

## The Ontario Argus

G. K. AIKEN, Editor and Publisher

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### RENAMING THE STREETS.

Ontario is to have its streets renamed in a systematic manner. There is much to be said in favor of the proposal when half the members of the council themselves admit that they do not know on what street they live.

Ontario is not a large city, to be sure, but it is one of changing population and the convenience of that portion of the citizens is worthy of consideration. Then, too, it will soon be necessary to have a system of fire alarms so that when the fire signal is sounded the position of the fire will be known.

During the recent unfortunate fuel epidemic the fuel administration learned that only a small portion of the citizens were familiar with their street address, they almost uniformly instructed the administrator by saying they "lived two blocks from So-and-So," and if So-and-So was well known the place might be found easily, if not, time and efforts were needed to get results, and time was an important element then.

As Ontario grows of course the situation will be worse, argue those who favor the change, and it is therefore better to make the change now while comparatively easy, than to wait until it is even more essential.

Of course such change presupposes that the new system will be so simple that it will be easily remembered, at least so far as its cardinal features, and with that much of a start it will be so much easier to locate a given address.

The Argus believes that once the idea is grasped that this will result, the not to the entire satisfaction of everyone, nor to the exclusion of all difficulty. For example when we have mail delivery service, which the city is entitled to have right now, how often will the divisions S. W., N. E., S. E. or N. W. be omitted or forgotten, and thus bring about the condition sought to improve?

Then there is the attachment which a few have for old names and the desire to get away from too rigid a designation as First avenue, Second avenue, etc., which are common to every city and town, and therefore lack novelty.

We don't know how greatly attached to the names of Richardson, Morfit, King and Virtue are the residents of the city; nor do we know exactly what each of them contributed to its material or social progress, that they should be thus honored, however in naming streets for such men or women is a memorial that ought not be lightly thrown aside if a reason for its confirmation existed in the first place.

The Argus has no objection of its own to the proposed new system, save this, that Oregon street should not be changed if Idaho is not. These streets could each be used at the dividing lines East and West, North and South, this would not effect the proposed change and would leave the street with other than a mere numerical appellation.

### IRRIGATION UP AGAIN.

Like Banquo's ghost, the question of irrigation for Ontario's lawns rises to plague the city Council, just when its shadow apparently has disappeared for another season.

Each visit of the spectre, however, gives it more form and body so that ere long perhaps it will form a corporeal shape and a tangible hold can be grasped and the body thrown once for all.

It has long been the position of those who have really given the matter serious thought that no system which connects the city and country users will be satisfactory to both; but the proposition which the East Side ranchers make has merits that should not be passed without due consideration. A similar proposition, or rather the direct purchase by the city of the Riverside irrigation system would solve the problem in that section of the city north of Idaho avenue.

Among the other suggestions made for solving the problem is that which would use the waste water of the Owyhee ditch until late in the summer when that waste water is low. This was done by the residents in the southwest section of the city last summer successfully. It is the cheapest solution and might be resorted to, if no other means can be devised.

But this one thing is necessary—whatever the solution determined upon must be in the hands of the City Council as a taxing body with necessary power to enforce collection and to so spread the assessment that the vacant property in the city limits will be made to pay its share of the cost.

### NEW DEPARTURE IN INDUSTRY, SAY PACKERS

Swift & Company Ask That Position Be Made Clear to Argus Readers—Recognize Prejudice of Public Opinion.

It appears that the editorial was

CHICAGO, January 22. Editor

The Argus, Ontario, Oregon.—Dear Sir: In a recent issue of your paper editorial comment was made on the recent agreement between the Attorney General of the United States and each of the larger packers, including Swift & Company.

It appears that the editorial was written on information contained in Washington dispatches and without taking into account the statements made by both parties to the agreement.

The matter agreed upon represents a new departure in cooperation between corporate industry and the government. As it is a sincere desire on the part of the packers to aid in directing public thought to whole-hearted consideration of constructive efforts in readjustment to normal conditions, the agreement deserves unprejudiced analysis and consideration.

A few editors refer to this agreement as a "surrender" on the part of the packers, and intimate that the latter must have been guilty or they would not have compromised. Swift & Company entered this agreement, not because of any fear of an adverse decision in the courts, for there has been no violation of the law, but because we realized that a deep-rooted fear had been developed in the public mind against one organization's or small group's handling many lines of competing food products; and we realized that even if we were acquitted by the court after a long and costly proceeding, this favorable decision would do lit-

tle to counteract this prejudice and blind fear in the public mind.

The following statement, issued on December 26th by Mr. L. E. Swift, president of Swift & Company, clearly states the motive that actuated Swift & Company to become a party to the agreement:

"During the next few days the newspapers will, through editorial expression, interpret for their readers the significance, both as to cause and effect, of the recently announced agreement between the attorney general and the packing concerns.

"I hope that a statement of our motives in entering this agreement will be of interest to you.

"Although it is true that we have agreed to sell our interests in stock yards, I want to emphatically assert that our principal reason for being interested in stock yards has been to improve the facilities for the proper marketing and handling of live stock, and that ownership in such yards has not been used as a means of manipulating prices, or obtaining unfair profits. I have publicly announced that we should be willing to part with our interests in stock yards if arrangements could be made to continue their efficient operation.

"As for our willingness to stop handling canned goods and a few other commodities ordinarily sold by wholesale grocers, I want to emphasize the fact that there have been ample economic reasons for our handling these products, in that we have the distributing machinery to get these goods from producer to consumer in most direct and economical fashion.

"We believe that eventually the public would have come to realize the soundness of our position, but because of the spirit of unrest and misunderstanding we are glad to make some sacrifices and concessions. I believe that it is just as necessary to make such sacrifices during the uncertain period of re-

construction as it was during the war.

"Let me direct attention to the fact that the decree to which we have agreed to submit in no way finds us guilty of combination in restraint of trade, or of any other illegal practices. Under no condition would I have consented to such a solution if the decree were to charge us with guilt.

"For this reason, enjoining us from combining in restraint of trade will in no way affect our operations, because we are an independent unit in open competition with the other large packers and with hundreds of smaller ones. The decree in this respect will merely strengthen existing laws, which we are following to the letter.

"With these thoughts in mind, I trust that you will appreciate the fact that our position is in no way an admission that we have been guilty of anything economically, legally, or morally wrong, and that we have made this concession with the sincere hope that it will help to overcome the suspicion which still lurks in the minds of many people."

Your readers, no doubt, will appreciate getting these facts from the columns of your paper. We shall appreciate your cooperation in presenting this communication to them. May we have a marked copy of your issue in which it appears?

Very truly yours,

SWIFT & COMPANY.

Per L. D. H. Weld, Manager Commercial Research Department.

FOR SALE—Knitting machine. Inquire Mrs. Kadow, first house west of Nazarine church.—203-7-1f

WANTED TO BUY—One good work horse. Would consider team if a bargain. Thomas W. Claggett, Ontario. 212 1f

## Announcing Change of AGENCY

### of The Fordson Tractors

Monday, February 2, the agency for the Fordson Tractor, which was formerly with two other firms in the county, was transferred to me. The same service will be maintained by me on The Fordson Tractors as on Ford Cars.



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