

The Ontario Argus.

ONTARIO, MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JULY 15, 1920.

NO. 32

COMPANY WILL REQUEST INCREASED PHONE RATES

COMMERCIAL CLUB ASKED TO APPROVE TO INCREASE RATES PENDING INVESTIGATION BY COMMISSION

OPERATION DOUBLED

Credited With Being Cause of Losses—Company Will Put Up and Assure Return of Interest if Commission Does Grant Its Request for Rise

A. Lakness, vice president and general manager of the Malheur Telephone Co., will appear before the Public Service Commission tomorrow (Friday) at Salem, to ask that body to grant an increase in the company's rates in Ontario, Malheur and in the rural sections of the county, pending an investigation on the part of the commission into the matter.

Indemnify the public in case its rates for a permanent increase of rates is not granted, the company wishes to give the commission a bond guaranteeing the return of the amount collected above the rates which the commission will allow with interest on same.

At this time, too, the company is asking that there be any change in the present service between Ontario and Nyssa and between Ontario and the Fruitland bench.

Subject To Debate
The above outline of the company's proposal was presented to the commercial club at its special meeting which was held Monday evening at the City Hall, by J. A. Lakness, president and general manager of the company, and his statement of the case brought forth a heated discussion on the subject, with the result that a special committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. H. C. Boyer, A. Fraser and W. H. Doolittle, to study the matter further and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for definite action.

The committee met Tuesday and came up with a resolution which in substance declared that while the commission did not know the basis of the keeping system by which the rates presented by the company were reached, yet was willing that the rate increased asked for be based on a system that the board was placed pending a thorough investigation by the commission. The committee also declared that in its opinion the method of putting toll earnings for the Ontario exchange was unfair.

According to the figures presented at the meeting Monday evening the Ontario exchange is losing approximately \$2,000 per year. That is, it is falling to pay for operating costs, providing a replacement and an 8 per cent return on actual investment.

H. C. Boyer and W. F. Homan, two of whom was a director of the independent company which sold to the Malheur Home Telephone Company years ago took the case to the commission with Mr. Lakness. Mr. Lakness particularly stressed the argument that the present rates were perhaps too low.

Millions were the result of the rate entered into by the commission at the time of the purchase of the company. The rate was adhered to by the commission. Just the same as any other company. After considerable discussion of the matter the meeting adjourned at midnight and turned the proposition over to the committee for action.

The new rates which Mr. Lakness asks the commission to authorize are known as the Burlington rates for the city and towns of the size of those now in effect in Payette and Waiser. They are as follows: business, individual line \$4.50; business, two party line \$4.50; residence phone, individual line \$2.00; residence phone, two party \$2.00; rural phones \$2.00.

WILLOW CREEKERS TO HOLD ANNUAL PICNIC

Walter Shimp, who has raised the stands at the county fair many a time with his daring riding was in Ontario Tuesday evening boosting for the annual picnic of the settlers on the Little Willow Irrigation district which is to be held tomorrow (Friday) at the D. B. Coates ranch.

Mr. Shimp declares that it is going to be a real celebration with music, speech making, dancing and all the usual trimmings, and on top of that a buckaroo program such as Little Willow is proud of.

AUTO THEIVES COME TO GRIEF QUICKLY

Night Marshal J. H. Gordon Arrests Two Car Thieves Five Minutes After Call Comes From Caldwell—Money Rolls Found Too

Night Marshal J. H. Gordon made a record capture of two auto thieves early Saturday morning while within five minutes after he was called by the Night Marshal at Caldwell and told of the theft of a car at that city he had the men in the city jail here.

Marshal Gordon was on his way to the passenger station to meet No. 17 when a car with two men in it stopped and asked him where to find an open garage. When he reached the station there was a phone call for him and the Caldwell officer told him of the theft, and gave him a message description of the car. That was enough. Marshal Gordon had the vehicle spotted and rushed back to Oregon street just in time to catch the men as they started to drive out of town. He arrested them and took them to the city jail where they gave the names of Bob Dement and Roy Jordan.

When searched at the jail one of the men was found to have \$29 in dimes, rolled into packages of \$5 each. These he carried fastened to his garter, and explained that he carried his money thus always. That did not satisfy the officer, and when they were turned over to the Caldwell officials Saturday morning it was found that they had robbed a Parma store following the theft of the car at Caldwell.

LOCAL HAY WILL NOT BE BARRED IN STATE

Farm Bureau and Commercial Club Committee Succeeds in Having Measure Proposed Modified—Other Farm Bureau News

The committee composed of representatives of the Farm Bureau, the Ontario Commercial Club and Nyssa Commercial Club, returned from the trip to interview the State Board of Horticulture last Sunday. They report success in that the county will not be placed under a general quarantine by other sections of the state because of the alfalfa weevil, but an inspector will be sent to determine the affected districts. Where the weevil cannot be found, the hay will be subject to baling and shipping. Where the weevils are present, it must be ground if shipped.

The orchard men will have another one of their celebrated meetings on Friday. This one will take place at the E. E. Record fruit farm on Dead Ox Flat. How to get the best of the next crop of worms and other matters of importance to the industry will be taken up after making a tour of the orchards down that way and showing proper respect for the orchards that will be served by the Riverdale folks. Announcements were mailed from the Farm Bureau office to all the fruit men.

The date for the Farm Bureau tour has been set July 30. This will be a great day for everybody who wants to go along. A number of things in the way of better crops and varieties and rotation practices will be seen on the farms and explained by the men who have had experience. The committee in charge of the arrangements will announce the program and schedule before long.

Assistant County Agent Ballard and Stanley Jewett in charge of control work with predatory animals for the government have written that they will meet with the Farm Bureau executive committee on the 17th.

ONE VACANCY TO FILL IN SCHOOLS' FACULTY

ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS SELECTED—MANY NEW MEMBERS OF TEACHING STAFF—MISS STANKA RESIGNS

MISSOURI MAM HEADS FORCE

School Board Organizes With Election of W. W. Wood as President and W. L. Turner Clerk—Opening Day September 6th

Only one vacancy remains to be filled in the teaching force of the Ontario public schools and High School. That vacancy was caused by the resignation of Miss Victoria Stanka as teacher of physical training. All of the other places have been filled.

Only four of the members of the High School faculty of last year will return to Ontario in the fall to take up their work, and there will be seven new teachers in that section of the schools. The four who will return are: S. M. Boucher, principal, M. D. Thomas, Miss Catherine Conway and Miss Christine Abbott. The seven new teachers include J. M. McDonald, superintendent of schools, Carleton Lathrop, Miss Ruth Cabeen, Miss Elizabeth O'Brien, Miss Maria Hart and Miss Wilma Miles. The other new teacher to succeed Miss Stanka has not been elected.

Many Changes In Grades
In the grades, too, there will be seven new teachers, including Mr. and Mrs. Will J. Roberts, who have taught in the county for several years. Miss Lola Thomas, Miss Mary Jane Seawell, Miss Beryl M. Stitch, Miss Ruth Lackey and Miss Della Miles.

New Superintendent
J. M. McDonald who comes to Ontario to head the school system has had a very successful career in school affairs in his old home state, Missouri. After graduating from the school of pedagogy at the University of Missouri, he taught for a number of years and then became superintendent of schools at Marysville, Missouri, a city much larger than is Ontario. He comes to Ontario highly recommended, not only by the school board of Marysville but by the educational officials of the state of Missouri.

Mr. McDonald has been in Ontario for nearly a month now and has already the preliminary organization work of the staff underway, as well as preparing the equipment for the year's work.

The assignment of teachers for the year is as follows: J. M. McDonald, teacher's training and superintendent; S. M. Boucher, principal of high school, manual training and military training; M. D. Thomas, science; Carleton A. Lathrop, mathematics; Catherine Conway, English; Christine Abbott, home economics; Ruth Cabeen, history and language; Elizabeth O'Brien, music and art; Maria Hart, commercial; Wilma Miles, English and mathematics.

Grammar School
A. C. Sensenbrenner, principal, eighth grade; Mrs. J. D. Deal, seventh grade; Mae Platt, sixth grade; Lola Thomas, third grade; Cora E. McNulty, second grade; Mrs. Pearl E. Jamieson, primary; Mary Jane Seawell, primary; Beryl M. Stitch, fourth grade; Mrs. W. F. Homan first and second grades in East side school; Miss Ruth Lackey, second and third grades, Eastside; Miss Della Miles, third and fourth grades; Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have not been assigned.

The opening date for the new year will be September 6th.

BAKER AND LAGRANDE TEAMS PUT ON WORK

Midsummer Initiation Of Knights of Columbus Directed By J. H. Pearce of LaGrande Assisted By Baker Lodge Men.

The regular midsummer initiation of the Snake River Council of the Knights of Columbus was held here Sunday afternoon, followed by a buffet luncheon in the evening at which a program of toasts was delivered.

The class at this session was smaller than usual, many of the applicants being unable to be present. The number the small however did not lessen the crowd in attendance for there were many members from distant points including Burns, Crane, Juntura, and other interior points, Nampa, Boise, Caldwell, Payette, Waiser, Midvale and other Idaho towns.

The work was done under the direction of J. H. Pearce of LaGrande assisted by the degree team members from LaGrande and Baker. After the conferring of degrees the members adjourned to the city hall where a buffet luncheon was served and a series of toasts delivered, among them an eloquent address by A. A. Smith of Baker who chose for his subject, "Good Citizenship."

SNAKE RIVER BRIDGE ENDANGERED BY FIRE

HARD WORK ON PART OF FIRE FIGHTERS AND CITIZENS SAVES STRUCTURE—TRAFFIC NOT STOPPED BUT SECTION OF FLOOD MUST BE REPAID

BROWNE FALLS INTO RIVER

Lack of Adequate Fire Apparatus Painfully Apparent—Buckets and Ropes Quench Flames—Men Work Until Daylight

That Ontario is not cut off from the Fruitland bench, and the Snake River bridge is not a ruined structure is due to the hard work of the fire department, the vigilance of a rancher on the brow of the hill, and the work of volunteers, who helped fight the fire which threatened the structure from 11:30 p. m. last Saturday night until early Sunday morning.

No credit for the saving of the bridge is due to the fire fighting equipment of the city. Had the fire men under the direction of chief Krossa depended on the regular equipment alone there would be no planking on the bridge today.

Not only did the men fight the fire until early morning, but one of them, Herschel M. Browne, took an involuntary swim in the river. Mr. Browne with a number of other men had gone underneath the bridge to direct the stream from the chemical engine and mark the progress of the flames, when the intense heat of the girder on which he was sitting burned his trousers. In his effort to escape from the heat he lost his balance and fell into the water 20 feet below. In the excitement no one noticed him fall and his ability to swim alone saved him, none the worse for his impromptu bath.

The fire is believed to have caught from a cigarette stub which found lodging in the dry slivers of some crack on the north side of the bridge about 100 feet from the Idaho shore. A passing autoist notified a rancher on the Idaho side who telephoned Ontario. A siren call brought the department to the scene and at midnight an alarm was sounded and hundreds of citizens rushed to the bridge. Buckets and ropes were brot into play when the chemical engine failed to work and this, together with the labors of men ripping up the planking, saved the bridge.

Fortunately the fire damaged only one side of the roadway and traffic was not impeded, however, it will cost the County of Malheur between \$500 and \$1,000 to put the planking in good repair.

BARB WIRE FOR WAR ZONE NOW ON RANGE

Literal Example of Biblical Injunction Turning Swords into Ploughshares Furnished By Eastern Oregon Land Company

Eight hundred miles of barbwire that was originally intended for use in impounding the Hun in front of the trenches of France and Flanders, is now embracing the range lands of the Eastern Oregon Land Company in Malheur County, restraining stock that wanders in that section. This great fence, the longest, perhaps in Eastern Oregon was recently completed by a crew of 125 men working for 70 days under the direction of Superintendent H. J. Lorenzen. Within the enclosure of the fence there are 60,000 acres and to build it 64,000 posts were placed one rod apart, or 320 posts for every mile. To dig the holes and plant the posts the men were divided into four crews and the wire was stretched from big trucks.

With the completion of the fence the company has inaugurated a new policy for the operation of its range lands, that is indicative of the changing conditions of the stock business in this section. Under the regulations prepared by the stock permits will be granted on the ratio of 16 acres to every head of stock, until the land has had an opportunity to reseed and produce a heavier grass yield when the number of stock will be increased.

Not only will the amount of stock be limited but no stock will be permitted on the range until after August 1, either this year or next. This practice will be continued until the range is in good condition.

The company does not propose to run any stock itself but will continue to lease the land to stockmen living in the vicinity of its holdings. While there are a number of tracts not owned by the company within the area of the fence, stock runways furnish them means of getting their cattle to and from their holdings.

Yes, it will pay you to push this town along. It will take you with it.

PREMIUM AWARDS FOR COUNTY FAIR MORE THAN DOUBLED

WORK STARTED ON PAVING TO SNAKE RIVER BRIDGE

Engineer R. C. Ingram of the State Highway commission's force arrived in Ontario Monday to take charge of the construction of the State Highway from the east city limits to the Snake River bridge.

The grade stakes were set this week, and Division Engineer H. H. Baldwin located a fine bed of gravel on the Idaho side of the river which will be used for the work. Gilmour E. Ritchie of Baker who are to build the road have their crews on the ground and will start the work at once.

With the surveyors at work on the Jordan Valley road, and the county busily engaged in grading the Vale to Brogan section of the John Day Highway, Malheur county is seeing more road work underway than ever in its history.

STOP WATER HEARING TO HEAR W. J. BRYAN

Wheels of Justice Pause To Permit Court and Attorneys To Listen To Commencer—Night Session Follows To Make Up Time

Judge Dalton Biggs has always been an admirer of "the Peerless leader," W. J. Bryan. That being true he could not let the opportunity pass to hear his eloquence in spite of the fact that the Malheur water rights adjudication case was before the court for its determination on Monday.

That afternoon the court adjourned and the court and bar drove to Payette to listen to the spell of oratory which the once, "boy orator of the Platte" delivered in all of his old time fervor. To make up for lost time, however, the court convened for an evening session and the hearing concluded yesterday and the matter of ruling on the findings of the water commission was taken under advisement of the court.

The hearing of this, perhaps, the most important case ever passed upon in Malheur county, drew a galaxy of legal talent from distant points among them being Edward F. Trandwell of San Francisco and John Rand of Baker, representing the Pacific Live Stock Company, Brooke and Gallagher and John McCulloch appeared for upper river water users and C. M. Crandall argued the case of the Nevada Ditch company.

DRIVE ON FOR STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ontario Asked to Contribute \$1285 for Year's Work of Big Booster Organization—Committees Canvassing Field Now

Messrs. Allen, Childs and Simmons of the State Chamber of Commerce team engaged in raising the budget of the organization for the promotion of Oregon's development spent a portion of the week in Ontario.

The men met with the Commercial club at its special meeting on Monday evening and explained in detail the working of the organization and what the program for publicity and follow-up work is to be.

The quota for Oregon is placed at \$450,000 for three years and Ontario's quota for one year was placed at \$1285, this week a committee of local men are engaged in an effort to secure that quota.

METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday Services
10 A. M. Sunday School
11 A. M. Preaching "Hoping Defeat in Other Fellow"
7:15 P. M. Epworth League
8 P. M. "The Gospel according to Wm. Jennings Bryan at Payette."

The Oregon Dairy Council will co-operate with parent-teacher circles who wish to put on milk educational campaigns or fairly milk pagents. The council has an office at 1006 Broadway building, Portland. The home demonstration agents are continuously finding the help of the council a great aid in their work. Child welfare is the council's specialty and its hobby is to make the state the best dairy state in the west.

DIRECTORS HAVE COMPLETED LISTING PRIZES TO BE OFFERED—MANY CHANGES MADE IN INTERESTS OF RANCHERS

FORD RACE ONE NEW FEATURE

Commercial Club Requests Fair Board To Take Charge Of Entertainment So Authority Will Not Be Divided—Will Help Just The Same.

The cash prizes to be given to exhibitors at the 1920 Malheur County Fair will be more than double the awards made last year. The cash prizes this year, outside of the race program which is entirely separate, will be approximately \$4,000.

Under the direction of the directors, E. M. Dean, V. T. Herrett, and V. V. Hickox, the superintendents of the various departments have compiled their classifications and lots, and eliminated all of the "franks" so that the awards will go to varieties generally grown in this section. The first section of the premium list has been placed in the printers hands and the balance will be completed for publication as soon as possible.

Arranging Program
Owing to the fact that several of the men originally selected could not serve in handling the amusement features of the Fair, the Ontario Commercial Club to which this task was allotted at a meeting Monday night determined that in the interest of efficiency and for the success of the Fair it would be better to have the Fair board itself name the committee to take charge of this portion of the work. It was determined that the duties of the two organizations would cross at so many points that it would be more satisfactory to everyone to have the Fair Board delegate its powers to a committee of its own choosing, while assuring the Fair board that the services of club members for this work would willingly and cheerfully be given.

Special Prize For Race
To stimulate interest in auto driving V. B. Staples has started off the special prize list with an offer of \$100 for a race for Ford cars, stock models. In this race only cars driven by their owners can be entered, and no special gears or other frills of the speed demons will be permitted.

Already many of the communities with their community fairs are preparing the way for exhibitions at the county fair this fall and give assurance that the contest for the biggest prize of all, the community exhibit will be the closest ever staged here.

W. H. Doolittle who has been elected secretary of the Fair is busily engaged in the preliminary work of organization and with the co-operation of ranchers to a greater degree than ever in the history of the fair a truly representative exhibition is in store for this fall.

5000 DRAFT EVADERS HAVE BEEN CONVICTED

Washington—Five thousand draft evaders have been convicted in federal courts and given sentences of from 30 days to one year in prison, according to reports compiled of the department of justice. Thirty thousand cases remain to be investigated.

The result of the investigation shows about 10,000 cases of failure to register and an equal number of false questionnaires.

About 25 per cent of the men listed as delinquents were found to have enlisted in the American or allied armies without the knowledge of their local boards. About 40 per cent are accounted for on the score of the floating population. Some 20 per cent are considered those who failed to perform their duties in made up of cripples and willful delinquents.

ALLIES TO AID POLES

Defense Against Bolsheviks Promised If Troops Kept at Home.

SPA—If the Poles consent to retire within the natural frontiers of Poland the allies will give them all possible assistance in the event of their being attacked by the bolsheviks. This announcement was made here. The allies have sent a proposal to the Russian soviet government for an armistice with Poland on condition that the Poles retire within their natural Polish frontiers and that if the bolsheviks attack the Poles within these frontiers the allies will come to Poland's aid. A conference of representatives of all the countries is proposed.