

# The Ontario Argus.

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ONTARIO, MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1921

NO. 5

## ORDER FREE TOLLS TO NYSSA DISCONTINUED

MALHEUR HOME TELEPHONE COMPANY GRANTED INCREASED RATES ON ALL PHONES WITHIN ITS TERRITORY BY COMMISSION

## NEW RATES EFFECTIVE NOW

Business Phones to be \$4 per Month  
Residence Phones Individual Lines \$2.25—Two Party Lines \$2.00  
—Findings Given in Detail

On January 1, telephone territory covered by the Home Telephone Company increased approximately 10 percent. Also the free toll service which has hitherto existed between Ontario and Nyssa has been ordered discontinued.

The findings of the commission in the telephone rate case which has been pending for many months were received in Ontario Sunday and are in detail as follows:

Being fully advised in the premises, after a full consideration of the testimony and record, the Commission makes its findings as follows:

1. That the Malheur Home Telephone Company is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Oregon, conducting a telephone business in Malheur County. It is a public utility engaged in the ownership, management, operation and control of a plant and equipment for the convenience of telephone users, and as such utility is subject to the provisions of Chapter 279 of the General Laws of Oregon for the year 1911, and amendments thereto.

2. That the capital stock of this company is \$44,275.00, all of which is issued and outstanding. The stock is principally owned by the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company of Denver, Colorado, a subsidiary of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. There is also outstanding an indebtedness of \$48,000.00 in short term notes.

3. That this company should discontinue the practice of rendering service over its trunk line between Ontario and Nyssa without imposing a nominal toll charge, so this line may afford a faster and better service than is possible under the present plan.

4. That as heretofore indicated, the present revenue of this company is inadequate to meet the actual operating expenses, accrued depreciation, taxes and a reasonable return on the money prudently invested. Therefore, the present rates are found to be insufficient, unreasonable, inadequate and unjustly discriminatory and not such as to furnish a basis upon which to predicate efficient service. That the fair, reasonable and not unjustly discriminatory rates, rules and regulations to be applied by the Malheur Home Telephone Company of Ontario, Oregon, for efficient service in lieu of those now in force are named below:

Unlimited Business Service: Per Mo.	
Individual Line	\$4.00
Two Party Line	3.50
Extension with bell	1.25
Extension without bell	1.00
Extension bell only	.25
Suburban Line	3.25
Unlimited Residence Service:	
Individual Line	\$2.25
Two Party Line	2.00
Four Party Line	1.75
Extension with bell	1.00
Extension without bell	.75
Extension bell only	.25
Suburban Line	2.25

\*For desk type instruments add .25  
The above rates apply to Ontario, Nyssa and Vale exchanges.

## FRANCIS REIDER IS ACCIDENTALLY SHOT

Revolver in Hands of Friend Accidentally Explodes and Bullet Enters Breast

While playing in the woodshed at the Reider home, Francis Reider, 17 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Reider, was accidentally shot through the breast by Fred Heighman. The boys were playing with a .32 calibre revolver supposed not to be loaded, and when the Heighman boy attempted to show young Reider how to twirl the revolver on his finger, the gun was accidentally discharged, the bullet striking Reider in the breast, penetrating the liver and passing through the body only missing the spine by about an inch. The boys condition has been very serious as it could not be foreseen what complications might develop, but at present he is resting comfortably and his recovery is expected.

## MRS. H. O. CLEMENT RESIGNS POSITION ON LIBRARY BOARD

At the meeting of the library board held Wednesday evening Mrs. H. O. Clement handed in her resignation. Owing to a new state ruling which admits of only five members on a library board no one will be elected to take her place, Mrs. Clement's resignation leaving the requisite number on the Ontario board.

## BROGAN

The big masque ball given by the Ladies Aid on New Year's Eve night was a decided success. A large crowd attended, and many funny costumes were worn. The prizes for the two best costumes were given to Gladys Thayer and Joe Silvers, who represented Indians, while Charlie Parrot captured the prize for being the funniest. He was dressed as a negro, and acted out the part, much to the amusement of everyone. The usual bountiful supper was served at midnight, after which the dancing continued until well into 1921.

Fred Gramse of Ontario came up for the dance New Year's Eve. While here he visited at the Grabner home.

Cecil, Gladys and Myrtle Logan, who have been spending the holidays with their parents in Brogan, left Saturday for Corvallis to resume their studies there.

Carol Lacey, Mitchell Moore and Jack Weaver all of Ontario, attended the big New Year's Eve.

Buck Eddy of Bridgeport was in Brogan Monday on business.

Mr. Blackaby of Bridgeport passed thru Brogan Monday on his way to feed horses down on the river.

Mr. Myers came in from his Basin Creek place with eggs and cream last week.

Bertha and Gladys Pederson spent a few days last week with Sylvia Gradner, staying for the dance, Ruby Wilson accompanied them home for a short stay.

Sylvia Gradner visited at the Pederson home in Jamieson for a few days last week.

R. W. Reed of Baker made a business trip to Brogan last week. While here he visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Reed.

Tom Shotwell of Hermiston, Oregon, passed thru Brogan on his way to Bonita to visit friends.

Chas. Morfitt, Geo. Bodfish and Steve Covoch of Malheur, returned from a business trip to Vale.

A birthday party was given at the Brogan Hotel in honor of the fortieth anniversary of R. W. Reed.

The Ironside stage is making slower time now as it is a sled team instead of a car. They report very good sleighing.

Chas. Seton of Ironside is down looking for hay which he wishes to buy as his crop was short this season.

The surplus hay of this community is all sold except the Eastern Oregon Land Company's crop.

Earl Johnston from near Malheur was in Brogan on his way to Welsch on a business trip.

Thos. O'Neil, finder of the rich quartz ledge in Mormon Basin, was in town today. He reports that he is opening up the mine and it is looking better all the time.

Thos. Justice and Roy Buchanan of Rye Valley were in Brogan today. They are gathering cattle.

## SISTER OF C. F. ESCUE DIES

C. F. Escue returned Sunday from Kuna, Idaho where he was called by the death of a sister, Miss Cora Escue. Miss Escue came out to Idaho from Illinois for her health as she had never fully recovered from the influenza which she contracted two years ago. She died last Thursday, December 30 and was taken back to Illinois for burial, the funeral to be held at the old home in Illinois Thursday morning.

Mrs. Rota Pederman who has been teaching at the East side school has resigned and Mr. Roberts who has been teaching at the West side has been transferred to the East side where he has been made principal. Mrs. W. W. Howard takes Mr. Roberts place in the West side school.

Miss Della Scott, directress of the Chautauqua entertainment which has been held at Dreamland Theatre the past week has been visiting with Miss Maxie Wilson. Miss Scott and Miss Wilson were former residents of Pasco, Washington and were agreeably surprised to meet in Ontario.

## HAY GROWERS DECIDE ON ACTION

Will Prepare Constitution and By-Laws to Present at General Meeting to be Held Later

Fifteen delegates from various sections of the alfalfa growing area of the county met on Thursday, December 30 at the City Hall, Ontario to continue investigation on the proposed alfalfa growers' association as discussed in a mass meeting held recently at the Cairo Grange Hall. After discussing the matter from all angles it was concluded to prepare a set of constitution and by-laws for submission at a meeting to be held some time in January. This matter was referred back to the Farm Bureau Marketing Committee for attention.

Probably the most important progress in connection with this work is to be found in the declaration of purposes and objects of such an association as adopted by the committee. The outstanding feature is the recognition of the importance of the grower having advance information from which he can regulate the production of various crops, particularly with regard to hay.

It is evident that the first principle of marketing lies in producing that for which there will be a demand and that to know this requires systematic investigation well in advance of the time of planting. The purposes and objects of an alfalfa growers association were declared to be:

I. Gathering of information to guide our production. Under this head are listed: determine cost of production; standardize measurements and grades; standardize wages and other costs; determine feed requirements for transient stock; determine export demands and probable values in future; determine quantity of feed to be offered for sale locally and in other sections that are competitive; guide production of substitute crops and farm use of feed by investigation of costs, markets, etc., and advancing members.

II. Develop an Efficient marketing plan for Hay. It was the opinion of the committee that this would be accomplished most likely by linking up with other associations in this and other states.

## HIGHWAY COMMISSION AWARDS CONTRACTS

Contracts awarded to Grade 19.3 Miles on Oregon Trail—Malheur Delegation Urges Grading From Huntington to Ontario

At the meeting of the State Highway commission at Portland, eastern Oregon affairs received some attention. Contracts were awarded for grading 19.3 miles of the Old Oregon Trail, from Nelson to Huntington in Baker county. The Malheur delegation urged grading of the road from Huntington to Ontario, which is the end of the Old Oregon Trail but no action had been taken up to this morning. This section of road is most important to Oregon as it is not only a continuation of the Columbia River Highway but it also connects with the Idaho system of highways and with the Lincoln Highway.

The work of the Commission is progressing rather slowly due probably to the vacancy on the commission caused by the death of E. E. Kiddle, no one having been appointed as yet to take his place.

P. J. Gallagher and Geo. K. Aiken left Sunday evening for Portland as Ontario's delegation to the meeting of the commission.

Mrs. Fred G. Lackey, who recently underwent an operation for appendicitis, was able to leave the hospital Tuesday.

Paul J. Griffin is visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Griffin, at Stevens, Washington. Mrs. Griffin recently returned from a visit to relatives in Iowa.

Miss Cressie Graham of Juntura is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Gallagher in this city.

Mrs. Jeanette Evans has gone to Emmett where she was summoned by the illness of her mother, Mrs. Jamieson.

## NEW CITY OFFICERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

Old Council Meets January Fourth and Turns Over City Affairs To New Administration

The Ontario old City Council met January 4 and after hearing the record of the regular meeting held Monday night adjourned sine die. Following this, Mayor elect W. H. Doolittle and Councilmen elect W. L. Turner, E. M. Greig, I. E. Oakes, D. W. Powers and H. R. Udick were sworn into office by Judge Clay M. Stearns, City Recorder. All the new councilmen were present except Dr. W. J. Weese. C. M. Platt, City Treasurer also took the oath of office. W. L. Turner was elected chairman. The following standing committees were appointed: Financing; Greig, Turner, Powers; Streets and Lights; Powers, Weese, Oakes; Water and Sewers; Udick, Greig, Oakes; Health and Police; Turner, Greig, Udick; Fire, City Hall and Library; Weese, Powers and Turner.

The Mayor appointed the following City Officers: V. W. Chambers, Water Superintendent; H. C. Farmer, Marshal; Clay M. Stearns, Recorder; Artie Pool, Street Commissioner; Louis Kroesha, Fire Chief; and Dr. H. H. Whitney, Health Officer. These appointments were unanimously confirmed by the Council. Other appointments will be made at a following meeting.

The Council fixed the salaries for the current year as follows: Water Superintendent, \$160.00 per month, including use of auto; Marshal, \$150.00 per month, including care of hall; Recorder \$150.00 per month, including collection of water rents; Street Commissioner \$175.00 per month; including team; Fire Chief, \$20.00 per month; Health Officer, \$5.00 per month.

In conformity to the Charter amendment, the Mayor's salary was fixed at \$50.00 per month and councilmen \$5.00.

The salaries of the Recorder, Marshal and Water Commissioner are each \$25.00 lower than they were last year.

The Council adopted a resolution ordering immediate collection of all delinquent assessments for sewer and street improvements.

One of the important improvements under the regime of the city officials who are now going out of office was the paving of nine miles of city streets.

## INDICTMENTS RETURNED BY THE GRAND JURY

Busy Week Spent At Vale By Grand Jury and Several True Bills Returned

The January term of court opened Monday and the Grand Jury was in session Monday and Tuesday, making its report to the Court on Wednesday.

The Grand Jury returned six true bills and three not true bills. The true bills were as follows:

One indictment charged George Howard with murder in the first degree. This is the Vale murder case a recent event in which R. W. Sweeney was the victim.

Two indictments against E. L. Shetler, charged with larceny of oil well drilling machinery, one from Boyer Bros. and the other from W. D. Meyer and his associates.

Also an indictment was returned against each of the two Mexicans who stole certain personal property from The Torgery and Rader Brothers store in December.

Not true bills were returned against Lee Gray for obtaining money under false pretenses, Simon Servatius for larceny and Helen Holt for adultery.

The accused are all under arrest and arraignments will be made tomorrow.

Howard has no attorney as yet and it is considered probable that the Court will appoint an attorney to defend him. His case, as well as the Shetler case will be set for trial on Friday and by all indications will be tried about January 15th.

Numerous civil cases have been set for trial for the first week of the regular term commencing January 10, and from all present indications there will be close to two weeks of jury trials.

## FIRE DAMAGED BUILDINGS ARE BEING REPAIRED

David Wilson of Spokane is here supervising the repairing of the buildings owned by Mrs. Wilson which were recently damaged by fire. They will probably be finished and ready for occupancy within three weeks and will probably be re-occupied by the Bluebird Cafe, Ontario Modern Pressery and McDowell Furniture Store, the former occupants. Owing to a misunderstanding with a local agent, no insurance was carried on the buildings.

## FRUITLAND BENCH

Mrs. Guy Graham is at home with the little new daughter, Mary Jane, who is receiving a royal welcome from the sister and brothers.

Rev. Aldrich, of Boise, district superintendent, preached a most inspiring sermon in the M. E. church Sunday morning. Rev. and Mrs. Van Dusen left last week for their new home in Boise, their goods being taken overland.

Misses Katharine Madsen, Elmerna Gardner, Measars, Paul Sargent, Alter and Fred Schmid, Kenneth Griep, Lewis Russell, Floyd Spaulhofer left Sunday evening on the special train for Moscow, the Idaho State University.

Miss Fern Linck left Saturday for Lewiston to resume her studies at the normal and Miss Margaret Wheelon left Saturday to re-enter school at Pullman, Washington.

Miss Elsie Bayer left Monday for her studies at the College of Idaho, Caldwell, after spending the holidays here.

Rev. Shepherd, father of Mrs. Charles Miller, after spending the holidays with his daughter, left last Friday for his field of work.

The Christian Endeavor held a watch party at the M. E. Bungalow Friday evening and entertained the members of the church. A very enjoyable evening was spent.

Thursday night the Fruitland amusement company gave a dance at Fruitland hall and it proved a very delightful affair.

Miss Winifred Bossen visited the past week among Fruitland friends.

Mrs. H. E. Robinson, formerly postmistress of Fruitland, now of Caldwell, has been called to Des Moines, Iowa, because of the serious illness of her mother.

Little Margaret Davis, daughter of commissioner and Mrs. Milan Davis, after a long siege at Blanchard Hospital with pneumonia, arrived home this week.

Grant Gardner who has been a student at the Washington State University, Seattle, the past few months, will remain at home and run the Drug Store for his father, Auditor H. G. Gardner.

Lewis-Eldredge  
John Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Lewis, of Payette, formerly of Lostine, Oregon, and Miss Mabel Eldredge, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Eldredge, living near Fruitland, slipped away from their friends Wednesday, December 22 and went to Payette where they secured a license and were married by Rev. Walker, pastor of the M. E. Church at the parsonage. Both these young people are well known and well liked and it is hoped that their married life will be all that the best can give to them. They have gone to Lostine, Oregon and may remain there on the father's ranch.

Butler-Messie  
Mary Messie and Cody Thomas Butler were married at Welsch Saturday, January 1st, 1921 at The Rectory by Father O'Callaghan. The attendants were Mr. and Mrs. Will Shimick, and the impressive ring ceremony was used. Only the immediate relatives and a few friends were present. A six o'clock dinner was served to the wedding party by Mrs. Will Shimick.

Mr. and Mrs. Butler are very popular, well known young people of Ontario. Mrs. Butler graduated from the high school with the class of 1920 and was for a couple of years employed at the W. L. Turner Music Store, later being in the office of the Malheur Home Telephone Company. They expect to make their home in Boise but will be in Ontario for a short time.

## MURL WAYT BITTEN BY DOG

Last Friday Murl Wayt was bitten by a dog and was for a short time under a doctor's care. He is better at the present writing. While the dog has developed no symptoms of rabies he is being watched by Dr. Moore, veterinarian.

## JUDGE KING PREDICTS PASSAGE SINNOT BILL

Leaves This Week For Boise To Confer With Representatives of Irrigation Projects For Idaho

Judge Will R. King attended circuit court at Vale this week after spending a few days at Burns on legal business. Judge King says that although his law office is in Washington, D. C. he will retain his domicile in Oregon and will visit our section from time to time as occasion may require. He leaves today for Boise where he will confer with representatives of proposed irrigation projects in Idaho for which his services have been procured at the Washington, D. C. end of the line with a view to procuring early construction work.

Judge King is very optimistic regarding reclamation possibilities and predicts the passage of the Sinnot bill within the next few weeks and the passage of the Smith-Fletcher bill. The Sinnot bill authorizes the Secretary of Interior to commence and complete irrigation projects wherever and whenever an irrigation district will provide the funds, the feasibility of the project first having been approved by the Secretary of Interior. It is thought that the O. K. of the secretary will be an assurance to bond buyers that the work will be carried on and money expended by the government will enable 30-year irrigation district bonds to be sold substantially at par.

"The Sinnot and Smith-Fletcher bills are in no wise inconsistent," remarked Judge King. "The Sinnot bill differs from the Smith-Fletcher bill only in that it permits the construction of projects with private capital, or money advanced by irrigation districts, while the Smith-Fletcher bill insures bonds in the same way and the bonds are turned over to the Secretary of the Interior and the government advances the funds without awaiting sale of the bonds. Under either scheme an authorization plan will be for a long term of years, a 1 1/2% annual sinking fund to pay off the principal and interest in about 33 years."

Judge King predicts the passage of the Sinnot bill during the present session, it having already passed the senate, and that the Smith-Fletcher bill become a law during the coming session. "The Smith-Fletcher bill will reclaim swamp and arid lands of the west and south and has behind it the united support of all western and southern states, which gives a sufficient majority in congress to insure its passage."

Judge King predicts resumption of reclamation work in the Snake river valleys, and remarked that projects like the Black Canyon and Gem in Idaho and the Owyhee in this county lose more in crops not grown every few years than would cost to reclaim the lands in them.

## VACANCY ON HIGHWAY COMMISSION UNFILLED

People of Wallowa County Urge F. D. McCulley To Act As Successor To Mr. Kiddle on The State Highway Commission

Owing to the death of E. E. Kiddle there is a vacancy on the board of the State Highway Commission, leaving eastern Oregon unrepresented as yet. Jay H. Dobbin of Joseph, Wallowa County was offered the post but refused to accept it. F. D. McCulley is being urged by the people of Wallowa county as a successor to Mr. Kiddle. As the paper goes to press Governor Olcott has not appointed the new State Highway Commissioner however.

Mr. McCulley is very much interested in the development of eastern Oregon, having been engaged in business here for many years both as a merchant and a stockman. Prominent men of Wallowa County who had been urging Mr. Dobbin's appointment are now rallying to Mr. McCulley's support.

Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Anderberg left Monday for a visit with relatives at Salt Lake.

The Women's Foreign Missionary society of the Methodist church met Wednesday with Mrs. Luscombe.

Mrs. T. B. Fiser is visiting with her son Will Fiser and wife at Crane.