

The Ontario Argus
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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THE NEXT SENATOR?

Apparently the big fight of the present quiet campaign is centering on the personnel of the Senate. The reason for this is plain: with the League of Nations the principle issue, the election of a president, is hardly more important than that of a senate to sustain his views on this issue.

Right now the nation is deadlocked on this important question; and this certainly should be sufficient lesson to those who are thinking of scratching their ticket in either party. It should be apparent to every voter that to vote for a democratic president and a republican senator is like blowing hot and cold at the same time. The same ludicrous exhibition is furnished by those who are going to vote for the republican candidate for president and a democrat for senator.

There have been times when it made little difference what the politics of an individual senator was; when the dominant party had a preponderant majority in both houses; but that is not now the case. Right now the republican majority exists in name only; for with Newberry incapacitated, and La Follette mugging as usual, the two parties are equally represented in the senate, which with the President is charged with the duty of deciding the nation's foreign policy.

To the present indecision in our foreign affairs may, in a very large degree, be charged the present industrial uncertainty which is reflected in every phase of business and agriculture. Until some definite disposition has been made of the peace treaty the United States cannot resume its normal relations with the foreign governments with which we were at war; and that in itself is a business handicap of no small importance.

The price of wool, one of Malheur county's staple products is depreciat-

ed because of the fact that no basis for doing business with Germany and Austria has been arranged for, and these are the countries which are the big consumers of coarse wool.

Then too, right now, New Zealand and Australian wool and mutton are being offered in competition with the American mutton and wool, and being sold at prices below that which will yield a profit to the American sheep raiser.

What is the use then of electing a President committed to the proposition that American must be first in any scheme of international relations; and that American industries are entitled to protection, and repudiating that choice by electing a senator committed to the league of nations and the doctrine of free trade? Or vice versa of electing a president avowedly champion of the league of nations and free trade and a senator standing upon a platform of American first and no entangling alliances together with a protective tariff?

HOW ABOUT ONTARIO?

No doubt most of the readers of The Argus know exactly how they are going to vote on the national issues this fall. For weeks they have been considering the issues of the campaign in a more or less thoughtful manner. But in all candor, how many have given one moment's consideration to local issues?

Who for example do you think should be elected Mayor of Ontario for the next two years?

Whom do you think ought to be the members of the Common Council?

The question of whom shall be the treasurer is easily answered, C. W. Platt has served long and well. There is no need for a change in that position.

In all seriousness the questions propounded above are far and away the most important the people of Ontario will decide at the poles on November 2.

What Ontario does will, perhaps, not materially affect the result of the national election. There is no danger of the election being as close as that of four years ago, when the vote of every hamlet in the doubtful states was important. This year Oregon is not even listed as doubtful.

But Ontario alone must solve its own administrative problems. On-

tario alone must decide whether it is to continue improvements and attract residents by progress, progress kept within reasonable limits, and commensurate with the financial possibilities of a community of this size.

The business of Ontario is no longer that of a village. With the addition of the many improvements made in the past for four or five years the affairs of the city have grown proportionately, and in fact all out of proportion to the growth of the tax levying power.

Now for example the city has a big municipal water system collecting thousands of dollars annually and requires the attention of several employees. Besides this there are numerous sewer districts on which annual payments are made, and local improvement districts for sidewalks, beside the paving district that entails bookkeeping in the city recorder's office.

All these details have increased the business of the city government to a place where it requires the time and attention of some one. It is not good business to depend on volunteers in this endeavor. Businessmen who have not made a fortune cannot be expected to sacrifice their time to give the city the attention which these matters should have if they are to be properly cared for.

The question arises how can Ontario solve this problem? "Will the city manager system do it?"

Or shall a modified form of the present government be adopted, and the city pay a reasonable recompense for part of someone's time to look after its affairs?

Will this attention by some one result in actually saving the taxpayers money? That is the question. These questions together with the decision as to the personnel of the city government each deserve more attention from the voters of the city that they will probably receive. The men who have the interests of the city at heart, however, should consider them carefully and make some recommendation to the voters who

do not, for many will undoubtedly be inclined to follow the advice of men whom they know to be interested and in a position to reach a reasonable

and fair determination of these questions. When the city caucus is held it is

the duty of the taxpayer and the voter as well to be there. That is the most important meeting to be held in Ontario this year.

B-R-R-R-R

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L. N. HOCKETT

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As Made to the Comptroller of the Currency at the close of Business, September 30, 1920.

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Loans and Discounts.....\$595,293.57	Capital.....\$ 50,000.00
Overdrafts.....1,012.04	Surplus and Profits..... 82,980.39
Bonds and warrants.....144,415.84	Circulation.....12,200.00
Banking House and Fixtures.....39,999.66	Bills Payable.....NONE
CASH.....164,492.30	Bills Redcounted.....NONE
	DEPOSITS.....720,048.11
\$854,223.50	\$854,223.50

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