

EVERYBODY WASHES WITH RAIN WATER JONES

Ontario Commercial Club Re- counts Activities of Past Year

By F. LESLIE BODY

At the annual meeting of the Commercial Club Secretary Body presented the following report of the year's work:

Mr. President and Members of the Ontario Commercial Club:

It is my privilege to present a report giving a resume of the work done by your Club during the past eight months.

I might say in all truth that this Club is today the most active and one of the strongest and influential in our state.

I will deal with matters pertaining to the Club's activity as they present themselves to me, with recommendations which, in my opinion, will make this Club a more useful adjunct to the community.

Members subscribing to the Club's maintenance today total 110, and I am gratified to state that 12 per cent of these have joined within the past two months; but this membership, for a community of this size, ought to be at least 150, and I believe if the new board of directors will adopt a plan which I will present to them, this number can be attained.

During the past eight months your directors have held eight meetings, and the club as a whole have held 24 regular meetings, with an average attendance of 27, or about 24 per cent of the total membership; this is not good enough and should be increased to at least an average of 40 per cent.

Over 4000 communications have been received by my office from

every state in the Union with the exception of North Carolina. I believe about 65 per cent are from parties desiring to change their place of residence and enquiring as to the opportunities in Malheur county. A fair estimate of the capital represented by these homeseekers I compute at better than one million dollars. Quite a large percentage have written for additional information, and I believe my records will show that between 80 and 90 new families with capital will make their home in this territory this spring. Others have not committed themselves but undoubtedly a goodly number will come here and give us the "once over."

It might perhaps be well to state in passing that I have not encouraged every enquirer to come; some I have absolutely discouraged because I felt the chance would not be advantageous; but I have urged the farmer with capital and anybody who was identified with the build- ing trade had funds to join us.

During the past eight months our Club has issued and circulated several thousand pieces of literature of an interesting character, and arrangements have been made whereby all local happenings of interest are sent to outside papers for publication. I would like to suggest that a nice descriptive illustrated booklet of Ontario and district be prepared in the near future letting the pictures tell the story. We have the goods and the market is waiting. Malheur county is not overstocked

and the development of our territory is going to be the back bone of the city. Again, you will have noticed the map on the reverse side of the Club's letterheads; this is a true map and I would like to see it printed on the back of the letterheads used by all our business men—it would be far reaching in its usefulness.

To my mind Ontario's most pressing need at this time is more houses, and the Club's endeavours should be centered on this phase of activity. Last fall 38 of our citizens promised to build, and quite a number did, and I believe the majority will make good their promise during the coming spring, but that number will not in any manner meet the situation. We are at least shy 100 houses.

Your Club is responsible for the paving program. It was through the collective efforts of the members that this was put across, and in a very short time now we will all appreciate and realize what paved roads mean to a community. My only hope is that new districts will be organized and as many more treated lightly.

I respectfully submit this report blocks paved during the ensuing year.

The question of establishing a free delivery mail service has also been undertaken, and will be stayed with until the City Council has put the sidewalks in such shape as to make it an actuality.

Another very important issue which is receiving the attention of your board is the question of securing water for city irrigation, and whilst a solution has not yet been arrived at, I feel very confident that in the very near future this matter will be solved.

The Jordan Valley or Succor Creek Road was also taken up and conscientious work done, every known wire was pulled and whilst this matter has not as yet borne fruit it has not been side tracked.

The Club also took an active interest in the request of the Telephone company, to increase its rates and to

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make other changes. No decision has been handed down yet by the Public Service Commission, but I assure you that through the Club's influence a better deal will be made than if there were no club.

Furthermore, as recent as this week, through the efforts of your organization between 50 and 60 names were added to our census. It is just possible that these parties would have been missed had there been no club.

Again, your committee on road signs has been very active, and if the program as outlined by them is put into effect it will be the means of giving Ontario untold publicity of directing numerous tourists and other way.

We have been the means of recommending to the City Council new ordinances which, if enforced, will be beneficial to the whole community. Amongst others I might mention an ordinance establishing a building permit system; ordinance covering the class and height of sign to be erected on our main street; ordinance regulating the cleaning of our sidewalks in winter and summer; ordinance stipulating the height at which our awnings may project from buildings.

I might also state that your Club successfully sponsored the Ontario Poultry Show and Malheur County Fair, both of which entailed a great deal of work.

It is through the efforts of your Club that some new industries have already decided to establish places of business here, amongst which I mention: The Union Oil Co. of Cal., Ontario Milling Co., and the Ontario Bottling Works, and I hope to be able to announce very shortly the names of another wholesale house and parties contemplating putting in a creamery and cheese factory.

I think from the foregoing you will realize that your Club has accomplished quite a little during the past eight months, but at the same time we cannot rest on our oars, the real hard work is just commencing.

I shall submit to your Board of Directors for their criticism a plan which I think will enhance the value of our auto park, both from the view point of our tourists and merchants.

I cannot help feel that it would be a good thing if this Board were to appoint a committee to take a greater interest in some of our public bodies; for instance, the committee could call occasionally at the hospital schools and public library. A word of encouragement from the club through its committee would be a world of good and be a stimulus for greater achievement.

I would like for every member to realize that paying ones dues does not constitute full membership. There must be co-operation of action, thought and endeavor. Let's make

it a club every business man will be proud to be associated with, but to do this the whole responsibility must not devolve upon your Directors or Secretary, each member owes it to the others. I would suggest that a membership card similar be hung in each store or office telling the world at large that you are proud to belong to a live organization and believe in teamwork. The outsider will there by learn a lesson and pass it on.

I have also prepared a pledge for your directors to sign. In accepting the office of director of this Club it will entail lots of work and constant worry; it is not an office to be and assure you all that the confidence I had when I first came to Ontario is indeed "The City of Opportunities."



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