

The Ontario Argus.

XXIV

ONTARIO, MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1920.

NO. 13.

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.

VALE BUNCH BAFFLED IN DESIGNS ATTACK OFFICIAL

BECAUSE SON DID THAT WHICH ATTORNEYS HAVE DONE FOR YEARS, WHICH DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAYS IS LEGAL, BITTER ATTACK IS MADE.

JUDGE ASKS FOR INVESTIGATION

Calls on Trial Jurors to Furnish Proof—Ontario Commercial Club Passes Resolutions Declaring Faith in E. H. Test—Charges Vale Sheet With Personal Motive for Attack.

"Let the Grand Jury investigate these charges, I welcome and demand a thorough and complete investigation. That is all I have to say at this time."

Because the Malheur Enterprise could not dictate to the County Court where it would place the printing of tax foreclosures, and the court divided these between The Gate City Journal, The Argus, and the Enterprise; and for the further reason that a bunch of Vale politicians who interests the Enterprise seriously, could not dictate the appointment of road funds; could not put thru bills as they pleased due to the stand taken by Judge E. H. Test, the county seat paper last week made a bitter attack upon the character and work of the County Judge.

The basis of the attack was the action of Harvey Test in following the legal precedent established by several of the legal firms of the county in securing the return of personal tax money for those whose payments made to the assessor was greater than the levy for the year in which the tax was collected.

Former Courts Held Funds The Enterprise did not state that it has been the custom of the County of Malheur to hold these funds, and that the first returns made were the result of suit which Attorney's McCulloch & Wood of this city won against the previous County Judge, Sheriff and Treasurer and compelled their return. That was the precedent which has since been followed and both Ontario and Vale law firms have figured in the efforts to secure such returns.

It is not denied that Harvey Test did this—but the Enterprise accused by innuendo, at least, Judge Test to have been a party to the transaction. This he denies, and demands an investigation.

Legal, Says Swagler "There is nothing illegal about what Harvey Test did," was the opinion given The Argus, by District

Attorney, H. W. Swagler, Demanded All Notices

In January the County Court had the placing of the order for printing the delinquent tax foreclosures on the years 1912, 1914 and 1915. The editor of the Gate City Journal appeared before the Court and it gave him an order for one; the Court also ordered that one be published in The Argus and one in the Enterprise.

About the time this transaction was concluded the editor of the Enterprise appeared and demanded that his paper be given all the notices, giving as his reason a greater circulation. When he was told that the court believed in dividing this work and recognized the fact that the other papers in the county paid taxes, just as the Enterprise did, that they contributed to the advancement of the county's welfare; and the further fact that the Enterprise secured practically all of the job printing of the county, it was but fair to consider the other papers in such a matter.

That apparently is one reason that the attack on Judge Test was made. But that is not all.

They have determined to get him. They have said they would recall him. Realizing that by confounding the word County Court and County Judge, and the fact that Harvey Test did what their own and their attorneys have done, they imagine they had found the opening for their campaign.

Slimy Innuendo Beside the tax matter the county seat sheet infers that in probate matters money may have been held back. It questions whether or not school districts have received their funds? We know this, that while George W. McKnight was County Judge that it was necessary for School District No. 8 to sue the county to secure what was due it from the High School funds. We know this, too, that tax payers had to sue to get their excess taxes returned.

Court House Crowd Sore Another of the elements in the Enterprise attack is the attitude of some, not all of the officials about the Court House. There has been a constant appeal or more funds from some of the offices, but the court has denied most of them, and thus incurred their hate. Just now much they had to do with the attack is a question.

Has Saved County Funds It is true that through his administration Judge Test has saved the county money. Behind almost every complaint will be found some one denied what he has sought at the county's expense. Whether the Judge and court were right in all these cases is beside the point. The fact is that the attitude of guarding the public funds has earned him the ill will of these men, and they have started out to get him.

ALTERATION OF ROUTE FOR OLD OREGON TRAIL SLIGHT

R. H. Baldock, division engineer for the Highway Commission in this district, met with a committee from the Oregon Slope consisting of A. A. Guttridge, P. M. Bonds, J. L. Brown, Lee Brown and Tom Heslop, and G. K. Aiken representing the Ontario Commercial Club at the Moore Hotel Sunday night and explained the proposed change in the route of the Old Oregon Trail across Dead Ox Flat. The change proposed was not wanted was reported and the committee expressed the belief that it would be agreeable to them.

R. R. RICHARDSON NAMED ONTARIO'S TICKET AGENT

R. R. Richardson was appointed and checked in as passenger agent for the O. S. L. here this week. Mr. Richardson was, until he came here, ticket clerk at the Nampa station. He has brought his family to Ontario to make this city his home. With the appointment of Mr. Richardson as agent, Mr. W. F. Escue returns to his telegraph trick, and H. O. Drane will be able to devote all his time to the affairs of the company freight station.

The Cannation club was entertained on Tuesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rader. Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Pearson of Welser were the out of town guests present.

The members of Star Chapter O. E. S., which meets tonight for an initiatory ceremony, will follow that portion of the program with a social session.

REPUBLICANS FORM COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Committeemen and Women Selected—Republican Club Organized and Dinner and Oratory Consumed—Progressives Return Welcomed.

Ontario was the mecca last Saturday of Republicans, men and women, from all sections of the county save Jordan Valley and McTernitt, come to launch the machinery for the coming campaign.

The first session was that of the Central committee, which gathered at the City Hall, elected George W. Hayes of Vale county chairman and A. W. Means of Vale, secretary; appointed a ways and means committee and filled out the vacancies in the committee women, who will not be an auxiliary but a part of the real honest-to-goodness county committee.

In the evening a dinner was served at Pifer's. Places were set for 50, and there were 59 there, mostly from Ontario; the city folks evidently being bashful, for many declared their desire to be present, who waited for some specific invitation, when the gathering was but an impromptu one and everyone was invited.

Much Oratory in Evidence

Attorney J. W. McCulloch was the toastmaster at the dinner and uncorked the flow of oratory. Geo. W. Hayes, the first speaker, gave an impressive eulogy on George Washington, while other speakers gave most of their attention to the Democratic party and the administration. Miss Catherine Conway and Miss Ruth McCulloch furnished the musical numbers with much appreciated solos. The men called upon to speak were: R. N. Stanfield, J. D. Zurcher, Portland; C. C. Brownell, Emmulla; E. M. Dean, Nyssa; Frank M. Northrup, A. A. Guttridge, Oregon Slope; Wm. McKinney, Juntura; R. D. Lyle and George Huntington Curry, Vale; E. B. Conklin, W. W. Wood, P. J. Gallagher, W. H. Brooke and G. K. Aiken, Ontario.

Gallagher Head Club

After the dinner it was determined to form a Republican club for Malheur county and the following officers were elected: P. J. Gallagher, Ontario, president; A. W. Means, Vale, secretary; Harry B. Cockrum, Ontario, treasurer.

Committee Women Named

The following committee women for the county organization were named: Mrs. Walter Davis, Applegate; Mrs. C. C. Hunt, Arendia; Mrs. Barney Tillotson, Beulah; Mrs. Everett Tate, Adrian; Mrs. J. B. Jones, Bonita; Mrs. Emory Cole, Brogan; Mrs. Charles Jones, Bully Creek; Mrs. E. B. Conklin, Cairo; Mrs. Lester Seaward, Cord; Mrs. Chas. Dowell, Crowley; Mrs. W. H. Brooke, Fair; Mrs. Malcolin, Grange; Mrs. V. J. Hopkins, Juntura; Mrs. A. W. Anthony, Ironside; Mrs. C. J. Bush, Harper; Mrs. Wilkinson, McTernitt; Mrs. Leah Farman, Riverside; Miss Eva Roydell, Nyssa; Mrs. W. L. Hall, Ontario No. 1; Mrs. S. D. Dorman, Ontario No. 2; Mrs. H. H. Whitney, Ontario No. 3; Mrs. George Huntington Curry, North Vale; and Miss McKnight, South Vale. Mrs. Curry was named to represent the women on the ways and means committee.

The next meeting of the committee will be held at Vale on March 19 for the purpose of perfecting plans to get the voters registered.

WIVES OF OREGON CLUB MEN ARRANGE LEAP YEAR DANCE

Wives and "friends" of Oregon club members are arranging the details for the club members in their Leap year dance program which will be held here Friday evening at the club rooms. Mrs. Fred J. Clemo is chairman of the committee on arrangements and since the young women have been active of late a large dancing party is to be the result.

ONTARIO MEN DECLARE FAITH IN JUDGE TEST

Resolutions Adopted by Club Directors Approved Unanimously in City—Personal and Political Motives Cause of Attack.

By a unanimous vote the directors of the Ontario Commercial Club adopted the following resolution concerning the attack made on County Judge E. H. Test in a Vale paper. Nothing did the directors pass the resolutions but hundreds of citizens signed their names to copies left at business institutions of the city.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Malheur County Enterprise, a newspaper published at Vale, Oregon, has recently published a malicious and unwarranted attack upon the integrity and honesty of E. H. Test, County Judge of Malheur County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Test is not a member of the Ontario Commercial Club and does not own a newspaper in which to publicly defend this scurrilous attack, but he has been a resident of Malheur County for thirty-five years and during all that time has been an upright citizen, working for the good of the whole county without fear or favor; and no occasion has been found where it was possible to question his honesty and integrity in his public or private actions; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by this Commercial Club of Ontario, Oregon that we have absolute confidence in the ability and honesty of E. H. Test and believe he is now acting in his official capacity for the best interests of the taxpayers of Malheur County, and deplore the attack upon him made by the Malheur County Enterprise, and feel that the same was published for their own personal ends and for political purposes, and ask that public to hold an open and unprejudiced mind until the facts are fully set before them for their judgment.

The above resolution was unanimously adopted at a regular meeting of the members of the Ontario Commercial Club, February 25th 1920.

Attest (F. LESLIE BODY), Secretary

AMERICAN LEGION TO DANCE MONDAY NIGHT

Old Opera House in Ontario Scene of Gathering—Six Piece Local Orchestra Will Furnish the Music.

Tickets for the first big dance being given by Ontario Post No. 67 of the American Legion, which takes place at the old Opera House next Monday night, are going fast. The various committees have been busy throughout the week and a good time is assured to all that come. The purpose of the dance is to help finance the organization for the coming year, so you are asked to come out and help the boys that helped you.

AUTO BATTERY EXPLODES INJURING R. H. SIDWAY

While working at the battery storage bench at the Carter Garage was badly injured when one of the batteries exploded, covering his face and head with burning acid. For a time it was feared that his eyes which were badly burned would not recover and he would lose his sight. He was immediately rushed to the hospital where Dr. E. S. Fortner was called and first aid given. Later developments indicate that he will completely recover.

Dorr Dearborn, who was injured last week by being kicked by a horse, is recovering rapidly and is able to be about again.

Mrs. Barrett of Portland arrived Sunday from Portland for a visit at the home of her sister, Mrs. H. C. Farmer.

***** WHO ARE THEY? WILL THE ENTERPRISE TELL WHO IT IS REPRESENTING NOW? *****

Out at the Grange Hall at Cairo on Saturday night, February 14, George Huntington Curry, editor and publisher of the Malheur Enterprise made this statement to the editor of the Argus.

"They have been telling about that Harvey Test proposition but I told them: 'Don't come to me with rumors, but when you have the facts, I'll talk to you.'"

The Argus would like to know, and we are sure that the people of Malheur county would like to know, who THEY are. This would, indeed, be pertinent.

Perhaps a little investigation might serve to clear the air about the Court House at Vale. There are any number of little transactions that might be explained. Why not call the Grand Jury? *****

VALE MEN THREATEN DISRUPTION OF BUREAU

DECLARE THAT IF ONTARIO IS NAMED HEADQUARTERS "OLD TIMERS" AT VALE WILL OPPOSE APPROPRIATION FOR NEXT YEAR.

E. M. DEAN VOICES OPINION

Declare Belief in Ontario as Logical Location for County Agent Headquarters But Voted to Appear Vale's Feelings.

In a stormy session of the permanent executive committee of the Malheur County Farm Bureau held at the City Hall last Saturday afternoon, the ranchers from Nyssa and Dead Ox Flat were furnished an exhibition of the attitude of the Vale contingent that was enlightening.

V. T. Herrett, L. J. Hadley and H. C. Oxman, speaking for Vale, served an ultimatum on their colleagues that if Ontario was named as the headquarters of the County Agent that it would disrupt the organization, for they said that it was because of the fact that previous agents had been located in Ontario that the work had failed.

They declared further that unless the action of the temporary organization was lived up to they could not secure the support of "old timers" up their way, and that this being the case there would be no county agent next year.

Nyssa Men Speak

For Nyssa, Messrs. Pete Tensen, Frank Fry and E. M. Dean declared that it was their conviction that Ontario was the logical place from every standpoint. They pointed out the fact that this is the railroad center, that it is the center of the farm region of the county, that there are more ranchers from Adrian to Riverdale than in the upper country; and that it was here that the agent should be located for the convenience of the ranchers and of the bureau.

They cited, too, the efficiency of the bureau required that the headquarters be so located, as to be in close touch with the county agents of adjoining counties in Idaho, and on the main line so that frequent conferences might be had with department officials going thru the district.

They cited the fact that many ditch companies have their offices here and the ranchers come here every month to attend the meetings, and that the stockmen from the interior on their way out were here as often as in Vale, if not oftener.

Want the Name Anyway

Mr. Oxman declared that he did not care where the agent lived anyway, but he wanted the headquarters at Vale with the stenographer there. "This is going to be a business bureau and the benefits we will get will be more from that end of the business, rather than from the county agent himself," he said. "Therefore,

we want the headquarters at Vale."

Declare eDai Was Made

Mr. Oxman declared that it was his understanding that when the Vale committee appeared before the county court that it was agreed that Vale should be the headquarters.

V. V. Hickox read the recommendations of the department which indicated plainly that Ontario was its choice as the location, and G. W. Dean urged that the committee forget the Vale-Ontario proposition and work in harmony for the efficiency of the bureau.

E. M. Dean of Nyssa urged that two offices be established and that the County Agent name his headquarters. This was about to be acted upon when Ivan E. Oakes pointed out that was but "passing the buck" to the County Agent and was unfair to him.

Mr. Brothaupt, the County Agent, was not at the meeting at this time, and E. M. Dean was acting as secretary. Mr. Oxman, who under the constitution of the bureau had no right to a vote in the matter, acted as proxy for Arden Road of Brogan, and since none of the men from this end of the county wanted to start anything no protest was made at his voting.

When the ballot was counted it was found that the vote was four to five for Vale, with E. M. Dean and V. V. Hickox not voting. Mr. Hickox chairman, insisted on Mr. Dean voting and he did, after making the following explanation:

"I want to say," he said, "that I believe that Ontario is the logical place for the headquarters of the bureau from the standpoint of efficiency and service, but if the men in the upper country understand that it was to be at Vale and take the position indicated in their remarks, I want harmony to prevail and will vote for Vale."

The bureau then confirmed the election of Mr. Brothaupt and proceeded with the business of the gathering.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TO STAGE FIELD MEET

Blondes and Brunettes to Fight for Honors in Track Work, Gymnastics and Dancing—Public Invited.

On Thursday evening, March 4th, at the Opera House, the girls' physical training classes of the High School will give an indoor meet. The program, as given below, will be in the nature of a contest between the blondes on one side and the brunettes on the other.

The program will start at 7:15 and to see the girls contest a charge for adults will be 35 cents and for children 25 cents. The following is the program:

Folk dancing, obstacle race, Swedish gymnastics, volley ball, Indian club relay, aesthetic dancing, fifty yards dash, emperor ball, man, monkey, crab race, high jump, military marching, basket ball.

IDAHO STREET CROSSING NOW GUARDED BY WATCHMAN

Chas. Bruner, formerly a section man here has been assigned to duty by the O. S. L., as crossing watchman at the Idaho street crossing. He went on duty Tuesday morning at 8 o'clock. His hours of service are from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m.

BUREAU WANTS LEADER FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

County Court to be Requested to Aid To Extent of \$500—State and Federal Government Give \$1450 for Work.

The County Farm Bureau on next Wednesday will request the County Court to co-operate in its efforts to have a boys and girls' leader for club work. Following a conference with State Club Leader Seymour, with County Agent L. R. Briethaupt, Community Betterment Chairman E. M. Dean, and Chairman V. V. Hickox, and the Cairo committeemen it was decided to ask the co-operation of the Commercial bodies of the county, in presenting this request to the County Court next Wednesday.

Under the terms of co-operation offered by the State and Federal government the county will only have to provide \$500 and the state equals that while the government gives \$1150.

The Cairo community chairman met last night and determined upon immediate action looking toward the improvement of soil, control of pest and improvement of stock.

Miss Evelyn Gallagher is ill at the Gallagher home with the flu.