

The Ontario Argus

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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WILL IT WORK?

When the cattlemen begin to talk about co-operation to the degree proposed at the Burns convention, which would ultimately eliminate the middleman as a factor in putting their product on the block in the local meat market it is time that the packers begin to agitate their thinking machinery, for the stockmen are more to be feared than the federal trade commission.

The proposition advanced at Burns sounds somewhat socialistic it is true but it has possibilities and the cattle-business has admittedly reached a point where the mere fact that the proffered remedy does run contrary to what many believe to be the only way of doing things is not going to be a bar to its trial.

It must be admitted that the idea of parting company with the stockyards companies, the commission men and all the others with whom the stockmen have been associated during all these years is not the result of hasty action, it is but a hope upon which its proponents bank to save the business of producing meat from destruction.

That the plan is fraught with an element of danger is admitted by even its most ardent supporters, for the packers and the commission men are well entrenched. Of course the cattlemen do not expect to put the present distribution system in the limbo of departed specie. It is not necessary to go that far to achieve their purpose, even a measure of success will secure the results it is desired to obtain.

The scheme of course is based on the old idea of co-operation that has worked successfully in European countries, especially in Russia. But there it is worked among a far different people than the stockmen of Oregon. There the leaders are few and the followers are legion. In the range country of the West nearly every cattleman is a leader. His life has made him independent and resourceful, he is not, at least in the past has not, been prone to merge

his interests even with his associates and therefore will be a harder man to lead in such a movement than the docile European. And it is an axiom of co-operative movements that the leadership must be vested with almost dictatorial powers. Without it there can be no success in such an effort.

This of course is the personal equation that presents itself for solution in every such effort. It is capable of solution if approached in the right manner by the right kind of a manager. That is the rub. Where will the cattlemen find the ideal individual to carry on their work? How long will the independent, self sufficient cattleman take orders from some distant manager, whom perhaps he does not know, but who will tell him just when and where he is to ship his cattle and how many he is to ship and in what condition they must be ere they will be accepted at all? And that is just what the success of the movement will demand.

That the public would profit by the success of the scheme is undoubted.

The possibilities of co-operation are unlimited, but it calls for a rare degree of managerial ability and a surrender of control over his business by the individual. But even if it accomplishes nothing more than bringing about a number of needed reforms in the marketing of livestock it will have justified the efforts of its champions.

CRUSHING HARNEY COUNTY

Central Oregon is facing the most serious menace that has confronted that region in all its history, and it has been held back by many serious obstacles in that time to. The latest enemy is that unreasonable fanaticism which would create the Roosevelt bird reserve of not only the waters of Malheur and Harney lakes, so called, but would prevent the use of the waters of their tributary streams for the irrigation of the fertile acres of Harney county.

If the proposed initiative measure backed by the sportsmen of Portland and Finley the deposed State Biologist, is approved by the people of Ore-

gon all the work of thirty years will be wiped away and Harney county might as well be abandoned by its people and left as the paradise for water fowl, jack rabbits and coyotes whose interests, in the minds of the proponents of this legislation takes precedence over that of their fellow men.

The late and lamented President whose name is thus made the cloak to cover this damnable outrage, we believe would if he were alive, fight this measure. He was one of the most ardent of bird lovers, and knew more about them than any man in America, save John Burroughs and one or two other naturalists, he too was a great lover of the West and an ardent champion of its development.

The greatest monument to his constructive vision, beside the Panama canal is the Roosevelt dam in Arizona, which stores the water that transforms the deserts into fertile fields for the beneficial use of mankind, and makes homes for thousands of independent Americans.

There is no doubt but that such a man would be using his boundless energy to fighting the proposals of the idealist who would condemn for all time the fertile acres of Harney valley to the water fowl that migrate annually, while they might be made the abode of thousands of men women and children the year round.

One of the worst features of the scheme is that the proponents are in fact deceiving the people who are not in a position to be in possession of the facts, or to learn of the exact situation. In the first place they are using the word lake in a most liberal construction. These bodies of water are not lakes, never have been. At best they are only tule swamps fed by streams that are dry part of the year and by seepage water that has been used for irrigation. Even if all the water of the tributary streams were stored for irrigation and so used it would find its way afterward to these low lands and the level of the swamps would thus be practically maintained. But in the meantime the surrounding lands would be made productive.

Finley and his sportsmen friends do not explain this fact to those who could not know it unless told. They do not explain that there is no proposal made to drain the lakes, in fact they say there is, when such talk was abandoned years ago, when it was found to be entirely unpractical, and his friends know this yet they continue the deception. And it is the duty of Malheur county men and women who know the facts to combat the work of these fanatics. If the people on the other side of the Cascades who have so long been indifferent to interests of Eastern Oregon will but learn the truth of this situation there will be no barrier placed in Harney's path of progress and we here in Malheur county should give all the assistance possible to aid our western neighbor at this time.

AMEND THE PRIMARY LAW

That there should be a change in the present Oregon primary law will be admitted by every one who has paused for a moment to consider the absurdities that have resulted from the election which took place two weeks ago.

In the first place the date should be changed so that the people will know who has been selected to do their bidding, at least in time so those who are selected will be able to make the trip to the convention city and not be in doubt as to whether or not they are really elected as delegates.

And again when there is not a majority for any of the presidential candidates, the plurality vote should not be considered as binding upon the delegates for even the first ballot. Such an amendment would prevent the recurrence of the inconsistent position in which all of the delegates to the convention this year are placed, especially Wallace McCarumant who announced in advance that he was opposed to the candidacy of Hiram Johnson.

Since the primary law is developing so many defects its friends should bestir themselves to save it from the glaring errors into which its use has fallen. If they do not the time is not far distant when it will be modified by those who are not in sympathy with it at all.

WALKERS BEWARE

One of these days The Argus expects to be called upon to give an account of the death of some man, woman or child who came to his or her end by being run down on the pavement on California avenue this side of the hospital.

Somehow the people, many of them, have the idea that the pavement was laid for pedestrians, and are using it as a sidewalk. Since they carry no lights to herald their location, and many times the blinding lights of approaching cars almost blinds a driver causing him to misjudge the distance of pedestrians even when he sees them.

There is another thing about the

effects of auto lights on this road; the color of the pavement and that of the gravel along the edge is so nearly identical that a driver is not

certain when he is to the side of the pavement and this, too, is going to cause accidents unless the drivers are careful.

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A FARMER bought 6 bales of cheap twine—288 lbs., net. It checked short an average of 30 feet to the lb.—8,640 feet in 6 bales, or the equivalent of 17½ lbs. of 500-ft. standard twine.

He harvested his wheat crop using this twine. There were 135,360 feet of twine (deducting shortage) in the 6 bales—enough to tie 67,680 bundles of grain (allowing 2 feet of twine for a bundle). But 8% of the bundles (5,414) were broken due to twine being weak and uneven.

The hired harvest hands lost an average of one minute's time tying each broken bundle by hand—5,414 minutes, or a total of over 90 hours.

In addition, 2% of the broken bundles (108), representing approximately 5½ bushels of wheat, were lost because the loose grain was not picked up cleanly by the hired harvest hands.

NOW let us see how his loss-and-gain account figures out on this twine investment:

He saved 1½ cents a pound on the original cost of the twine by buying an inferior grade instead of guaranteed International Harvester twine—a saving of \$4.50 on 6 bales. This represents his total gain.

In saving \$4.50 to start with, he lost in the end:

8,640 ft. shortage, or the equivalent of 17½ lbs. of guaranteed average 500-ft. twine.

90 hours' time of harvest hands at the prevailing high wage scale.

5½ bushels of wheat at \$2.25 a bushel or \$12.37.

Figure out for yourself the total losses—the money squandered by this farmer to save \$4.50—an insignificant cent-and-a-half a pound on the original cost.

Don't you think it would have been much more economical for this farmer to have paid a little more for his twine to begin with and bought good twine—twine of International Harvester manufacture that averages full 500-ft. to the pound and has but a very low percentage of breakage?

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