we are vitally interested in all matters relating to our territory. If your friends desire copies of these issues mailed them give us their names and we will see that they receive the whole series.

Mrs. Henry Belers sold her 155 acre ranch on the island southeast of town to O. V. Halloway last week for a consideration of \$15,000.

PRESENT LARGE FLOCKS OF CROWS A MENACE

COUNTY AGENT L. R. BREITHAUPT, TOGETHER WITH BIOLOGISTS E. E. HORN AND L. N. GABRIELSON OF PORTLAND PLAN WAR ON PESTS.

ASK COUNTY FOR \$600 FUND

Plan to Use About Four Tons of Shelled Corn, Soaked in Acids, at the Grounds Where They Congregate Nightly Before Going to Roost on Crow Island.

That the original small flock of crows, which began roosting on the small island, now known as Crow Island, about four miles by road southeast of Ontario, about ten or twelve years ago, has grown to such huge proportions since then as to be a serious menace to fruit and all crops, and even to sheep and hogs, is the consensus of opinion of farmers in the Snake River valley both in Oregon and Idaho. The present estimate of the huge flock is placed at 200,000, which will be increased to a half million by fall if steps are not taken at once to exterminate them.

With this in view, County Agent Breithaupt called into service several days ago Biologists E. E. Horn and L. N. Gabrielson, who have been engaged for the past few weeks in exterminating rabbits in the west part of the county. The young men arrived here a week ago and since then have been watching the habits of the crows.

Attack Live Animals. The amount of damage that these crows accomplish may be gained from the experience of at least two ranchers, and of H. H. Tunney of the Ontario Meat & Grocery company. The slaughter house of the Meat & Grocery company is located but a mile or two from the nesting place of these crows and during the heavy snow, while the crows were hungry they used to light on the backs of hogs feeding in the slaughter house grounds and deliberately devour the porkers. They also attacked some of the cattle.

On the C. C. Hunt ranch the crows have eaten all the corn off the shocks and caused a heavy loss. On the K. S. & D. ranch it has been necessary to employ a man to keep the hungry birds off the place.

While Mr. Horn, who has watched the flight for several nights, places the number of crows at two hundred thousand, Mayor F. W. Jones, who took him out the first night to watch them, places the number at nearly a million, and that is what the layman would think, but Mr. Horn counted a number of flights and by estimating the number to arrive in a given period believes his estimate, while conservative, is nearer the exact number than that given by Mr. Jones.

BISHOP PADDOCK TO SPEAK HERE SUNDAY

Well Known Dignitary of Episcopal Church to Hold Service at Masonic Hall Sunday Evening.

Bishop Robert L. Paddock, Episcopal bishop of Eastern Oregon, will be in Ontario Sunday to hold a special service at the Masonic hall Sunday evening. The service will commence at 7:30.

Bishop Paddock has not visited Ontario for some time and since each of his visits is a memorable event among the members of his church they are looking forward with pleasure to his visit here Sunday. A cordial invitation to everyone is extended for the service Sunday.

Mrs. H. C. Smith departed Tuesday evening for Nampa to spend the week-end with her sister, Mrs. McCorkle.

WORK ON JOHN DAY HIGHWAY IS RENEWED

SCENIC WONDERS ALONG ROUTE IN SOME SECTIONS SAID TO RIVAL THAT ON THE COLUMBIA HIGHWAY BELOW THE DALLES.

UNIT TO COST ABOUT \$700,000

Local Work Embraces Present Activities Between Cairo and Nyssa and Surveying of the Line From Huntington to Ontario on Old Oregon Trail—Bids to Be Called For on Vale-Brogan Section.

Approximately \$1,100,000 will have been expended on the great John Day highway by next fall, partially completing one of the grandest scenic routes, it is said, to be found anywhere in the Pacific Northwest, rivaling in every way even that on the Columbia Highway below The Dalles.

What is considered to be one of the most commanding bits of scenery along the Highway is through the famous fossil beds in Wheeler county, between Dayville and Service creek, a distance of about 48 miles, running through gorges, or canyons, resembling in formation and appearance that of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. It is on this unit that the heaviest construction work is being done and will cost in the neighborhood of \$700,000 when finished. But before reaching the fossil beds the route, it is believed, will be run by the government through the Forest Reserve across the Strawberry mountains from Unity into Prairie City. It is a beautiful section, the mountain streams and Strawberry lake, near Prairie City, providing the finest kind of trout fishing. The John Day Highway as routed runs from Nyssa and Ontario to Vale, Brogan, Service Creek, Unity, Prairie City, John Day, Mitchell, Fossil and Condon connecting up with the Columbia Highway at Olex, in Gilliam county.

From J. F. Joyce, the State Highway Commission resident engineer, the Argus on Tuesday obtained the following information concerning the local situation, together with that which is being done along the Highway. At present grading is under way on what is known as the government and state project No. 28, between Cairo and Nyssa, the construction of which will be completed, Mr. Joyce said, some time the latter part of March. The plan for surfacing the two miles from Nyssa will be in running order by February 5 and will speed up construction considerably.

Engineers Working F. H. Drinkhall, a locating engineer at Weiser, is now engaged in surveying a line 40 miles in all between Huntington and Ontario. He is at present operating out of Weiser. Plans will soon be ready for work to be done between Vale and Brogan, about 24 miles. That work is to open soon and the county will shortly advertise for bids. From Brogan to what is known as the Cow Valley section the contract has already been let and some work was done last fall, in November. Construction will be renewed just as soon as the weather will permit and it is believed will be completed some time in August. It is understood that the Forest Department has set aside \$100,000 for the route thru the Reserve between Unity and Prairie City. The unit between the latter named point and John Day, 20 miles in all, was finished last fall and consequently today is the best portion of the Highway, costing about \$200,000. Grant county and the state are also to spend quite a sum of money this summer between John Day and Dayville, 36 miles. It is estimated that about \$900,000 worth of work is already launched between Service Creek and Nyssa. Wheeler and Gilliam counties, too, have expended a considerable sum

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MRS. BEN SEAWARD VICTIM OF INFLUENZA AT BURNS

Word was received in Ontario Monday of the death of Mrs. Ben H. Seaward at Burns on Sunday, following a short illness. Pneumonia, following influenza, is believed to have been the cause of her death, tho the exact details were not given in the wire which J. H. Seaward received from her husband.

Mrs. Seaward was called to Burns in November by the illness of relatives and remained there until she herself became a victim of the disease. Funeral services were held Tuesday at Burns.

Mrs. Seaward was 25 years old at the time of her death, having been born in Harney county and lived either in Harney or Malheur all her life. Seven years ago she was married to Mr. Seaward, who, with her mother, Mrs. Fine, of Burns, two married sisters, Mrs. Norah Martin, and Mrs. Nettie Mase of Burns, two brothers, Joe Fine of Ontario and Edmond Fine of Burns are left to mourn her loss.

PROPERTY OWNERS ASK VIRTUE BE PAVED NOW

Petition Signed by Majority of Property Owners Seeks Improvement of Street From Michigan to California.

Only one resident property owner refused to sign the petition circulated by L. Hirsch asking the City Council to improve Virtue street from Michigan to California avenues by paving. Already more than half the property represented on the street is listed by the owners.

The petition will be presented to the City Council at its regular meeting Monday night. It is the plan of the proponents of the paving to have the surfacing laid 24 feet wide with a 23 foot parkway between the property lines and the curbing.

The property owners believe that since there will be practically no heavy travel on the street a single course concrete paving will serve their needs.

It is understood that the property owners on the north end of Virtue street are also circulating a petition to carry the work thru to their section giving a paved thoroughfare north and south thru the residence section of the city.

MRS. N. A. MACOMB, AN OREGON PIONEER, DIES

After an illness of long duration, Mrs. N. A. Macomb, the mother of Lester Macomb of Ontario, passed away at the age of 75 years at Walker, Oregon, last Monday morning at 2 o'clock. Funeral services took place at the Congregational church in Weiser yesterday afternoon, interment being made in the Weiser cemetery. Her husband died in Long Valley, Idaho, in 1903. She is survived by a son, Lester, of Ontario, a daughter, Mrs. Callie Ashley, of Boise, a daughter, Mrs. Rode Nordstrum, of Bandon, Oregon, a son, H. N. Macomb of Valdez, Alaska, and a brother, the only one living in her family, O. T. Mansken, who has been a resident of Ontario for years.

Mrs. Macomb crossed the plains with her husband and eight children, with an ox team from Arkansas to Oregon in the summer of 1877, settling first at Prairie City. From Prairie City the family moved to Juntura, Oregon, in 1878, living there until 1889, when they took up their residence at Long Valley, Idaho. Since the death of her husband, which occurred at Long Valley in 1903, Mrs. Macomb lived among her children.

HOMEDALE BRIDGE OUT AGAIN

The trestling work under the railroad bridge across the Owyhee river on the Homedale branch was knocked out by an ice jam again on Tuesday afternoon of this week, leaving the train on the other side. This bridge was washed out about ten days ago. Train service has not yet been resumed.

COMMERCIAL CLUB MEN HEAR MANY SPEAKERS

LIGHTING PROBLEMS DISCUSSED BY EXPERTS OF THE EDISON COMPANY—H. L. COOK OF THE IDAHO POWER DISCUSSES FINANCE

FAIR REORGANIZATION URGED

Club Assumes Obligations of Poultry Show Made Necessary by the Unexpected Number of Entries Made—Show Declared Real Success.

Following the 6 o'clock dinner of members of the Ontario Commercial Club, held at Fifer's Wednesday afternoon, the club assembled at the city hall to discuss matters of importance to the city and vicinity.

President W. W. Wood, after Secretary T. H. Body had read some interesting correspondence, called upon members for expressions upon what should be done with the deficit of about \$90 created by the poultry show held last week. Mr. Body explaining that it was due to the fact that there were nearly 500 birds on exhibit when there were not over half that number expected, necessitating an expenditure of a considerable sum of money for coops, etc. Dr. A. G. Moore was of the opinion that that show could be made self-supporting by charging an admission fee of 50 or 75 cents, but was very much opposed to an entrance fee. He said that there were more and better birds on exhibit here than at the Boise show where an admission fee of 75 cents was charged. That state also contributes \$750 annually, about the same as Oregon gives for the Malheur County Fair. A motion was finally adopted that the club assume the indebtedness.

Mr. Drane, station agent, advocated that some arrangements be made so that the high school students could have a permanent hall in which to give their entertainments and parties. There is no hall adequate at present, the students being compelled to hire a near-by Grange hall for each affair. It was suggested that the city hall rooms be used for the purpose pending other arrangements. President Wood also called attention to the petitions of adjacent school districts to Ontario and Nyssa which will soon be filed for the consolidation of these schools, the children being nearer the Ontario schools to attend here and those nearest Nyssa to attend there. He was of the belief that the consolidation would be effected.

County Judge E. H. Test spoke upon reorganizing the Malheur County Fair, which is at present governed by the laws of the Malheur County Fair association. It should be reorganized under the laws of the state, he said. While the fair is a big thing for the whole county, the Judge said it would always be more or less up to Ontario to make it a success. The state laws require that a committee of three be selected from the Grange, horticulture and agricultural societies, before prize monies can be lawfully disbursed, and there was no such committee in existence at present. But the proposition being mainly up to Ontario, he suggested that the president appoint a committee of three to confer with him in regard to the selection of the fair committee. After a motion was adopted to that effect, the president chose A. L. Cockrum, H. H. Tunney and H. C. Boyer.

President Wood then being called away, Mayor Jones took the chair. Soon afterwards H. L. Cook, of the Idaho Power company, and E. L. Dee of the Edison Light Works, arrived and the rest of the evening the club members were entertained by interesting lectures by the two gentlemen. Mr. Cook reviewed the remarkable development that had been made since the open flame arc light was invented in 1870 up to the wonderful gas filled Mazda lamp of today. Even this, he said, is only 19

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