

The Ontario Argus

G. K. AIKEN, Editor and Publisher
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SAFE, SANITARY BEAUTIFUL

Some one once suggested that the ideal aim for a city should be that it strive to become, first, a safe city; second, a sanitary city, and lastly a beautiful city.

Takes any of these specifications and Ontario may be safely said to be striving to achieve them. Perhaps we are not making as much progress as some would like to see, but there is constantly to be noted, a betterment of conditions.

Ontario is as safe as the average city, from the view point of police protection. The city is making progress toward safety in the matter of fire protection, tho it has a long way to go to secure ideal fire proof buildings. But a city of this size can not be expected to have buildings of that style, but must be satisfied with raising its standard as high as business conditions warrant.

Ontario is not now as sanitary a city as it should be. That must be admitted. We have been lax in the enforcement of sanitary regulations. Rubbish is all too prominent a feature of the landscape; and open irrigation ditches are a catch all for filth that is not only unsightly but a positive menace to the health of the city, while furnishing ideal conditions for the breeding of mosquitoes and flies.

The city, too, has permitted the keeping of stock within the city limits to a degree that certainly does not add to the healthful conditions of the community. Right in the center of some of our best residence streets are to be found barn yards with the accumulated refuse of years, creating a sear on the city's appearance and a stench in the nostrils of all who must live near by.

It may be remarked in passing, that in the case of every epidemic of illness in the city the people living in the section where the most notorious of these barns is located suffered to a greater degree than in any other portion of the city. That condition ought to be sufficient proof of the menace thus created.

Having a city safe; and by striving to make a city sanitary; it is certain that the city beautiful will follow in the course of time. Toward that Ontario is working. The First National Bank's Civic Improvement contest demonstrates that there is an interest in such a movement, and the start thus afforded will serve to carry it on until conditions are vastly improved.

No higher form of civic loyalty can be found than that exhibited by citizens who strive to make the town in which they live a better place for all. Not everyone can be a leader in this movement. There must be privates in every army, so that the duty of making one's own home more beautiful is just as important as any other duty one owes to the community. If every home were thus improved, the real aim of the city beautiful program would be achieved. How far will Ontario go along that road this year? That is a question for each individual home owner and voter to decide.

PUBLIC SPIRIT APPRECIATED.
Ontario was the recipient of a most generous gift last week; or to be more exact had a most generous offer made to it. The spirit in which the offer was made is so commendable that comment thereon is not necessary, for the city would indeed be lacking entirely in a proper sense of gratitude did it not take note of the gift and appreciate the kindness of the donor.

There is an old saying that, "a friend in need is a friend indeed;" it is true, too. And in that role surely Mr. L. I. Hirsch meets every requirement of the part.

For years Ontario has been in need of a fire truck, and it can well afford to search for the necessary funds to meet the requirements of the offer, which are simply that the other needed supplies to be recommended by the State Fire Marshal's office be complied with.

Mr. Hirsch takes the view of his gift that it is not one of benevolence alone, but it is a business proposition; that the added protection which his growing financial interests thru the erection of two business blocks and several houses, warrants the expenditure, and therefore to view it as a business proposition.

erally the case that men who are proceeding to make investments in a town demand special consideration? That has been our experience.
Therefore Ontario should consider itself fortunate to have a business man like Mr. Hirsch among its citizens. And it is to be hoped that the example he has set may to a degree at least inspire others to adopt his view of public service. The Argus believes that it is but voicing the opinion of all the citizens in thanking Mr. Hirsch, not for the gift of the fire truck alone, but for the spirit of public service he has shown.

ONTARIO'S CITY PARK
Every one in Ontario recognizes the city's need for a municipal park, but it is one thing to recognize a need and another to supply it.
If Ontario is to have a park it must be the result of a public spirited effort, and a donation, to a large degree at least of public spirited citizens.

Right now the city government of Ontario is not financially able to do half the things that its members would like to see accomplished. The city council with all its powers "can not make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." By that token it can not spend money that the taxpayers do not provide, and the taxpayers have one almost their limit to meet the running expenses of the many public institutions which they are called upon to support.

The only solution of Ontario's problem of advancement is to be secured by a steady increase in population which will result in increased valuations, permitting of the raising of more taxes and the spreading of the tax levy among more citizens.

It is also true that unless the city does progress, does make living conditions as comfortable and enjoyable as possible, that increased population will be slow in coming. Instead of going to California, as many of those who have sold their ranches in this section have done in the past two years, were Ontario a city beautiful, there is no doubt but that many of these people would have settled here. They went to California for the pleasure that the cities there afford.

It is poor business for Ontario to let them go, if by improving the appearance of the city it could have held them here. It is just like a merchant who made no effort to keep his old customers but sought only new ones.
Ontario should have the proposed city park, the present park at the station should be improved. These acts will be admitted, let us therefore make the effort to secure the assistance of public spirited citizens to make this possible.

STARTLING RESULTS FROM BUREAU
W. W. Deal, President of the Idaho State Grange, in his address to the all too small gathering of ranchers at Cairo last Saturday night declared that the Farm Bureau of Canyon county had saved a half million dollars for its members last year. The total cost of the bureau was but \$18,000, or a net saving of some \$482,000 for the ranchers of that county.

There is no doubt that Mr. Deal made the statement advisedly, for he is in a position to know whereof he speaks, and that one statement alone should cause the ranchers of Malheur county to take note of the farm bureau movement, as they are not doing in the vicinity of Ontario, but are doing in other sections of the county.

If the farm bureau in Canyon county can achieve such results there is no reason to believe that a similar record can be made in Malheur county.
The ranchers of Canyon county are not better ranchers than are those of Malheur county. They were not worse ranchers than Malheur county ranchers, and therefore they must be on a par, so far as ability is concerned.

No one living in this section will admit that the Canyon county ranchers have better land to farm than our ranchers have, nor have they any better market for their produce than we have here, so there is no reason to believe that substantial improvement and savings can be secured in Malheur county thru the agency of the farm bureau. It is a movement so well worth trying, at least, that every farmer in the county should be a member and secure the benefits of his experienced leaders in the various projects to be followed during the year.

SHOULD WE GO SLOW?
The public is daily getting regaled with advice from leaders in the financial and political world concerning the road it is traveling, and the rate that it is taking to make the trip.
There seems to be a unanimity of opinion among the men who are thus giving advice that the public is "rid-

ing for a fall," and is due to land in a heap of financial disaster, unless it applies the brakes to its present extravagance.
It is patent to any one that if the United States were to lose its market for the surplus raw materials here produced, and at the same time suffer a curtailment of its market for manufactured goods that we would feel the effects of these conditions in but a short time. How great that effect would be is hardly predictable, tho it could be nothing short of a panic.

Now there is reason to believe that just such a condition will be brot about unless there is something done to relieve the present rate of exchange which is a prohibitive barrier to foreign exports.

It is apparent that the ending of the war did not prove a divorce for Americans from foreign complications and that we must order our lives, and expenditures so that we can continue to assist the war torn countries to rehabilitate themselves, so that they may continue to buy from us, in order that our prosperity may continue. We can do no less than that.

LET THE OWYHEE BE BUILT
It appears from the progress so far made in the rate hearing on the application of the Idaho Power company for higher returns for irrigation service that the Ontario-Nyssa, or Shoestring ditch, and the Gem District of Idaho are to be asked to contribute nearly 80 per cent more than they are at present paying for power.

Without debating the merits of the company's contention that it should have more money, or to an-

ticipate the decision of the commission; it is certain that the districts involved must abandon electric power plants as a source of water supply, if any such increase is granted.

The one hope that these people have is that of securing a gravity supply, and that can only come thru the construction of the Owyhee system. Therefore it is time that something be done to bring the lands of the Gem and Ontario-Nyssa within the boundaries of a new Owyhee district and proceed to get the money necessary to build the Owyhee system.



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