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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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THE COMING ELECTION

As a matter of precaution The Argus would call attention to the fact that the voters of Ontario will be called upon to elect a new city administration this fall. While pondering on the merits of the league of nations, Cox and Harding, Stanfield and Chamberlain and all the other issues and personalities of the campaign, it would be unfortunate if the people over looked the problem of selecting a representative city council.

And this leads to the observation that a change should be made in the city charter or the state laws governing municipalities so that at least half of each administration would hold over. Either the city officials should be elected for terms of four years, half of them every other biennium, or if the two year term is to prevail half should be elected each year.

Two years ago when the present administration was nominated there were but 16 voters at the caucus and none of the men present wanted a nomination. In fact many of the men present went there for the avowed purpose, as they said, "to protect themselves against nomination."

From a purely selfish standpoint that may be a proper attitude. It is notoriously the fact that the man who gives his time to public affairs does so to the injury of his private business. Yet some one must do this. The men who by their business success achieve a competence in a community must recognize the fact that the public has a right to some of their time and that on public matters.

The man on the street whose business is so largely affected by the municipal government, more in fact than he is affected by either, county, state, or national government has no right to criticize the local administration of affairs if he is not willing to assume his share of the government or to assist in the selection of the men to run for office.

It is therefore strictly up to the men and women of Ontario to think about their local affairs and to be present at the caucus at which the men are to be nominated in this fall.

THE MAIL SERVICE

There is an old saying to the effect: "to them that hath it shall be given, to them that hath not, shall be taken even that which they hath." Certainly this applies to the interior of Malheur and Harney county.

For years this region has been practically isolated. It has had one train each way as far as Crane on which a mail clerk worked to distribute the mail and prepare the pouches so that the mail went direct to the connecting trains here in Ontario.

Now that these have been taken off the mail going to and from these points is delayed from 12 to 24 hours.

herd in Ontario where it cannot be sorted in time for the connection. Of course the thru pouches made up the mail train runs for Burns, Grande Jatte, Riverside, Harper and Vale go thru for the breakers on the branch line and throw out the sacks; but the other mail cannot be worked, nor can the postal clerks in the post offices of the interior scheme their out going mail so that it will get on the right train here in Ontario. This makes additional work here and delays the mail.

What justification there is for the action of the post office department is not apparent. There is more need of the service now than when it was established.

Between the desire of the fanatics who would deed the Malheur and Harney lakes to the Government which puts a handicap on the mail service to the interior, it appears that the one thing for the residents of that section to do is to turn Bolshevik, or move out of the country. It is apparent that the government does not seem concerned in the slightest for their welfare or prosperity.

THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Ontario has fallen into the regulations of the new parking system quickly, and it is an improvement over the old system to a marked degree. However it does not give entire satisfaction, nor could it be expected to. No regulation will please everyone.

There is a good deal of talk in favor of a change to parking in the middle of the street, and there are many arguments to be advanced in favor of such a plan—providing Oregon street is wide enough to permit it. That is the only argument that could be advanced against the center of the street parking.

By parking in the center of the street traffic would be divided by compulsion, and thus driving on the street would be safer; pedestrians would be protected for there would be no cars starting from the curb from behind other cars, also as in the present regulations the cars would naturally start in the direction of traffic. And there is still another reason; the curbs would at all times be free for loading an unloading, for passengers to alight from cars, and in case of fire the department would not be handicapped by the presence of cars next to the sidewalk.

The center parking has much to commend it, if the street is wide enough. It might be a good idea some day to string a bunch of cars along the center of a block just to see whether or not it is. That would determine the argument between those who declare the street is wide enough, and those who insist that it is not.

Another Suggestion

In case that the center street parking is declared not feasible, why not require auto owners when they park to start at one end of the block and have each car park close to the last car parked, rather than have each driver stop anywhere along the curb? A great deal of space on the street could be saved by systematic parking.

TIME TO GET BUSY

It is high time the communities of Malheur county facing the Snake river recognize that they have a real battle to fight with their neighbors on the east bank of the river. There should be a show down soon.

And it is to be regretted that this is true, for here is so much in common interest between the people of the two states that they could better accomplish by united effort, than a controversy will ever bring.

But there is a limit to co-operation; and in the first place it requires two to co-operate. All the co-operation can necessary come from one side.

There is a vast difference too between natural rivalry, which is good for any set of communities, and the efforts of one to injure with the natural rights of the other. And this is what the people of Weiser are doing when they enter the State of Oregon and thru their State Highway Commissioner endeavor to have the Oregon Highway commission do that which they know will injure Ontario.

The Argus knows that Ontario is willing and anxious to co-operate with its Idaho neighbors when they are right, and the effort is for the mutual advantage of this section—but these same neighbors must realize, or be made to realize that Ontario does not appreciate their meddling in Oregon affairs, and that she is willing and ready to fight for her rights at any time.

THE COUNTY FAIR

The ranchers have taken hold of the County Fair this year and they have already secured a degree of cooperation from the outside communities which indicates that the annual show will in reality be what its name implies. The Malheur County Fair.

This is a step forward and while Ontario has in the past done all that could be done to promote the Fair and the success in the past was due to a large degree to the activity of Ontario business men, yet Ontario's interest in the exhibition should not abate one whit. In fact now that the burden of management is shifted Ontario should be even more willing to do everything in its power to make the work of the ranchers successful, so that the Fair will be placed on a new footing of assured and continuous success.

The Argus knows that the Ontario business men are willing to assist the fair board; but also that since practically everyone of them are busy men, and that some effort must be made to keep the workers in the harness to boost the Fair. That work should be done now.

THE COMMERCIAL CLUB

The success or failure of an organization such as the Commercial Club is so largely dependent upon the personality of the executive officers and the co-operation of the members that every effort to bring the two in close touch with each other is necessary.

The Ontario Commercial club has a new secretary, a man with experience in cities larger than Ontario, and who therefore has many ideas for the advancement of the interests of this section. Some of these may not apply to a city of this size, and he will need the advice of the business men to harmonize his ideas with local conditions. That is one of the functions of team work needed in every such organization; and when his ideas that are applicable are adopted, and work started to bring them to a realization, then the secretary is entitled to the undivided co-operation of the entire membership. We bespeak for Mr. Clay that co-operation.

But why all of this fuss over campaign slush funds? Can a fellow who wants to become president afford to be less of a spender than the people who elect him?

PROTECT THE WATER HOLES

Reports from the Interior indicate that the thousands of streams in the streams of Oregon in Malheur County are dredged in the dried up creek beds.

To a large degree the streams of the creeks are due to the fact that the springs and water holes which feed them are being tramped in by stock.

The suggestion is made by some of the stockmen that these springs were protected by placing a barrel in the spring and piping the water to a trough; the stock would be better cared for, and the water supply for the streams would be greatly enhanced.

As a matter of good business it would seem that the stockmen themselves would care for this matter, for on the supply of water depends the number of stock the range will care for.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE STATE CHAMBER

The effort of Idaho to injure Malheur county thru the ending of the Old Oregon Trail at Old Ferry is an opportunity for the State Chamber of Commerce to demonstrate its usefulness.

If so large an organization can be of no influence with a state department such as the Highway Commission, then there is little that Malheur county can expect from it, and the quicker that fact is determined the better for all concerned.

All men are born with brains, but some haven't sense enough to use them.

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