

**The Ontario Argus**  
An Independent Newspaper  
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G. K. Alken, Managing Editor  
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**CO-OPERATE FOR GOOD ROADS**  
Malheur county is facing a real road problem as the result of the long continued rains and lack of frost in the ground this winter.

Whereas the county had a start on a permanent system of highways, it will find, perhaps, that by spring all the roads in the county will be practically gone.

The one exception promises to be that section of the John Day Highway from Cairo to Nyssa. That road is still good and is standing the strain of unusual wear because it has adequate drainage, together with a heavy coating of gravel. But first of all it is being saved by its fine drainage.

This road justifies the specifications of the State Highway engineers. It demonstrates that those of us, and that includes the majority, if not all of the good roads enthusiasts of the county, were wrong in criticizing work done on that road. We complained of the deep barrow pits, the narrow crown and other features that did not suit our untutored judgment.

Of course conditions this year are unusual; but roads must be built to care for unusual conditions. Business must go on during unusual seasons, and therefore we are to be congratulated that we have before us an example of what roads in this section must be to meet such winters as this.

To make possible reasonable travel in the spring would it not be possible for the good roads enthusiasts of the communities, the farmers along the roads, to assist the county road crews in getting the roads in shape quickly in the spring.

A good roads man has suggested that under the direction of the county's road force a number of drags be prepared and a series of good roads days be held when the trucks of the communities haul these drags over the highways.

It is possible that such an effort would result in a great deal of good, if properly arranged and supervised, and we believe that the county has a force that can do that work, anyway it is worth considering.

**TELEPHONE RATE RISE**

While Ontario will not be enthusiastic over the increase in telephone rates there is no doubt that when the people take into consideration the facts disclosed in the findings of the commission given elsewhere in this issue, that they will not be indignant over the rise.

Compared with the increase in the cost of operations, and the further fact that the earnings have proven insufficient to meet depreciation it was inevitable that some increase be permitted.

It should be understood that the increase granted was not so great as the company requested; for that at least the patrons will be thankful.

Having received the increase noted, the company can be held for improved service; and in this connection it can be said for the company that the service here compares favorably with that given in other communities, both larger and smaller than Ontario. Even so it is not all that it should be.

There is one point in the commission finding that will not be appreciated by the business men of the communities served; namely that in which by inference at least, the company is criticized for having extended its country lines into territory which does not pay the cost of service.

We believe that the business men of the towns would rather pay slightly higher rates themselves than have the territory surrounding the towns without telephone connections to the city. In fact we want the phone lines extended, not reduced, tho of course there are limits beyond which the company cannot reasonably be expected to extend its lines.

Ontario for example should not be without phone connections with its neighbors on the north. The city cannot be told that its trade radius is to be described by an arc to the west and south only.

Concerning the toll charges to Nyssa which have been allowed by the commission, regardless of the contract made with old Independent Company, there will be some objection raised, tho in time the feeling of animosity will be allayed, no doubt. This too should result in better service for those who use the lines for business only.

Taken all round and viewed from every angle, and especially that which views service as the first con-

sideration to be considered, we believe that the rates made by the commission are fairly equitable and we trust will result in improved service.

**THE MOUNTING TAXES**

From all over the state of Oregon, and its neighboring state of Idaho, there is being sounded a demand for reduction in taxation. And it is apparent that there is a reason. Taxes are mounting.

The trouble here in Ontario, however, can be laid directly at the door of the people. The increase in state taxes are to be found directly in the measures approved by the people; furthermore we believe that they would approve of the laws they passed were they submitted to them now, so there is nothing to be gained by belated protestations.

What Oregon needs and needs badly is the election of assessors who will place values on property where they should be. It is foolish to talk about high taxation when in fact the valuation of Oregon property has so slightly increased during the past ten years, as revealed by the tax rolls.

It is useless to discuss the question of taxes until we have some system of securing the enforcement of the law by the assessors. Oregon's population has increased greatly, and the demands of the people for all kinds of frills in government have of necessity increased the cost of government.

Here in Ontario, so we are told, there are homes valued at from \$2,500 to \$3,000 on the tax rolls at anywhere from \$300 to \$500. Since practically all of the residence property is assessed on that basis no gross injustice is done, but that being true, tho the levy is high, the charge can hardly be sustained that the tax paid is excessive. It only seems so.

Had the valuation placed by the assessors kept pace with the increase in values it would not have been necessary for the people to vote additional millage levies for the university and agricultural college. It is thus that the studied efforts of citizens to keep their valuations down have been defeated. After all the mounting taxes rests with the individual taxpayer.

**RADIO TO BRING NEWS FROM PARTS ALL OVER LOUISIANA**

Establishment of a radio department for receiving wireless news, and keeping in touch with American Legion posts throughout Louisiana is announced in a recent issue of The Pelicanaire, the official newspaper of the Louisiana department of the Legion.

Through co-operation with amateurs in towns where there are Legion posts, a constant liaison will be maintained between the Legion news paper and the local posts. Arrangements have already been made for this service from Shreveport, Opelousas and Franklinton to New Orleans where The Pelicanaire is published. By the use of the radio service, the press sheets of news from all over the world sent out daily from the Arlington station will be received by the Legion organ. This service is conducted by the U. S. Navy for its battleships and

Remember the Revival. Adv.

**MALHEUR COUNTY REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS RECORDED**

DEC. 27 TO DEC. 31

Mary E. Kirkpatrick to E. H. Brumbach, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec. 24-21-46, Aug. 26, 1920, \$1,050.00.

Leonard Gillespie to Lillian Standish, N 1/2 W 1/2 N 1/2 NE 1/4 Sec. 5-18-47, Dec. 10, 1920, \$1.00

Empire Lumber Co. to W. E. Lees, Lots 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, in Blk. 208, Ontario, June 24, 1920, \$400.00

Robert Van Gilse et ux to Rose G. Cole, Lots 9 and 10, Blk. 21, Teutach Add. to Nyssa, May 14, 1919, \$3,500.00.

Wm. G. Jenkins et ux to Pieter Tansen Lot 4, SE 1/4 SW 1/4, NE 1/4 SW 1/4, Sec. 18; NE 1/4 NW 1/4, Sec. 19-19-47, July 22, 1919, \$40,000.00

Luella Long to J. G. Lamberson \$2,000.00.

Lucy A. Thompson et vir to Esther Boston, Und. 1-13 Int. in W 1/2 NE 1/4 Sec. 9-19-44, Dec. 27, 1920, \$10.00

Hope Bros. to S. Humphrey, Und. 28-109 Int. in Lot 6, Blk. 25, Eldredge Add. to Vale, Dec. 29, 1920, \$10.00.

Sheriff H. Lee Noe to J. W. Graff et al, SW 1/4 SE 1/4 Sec. 2; N 1/2 NE 1/4 Sec. 11; N 1/2 NW 1/4, NW 1/4 NE 1/4 Sec. 12-23-46, Dec. 29, 1920, \$1,392.00.

Donald McDonald to Donald McKensie, S 1/2 NW 1/4, NE 1/4 SW 1/4, NW 1/4 SE 1/4, Lots 3 and 4, SE 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 19-18-37; also NE 1/4 SE 1/4, Sec. 24-18-36; also N 1/2 SW 1/4, E 1/2 NW 1/4 Sec. 29-18-37, Dec. 18, 1920, \$1.00.

Interstate Land & Loan Co. to James L. Stewart, Lots 73 and 74, Blk. 8, Villa Park Add. to Ontario, Jan. 7, 1915, \$1.00.

Complaints Filed in Circuit Court  
Laura I. Littlefield vs. Xeno E. Littlefield, December 28, 1920. Divorce and Alimony.

Come to the Revival. Adv.

**FARMER-TO-MIDDLEMAN-TO-CONSUMER.**

The recent visit of Herbert Hoover to Kansas, following the recent visit of Mr. Baruch, is an encouraging fact. It is encouraging because it indicates that some of the best brains of the country are concentrating on the problem of the distribution of farm products. This is one of the great problems of the present day.

There is too wide a gap between the farmer and the consumer, between the price the farmer receives and the price the consumers pay. We do not attempt to say what it is that is amiss. We do not know. In fact, no one appears to know. The farmer does not know. He only knows that, notwithstanding the increased price he has received during the past few years, his profits have been small, and now that he seems to be facing a decrease in prices for his stuff, he will suffer serious loss if not financial ruin.

The consumer does not know. He only knows that he has been paying a price for food products so much greater than he paid under normal conditions as to arouse the belief that the farmer must have been made rich beyond the dreams of avarice. The consumer, not knowing where to place the blame, has placed it upon the producer. The farmer, not knowing where to place the blame, has lumped it bodily and indiscriminately upon what he terms the middleman, but with no specific or, apparently intelligent idea as to what he means by "the middleman". The situation is in a muddle.

The problem will not be solved by shooting blindly into a muzzed up condition. Incriminating oratory on the one hand and seeking to "pass the buck" on the other, will not help the farmer or the consumer. It will not reveal the point we have missed nor discover the cog that is loose in our industrial organization. It will require the intelligent application of the best business minds of the country to work out plans to correct the evil and close up the gap between the farmer and the producer without doing injury to either. The interests of the farmer and the consumer are identical, if both classes are to enjoy prosperous conditions. The farmer must receive a fair profit. The consumer must pay only a fair price. It appears obvious that the shorter the gap between the two the better for both. And yet, an ill-considered, hastily-devised scheme on the part of either to shorten the gap for the selfish interests of either might prove a disaster to both.

Therefore, welcome the entrance of the Hoovers, the Baruchs, and every wise man of the business world who honestly seeks to find the cog that is loose in the industrial machine.—H. J. Waters in the Kansas City Weekly Star.

**GATHERING WAR LIBRARY**

Three hundred volumes covering the field of American activities in the World War have been received thru the medium of the American Legion Weekly as a start of a complete Legion war library, which will be established in a room at National Headquarters. The collection of books includes volumes dealing with the history of units from companies to divisions. It contains the products of hand presses in French and German print shops as well as more ambitious output of leading New York publishers.

**VETERANS CONTROL MOB**

Although the victim of a murder in Jacksonville, Mo., was a former service man, members of the American Legion post at Moberly, Mo., a town nearby, were cool-headed enough to quiet a mob of enraged citizens, which threatened to resort to mob violence. The Legionnaires were successful in persuading the angry crowd to permit the man accused of the murder to be placed safely in jail to await trial.

**BLUE LAWS NOT WANTED**

Following the action of the United Service Post of the American Legion in Bronx County, N. Y. which sent representatives to Washington to fight the passage of the proposed "blue laws" by Congress, other posts in all five boroughs of New York put themselves on record against the proposed legislation. In New Jersey, Hubert Rocke Post, of Teaneck, expressed a similar sentiment.

**HALL PUT TO GOOD USE**

The Turn Verein Hall at San Angelo, Texas, lost its unpleasant name when it was leased recently by members of the local post of the American Legion and remodeled into a modern opera house at a cost of \$5,000. The first attraction, a local talent minstrel show, earned \$1,539. High class shows will be booked for the theatre by the post.

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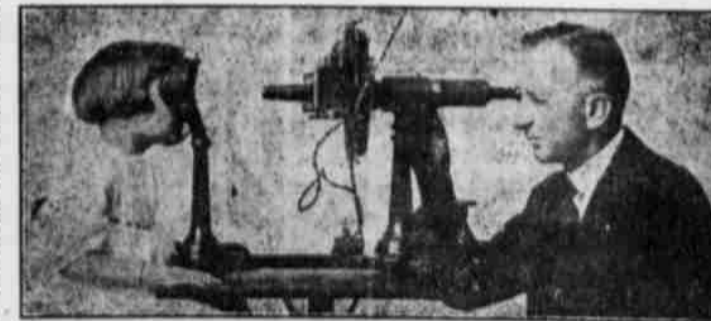
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