

The Ontario Argus

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A GROWING CITY

During the past three years Ontario has grown, not in population only, but that has been true, but in the extent of its business interests.

The most marked indication of the city's widening influence is the expansion of the business of its progressive men and farmers. From Ontario each day there is shipped thousands of dollars worth of merchandise to distant points, north, south, east and west. It is true that most of this shipping is destined for points to the west of the city, to that great interior country in whose development Ontario has always taken an active and personal interest.

The community of aims which the towns and the country have is served in one way only, thru the active work of their men and women. These men and women in their various associations can the better work when they know each other, get acquainted and have that amicable that carries them on in the great effort to bring about the realization of the possibilities of this region.

It has long been the purpose of the Argus to carry on such a program, as a part of its work in promoting the growth of this region. The measure of the success of this series will be dependent upon that spirit of co-operation on the part of the men concerned, that is certain.

We are offering this service, with its pictures of the men who are taking an active part in the upbuilding of this city, and their support to every movement for the growth of the country about the city, so that the Argus readers, when they pass this way will feel better acquainted, so that when they are interested in any given movement they will know to whom to turn for assistance; in other words that you may know Ontario and its men, and women, and thru them the spirit that permeates this city; the spirit of progress for this entire section, the great undeveloped Eastern Oregon and Western Idaho.

We had hoped to print in this issue the story of a number of Ontario's municipal assets, her fine water system and sewerage system for the protection of the health of the city; but illness prevented and that will be done in an early issue. Other issues to follow will tell of our city's schools, its churches, factories, stores, banks and its community life.

KILL THE CROWS

It is hard to place an exact estimate on the amount of damage that has been done to the ranchers of this section thru the activity of the crows. But that the toll is indeed one that is of consideration may be imagined when the size of these birds and their number is considered.

It is estimated that there are fully two hundred thousand of them nesting on what has come to be known as Crow Island. That they have each eaten regularly may be judged by their appearance. Their meals have been taken to a large degree at the expense of the ranchers. What they have eaten might better have been fed to people or to stock, but so long as the crows sleep on Crow Island they will get their breakfast, lunch and dinner somewhere in this neighborhood.

Just how many apples, peaches, prunes and cherries were injured so that the crows might be fattened and increase we do not know, but one crow, even a lazy one, may be counted upon to have ruined more than one piece of fruit each day. Multiply that by the days of the growing season and the total, we believe, would be sufficient to warrant action against the marauder.

These birds are not familiar with the political divisions of this section. They are not discriminating in their flight, save that being good rustlers they work over on the Fruitland bench during the fruit season, largely, for there are "easier pickings" over there, and in the fall and winter they enjoy the Oregon side. Since they work both ways over the line carrying their food they should be made amenable to the interstate commerce act, or something like that. Anyway their extermination should become an interstate duty. Idaho is as greatly interested, or should be, in their extermination as is Oregon. Therefore we suggest that the officials of the counties involved, Malheur and Payette, unite to make this fight, under the direction of the United States Biological Survey, which properly would take cognizance of the inter-state character of the malefactors.

DISAPPOINTING A COMMUNITY

When Governor Ben Olcott applied the veto to the various road bills and among them killed the measure that would have made possible the construction of the Sussor Creek road to Jordan Valley he was following, no doubt, the general principle outlined in his message and leaving all such matters to the Highway Commission. But he did a decided disservice to the people of a deserving community.

The Governor can not get behind the commission to escape the blame for thus injuring Jordan Valley and Malheur county, for it must be conceded that his office among other things requires the use of judgment. It is presupposed that the chief executive of the state has the power to discriminate between that which is worthy and that which is not.

Had the Governor acted less precipitously, had he really pondered on the merits of the several road bills individually, he would no doubt have acted differently. He made no discrimination. This could not have been true had he even looked at the road map of the Highway Commission. This is to be regretted.

There is no reason for abandoning the hope that the Jordan Valley road will be built. The fact that Representative Gallagher succeeded after a hard fight to pass the measure in the House and Senator Hurty put it thru the Senate is reason for hope. It indicates that the worthiness of the project commends itself to those who would investigate. It must be remembered in this connection that this bill was the first of the road bills, and was introduced on the first day of the session and was fought thru on its merits and was not railroaded in the rush of the last day as were the others.

With the publicity that the country has had over this road, with the merits that argue for it, in the name of justice for a deserving people, the fight for the Jordan Valley road must go on. Certainly if the proposed increase in the limit for bonded indebtedness for highways pass the Commission should be importuned to consider the road. It is to be hoped that the commission will act before Jordan Valley and its people are estranged from Oregon entirely and annexed bodily by Idaho.

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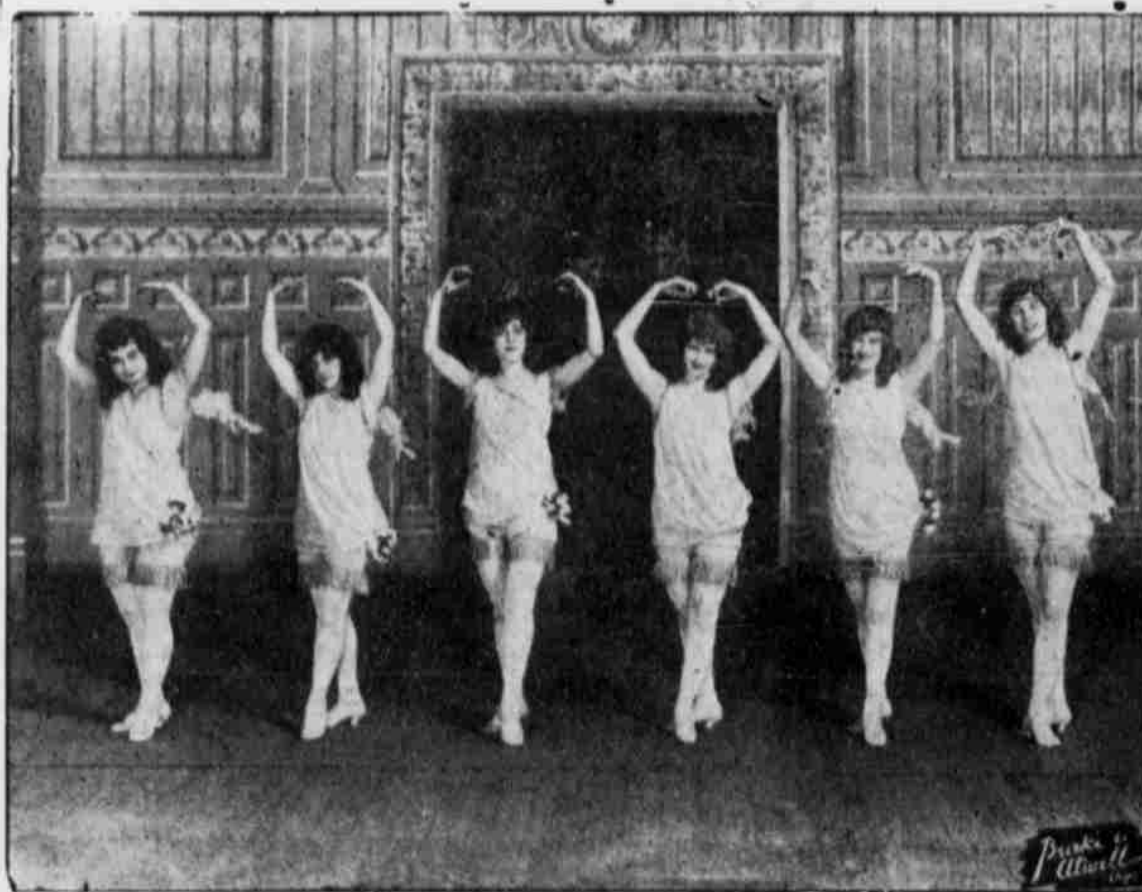
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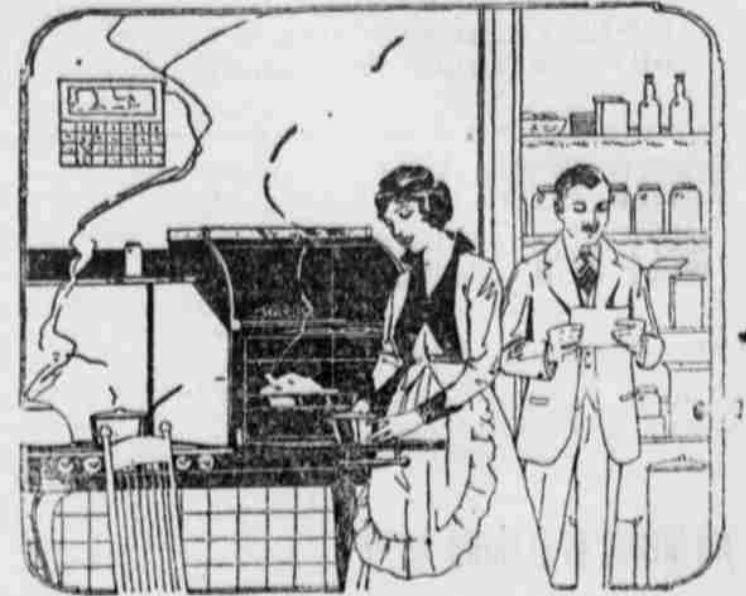
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