

The Ontario Argus
County Official Paper

An Independent Newspaper

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G. K. Aiken, Managing Editor

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UP BY THE BOOT STRAPS

Senator Bruce Dennis' resolution calling for a constitutional amendment to permit the issuance of State Bonds for the purpose of creating a fund for home building was undoubtedly conceived in a desire to do something constructive toward solving the housing problem in Oregon and the unrest which has been prevalent since the war. But whether it will accomplish the desired result is somewhat doubtful.

There is this to be said concerning it: it calls for further extension of the bonded indebtedness of the state. The bonds must be sold, and if the bonds could be sold on state credit, it is reasonable to believe that the funds of building and loan associations, whose paper is based on the same kind of property, would find a market.

And that puts the provisions of the proposed bond issue on the same basis as a building and loan association. It provides that no loan can be made for more than 50 per cent of the value of the property on which the loan is secured. We cannot see the advantages therefore of the State going into the building and loan association business, for the companies now extant make loans on just that basis.

The time has not yet come for the state to indulge in more business enterprises than it is now engaged in. We all want the home building problem solved, we believe that Senator Dennis has focused the attention of the state to it, and from his resolution good will come, but we doubt that merely extending the state's credit will solve the problem. It seems too much like an attempt to pull ourselves up by our boot straps.

THE POULTRY SHOW

Next week Ontario will be the host for the annual poultry show. This is really an important event. It will serve to emphasize again the possibilities of this region as an ideal section for poultry raising.

It is particularly appropriate that the show is being held at the same time that the Farm Bureau's short course program is in session, for it brings to the county expert poultrymen whose advice and judging of poultry will be of immense value to the men and women engaged in this industry.

Poultry raising is a basic industry. For its product there is always a market. The hens of America produce more wealth every year than do the gold mines of the nation. The man or woman who has a fine flock of chickens and cares for them is better off than he who merely owns stock in a gold mine. The dividends are more certain, and should be equally alluring.

With climatic conditions here so favorable for the development of chickens and turkeys there is no reason why every farm in the county should not have a feathered flock working on its pay roll.

In having this show the business men of Ontario are just exhibiting another evidence of their desire to co-operate with the ranchers in their efforts to make the business of agriculture more profitable in this region, fully realizing that as the ranchers prosper so will the business of the community increase and the welfare of the entire community be promoted.

THE RANCHERS ARE WELCOME

Long strides have been taken in the agricultural business of America in the past two decades. It is a far cry from the isolated farm of twenty years ago to the closely knit agricultural units that now are found in practically every state in the Union.

In this advancement the Agricultural colleges, the U. S. Department

of Agriculture and other agencies have had an untold influence. The work has been carried on in so many different spheres that many of the ranchers themselves have not realized the work that has been done in their behalf.

Following the organization of the Agricultural colleges came the realization that these could serve but a small per centage of those to whom the message of better farming methods should be sounded. The men at the head of these institutions determined that if the ranchers could not come to the colleges they could take the colleges to the ranchers. That resulted in the inauguration of "Farmer's Weeks" such as will be held here next week.

It is a trite saying that, "knowledge is power," but its truth is self evident. In no business is this more true than in that of farming—and farming is indeed a business. In fact it is the biggest business in America, and therefore is one in which knowledge is indeed essential.

There are those who scoff at the work of the "agriculturists," just as in every line of endeavor men have ridiculed the work of the scientist, because they did not know that the simplest fact connected with every profession is based on some scientific principle.

We believe that the ranchers of Malheur county are above the average to be found in agricultural regions. Irrigation calls for knowledge, and the difficulties that the average farmer in this section has to overcome call for a wider knowledge of the science of agriculture than in most sections.

To have the greatest success in farming in this region we believe that the ranchers would have to be the best educated class in the community. There is no business that calls for more varied knowledge, nor greater business acumen, for the farmer is a producer and a merchant as well. He is a director of labor and a scientist too.

Just as in every other line of human endeavor the business and science of farming is progressing. It cannot stand still. To do so it would violate the natural laws. Therefore to keep abreast of the times the ranchers of this region should, and we believe do, desire the very latest information available concerning their business, and will appreciate this opportunity to hear what the men engaged in the experimental side of farming have learned in the past year.

TO ALL OWNERS OF DOGS IN MALHEUR COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the County dog tax for the year 1921 is now due and payable to the County Clerk, as follows:

Males or spayed females, \$1.00 each
Females, 2.00 each

"Any owner or keeper of a dog or dogs who shall fail to apply for, or fail to pay said license fee, shall pay a fine of \$10.00 for each offense" (Laws of Oregon, 1919, Sec. 186). This Act also provides that any dog not wearing a collar having thereon the license tag shall be considered an outlaw and shall be killed by any peace officer.

Application may be made in person or in writing, accompanied by the proper fees, and stating the length of collar desired, to the office of the County Clerk and license will be mailed to you.

H. S. SACKETT,
County Clerk of Malheur County,
1 t. Vale, Oregon

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The ships offered for sale include steel vessels and wooden steamers.

The steel steamers are both oil and coal burners. The Board has established a minimum price on these vessels.

Terms on Steel Steamers.

10 per cent of the purchase price in cash upon delivery of the vessel, 5 per cent in 6 months thereafter, 5 per cent in twelve months thereafter, 5 per cent in 18 months thereafter, 5 per cent in 24 months thereafter; balance of 70 per cent in equal semi-annual installments over a period of ten years; deferred payments to carry interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum.

The two hundred and eighty-five wooden steamers for sale are of ten different types, as follows: Nine Daugherty; seven American Hallin; ten Peninsula; six Pacific American Fisheries; one Allen; one Lane and Ocean Navigation Company; thirteen McClelland; one hundred and eighty-six Ferris; thirty-one Hough; eleven Gray's Harbor. Also have a number of wooden hulls of various types.

Terms on Wooden Steamers.

10 per cent cash on delivery. Balance in equal semi-annual installments over a period of three years.

Bids may be submitted for one or more vessels or for any combination of above vessels, and must be accompanied by certified check made payable to the United States Shipping Board for 25 per cent of amount of the bid.

Further information may be obtained by request sent to the Ship Sales Division, 1319 F Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Bids should be addressed to the UNITED STATES SHIPPING BOARD, WASHINGTON, D. C., and indorsed "BID FOR STEAMSHIP (Name of Ship)."

Ship and Sail Under American Flag.

NEWS FROM BONITA

The Bonita Farm Bureau held their annual meeting today. A good crowd was present and the meeting was called to order by J. L. Hammack at 11:00 A. M. For two hours the time was spent by hearing reports from the different committees and planning the work for the new year. Some nice selections of music were rendered by Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Jones and Mrs. Phelan. A dinner of hot soup, roast pork loin, mashed potatoes, pie and cake was served. After dinner there was to be a speech delivered on Farm Bureau Work by V. V. Hickox but on account of sickness he was unable to attend, so music was substituted. Then came the nomination and election of officers followed by a discussion on pests, and all reports on Jack rabbit poisoning were good and many rabbits have been killed. But there are many left and everyone has agreed to keep up the good work until the winter is over if the poison holds out.

There is about 3 feet of snow and it is still snowing. All roads have been kept open and sleighing is fine.

There will be a box social held at the Phelan ranch February 11, to finish the quota of the European Relief Fund. Here is where we go over the top.

Abel Lewellen came up today from Brogan with a ton of cracked barley to help out with the feeding of his cattle.

People from all parts of Cow Valley are busy poisoning rabbits and are having good success. Ben Jones said he killed 37 at one stab in one night. Henry Allenbaugh claims that he killed over 100 in one night.

THE ORIGIN OF OIL AND GAS

(By W. A. Bartlett)

There seems to be a difference of opinion among scientists as to the origin of oil and gas. The subject involves two questions, first the original materials from which they are derived, and second the process by which these original substances have been changed into oil and gas.

There are two generally accepted theories—the inorganic and the organic. The first theory is based on the idea that oil was a part of the original elements from which the earth was formed, and deposited as metallic carbides in the center of the earth. When subjected to heat, gases were formed which carried the hydro-carbon substances to the surface of the earth where they were deposited as a gas or liquid oil in any porous rock or sand.

Organic Theory

The organic theory is most generally accepted today among practical oil geologists. That is that oil and gas comes from animal and vegetable organisms which existed in an inland ocean which some two or three million years ago was known to cover a large part of this continent. Evidence that such an ocean did exist is found today in the fossilized remains of fish, shells, seaweed, and marine plants, which are often picked up on desert hills and far above any recent water level.

At that time the climate, even in this part of our continent, was warm and tropical, as is shown by the fossils of tropical plants which have been buried in the sands and shales and turned to solid rock. A swarming mass of sea-weed, slime, fish, snails, eels, clams, sea-serpents, and water bugs, some as small as a match-head, on up to animals larger than elephants, lived in and about this tropical inland ocean.

As there were many land changes in the earth's crust at that time, large quantities of sand were washed down upon this mass of animal and vegetable life. They were buried under tons of sand, and then the muddy waters above them laid down layers of mud and clay, which formed a new muddy bottom under the water, and upon this a new form of animal and vegetable life grew, which in the course of ages was again buried under sands and muds; until finally this ocean cut its way out through various river valleys to the ocean; and these alternating layers of sand and muds (which hardened into shales) dried up and left the animal and vegetable life of the ocean entombed under hundreds or thousands of feet of sand and shale.

According to the organic theory, our oil and gas deposits were distilled by natural heat and pressure from the animal and vegetable life of that sea. This seems reasonable as oil has been extracted from seaweed taken from the ocean, and whale oil has been in commercial use for many years.

Note—In my next article, I will attempt to show how these different layers are classified into different ages, and how they are bent into arches and folds, which causes the oil and gas to travel through porous rocks.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

DOCTOR J. C. WOODWARD, O.C.U.L.I.S.T., WOODWARD BUILDING, PAYETTE, IDAHO desires to announce that he will be at his office every afternoon for the purpose of FITTING GLASSES. Arrangements may be made for evening appointments. Eyes will be examined FREE OF CHARGE. Office equipment includes every modern instrument. FIT and SATISFACTION guaranteed.