

SUCCESS OF ONTARIO MERCHANTS BASED ON EXPERIENCE; INTEREST IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHARACTERISTIC OF BUSINESS BUILDERS

Growth of Ontario as Trading Center Is the Story of the Development of Her Merchants and Business Men Who Have Backed Their Faith With Their Work—Bits of Personal History of a Few of Them.

EDMUND A. FRASER.

If a poll of all the people in Malheur county could be taken and each one asked to name the Ontario business men with whom they were acquainted, it is safe to say that the name of Ed Fraser would be close to if not at the head of the list.

This especially would be true were the investigation made among the "old timers," for the not apparently in that category, so far as appearance goes, Mr. Fraser qualifies as the oldest, in point of continuous service, of Ontario's business men.

To write the biography of E. A. Fraser is to write a history of Ontario. He has seen Ontario grow from a sidetrack where cattle and sheep were loaded, where wool was brought from all the country between the Blue Mountains and Ne-

E. A. FRASER



—Photo by Seligman

vada and the Snake river and the Cascades. He came here when the lot on which his present store now stands bore only a crop of sage brush, and the big freight wagons got stalled in the sand in front of it.

Thru thick and thin, Mr. Fraser has fought for the growth of this city in which he has made his home for thirty-four years. He has served his fellow citizens in almost every public board and governmental body. And this has meant time and effort for which no financial return reached him. Of him is often said, "he has given more time to the public than any man in town."

His service has always been constructive service. For example he was for 15 years a member of the City Council; for years he was a member of the Malheur County Fair board; and as he says, "the hardest work I ever did was as a member of the bridge commission that constructed the interstate bridge leading to the Fruitland bench." That he served thru all the fights of the early day, and Ontario was not unusual in having such events, and retained the friendship of so many is sufficient gauge by which to measure the man.

Mr. Fraser hailed originally from Upper Canada, having been born at Woodstock, Providence of Ontario, in 1879. His father one of the pioneer railroad men of the West left Canada to join the Union Pacific forces and moved west with the building of the road until he reached Shoshone in 1889.

His son, the subject of this sketch, had been left to finish his course at Upper Canada University at Toronto, and joined him in 1884, coming later to Ontario to enter the employ of Shelling & Danielson, pioneer merchants. He remained with this firm when in 1889 W. L. Geary consolidated with it and the firm became Kiesel, Shelling & Danielson. Later Mr. Danielson retired and the firm became the Oregon Forwarding Co.

Mr. Fraser remained with this firm until 1899, when he established the Malheur Mercantile company, which continued to be the style of his business until 1916 when after a re-organization he adopted his own name as the designation of his business.

The same year in which he launched his business venture he was married to Miss Ida Holland of Payette, a daughter of one of Idaho's pioneer families. They have one son, Edmund S. Fraser now a Sophomore at the University of Washington.

Among the other public institutions for which Mr. Fraser is in no small degree responsible are the Pub-

lic Library on whose board he has served continuously since its organization, and which today is one of the things in which he takes pride. He also was one of the men who assisted in arranging for the financing of the city's share in the Holy Rosary Hospital, and the Malheur County Fair.

The growth of his business, now confined to hardware and groceries, is due largely to the personal element, itself a tribute to the man, who has served so well the community here for so many years.

FRANK RADEI.

When the dry, hot winds of Kansas prairies burned the crops of that great state, they set a young man to thinking of the West, and performed a service for Ontario in heading Frank Rader, secretary and manager of Rader Bros., this way.

The torrid winds referred to made their Kansas visitation along in the nineties but it was not until 1902 that Ellinwood, Kansas, for that was his home then, bid Mr. Rader good bye as he started in search of a town in which to make his home.

He looked over Nebraska, moved on to Wyoming, and remained in that state for seven months before continuing his journey to Boise, where his brother John Rader, president of the firm, had located. Together they purchased an exclusive shoe business, which under their regime grew to large proportions for a city of the Boise of that day.

But Boise was not big enough for the activities of two Raders, and having watched the growth of Ontario from the time they first went to Boise, they decided to secure an opening here, in what they then, and still believe to be the coming city of this section.

While his brother remained in Boise, to handle the firm's business there, Frank Rader came to Ontario

FRANK RADEI



in 1907 and purchased the business of the O. F. Company, which was then located in the Andy Lackey block. This proved inadequate for the growing business, and when the Wilson building was constructed in 1913 they moved to their present store building. A further extension of the business was made in 1916 when the business of McCoy Brothers was consolidated and the firms lines departmentalized.

As the guiding member of the firm Mr. Rader adopted a policy of progressive conservatism, one that provided for keeping just ahead of the times, yet not too far—that added departments when needed and in such manner so to be able to give Ontario an institution equal to any to be found in a city of this size, or larger.

But while measuring the growth of his business, Mr. Rader has not been unmindful of the service that a community is entitled to from its business men, and while especially interested in bettering conditions, that Ontario achieve distinction as a city of good homes, churches and schools he has been an active participant in the work of advancing the material welfare of the city.

For six years Mr. Rader served as a member of the School Board during the crucial period when the schools were emerging from the country type to the modern, departmental school with modern equipment and specialized study leading to entrance into classical and scientific courses at the University.

Then, too, he was a member of the city council for one term and has

twice served as a director of the Commercial club and aided in developing Ontario's trade on the bench thru active work on the road committee.

During the war Mr. Rader found time to carry a heavy volume of the local patriotic work. In each of the Liberty Loan drives he was chairman of the local committee. And in each drive Ontario scored a victory.

But there is another side to Mr. Rader's activity that is little known, and that his work to found here a church of his faith. When he came here there was no place of worship for members of the Catholic faith. He supplied that in his home for a time, and from that beginning grew the present Church of the Blessed Sacrament, the result of which directly may be traced the coming of the Holy Rosary hospital.

He was a charter member of the Boise Knights of Columbus at Boise and when the time came to organize a lodge here he was made its first leading Knight, an honor he twice held.

In 1903, the year of the World's Fair in Chicago, Mr. Rader was married at Ellinwood, Kansas, to Miss Daisy Harrison. They have four children, two boys and two girls: Mrs. Leona Pearson of Weiser, Miss Irene Rader, Bernard Rader, who is a student at the University of Washington, and Harrison, who has yet to go to school.

FRANCIS P. RYAN.

Francis P. Ryan, one of the owners of the Ontario Meat & Grocery Co. store, and a brother-in-law of Mr. Reihsen's, is another Ontario business man whose boyhood and early manhood were spent in the Middle states.

Mr. Ryan was born at Iowa Falls, a short distance from Waterloo, on March 13, 1883. Some months after

his birth his parents moved to Moline, Iowa, and in this little town and vicinity was where Mr. Ryan grew to young manhood. After graduating from the Cedar Rapids Business College in 1900, he took charge of a store at Arnolds, Iowa, a summer resort, until 1906, when he went to South Dakota and filed on a home stead near Midland. He proved up on his land in 1908 and was mar-

F. P. RYAN



—Photo by Seligman

ried June 16, 1909, to Miss Grace A. Orris at Midland. In 1910 they moved to Portland where Mr. Ryan worked for the Grand Union Tea Co. until 1914, when they moved to Juntura. He was there only a short time when he went into business with Dan Gallagher, a brother of Attorney P. J. Gallagher of this city, selling out to his partner in the fall of 1917. From Juntura they moved to Murphy, Idaho, where he had charge of the Murphy Townsite Co. store, and was also secretary-treasurer of the Murphy Townsite Co., until October, 1918, when he was stricken with the flu. He was convalescing nicely, when his wife and little boy were attacked with the disease, the latter dying. The worry and shock of their son's death left

them in such a weakened condition that the physician ordered them to a lower altitude, they leaving for Portland when able. It was while recuperating in Portland during the winter of 1918-19, and in talking over their plans for the future that they reached the conclusion that of all the places they had been since coming west they would rather live at Ontario. And so they came to this city last spring in April, buying in with the Ontario Meat & Grocery Co.

Mr. Ryan has recently purchased a residence in the West end of the city and is devoting his share of time and effort to assist Ontario's city beautiful plans by improving the place, for it is here that he intends to make his home, and is striving to aid in everything that helps Ontario attract good citizens.

GEORGE P. REIHSEN.

The great agricultural states of Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota were where 25 years of the life of George P. Reihsen, one of the owners

GEORGE REIHSEN



—Photo by Seligman

of the Ontario Meat & Grocery Co., store were spent.

He was born at Waterloo, Iowa,

November, 23, 1888, a year, which he claims, will remain in the memory of the comparatively few early settlers of western Minnesota and Iowa, all of the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas for all time, due to the fact that what is termed as the most "deadly blizzard" ever known swept that vast section on January 12 and 13 of that year, killing many people and thousands of head of livestock. But, anyhow, neither that fatal year nor the "blizzard" had any effect on the temperament or character of Mr. Reihsen, for he is one of the most warm-hearted young men one could hope to meet. His school days began at Ellsworth, Minn., in 1894, continued at Rock Rapids, Iowa, from 1900 to 1905, and ended at Mitchell, S. D., in the spring of 1906, where his parents had moved and still reside. That spring his father gave him an interest in his meat market, and he remained in business with him until the fall of 1913, when he was stricken with the "western fever," sold his interest in the market and pulled out for the Pacific Coast. He landed first at Roseburg, Oregon, but the following summer he came to Malheur county and filed on a home stead in the Juntura section. In the spring of 1916 he commuted on his land, came to Ontario in April, and worked for the Oregon Packing Co., owned by H. H. Tunny, for four years. In the fall of 1917 he and his wife moved to Portland and the following summer Mr. Reihsen attended the R. O. F. C. at the Oregon University and was recommended for promotion shortly before his discharge occurred. March, last year, they moved from Portland back to this city and purchased an interest in the Ontario Meat & Grocery Co.

Mr. Reihsen was married in September, 1914, to Miss Catherine A. Orris, of Midland, S. D., the wedding taking place in Ontario.

He says he would rather hunt than eat. Last year during the open season he spent his vacation in the Blue mountains. He didn't bag his deer, but he says he will this year.

Announcement of Increase of Subscription to THE ARGUS

Since January 1, 1919 the cost of print paper has increased from 5 1-2 cents per pound to 9 3-4 cents per pound, and we are informed that it will rise to even higher prices rather than decrease in price.

This increase of almost 100 per cent in one year while greater than that experienced in the past is but the continuation of what newspapers have been called upon to bear since 1914 when print paper was purchased at from 2 1-2 to 2 3-4 cents per pound. The rise was steady until 1919 when the market rose constantly, until the present price of 9 3-4 cents was reached, or an increase of 400 per cent over the pre war price.

The Argus must meet this increased cost. It has but two ways of doing this; increased subscription rates and increased advertising rates. The latter have been raised to meet some of the previous rises in cost, and now with hundreds of other newspapers over the country, we are increasing the cost of subscriptions to

\$2.00 per year

News print, however, is not the only element in the printing and publishing business that has added to the cost of publishing a newspaper. Labor, ink and every other element has increased, just as has been the case in almost every other business.

While prices of other things have risen constantly without notice in many cases, and while we are buying all our supplies from catalogs bearing this message: "prices subject to change without notice," however, we desire our readers to know the reason for this small increase in the price of their paper.