

The Ontario Argus
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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G. K. AIKEN, Managing Editor
T. McPARLIN GOUGH, Supt.

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FIRE EQUIPMENT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY

How long will it take Ontario to awaken to the fact that it is practically without fire protection? How many thousands of dollars must be laid on the altar of carelessness to be burned before the city will arouse itself to act? How many lives must be endangered before a real effort is made to protect them with adequate equipment?

We don't know. Do you? For nearly a year now this question has been before the people. An abortive attempt was made to secure fire equipment once and apparently because a very well intentioned, tho' extremely unfortunate offer of a fire engine was made by one who could not keep it, failed to solve the problem. Ontario has just settled back trusting to fate to spare it from a visitation of fire.

Surely with as many successful business men as can be found here in Ontario, with an investment in all kinds of property within the city limits which must total well over a million of dollars, a way should be found to secure a fire engine adequate for the needs of the city at present and for several years to come.

This is the most pressing problem before Ontario today. It is a challenge to the resourcefulness of the citizens. It will remain a challenge until it has been met and solved. Ontario should act now.

THE RADICAL MOVEMENT

In spite of the fact that both of the old parties adopted what are generally described as conservative platforms and thus declined to recognize the existing unrest in America, their attitude does not change the fact that there does exist a positive demand for a change in the present economic standards.

The voices which are making this demand, however, are not in harmony. The proponents of change are not agreed on the scale they would follow. Their technique varies all the way from the reds who would substitute the Bolshevik program of Russia to the Single Taxers who ride one hobby and believe that this will lead the way to a political panacea.

In an effort to have their protest against present conditions take concrete form these radicals of various types have been endeavoring to form a third party. The differences between them as brought out in their first meeting in Chicago indicates the difficulty which such a movement faces. In that convention were men of every type, from the parlor idealist to the most radical propagandist who lives by the success of his efforts at creating unrest. To the latter a successful program would mean failure for it would throw him out of a job.

Yet this movement is worthy of serious consideration of the average American citizen, for it is a studied effort to change not only the present economic system, but the very form of the United States government as well. Of course this is not admitted by the reformers. They disguise their efforts under various names and work upon those traits of human nature which respond quickly to the insidious sophistries of the agitator.

This was admitted by Manager Thomason of the Non-Partisan League when he declared to the convention that in North Dakota they had secured a single tax law under another name. That admission is indicative of the reformers' methods. They use every means to confuse the minds of their uninformed constituents with high sounding phrases while putting over their revolutionary measures.

To distinguish between the genuine and the spurious efforts at reform requires not only knowledge of political doctrines, and the accepted rules of logic, but a knowledge of the mental honesty of the men who propose them. And this can hardly be secured over a country as large as ours while reformers are calling everyone who opposes them a liar, and the opposition is branding every advocate of any reform a Bolshevik. What Americans should be doing now is to become informed concerning these movements and their progenitors that they may reach safe and sane conclusions before exercising the prerogatives of citizenship.

Sure, this world is full of wit and humor. But the trouble is most of us are unable to tell which is wit and which is humor.

ONTARIO'S BAND

Ontario has, or perhaps an accurate statement would put it, Ontario had, a band. This organization struggled along for three months with no support at all from the public. It just kept going because the boys liked to play. They have practiced for proficiency and have done well.

The question arises does Ontario want a band, and if so how far will the citizens go to support such an institution?

Just now Ontario business men are being called upon to contribute to many causes. In fact it is the general belief among them that it is just one thing after another and they want a rest and an opportunity to look after their own affairs for a short time.

However, if the band is permitted to drop it will be that much harder to get the boys together, and with the Fair soon to be staged Ontario will be in the same position it was last year dependent entirely upon outside musicians.

The Argus wants Ontario to have a band. It believes that such an institution is one of a city's best assets and worthy of liberal support. Just how to go about it to get that support as present, however, presents a question that calls for serious consideration.

Some people are always trying to annex the goose that lays the golden egg, while others are content with the egg.

THE OREGON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

There is no denying that The Oregon Chamber of Commerce is deserving of the support of the public, that it can fill a want for the state that no other organization can fulfill, and that therefore it should be encouraged to proceed with its program.

To secure the benefits which the larger body would return thru its activities, however, a real active local organization is needed. Without the latter the benefits of the former cannot materialize so far as the individual community is concerned, except as it benefits by the general state-wide prosperity that will result.

That there will be a larger migration toward the West this fall that there has been for several years. There is a feeling among many people in the Middle West that they want to move. The winter that has passed dragged thru eight long months of bitter cold. They want to get away from that territory, at least many of them do, and they are naturally looking to the West with its moderate temperatures, and Oregon is one of the states they are considering.

Given a judicious campaign of advertising Oregon will get its share of these prospective immigrants, and to get its share of those who will come to Oregon must be prepared to get into the game and follow up the results of the statewide campaign.

Such an investment is worthwhile, and will repay itself many times over, especially if we can get the Owyhee

project underway so that we will have something to offer and then get in line with the other communities in the general forward movement.

Life holds much in store for each of us, but it doesn't dish it out indiscriminately upon request.

Co-operation among farmers to market their crops is the most hopeful movement being forwarded at the present time. In this movement the Farm Bureau is playing the major role. The stockmen too are feeling the need for such a movement and will undoubtedly benefit thereby. The success of both the farmer and the stockman is the basis of the prosperity of Ontario and every other Eastern Oregon town. Is there anything Ontario can do to help carry this movement along?

Some people live for themselves alone, and the world is generally glad to leave them alone.

The anti-cigarette law will not go on the ballot this fall. That ought to simplify the ballot a little, but then we have the bifurcated legislature to pass upon, and a few other measures to give occasion for political thinking.

There are so many funny writers in the press now-a-days their stuff is becoming anything but funny.

Candor compels the statement that it is hard to enthuse over the political pronouncements of either political party; or their nominees either, tho' both are successful business men and publishers.

This is consoling, very consoling. Cable advices tell us that food prices over in Japan are coming down.

The things that the Non-Partisan leaguers in North Dakota boast most about are "old stuff" in Oregon; the initiative, referendum and recall are just youngsters in the bread basket state and they were borrowed from Oregon.

"War is a state of mind," says an exchange. Sort of a hell of a state, eh?

Oregon does not need the Non-Partisan League with its herd of carpet baggers to solve its political problems, for there is nothing worthwhile in the Non-Partisan program that Oregon has not had for years.

The weather man, we note, never kicks at the roasts he gets in the press. It's an inexpensive method of keeping in the public eye.

If the Non-Partisan league in North Dakota has done nothing else it has made everyone in the state a politician, and that's bad enough.

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